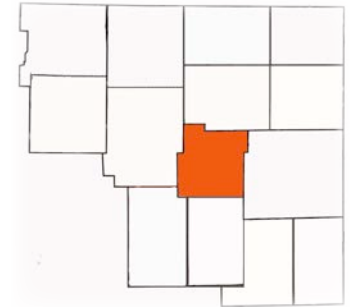


TODAY'S CATHOLIC

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Proclaim Christ the king of mercy, pope says at end of Holy Year

BY CINDY WOODEN

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Following Christ the King, whose regal power is love and mercy, means the whole church and each Christian must “follow his way of tangible love,” Pope Francis said.

Celebrating the feast of Christ the King Nov. 20 and officially closing the extraordinary jubilee celebration of the Year of Mercy, Pope Francis insisted, “we have received mercy in order to be merciful.”

On a warm, late fall morning, St. Peter’s Square was filled with an estimated 70,000 people for the Mass, which was concelebrated by the new cardinals Pope Francis had created the previous day.

The pope and the new cardinals first went to the atrium of St. Peter’s Basilica and gave thanks for “the gifts of grace received” during the Holy Year. Pope Francis then went to the threshold of the Holy Door and pulled each side shut. The door will be sealed until the next Holy Year, which is likely to be 2025.

In his homily, Pope Francis said that even if the Holy Door is closed, “the true door of mercy, which is the heart of Christ, always remains open wide for us.”



CNS/Tiziana Fabi, pool via Reuters

Pope Francis closes the Holy Door of St. Peter’s Basilica to mark the closing of the jubilee Year of Mercy at the Vatican Nov. 20.

MERCY, page 5

Diversity dominates USCCB meeting with Encuentro news, VP choice

BALTIMORE (CNS) — A groundbreaking new study commissioned by the bishops that finds diversity abounds in the U.S. Catholic Church is a clarion call to Catholic institutions and ministries to adapt and prepare for growing diversity, said Archbishop Gustavo Garcia-Siller of San Antonio.

On Nov. 15, the second day of the bishops’ annual fall assembly in Baltimore, the archbishop shared results of a report by the Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate at Georgetown University showing the Church is one of the most culturally diverse institutions in the United States.

It was commissioned by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops’ Committee on Cultural Diversity in the Church, chaired by Archbishop Garcia-Siller, to help identify the size and distribution of ethnic communities in the country — Hispanic and Latino, African-American, Asian-American and Native American.

He asked his brother bishops to look at the data and see how it speaks to their regions to help dioceses plan, set priorities and allocate resources.

The study’s finding that there are close to 30 million Hispanics in the U.S. Church resonated in the election earlier that day of Archbishop Jose H. Gomez of Los Angeles to a three-year term as USCCB vice president, bringing a Latino voice to the leadership role for the first time. Cardinal Daniel N. DiNardo of Galveston-Houston was elected to a three-year term as USCCB president, succeeding Archbishop Joseph E. Kurtz of Louisville, Ky., whose term ended with the close of the meeting.

The bishops also heard about the Church’s preparations for fifth national Encuentro of Hispanic/Latino ministry, from Auxiliary Bishop Nelson J.

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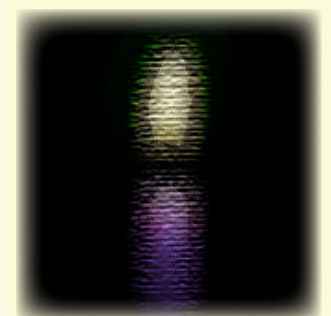
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The hope of Advent

Advent wreath’s first candle represents our faith

in the future

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Run, don't walk, during Advent!



IN TRUTH AND CHARITY

BISHOP KEVIN C. RHOADES

We are about to begin the holy season of Advent, the beginning of a new liturgical year. Advent is a time of preparation for Christ's coming, the joyful celebration of His first coming at Christmas and the anticipation of His second coming at the end of time. At the same time, we acknowledge Christ's presence among us even now.

Advent is a season of joyful hope in the Lord who comes to save us. The Scripture readings of Advent teach us to be vigilant for the coming of the Lord. In the Gospel this Sunday, Jesus says to the disciples: "Stay awake! For you do not know on which day your Lord will come." Jesus is speaking about His second coming. We are to be alert as we await the coming of the Lord, ready to meet Him who is our Savior and our Judge.

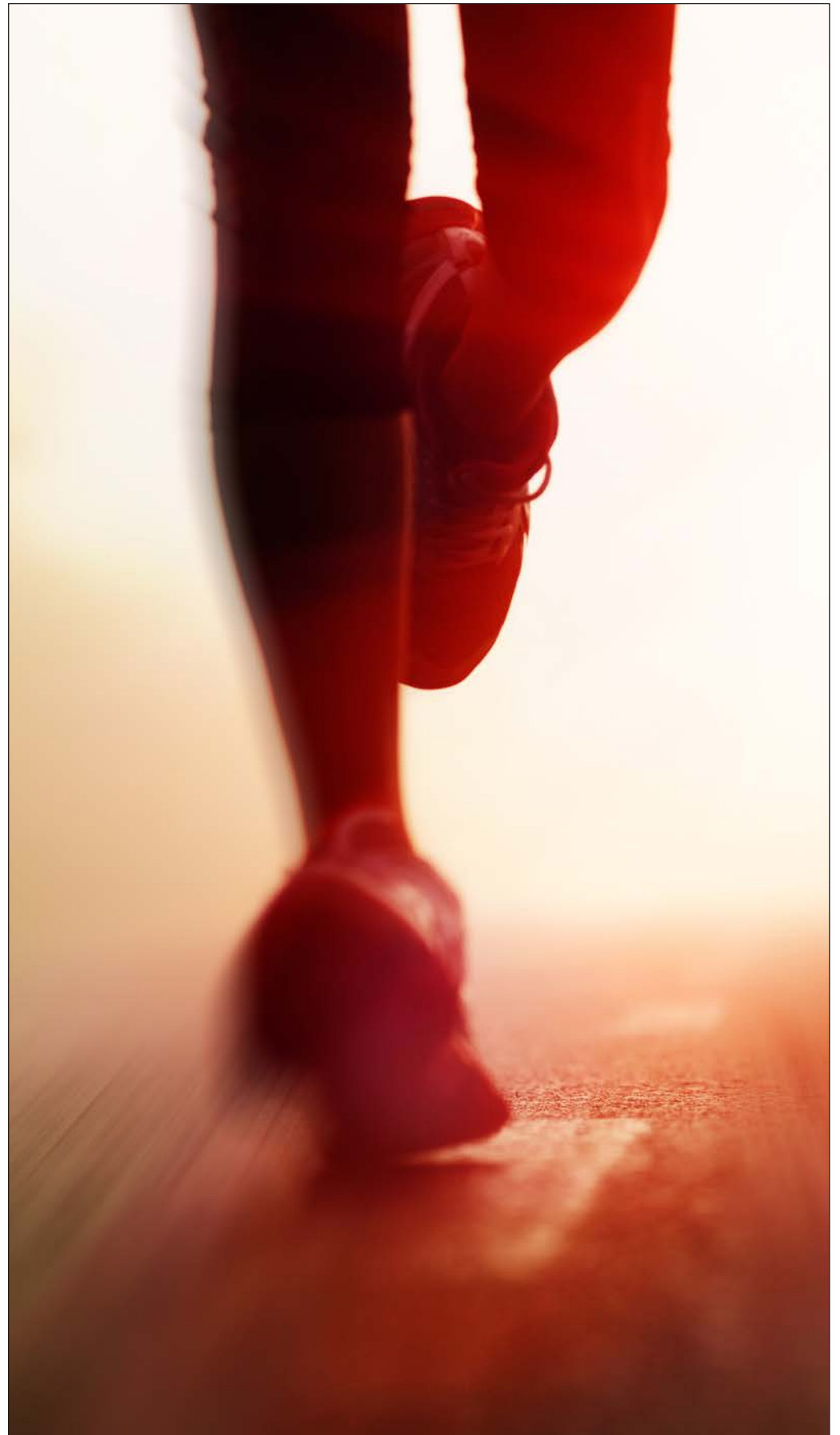
Indeed, Advent is a season of waiting, but it is not a passive waiting. We are called to actively await the coming of the Lord. This means being prepared through conversion and the active practice of our faith. We are to be alert and not asleep in our lives of faith, not complacent in our spiritual lives. As Saint Peter writes: "Stay sober and alert. Your opponent the devil is prowling like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. Resist him, solid in your faith." If we are too complacent in our spiritual lives, we more easily fall into sin.

Advent is a time when the Church calls us to wake up. In fact, the Church tells us not only to walk toward Christ, but to run towards Him. This is what we pray in the Collect (Opening Prayer) of Mass on the First Sunday of Advent: "Grant your faithful, almighty God, the resolve to run forth to meet your Christ with righteous deeds at His coming...". What a prayer! We are asking God to grant us the resolve not just to walk, but to run to meet His Anointed One (Christ). This is a great prayer for Advent when we do a lot of running around: shopping, decorating, going to parties, etc. But Advent should be primarily about running to meet the Lord!

We should not just wait to meet the Lord. We should run to meet the Lord! This should be our firm resolve during Advent: to run forth to meet Christ, as the Collect says, "with righteous deeds at His coming." It is good for us to think about what righteous deeds we will do this Advent. Perhaps a visit to someone who is lonely, a special gift for the poor at Christmas, a word of forgiveness to someone who has offended us, or an act of kindness to a family member we may take for granted.

With the commercialization of Christmas in our culture, it can be difficult to keep focus on the true meaning of this season. One way to do so is to run more often toward Christ and less often to the shopping mall. One can run forth to meet Christ by attending Mass on a weekday during Advent or stopping in church to pray before the Blessed Sacrament. One can run forth to meet Christ by approaching His mother in the prayer of the rosary and contemplating the joyful mysteries of her Son's coming.

Advent is also a time of conversion, to rise up like the prodigal son to return to the father, our heavenly Father. The prodigal



son, who had left home and squandered his inheritance, returned with humility and contrition to ask his father's pardon. He hastened to see his father with hope that his father would be merciful to him. The father, indeed rich in mercy, not only waited for his son, he ran out to embrace him when he saw him. Like that father, the heavenly Father looks for us to return to Him. He waits for us and runs to embrace us when we go to confession. I can think of no better way to prepare for the Lord's coming than going to confession during Advent. I encourage all to hasten home to the Church, like the prodigal son, to receive the Father's merciful embrace in the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

The Lord comes to us. Let us not only wait for His coming during this Advent, let's run to Him. Let us hasten to meet Him in

prayer, in the sacraments, and in righteous deeds. Several times in his letters, Saint Paul uses the idea of running a race as an image for our journey of faith. I leave you with one of these passages from Saint Paul for your meditation as we begin the Advent season:

"Do you not know that the runners in the stadium all run in the race, but only one wins the prize? Run so as to win. Every athlete exercises discipline in every way. They do it to win a perishable crown, but we an imperishable one. Thus I do not run aimlessly; I do not fight as if I were shadow-boxing. No, I drive my body and train it, for fear that, after having preached to others, I myself should be disqualified" (1 Corinthians 9:24-27).

May we run to meet our Savior during this blessed season of His coming!

USCCB

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Perez of Rockville Centre, N.Y., chairman of the bishops' Subcommittee on Hispanic Affairs.

The V Encuentro, as it is being called, is to be held in September 2018 in Fort Worth, Texas. It will be the culmination of parish, diocesan and regional Encuentros, in which the bishops anticipate more than 1 million Catholics participating over the next two years.

"It is a great opportunity for the church to reach out to our Hispanic brothers and sisters with Christ's message of hope and love," Bishop Perez said. "It is a time to listen, a time to develop meaningful relationships, a time to learn and bear abundant fruits and a time to rejoice in God's love."

The effort got a personal endorsement from Pope Francis during a Nov. 15 video message to the U.S. bishops at their fall general assembly in Baltimore.

In other actions Nov. 15, the bishops approved making permanent their Subcommittee on the Church in Africa and the hiring of two people to assist the subcommittee in carrying out its work. They also approved another 10-year extension for the Retirement Fund for Religious national collection; before the vote, the collection had been authorized through 2017.

They approved a strategic plan that will govern the work of the conference and its committees from 2017 through 2020, incorporating the theme "Encountering the Mercy of Christ and Accompanying His People With Joy." It sets five priorities: evangelization, marriage and family life, human life and dignity, vocations and religious freedom.

Maronite Bishop Gregory J. Mansour gave a presentation on the persecution of Christians in the Middle East, urging the U.S. bishops to bring wider attention to the situation to their parishes and political leaders.

A theme of outreach and inclusion ran through many sessions of the two days of public sessions of the bishops' meeting. Sessions on the last day of the assembly, Nov. 16, were held in executive session, except for a brief address by Cardinal Marc Ouellet, prefect of the Vatican Congregation for Bishops, that was live-streamed. Echoing Pope Francis, he told the U.S. bishops that their ministry is to be "witnesses to the Risen One."

