

# TODAY'S CATHOLIC

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## Let's embrace Advent

*This guest editorial was collected by CNS. It appeared in the St. Louis Review, newspaper of the Archdiocese of St. Louis.*

**A**fter an intense national election season, we need a diversion.

Beginning the church's liturgical year, Advent (from "ad venire" in Latin, or "to come to") is the season encompassing the four Sundays (and weekdays) leading up to the celebration of Christmas.

The Advent preparation directs our hearts and minds to Christ's second coming at the end of time and also to the anniversary of the Lord's birth on Christmas. Advent is a time to give thanks for blessings and, most importantly, to grow in our relationship with God; however, we must not allow ourselves to get lost in the culture this season.

Advent devotions, including the Advent wreath, remind us of the meaning of the season. Daily activities and prayers will help prepare you spiritually for the birth of Jesus Christ.

St. Louis Archbishop Robert J. Carlson suggested in his column (*Review*, Nov. 10) that we work on tearing down walls that have grown up in our relationship with the Lord over the past year. Christmas, he stated, is a time of visitation, when the Lord comes into our hearts in a special way, just as He came into the world 2,000 years ago. "What small



CNS/Reuters

The Vatican Christmas tree is positioned in St. Peter's Square at the Vatican Nov. 24. The 82-foot-tall tree is from the Trentino province in northern Italy.

## Pope, archbishop express condolences over Fidel Castro's death

WASHINGTON (CNS) — In a video message, Cuban President Raul Castro announced the Nov. 25 death of his 90-year-old brother and longtime Cuban leader and Communist icon whom many in Latin America know by just one name: Fidel.

"It is with great sorrow that I come before you to inform our people, friends of our America and the world, that today, November 25, 2016, at 10:29 p.m., the commander in chief of the Cuban Revolution, Fidel Castro Ruz, passed away," said Raul, who took over control of the island in 2006 after Fidel became too sick to govern.

Until that year, Fidel Castro had ruled Cuba in some form since 1959, the year he led a revolution that toppled the government of Cuban dictator Fulgencio Batista. Over the years he survived attempts to be toppled by others, including the United States. He gained fame throughout Latin

America, where many saw him as a David-against-Goliath figure each time he denounced the commercial, "imperialist" interests of the U.S. as attempts to rob the region of its riches.

But for others, Castro was a menace and a dictator, particularly those whose properties were seized when his regime nationalized homes and businesses on the island nation without compensation. Over the decades, he was accused of a range of wrongdoings, from unjust imprisonment to executions to religious persecution. Others lauded him and pointed to Cuba as a model for other Latin American countries to emulate in the areas of education, medicine and gender and racial equality. Many also blamed the U.S. embargo against Cuba, not Castro's governance, for the island's financial woes.

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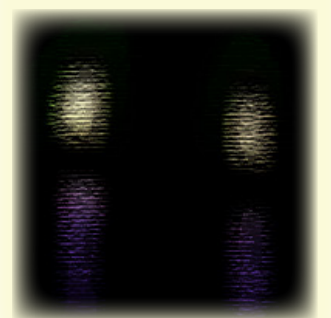
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## TODAY'S CATHOLIC

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P.O. Box 11169  
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**PUBLISHER:** Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades

**Editorial Department**

**PUBLICATIONS MANAGER:** Jodi Marlin

**PAGE DESIGNER:** Francie Hogan

**BRAND SPECIALIST:** Molly Gettinger

**SOCIAL MEDIA MANAGER:** Emily Mae Schmid

**AD GRAPHICS DIRECTOR:** Mark Weber

**Business Department**

**BUSINESS MANAGER:** Stephanie A. Patka

**BOOKKEEPING/CIRCULATION:** Geoff Frank  
gfrank@diocesefwsb.org

**Advertising Sales**

Jackie Parker

jparker@diocesefwsb.org

(260) 399-1449

**Web site:** [www.todayscatholicnews.org](http://www.todayscatholicnews.org)

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**MAIN OFFICE:** 915 S. Clinton St., Fort Wayne, IN 46802. Telephone (260) 456-2824. Fax: (260) 744-1473.

**BUREAU OFFICE:** 1328 Dragoon Trail, Mishawaka, IN 46544. Telephone (260) 456-2824. Fax (260) 744-1473.

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**Today's Catholic may be reached at:**

Today's Catholic,  
P.O. Box 11169, Fort Wayne, IN  
46856-1169; or email:  
[editor@diocesefwsb.org](mailto:editor@diocesefwsb.org)

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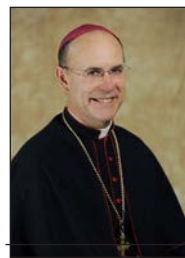
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# The Immaculate Conception: Patroness of our nation and our diocese



**IN TRUTH  
AND  
CHARITY**

BISHOP KEVIN C. RHOADES

**T**he Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception, a holy day of obligation, is one of the beautiful feasts of the Church. On this day, December 8th, we celebrate with joy that Mary, predestined by God to be the Mother of our Redeemer, was full of divine love from the very first moment of her existence. Thus, the angel Gabriel at the moment of the Annunciation, greeted her as "full of grace."

The Church's belief in the Immaculate Conception of Mary grew and developed through the centuries. It was an intuition of the people of God that the Mother of Christ was all-holy, that she was free of all stain of sin. For centuries, theologians debated whether or not Mary inherited original sin. If Mary were immaculately conceived, would this not be a denial of the revealed truth that all people needed redemption by Christ?

It was a Franciscan scholar in the early 14th century, Blessed John Duns Scotus, who helped explain how the Immaculate Conception of Mary and the truth of the universality of Christ's redemptive act could be compatible. He argued that Mary, like all human beings, needed to be redeemed by her Son. He argued that Mary was preemptively delivered by Christ's grace from original sin. God is not limited or constrained by time. Duns Scotus' notion of "anticipatory" redemption helped the Church discern the truth of the Immaculate Conception of Mary. Mary was indeed redeemed by Jesus her Son, by anticipation. God granted her this unique grace that no other human being has received, the grace of redemption at the first moment of her existence. Thus God prepared a pure vessel for the dwelling place of His Son.

The dogma of the Immaculate Conception was defined by Blessed Pope Pius IX in 1854. He wrote: "The most Blessed Virgin Mary was, from the first moment of her conception, by a singular grace and privilege of almighty God and by virtue of the merits of Jesus Christ, Savior of the human race, preserved immune from all stain of original sin." Notice: it was by the merits of her Son that Mary was redeemed, just as we are redeemed by the merits of Jesus. Mary's unique privilege was that she received the grace of redemption at the first moment of her existence in the womb of her mother. By God's grace, Mary also remained free of any personal sin throughout her whole life.

At Mass on the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception, we hear these words of Saint Paul in the second reading: "God has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavens, as He chose us in Him, before the foundation of the world, to be holy and without blemish before Him" (Ephesians 1: 3-4). This great blessing comes to us through faith and baptism. We become "new creatures" by our purification from sin. We become "holy and without blemish," temples of the Holy Spirit, blessed with the supernatural life that grows by the power of God's grace. It should not surprise us that God would prepare the mother of His Son by a special consecration, preserving her from sin from her conception so that she would



Joe Romie

**Immaculate Conception Parish in Auburn displays this image of Our Lady.**

be "holy and without blemish," cleansed in advance to have the Son of God dwell in her body.

Our vocation as Christ's disciples to become holy, with God's grace, shines forth in Mary's Immaculate Conception. Pope Benedict XVI said the following: "Looking at Mary, we recognize the loftiness and beauty of God's plan for everyone: to become holy and immaculate in love, in the image of our Creator."

Mary, full of grace, teaches us to say "yes" to the Lord's will. She always said "yes" to God's will. Her "yes" at the Annunciation (the Gospel on December 8th) opened to us the path to salvation. Through her "yes," God's Son became incarnate by the power of the Holy Spirit. Mary teaches us to say "yes" to her Son and "no" to the deceptions of the Evil One. She teaches us to say "yes" to the Lord who destroys the power of evil with the omnipotence of His love.

In Mary's Immaculate Conception, we behold the beautiful revelation of God's redeeming love in Christ. In her, the graces of the Holy Spirit were totally uninhibited by the consequences of original sin. Thus, we can have confidence when we turn to her and invoke her intercession. We can pray in the words that appear on the Miraculous Medal revealed to Saint Catherine Laboure at Paris in 1830, 24 years before the proclamation of the dogma of the Immaculate Conception: "O Mary conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to thee."

