

TODAY'S CATHOLIC

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Francie Hogan

Celebrating the Epiphany at St. Patrick Parish, Fort Wayne, are the Three Kings portrayed by Christian Vasquez, Joseph Baez and Cesar Bautista. The Epiphany of the Lord is celebrated Sunday, Jan. 3.

Christ's birth can bring peace, hope to suffering world, pope says

BY JUNNO AROCHO ESTEVES

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Christmas is a reminder that through the birth of Christ, hope and peace are possible and that only through His grace can humanity find peaceful solutions to the world's most difficult problems, Pope Francis said.

"Only God's mercy can free humanity from the many forms of evil, at times monstrous evil, which selfishness spawns in our midst," the pope said Dec. 25. "Where God is born, hope is born. Where God is born, peace is born. And where peace is born, there is no longer room for hatred and for war."

Heightened security around St. Peter's Square did little to dampen the spirits of an estimated 50,000 people attending the pope's solemn Christmas bless-

ing "urbi et orbi" (to the city and the world). Many in the crowd dressed festively and applauded the music of the Vatican's marching band.

However, police and anti-terrorism task forces were a visible sign of a world shaken by violence and extremism; conflicts that have not even spared the birthplace of Jesus Christ. The pope prayed that Israelis and Palestinians would reach a peaceful agreement that would end the "conflict which has long set them at odds, with grave repercussions for the entire region."

The pope also prayed that recently approved agreements would bring a quick end to the wars afflicting Syria and Libya, two countries ravaged by

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www.myyearofmercy.org

TODAY'S CATHOLIC

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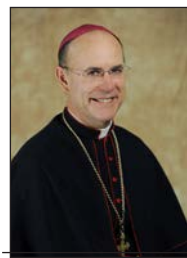
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The face of the Father's mercy



IN TRUTH AND CHARITY

BISHOP KEVIN C. RHOADES

The following is the text of the homily of Bishop Rhoades at the Christmas Mass during the Night at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, Fort Wayne, on December 24, 2015:

The celebration of Christmas during this Jubilee Year of Mercy is a beautiful occasion to give thanks to our heavenly Father who shows His mercy to humanity in the mystery of Christ's birth. The face of the infant Jesus in the manger is the face of the Father's mercy. It is a beautiful and innocent face, the face of a lowly infant; as we sing in the hymn *Silent Night*: "Holy infant, so tender and mild."

In another verse of *Silent Night*, we sing about who this infant is and about His mission: "Son of God, love's pure light; radiant beams from thy holy face, with the dawn of redeeming grace." This is the great mystery of Christmas. The Son of God, sent by our merciful Father, comes to us, assumes our human nature, and lavishes upon us His redeeming grace. It is a humanly incredible event, the Nativity of Our Lord: the Son of God lying helpless in a manger. It is an event that never ceases to fill us with wonder and with awe, how much God loves us.

God is not a distant deity, a reality known only from afar. He comes to us in the humility and poverty of a little child. He comes to bring heaven to us. He does not leave us helpless and floundering in our sins. He comes as Savior. That's what the name *Jesus* means: God saves! As the angel told the shepherds: *for today in the city of David a savior has been born for you who is Christ and Lord*. Christmas is a feast of mercy. God in His mercy has come to us to offer us the forgiveness that frees us from the oppression of sin with the power of His grace.

How often we can become shackled by our egoism, selfishness, error, and sin. These things imprison us and bring us sadness and misery. The good news is that the Redeemer comes to set us free, to release our hearts from these things. He does so with His love and mercy if we only open our hearts to His gift, to His Son, and receive the gift of Christmas with humility and sincerity. Mary and Joseph and the shepherds are models for us of this humility and sincerity, examples of faith. As they marveled at what took place that first Christmas night, they knelt in adoration before the infant Jesus lying in the manger. And that is why we are here tonight. We have come to adore Him, the Child in the manger, our Savior, our Brother, and our Lord.

Saint Luke tells us that Christ was born in Bethlehem. The name Bethlehem means "house of bread." Jesus was born in the house of bread. And He was placed in a manger, a place where animals ate their food. Jesus would call himself the bread of life, the true bread come down from heaven. He is the bread of immortality, the food that gives us eternal life. So the manger, according to Saint Augustine, refers to the table of God, to which we are invited so as to receive the bread of God. The manger is like an altar. And on this altar tonight, as at every Mass,



Tim Johnson

The stained-glass artwork of the Magi's visitation to the Christ Child is at St. Mary Church in Huntington. The stained glass is from the Royal Bavarian Art Institute in Germany, which crafted Gothic Revival artwork in stained-glass windows in churches throughout the world in the 1800s and early 1900s.

the same flesh born of the Virgin Mary, will become present as our spiritual food. The Paschal mystery of the Eucharist is already foretold in the Bethlehem manger. As Mary and Joseph and the shepherds adored Him in the manger, we adore Him tonight on the altar. The One who was concealed in the poverty of the stable in Bethlehem is concealed under the signs of bread and wine. With faith, we adore Him in the Eucharist. We adore the One whom we receive. As Saint Augustine once said: *No one should eat this flesh without first adoring it... we should sin were we not to adore it.*

The Lord who came into the world as an infant in a manger and who comes to us in the Eucharist brings to the world the gifts of peace and love, grace and salvation. He brings light to a world where there is still so much darkness. 2000 years ago, there was no room in the inn for His birth. The doors were closed. Is there room for Him today? The inn is first of all the human heart. In freedom, we can open or close the door of our heart to the holy Child. The Lord seeks a dwelling place in our souls and lives. He wants to give us His peace and His love, His gift of salvation. Through us, He desires

to bring love and mercy to the poor, the needy, the sick, the suffering, the lonely, the oppressed, the marginalized, and the forgotten. The Prince of Peace wants to defeat the violence in our world and the terrorism that threatens the innocent.

To be a Christian is to believe that Jesus is the Son of God, that He is true God and true man. To be a Christian is also to believe in the power of Jesus, the power of His goodness and mercy. It is the power we see in the infant lying within the wood of the manger and in the man hanging upon the wood of the cross. This is the true power of Christianity. We must reject all the deceptive ideologies that bring darkness and death and open our hearts to the truth of the Gospel that brings light and life. It is the truth that brings us true freedom and joy. It is the joy born from contemplating the face of the infant lying in the manger, knowing that He is the face of God present forever with us and for us, the face of the mercy that our world so desperately needs. May we be witnesses of that mercy and heralds of joy as disciples of Jesus, our Savior, who is Christ and Lord! May He bless all of you with His love and grace during this holy season of Christmas!



CNS/Paul Haring

Pope Francis kisses a figurine of the Baby Jesus as he arrives to celebrate Christmas Eve Mass in St. Peter's Basilica at the Vatican Dec. 24.

URBI ET ORBI

Continued from Page 1

war for several years. He also prayed that the international community would find ways to end atrocities in Iraq, Yemen, Congo, Burundi, South Sudan and Ukraine.

Victims of terrorism were also in the pope's thoughts and prayers as he remembered the victims of the Russian airliner bombed in Egyptian airspace and terrorist attacks in Beirut and Paris; Bamako, Mali and Tunis, Tunisia.

Christians persecuted for their faith were remembered as the pope prayed that "the Child Jesus grant consolation and strength" to those suffering.

Recalling the thousands of refugees and migrants fleeing poverty and war, Pope Francis compared the lack of respect for their dignity to the situation of Christ who was born into the world suffering "cold, poverty and rejection."

"May our closeness today be felt by those who are most vulnerable, especially child soldiers, women who suffer violence, and the victims of human trafficking and the drug trade," he said.

As the Church celebrates the Holy Year of Mercy, the pope said mercy is the "most precious gift which God gives us" and that Christians "are called to discover that tender love of our heavenly Father for each of us."

The bells of St. Peter's Basilica pealed at midday, just as they did late Dec. 24 when thousands packed the church for Christmas Mass. Hundreds of people who could not find room in the basilica braved the cold weather and watched on giant screens from St. Peter's Square.

With his voice noticeably hoarse from a bout of flu, the pope said in his homily that the prophetic words of Isaiah are those of a fulfilled promise of joy and gladness that are "a sure sign that the message contained in the mystery of this night is truly from God."

Doubt and indifference, he stressed, should be left to skeptics who "by looking to reason alone, never find the truth."

"There is no room for the indifference which reigns in the hearts of those unable to love for fear of losing something," he said. "All sadness has been banished, for the Child Jesus brings true comfort to every heart."

The birth of Jesus, he continued, is a call for all Christians to "put away all fear and dread" and to follow the path that leads to Christ "who has been 'born to us,' He was 'given to us' as the prophet Isaiah proclaims."

The coming of Christ into the world, the pope said, shows what is truly essential in life. Despite His birth into the "nothingness" of poverty, Jesus shows men and women who are simple of heart the true path of "authentic liberation and perennial redemption" while giving them strength to reject "godless ways and the richness of the world."