As the meeting opened Nov. 14, the bishops affirmed as a body a Nov. 11 letter from Auxiliary Bishop Eusebio L. Elizondo of Seattle, as outgoing chairman of the Committee on Migration, calling on President-elect Donald Trump "to continue to protect the inherent dignity of refugees and migrants."



CNS photo/Bob Roller

Cardinal Daniel N. DiNardo of Galveston-Houston addresses a news conference Nov. 15 at the fall general assembly of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops in Baltimore. The cardinal was elected USCCB president that morning. Seated to his left is Archbishop Jose H. Gomez of Los Angeles, who was elected USCCB vice president.

The bishops' group action followed by a day a TV interview in which Trump said one of his first actions would be to deport 2 million to 3 million people he described as "criminal and have criminal records" and entered the country without government permission.

In the letter, Bishop Elizondo offered "a special word to migrant and refugee families living in the United States: Be assured of our solidarity and continued accompaniment as you work for a better life."

That first day the bishops heard a plea from Archbishop Christophe Pierre, the new nuncio to the United States, that the U.S. bishops and the U.S. church as a whole reach out to young Catholics, meeting them where they are and engaging them in their faith.

In his last presidential address, Archbishop Kurtz discussed the need to move beyond the acrimony of the now-completed presidential elections, but the main focus of his speech were the encounters he had in his three-year term in which he found that small and often intimate gestures provide big lessons for bishops to learn as they exercise their ministry.

The people he encountered in all his travels were concerned about something beyond themselves — the common good, he said Nov. 14. Seeking the common good would serve the nation well as it moves forward from the "unprecedented lack of civility and even rancor" of the national elections, Archbishop Kurtz said.

In other business the first day, the bishops heard a report on the 2017 Convocation of Catholic Leaders to be held in Orlando, Fla., next July to exploring the Gospel in American life. More than 3,000 people reflecting the diversity of the church are expected to participate. Cardinal Timothy M. Dolan of New York, who gave an update on the planning, urged bishops in each diocese to send a delegation to the event.

Cardinal Dolan also shared details of a simple celebration

next year to mark the 100th anniversary of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, founded originally as the National Catholic War Council.

Events will take place Nov. 12 as the bishops convene for their 2017 fall assembly. Cardinal Pietro Parolin, Vatican secretary of state, will be principal celebrant of an anniversary Mass at Baltimore's Basilica of the National Shrine of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary; Cardinal Ouellet will deliver the homily.

In his report as chairman of the bishops' Ad Hoc Committee for Religious Liberty, Archbishop William E. Lori of Baltimore said all U.S. bishops are required to speak out for religious freedom for all people of faith whose beliefs are compromised.

Bishops must equip laypeople to speak in the public arena about the necessity to protect religious liberty when interventions by government officials at any level infringe on the free practice of religion, he stressed.

In a final afternoon session and later at a news conference that concluded the first meeting day, Archbishop Wilton D. Gregory of Atlanta returned to the tensions of the election year.

He is chairman of the new Task Force to Promote Peace in Our Communities, created in July by Archbishop Kurtz in response to the wave of violence in a number of communities following shootings by and of police. Archbishop Gregory urged the bishops to issue, sooner rather than later, a document on racism, given "postelection uncertainty" and that some of the tensions have only gotten worse following the presidential election.

Most questions during news conference that followed focused on the postelection climate. Archbishop Gregory stressed that the church should play a role in helping restore peace in the current climate that is so inflamed.

He also pointed out that no political parties fully embrace all life issues, something that had been stressed by Chicago Cardinal Joseph Bernardin, who



Public schedule of Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades

Tuesday, November 29: 12:30 p.m. — Meeting of Diocesan Finance Council, Holiday Inn Express, Warsaw

Wednesday, November 30: 3 p.m. — Meeting of Overseas Operations Committee of Catholic Relief Services, Baltimore, Maryland

Thursday, December 1: 9 a.m. — Meeting of Board of Directors of Catholic Relief Services, Baltimore, Maryland

Saturday, December 3: 11 a.m. — Mass of Thanksgiving for Cardinal-designate Joseph W. Tobin, SS. Peter and Paul Cathedral, Indianapolis

Saturday, December 3: 6 p.m. — Holiday Happenings Dinner and Auction Benefit for Hannah's House, Winter Park, Mishawaka



CNS photo/Bob Roller

Archbishop Joseph E. Kurtz of Louisville, Ky., outgoing president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, celebrates Mass at St. Peter Claver Church in Baltimore Nov. 14 during the annual fall general assembly of the USCCB.

died 20 years to the day of Archbishop Gregory's remarks.

On the issue of healing racial divides, he said the Catholic response should start at the parish level. "Words are cheap, actions stronger," he added.

Archbishop Gomez spoke of the fear many immigrants have of possible deportation since Trump's election as president. When asked if churches could possibly provide sanctuaries for this group, he said that was impossible to answer at this point.

The day ended with the bishops celebrating their annual fall assembly Mass at a West

Baltimore church known as the "mother church" of black Catholics, rather than in their traditional venue of Baltimore's historic basilica.

In his homily, Archbishop Kurtz said the bishops came to the church "to be present, to see with our own eyes, so that we might humbly take a step and lead others to do so."

Contributing to this story were Mark Pattison, Rhina Guidos, Carol Zimmermann and Dennis Sadowski.

A historic first for deaf Catholics: ASL Mass at Notre Dame

BY AUDREY SEAH

Nov. 9, 2016, is a day Kevin Haggenjos will never forget. Thrilled to be part of the first Mass to be celebrated by a deaf priest in American Sign Language at Notre Dame, Haggenjos said, "I was born and raised in South Bend. As a deaf Catholic, I have dreamt all my life that there would be a Mass in ASL here. Today, my dream came true."

Sponsored by the McGrath Institute for Church Life's Office of Human Dignity and Life Initiatives, the Mass at Geddes Hall on the University of Notre Dame campus was part of a larger event featuring a lecture on deaf Catholic history.

For many deaf Catholics like Haggenjos, celebrating Mass in their native language, ASL, is a rare and much-treasured gift: so much so that a number of deaf Catholics drove from Chicago and Indianapolis to attend.

"When there is a deaf priest, I have a direct connection to the priest and the liturgical action. Homilies are interactive. Interpreters may miss parts of the homily and Mass, but when a priest signs, I know I'm not missing anything," Haggenjos said.

ASL is the first language of Father Christopher Klusman, a priest from the Archdiocese of Milwaukee. In his homily, Father Klusman explained that like many other minority groups, deaf culture has its own unique language, tradition, history and art. Among the culturally deaf, deafness is not understood as an impairment but as part of human diversity.

Father Klusman related that when people he meets find out he is deaf, they say to him in a tragic voice, "Oh, I'm so sorry!" They are surprised when he responds, "But why? Deafness is a gift from God. Without it, I would not have known the beautiful language of ASL and deaf culture!"

On the feast of the Dedication of the Lateran Basilica in Rome, Father Klusman said that while a church is the house of God, it is only a house of God because it houses the people of God in whom the Spirit dwells. Stressing that both deaf and hearing are made in the image of God, he encouraged the faithful to decorate and adorn one another's house of God by sharing the gifts they have with each other.

After Communion, Noah Buchholz, a deaf poet, actor and assistant professor of deaf studies and ASL at Bethel College, led an ASL hymn of praise. The hymn was a dramatic interpretation of the creation story from Chapter 1 of Genesis, rendered as a performance through body



Photo by Kevin Haggenjos

Father Christopher Klusman, a deaf priest from the Archdiocese of Milwaukee, signs during an all-ASL Mass at Notre Dame on Nov. 9.

movement, ASL hand shapes and visual rhythm, a theatrical form of sacred art. The congregation participated in the hymn by signing a refrain of praise after each day of creation was depicted.

Because the entire Mass was in ASL, a voice interpreter was present to accommodate those who did not know the language. Urged on by Father Klusman, the congregation signed the Mass responses as best as they could, just as a non-Spanish speaker might participate at a Spanish Mass.

It was the first time Jessica Keating, director of the Office of Human Dignity and Life Initiatives, a hearing person and one of the organizers of the event, had been to a Mass in ASL. "The liturgy was profoundly moving because of the aesthetics of the language," she said. "In a time when our communication is often disembodied, the embodiment of ASL, the need to look at the person before you, struck me as a great gift to the Church, a gift that might help us recover a deep sense of human dignity." Grateful for the experience, she expressed interest to learn ASL and a desire for Notre Dame to host more liturgical services and events for the deaf community.

Following Mass was a lecture by Dr. Marlana Portolano, professor of rhetoric at Towson University in Baltimore. Her lecture featured a chapter from her forthcoming book on deaf

Catholic history, and related the history of Abbé Charles La Fonta, the first documented case of a born-deaf man who became a priest.

Abbé La Fonta was ordained in 1921 after many years of battling prejudices that French society held concerning deafness and religious ritual, but was allowed only to celebrate Mass privately. Nevertheless, he worked tirelessly to bring the gospel to the deaf community, especially deaf children.

In 1924, Abbé La Fonta obtained permission to receive the confessions of deaf people in their own language. Being able to participate in the sacrament of reconciliation was momentous for many deaf people, as they were not able to receive the Eucharist without it.

While Abbé La Fonta died prematurely in 1929 at age 51, his life and ministry undoubtedly opened a path to ordination for other deaf priests like Father Klusman.

"I am so grateful for Lana's talk. I never knew who the first deaf priest was until today. This is huge," he shared, noting the importance of deaf Catholic history not only for the deaf Catholic community, but the universal Church.

To find out more about the Ministry for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing provided under the Office of Evangelization, contact Allison Sturm at asturm@diocesefwsb.org.



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MERCY

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The power of Christ the King, he said, "is not power as defined by this world, but the love of God, a love capable of encountering and healing all things."

Like the "good thief" who turned to Jesus on the cross and was assured a place in heaven, anyone who turns to God with trust can be forgiven, the pope said. "He is ready to completely and forever cancel our sin, because His memory — unlike our own — does not record evil that has been done or keep score of injustices experienced."

Loving like Christ loves us, he said, means constantly seeking the grace to forgive others, forget the offenses committed and be instruments of reconciliation in the world.

Following Christ the King also means accepting "the scandal of his humble love," which can be difficult because it "unsettles and disturbs us."

Christ's love, the love Christians are called to imitate, is concrete and tangible and is not concerned with personal comfort, power and superiority.

Even in evangelization "the lure of power and success seem an easy, quick way to spread the Gospel," he said. The Year of Mercy was a call to "rediscover the youthful, beautiful face of the Church, the face that is radiant when it is welcoming,

free, faithful, poor in means but rich in love, on mission."

Christ the king, "our king, went to the ends of the universe in order to embrace and save every living being," he said. "He did not condemn us, nor did He conquer us, and He never disregarded our freedom, but He paved the way with a humble love that forgives all things, hopes all things, sustains all things."

Christ's followers are called to continue His saving mission, the pope said.

At the end of the Mass, Pope Francis signed his new apostolic letter, "Misericordia et Misera," (Mercy and Misery), which a papal aide announced was written to affirm that the commitment to sharing the merciful love of God continues because it is "the heart of the Gospel."

The pope gave the letter, which was made public Nov. 21, to a group of people representing different sectors of the church: Manila Cardinal Luis Antonio Tagle, president of Caritas Internationalis; Scottish Archbishop Leo Cushley of St. Andrews and Edinburgh, on behalf of diocesan bishops; two priests who were "missionaries of mercy" for the Holy Year; a permanent deacon; two religious women; an extended family; an engaged couple; two women catechists; a person with disabilities; and a person who is ill.

Pope calls new cardinals to be agents of unity in divided world

BY CINDY WOODEN

VATICAN CITY (CNS)— The Catholic Church's 17 new cardinals must dedicate their lives to being ministers of forgiveness and reconciliation in a world — and sometimes a Church — often marked by hostility and division, Pope Francis said.

Even Catholics are not immune from "the virus of polarization and animosity," the pope told the new cardinals, and "we need to take care lest such attitudes find a place in our hearts."

Creating 17 new cardinals from 14 nations Nov. 19, the pope said the College of Cardinals — and the Catholic Church itself — must be a sign for the world that differences of nationality, skin color, language and social class do not make people enemies, but brothers and sisters with different gifts to offer.

Three of the new cardinals created during the prayer service in St. Peter's Basilica were from the United States: Cardinals Blase J. Cupich of Chicago; Kevin J. Farrell, prefect of the new Vatican office for laity, family and life; and Joseph W. Tobin, whom the pope asked to move from being archbishop of Indianapolis to archbishop of Newark, N.J.