We celebrate the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception during the season of Advent. Advent is a season of hope. The Immaculate Conception of Mary fills us with

great hope, hope in the coming of our salvation in Christ. In the latter part of Advent, we contemplate the coming of Christ at Christmas. Naturally, we contemplate Mary His mother, who not only carried Jesus in her womb, but in her soul. She was truly the dwelling place, the tabernacle, of the Lord, where God made Himself incarnate and became present on this earth. She teaches us by her faith and love to receive the Lord into our hearts and into our souls.

In 1846, 8 years before the proclamation of the dogma of the Immaculate Conception, the Bishops of the United States, at the sixth provincial council of Baltimore, petitioned the Holy See that Mary, under the title of her Immaculate Conception, be named Patroness of the United States. Blessed Pope Pius IX granted this request the following year. In 1857, just three years after the proclamation of the dogma, the Diocese of Fort Wayne was established. Our first bishop, John Henry Luers, named Mary, under the title of her Immaculate Conception, the patroness of our diocese when he decided to build our Cathedral and dedicated it to the Immaculate Conception in 1860. On December 8th, therefore, we celebrate the patronal feast of our nation and of our diocese. In our prayers, let us ask our patroness, Mary, the Immaculate Conception, to intercede for our nation and our diocese.

May we always cherish our rich heritage of devotion to Mary, the Mother of God and Mother of the Church! Blessed be her holy and Immaculate Conception! May she accompany us with her love this Advent and Christmas and throughout our pilgrimage of life!



# CASTRO

Continued from Page 1

Recognizing the complexity of the different feelings the Cuban leader evoked in life — and now in death — Archbishop Thomas G. Wenski of Miami, where many Cuban exiles live, released a brief statement Nov. 26.

“His death provokes many emotions — both in and outside the island. Nevertheless, beyond all possible emotions, the passing of this figure should lead us to invoke the patroness of Cuba, the Virgin of Charity, asking for peace for Cuba and its people,” Archbishop Wenski said.

He repeated the words later that day during a Mass “for peace in Cuba” at the Ermita de la Caridad in Miami, a shrine devoted to the Virgin of Charity of El Cobre, the patron saint of Cuba, and a place, he said, built by the sacrifices of Cubans in exile.

“On the eve of this first Sunday of Advent ... we have learned that Fidel Castro has died,” Archbishop Wenski said during the homily. “Each human being, each one of us, will die and we will all be judged one day. And now it’s his turn.”

U.S. President Barack Obama, whose administration restored diplomatic relations with the island in 2015, expressed “a hand of friendship to the Cuban people” in a statement but also recognized the range of feelings surrounding the leader’s death.

“We know that this moment fills Cubans — in Cuba and in the United States — with powerful emotions, recalling the countless ways in which Fidel Castro altered the course of individual lives, families and of the Cuban nation. History will record and judge the enormous impact of this singular figure on the people and world around him,” he said.

In an interview with Spanish radio COPE, the president of the Cuban bishops’ conference, Archbishop Dionisio Garcia Ibanez of Santiago, said that each time there’s a change of



CNS/Reuters

**Pope Francis and former Cuban President Fidel Castro grasp each other’s hands at Castro’s residence in Havana Sept. 20, 2015. Castro, who seized power in a 1959 revolution and governed Cuba until 2006, died Nov. 25 at the age of 90.**

government, there’s a change for a country; but in this case, there hasn’t been a change in the presidency.

“The figure of Fidel has been so significant, so influential, that it will always have an impact on society,” he said.

In a telegram in Spanish, Pope Francis extended his condolences to Raul Castro on the “sad news” of “the death of your dear brother.” The pope, credited with the rapprochement between the U.S. and Cuba, also expressed condolences to the government and to the Cuban people, and said he was offering prayers.

Though Raul Castro has publicly expressed admiration for Pope Francis, the relationship between the Catholic Church and the Cuban government can be described as a work in progress.

Catholics, like other religious groups in the country, witnessed the seizing of church properties, including schools, churches and other centers used for religious gatherings, following the 1959 revolution. Some locales were closed; others were put to nonreligious uses. Priests and religious suspected of being against the revolution were jailed or expelled and practice of the Catholic faith dwindled on the island, particularly when the nation, under Soviet influence, was for a period an officially atheist country.

In recent years, however,

the government allowed physical reconstruction of church buildings and some properties were returned to the care of the Church. In 2015, the government granted permission for the construction of a new Catholic church on the island, something it hadn’t allowed in more than five decades.

In 1998, then-Pope John Paul II paid a visit to the island that many credit with loosening religious limitations in Cuba. Since then, each pope who has visited the island also met with Fidel Castro, even after he ceded power.

Fidel Castro was last seen in public Nov. 16 when he met with the president of Vietnam. In the video announcing his death, his brother said Fidel Castro’s body was to be cremated, as he had wished.

Granma, the official newspaper of Cuba’s Communist party, announced nine days of national mourning from Nov. 26 until Dec. 4. His ashes, the newspaper said in an online article, will travel through some parts of Cuba, and mourners are expected to pay their respects during rallies that have been organized in his honor. His ashes will ultimately be interred at St. Ifigenia Cemetery in Santiago de Cuba, where Cuban national leader and Latin American icon José Martí is buried.

## Father Kolvenbach, former Jesuit superior, dies in Beirut

ROME (CNS) — Jesuit Father Peter-Hans Kolvenbach, whose service as superior general of the Society of Jesus marked a return to normal governance after a period of tension with the Vatican, died in Beirut Nov. 26, four days before his 88th birthday.

After the Jesuit general congregation accepted his resignation as superior in 2008, he returned to Lebanon and served as an assistant librarian at the Jesuit-run St. Joseph University in Beirut.

In a message of condolence to Father Arturo Sosa, the current superior, and his brother Jesuits, Pope Francis praised Father Kolvenbach’s “complete

fidelity to Christ and his Gospel” and his “generous commitment to exercising his office with a spirit of service for the good of the church.”

When Father Kolvenbach was chosen as superior general in 1983, his election marked the end of a two-year period in which a papal delegate, Jesuit Father Paolo Dezza, led the society.

St. John Paul II had bypassed the Jesuits’ normal governing structure when he named Father Dezza interim head of the society after Father Pedro Arrupe, then-superior general of the Jesuits, suffered a stroke. The pope’s action troubled many Jesuits, who saw it as a lack of

papal trust in the order and its members’ ability to govern themselves.

Born Nov. 30, 1928, in the Netherlands, he entered the Jesuits in 1948. In 1958, he was sent on mission to Lebanon, where he was ordained to the priesthood in the Armenian Catholic rite in 1961 and where he earned his doctorate in theology from St. Joseph University.

An expert in linguistics, he taught in The Hague, Paris and Beirut, before being named rector of the Pontifical Oriental Institute in Rome, the position he held when he was elected superior of the order.



## Public schedule of Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades

Sunday, December 4: 11:45 a.m. — Confirmation Mass, Sacred Heart Basilica, University of Notre Dame  
 Monday, December 5: 10 a.m. — Meeting of Bishop’s Cabinet, Archbishop Noll Center, Fort Wayne  
 Monday, December 5: 7 p.m. — Exhibit, “Building Bridges of Faith: Photographs of Papal Visits to the Holy Land,” Madge Rothschild Resource Center, Fort Wayne  
 Tuesday, December 6: 3 p.m. — Meeting of Bishops of Indiana, Indianapolis  
 Wednesday, December 7: 10 a.m. — Meeting of Indiana Catholic Conference, Indianapolis  
 Thursday, December 8: 5 p.m. — Mass with Perpetual Profession of Vows of Franciscan Friars Minor, Saint Andrew Church, Fort Wayne  
 Sunday, December 11: 12 p.m. — Blessing of new Narthex and Guadalupe Shrine, followed by 12:30 p.m. Mass, Saint Joseph Church, La Grange

## Annual collection supports eldercare needs of religious communities

The annual Retirement Fund for Religious collection will take place Dec. 10-11 in the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend. Coordinated by the National Religious Retirement Office, the parish-based appeal benefits nearly 33,000 senior Catholic sisters, brothers and religious-order priests whose communities lack adequate retirement savings.

The Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend contributed \$178,296.83 to the last collection. In 2016, the Brothers of Holy Cross and the Congregation of Holy Cross, U.S. Province of Priest and Brothers, received a combined total of \$267,953.94 in financial assistance made possible by the Retirement Fund for Religious. Women and men religious who serve or have served in the diocese but whose communities are based elsewhere may also benefit from the annual appeal.

Catholic bishops of the United States initiated the collection in 1988 to address the significant lack of retirement funding among U.S. religious communities. Proceeds help underwrite retirement and health care expenses. Nearly 95 percent of donations directly support senior religious and their communities.

The appeal raised \$30.7 million in 2015, the sixth highest total in its history. As a result, the NRRO distributed \$25 million to 401 religious congregations. These funds supplement the day-to-day care of elderly religious and help their congregations implement long-range retirement strategies. Throughout the year, additional funding is allocated

for congregations with the greatest needs.

“We are humbled by the love and support that Catholics across the nation share with our senior religious,” said Sister Stephanie Still, a member of the Sisters of the Presentation and newly appointed NRRO executive director.

The retirement-funding deficit is rooted in low salaries and changing demographics. Traditionally, Catholic sisters, brothers and religious order priests — known collectively as women and men religious — worked for small stipends. As a result, many religious communities lack adequate retirement savings. At the same time, elderly religious are living longer and now outnumber younger, wage-earning religious. Among communities providing data to the NRRO, 68 percent have a median age of 70 or above. The income of those engaged in compensated ministry cannot keep pace with the growing cost of eldercare.

In addition to providing financial support for immediate needs, proceeds from the annual appeal underwrite educational initiatives in retirement planning and eldercare delivery. Workshops, webinars and print resources, for example, address topics ranging from property planning to caring for members with dementia.

“Our mission is to help religious communities meet current eldercare needs while preparing for the ones to come,” said Sister Stephanie. “We remain grateful for all those who support these efforts.”

Visit [retiredreligious.org](http://retiredreligious.org) to learn more.



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## Death of Fidel Castro sparks worldwide response

### Revelers in Little Havana seek new future for Cuba after Castro's death

MIAMI (CNS) — South Florida Cuban-Americans poured into the streets of Miami's Little Havana throughout the Nov. 25-26 weekend, starting almost immediately after learning that former Cuban leader Fidel Castro had died Nov. 25. Though there was an undeniable sense of glee and Latin dancing in the streets, many of the revelers were quick to say they were celebrating the end of the principal symbol and founder of the Cuban communist dictatorship rather than anyone's passing away. Cuban media announced the death of the 90-year-old Castro sometime late the night of Nov. 25, ending the decades long influence of Latin America's iconic socialist revolutionary who withstood open tensions with some 11 U.S. presidencies. Many in Miami didn't know about what was a locally momentous development until the morning of Nov. 26. "I was listening to the news as I was waking up and I didn't know if it was real or if I was dreaming, but had I known about it last night, I would have been here then too," said Elena Suarez, a member of St. John Neumann Parish in South Miami and daughter of the late Roberto Suarez de Cardenas, publisher and founder of *El Nuevo Herald*, the Spanish-language edition of the *Miami Herald* newspaper.

### For exiles, painful memories mix with relief at Castro's death

MIAMI (CNS) — While many celebrated loudly on the streets, the death of Fidel Castro triggered a more subdued reaction among the Cuban exiles who attended the noon Mass Nov. 26 at the National Shrine of Our Lady of Charity. "Today is a day like any other," Luis Gutierrez told the *Florida Catholic*, Miami's archdiocesan newspaper. "The fact that 'el caballo' has died means nothing." Gutierrez used the Cuban slang — "caballo," or horse — for Castro, whose death had been announced earlier that morning. But his 57-year-old regime continues to rule Cuba, with his



CNS photo/Tom Tracy

Local Cubans listen to Miami Archbishop Thomas G. Wenski celebrate Mass Nov. 26 at the Our Lady of Charity National Shrine in Miami. The death of former Cuban leader Fidel Castro triggered both excitement and a more subdued reaction among Cuban exiles in Miami.



People celebrate Castro's death in Little Havana, a neighborhood of Miami, Nov. 26. Castro, who seized power in a 1959 revolution and governed Cuba until 2006, died Nov. 25 at the age of 90.

CNS/Reuters

younger brother, Raul Castro, now at the helm. That is why, despite the joy on the streets of Little Havana, Westchester and Hialeah, the death of Fidel Castro in 2016 means much less than it would have in 1976 or even 2006. An oppressive regime still shackles basic freedoms on the island, keeping a stranglehold on a beleaguered economy.

### Miami Archbishop recalls Catholic persecution in Cuba, prays for peace

MIAMI (CNS) — On the day the news of Fidel Castro's death spread, Archbishop Thomas G. Wenski of Miami was one of the first Catholic Church officials to respond early on Nov. 26.

At Ermita de la Caridad, a Miami shrine that honors Cuba's patron Our Lady of Charity of El Cobre and one built, he said in his homily, "with the sacrifices of the (Cuban) exiles,"

he focused on the suffering of Catholic Cuba and the news of Castro's death.

Archbishop Wenski asked those gathered to invoke Our Lady of Charity of El Cobre and ask for her intercession.

"She has accompanied the Cuban people for more than 400 years," he said, including during the country's battle for independence and she "suffered with the church when the Marxist obscurantism wounded and decimated (the church)."

She has been there in good times and in times of turmoil, in the Cuban prisons and in the agricultural "forced labor camps" the Cuban government operated, he noted.

Referencing recent moments in the history of the island when Catholics hid their faith fearing persecution by a government and a society that looked down on religion, he said the Virgin was present in the prayer cards people hid in their dressers, as church members were "forced to survive by publicly denying their devotion."

And Mary is there with those who, despite all the challenges they have faced, continue to pass on the gift of faith to their children and grandchildren on the island.

She remains on the island today, he said, and continues to lavish her motherly love "in prisons that still are not empty and in the midst of women who walk demanding freedom."



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# Pope asks scientists to find solutions, declare rules to save planet

BY CAROL GLATZ

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Humanity does not own God's gift of creation and has no right to pillage it, Pope Francis said. "We are not custodians of a museum and its masterpieces that we have to dust off every morning, but rather collaborators in the conservation and development of the existence and biodiversity of the planet and human life," he said Nov. 28.

The pope addressed experts attending a plenary session of the Pontifical Academy of Sciences Nov. 25-29 to discuss the impact of scientific knowledge and technology on people and the planet.

People in the modern world have grown up "thinking we are the owners and masters of nature, authorized to plunder it without any consideration for its secret potential and evolutionary laws, as if it were an inert substance at our disposal, causing, among other things, a very serious loss of biodiversity," he said.

An "ecological conversion" is needed in which people recognize their responsibility for caring for creation and its resources, for trying to bring about social justice and for overcoming "an

unfair system that produces misery, inequality and exclusion," the pope said. In fact, with sustainable development, the tasks of taking care of both people and the planet are inseparable, he said.

The pope said there was a "weak response" in most international policies to promoting the common good. He lamented how easily well-founded scientific counsel is "disregarded" and how politics tends to obey technology and finance instead.

The proof of that, he said, is the way countries are still "distracted" or delayed in applying international agreements on the environment, as well as the "continuous wars of dominance masquerading as noble declarations that cause increasingly serious harm to the environment and the moral and cultural wealth of peoples."

Pope Francis told the scientists that it was up to them to "build a cultural model to tackle the crisis of climate change and its social consequences so that enormous productive capacities are not reserved only to the few."

To do that, he said, the scientists would have to be free of political, economic and ideological interests, too.

Because scientists have been

able to study and demonstrate many crises facing the planet, the pope called on them to be leaders in proposing solutions to the many problems, such as water, energy and food security.

He said it would be "indispensable" for the world's scientists to collaborate and create "a regulatory system that includes inviolable limits and guarantees the protection of ecosystems before new forms of power derived from the technological-economic paradigm produce irreversible damage not just to the environment but also to coexistence, democracy, justice and freedom."



CNS/L'Osservatore Romano

Pope Francis greets British theoretical physicist and cosmologist Stephen Hawking during an audience with participants attending a plenary session of the Pontifical Academy of Sciences at the Vatican Nov. 28.