"In a society so often intoxicated by consumerism and hedonism, wealth and extravagance, appearances and narcissism, this Child calls us to act soberly, in other words, in a way that is simple, balanced, consistent, capable of seeing and doing what is essential," he said.

Christians, the pope said, are called to cultivate a sense of justice, discernment and doing God's will in a world that is often "merciless to the sinner and lenient to the sin."

As a choral rendition of "Silent Night" echoed through the basilica during the distribution of Communion, many attending the Mass were visibly moved. A nun looking reverently toward the main altar shed a single tear while smiling; gazing with the eyes that Pope Francis said in his homily all Christians are called to look upon the Baby Jesus.

"Like the shepherds of Bethlehem, may we too, with eyes full of amazement and wonder, gaze upon the Child Jesus, the Son of God. And in His presence may our hearts burst forth in prayer: 'Show us, Lord, Your mercy, and grant us Your salvation,'" the pope said.



Priest appointed chaplain

Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades, Bishop of Fort Wayne-South Bend, has appointed **Rev. William A. Meininger** as the priest chaplain for Catholic Scouting in the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, working in conjunction with the Diocesan Committee on Scouting.



Public Schedule of Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades

- Tuesday, Jan. 5, 7 p.m. — Holy Hour for Vocations, Saint Mother Theodore Guérin Chapel, Fort Wayne
- Wednesday, Jan. 6, 6:30 p.m. — Vespers and Meeting with Knights of Columbus, Saint Andrew Church, Fort Wayne
- Friday, Jan. 8, 9 a.m. — Mass and Pastoral Visit, Bishop Dwenger High School, Fort Wayne
- Saturday, Jan. 9, 11 a.m. — Mass with Installation of Readers, Our Lady of Guadalupe Church, Warsaw
- Sunday, Jan. 10, 9 a.m. — Mass with Blessing of new Narthex, St. Charles Borromeo Church, Fort Wayne
- Monday, Jan. 11, 10 a.m. — Meeting of Bishop's Cabinet, Archbishop Noll Center, Fort Wayne
- Wednesday, Jan. 13, 9 a.m. — Mass and Pastoral Visit, Huntington Catholic School, Huntington
- Friday, Jan. 15, 11 a.m. — Mass with Dominican Sisters of Mary, Mother of the Eucharist, Saint Felix Friary, Huntington
- Saturday, Jan. 16, 12 p.m. — Prayer and Allen County March for Life, Fort Wayne

Father Patrick McNulty dies

BY KAY COZAD

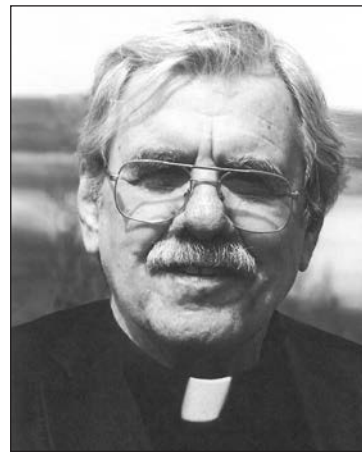
COMBERMERE, ONTARIO, CANADA — Patrick Joseph McNulty, priest of Madonna House Apostolate, died on Dec. 17, at Our Lady of the Visitation-St. Mary's in Combermere, Ontario, Canada. He was 84. He celebrated 55 years of Priesthood in 2015.

Father McNulty was born in Huntington on Oct. 23, 1931, to Joseph and Faye (King) McNulty, the eighth of 10 children. He attended St. Mary Grade School in Huntington as well as Huntington Catholic High School. Father McNulty graduated from Mount St. Mary in Ohio and was ordained to the Priesthood for the Diocese of Fort Wayne at the Cathedral of Immaculate Conception in Fort Wayne on May 28, 1960, by Bishop Leo A. Pursley.

Father McNulty first served as parochial vicar at St. John the Baptist Parish in Fort Wayne. Subsequently he served in numerous parishes throughout the diocese including Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, Fort Wayne, St. Henry, St. Andrew in Fort Wayne and Our Lady of Hungary in South Bend. He was a part-time teacher at Central Catholic High School in Fort Wayne from 1961-1968 and chaplain for the Handmaids of the Most Holy Trinity in South Bend.

From 1976-1978 he was in Jerusalem and Palestine working in a program for reconciliation between Jews, Christians and Islamic Arabs. At the same time he belonged to a core group of the Catholic Charismatic renewal.

Father McNulty first visited Madonna House in 1964, which marked the beginning of a long relationship with its founder Catherine Doherty. He made subsequent visits to the community over several years



FATHER PATRICK JOSEPH MCNULTY

and became an associate priest on Aug. 15, 1969.

In 1978, he opened St. John Neumann Poustinia House, a ministry of prayer and listening, in Fort Wayne, and continued there until 1991 when he returned to Madonna House in Combermere, Ontario. He became a full-time member in 1993 and lived in the poustinia dedicated to Our Lady of Combermere. There he spent three days in prayer and the other days serving the community in various capacities as spiritual director, retreat master and ministering to the Madonna House Associate Priests throughout the world. For many years he helped out in parishes within the Pembroke diocese as well as preaching parish missions throughout Canada and the U.S.

Msgr. Bill Schooler, pastor of St. Pius X Parish in Granger, said of his long-time friend, "Father McNulty served as my spiritual director during a crucial time in my ministry. Under his direction, he helped me make the transition from being a high school teacher at Marian High School to serving as pastor at St. Paul of the Cross in Columbia City."

He continued, "When Bishop (John M.) D'Arcy gave him permission to live permanently at Madonna House,

we kept in touch. I traveled several times to meet with him and make retreats. Every year I would send him the Ordo for the coming Liturgical Year. Although he appreciated the information on the right side of the Ordo (which tells us what prayers and colors we should use each day), he really wanted the information on the left side. The left side of the Ordo lists each diocesan priest who died that day, and Father McNulty promised that he would pray for that priest. Both of us prayed that God would keep us off the left side of the Ordo as long as possible. Now that his name will be added to the left side for next year, I pray that God grants him eternal rest."

Father Jack Overmyer, chaplain of Saint Anne Communities in Fort Wayne, knew Father McNulty as spiritual director as well, for him as he discerned the Priesthood. Of Father McNulty he said, "He was always of service to other people. He was very devout when celebrating Mass. ... He had a great love of the gentle mercy of God."

Father Overmyer recalled several visits with Father McNulty when he would profess deep gratitude for the blessing of his Priesthood.

Father McNulty is predeceased by his parents, brothers John, Roger, Donald (Noreen), Mark (Maureen), Bernard (Paula), and sister Jane Flower. He is survived by sisters Joalys Rice (Spokane, Washington); Elizabeth Ann Huhn (Palm Beach Gardens, Florida) and brother, Frederick (Fort Wayne).

Wake services were held on Dec. 20 at Madonna House St. Mary's Chapel. A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated on Dec. 21 with interment at the Madonna House cemetery. A reception followed.

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Bishop Rhoades speaks to chapters of Legatus business leaders

BY CORINE B. ERLANDSON

WARSAW — Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades encouraged local Catholic business leaders “to really take seriously this Jubilee Year of Mercy.” He quoted Pope Francis who called mercy “the beating heart of the Gospel.”

On Dec. 16, Bishop Rhoades celebrated Mass for the chapters of Legatus in Fort Wayne and South Bend-Elkhart. Legatus is an international organization of Catholic CEOs and their spouses

committed to studying, living and spreading the Catholic faith. The members of both chapters of Legatus met at Sacred Heart Parish in Warsaw.

After the Advent weekday Mass, Bishop Rhoades, Father Terry Coonan, chaplain for the South Bend-Elkhart chapter, and Legatus members gathered for a festive dinner. The dinner was followed by a talk by Bishop Rhoades who spoke on the Jubilee Year of Mercy that began on Dec. 8.

Bishop Rhoades told the

Legatus members that the Vatican document on the Year of Mercy begins by saying that Jesus is the face of God's mercy. “We really need to take this Jubilee Year of Mercy seriously,” said Bishop Rhoades. He quoted Pope Francis' words that the world needs the joy of the Gospel. Bishop Rhoades said that being a Catholic is less acceptable in the culture today. “But we can't be sourpusses,” Bishop Rhoades said. “We cannot live Lent all year long without celebrating the joy of Easter.”

Bishop Rhoades advised the Legatus members to not rush out and become activists first for the Year of Mercy; he recommended prayer and contemplation first. “It has to begin with prayer to experience the depths of God's mercy,” Bishop Rhoades said.

Bishop Rhoades recommended reading books recently published by Our Sunday Visitor Publishing for the Year of Mercy, including the Psalms of mercy and the parables of mercy. “Savor and read the psalms and parables of mercy slowly,” Bishop Rhoades said. “Listen to them in a deep way to experience the depths of God's mercy.”