After reciting the Creed and taking an oath of fidelity to Pope Francis and his successors, each cardinal went up to Pope Francis



CNS/Paul Haring

New Cardinal Joseph W. Tobin of Indianapolis greets fellow cardinals during a consistory in St. Peter's Basilica at the Vatican Nov. 19. Pope Francis created 17 new cardinals at the consistory.

and knelt before him. The pope gave them each a cardinal's ring, a three-cornered red hat and a scroll attesting to their appointment as cardinals and containing their "titular church" in Rome. The assignment of a church is a sign they now are members of the clergy of the pope's diocese.

Speaking to Catholic News Service after the consistory, Cardinal Tobin said the pope's homily was "very timely" and the cardinals, as well as all Catholics, should "examine ourselves and the Church to see whether we have unconsciously appropriated this 'virus' of polarization and animosity. It may hide under 'the name of

truth or the name of orthodoxy or something, when it actually serves to divide. I think probably that is resistance to the acts of the Holy Spirit."

As the Year of Mercy was ending, Pope Francis called on the new cardinals — and everyone present in the basilica — to continue to proclaim "the Gospel of mercy," going out to where people live, giving them hope and helping them become signs of reconciliation.

At the end of the consistory, the College of Cardinals had 228 members, 121 of whom are under the age of 80 and eligible to vote in a conclave to elect a pope.

The Jesse tree: spiritual preparation for the coming of Christ

BY MOLLY GETTINGER

Black Friday, Small Business Saturday and Cyber Monday: These three days seem to officially usher in the start of the Christmas season, even though those early Christmas ribbons were already shelved alongside Halloween costumes back in October. Amid the pressure of the season, we can too easily become wrapped up in gifts and goodies, inviting a stress that can make one feel anything but cheery.

Nestled between binge buying and bargain hunting, the Church invites Catholics to step back from the secular holiday and focus on the season we are actually entering into: the season of Advent.

Spiritually immersing ourselves in the season of Advent can be a challenge, especially for young kids already squirming in their classroom chairs in anticipation of Christmas break and Santa's visit. One long-held tradition that invites families, particularly young children, to enter into this season of Advent, is that of the Jesse tree.

The Jesse tree invites kids to prepare for Christ's coming in a hands-on and engaging way.

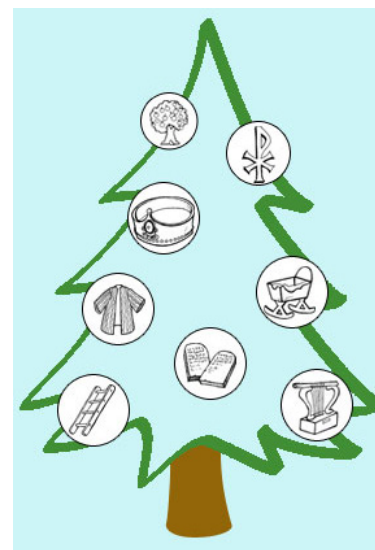
The Jesse tree invites kids to prepare for Christ's coming in a hands-on and engaging way. It involves crafts and it tells a story. The Jesse tree, named after the father of King David in the Old Testament, walks children and adults alike through salvation history, telling one Scripture story each day starting with the story of creation. Each day, participants make an ornament corresponding to that day's story to

hang on the tree.

Five-year-old Anthony Krakowski of South Bend, along with his little brothers — Kolbe, David and baby Jacob — is excited to start his Jesse tree this Advent. "I like making the decorations. I learn about Jesus, how He was born on Christmas, how shepherds came and how He was given gifts," he shared.

For the Krakowski family, the Jesse tree tradition takes place during breakfast each morning. Christa, Anthony's mom, shares that she would read the day's Bible story to her boys over breakfast. The boys listen to stories from Celebrating Advent with the Jesse tree, a book by Father Jude Winkler, OFM. Then they watch a short video clip that corresponds with the story of the day. The video clip comes from Holy Heroes Advent Adventures, an online program that provides free Catholic videos, printables and crafts each day of Advent.

After breakfast, it's arts and crafts time. The boys color their printed Jesse tree ornaments, which depict an image representing the story for that day. These are then hung on the Jesse tree.



As for the tree, Christa shared that "We made a very simple Jesse tree to hang our ornaments on by cutting a small branch from the bottom of our Christmas tree and placing it in a vase on top of our hutch next to our nativity set."

This is just one family's way of entering into Advent by participating in the Jesse tree tradition. Ornaments can be made out of whatever material kids chose. For example, older kids may pre-

fer using clay or scouring the house for materials to recycle. Some families have a small, fake Christmas tree they use each year. Regardless, the Jesse tree tradition invites families to step back from the consumerism of the secular holiday and focus on the true meaning of the season: preparing for God's ultimate gift of the world — his Son.

For those interested in starting a Jesse tree tradition with their family, a variety of resources are available — such as the book the Krakowski's use and the free online resources from Holy Heroes. A quick Internet search will reveal a schedule of scripture readings, craft projects for ornaments and more.

Christa shares that she likes the gentle approach the Jesse tree uses to teach children and adults alike about salvation history as it leads up to Christ's birth. "The Jesse tree tradition is a beautiful way to help prepare our hearts and minds for the celebration of Christmas and to contemplate all that God ordained before He sent His Son into the world to take on flesh."

'Face of Mercy' documentary shows how mercy works in people's lives

NEW HAVEN, Conn. (CNS) — "The Face of Mercy," a new Knights of Columbus documentary that tells personal stories about the impact of God's mercy on people's lives, is airing on ABC affiliates nationwide as U.S. Catholics prepared to celebrate the conclusion of the Extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy Nov. 20. Narrated by actor Jim Caviezel, the 60-minute documentary is scheduled to broadcast through Dec. 16. Broadcast dates and times and other information about the film are available at faceofmercyfilm.com. Pope Francis called for a Year of Mercy to direct Catholics' attention and actions "on mercy so that we may become a more effective sign of the Father's actions in our lives ... a time when the witness of believers might grow stronger and more effective." "The Face of Mercy" weaves theology and history together with modern testimonials to illustrate what constitutes the face of mercy in people's lives and "how it is the antidote to evil even in the most difficult times," said a news release from the Knights of Columbus, which has its headquarters in New Haven.

Catholics say Lord's invitation to mercy goes beyond end of jubilee year

ST. PAUL, Minn. (CNS) — For Jesus Christ to offer humankind his mercy, it took offering His pain and suffering from His passion and death on the cross. Pope Francis in April 2015 called the world to "constantly contemplate the mystery of mercy" when he announced the Extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy, which opened Dec. 8, 2015, and ended Nov. 20. "At times we are called to gaze even more attentively on mercy so that we may become a more effective sign of the Father's action in our lives," the pope said. In the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis, a group of laymen and seminarians led by Father John Bauer of St. John Vianney Seminary embraced that call. They walked more than 30 miles on a cool March day to contemplate God's mercy. The group of eight men journeyed

along the Gateway State Trail near Stillwater on March 19 and completed their pilgrimage at the Cathedral of St. Paul in St. Paul, entering through the Holy Doors for the jubilee year. "Obviously, the purpose was to gain the indulgence," said pilgrim Shane Dowell, a parishioner of St. Michael in Stillwater. "We could have just driven there and walked through the doors. That would have fulfilled the requirement, but it is really the spirit of penance, I think, is what motivated it. We didn't have to go 32 miles."

Cardinal: Time to reverse Myanmar's decline, keep resource wealth

YANGON, Myanmar (CNS) — Yangon Cardinal Charles Bo said it was time to "reverse the trend" of a 60-year decline in Myanmar, designated the "least-developed country" by the World Bank. At the opening of a national conference on Nov. 15, aimed at creat-

ing a more equitable distribution of wealth in the impoverished country, Cardinal Bo demanded justice from "the three Cs: cronies, companies and countries nearby. Myanmar resource wealth belongs to Myanmar people," said Cardinal Bo. "It does not belong to looters who save money in Singapore and Geneva. We have gathered here to bring the thieves and robbers to accountability." The cardinal spoke at a conference called "Myanmar's Resource Wealth: Toward People-Centered National Savings, Benefit Sharing and Social Protection." Among its organizers was a locally based transparency group that has pushed for greater openness in following revenue streams, particularly in the extractive industry, which international agencies have called "infamously opaque."

Church leaders seek to calm fears for migrants worried about Trump

WASHINGTON (CNS) — At a Nov. 14 news conference in Baltimore,

Archbishop Jose H. Gomez talked about the reaction, following the recent outcome of the U.S. presidential election, in the Archdiocese of Los Angeles — home to a large number of immigrants, including many Latinos but also immigrants from places such as the Philippines, China, Korea and Vietnam. "I think the reaction was, especially for the ones that have issues of immigration, of fear," said the Los Angeles archbishop, about the election of Donald Trump to the presidency, echoing what some church leaders who work with immigrant communities said during the fall general assembly of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops. "They were nervous, they don't know what to make of it, especially many of them who have been here for a long time," he said. "They have families. So, it is a challenge for them, for the family just even to think that the parents, or one of the parents, are going to be deported." President-elect Trump campaigned by saying he would build a wall on the border between the U.S. and Mexico, enact a "massive deportation force," and end birthright citizenship, which grants citizenship to anyone born in the U.S., no matter the immigration status of the parents.

FATIMA 2017
Learn more about this exciting pilgrimage with Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades!

Fort Wayne Info Night:
Wednesday, December 7
Archbishop Noll Center
915 S. Clinton St., Fort Wayne
7:00 p.m.

South Bend Info Night:
Thursday December 8
St. John Paul II Center
1328 W. Dragoon Trail, Mishawaka
7:00 p.m.

Visit diocesefwsb.org/fatima for more info.

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Festival of Lessons and Carols in Mishawaka

MISHAWAKA — St. Bavo Church, 511 W. 7th St., Mishawaka, will host its 12th annual Festival of Lessons and Carols, on Sunday, Dec. 11, at 4 p.m. The program will feature the Marian High School and St. Bavo liturgical choirs and the Antioch Youth Group. Father Jacob Meyer, pastor of St. Monica Church in Mishawaka, will preside.

The Festival of Lessons and Carols is a service celebrating the birth of Jesus; a brief journey through salvation history, all told in nine short Bible readings, interspersed with the singing of Christmas carols by the congregation, beautiful solos and inspiring choral music. The public is invited and admission is free.

Sisters of Providence Christmas Fun at the Woods

SAINT MARY-OF-THE-WOODS — The Sisters of Providence of Saint Mary-of-the-Woods are inviting everyone to join them for the annual Christmas Fun at the Woods gathering.

This year's fun-filled event will take place from 1 to 4 p.m., on Saturday, Dec. 10, at Saint Mary-of-the-Woods, located 10 minutes northwest of downtown Terre Haute.

Children and their parents will have the opportunity to take part in many activities throughout the three-hour gala.

Everyone will have the opportunity to take carriage rides, hayrides or bus, wagon and trolley rides. Nativity sets will also be on display.

A Christmas Doll House and Christmas Village will be featured in the Providence Hall Community Room. Children will also have the chance to take part in cookie decorating with the sisters at Providence Hall.

Christmas sing-a-longs will take place in the O'Shaughnessy Dining Room and children wishing to dress up in front of a nativity scene may do so in the conference room at Providence Spirituality & Conference Center. Snacks will also be provided in O'Shaughnessy throughout the day.

There will be three stations for face painting during the event this year, including one at O'Shaughnessy, one in the Providence Hall Dining Room and the final in the Providence Hall Tile Hall hallway.

Children will have the chance to spend story time with Mrs. Claus and her elf. Christmas Bingo will be back this year, and it will take place in the Providence Hall Dining Room. Tours of the St. Mother Theodore Guerin Shrine will also be available throughout the day.

While Violet Center for Eco-Justice, a ministry of the Sisters of Providence, will be involved in the festivities. But on Dec. 10, the

AROUND THE DIOCESE

Fall youth service



Provided by Vickie Lortie

On Saturday, Nov. 5, 24 high school and middle school teens of St. Jude Youth Ministry, Fort Wayne, and seven dedicated parents demonstrated their faith through service. They raked the lawns of nine parishioners who were unable to take care of their leaves, including the Langin home, pictured. The teens also prayed for those they served.

Principal 'Books It'



Provided by Karen Lohmuller

Fourth-grade students from Most Precious Blood School, Fort Wayne, read with Principal Stan Liponoga during the Principals' Challenge portion of the Pizza Hut Book It initiative. The older students brought beach towels to make themselves comfortable while promoting literacy, and younger students stopped by to enjoy a read-aloud.

center will officially change its name to "The North Pole Zone."

During a visit to the North Pole Zone, children will find many activities, including games and crafts. Children may also visit with Santa Claus at the location.

In addition, the alpacas will be dressed for the occasion, giving parents a great opportunity for photos. All attending are encouraged to bring their own cameras for photographic memories throughout the day.