## ADVENT

Continued from Page 1

thing can we give up, or what small thing can we do, to prepare our hearts to recognize the time of our visitation — to welcome His presence and power when He comes?" Archbishop Carlson asked.

It's a good time to focus on random acts of kindness. Archbishop Carlson reminds us that the season of Advent, and especially Gaudete Sunday, the Third Sunday of Advent, is a powerful reminder that the reign of God, which is present now but still incomplete, is a reign of joy, a time of mercy and forgiveness, an experience of true peace and harmony among all members of God's family.

Advent, therefore, is a time of reflection and action. You can make good things happen.

Practicing acts of kindness should be something that is done year-round, but here are some ways we can all further open our hearts to Christ this Advent:

- Let a car merge in front of you and do it with a smile.
- Introduce yourself to neighbors and bring baked goods or sweets.
- Smile at people.
- Open the door for someone.
- Help someone with their bags or luggage.
- Leave a nice note for your spouse.

— Write a letter to your parent or grandparent telling them how much you appreciated something they have done in the past.

— Pay for the coffee for the person behind you.

— Pick up litter and put it in a trash can.

— Get the paper towel ready for the next person to use in the restroom.

— Forgive yourself for mistakes you've made and promise to confess them in the sacrament of reconciliation.

— Give a generous tip to your waiter.

— Befriend a lonely person.

— Reach out to someone you haven't talked to in a while.

— Let someone take your parking spot.

— Bring sweet treats to share at the office.

— Sit with someone who is eating alone.

— Tell your parents you love them and how much you appreciate everything they have done for you.

— Let someone go in front of you at the cashier.

— Donate clothes and shoes to the needy at the Society of St. Vincent de Paul.

— Clean up after someone in the lunchroom or cafeteria.

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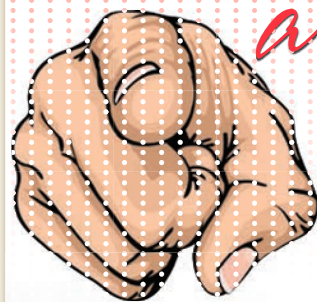
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## Sulpicians mark 225 years of training men to be priests

BALTIMORE (CNS) — In October 1791, five men began studies for the priesthood at the first seminary in the United States, just a couple years after the Diocese of Baltimore was established as the first in the country in 1789. At the time of that humble beginning — when Bishop John Carroll, Baltimore's first bishop, welcomed four priests from the Society of St. Sulpice and the five seminarians — the Diocese of Baltimore encompassed the whole fledgling nation. Sulpician Father Phillip J. Brown, president rector of today's St. Mary's Seminary and University, noted in his welcome to commemorate that occasion that the seminarians began their studies at St. Mary's downtown on Paca Street a month before Georgetown University in Washington opened, making the Baltimore seminary the oldest American institution of higher learning. The remark brought a chuckle of pride from the congregation gathered Nov. 15 in the seminary's chapel to mark the 225th anniversary of the arrival of the Sulpician fathers in America and the founding of St. Mary's Seminary and University. The prayer service included the conferral of an honorary doctorate of divinity degree on Cardinal Marc Ouellet, former archbishop of Quebec and now prefect of the Congregation for Bishops.

## Pope indicates he will travel to Ireland in 2018

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — After meeting Pope Francis at the Vatican, Irish Prime Minister Enda Kenny said the pope confirmed he will visit Ireland in 2018 and that trip organizers would look at the possibility of a stop in Northern Ireland. The pope and prime minister met Nov. 28. A Vatican statement said the two discussed the Catholic Church's contributions to Ireland, particularly "in the social and educational fields," and about how important it is for Christians to take an active role in public life, "especially in the promotion of respect for the dignity of every person, starting with the weakest and defenseless." Migration, high levels of unemployment among youths and the political and institutional challenges faced by Europe also were on the agenda, the Vatican said. After the meeting, Kenny told reporters that Pope Francis confirmed his intention to attend the next World Meeting of Families, which is scheduled

for Dublin in 2018. According to the Irish Independent newspaper, Kenny said he spoke to the pope about "a number of issues that would, in my view, help greatly his visit when it comes in 2018," including the need to strongly condemn clerical sexual abuse as he did during his visit to the United States in 2015.

## Grace, not money, must guide financial choices of religious, pope says

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Just as "the habit does not make the monk," taking a vow of poverty does not automatically mean a consecrated person lives with a detachment from material things and in solidarity with the poor, Pope Francis said. In fact, "the hypocrisy of consecrated men and women who live like the rich wounds the consciences of the faithful and damages the Church," the pope said in a written message Nov. 26 to treasurers of religious orders. Taking a vow of poverty and having no

personal property is not fulfilling the vow "if my institute allows me to manage or enjoy all the goods I desire," the pope told the religious, who were in Rome for a symposium on economics and religious life. The founding "charism" — literally "grace" — or ideal of a religious order is not "static or rigid," the pope said. Rather, members of orders must continually look at the world and the Church and discern how God wants that original grace to be lived in the world today with the human and material resources the order has. In the world at large, but particularly in religious life, he said, what one does with money is never morally neutral: "Either it contributes to building relationships of justice and solidarity or it generates situations of exclusion and rejection."

## Neglect, bullying hurts both victims and aggressors, pope says

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Indifference to people's problems and picking on others hurts not just those who are neglected and

discriminated against, it also harms the perpetrators, Pope Francis said. People who abuse their power or are negligent "end up staying closed up inside themselves and prevent themselves from encountering the flesh of their brothers and sisters, which is the necessary path for discovering the good," he said Nov. 26. Speaking with young volunteers, government officials and organizations involved in Italy's national civil service programs, the pope praised their efforts in promoting the common good and social justice. Volunteering for others is a valuable and indispensable part of helping communities, especially the weakest, he said. In fact, the pope said, the quest for a fair, just and fraternal community "is betrayed every time one passively helps increase the inequality between members of society or between nations of the world; when assistance to the weakest sectors is cut back without guaranteeing other forms of protection; when dangerous mentalities of rearmament are accepted and precious resources are invested for buying arms — this being a real scourge; or when the poor become a hidden danger and instead of taking them by the hand, they are exiled to their misery."


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## 'Consoling the Heart of Jesus' retreat planned

MISHAWAKA — St. Bavo Parish will host a group retreat, "Consoling the Heart of Jesus." The retreat was designed by Father Michael Gaitley, the author of "33 Days to Morning Glory." It is designed to help participants grow in love for Jesus. Father Gaitley focuses on God's infinite mercy and how we can give Him joy by accepting His love and trusting Him completely. This 10-week retreat is for anyone seeking a deeper relationship with Jesus and will meet on Thursday evenings from 7-8:30 p.m. beginning Jan. 26, and will finish before Holy Week, on April 6. The group will make a consecration to Jesus on Divine Mercy Sunday, April 23. Those who cannot come to all of the sessions may still participate. For information contact Monica at 574-514-0887 or mjoyhigg@sbcglobal.net.

## Saint Joseph High School Eucharistic procession reflects on Year of Mercy

SOUTH BEND — As the Jubilee Year of Mercy closed, the Saint Joseph High School family came together for a school-wide Eucharistic procession. This gave everyone the opportunity to reflect on the Jubilee Year of Mercy, pray together as a family and live out the Gospel story of Mark 5:25-34.

# AROUND THE DIOCESE

## St. Vincent de Paul students replenish pantry shelves



Provided by Regina Zedaker

Students at St. Vincent de Paul School, Fort Wayne, collected nonperishable food items to help the St. Vincent de Paul Society stock its shelves for the upcoming months. They collected 7,794 items, exceeding the goal of 7,500. The food drive began Nov. 1 and concluded Nov. 10. For having surpassed the goal, the students enjoyed a pajama and movie day.

All classes formed a single-file line in the main hallway on both floors and knelt down as their part of the procession drew close. There were pieces of fabric hanging from the monstrance that everyone was allowed to touch.

According to chaplain Father Terry Coonan, the procession was a great way to sum up what the Jubilee Year of Mercy has been, because the Real Presence of the Lord Jesus in tabernacles throughout the world is a physical reminder of the greatest mercy that God shows to His children.

## USF lecture examines 'Christ-as-Wisdom' in Scripture

FORT WAYNE — The University of Saint Francis presents the lecture "Incarnate Wisdom Scripture" by Sister Felicity Dorsett, assistant professor of theology, at 3 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 11, in the USF North Campus Auditorium, 2702 Spring Street.