Bishop Rhoades told the Legatus members to try to not limit their concept of mercy. “Don't limit your understanding of mercy to forgiveness only. Mercy includes forgiveness, but mercy is even broader,” Bishop Rhoades said. “Mercy — God's loving kindness — is a very rich concept.” Bishop Rhoades said that once we have prayed about and contemplated Divine Mercy, then we can tackle the corporal works of mercy, such as feeding the hungry, giving drink to the thirsty, clothing the naked and visiting the prisoner. “We have to take Jesus' words about this seriously,” Bishop Rhoades said.

In his homily at Mass, Bishop Rhoades quoted Pope Francis. “Mercy is the very foundation of the Church's life. All of her pastoral activity should be caught up in the tenderness she makes present to believers; nothing in her preaching and in her witness to the world can be lacking in mercy. The Church's very credibility is seen in how she shows merciful and compassionate love.”

Bishop Rhoades said he is encouraging the priests in the diocese to make mercy in the sacrament of Reconciliation more readily available to parishioners.

Bishop Rhoades told the Legatus members, “Try to be open to this Jubilee Year of Mercy. Try to live it out during this Jubilee Year. It will bear much fruit.” At the end of his talk, the two chapters of Legatus joined to present Bishop Rhoades with a check for \$1,000 for his favorite charity.

Latin Patriarch celebrates Christmas in Bethlehem



CNS photo/Fadi Arouri, pool via EPA

Latin Patriarch Fouad Twal of Jerusalem swings a censer as he celebrates midnight Mass on Christmas in the Church of St. Catherine, adjacent to the Church of the Nativity, in Bethlehem, West Bank. Patriarch Twal said in the Jubilee Year of Mercy called by Pope Francis that mercy must include every person — both kin and foe. “In these days and time, we suffer from the absence of compassion in our hearts — as if the coming of Jesus Christ and the message of Christmas were in vain,” he said in his homily. “Our hearts go out to the millions of refugees living in camps and shanties, suffering from the biting cold; people fleeing from areas of conflict, many are drifting on vast waters aboard fragile boats, and the sea becoming a collective graveyard. Mercy, compassion and benevolence still exist throughout the world. Fortunately, not all people have lost their humanity,” he said, adding that mercy is not limited to just individual actions and relations, but is all-encompassing.

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Living the Year of Mercy

Clothe the Naked



Sarah Speer

The Ladies Guild from Immaculate Conception in Auburn meets each month to make pajamas for children who must leave their homes because a parent is using or making methamphetamine drugs. The pajamas, hygiene items, a blanket and a stuffed animal are included in a care package that is given to the children to comfort them during a scary and uncertain time in their lives.



Roxy Ann Casper

At St. Mary of the Assumption Parish in Decatur, the Knights of Columbus Council 864 holds an annual coat drive. Chairperson Larry Sundheimer distributes coats to children and adults who request them. Parishioners delivered coats to families as well.



Sharon Simmons

The Christ Child Society of Fort Wayne hosts a coat drive each fall for winter coats. The coats are distributed to children in need in Fort Wayne.



Darrel Dodane

Donations of clothing at the St. Vincent de Paul Store on South Calhoun Street in Fort Wayne provides clothes at low cost and is part of the St. Vincent de Paul Society's mission and corporal work of mercy to clothe the naked.

Year of Mercy day 26

"For His Mercy endures forever."
— Psalm 123



More photos showing works of mercy can be found at MyYearofMercy.org

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Kay Cozad

Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades poses with diocesan seminarians, deacons and six priests following a pre-Christmas Mass at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish in Fort Wayne on Dec. 22. Parents and family members of the seminarians attended the celebration day that included a luncheon hosted by the Serra Club of Fort Wayne.

Seminarians and their families gather for Serran celebration

BY TIM JOHNSON AND KAY COZAD

FORT WAYNE — Seminarians of the diocese gathered with their parents at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish in Fort Wayne on Dec. 22 for a pre-Christmas celebration hosted by the Serra Club of Fort Wayne.

At the Mass before the luncheon, Bishop Rhoades spoke of Mary's Magnificat, the day's Gospel. The Magnificat is a canticle that priests and seminarians pray every day at Evening Prayer.

"When we pray the Magnificat, we join with Mary in praising God for His mercy," Bishop Rhoades said. "We say with Mary that God 'has mercy on those who fear Him in every generation.' We say with Mary that God 'has come to the help of His servant Israel, for He remembered His promise of mercy, the promise He made to our fathers, to Abraham and his children forever.' In a sense, the Magnificat is a hymn of praise of God's mercy."

"Twice Mary recalls God's mercy, both in the past and in the present and future," Bishop Rhoades added. "In fact, she says that His mercy is from age to age, from generation to generation. This includes our generation! God's mercy endures. His loving kindness, His mercy, endures forever, as we pray in the psalms."

Bishop Rhoades said, "Pope Francis, like Pope St. John Paul II, recognizes that we need to focus on this attribute of God because the world is in such great need of God's mercy. In the midst of sin, oppression, poverty,

war, violence and terrorism, we need God's mercy. As in days of old, we pray that God will come to our aid, that He will remember His promise of mercy."

Bishop Rhoades said it is good to ponder the words of the Magnificat "and make them our own."

He told the seminarians, "You are preparing to be instruments of God's mercy as priests of His Son, the Son who is the face of the Father's mercy. All of us, priests and lay faithful, are called to be witnesses to this mercy."

At the luncheon following the Mass, Barb and Tom Neizer of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish, joined their son Daniel who is in his fifth year at Mount St. Mary's in Emmitsburg, Maryland. Barb said of the celebration, "It's just a beautiful witness to see all of them together and to see how blessed our diocese is with young men discerning and to see the beautiful family support with both the priests and the parents. It's just wonderful!"

Tom added, "It's rare when we're able to see all the group together with their parents especially this time of year at Christmas. It's a real joy. And everyone is so happy!"

Father James Shafer, pastor of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, is pleased that the parish has six seminarians and anticipates more.

"Seminarians are a big part of our parish community," Father Shafer said. "We showcase our seminarians as much as we can."

"We keep them up in front of the people," Father Shafer said. "The people pray for them. The



Kay Cozad

Bishop Rhoades receives the offertory gifts from a seminarian's family member at the Mass celebrated for seminarians and their families on Dec. 22, hosted by the Serra Club of Fort Wayne.

people in this parish love these guys. In many different ways they show that love for our seminarians."

Father Shafer said the parish support of the seminarians is also an incentive for other young men in the parish to take a look at the seminarians and say, "This is a possibility for me."

"I think anything we can do with the seminarians as a parish is tremendous and a privilege," Father Shafer noted.

Another of the six St. Elizabeth seminarians is Jay Horning, a second-year theology studies seminarian at Mount Saint Mary's in Emmitsburg,

Maryland. He said, "I think the beauty of this luncheon is not just to bring our families together, which is a blessing for me. My family is not Catholic. They get to experience some of the Church and see what it is like. It makes it a little bit easier for them."

He was also thankful for the Serrans, "who pray for us constantly," Horning noted. "Knowing that we have these prayer warriors back home, makes being away at school a little bit easier to bear."

Gabriol Alvarez and his family had traveled from Elkhart where they are parishioners of St. Vincent de Paul Parish to be a part of the day's celebration along with their son Jonathan. He is in his second year of seminary training at Pontifical College Josephinum in Columbus, Ohio. Alvarez said, "It's exciting, you know, to be with all the families and it's really nice for me being with my son at this time of year."

Sandy and Scott Kruse, parishioners of St. Vincent de Paul Parish in Fort Wayne, joined their son Caleb, who is also in his second year at Pontifical College Josephinum. Sandy felt being at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish for this celebration was a gift. "Especially this Year of Mercy — it's a time of forgiveness. And just sharing the time with other seminarians and their families. We're very appreciative that the diocese does this."

Seminarian Nathan Maskal, who is from St. Charles Borromeo Parish, Fort Wayne, is doing a pastoral year at St. Mary of the Assumption Church in Decatur and has two years of

studies ahead of him.

"This is a chance for us to meet the Serra Club, who are kind of our benefactors and support us throughout the year," Maskal said. He also appreciated the Mass with Bishop Rhoades and the opportunity to catch up with the seminarians who do not all study at the same location.

Dominic Garrett, a seminarian in second-year college at the Josephinum in Columbus, Ohio, said, "I think it is nice to get together with all the seminarians, coming back after a long semester, getting together and catching up with everybody."

Garrett was also thankful his parents Jason and Sharon Garrett could join him for the Mass and luncheon.

Sharon Garrett said, "It's exciting to see how our Church is growing. We have so many young men opening their hearts to serving the Church in such a way that no one else can."

She said that in the fall, the parents of seminarians began meeting once a month — at the suggestion of Father Andrew Budzinski, vocation director — in a casual environment.

James Andrews, a Serra Club member and organizer of the luncheon, told *Today's Catholic* that Serra Club hosts this luncheon in appreciation for the seminarians. "We support them from the day they start (studying in seminary) until the day that they are ordained. We are behind them, we are praying for them, we keep in constant communications."

The Serra Club of South Bend and the Serra Club of Fort Wayne alternate hosting the luncheon each year at Christmas time.