Cost is \$5 per person. Children 3-under will be admitted free and no pre-registration is required.

For more information, call 812-535-2952 or email jfrost@spsmw.org.

St. Joseph spelling bee

DECATUR — St. Joseph Catholic School, Decatur, held its spelling bee Nov. 11.

Rachel Bleke, grade six, won first place by spelling "flaxen" correctly. Rachel is the daughter of Kent and Jennifer Bleke.

Isiah Smedley, grade seven, won second place. Isiah is the son of Scott and Kristine Smedley.

St. Joseph Catholic School will host the Adams County Spelling Bee on Feb. 6, at 6 p.m. in the school auditorium. The weather make-up date is Feb. 13. The Regional Spelling Bee will be March 11 at IPFW in Rhinehart Recital Hall.

Hannah's House plans 'It's A Wonderful Life' fundraiser

MISHAWAKA — The Hannah's House Holiday Happenings dinner will be on Dec. 3 at Windsor Park Conference Center, with the theme of "It's A Wonderful Life." The event will celebrate and recognize the donors and volunteers who have made a difference in the lives of the women and babies who have entered the house. The proceeds fund a quarter of the home's yearly expenses.

The dinner/auction will honor two Hannah's House supporters who have made a huge difference: Annetta and Andy Place will be recognized with the annual Tree of Life Award. Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades will deliver the invocation and Chuck Freeby will serve as emcee and auctioneer.

This year's auction items include trips to Nuevo Vallarta, Mexico, and Denver; a "Play Like A Champion" sign autographed by Ara Parseghian; and golf for four at Lost Dunes. Gift cards and other silent auction items are needed.

In response to community need, Hannah's House has evolved from a single maternity home for pregnant teens into a Catholic-Christian agency offering a continuum of shelter, staff support and programming to support the physical, emotional and spiritual well-being of pregnant and parenting single women facing homelessness.

Holy Cross College celebrates 50 years

BY JEANNIE EWING

Among the plethora of postsecondary institutions in the modern day, Holy Cross College at Notre Dame, Ind., genuinely stands out for its mission to “educate and form global citizens with the competence to see and the courage to act,” a sentiment that comes directly from Father Basil Moreau, founder of the Congregation of Holy Cross.

“The sacred duty we hold at Holy Cross is to educate all those who need and desire it, according to our mission,” said Brother John Paige, current president of the college. “A truly meaningful college education is about more than just intelligence. Holy Cross has always sought to provide its students with information, but also relationships and experiences for the purpose of lasting formation and transformation.”

Holy Cross College dates back to 1966, when it was established by the Congregation of Holy Cross as a two-year junior college primarily to educate other Holy Cross Brothers. In those early years, there were only two brother-professors: Brother John Driscoll, who served as president, and Brother James Leik, the college administrator. They soon found that the community was interested in the little school. Brother James, who is still the archivist at Holy Cross College, explained that it expanded almost immediately, mainly due to a simple request. “A (local) boy came into the school and

asked if he could go there. We said yes. The next year, his sister asked if she could attend, and we said, ‘Why not? We’re brothers. We teach everyone.’”

The college continued to grow, yet remain focused on its mission of using a practical, experiential liberal arts curriculum to lead even more young people “to wholeness in the image of Christ.” In its first 10 years, the enrollment increased from 105 to 275 co-ed students. In 1990 Holy Cross gladly welcomed a new name, dropping “Junior” from its name and becoming simply Holy Cross College.

Interestingly, Holy Cross received unexpected international fame through the 1993 movie, “Rudy.” It chronicled the story of Daniel Eugene “Rudy” Ruettinger, who longed to play football for the University of Notre Dame and was given the opportunity to fulfill his dreams by way of first attending Holy Cross Junior College. A benevolent priest assisted Rudy in obtaining the necessary scholarships for attending, and encouraged him to acquire excellent grades in order to transfer to Notre Dame.

Holy Cross introduced its four-year baccalaureate program in 2003. Since then, it has joined the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics and graduated 638 B.A. students. However, the Rudy story is a familiar one to many Holy Cross alumni, as they also became a part of the Holy Cross family because of and through its past and continued connection to Notre Dame. The college main-



Provided by Holy Cross College

A view of Holy Cross College as it stands today; the Saint Joseph Chapel is at center left.

tains pride in being part of Rudy’s legend, but also myriad other success stories, through its commitment to helping transform good students into excellent students capable of admissions into the nation’s finest universities.

This year, the college celebrated its 50th anniversary and planned several events to give alumni, parents and friends who have attended and supported the college a chance to come together for community, fellowship and education about the its future plans. Holy Cross has also launched a \$10 million capital campaign to provide campus improvements and scholarship expansion for current and future students.

The kick-off anniversary celebration occurred on Sept. 17 with the annual Welcome Back Picnic, where more than 300 students, faculty, alumni, parents and friends gathered for food, games and fellowship on campus. The college’s official Founders’ Day was celebrated on Sept. 19, with the dedication of a new statue of St. Brother André Bessette of Montreal and a Mass celebrated by Rev. Tom McNally, who also gave the first Mass in Saint Joseph Chapel in 1966. Several other anniversary events are scheduled to occur through June 2017: A complete schedule can be found at www.hcc-nd.edu/50years.

Throughout the decades, the college has remained true to its mission to serve its global community of students through experiential education. It is among only a handful of institutions of higher education that accept Iraqi students as an act of goodwill to help foster peace and understand-

ing between the two countries. Additionally, Holy Cross College uniquely serves its nontraditional students through educational programs at Westville Correctional Facility and the Indiana Women’s Prison. This year, the school’s enrollment of 647 includes students from all 50 states and 18 countries.

Though not considered an Ivy League institution of higher learning and not among the largest in the nation, Holy Cross College has not wavered from its original Catholic roots. Everything from its founding to acceptance of students of all nationalities and creeds, as well as each building project and expansion of the campus, reflects its Catholic values and serves as a reminder within the diocese and throughout the country of what authentic learning is really about — the classroom that the world presents us, embraced through experience, discernment and prayer.

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Ground was broken in 1966 on land in Notre Dame, Ind., for what would first become Holy Cross Junior College, now Holy Cross College. The Brothers of the Congregation of the Holy Cross pictured are identified as John Driscoll, R. Juszczak and D. Schmitz; the Rev. G. LaLande; and Brothers L. Miller and D. Bailer.

Grade school class reunion inspires donation

BY DEB WAGNER

Earlier this year, Tim Rooney and Matt Momper attended the 40th class reunion of St. Jude School in Fort Wayne. Mass was celebrated at 5 p.m. that day, with the reunion immediately following on the St. Jude campus, until 8:30 p.m. Soon, however, the reunion hall became more than a rented space in which to reminisce about times long ago. Many things had changed in the lives of the men since 1976. Both had become successful businessmen, for example.

Although Rooney's mother and sister are still members of St. Jude's, he, his wife and children moved to southwest Fort Wayne and became involved in St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish, where he coaches the boys' basketball team.

It had been a long time since he had been to the St. Jude campus, which is why he decided

to stop by for the reunion. "It was fun seeing people you once played sports with," he remarked.

Rooney was surprised at how much the campus had evolved over the years. During a tour of the school, though, he noticed one thing that had not changed were the desks the sixth-grade students used. Perhaps they were the same desks he used when he was a student there, he thought. They were in pretty bad shape and needed replacing.

A few weeks after the reunion, Rooney enjoyed a round of golf with Momper — a St. Jude parishioner — at the Fort Wayne Country Club. The men found themselves talking about the condition of the desks, and agreed to split the cost of new ones for the sixth-grade class.

Rooney contacted Principal Mike Obergfell to write a check and to let him know that Momper would be contacting him soon with a donation of a similar amount. In the mean-

time, Obergfell contacted several companies to obtain bids for the project.

"It was interesting to see friends, but a great side benefit was to be able to help," Rooney said. "It made me feel good doing it. I just felt like you've got to help," he said. He encouraged other schools in the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend to hold grade school reunions for that reason: Maybe other alumni have been financially fortunate, will see a need and feel compelled to help improve their alma mater. "Good things can happen from it."

"We are grateful for Mr. Rooney's and Mr. Momper's donation. Their gift speaks to their support not only to St. Jude School, but the great blessing Catholic education provides in our diocese," Obergfell said. He plans to donate the old desks to charity.



Deb Wagner

Sixth-grade students at St. Jude School, Fort Wayne, assemble new desks that were donated this fall following a 40-year class reunion.

St. Jude Parish welcomes Bishop Rhoades



Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades visited St. Jude Parish in South Bend on Oct. 28 to celebrate a Mass in honor of St. Jude School's 60th anniversary. During the Mass, the bishop blessed new Bibles donated to the middle school by the Knights of Columbus. At left is Father John Delaney, pastor of St. Jude. Deacon Jim Fitzpatrick, master of ceremonies, is at right.



Photos provided by Steve Donndelinger

Many alumni attended the St. Jude, South Bend, anniversary event. In the front row, from left, are Erin Waltman, '13; MaryAnn Hinora, '84; Elizabeth Moryl, '16; Kaylee McQueen, '16; Sapphire McQueen, '15; Sharon (Orisich) Novotny, '64; Mary Kay (Lawrence) Dance, '66; Abigail Zielinski, '12; and Carlene (Reust) Squadroni, '99. In the middle row are Devin Mathews, '16; Tyler Hammons, '16; Grant Matthys, '16; and Stefani McQueen, '15. In the back row are Nicholas Matthys, '14; Jim Petersen, '62; Jacklyn Tellez, '15; Barbara (Gorman) Schuler, '70; Alexander Stopczynski, '09; Benjamin Burnham, '16; Nicholas Helak, '14; Kathleen (Wukovits) Lehmann, '81; Nancy (Munger) Zielinski, '79; and Nathan Klockow, '14.

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THE HOLY DOORS ARE CLOSED, BUT THE M

The late and abiding fruits of a jubilee year

BY MSGR. MICHAEL HEINTZ

The value of our prayer is not to be determined by our experience of it, but by its effects in our life. Similarly, the fruits of a retreat are not best evaluated the morning after the night before, that is, just as we come off the retreat; but perhaps more helpfully six months later, to determine if there are actually any long-term effects of its grace in our life. We may have had the experience of having a fantastic experience on a retreat, but in the weeks following discover that our life has gone back to be just about the same as it was before, with little or no lasting change or improvement in our relationship with the Lord.

In the same way, it is important as the Jubilee Year of Mercy comes to a close to look for its fruits in our life long-term, as well as in the graces we may have received during the year itself. When the Holy Father, following the precedent of previous pontiffs, proposed the jubilee year, it was a gift to the Church, inviting all Catholics to two things: first, to reflect more deeply on the mystery of God's mercy revealed in Jesus, His Son; and second, on the basis of this reflection, to enact, as sons and daughters in the Son, the divine mercy we ourselves have received. It is, after all, part and parcel of a Catholic sensibility to take the "long view" and to maintain the broadest possible horizon: the perspective of eternity.

Mercy, like the agape or love of the Gospels, is always received before it is given. It is a cardinal principal of the Christian life that we are capable of love — and mercy — only because God has first loved us and first extended His mercy to us in his Eternal Son made flesh. The reason we are taught to love and forgive our enemies is that, strictly speaking, neither love nor mercy are ours to withhold. That is, the love and mercy we show toward others was first given to us in Christ. The love with which we love our spouse, friends, children, enemies and even God is first God's love shown to us; we are only returning it or extending it, or, actually, returning it by extending it. We have no right to withhold it, because it doesn't belong to us. It was a gift to us to begin with.

The same is true of mercy. We cannot withhold forgiveness, because it is not ours to begin with; it is first shown to us. As faithful followers of Jesus and unworthy recipients of His

mercy, we must extend it to others. This, of course, is the point of the parable in Matthew 18 of the unmerciful servant, as well as the basis for the Lord's remark elsewhere that "the measure you measure with will be measured back to you" (Luke 6:38). These are words from the Lord that, perhaps more than the dire warning of "the worm that dieth not and the fire that is not extinguished," should shake us to the core. How often have we withheld forgiveness, perhaps doing so even as we read this, and yet expect the Lord's mercy, once again, to be ours?

In fact, paradoxically, God's love and mercy can be ours only to the extent that we are willing to give them away to others. The moment we think we possess them or cling to them as ours by right, we lose them. They grow, and we maintain them, only when we give them away, and do so prodigally.

What is our take-away from the Year of Mercy? What should be its abiding fruits? First, I would hope a deeper sense of the sheer wonder, gratuity and prodigality of God's mercy toward us, as well as our own concrete experience of that mercy, particularly in the sacrament of penance, or confession. We are, after all, serial sinners, which is why the sacrament can and should be repeated and why the Church offers it so frequently. We should all have a deeper love for the sacrament and a greater faithfulness to it.