In the writings of the Old Testament, the idea of Christ-as-Wisdom is foreshadowed. This Christ-as-Wisdom theme is taken up by New Testament writers, and Sister Dorsett will examine these passages in the context of Christmas and Christ's birth.

The lecture is sponsored by the USF Department of Philosophy and Theology and the School of Liberal Arts and Sciences. For information contact Angie Springer at 260-399-8066 or aspringer@sf.edu.

## Parish dinner benefits Seminarian Education Fund



Provided by Father David Kashangaki, CSC

St. Patrick and St. Hedwig parishes in South Bend held a dinner recently to raise money to support diocesan seminarians. At a Mass celebrated by Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades at St. Patrick on Nov. 19, he received a check for \$9,000 — the amount raised at the dinner. Pictured from left are Rose Burns, parish secretary at St. Patrick; Karen Horvath, St. Patrick; Sandy Matuszak, St. Hedwig; Father Camillo Tirabassi, priest in residence at St. Hedwig and St. Patrick; Bishop Rhoades; and Father Cyril Fernandes, pastor at the combined parishes.

## St. Augustine helps with food drive



Provided by Deacon Mel Tardy

The youth and adults of St. Augustine Parish, South Bend, helped the parish's St. Vincent de Paul conference put together Thanksgiving baskets for 12 families in need. Parishioners adopted families and donated the turkeys and food items. All 12 baskets were delivered by parish families after Sunday Mass.



# Cheryl and Mike Mowan are love in motion

BY BARB SIEMINSKI

*"One can pay back the loan of gold, but one dies forever in debt to those who are kind."*

If this proverb is to be believed, many area folks will be forever in debt to the kindness of Waynedale residents Cheryl and Mike Mowan. Parishioners of St. Therese Catholic Church, both volunteers began a life of service during their childhoods and have passed that love of helping on to their own children, Mark (Carrie) Mowan and Anne Mowan Bauer, and their six grandchildren.

"My parents were always very involved in church activities and groups while I was growing up," said Anne. "When they retired, they switched goals and became very dedicated volunteers with the St. Vincent de Paul Society.

"Their volunteer work seemed to mimic full-time employment," she continued. "Often, between the different church groups they belong to and the St. Vincent de Paul Society, they end up having two or three meetings at their house each week. They've always had a special knack for hospitality, and always try to think of anything their guests might need. Once, when I was in college, I had a friend over and my dad was very solicitous, wanting to make my guest feel at home. He ended up making lasagna late in the evening!"

Mike and Cheryl graduated from St. Francis College, now the University of Saint Francis. Cheryl, who has a Bachelor of Arts degree in family arts, almost completed a master's degree in theology at the University of Dayton, "but life got in the way. However, I have used the education well throughout my years of ministry at St. Therese." After briefly teaching in the parochial schools, she began working at

St. Therese as the parish secretary, bookkeeper and later, minister of services.

"I started as the priests' cook and housekeeper — a job I thoroughly enjoyed — but quickly moved into the secretary/bookkeeper's position when that employee quit," said Cheryl.

"I also had to prepare the weekly bulletin. When Sister Ann Matilda, SP, left the parish and wasn't replaced for several years, I gradually assumed more and more of her pastoral associate responsibilities."

She had been interacting with the poor who came to the parish



Cheryl and Mike Mowan, longtime volunteers and parishioners at St. Therese Catholic Church, Fort Wayne, enjoy a moment outside the parish food pantry before serving clients in October.

for help, lining them up with the local St. Vincent de Paul Society, when the then-all male organization asked her to become a member. She continued to do initial interviews with those who needed assistance and worked with the SVdP men to help them with food, finances, utilities, clothing, appliances and other needs. She is entering her 28th year as a Vincentian and received an award for completing six years of service as Fort Wayne District Council president.

"Vincentians are the most wonderful people. The work-

shops are excellent and so are the speakers, but it's the people who make the experience great," said Cheryl. She and Mike each won a SVdP Top Hat Award for Outstanding Vincentians, separately and at different times. In addition, Cheryl was honored with a Distinguished Catholic Women certifi-

cate from the Diocesan Council of Catholic Women.

Mike served on the St. Therese School Board, was Cubmaster for the school's Cub Scouts group and a member of the Boy Scout Committee. He served for several years with the Christ Renewals



The Mowans share a laugh with grandson Colin Bauer, 12, as they take inventory while preparing cans of food for St. Therese Food Pantry clients.

His Parish movement and volunteered for 35 years with the parish's Fall Festival. For 40 years he has been an extraordinary minister of the Eucharist. He has been a Vincentian for 18 years, an SVdP Care Van driver for nine years, a catechist and host with St. Therese's Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults, a member of an ongoing Arise group that meets monthly at their home and co-president, with Cheryl, of the SVdP conference at St. Therese, for 15 years. He is currently a member of the Knights of Columbus.

"Cheryl and Mike are two of the most thoughtful people I know," said Donna Cardeaux, a widow who lost her husband in

2012. "They took me to brunch after my husband's death and that was very comforting. Whenever I see them, what was to be a five-minute visit ends up an hour, running the gamut of serious business to peals of laughter. God bless them."

Cheryl has served on the parish Pastoral Council and the Church Building Committee, co-chaired the Liturgy Committee, volunteered at and chaired the Fall Festival and served as a volunteer youth minister. She was an extraordinary minister of the Eucharist for 30 years and an RCIA catechist for 25 years.

For the last 33 years she has been meeting monthly with her CRHP team for prayer, reflection

and friendship. She attended and helped lead a women's retreat group for more than 20 years. She is part of her Arise group, and also belongs to two spiritual book clubs.

"By example, my parents taught me that the best way to make your way through the world is by being kind and generous to one another and yourself," said Mark. "It is the one certain way to make the world a better place whether it is in small ways or big — kindness and generosity are the cornerstones of my parents' lives."

One such kindness is remembered by Jim Bugert, a longtime family friend.

"I made an art object for a SVdP auction and Cheryl was so kind as to pay \$100 for it, and it now hangs on her wall. I think she felt sorry for me, because she talked me into making it and no one bid," he recalled.

Many other souls have been loved and assisted by the compassionate couple, including Marcie, who entered the couple's life years ago.

"I first noticed Marcie walking the streets of Waynedale in brightly-colored outfits with her head wrapped in a color-coordinated scarf, like a turban," said Cheryl. "People could hear her talking to herself as she walked. Some were afraid of her — she was so different. She began to stop at our parish office where I worked, and I soon discovered she wasn't there to ask for monetary help; she just wanted someone to listen to her. Like many others who stopped by, we became friends.

"I learned her mental disability was the result of a severe auto accident years before. When she needed something our SVdP group could provide, we took care of her. ... Years later, when she became ill, I took her to the doctor who diagnosed her with advanced lung cancer. That turned into several months of taking her to chemotherapy for hours at a time, enjoying her company and admiring her courage. When she became too ill to stay in her apartment, Mike and I moved her into a nursing home and visited her regularly." Marcie converted to Catholicism during the years of their friendship, and Cheryl was honored to be her sponsor.

"I made her funeral arrangements at St. Therese ... Our parishioners were so kind to her. At her funeral we met her lovely estranged daughter and we became friends too. I think of Marcie often. You never know how people are going to touch your life."