Office of Worship posts liturgical trainings

FORT WAYNE — The Office of Worship has organized diocesan liturgical trainings on upcoming Saturdays for lectors and extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion. There is no charge to attend a training, but advance registration is required by mail or email.

Lector trainings will be on Feb. 6 at St. Jude Church in Fort Wayne, and on Feb. 13 at St. Joseph Church in South Bend. Extraordinary minister trainings will be on Jan. 30 at St. Charles Church in Fort Wayne, and on Feb. 6 at St. Matthew Cathedral in South Bend. All trainings are scheduled to start at 9 a.m. and end by or before 1 p.m. More specific information, as well as the full registration form, can be found online at www.diocesefwsb.org/Trainings-And-Retreats.

Our Lady of Hungary to usher in 100th year

SOUTH BEND — Our Lady of Hungary Church in South Bend will begin celebrations for the parish centennial with an opening Mass on Sunday, Jan. 10, at 10 a.m. Father Kevin Bauman, pastor, will be the celebrant. The opening ceremony will include cake, punch and coffee in the Our Lady of Hungary School Auditorium following the Mass. All are welcome. Events are planned throughout the year.

USF offering Saturday morning art classes for children

FORT WAYNE — Registration is open for Saturday morning art classes for children through the School of Creative Arts at the University of Saint Francis. Classes are for children in grades 1-8 from 9 to 11 a.m. on Saturdays, Jan. 30 through April 16.

Students will be introduced to a variety of processes, artists and cultures through media and disciplines such as drawing, painting, printmaking, multimedia and ceramics. The cost is \$85 per child, which includes all materials and instruction fees. Early registration is advised, as enrollment is limited.

The USF School of Creative Arts is accredited by the National Association of Schools of Art and Design (NASAD). For more information or a registration form, contact the School of Creative Arts at 260-399-8064.

Daniel Rudd Fund provides grant for Sankofa

FORT WAYNE — The Daniel Rudd Fund offered \$2,000 to the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, which was used for the

AROUND THE DIOCESE

St. Thomas Vincentians share the Christmas spirit



Anne Rice

St. Thomas the Apostle School Young Vincentians group rang bells, sang Christmas carols and collected money for the Salvation Army outside both entrances of Walmart on CR6 in Elkhart on Tuesday, Dec. 15, after school.

Sankofa Black Catholic Day of Reflection. The day of reflection was celebrated for the first time in Fort Wayne on Nov. 7 at St. Mary Mother of God Church in Fort Wayne.

Study on 'Laudato Si' to be offered at Victory Noll Center

HUNTINGTON — Victory Noll Center is offering a monthly Monday evening study of Pope Francis' encyclical, "Laudato Si': On Care for Our Common Home." Each session will begin with a simple soup supper. Each month will focus on one chapter of the encyclical with a study guide for reflection and discussion.

Sessions will be offered the second Monday of each month from January through June from 6-8 p.m.

The cost is \$75 and includes the book and supper. Participants are encouraged to register by Jan. 4 so that books can be purchased.

Victory Noll Center is located at 1900 W. Park Dr. in Huntington.

For more information about Victory Noll Center or the program, call 260-356-0628, ext. 174, or contact the center by e-mail atvictorynollcenter@olvm.org. More information is also available on the center's website, www.olvm.org/vncenter.

Nativity scenes displayed



Provided by St. Joseph Parish, LaGrange

From left, Mike Keith, Larry Gephart, Andy Stroop and Warren Patka, members of the Knights of Columbus Council 13962 St. Joseph, LaGrange, are shown with their design of a Nativity scene with the message "Keep Christ in Christmas." During their first year, the Knights made numerous stand-up scenes that are being displayed throughout LaGrange County.

Hope anchored in Jesus Christ



Heather Taube

Deb Wagner visited St. Mary of the Assumption School in Avilla and shared a message of hope with students and staff. She talked about her disability and told the children that although sometimes one may want to give up hope in certain situations — like if one doesn't make the sports team or get the grade desired on a test — one must not lose hope. God is in control and He is hope. Wagner introduced her service dog, Scarlet, and showed the children how her wheelchair transforms.

CHRIST THE SAVIOR IS B



Abby Lantzky

Father Tom Shoemaker, pastor of St. Therese Little Flower in South Bend, is shown with the parish youth group that enjoyed an evening of caroling and decorating at their Christmas party.



Mike Blankman

Father Bill Kummer, pastor of St. Joseph-Hessen Cassel is shown with the children placing the Baby Jesus in the crèche on Christmas Eve.



Santa every

Christmas celebrations are shown at St. Therese, Little Flower in South Bend.

Tammy Golubski



Provided by Chris Nancarrow

For the second year, the St. Thomas More Society of Fort Wayne has sponsored a Catholic Charities family during Christmas. Due to the support of the society's members, the society fulfilled the family's wishlist and provided additional gift cards. The family had one mother and three children. The society consists of more than 60 attorneys, judges and elected officials in the area. Society members in the photo include Chris Nancarrow, chief deputy clerk, at right, and Judge Craig J. Bobay, center, and at left from Catholic Charities, are Liz Flaherty and Vicky Foltz.



Parishioners of St. Joseph Parish in Roanoke gather around the altar and Nativity scene.

Bob Schneider

BORN Christmas across the diocese



Phoebe Muthart
Santa Claus arrived at St. Dominic Church in Bremen Dec. 24 to wish everyone a Merry Christmas after Mass.



Children participate in the St. Monica, Mishawaka, Christmas Eve celebrations.

Kevin Haggengjos



Elyssa Tran

Father Andrew Thu Pham, pastor at St. Patrick, Fort Wayne, joins the Vietnamese youth following the Christmas morning Mass and Nativity drama.



Corine Erlandson

The St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish choir sings at the 10 p.m. Christmas Eve Mass.



Elyssa Tran

Ryan Nguyen portrays St. Joseph and Karen Tran portrays Mary in a Nativity drama presented by the Vietnamese youth of St. Patrick Parish in Fort Wayne in conjunction with Christmas morning Mass.

Families must open home to God or selfishness will reign

BY CAROL GLATZ

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Families need to open their doors to God and His love or they will harbor an individualism that endangers peace and joy, Pope Francis said on the feast of the Holy Family. Recognizing and encourag-

ing the importance of strong and unified families is especially needed today when "the family is subjected to misunderstanding and difficulties of various kinds, which weaken it," he said Dec. 27 before praying the Angelus with visitors gathered in St. Peter's Square. Marking the Jubilee of



Pope Francis waves as he leads the Angelus from the window of his studio overlooking St. Peter's Square at the Vatican Dec. 27.

Holy Year of Mercy events, had said it would be Sept. 4. That date celebrates the Jubilee of workers and volunteers of mercy and comes the day before the 19th anniversary of her death, Sept. 5, 1997.

The postulator for her sainthood cause, Father Brian Kolodiejchuk of the Missionaries of Charity, said the second miracle that was approved involved the healing of a now 42-year-old mechanical engineer in Santos, Brazil. Doctors diagnosed the man with a viral brain infection that resulted in multiple brain abscesses, the priest said in a statement published Dec. 18 by AsiaNews, the Rome-based missionary news agency. Treatments given were ineffective and the man went into a coma, the postulator wrote.



CNS photo/Nancy Wiehede

Pope Francis has approved a miracle attributed to the intercession of Blessed Teresa of Kolkata, paving the way for her canonization in 2016. Mother Teresa is seen during a visit to Phoenix, Ariz., in 1989.

Celebrate the Christmas Season

with the

Immaculate Conception Cathedral Choir

Michael Dulac, director

Sunday, 3 January 2016 at 4:00PM

Mother Théodore Guérin Chapel
Clinton St., Fort Wayne, Ind.

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~: LIGHT RECEPTION FOLLOWING CONCERT ~:



Families during the Holy Year of Mercy, the pope dedicated a morning Mass and his noon Angelus address to the example and witness of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph.

The day's Gospel reading "invites families to welcome the light of hope originating from the house of Nazareth," he said in remarks before the Angelus. The Holy Family demonstrates what God desires for all families — that they be "a special community of life and love," he said. Mary and Joseph teach men and women today to welcome children as a gift of God, to raise them in a way that cooperates with God's divine plan, and to give "the world, with every child, a new smile."

Miracle recognized to declare Mother Teresa a saint

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope Francis has approved a miracle attributed to the intercession of Blessed Teresa of Kolkata, thus paving the way for her canonization. Pope Francis signed the decree for Blessed Teresa's cause and advanced three other sainthood causes Dec. 17, the Vatican announced.

Although the date for the canonization ceremony will be officially announced during the next consistory of cardinals in February, Archbishop Rino Fisichella, president of the Vatican office organizing the



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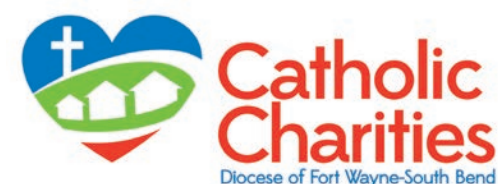
You gave us your time, talent, and treasure in 2015.