When folks ask, "How often should I go to confession?" my response is that a general rule of thumb is once a month or so. Of course, Catholics are obliged to make use of the sacrament only once a year, in anticipation of Easter, but frankly, the more frequent celebration of the sacrament A) makes it easier to remember just what those failings are and to grow in an honest self-awareness; and B) keeps us more attentive to the dynamics of sin and grace, and the patterns of each that can be identified more readily when the sacrament is celebrated with greater frequency.

But as marvelous a grace as the experience of being a recipient of God's mercy, perhaps greater yet is the grace of being ourselves more free in offering that same mercy to others. The Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy, while providing a nice synopsis of the scriptural teaching on what this might look like, are not simply for the Year of Mercy, to be carted out

and dressed up in honor of this year, only to be boxed up again and returned to the shelf, like Christmas or holiday décor, as we turn to what's next on our spiritual horizon. Rather they should be the "furniture" of our everyday life, the standard operating procedures of anyone who has become by grace a new creation in Christ. They should have become for us just what we do, almost without having to be conscious of them or reflective about them.

Ideally, what began last year as intentional works of discipleship will almost effortlessly have become our habit of being. In doing so, we fulfill the Lord's words: "What you receive as a gift, give as a gift" (Matt 10:8).



Give Drink to the Thirsty: The Local Cup is a paid Catholic social teaching. A neighbor paid for the customer since is invited to either accept the cup or it forward to future customers. Michael Griffin, co-founder of The Local Cup, chats with visitors.



Forgive Offenses: Students of the Westfield Education Initiative work on a science lab. Their educational efforts while incarcerated will yield associate's degrees, helping them to leave old lifestyles and creating new employment options once they are released.



Feed the Hungry: St. Bernard parishioners deliver Meals on Wheels to the homebound in the Wal community.



Instruct the Ignorant: The Educando para el Ministerio program provides instruction for the Hispanic parish leaders, catechists, proclaimers and others who instruct within their parishes on a variety of levels. The Education for Ministry program offers courses in Fort Wayne and South Bend for catechists, Catholic school teachers, directors of religious education, RCIA teams, youth ministers and others interested in learning about their Catholic faith.

MERCY ENDURES FOREVER



...it-forward coffee shop based on the first coffee beans, and every cup of coffee free of charge, or to pay for "Griff" (pictured at far right), ...



Bury the Dead: At St. Joseph Cemetery, Decatur, St. Mary parishioners Carrie Binegar and sons Benjamin, Jacob and Isaac pray at their grandmother's grave. The boys brushed snow from her grave and the surrounding ones.



Clothe the naked and Visit the Imprisoned: Vincentians, members of the St. Vincent de Paul Society, gather at the Archbishop Noll Catholic Center for a check presentation to Allen County Jail Chaplain Pastor Deborah Schell, front left. An initial Project Underwear check for \$1,760, along with some long underwear donated by St. Therese Parish for inmates of the Allen County Jail, were presented.



...ver
...dash



Pray for the Living and the Dead: Bishop Dwenger Key Club volunteers act as "house-parents" serving pizza, birthday cake and milk to kids and families of Erin's House for Grieving Children as part of their service to others. Erin's House provides grief counseling specifically to children who have suffered a loss.



Comfort the Afflicted: In religious education pre-kindergarten class at St. Michael the Archangel Parish, Waterloo, the children made spiritual bouquets for some sick and shut-in members of the parish to brighten their day.



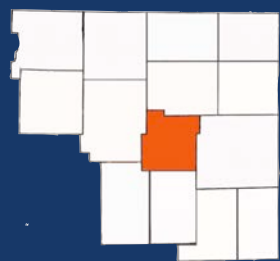
Visit the Sick: Volunteer doctors, dentists and medical volunteers take care of patients at St. Martin's Healthcare. Open since October of 2015, the clinic seeks to provide health care to those individuals who are unable to otherwise obtain it.

OUR HEARTS ARE RESTLESS UNTIL THEY REST IN YOU

SAINT AUGUSTINE

SAINT AUGUSTINE MEN'S GROUP

Counsel the Doubtful: Since its launch in spring 2015, the St. Augustine Men's Group, with chapters in Fort Wayne and South Bend, has impacted the lives of men in the diocese — resulting in stronger marriages, greater freedom over pornography and an increased desire to do God's will. Leaders say, "You will not experience any judgement or criticism at our gatherings; It is a place of refuge and strength where you will find encouragement, inspiration and healing. We walk the journey together with God — one day at a time." For information about St. Augustine Men's Group visit www.staugustinefwsb.org or call 260-673-5515.



In MY diocese

Whitley County

Columbia City parish interprets faith through service

BY JEANNIE EWING

To describe St. Paul of the Cross Catholic Church in Columbia City as a hospitable parish would be an understatement. The community at St. Paul's is thriving, due in large part to its longstanding history of service to others in need. In other words, they bear a missionary spirit that's evident in their history and the ministries that continue to flourish.

What began as a humble Mass in the home of a Columbia City resident, offered by then-pastor of St. Mary's in Fort Wayne, Father Edward Faller, in the 1850s, eventually blossomed into a full-fledged parish. By 1867, Bishop John Henry Luers dedicated the church and named its patronage after St. Paul of the Cross.

In the 1980s, St. Paul was growing so rapidly that an expansion of its building project was needed. The small parish couldn't afford the enormous financial burden, however, so, true to the charism of the parish community, parishioners gathered together to volunteer their time and skills for carpentry work, cleaning, wallpapering and painting. Now the St. Paul of the Cross campus includes a community center, which is used to house the parish hall, a gymnasium for social activities and the St. Vincent de Paul food pantry.

Aside from its interesting his-



FATHER GARY SIGLER



Photos by Jackie Parker

St. Paul of the Cross Parish in Columbia City is a growing parish that is home to an increasing number of young families and an active youth ministry.

tory, St. Paul of the Cross serves Whitley County through its thriving food pantry that serves an average of 88 people each week, according to parish secretary Jeanne Stefanko. There is an active youth and young adult ministry, as well as a meal ministry to serve those who have been hospitalized or recently had a baby.

Father Gary Sigler, pastor, and the people of St. Paul's are very active in corporal and spiritual works of mercy. Explained Stefanko, "The youth take an annual mission trip to Kentucky to do needed work for chosen community members. These projects include activities such as shingling roofs, carpentry work, yard work and porch floors. They are best known for the many wheelchair ramps they have constructed."

Parish youth minister Stephanie Hamilton elaborated. "When I was about 5 years old, my dad served as a chaplain for the mission trip to Prestonburg, Ky. That was 20 years ago, and our youth have returned every year since."

"Each year we never know exactly what work needs to be done until we arrive," shared Hamilton. "In the past, we built the ramps for people whose homes aren't able to accommodate their wheelchairs. We've also remodeled an entire living

room of a home and helped renovate the Pia Rasp school. The teens do whatever is needed, and they are eager to serve."

The Pia Rasp school, which is run by an order of priests with the same name. Is an apostolate devoted entirely to education. They offer their time for babysitting, too. Whenever the young adult ministry gathers, the teens watch the children of families who attend. "I love their willingness to serve," said Hamilton. "They are always

ready to help with various ministries in our parish, and they do so with great enthusiasm."

Hamilton. "The adults chip in to help out with teen events by volunteering to chaperone, raise money, whatever needs to be done. We all help each other, and I think that's what makes our parish continue to grow."

Sister Rose Clare Ehrlich agreed. "You really have to come to St. Paul's to witness the joy our parishioners exhibit in serving others," she said. Sister Rose is the music director and also trains the extraordinary ministers of communion, lectors, cantors and is on the RCIA team.

In addition to the adult choir, Mark and Chris Schilling lead a youth choir that includes older children and teens.

Hamilton, Sister Rose and Stefanko hope that St. Paul's will continue its mission work through local evangelization efforts and hospitality. "My hope is that we make people feel welcome and accepted in our parish, since we are a growing parish with many young families and baptisms. We are the Body of Christ, and St. Paul's



Members of St. Paul's generously contribute of their time and talent to a range of parish ministries, including a joyous weekend Mass choir.

St. Paul of the Cross

315 S. Line St.
Columbia City, IN 46725
260-244-5723
www.saintpaulcc.org

Mass Times

Saturday: 5 p.m.
Sunday: 8 and 10:30 a.m.
Weekday: Monday, Thursday, 6 p.m.; Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday, 8 a.m. Adoration every Friday 8:30 a.m. to 9 p.m.

Reconciliation: Saturday 3:45-4:45 p.m. Friday 11:30-12:30 p.m.

serves the Body with generosity and joy," Hamilton said.

Sister Rose added, "It used to bother some of our members to hear lots of babies crying at our 10:30 a.m. Mass, but now we all realize that it means young families feel as if St. Paul's is their church home. "Because so many are willing to give of themselves — it's reflected in the involvement of our younger generations — it means we are doing something right."

St. John Bosco — a community in Churubusco

BY DENISE FEDOROW

St. John Bosco is not just a parish; it's also integral to the city of Churubusco. It consists of about 250 close-knit households, according to long-time Administrative Assistant Diana Muehlfeld.



FATHER FRANCIS CHUKWUMA

"St. John's is a great parish. It's a community — if it ever got shut down we'd not just lose a church, we'd be losing a family," she said.

Muehlfeld said local groups frequently use the church basement. It has even been designated a safe place for children, in the event the local school has to be evacuated. A quilt club consisting of women from all over the community meets in the basement, and the Rotary Club holds regular meetings there.

History of the parish

In the 1950s, parishioners of the local "parent church" of Ege were scattered over such a wide, rural area that it became necessary to establish a new church. That church became St. John Bosco in Churubusco. Dedication ceremonies took place on April 13, 1958, in the former York Theater on Main Street, which had been transformed into a place of worship.

Father Anthony Reszutek, the pastor at the time, chose the name for the new church because of the similarity in sound to the town's nickname of "Busco," as well as for the heroic deeds of the saint himself. In July of 1970, Bishop Leo A. Pursley appointed Father Dennis Blank to dual pastorship of the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception and the parish of St. John Bosco. By December of 1970, the first Parish Council and its committees had been formed.

After 13 years membership

St. John Bosco Church

216 N. Main Street
Churubusco, IN 46723
260-693-9578
saintjohn.bosco@gmail.com

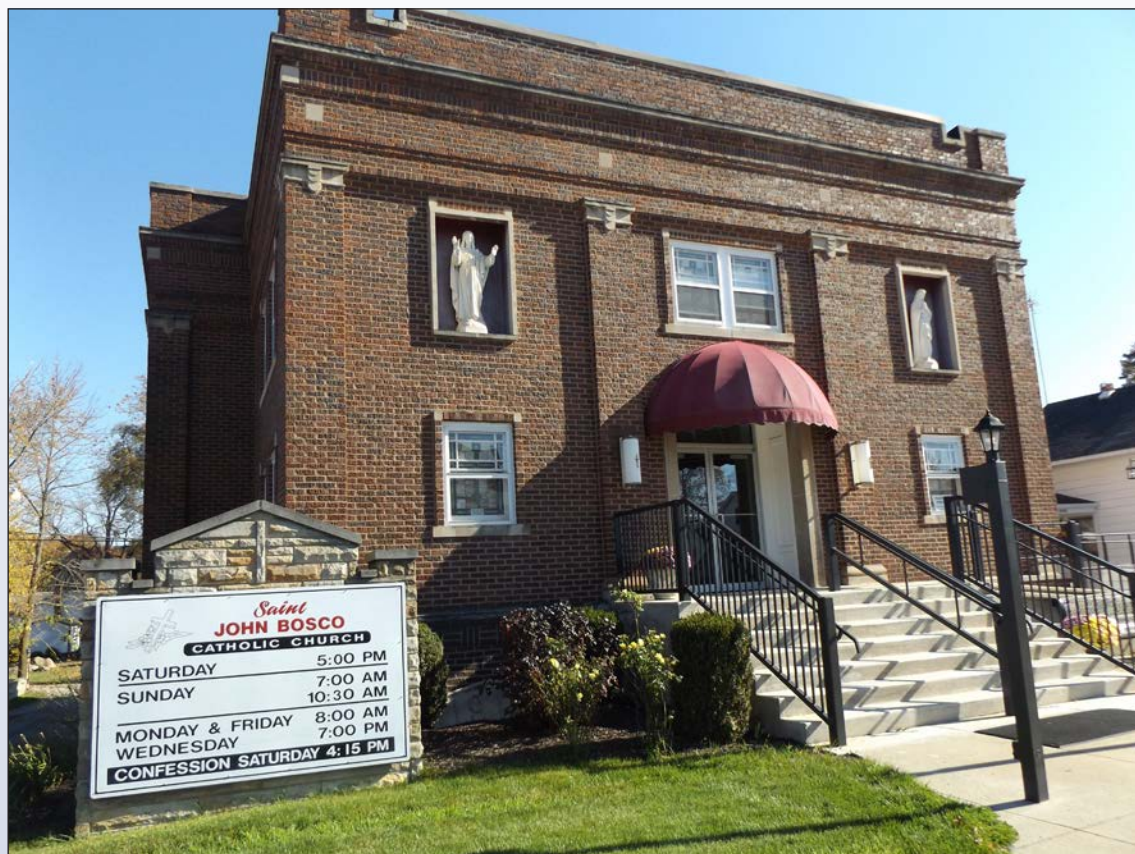
Mass Times

Saturday: 5 p.m.