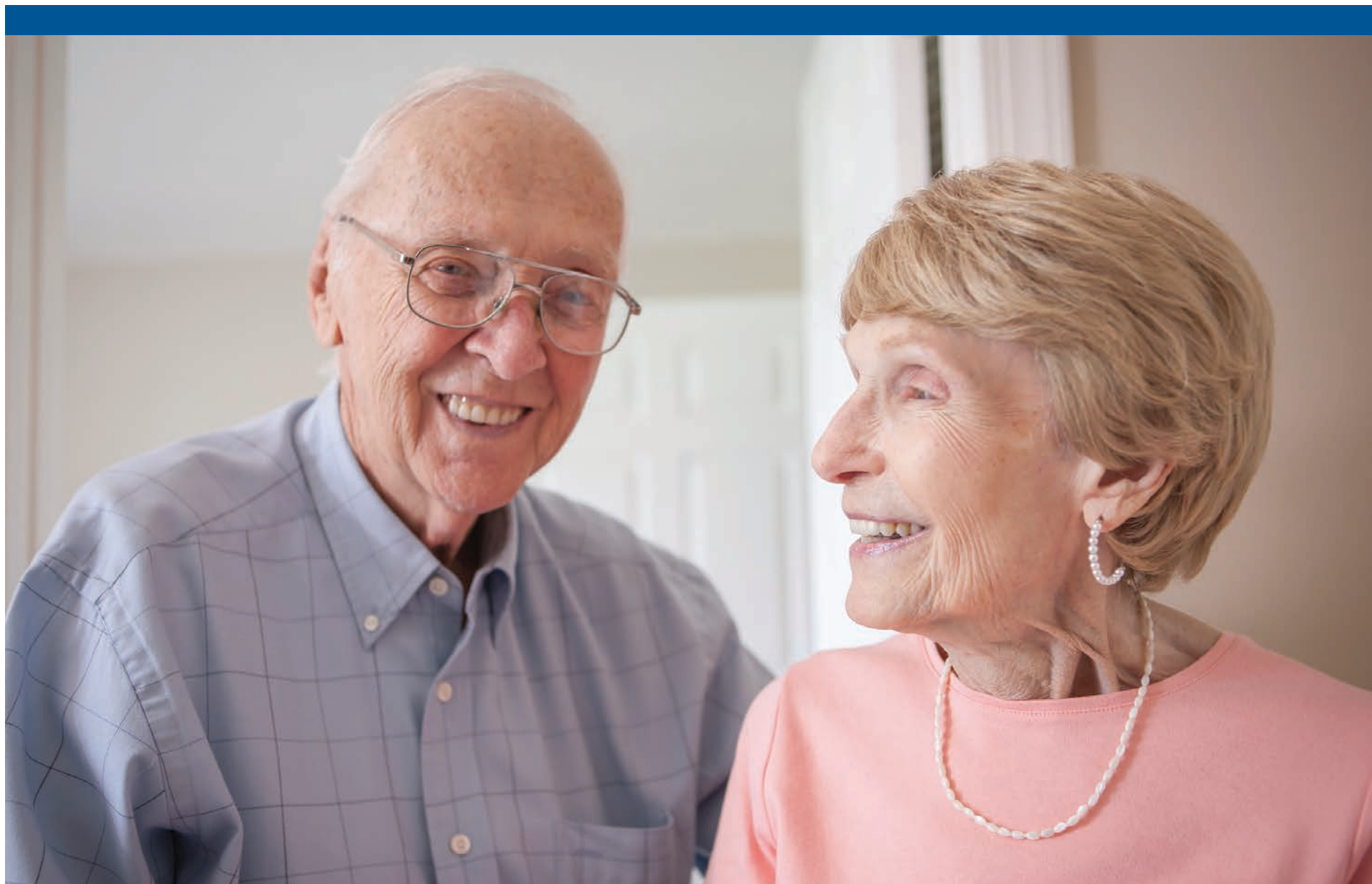
Cheryl and Mike will celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary in June. They continue to put others first and to demonstrate, with joy, their deep love for Christ by ministering to His people.

Photos by Barb Sieminski

*"By example, my parents taught me that the best way to make your way through the world is by being kind and generous to one another and yourself."*

MARK MOWEN





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# A father's death births place of support for families

BY DEB WAGNER

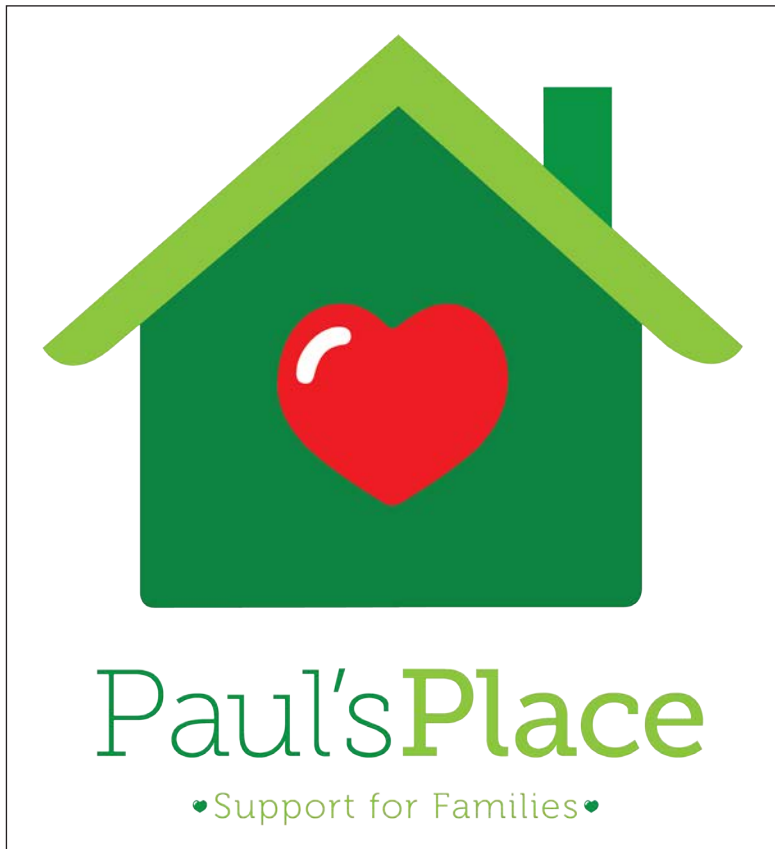
Understandably, when Amy Alfaro's father, Paul Torrez Jr., died in March 2000 after a nearly 10-year battle with Curkitt's lymphoma, she grieved. She felt, however, that this was God's will not only for him, but also for her.

Alfaro and her father had always had a close relationship, and caring for him during his final illness was not a great problem for her. There was some stress though, over, for example, where to stay while she attended to him in the hospital.

In May of 1990 Torrez became the 52nd heart transplant recipient of the former Lutheran Hospital on Fairfield Avenue in Fort Wayne. In 2000 he moved to Texas to be closer to other family members, while Alfaro stayed behind — that is, until she was told he had contracted Curkitt's from the anti-rejection medication he received following the transplant. She traveled to Texas to care for him and found temporary housing through a local Lutheran church.

Although Torrez and Alfaro were longtime, registered Catholics at Sacred Heart Parish in Fort Wayne, practicing and relying on their faith had not been as important to them in the past as it became during the last six months of Torrez' life. For Alfaro, that newfound devotion remained after her father's death. She and her family now attend the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Fort Wayne.

Following his death, she began to dream frequently about him and about how she moved from apartment to apartment while he was in the hospital. In October 2015 Alfaro asked herself what she was going to do to honor the spirit and the fortitude



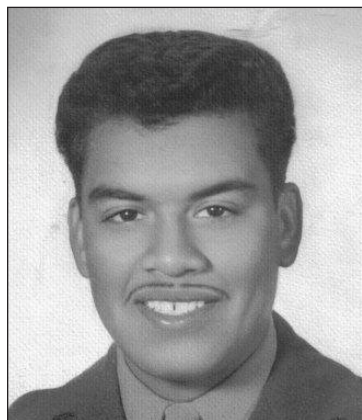
her father possessed. The idea of Paul's Place, named after her father, began to take shape.

Most of the temporary housing available for the caregivers of hospital patients is designed for families whose children are hospitalized; there was not temporary housing for the caregivers of adult patients. Alfaro saw this as a need for the Fort Wayne area, with its two large hospitals, and because insurance companies rarely pay temporary housing costs in these situations.

"I saw this as a sign of what I could do to honor my father's memory," she said. "It's a fishes and loaves story." Alfaro wanted to provide "comfort and solace to those in need, because we are to do onto others as we would want done for us." The Lutheran church in Houston had provided for her, and she wanted to offer

the same to others — regardless of religious affiliation.

Alfaro's idea gained the support of Lisa Pacula, executive director of Ronald McDonald Charity House of Northeast Indiana, and Andrew Gritzmaker, executive director of Mad Anthony Children's Hope House. They referred her to Healthcare Hospitality Network, an Oregon-based organization that is membership-driven and provides referrals of temporary housing available throughout the nation to families who have a loved one in the hospital. It also helps those interested in



This military photo of Paul Torrez Jr. was taken in the late 1950s. The difficulty his daughter, Amy Alfaro, faced trying to find lodging while caring for him prior to his death inspired an effort to provide accommodations to the families of patients at Fort Wayne-area hospitals.