For all of this, the board of directors, staff, and people served at

Catholic Charities wish to say a heartfelt

THANK YOU!

to all our donors and volunteers!



Tackling the new year one heroic minute at a time

Oprah Winfrey has joined Weight Watchers, which means she is not only a card-carrying, point-counting member of the weight-loss club, she is also a part owner. That's how you do it when you're Oprah: You go big ("you get a car, you get a car, you get a car") or you don't bother.

For the 61-year-old billionaire, news of her involvement in the company and her investment of a 10-percent stake yielded a big pay day: Weight Watchers' stock doubled, netting Oprah about \$45 million in one day.

She reported her progress in the January issue of *O: The Oprah Magazine*, appearing on the cover in her most stripped-down look yet — barefoot in taupe spandex, a purple shawl and a nude lip. "I wanted a plan for life, and here it was in the form of Weight Watchers," Oprah wrote in her back-page column. She's lost 26 pounds since last August and gained a powerful sense of well-being.

What strikes me about her slickly marketed invitation to join Weight Watchers is how tempting it is, how eagerly many of us are waiting for an entry point into the future we've always imagined. We're paralyzed by the mounting gap between dreaming and doing, wondering what to do with 2016 in light of our Catholic faith and our packed calendars.

Bert Hernandez recognized his chance to finally turn things around when he spotted a ran-

dom tweet one Monday last August. The 40-year-old youth minister from San Antonio had already determined that getting on top of things, for him, would mean rising early like Teddy Roosevelt. He wanted to exercise daily, clean his house and strengthen his prayer life.

For several months Bert had been setting his alarm at 4 a.m., with a success rate he could count on one hand. Then came Leah Darrow's tweet inviting people to participate in the Heroic Minute Challenge, a hashtag the popular Catholic speaker had borrowed from St. Josemaría Escrivá, who wrote: "Conquer yourself each day from the very first moment, getting up on the dot, at a fixed time, without yielding a single minute to laziness. If, with God's help, you conquer yourself, you will be well ahead for the rest of the day. ... The heroic minute: here you have a mortification that strengthens your will and does no harm to your body."

Bert saw Leah's movement as a club he could be part of, informed by Catholicism and driven by accountability, so he tweeted, "I accept the #HeroicMinuteChallenge" and made his pledge public. The next day, at 4 a.m., he got out of bed and scurried to the kitchen, turning on the stove to make coffee, then retreating to the den to begin morning prayer. He tweeted the evidence: a screenshot of his Office of Readings, his iPhone at a 98 percent charge,



TWENTY SOMETHING

CHRISTINA CAPECCHI

his body, much lower.

By 6:30 a.m. he'd prayed the Liturgy of the Hours, run two miles and showered.

The second morning was easier, and his Twitter picture showed the hymn lyrics "morning has broken like the first morning." He was doing it!

"My day always seemed better, starting that way," Bert told me. "I definitely felt more peace." The added prayer time also helped him discern a job change that has brought many rewards.

The Heroic Minute Challenge wasn't easy for Leah either, but the 36-year-old mom from St. Louis couldn't abandon others who had signed on, and she wanted to offer real-time "likes" of their early-morning evidence — snapshots of sunrises, Scripture and coffee.

"The most important thing is getting my feet on the floor," Leah told me. "If I can move my feet out from under the covers and they can touch the hardwood floor, half the battle's done."

CAPECCHI, page 12

Finding the beautiful mama

A child was found wandering the big, bustling and grey city. She had been separated somehow from her mother. A kind passerby stopped to help the crying child who could only say they were going to buy bread. Thinking immediately of the specialty Italian bakery up the street, the kind gentleman decided to head in that direction and find the child's mother. How hard could it be? "Well, what does your mother look like?" the man asked.

"She is beautiful," is all that the child said.

"Can you tell me more? I need to know more to help."

The child thought for a moment and then slowly answered.

"She has curly hair that flows. Her eyes are sparkly blue; she is like a queen. She is the most beautiful woman in the world." The child whimpered softly, her own eyes looking off in the distance to the image in her mind.

The man walked with the child up the street towards the bakery he had thought of. The woman shouldn't be too hard to find, based on that description. Most of the people in the crowd were nondescript. Halfway up the block, he spotted a striking young woman with golden hair, which flowed over a neat navy pea coat with shiny buttons. She was very pretty and young. This must be her!

"Well?" he asked the child hopefully, pointing to the woman and moving toward her.

"No, no! That's not her," the child answered sadly. "That's not



EVERYDAY CATHOLIC

TERESA A. THOMAS

her. She is way more beautiful than that."

The man slightly surprised at hearing this and still holding the hand of the lost child, continued to work his way through the crowded street. He glanced at the faces he passed — an older gentleman, a middle aged woman with glasses, and then yes, there was a younger lovely woman on the corner calling, "Dear, dear! Come here at once!"

That must be her! The man's heart soared, thinking this woman was calling to the little girl whose hand he held. But before he could ask the lost child, a lad of about seven leapt into the woman's arms and the two hurried along. The little girl, sensing his eminent question shook her head.

"She is way more beautiful than that," she said.

Up and down the street the man and the child went, searching, searching ... but to no avail. A half hour passed by and the man finally decided he needed to take the child to the police station. He was having no success and the more time that passed by the less likely he was to find the child's mother. The child

EVERYDAY, page 12

Following the star of Bethlehem leads to 'land of perfect day'



THE SUNDAY GOSPEL

MSGR. OWEN F. CAMPION

Feast of the Epiphany of the Lord Mt. 2:1-12

This weekend the Church celebrates the ancient feast of the Epiphany of the Lord, reflecting upon the visit of Magi "from the East" to the crib side of the newborn Savior.

The first reading is from the third and last section of Isaiah. After four generations of exile in Babylon, survivors, or descendants of survivors, of the long past Babylonian conquest of the Holy Land finally were able to return to their homeland.

It was because Persia in turn had overtaken Babylonia. Persia's King Cyrus allowed the

exiles to leave Babylon and to return to the Holy Land, but homecoming was bittersweet. The land to which they returned after so many years was desolate and unyielding.

The prophets insisted that, in spite of this desolation, times would change for the better, because God would not forget the chosen people.

So, this reading rejoices. God will vindicate the people, delivering them from all their woes. So, the prophecy predicts a great new day!

In the second reading, from the Epistle to the Ephesians, is the frank and direct statement that God intends salvation also for the Gentiles, not only for the chosen people. No one is beyond the range of divine love and mercy.

St. Matthew's Gospel furnishes the last reading. Among the four Gospels, only Matthew and Luke refer to the conception, birth and very early life of Jesus. Mark and John are silent on these subjects.

Only Matthew has the story of the Magi, but this story is one of

the most profound, and expressive, revelations in the New Testament. Better to understand it requires recognizing the symbols and images contained in the passage.

First, the Gospel speaks of visitors "from the East." "From the East" was a phrase referring to much more than a direction of the compass. It meant a distant and unknown place. What was the origin of these visitors? The Gospel does not say, indicating only — but critically — that they were not Jews.

What were they? Scholars have not agreed on a translation. Some think that they were astrologers, in a time when astrology was heavily associated with theology and philosophy. Others think that they were nobles or kings. The definition of Magi still is unclear.

How many were in their group? Legend over the centuries has seen them as three in number, but Matthew mentions no number.

Regardless, they were gifted, learned, and very sincere, earnestly seeking God.

Herod tried to remove any competition this newborn king might create. He discovers that according to the Scriptures, the Savior indeed will be born in Bethlehem.

Central to the story is that in searching for the Lord, the Magi followed a star in the sky, and that human evil attempts to stall God's mercy for its self-interests.

Reflection

A more modern Christmas song has an especially relevant message for Epiphany, "Beautiful Star of Bethlehem," words by Adger M. Pace, music by R. Fisher Boyce, and arranged by Tom Fittke.

The song's words pray that by following the beautiful star of Bethlehem in our own lives, we will reach the "land of perfect day."

The Epiphany is much more than a commemoration. It is a call to us to follow God's beckoning to live in a place of endless light and warmth, the kingdom where Jesus reigns supreme.

Too often we allow ourselves

to slip into the role of Herod, if even on a lesser scale. We ignore, or outright reject, God by choosing to live as our instincts or limited human understandings suggest to us.

We may lure others into darkness.

Still, the saints have discovered that the "land of perfect day," warm and bright, is real. Jesus guides us into this wondrous world of light.

READINGS

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

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

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

Wednesday: 1 Jn 4:11-18 Ps 72:1-2, 10, 12-13 Mk 6:45-52

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

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

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

Christmas and a world upside-down

Biblical scholars generally agree that Luke's Gospel was written at least a generation later than Paul's first letter to the Christians at Corinth. Yet whatever the dating, and irrespective of scholarly disputes about whether "Luke," the author of the eponymous Gospel and the Acts of the Apostles, and "Luke," the companion of Paul mentioned in Acts and several Pauline letters, are the same person, First Corinthians and Luke-Acts are built on the same, deep theological insight: the incarnation of the Son of God, and His birth, ministry, death and resurrection, turned the world upside-down.