Sunday: 7 and 10:30 a.m.

Weekday: Monday and Friday at 8 a.m. and Wednesdays at 7 p.m.

Reconciliation: Saturday 4:15-4:45 p.m. and after Friday morning Mass.



Photos by Denise Fedorow

St. John Bosco Church stands on Main Street in Churubusco. This church building was once a United Methodist Church, so the parish added statues and Stations of the Cross to give it a Catholic identity.

had grown from 65 members to around 445, and the facilities were no longer adequate. The Parish Council began the process of purchasing the church and rectory of the former Faith United Methodist Church at 220 Main St. Most of the redecoration was complete before the parish moved into the new facilities under the guidance of Father Blank, the first pastor to occupy the present rectory.

The first Mass was celebrated in the new church at 10 a.m. on Sunday, Sept. 12, 1971, and an open house was held at the church and rectory.

Father Camillo Tirabassi succeeded Father Blank as pastor of the parish on Sept. 1, 1972. After Father Tirabassi moved, an administrator of the parish served from February of 1978, until September of 1978, when Father Patrick Durkin was appointed pastor. Father Donald Isenbarger succeeded Father Durkin on July 7, 1980.

Father Danney Pinto succeeded Father Isenbarger on Oct. 2, 1995. Other pastors followed, and in August of 2016, Father Francis Chukwuma became St. John Bosco's current pastor.

Ministries

St. John Bosco has an active Altar Rosary Society that just held its annual Christmas bazaar Nov. 18-19, which included homemade noodles, baked goods and crafts. The money is used for funeral dinners, vestments and whatever is needed. Muehlfeld said there are a core group of 10-15 women who meet regularly, and additional volunteers show up when



A view of the sanctuary and altar. The parish serves about 250 households.

needed. There is also great support for funeral dinners, at which the Altar Rosary Society provides the main dishes and asks for donations of salads and desserts.

A men's small group named SPARC — Small Parish Actively Receiving Christ — grew out of the Rekindle the Fire men's retreat and meets every other week. About 15-20 men participate, and they attend every funeral in the parish to lead the rosary. Father Francis Chukwuma has attended a few meetings and said the men reflect on Scripture and discuss social justice issues, giving each person a chance to share. They also teach doctrine and pray together.

"They have fellowship together — socialize and fraternize and help support one another," Father Chukwuma said. "It's really made the men closer to God." The group has gone to other parishes to help start SPARC groups.

A youth group was restarted

with Father Chukwuma's arrival and combined with youth from Immaculate Conception in Ege, since Father Chukwuma serves both parishes. Twenty-four people in the eighth grade and up attended the last meeting. Father Chukwuma has taken a team approach to leading the youth group, he said, instead of having just one person lead.

St. John's doesn't have a choir, but the director of music is Steve Palmer, who plays guitar at Mass and sometimes has others join him on organ and vocals. Donna Macino is the director of religious education, in which about 60 preschool to eighth-grade children are involved. The preschoolers use the Good Shepherd program, which is based on the Montessori method. All the children recently were asked to fill out a pledge card listing two ways they hope to live out God's call to mercy in the coming year, now that the Jubilee Year of Mercy has come to a

close. Macino said they want the kids to realize, "Just because the year is over doesn't mean God's mercy is over."

St. John Bosco also has a combined RCIA program with Immaculate Conception and the parishes do a Confirmation retreat together. There's a Bible Study that meets every Monday morning after Mass. Aside from these and other ministries, several special events take place at St. John Bosco, including a spaghetti dinner and a beer, wine and cheese tasting. Any donations from those events go to support Catholic education and to support their parishioners who attend St. Mary's School in Avilla.



St. John Bosco acquired its Stations of the Cross from a man in Poe, Ind., who got them from a church in Michigan that was closing.

Future potential

Father Chukwuma returned to the U.S. from Rome shortly before being assigned to St. John Bosco. He shared his observations of the parish in his short time there.

"People are friendly — it's a welcoming community — a family, as Diana said. After Mass, people stay around and visit. We need a bigger entrance!" he said.

He believes the parish has lots of potential, but there's a definite need for more involvement in ministries — especially at the 7 a.m. Mass, when there's a need for lectors and ushers. He said the church basement is also not handicapped-accessible, so they're working on trying to install an elevator.

Father Chukwuma would also like to update the parish website so that it contains parish activities and is mobile-friendly. Being located on a highway makes the church easy to find, for travelers, but he'd like them to be able to see the Mass times and other activities.

Father Chukwuma said he's glad to be at St. John Bosco. "It's a good feeling when people are welcoming. When you meet good people it brings more of the good out in you. I believe (St. John's) is going to grow even more — physically, in numbers, and spiritually. It has the potential."

St. Catherine of Alexandria traces founding to pioneer days

BY RACHEL BATDORFF

Located on the corner of S.R. 9 on 1000S in the Columbia City country landscape of Whitley County, St. Catherine of Alexandria Church is



FATHER DALE BAUMAN

more commonly associated with — and called — Nix Settlement. “The settlement title came from a pioneer named Nicholas Nix, who immigrated to the area in 1845,” Father Dale Bauman, pastor of St. Catherine of Alexandria, said. “In 1847, more members from the Nix family arrived, and before a church building was built, Jacob Nix would sometimes hold Mass in his home.”

The first established parish structures came about in 1850 and included a log cabin and cemetery — neither of which is in their present day locations. The original church and cemetery were located on Nicholas Nix’s farm, west of S.R. 9. Unfortunately, in 1860 a fire destroyed the log church, and for several years following, Mass was held at a schoolhouse nearby, Father Bauman said.

In 1868 George Bauer donated land for what is now the present day site of St. Catherine of Alexandria. The following year, 1869, the cornerstone was laid and blessed through a service held in German.

Thirty years later that structure was deemed unsafe, and a new church building was erected in 1899. By that time, services were held in three languages:



Photos by Jackie Parker

St. Catherine of Alexandria, a rural parish established by pioneer settler Nicholas Nix, is a small but flourishing faith community located south of Columbia City and west of Fort Wayne.

German, Latin and English.

Today the parish and accompanying cemetery and church hall are located on the corner of S.R. 9 and 1000S. The church building, at 117 years old, is still used for its designated purpose. Several stones from the original cemetery location were glued together and placed in the northeast corner of the plot of the new location, and the cemetery remains active; several Nix family members, including Nicholas Nix, are buried at the site. The plots are laid out grid-style, using letters.

In 1935 the parish had 34 families. Today, St. Catherine of Alexandria varies in size.

“Last week the main floor and choir loft were packed,” Father Bauman said. “The

church holds probably 120-135 people. Our members are not just from Columbia City, but all over.”

The parish offers a variety of programs and services every year, and partners with neighboring parishes and protestant churches.

Mass is celebrated every Sunday at 9:15 a.m., followed by every other Thursday at 7 p.m.

Twice a year the congregation collects baby items for Right to Life, and canned food for the food pantry of neighboring parish St. Paul of the Cross. During Christmas time they deliver items to shut-in members of the parish.

The women of St. Catherine host morning reflection times with other Catholic churches during Advent and Lent. Twice a month, the parish provides coffee and donuts for the congregation and during the wintertime, the church provides educational programs for adults. St. Catherine of Alexandria also hosts seven of the surrounding protestant churches for dinner and enter-



A cemetery has existed alongside the church since before the parish was officially formed. New burials are still permitted.

St. Catherine of Alexandria Church

9989 S. St. Rd. 9
Columbia City, IN 46725
260-672-2838
sscatherineandjoseph@comcast.net

Mass times are:
Sunday, 9:15 a.m.
Every other Thursday 7 p.m.

What is the Catholic Community Foundation?



The Catholic Community Foundation of Northeast Indiana consists of 137 endowments collectively invested to fund the various ministries and services of the Church throughout the diocese. The ultimate purpose of these endowments is not simply to build financial stability, but rather to fund the mission that has been entrusted by Jesus Christ.

Making a Gift to the Catholic Community Foundation

There are currently no endowments in the Catholic Community Foundation for schools and ministries in Whitley County, and there are many ways to create an endowment besides a cash gift.

For more information visit www.diocesefwsb.org/Catholic-Community-Foundation.

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A fond farewell

This will be my final column for The Christophers. As a matter of fact, this will be my final column, period. It's not easy to write those words, but the time has come. I'm 85 now (it's not easy to write that, either), and while the head seems equal to the task, the reflexes are not. The fingers don't glide over the keys as once they did, and whatever I write takes a lot longer than it used to. I wanted to end this before it became a chore, because I've really enjoyed our regular visits.

The columns go back a long way, about 60 or 70 years. After a lifetime in the news business, they start to add up. My first editing job was with *The Courier*, published by the 532nd Military Intelligence Battalion, and I did a column on the ups and downs of Army life in postwar Germany.

Then, at the old *Paterson Evening News*, I found myself in the sports department in the fall of 1957. I covered the home games of the New York Football Giants then, and they were giants indeed: Charlie Conerly, Frank Gifford, Andy Robustelli, Kyle Rote, Sam Huff, Alex Webster, Dick Nolan. Jim Lee Howell was the head coach, and his assistants included a couple of future Hall-of-Famers named Vince Lombardi and Tom Landry. The press corps was relatively small, and we had free access to players and coaches.

I decided, with the approval of Joe Gootter, the sports editor, to spice things up, and with the introduction of *Sports Sketchbook* by Jerry Costello, a column was born. Through a succession of newspapers that

followed over the years, I never stopped. I soon dropped the sports angle, after a four-year stint at *Suburban Trends*, and then, following a couple of way stops, it was on to *The Advocate* in Newark, *The Beacon* (14 years, mostly under Bishop Lawrence B. Casey) and *Catholic New York* (10 years, at first with Cardinal Cooke and then with Cardinal O'Connor). My column-writing duties were mostly with those papers, although there were detours — with *America* magazine, Claretian Publications, and the Propagation of the Faith.

It all added up to lots of words, probably millions of them, and I thought I was ready to retire. I studied Scripture for a couple of years at Seton Hall University, but then came out of retirement when The Christophers beckoned. I was soon back in the business of writing columns, this time with a difference. I did two columns a month, built around the Christopher theme. They were upbeat, all of them. I can't tell you how much I enjoyed writing them — but, as I said earlier, the time has come to call it a day.

Well, I'm not calling it a day entirely. I'll still write and edit short articles for The Christophers' companion publication, "Three Minutes a Day," which features a concise story, a Scripture verse, and a prayer for every day of the year. Its editor is Tony Rossi, my sidekick at writing columns, and a real pro in every sense of the word. Mary Ellen Robinson keeps things buzzing at The Christophers as our COO. I've got to thank innumerable editors, too, older



GERALD COSTELLO, THE CHRISTOPHERS

LIGHT ONE CANDLE

and more recent, who invariably punched up the column when it needed a little punching up.

And most of all, let me thank my wife, Jane, who has first crack at whatever I write. She acts as a scout, too, for potential subjects, retaining the editor's eye she picked up at the *Paterson Evening News* — where I first met her, all those years ago. Let's see now — oh my gosh, it's getting close to 64 of them. It's beginning to look like a steady arrangement.

For a free copy of the *Christopher News Note* write: The Christophers, 5 Hanover Square, New York, NY 10004; or e-mail: mail@christophers.org

The Good Samaritan: not just a good neighbor

Providence is a powerful force — it's God's invisible hand guiding our lives. I experience providence in different ways. Most frequently it happens on the phone with my clients, when a story or metaphor comes to mind that I don't normally use, and it hits home in a way I could not have possibly planned. It happens in used-book stores (one of my vices); I will find a book or an author on a topic I have just discovered and want to explore. Or, in this instance, I found in my library, from three different sources, something new on the parable of the Good Samaritan. Father Michael Gaitley's 33 Days to Merciful Love, Bishop Robert Barron's sermon and Pope Benedict's Jesus of Nazareth all interpreted this parable as a beautiful metaphor for God's mercy. I got the message, and an article was inspired.

In my pastoral counseling practice I have many perfectionists. They are always working hard to do all the right things, yet are never quite sure what the right things are, thus finding themselves in an unsolvable dilemma. They work to be loved and feel they are only as good as their last performance. When they contact me, they are exhausted and suffering in their relationships, including their relationship with God. But our behavior can't make God love us any more than he already does. We don't work for love, we work from it (1 Jn 4:19). They have reversed what our faith teaches and bought into a heresy called Jansenism.