Alfaro's Catholic faith was renewed through the suffering and death of her father some 16 years ago. She now seeks to honor his memory by supporting other families whose loved ones are hospitalized.



Alfaro's daughters make finger-knitted infinity scarves to support the development of Paul's Place: Support for Families.

establishing temporary hospital-ity housing connect with the resources they need.

Paul's Place: Support for Families hopes to begin accepting applications and leasing apartments in early December across from Parkview Regional Medical Center in Fort Wayne, and to offer the same opportunities for families of adult patients in Lutheran Hospital in 2017. During 2018 and 2019 it is projected that Paul's Place will be able to build its first communal building, similar to the familiar Ronald McDonald charity houses.

Paul's Place will have a holistic nutritionist available to teach caregivers how to cook healthy meals, and a certified massage therapist will demonstrate to caregivers how to massage the patient. Counseling will be available through Associated Churches.

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# Chosen to be a potter

BY VINCE LABARBERA

A potter is someone who makes pottery. But that simple definition belies the amount of time, skill and labor that goes into the ceramic creations of clay artist Tom Sherbondy.

Sherbondy's father, Harold, was a draftsman. Older brother Jim is an architect; older sister Sally is a commercial artist and younger sister Patsy studied art before becoming a teacher. Drawn naturally to the arts, and not long after graduating in 1959 from Central Catholic High School in Fort Wayne, Sherbondy took a pottery class at St. Francis College (now the University of Saint Francis). Learning about sculpting and the use of clay sparked a desire to explore the medium, but life got in the way, he said. So it was just something he held in his heart for a time in the future.

Sherbondy spent one year at Indiana University-Purdue University at Fort Wayne. Thinking he might have a vocation to the priesthood, he enrolled at Our Lady of the Lake Seminary on Lake Wawasee, Syracuse, for a year, and studied another year at Dun's Scotus Franciscan Seminary in Southfield, Mich. Finally, he discerned that the priesthood was not for him.

Sherbondy initially worked at Richmond Brothers in Fort Wayne, then spent two 15-year periods selling insurance and industrial chemical equipment. Shortly after meeting Betty Ann Nessel, they married in 1963 and were the parents of three boys: Mark, Craig and Brent, all of whom live on lakes in Northern Indiana. After Betty Ann died of cancer in 1993, Sherbondy also moved to a 100-year-old lake cottage on Sylvan Lake that was originally owned by his grandfather. He lived there for 20 years. In 2001, he married Anne Olry. They returned to Fort Wayne three years ago.

Sherbondy has belonged to several parishes throughout the diocese, but it was a St. Therese Christ Renews His Parish retreat in the early 1980s that forever changed him, he said, and subsequently brought pottery back into his life.

"The CRHP process was when I quit drinking. My participation in that retreat meant I had a

support group for my sobriety, and the potter's wheel for the time I used to spend in bars," he said. He honed his skills at a fine arts school located on West Berry Street that later merged with IPFW, giving him 24-hour access to the arts department. For five years he had an opportunity to experiment with clays and glazes, sharpening his techniques for creating unique, sculptured pottery.

"For that last 35 years I've been spinning the wheel, sculpting and going to art fairs from Michigan to Florida. I often thought God had given me the gift of the potter's wheel, but I never earned enough to even buy more clay. However, I did donate a lot of my stuff for silent auctions at churches and charity events," he continued. "So I decided my gift of pottery was a way to 'earn a giving' rather than 'earn a living.'"

He often continues to give a witness regarding how his sobriety came about through the gift of pottery. In fact, he considers going to art fairs more of a ministry than a business venture.

His "business" card evolved because "God was molding and fashioning me into a usable person," he emphasized. It reads: "God is the Potter, We are the Clay." It's adapted from Isaiah 64:8, "...we are the clay and you are the potter..." and Sirach 33:13, "Like clay in the hands of a potter, to be molded according to his pleasure, so are men in the hands of their Creator, to be assigned by Him their function."

Sherbondy had a pottery studio in his garage when he lived in Fort Wayne previously, and inside his lake home. But now that he and Anne are back in Fort Wayne he uses several studios for his work: one at an associate's Fort Wayne home, another at Crooked Lake and the Sozo Gallery in Kendallville. He's also enrolled at an Indianapolis wood-fire studio, where he creates larger pieces, and he spends six weeks a year at Garrett High School's studio.

Sherbondy works on something about every day, creating a sculpture in three or four hours. Then it may need to dry for a month. "There cannot be any moisture in a piece," he emphasized. "The clay forms a skin around itself and harbors the moisture inside, which has to work its way out over time. However," he warned, "if a kiln



Photos by Vince LaBarbera

**Clay artist Tom Sherbondy, 75, sits at a potter's wheel in Fort Wayne, working with a ball of clay placed in the center of a turntable that he rotates with foot power. During the process he presses, squeezes and pulls the soft clay upwards and outwards into a hollow shape. Eventually he throws the clay, drawing it up and shaping the walls to an even thickness. Thrown pieces can be further modified by the attachment of handles, lids, feet and spouts.**

is opened too soon the piece can just explode apart and all the work and creativity you've put into is gone. But, if there's a computerized kiln available, such as at Crooked Lake, the piece can be placed in it and dried in about 14 hours."

Next comes glazing, which Sherbondy feels is the most important part of the process — experimenting and coming up with colors that will interact with each other. "Knowing ahead of time from past experience what works and what doesn't mix well helps to speed up the creative process," he related. "I try to use my memory but at this point in my life sometimes it's not very adequate." He quipped, "It's very seldom I can duplicate a previous work."

Sherbondy has had a vision to moderate a regional, not-for-profit visual arts studio in Northern Indiana, where people can share their experiences and have pottery facilities they don't have to invest in or have in their own homes. There would be lessons, workshops and artists invited to show new techniques, he explained. "The money paid to experience this learning would, hopefully, take care of the overhead. And the studio would not just encompass clay artists, but be open to other craft workers, veterans, mentally or physi-

cally disabled persons — anyone in need of a place to possibly unwind by expressing themselves creatively."

In mid-November Sherbondy was anticipating approval for not one but two such studios; one in Auburn and the other in Fort Wayne.

"For three years I've wanted to found such a studio and now there may be two," he exclaimed. "How unique is that!"



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# Retired priest prioritizes interaction with students

BY ANDREW MENTOCK

Father Camillo Tirabassi is regularly found in the lunchroom of Saint Joseph High School. He sits on the side of the room, walker next to him, as he greets the students who pass by. There's always a giant smile on his face as he says hello, asks them about upcoming athletic events and encourages them to grow in their faith.

Since Father Cam, 85, retired eight years ago, he has chosen to continue spending much of his time at Saint Joseph High School in South Bend, where he has been a chaplain for 28 years. He also helps out at the parish where he resides by celebrating Masses and hearing confessions when the pastor cannot. Currently, his two homes are at St. Hedwig Parish in South Bend and his own residence in Florida.

"When you retire, there's no book, there's no class, there's nothing that's going to tell you

what's going to happen. It just happens," said Father Cam.

"One day you're working, doing all kinds of things, and the next day you're doing nothing. So you have to find ways to keep busy."

Father Cam continues to do many of the things he had been doing since he became a priest, only now there is no obligation to do them on any certain schedule. He only does them because they are what he loves to do.

To him, it is especially important to encourage students to go to confession. Together, he and Father Terry Coonan, pastor at St. Therese, Little Flower Catholic Church, offer confession at Saint Joseph four days a week.

"Our sins are often sins that we commit all the time," said Father Cam. "They're habitual. We are creatures of habit. If you



FATHER CAM TIRABASSI

want to get rid of that habit, one of the best ways is obviously to go to confession. We think of confession as something that takes away sin and it does. But it also gives us the opportunity to be stronger, to help take away those sinful habits we have."

In addition to current students, Father Cam also counsels men and women who graduated years ago.

"I can call him and I know he will be there. Recently I did, and we went to dinner," said Ted Pajakowski, 26, who has known Father Cam since he started preschool at Corpus Christi Grade School. "I know he will always be a voice of support who will listen to me, but, at the same time, give it to me straight and set me on the right path."