So even if the Christmas story of the angelic announcement of the Nativity to the shepherds of Bethlehem (Lk 2.1-20) was written decades later than First Corinthians, Paul's letter to those fractious Greeks give us a crucial interpretive key to Christmas.

Here is Paul, bringing some serious heat at the very beginning of the letter full of challenge to his converts in one of antiquity's rowdiest towns:

"Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, it pleased God through the folly of what we preach to save those who believe. ... For the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men.

"For consider your call, brethren; not many of you were wise according to worldly standards, not many were of noble birth; but God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise, God chose what is weak in the

world to shame the strong, God chose what is low and despised in the world, even things that are not, to bring to nothing things that are, so that no human being might boast in the presence of God. He is the source of your life in Christ Jesus, whom God made our wisdom, our righteousness and sanctification and redemption; therefore, as it is written, 'Let him who boasts, boast in the Lord'" (1 Cor. 1.20b-31).

Preachers at Christmas often, and rightly, emphasize the lowliness of the Christ Child's birth and its first annunciation to a gaggle of herders not highly esteemed by their countrymen. What St. Paul reminds us, in First Corinthians, is that this pattern of inversion — turning everything upside-down — continues throughout the public ministry of the Lord Jesus and reaches its dramatic climax in His death and resurrection.

Jesus doesn't evangelize the principalities and powers (although they, too, are welcome to listen and learn): He goes to the outcasts, including lepers and prostitutes, to announce and embody a kingdom in which Israel's God is king, not just of the people of Israel, but of the whole world. The child "wrapped ... in swaddling clothes and laid ... in a manger" (Lk 2.7) will not establish God's rule and kingdom by political cunning, or by a display of worldly wisdom, or by knocking emperors and procurators off their thrones or judgment-seats: He will reign from a different throne, an instrument of torture — the Cross. He will not be celebrated, like victorious Roman generals, with a "triumph," a vast spectacle conduct-



GEORGE WEIGEL

THE CATHOLIC DIFFERENCE

ed in the capital of world empire: the signs of His "triumph" will be an empty tomb; the pierced hands and feet of a transfigured, glorified body that defies time and space; burning memories of a walk to Emmaus; a breakfast of grilled fish on the lakeshore; a commission to go and convert the world, issued to a group of nobodies.

It's all inversion — all upside-down — all the way.

Seeing the world with the world's eyes gets the world out of focus. Seeing the world through the Gospels and their unique optic on reality helps bring what the world mistakenly calls "the real world" into clearer focus. That kind of "seeing" begins at Christmas.

It doesn't end there, however. For seeing clearly is journey and pilgrimage, during which swords will pierce hearts and the road will lead to the ultimate inversion of worldly logic, which is Calvary. But then comes Easter. And then Christmas is fulfilled in a world that may seem upside-down to the world, but to the eyes of faith is finally right-side up, in perfect focus.

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

EVERYDAY

Continued from Page 11

was crying hard by now and the man felt badly for having to take her to the police station, where she surely would feel afraid. But what choice did he have?

The man with the sobbing child rounded the corner to the station with a large sign in front which read "Metro Police, Station Number 12." and entered the cold, glass-doored building. There were desks and seats and lines and people. The child shrieked, pulled away from his hand and ran.

"Mommy! Mommy! Mama!" she cried and he followed her through the crowded room as she ran to a portly, plain woman whose hair was pulled back in a bun, in a tattered coat, holding a simple loaf of common bread. The woman dropped this loaf, let out a little shriek and clasped the child tightly to her chest. "Oh, my goodness! Oh my child!" she

cried happily.

As the man approached the two hugging one another the woman looked up at him. Her face was devoid of makeup and her plain features would strike no one. The skin around her eyes was slightly wrinkled, appearing to be from happy squinting. And her eyes ... he saw that her eyes were the most beautiful, sparkly blue, but mostly kind, very kind and animated. As tears welled up in them, he detected love and tenderness. Under the woman's old hat he saw brown, curly hair, pulled up with bobby pins. Her child's coat, neat and clean and new was in direct contrast with her own, tattered and torn. Clearly she had sacrificed for her little girl.

The little girl cried out to the man, "It's her! It's her! It's mama! Isn't she the *most beautiful* woman in the world?"

And the man smiled. "Yes," he said to the child softly, "yes, she is."

Your adornment should not be an external one: braiding the hair, wearing gold jewelry, or dressing in fine clothes but

rather the hidden character of the heart, expressed in the imperishable beauty of a gentle and calm disposition, which is precious in the sight of God. — 1 Peter 3:3-4

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

CAPECCHI

Continued from Page 11

The path to holiness, Leah says, requires time management. "We need to think about the time God has given us, and we need to use it well."

Christina Capecci is a freelance writer from Inver Grove Heights, Minn., and editor of SisterStory.org.

SCRIPTURE SEARCH®

Gospel for January 3, 2016

Matthew 2:1-12

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

EPIPHANY	BETHLEHEM	KING HEROD
THE EAST	STAR	HOMAGE
HEARD	PRIESTS	PROPHET
RULER	SHEPHERD	ISRAEL
SEARCH	STOPPED	HOUSE
MARY	MOTHER	GOLD
WARNED	DREAM	RETURN

DESPITE HEROD

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



St. Elizabeth Ann Seton

1774-1821 Feast: Jan 4

Raised Episcopalian in colonial New York City, Elizabeth married William Magee Seton, a merchant. The couple had five children. William died in 1803 in Italy, where Elizabeth learned about Catholicism from the family who gave her hospitality. Wars had bankrupted the family's shipping business. After becoming a Catholic in New York in 1805, the now-poor Elizabeth was abandoned by old friends, but accepted the offer of a Baltimore priest to open a school for girls there. In 1809 she founded the U.S. Sisters of Charity, whose schools and orphanages grew in number. She became the first native-born U.S. saint in 1975 and is the patron of converts.

Priests win second Cupertino Classic



Photos by Joe Romie

The second annual Cupertino Classic, a friendly basketball game pitting priests against seminarians from the diocese, attracted a large crowd to Bishop Dwenger High School gymnasium on Monday, Dec. 28. With 1,817 in attendance, the selling of T-shirts and a freewill offering, funds from the event support the Seminarian Education Fund. For the second year, the priests defeated the seminarians, this year with a score of 52-39. In the photo, seminarian defenders Tom Zehr and Ben Landrigan surround Father Andrew Budzinski, vocation director and pastor of St. John the Baptist, Fort Wayne, as he looks to pass the ball.



Father Andrew Curry skies (or "elevates like St. Joseph of Cupertino") to put up a shot from the top of the key.

Visit the photo gallery at www.diocesefwsb.org for more photos.

Wrestling meet takes to the mats



Photos by Paul Tincher

Saint Joseph High School in South Bend hosted Marian High School, Mishawaka, in an evening wrestling meet on Dec. 10. Saint Joseph won the event, 48-30. Above, Marian High School senior Lucas Veldman and Saint Joseph High School senior Taran Tomaszewski are shown from the 145-pound weight class. Veldman won the match.



Saint Joseph High School junior Jared Kazmierczak and Marian High School senior Nick Blasko are shown in the 126-pound weight class. Kazmierczak won the match.

CYO rallies

BY MICHELLE CASTLEMAN

FORT WAYNE — In the final weekend of league play for the calendar year 2015, Catholic Youth Organization (CYO) teams saw lots of action.

At the St. Rose site, the St. Charles eighth-grade girls downed Most Precious Blood, the boys from Queen of Angels beat the St. Rose/St. Louis Twins and the Pioneers from St. Elizabeth got by the Lady Twins, 35-28, in a non-conference matchup. Lydia Reimbold led her team with nine points and Kennedy Glenn added eight. In the loss, Meagan Saalfrank and Audrey Renninger each had eight points for St. Rose/St. Louis.

In other games, St. John the Baptist, New Haven, seventh-grade girls' basketball team saw action against St. John Emmanuel Lutheran School on Saturday, Dec. 19. In a come-from-behind victory, the Raiders were lead in points by Rachel McCarthy and Jasmin Myles. Coach Justin Pranger explained, "Despite being behind in the first half, the girls never gave up and were able to take the lead in the second half." The final score was 25-22.

Over the Christmas break, coordinator Denny Jamison reports that 26 teams competed in the annual Hoopsfest Tournament. Coverage of that tournament will appear at a later date.

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Financial Aid Meeting

New and current families are encouraged to attend!

Wednesday, January 13, 2016
6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
Bishop Luers Library

For information please contact the Business Office, (260) 456-1261, Ext. 3026

SAVE THE DATE—Freshman Registration—Feb. 17th & 18th

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SoulCore strengthens faith and improves health

BY KAY COZAD

FORT WAYNE — SoulCore, a new movement spreading across southwest Fort Wayne, is strengthening faith and improving health for many. The program, according to its website, www.soulcore.com, is a “contemporary core workout that pairs exercise with the prayers of the rosary. A sensory experience that combines candlelight, music, reflections and movement to nourish body, mind and soul and encourage deeper meditation on the mysteries and virtues of the rosary.”