DAVE McCLOW

THE ULTIMATE CHALLENGE

Whenever I would hear the Good Samaritan parable I would focus on what I was supposed to do, missing the very rich message of God's mercy. But with this new interpretation, the Holy Spirit has been bringing some clients to tears — and all to a deeper appreciation of his love and mercy.

A man was walking from Jerusalem to Jericho. The first surprise from the early Church fathers is that this is man's journey from the heavenly city to sin city: he is walking away from God. He is beaten, stripped, robbed and left half-dead. This is original sin. The priest and Levite, both schooled in the law and the prophets, pass by and are of little help to the man in original sin.

Then along comes an outcast, a half-breed, a Samaritan. He simply responds to the wounded man, without being asked. But this Samaritan is not just a good neighbor — He is Jesus! As a good father, Jesus is always drawn to the woundedness of his children, even the woundedness of sin: "... where sin increased, grace overflowed all the more"

McCLOW, page 16

Be ready: Jesus will come again in glory



THE SUNDAY GOSPEL

MSGR. OWEN F. CAMPION

First Sunday of Advent Matthew 24:37-44

The Church organizes the biblical readings at Mass into three cycles: A, B and C. This weekend, that of the first Sunday of Advent, begins the new Church liturgical year. Therefore, the readings for this weekend, and until Advent 2011, will be within Cycle A.

Most Gospel readings this year will come from the Gospel of Matthew. Because of that emphasis, the forthcoming biblical readings will allow us to learn about and reflect upon Matthew's Gospel.

The first reading is from the first section of the Book of Isaiah.

Inevitably, all of Isaiah is eloquent and profound, but at the same time blunt and frank. Isaiah often warned the people that if they did not return to religious fidelity, doom awaited them. This is a theme of the first section.

While somber, the reading is not hopeless. Isaiah also reassured the people that if they reformed, God would protect them. The faithful should never despair. After all, such was the ancient Covenant. God promised to protect and secure them, although the people themselves could, at least for a while, bring catastrophe upon themselves by their sins.

The almighty God will judge the good and the bad. Such is the divine right. It is also purely and simply logical. All behavior must be balanced against the justice and love that are in God. All must conform to God's law. The faithful hasten the day of their salvation by loving God and obeying God.

St. Paul's Epistle to the Romans is the source of the second reading. Paul always

called upon Christians to live as authentic followers of Jesus. While stressing the need to be faithful models of Christ in human living, the apostle urged disciples to set their priorities by the standard that eternal life is the goal. Moreover, each Christian may face the end of earthly life at any time. Every human will face the end of earthly life. For the Roman Christians of this era, the end very well might come in the form of a gruesome death after being convicted of the crime of Christianity. So, Paul had a genuine task to accomplish in encouraging and challenging his Roman congregation.

The Gospel of Matthew, the last reading, predicts the final coming of Jesus. Beneficial reading of the Gospels requires realizing three perspectives: 1) The Gospel event in the actual time of Jesus; 2) The event as its implications came to be understood in the time when the Gospels were written, decades after Jesus; and 3) The place that the event occupies in the general literary struc-

ture of the individual Gospel.

Composed generations after Jesus, Matthew was written for Christians who yearned to be relieved of the burden, and indeed peril, of living amid harshly antagonistic circumstances by experiencing the triumphant second coming of Jesus. Recalling the Lord's own words, the Gospel reminded those Christians, and reminds us, that indeed Jesus will come again in glory.

Reflection

Advent, begun in the liturgies of this weekend, calls us to prepare for Christmas. Preparation is much, much more than wrapping Christmas gifts and decorating Christmas trees. It means actually working to make the coming of Jesus into earthly life, commemorated on Christmas, a truly personal experience when the Lord comes into our loving hearts here and now.

The Church calls us to be good Christians, to rid ourselves of anything standing in the way.

It calls us to set our priorities. Regardless of Christmas 2016, Jesus will come again to earth in a most glorious, victorious and final sense. We will meet the Lord, as God's judge, after death. We must prepare to meet the Lord. We must refine ourselves as honest disciples of the king born in Bethlehem. We today must shape our lives with priorities in mind.

READINGS

Sunday: Is 2:1-5 Ps 122:1-9 Rom 13:11-14 Mt 24:37-44

Monday: Is 4:2-6 Ps 122:1-9 Mt 8:5-11

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

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

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

Orphans in liquid nitrogen

Some humanitarian tragedies occur quietly and in the background, only gradually coming to light years or decades after serious harm has already occurred; like nerve damage in infants exposed to lead paint or cancers in patients who were exposed to asbestos. More recently, the humanitarian tragedy of hundreds of thousands of embryonic human beings frozen and abandoned in fertility clinics has come to light — “orphans in ice” arising from the decades-long practice of in vitro fertilization.

As a priest and ethicist at the National Catholic Bioethics Center in Philadelphia, I have seen an increasing number of Catholics who regret having engendered human life in this way and regret that they ignored or weren't informed about the teachings of the Church on IVF and infertility. They are perplexed and even tormented about what to do with these “spare” human embryos who really are their cryogenic children.

When I am approached with this question, I stress that there are no easy answers. Human embryos can never just be thawed and discarded, as that would be morally indistinguishable from the case of discarding a newborn or an infant in a dumpster to die. In fact, the step of merely thawing out human embryos exposes them to great risk, with as many as half not being able to survive the process.

I usually suggest to parents that, for the time being, embryonic children should be kept frozen as a way of protecting them and respecting their life and integrity. As the discussion continues, I may also recommend that they consider setting up a trust fund, so that after they pass on their frozen children will be provided for. These children, clearly, cannot be educated, clothed or fed; but they can be afforded a measure of protection in their frozen

state, with fresh liquid nitrogen continuing to be provided, at least for a time. Arranging to cover this expense of a few hundred dollars a year is one of the few ways that parents can concretely indicate their concern for their orphaned children.

The suggestion to set up a trust fund sometimes results in an awkward moment of surprise, where parents may ask: “Well, how long would I do that for? Obviously, I can't do it forever.” Parents will have to decide for themselves whether setting up a trust fund in the first place makes sense as a kind of good-faith sign of their love and care for their own offspring, and if so, for how long to maintain the arrangement. If they make provisions for a more extended period, say several decades, there is a greater likelihood that their embryonic children might be “rescued” if new scientific technologies for growing embryos outside the body end up being developed in the future. This may indeed become possible one day, even though there are real questions about whether such an “artificial womb” or “baby in a bottle” approach to gestation would be ethical, even with the praiseworthy intentions of saving lives and releasing orphaned embryos from their perpetual hibernation.

Others hope that one day, “embryo adoption” — the transfer of “spare” embryos to another woman who implants, gestates and raises them as her own — might end up being recognized as morally allowable by the Church. This unusual form of adoption is still morally debated, and Dignitas Personae, the most recent Church document addressing the matter, raises serious concerns about the idea, as have a number of philosophers and bioethicists, myself included. When confronted with the absurd fate of having embryos trapped in a state of suspended animation



MAKING SENSE OF BIOETHICS

FATHER TAD PACHOLCZYK

indefinitely, few or no alternatives really seem to exist. The future Pope Benedict XVI, in another important Church document called *Donum Vitae*, referenced this “absurd fate” when he summarized how there was “no possibility of their being offered safe means of survival that can be licitly pursued.” Certain sinful acts like IVF, sadly, can provoke irrevocable and irresolvable consequences.

A few years ago I had a conversation with a divorced woman who had seven frozen children in storage. She described how she agonized daily over the plight of her babies, and how it felt like an open wound that could never quite heal. She shared how each year, on the anniversary of the embryos' creation — their “birthday” of sorts — she would place a call to the fertility clinic and inquire about their status. She would ask the staff to look up and verify how many were stored at the facility. Fearful that something might have happened to her children, or that they might end up being abandoned or forgotten, her annual call served as a reminder to herself and to those at the clinic that they were still there; and that somebody still cared, despite the callousness of a world that seemed only too ready to ignore this ongoing humanitarian tragedy.

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

friend who helps you through a dark time in your life.

Psychologically, we desperately need another to initiate loving us, and we need to be loved despite our faults and sins so we can feel loved and secure. Thankfully, our Papa obliges us on both counts. He initiates, and our sin does not have the power to stop Him from loving us. He can't stop being who he is — love. His love, in both forms, is clear in this parable, as well as in the story of our Abba's pursuit of Adam and Eve after the fall and in Jesus' pursuit of us, taking on our humanity. He is a good father. When my perfectionistic clients experience this, they work less for love and more from love.

The ultimate challenge

Up until recently, I had always and only heard this parable as a challenge to be a good

neighbor. I've always had a hard time living up to it. Now we have the rest of the story: The Good Samaritan is Jesus. He always pursues us, even when we don't ask for it — even in our sins. We must receive the Good Samaritan's love and mercy first, or we have nothing to give away (1 Jn 4:19). Our response to this love is repentance — going beyond the mind we have now/giving up the lies we believe about God or ourselves — and then going to confession. This is followed by the ultimate challenge: to be that good neighbor or innkeeper, in a world where everyone is wounded by something. Be like Jesus — be a good spiritual father in a dark and lonely world.

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

SCRIPTURE SEARCH®

Gospel for November 27, 2016

Matthew 24:37-44

Following is a word search based on the Gospel reading for the First Sunday of Advent, Cycle A: Jesus' warning about being prepared for the end. The words can be found in all directions in the puzzle.

THE DAY BEFORE DRINKING THE ARK TAKEN LORD HOUSE	NOAH FLOOD MARRIAGE TWO MEN TWO WOMEN NIGHT AN HOUR	SON OF MAN EATING ENTERED FIELD THE MILL THE THIEF EXPECT
--	---	---

UNEXPECTED

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

Saint of the Week

Peter of Alexandria



Died 311
Feast November 26

Born in Alexandria, Egypt, Peter headed its catechetical school before being named bishop-patriarch in 300. In his early church history, Eusebius called Peter an excellent teacher. Peter fought two heresies, Arianism and Origenism, and for much of his episcopate encouraged his people to remain Christian in the face of Emperor Diocletian's persecutions. When he eventually went into hiding, Alexandria experienced a schism, and when a new emperor renewed Christian persecutions, Peter was seized and summarily executed. He was the last Christian martyred in Alexandria by civil authorities. His instructions on how to receive Christians who had denied their faith back into the church were adopted by the entire Eastern Church.

McCLOW

Continued from Page 15

(Rom. 5:20). In his merciful love, Jesus pours wine — the blood of Christ — on the wound. He puts all the love in the universe into that wine and pours it into our woundedness for healing. Pause and reflect on that; all the love of the universe penetrating your wounds. Then comes the oil, tying in four more sacraments: baptism, confirmation, anointing of the sick and holy orders.

Jesus carries us to the inn. Imagine you are in the arms of Jesus, being carried, half-dead in sin — some of your own making, some done to you — to a place of help. You can rest in his arms. In another surprise, the inn is the Church, the hospital for sinners. The innkeeper might be a priest, family member or

All-Dioocese Team

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

Saint Joseph

Boys' cross-country



Andy Powers, senior, St. Joseph



Isaac Romans, junior, Christ the King, TE/OLB



Lindsay Harrington, junior, Christ the King, midfielder



Saul Garcia, junior, St. Adalbert



Girls' golf

Grace Horan, senior, Christ the King, No. 1



Boys' tennis

Leo Romanetz, senior, No. 2 singles

Girls' cross-country



Grace Maher, senior, St. Joseph



Allison Coyne, junior, Christ the King, No. 2



Ram Fernandez, senior, Little Flower, No. 3 singles



Lucy Harmon, sophomore, St. Joseph



Boys' soccer

Max Manta, senior, midfielder



Volleyball

Mary Vogler, junior, Holy Family, DS

Football



Michael Godfrey, junior, St. Pius X OL/DL



Louis Nanni, senior, St. Joseph, midfielder



Eden Dolezal, junior, St. Joseph, libero



Courtney Rowell, senior, Holy Family, RB



Gunnar Sadowey, senior, St. Mary of the Annunciation, goalie

Bishop Dwenger

Boys' cross-country



Emmett Delaney, sophomore, St. Jude



Aaron Willamowski, junior, St. Pius X, DL



Girls' soccer

Allie Mason, senior, St. Pius X, midfielder

Girls' cross-country



Abby Brelage, senior, St. Charles



Blake Beniefel, senior, St. Pius X, OLB



Sydney Vasile, junior, St. Pius X, midfielder

Football



Blake Podschlne, senior, St. Vincent, QB/DE



Mitch Effinger, senior, St. Vincent, WR/SS



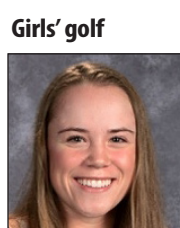
Peter Winkeljohn, senior, St. Vincent, RB/LB