Initially conceived by Colleen Scariano, parishioner of Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church in Carmel, after several devastating losses in her life, SoulCore was designed to lead participants to a deeper devotion to the rosary while connecting to the mind and body through exercise. In her deep grief, Scariano found solace in praying the rosary while she ran. But after a friend reminded her to build core strength as well, she was soon collaborating with longtime friend Deanne Miller, who has a background in fitness and a devotion to Mary, and SoulCore was born.

SoulCore sessions last one hour and the class leader guides participants through the mysteries of the rosary matching each prayer with an exercise pose or posture. Those involved are quick to say though that SoulCore is not yoga and no yoga poses or Sanskrit are used in the workout that involves strengthening, stretching and isometric exercises.

The session begins with recitation of the Apostles' Creed with simple stretching. Pushups work the arms while praying the Our Father and each Hail Mary is recited for a variety of poses including core strengthening.



Photo provided by Ruth Beier

Ruth Beier, center, leads a SoulCore class in a friend's barn. The workout includes praying the rosary with strengthening, stretching and isometric exercises.

According to SoulCore's website, “Each mystery begins with a Scripture verse and a reflection, offering a time of rest. The end result is a feeling of relaxation, strength and renewal — of body, mind and soul.”

On the southwest side of Fort Wayne, a couple of friends, Ruth Beier and Patty Edwards, both parishioners of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish, have taken the training to facilitate SoulCore classes, which includes consecration to Mary, and have found immense benefits both spiritually and physically.

Ruth Beier, like SoulCore founder Scariano, prayed the

rosary while walking. After discovering SoulCore through a post on Facebook, she thought, “This is genius. You focus better when you're moving. ... It's multitasking at its best!”

After purchasing the DVD and exercising her way through the rosary she felt called to share the program and began giving DVDs away. Eventually she attended the leader's training and began offering classes in earnest in June, first in a barn space donated by a friend and currently, as the weather cools, at St. Joseph Church in Fort Wayne in the Adult Learning Center, Thursdays from 6-7 p.m. and

Fridays from 10:30-11:30 a.m.

Participants are asked to bring a mat and hand weights are optional. No rosary is needed. The program is intended for everyone with no restrictions on age, religion, gender or race.

Beier feels she is improving physically through the SoulCore workouts. And she admits, as she meditates on the mysteries and virtues of the rosary, she is better able to “surrender her life to God,” in everyday situations. “There's always something going on,” Beier says. “It (Soulcore) is helping me put everything in perspective as I stay centered on Christ and Our Lady.”

Patty Edwards attended one of Beier's classes and “knew after going to the first class, I loved it.” She trained as a leader and eventually offered her classes in September every Tuesday from 7-8 p.m. with the approval of pastor Father Jim Shafer at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish.

The benefits, Edwards says, are twofold. “I minister to others through the rosary, and students and myself receive the benefits of exercise. It has impacted my faith greatly. I am so hungry and excited to learn more about the Blessed Mother.”

All are welcome to Edwards' classes where she adapts each participant's workout to his or her own level of fitness. “In my class I have a student that sits in a chair or stands supported by the chair for stability and moves it — whatever works for her body. I have asked elder people to attend and simply come, sit and pray the rosary. No movement would be needed at all,” she says, adding, “I am very passionate about teaching and love the response I get from those in class.”

Beier and Edwards have hopes of inspiring parishes across the diocese to join the movement that is focused on deepening devotion to Jesus and Mary through the praying of the rosary. They would also like students and staff at Bishop Luers and Bishop Dwenger high schools to have the opportunity to experience SoulCore's benefits.

The SoulCore classes are donation based, so there is no fee. And the workout can be as rigorous as each participant wants it to be. “Do what's comfortable for you,” says Beier, adding, “The rosary is the most important part. The exercise is the icing on the cake.”

For more information visit www.soulcore.com.



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WHAT'S HAPPENING?

WHAT'S HAPPENING carries announcements about upcoming events in the diocese. Send your announcement at least two weeks prior to the event. View more Catholic events and submit yours at www.diocesefwsb.org/bulletin. 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.

Bingo
Fort Wayne — St. Joseph-Hessen Cassel will have Bingo Sunday, Jan. 10 in the hall. Doors open at 2 p.m. Admission is \$5, must be 18. Call 260-447-0591 for information.

Day of Reflection
Mishawaka — A day of reflection will be held at St. Francis Convent Wednesday, Jan. 6, from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. The theme for the day is "Prayer." Bring a Bible. The cost of the day is \$20 and includes lunch. Register by Jan. 1 to Sister Barbara Anne Hallman at 574-259-5427.

Trivia FUNraiser
South Bend — St. Therese, Little Flower Parish will have a trivia FUNraiser Friday, Jan. 8, at 6:30 p.m. Game starts at 7 p.m. Cost is \$80 per team of eight. Cash and door prizes. Beverages avail-

able. For more information call 269-684-3334.

A Night in Krakow: Dinner and show by seminarians
Fort Wayne — St. Vincent de Paul Parish, 1502 E Wallen Rd., will host "A Night in Krakow," where seminarians from the parish will host an evening of fun, fellowship and dining, Polish style. Join them in the parish hall on Saturday, Jan. 2, from 6-8 p.m. as they serve food native to Poland and entertain with their talent and wit. Tickets are \$25 per person or \$200 per table of eight and can be purchased at the door or by calling 260-489-3537, ext. 3.

Bishop Luers plans Cabaret Knight
Fort Wayne — Bishop Luers High School will host Cabaret Knight Sunday, Jan. 10, at 4 p.m. in the gym. Tickets include dinner and are \$15 adults, \$6 for

children 4-9 and children under 3 are free. Contact Beth Savieo at mbsavieo@gmail.com. Tickets are available until Jan. 8.

Financial aid meeting planned at Luers
Fort Wayne — Bishop Luers High School will host a financial aid meeting Wednesday, Jan. 13, from 6:30-8 p.m. in the school library. Call 260-456-1261, ext. 3026.

Chapel of Divine Mercy plans Mass, adoration
South Bend — Weekday Masses and Adoration continue at the Chapel of Divine Mercy at the Life Center, 2018 Ironwood Circle. Mass on Tuesdays is at 7:30 a.m., followed by Adoration until 2 p.m.; Mass on Wednesdays is at 1:30 p.m., followed by Adoration until 6:30 p.m. On Fridays, Adoration is held from 8:30 a.m. until 2 p.m.

Catholic Business Network Group
Fort Wayne — The Catholic Business Network Group will meet Friday, Jan. 8, at 7 a.m. in the St. Mother Theodore Guérin Chapel. Katie Brown, from Century 21 Bradley Realty will speak in the Cathedral Center on "Ode to Joy, The many ways through which God's work is truly visible within a career."

Polish, English Epiphany Mass
Fort Wayne — A Polish Epiphany Mass will be celebrated at 2:30 p.m. on Jan. 3 at St. Joseph Church. Father Tim Wrozek, pastor, will be the celebrant. A pre-

REST IN PEACE

Arcola
Richard Nicholas Johnson, 87, St. Patrick

Auburn
Paul E. Graves, 92, Immaculate Conception

Edward J. Gardlik, 89, Immaculate Conception

Bremen
Lawrence E. Schutz, 84, St. Dominic

Bristol
Michael Dean Cripe, 56, St. Mary of the Annunciation

Jack D. Mitchell, 91, St. Mary of the Annunciation

Decatur
Richard K. Des Jean, 90, St. Mary

Fort Wayne
Peggy C. Persing, 87, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton

August Anthony DiGregory Sr., 100, St. John the Baptist

Dianne Marie Erb Ross, 76, Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception

Kathryn E. Creigh, 96, Our Lady of Good Hope

Elizabeth F. Johnson, 90, St. Joseph-Hessen Cassel

Nancy L. Miller, 74, St. Vincent de Paul
Doris M. Roach-Recht, 86, St. Jude

Ruth Cartwright, 85, Most Precious Blood

Steve E. DeGrandchamp, 63, St. Charles Borromeo

Cynthia Ann Reuille, 66, St. John the Baptist

Robert E. Heimann, 90, Saint Anne Home Chapel

Kevin Patrick Carroll, 61, St. Patrick

Anita Loyd, 85, St. Therese

Rita M. Barrand, 94, St. Charles Borromeo

Garrett
Martha C. Gentis, 90, St. Joseph

Goshen
Suzanne E. Degan, 84, St. John the Evangelist

Granger
Mary K. Birk, 81, St. Pius X

Huntington
Madonna Lea Jeffers, 76, Ss. Peter and Paul

Mishawaka
Steven L. Artusi, 71, St. Joseph

New Haven
Irene Schlink, 95, St. John the Baptist

Notre Dame
Sister Mary Romanus, CSC, 100, Saint Mary

Father Lawrence A. LeVasseur, CSC, 91, Basilica/Sacred Heart

South Bend
John J. Peczkowski, 88, St. John the Baptist

Frank F. Banicki, 76, St. Adalbert

Martin G. Prikosovich, 91, St. Anthony de Padua

Carmen J. Bellini Jr., 64, St. Matthew

Richard L. Duvall, 75, Corpus Christi

John R. Leszczynski, 86, Holy Family

Mary Ann Vanderwall, 89, St. Monica

Eugenia A. Nowicki, 103, St. Adalbert

Alfred J. Zubler, 89, Corpus Christi

Richard L. Duvall, 75, Corpus Christi

Alice Z. Prentkowski, 91, St. John the Baptist

Father Pat McNulty, 84, St. Mary Chapel, Ontario, Canada

Parishes should submit obituaries to kcozad@diocesefwsb.org

lude of singing Polish Christmas carols (koledy) will begin at 2 p.m. Light refreshments will be served after Mass.

Christmas concert at St. Pius X
Granger — St. Pius X Music

Ministry, under the direction of Jeremy Hoy, Carol Flora, Melissa Butner, and accompanist, Beth Habas, will close the Christmas season with a concert on Sunday, Jan. 10, at 2:30 p.m. in the church, 52553 Fir Rd. Featured choirs include: Children's Choir, Middle School Choir, Sunday Morning and Evening Adult Choirs, Adult and Youth Handbell Choirs and Instrumentalists. The concert is free.

Interpreter to be present
Fort Wayne — An Interpreter for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing will be present at the 11:30 a.m. Mass on Sunday, Jan. 10, at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, 1122 S. Clinton St. For information, contact Allison Sturm, asturm@diocesefwsb.org.

Theology on Tap announces winter series
Granger — The winter series theme #LentIsComing, will help to prepare for a fruitful Lent and take place at Villa Macri in Granger on Tuesdays at 6:30 p.m. On Tuesday, Jan. 12 — Prayer: Growing in Relationship with God — Speaker TBA.

Business Manager

Saint Anthony Catholic Church in South Bend seeks a business manager. This is a full-time position with benefits. Qualifications include accounting or business degree. Relevant experience helpful. Main duties include routine transaction processing, tuition management; cash flow projections; budget development and overall fiscal management of church and school.

Interested parties can send resume or inquires to:

Father David Ruppert

Saint Anthony Parish Office

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Director of Music & Liturgy

Christ the King Parish in South Bend, Indiana seeks a Director of Liturgy and Music. This person will be a part of our Pastoral Team and will be responsible for planning parish liturgies in addition to leading all church choirs and cantors. The successful applicant will be a skilled musician with experience planning liturgies and leading choirs. A master's degree in Sacred Music is preferred. A bachelor's degree in a related field and musical competency is required. A full job description is available on request. If you are interested in joining our team, please email your cover letter and resume to:

Fr. Chris Rehagen, CSC at

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(deadline: January 30, 2016)

Coordinator to Outward Bound Ministry

The Center at Donaldson is seeking to fill our Coordinator of Outward Bound Ministry position. This is an exciting opportunity for someone who has a passion for reaching out and ministering to people through retreat ministry. The job duties include working with the Director of Lindenwood Retreat & Conference Center to organize and lead retreats, conferences & programs, in addition to forming and maintaining partnerships within the communities we serve. The candidate must have demonstrated work experience with retreat ministry. Familiarity with Catholic, ecumenical and interfaith traditions desirable. Some travel will be required. We offer a friendly, caring work environment in a Christian oriented, mission based atmosphere, a competitive wage, and outstanding benefit package. Résumé, including salary history should be submitted by January 29, 2016, to:

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2015 in review

Pope's U.S. visit: Six full days in September and the impact continues

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Pope Francis' U.S. visit — Sept. 22-27 — was so full, "each day was like a week," said the president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops. Any one of his public events would have made the trip worthwhile, said Archbishop Joseph E. Kurtz of Louisville, Kentucky, but he noted that what will stand out the most from the visit were the pope's "personal opportunities to be with people that are not the influential, but the forgotten."

The archbishop, in a Nov. 18 interview during the bishops' fall meeting in Baltimore, said the pope brought Catholics together with a "sense of fervor and enthusiasm" that will continue to benefit both the U.S. Church and the pope, who was "encouraged by his interaction with us."

Pope Francis talked about how much he enjoyed the U.S. visit right away: during his Sept. 27 return flight to Rome after six jam-packed days in Washington, New York and Philadelphia on the heels of his four-day visit to Cuba. He told reporters he "was surprised by the warmth of the people" in the U.S. and how they were "so loving." There was certainly plenty of love on display for the pope in crowds that lined streets in Washington, New York and Philadelphia just to catch a glimpse of him.

And he returned the love right back, waving from the popemobile or the black Fiat and personally greeting bishops, schoolchildren, prisoners, the homeless and abuse victims or in celebrating liturgies and addressing massive crowds or congressional leaders and U.N. officials.

Milestones of 2015:



CNS photo/Gustavo Amador, EPA

Pope Francis emphasized protection for the environment and the need to mitigate climate change in his second encyclical, "Laudato Si': On Care for Our Common Home" on June 18. This is an aerial view of the Rio Platano nature reserve in Honduras.

- St. John the Evangelist, Goshen, celebrates 175 years
- Pope Francis visits Sri Lanka and the Philippines in January
- Holy Cross Father Theodore Hesburgh, former president of the University of Notre Dame, dies Feb. 26 at age 97
- St. Pius X, Granger, breaks ground April 19 for new church
- University of Saint Francis closes 125th year anniversary in May
- Ave Maria Press celebrates 150 year of publishing in May
- Year of Consecrated Life celebrated in Vespers gathering at the Basilica of the Sacred Heart at the University of Notre Dame on May 31
- St. Patrick Parish, Fort Wayne, observes 125th anniversary on June 29
- Pope Francis visits South America — Ecuador, Bolivia and Paraguay — July 5-12
- St. Mary of the Assumption Parish in Decatur closes its 175th anniversary in August
- St. Monica celebrates its 100th anniversary Aug. 30
- St. Stanislaus Parish, South Bend, becomes a personal parish serving the faithful who worship according to the extraordinary form of the Latin rite on Sept. 8
- World Meeting of Families conference in Philadelphia, Sept. 22-25
- Pope Francis visits Cuba Sept. 19-22



Joe Romie

Jessica Hayes dedicates her life as a consecrated virgin at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception on Aug. 15.

- Pope Francis visits Washington, New York and Philadelphia, Sept. 22-27
- Pope Francis delivers homily during closing Mass of World Meeting of Families in Philadelphia
- Zeal, Missionary Discipleship Summit held at Bishop Dwenger High School on Oct. 10
- Pope Francis canonizes Louis and Zelig Martin, the parents of St. Therese of Lisieux, on Oct. 18
- Jubilee Year of Mercy opens Dec. 8
- Doors of Mercy open Dec. 13 at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, Fort Wayne, St. Matthew Cathedral, South Bend, and the Basilica of the Sacred Heart, Notre Dame



Kevin Haggenjos

Ordained to the diaconate — Deacons Bob Garrow, Craig Borchard and David Violi, May 23 at St. Matthew Cathedral.



Kay Cozad

Ordained to the Holy Priesthood were Fathers Jonathan Norton, Royce Gregerson, Bill Meininger and Matt Soberalski at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Fort Wayne on June 6.

Epiphany 2016: A look ahead

- Now through Nov. 20: Pilgrimage through the Doors of Mercy at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, Fort Wayne, St. Matthew Cathedral, South Bend, Basilica of the Sacred Heart, Notre Dame
- Rites of Election will be at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, Fort Wayne on Sunday, Feb. 2, at 2 p.m. and at St. Matthew Cathedral, South Bend, on Sunday, Feb. 14, at 2 p.m.
- Ash Wednesday, Feb. 10, Lent begins
- 24 Hours For the Lord, March 4-5
- Chrism Mass, St. Matthew Cathedral, South Bend, March 21 at 7:30 p.m.
- Chrism Mass, Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, Fort Wayne, March 22 at 7:30 p.m.
- Easter Triduum, March 24-26
- Easter Sunday, March 27
- Deacon Ordination, Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, May 21, 11 a.m.
- Priest Ordination, St. Matthew Cathedral, June 4, 11 a.m.
- Come and See Men's Discernment Retreat, June 16-18
- World Youth Day activities for diocesan pilgrims, July 21 to Aug. 1
- Zeal, Missionary Discipleship Summit, Aug. 27
- Today's Catholic Travel presents St. Patrick's Ireland pilgrimage Sept. 4-13
- White Mass in Fort Wayne on Saturday, Sept. 24
- Year of Mercy ends, feast of Christ the King, Nov. 20
- First Sunday of Advent, Nov. 27
- Christmas, Sunday, Dec. 25



CNS

The Holy Door is opened in Rome.



Joe Romie

Doors of Mercy open Dec. 13 at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, Fort Wayne, St. Matthew Cathedral, South Bend, and the Basilica of the Sacred Heart, Notre Dame.