Frank Yanko, senior, St. Vincent, OL/LB



Sam Henry, senior, St. John, New Haven, OL/DL

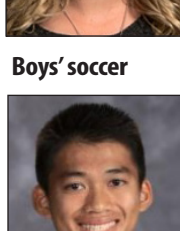


Girls' golf

Sarah Fraizer, junior, St. Charles



Taylor Martin, junior, St. Vincent



Boys' soccer

Austin Ly, senior, St. Charles, defender



Jaxon Simerman, junior, St. Charles, midfield



Colin Stroud, junior, St. Vincent, midfield

Girls' soccer



Karsyn Kleinrichert, senior, St. Elizabeth, midfield



Claudia Morgan, senior, St. Elizabeth, defender



Noelle Rolfsen, junior, St. Elizabeth, goalie

Boys' tennis



Luke Siela, senior, St. Vincent



Micheal Voors, senior, St. Vincent

Volleyball



Josie Kolkman, senior, St. Jude



Marrison Godfrey, senior, St. Charles

Bishop Luers

Boys' cross-country



Joe Deiser, senior, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton

Girls' cross-country



Marisa Wigent, senior, St. John, New Haven

Football



Jimmy Sturm, senior, St. Joseph, Brooklyn



Gareth Brouwer, senior, St. John the Baptist



Chance Ritschard, senior, St. John The Baptist



Carter Gillie, senior, St. Joseph, Brooklyn



Luke Fisher, senior, St. John, New Haven

Girls' golf



Katie Leja, senior, St. Joseph/St. Elizabeth



Madeleine Pape, freshman, St. John the Baptist

Boys' soccer



Aaron Rupright, senior, St. Joseph, Hessen Cassel



A.J. Gill, senior



Adam Veldman, junior

Girls' soccer



Megan Gilpin, junior, goalkeeper



Kennedy Brough, senior, St. Joseph, midfielder



Mimi Rustrian, junior, St. Patrick, midfielder

Boys' tennis



Maximilian Pyle, senior, St. Mary, Huntington



Cole Scheible, junior, St. Joseph, Roanoke

Volleyball



Rachel Baehl, senior, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton



Kathryn Knapke, junior, St. Joseph, Hessen Cassel

Marian

Boys' cross-country



Connor Loesch, junior, St. Matthew



Nathan Klockow, junior, St. Jude

Girls' cross-country



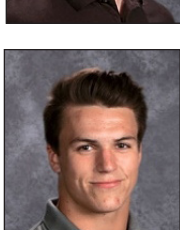
Maddy McTigue, senior, St. Pius X



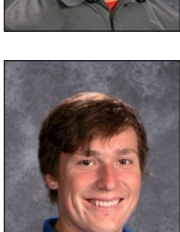
Hannah Stein, senior, St. Bavo



Joe Cline, senior, St. Matthew, OL



Alexander Horvath, senior, St. Bavo, RB



Adam Cseh, senior, St. Matthew, WR



Bryce Tomasi, senior, St. Joseph, QB



Daniel Schafer, senior, St. Thomas, DB

Girls' golf



Molly Pendergast, senior, St. Matthew



Rosa Trippel, freshman, St. Joseph

Boys' soccer



Michael Cataldo, senior, St. Pius X, goalie



Gabriel Martinez, junior, St. Anthony, forward



Max Frausto, senior, Holy Family, defender



Megan Bulloc, sophomore, forward



Caroline Baughman, junior, St. Thomas, midfielder



Anna Garatoni, senior, St. Pius X, defender

Boys' tennis

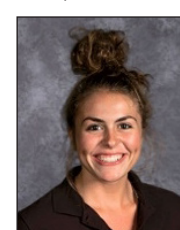


Kenny Klimeck, senior, St. Matthew

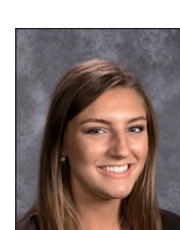


Michael Deranek, senior, St. Jude

Volleyball



Marielle Corbett, senior, St. Pius X, OH



Abbey Wood, senior, St. Bavo, MB

DIRECTOR OF YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY AT ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA PARISH, ANGOLA

St. Anthony of Padua Catholic Church in Angola seeks a full time Director of Youth and Young Adult Ministry. The Youth Minister collaborates with the pastoral team to oversee a comprehensive faith formation program for older children and young adults, especially the following five areas:

- Confirmation preparation (grade 8)
- High School youth ministry
- Scouting
- Campus ministry for students of Trine University
- Young adult ministry, with focus on ages 18-29

This is a full time, salaried position. The applicant is expected to be an active Catholic who can become a parishioner at St. Anthony's and has a good mastery of the teachings of the Catholic Church. We prefer an applicant who has at least a bachelor's degree in pedagogy (certified teacher), religious education or theology. Other applicants will be seriously considered.

For a more complete job description, please write to Fr. Bob Showers OFM Conv. at frbob@stanthonyangola.com -or- write to St. Anthony of Padua Catholic Church 700 W. Maumee St., Angola IN 46703.

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 260-399-1449 to purchase space.

Christmas program planned

LAGRO — Friends of St. Patrick's and Wabash Area community Theater will present "Christmas Treasures: An afternoon of Songs, Readings and Skits," Sunday, Nov. 27, at 3 p.m. at historic St. Patrick's Church, 925 Main St. A freewill donation and refreshments will follow.

Solanus Casey Vocation Society plans

December meeting

FORT WAYNE — The next vocation society meeting will be Dec. 2, at St. Joseph Hospital. Mass at 11:30 a.m. in the hospital chapel will be followed by lunch and guest speaker Brian MacMichael, director of the Office of Worship. He will share what is new in the liturgy.

Lessons and carols and an organ recital planned

ELKHART — St. Vincent de Paul School, 1108 S. Main St., will present an Advent Festival of Lessons and Carols on Monday, Dec. 5, at 6:30 p.m. Reception to follow in school gym. The St. Vincent Concert Series will present Brad Todorovich, director of music, performing organ works for the Advent season on Sunday, Dec. 4, at 7 p.m. No charge for either event, donations welcome.

Handel's Messiah performed by you

FORT WAYNE — A sing-along performance of Handel's Messiah will be Sunday, Dec. 4, at 2 p.m. at Queen of Angels Church, 1500 W. State St. This is a unique opportunity to experience this wonderful music from the perspective of a performer! Home-

made cookies served at intermission. Tickets are \$5 at the door. For information visit www.bach-collegium.org.

Saint Mary's College presents ecumenical Lessons and Carols prayer service

NOTRE DAME — The annual Lessons and Carols will take place at the Church of Our Lady of Loretto on Saint Mary's College campus on Sunday, Dec. 11, at 7 p.m. The public is invited to attend this ecumenical prayer service, which commemorates the birth of Christ. There is no charge, but those wishing to attend are encouraged to arrive early as seats fill quickly.

Christmas cookie and candy sale

MONROEVILLE — The St. Rose of Lima Altar and Rosary Sodality will have a Christmas cookie and candy sale on Saturday, Dec. 17, from 9 a.m. to noon, at the Monroeville Fire Station, 205 W. South St. Homemade goodies will be sold by the pound with containers available.

Advent Retreat:

Mary's Yes and Our Yes Too

HUNTINGTON — Victory Noll Center will have an Advent Retreat Friday, Dec. 2, at 7 p.m. through Saturday, Dec. 3, at 1 p.m. Sister Ginger Downey will lead "An Advent Retreat: Mary's Yes and Our Yes, Too!" The cost is \$75 and includes accommodations. The cost is \$50 for commuters. Continental breakfast and Saturday noon meal are included for all. Register by Nov. 28, online or by calling the office at 260-200-1740. Victory Noll

Center is located at 1900 W. Park Dr. For information visit www.victorynollcenter.org.

Day of Reflection

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

Rekindle the Fire 2017

SOUTH BEND — All men are invited to the seventh annual Rekindle the Fire Diocesan Men's Conference Saturday, Feb. 18, 2017 at the Century Center. New this year — sign up by Dec. 31, and enjoy the early-bird special of \$40. After Jan. 1, 2017, registration will be \$45. Visit rekindlethefire.net.

Volunteer opportunities at soup kitchen

SOUTH BEND — The St. Augustine Parish soup kitchen is looking for volunteers. The soup kitchen is open each Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Volunteer hours run from 9 a.m. until 1 p.m. Work in a regular or substitute capacity. For information call Peter Smith at 574-532-3720.

Cupertino Classic scheduled

FORT WAYNE — The third annual Cupertino Classic will be Tuesday, Dec. 27, at Bishop Luers High School, 333 E. Paulding Rd., at 6:30 p.m. The friendly basketball competition

REST IN PEACE

Auburn

Carl Ellert, 92,
Immaculate
Conception

Decatur

Cletus B. Miller,
96, St. Mary of the
Assumption

Fort Wayne

Catherine Patton, 95,
St. Jude

Ashley Marie Senters,
36, St. Vincent de Paul

Charles R. Fischer, 77,
St. Charles Borromeo

Thomas Kohrman, 84,
Most Precious Blood

Diane Lucile Compton,
77, St. Joseph

Goshen

C. Robert Cotherman,
89, St. John/Evangelist

Granger

Christine Marie
Banaszak, 65, St. Pius X

Janet H. Crull, 83,
St. Pius X

Mishawaka

Marguerite Stein, 92,
St. Joseph

Jenny G. Proud, 87,
Queen of Peace

Dorothy L. De Keglaer,
93, Queen of Peace

South Bend

Edward H. Kurpiewski,
88, St. Adalbert

Thomas Laszlo Locsi,
66, Corpus Christi

Stanley D. Sparazynski,
93, St. Adalbert

Ronald F. Moran, 77,
Christ the King

Submit obituaries to mweber@diocesefwsb.org

between priests and seminarians of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend is family friendly and admission is free. More information will be posted on the Facebook page: www.facebook.com/CupertinoClassic.

Young adults gather for Advent message

FORT WAYNE — Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades will host a talk for young adults on Thursday, Dec. 15, at 6:30 p.m. in the Archbishop Noll Center, 915 S. Clinton St. Bishop Rhoades will be presenting his message on Advent and the mystery of Christmas. Food and beverages will be provided and all area young adults are invited

to attend. For information visit www.diocesefwsb.org/yam.

Newman Connection offers transition help

The goal of the Newman Connection is to help high school graduates stay connected with their faith as they transition to college and university. For more information visit www.newmanconnection.com.

Advent Lessons and Carols

FORT WAYNE — Begin the Advent season with John Angotti at "Advent Lessons and Carols: A Journey to Christmas via Music and Scripture" on Wednesday, Nov. 30 at 6:30 p.m. in St. Vincent de Paul Church, 1502 E. Wallen Rd.

THE DREW MARIANI SHOW



Weekday
Afternoons
3 pm

For a complete list of programs
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TODAY'S CATHOLIC
Meet & Greet

Attention Business Professionals!

Diversify your business network | Connect with Catholic professionals

SOUTH BEND

Monday, December 12 | 5:00-7:00pm

Papa Vino's Italian Kitchen

5110 Edison Lakes Pkwy, Mishawaka, IN 46545

FORT WAYNE

Wednesday, December 14 | 5:00-7:00pm

Brookside Mansion | University of Saint Francis

2701 Spring St, Fort Wayne, IN 46808

RSVP to Jackie: jparker@diocesefwsb.org | (260) 399-1449 or online at www.TodaysCatholicNews.org/MeetandGreet

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ADVENT hope

The hope Advent brings

BY EMMA GETTINGER

In the life of a student, time flies by too quickly. Before you know it, it's already Thanksgiving and you are left scratching your head, wondering where in the world the past few months have gone. The start of Advent can be a rude awakening that forces you to realize Christmas is right around the corner and that the year is coming to an end.

With this awakening, it is easy to be caught up with trying to find the perfect gifts for family and friends before time runs out. We can become sidetracked and forget to focus on the true purpose of Advent: preparing ourselves to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ. However, even if we fail to prepare ourselves as much as we should, we can still have hope. No matter what we have done, hope in the mercy of God never fails us. We always have God's immense love as a source of hope.

Hope is not a foreign concept. It can be defined as the desire of something

together with the expectation of obtaining it. We experience hope every day, whether it is something as simple as hoping that it's a decent temperature outside or as serious as hoping that you achieve the goal of getting your dream job.

Hope can be found even in the most desperate situations. The Gospel reading for the first Sunday of Advent may seem a little worrisome, since it speaks of one person being taken and the other being left. However, even there, hope can be found. We can hope that, even though we do not know when the Son of Man will come again, that we will be prepared and able to experience God's mercy.

The season of Advent fosters that hope, and reminds us of our need to be prepared since we do not know the exact time of the second coming of Christ.

Emma Gettinger is a 2015 Marian High School graduate and a Saint Mary's College student.