In retirement, he has also devoted much of his time to further developing his own spiritual life.

"One of the things that my confessor says that I should try to do more is read. When I was

a kid, my dad had no education, but he always knew the importance of reading," said Father Cam, who has strong Italian roots. "He would always say 'ottenerne il libro.' Get the book. He knew the value of reading. I never listened. But now I am reading more spiritual books to improve my own faith."

When Father Cam retired, he had been the pastor at Corpus Christi in South Bend for 21 years. He first went to Holy Family Parish in South Bend before moving to St. Hedwig at the recommendation of Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades.

In the winter he goes to Florida, where he also helps out at a parish. This allows him to stay busy and not feel guilty for avoiding South Bend during its harsh winters, he said. It was in Florida where he fell deathly ill in March.

Father Cam learned later he

had experienced some sort of blockage, and at the time became too disoriented to do anything about it. His niece always visits in April, but for some reason she and her husband came a month early and were able to take him to the hospital. If they hadn't, he would have died.

"The doctor told my niece that they didn't think that they couldn't do anything for me. But after three days I came around," said Father Cam, "It was a blessing, especially the prayers of the people — so many people. Everywhere I went people said, 'We were praying for you Father.' I didn't even know some of them, but people from all the different parishes were still praying for me. I owe them my life."

What a life it has been and will continue to be, as Father Cam fulfills his vocation as a priest even in retirement.

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# Fourteen profess vows to third order of Franciscans

BY TRISH LINNER

As the first snow of the season fell gently outside, 14 individuals, surrounded by family, friends and members of Franciscan religious orders, professed their vows as Secular Franciscans on Saturday, Nov. 19, at the Sisters of St. Francis of Perpetual Adoration chapel in Mishawaka. The profession is the culmination of a three-year journey for the newest members.

The Secular Franciscan Order was established by St. Francis of Assisi around the year 1221, and was originally called the Brothers and Sisters of Penance. He established the order for people interested in following in his footsteps, but not in being bound by religious life. The Secular Franciscans are a true order, approved by Rome, and a global organization open to any man or woman, married or single, who is interested in living the Gospel as St. Francis did — through humility, prayer, service and devotion to Jesus Christ and his or her fellow man.

Sister Agnes Marie Regan, OSF, who serves as spiri-



Photo by Trish Linner

**Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades with the newest members of the National Fraternity of the Secular Franciscan Order.**

tual assistant to the Secular Franciscans, greeted guests before and after the ceremony.

"Today is a very joyous occasion, as we carry on an 850-year old tradition. It is pure love to witness men and women professing their love and devotion to Jesus Christ today," she stated. "We want to

thank God for the blessings of this day."

In his homily, Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades thanked the candidates for their dedication to the ideals of St. Francis. He reminded them to include the five ways that St. Francis encountered Jesus Christ into their daily lives. He told those

gathered that St. Francis encountered Jesus Christ in prayer, in the Gospels, through other people, in nature and most importantly, in the Holy Eucharist. "This is the way to holiness," he said.

The Franciscans were honored to have Bishop Rhoades serve as the celebrant for the

ceremony. He was joined by priests from many of the home parishes of those making their profession. "We feel very excited and blessed that the Bishop could be with us today. It was so generous of him to celebrate with us," said Linda O'Neil, OFS, minister of the local fraternity of the order.

The Secular Franciscans meet once a month to continue their formation. "We are always striving to live as Christ. Spending time together helps us remain committed to each other and our order," said O'Neil. In addition, the Secular Franciscans serve their communities in a variety of ways. One local group serves breakfast for the homeless at Our Lady of the Road in South Bend once a month. "Community is very important, serving others is a vital part of our order," she noted.

The Franciscan community is proud to welcome Sarah Belisle, Joella Carl, Cathy Catral, Diego Delgado, Deborah Feece, Dennis Feece, Kathy Fuchs, Anita Harker, Daniel Kreager, Diane Kreager, Marcy Salkay, Jeff Shafier, Randolph Thomas and Chantel Vigbedor as the newest Secular Franciscans.



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## A pilgrim, a bishop and his iPhone

I'm in the process of re-reading a spiritual classic from the Russian Orthodox tradition: "The Way of a Pilgrim." This little text, whose author is unknown to us, concerns a man from mid-19th century Russia who found himself deeply puzzled by St. Paul's comment in first Thessalonians that we should "pray unceasingly." How, he wondered, amidst all of the demands of life, is this even possible? How could the Apostle command something so patently absurd?

His botheration led him, finally, to a monastery and a conversation with an elderly spiritual teacher who revealed the secret. He taught the man the simple prayer that stands at the heart of the Eastern Christian mystical tradition, the so-called "Jesus prayer."

"As you breathe in," he told him, say, 'Lord Jesus Christ,' and as you breathe out, say, 'Have mercy on me.'" When the searcher looked at him with some puzzlement, the elder instructed him to go back to his room and pray these words a thousand times. When the younger man returned and announced his successful completion of the task, he was told, "Now go pray it ten thousand times!" This was the manner in which the spiritual master was placing this prayer on the student's lips so that it might enter his heart and into the rhythm of his breathing in and out, and finally become so second nature to him that he was, consciously or unconsciously, praying it all the time, indeed praying just as St. Paul had instructed the Thessalonians.

In the power of the Spirit, the young man then set out to wander through the Russian forests and plains, the Jesus prayer perpetually on his lips. The only object of value that he had in his rucksack was the Bible, and with the last two rubles in his possession, he purchased a beat-up copy of the Philokalia, a collection of prayers and sayings from the Eastern Orthodox tradition. Sleeping outdoors, fending largely for himself, relying occasionally on the kindness of strangers, reading his books and praying his prayer, he made his way. One day, two deserters from the Russian army accosted him on the road, beat him unconscious and stole his two treasures. When he came around and discovered his loss, the man was devastated and wept openly: How could he go on without food for his soul? Through a fortuitous set of circumstances, he managed to recover his lost possessions, and when he had them once again he hugged them to his chest, gripping them so hard that his fingers practically locked in place around them.

I would invite you to stay with that image for a moment. We see a man with no wealth, no power, no influence in society, no fame to speak of, practically no physical possessions — but clinging with all of his might and with fierce protectiveness to two things whose sole purpose is to feed his soul. Here's my question for you: What would you cling to in such a way? What precisely is it, the loss of which would produce in you a kind of panic? What would make you cry, once you realized that you no longer



### WORD ON FIRE

BISHOP ROBERT BARRON

had it? And to make the questions more pointed, let's assume that you were on a desert island or that you, like the Russian pilgrim, had no resources to go out and buy a replacement. Would it be your car? Your home? Your golf clubs? Your computer?

To be honest, I think for me it might be my iPhone. If suddenly I lost my ability to make a call, my contacts, my music, my GPS, my maps, my email, etc., I would panic — and I would probably cry for sheer joy once I had the phone back. My fingers would close around it like a claw. What makes this confession more than a little troubling is that 10 years ago I didn't even own a cellphone. I lived my life perfectly well without it, and if you had told me then that I would never have one, it wouldn't have bothered me a bit.

What I particularly love about the pilgrim is that he was preoccupied, not about any of the passing, evanescent goods of the world, but rather about prayer, about a sustained contact with the eternal God. He didn't care about the things that obsess most of us most of the time: money, power, fame, success. The only possessions that con-

BARRON, page 15

## The election and the faithful

The media, and we who listen to them, were surprised at the election results. I have a feeling it's not the last surprise we are in for.

The campaign was more about character flaws than about policy, and as a result, we don't know much about how President-elect Donald Trump intends to govern. In my own corner of the room, I find myself wondering about the future of religious liberty.

The Supreme Court used to give more protection to that right than it does today. In 1990, it announced its intention to get less involved. Active judicial oversight is unnecessary, the court said, because we can trust the legislature to share our values, including the value we assign to religious belief. Congress soon validated the court's faith by passing the Religious Freedom Restoration Act.

What the court did not reckon with was the new fondness for governing from the executive branch. The outgoing administration has had a distressing tendency to ignore Congress and make its own rules by executive order or administrative action. But we do not elect cabinet secretaries and commission heads, so there is no assurance that they will think the way we do about matters of faith.

Consider a few examples. The National Labor Relations Board has announced, notwithstanding contrary precedents in the courts of appeals, that it can



### INTELLECT AND VIRTUE

JOHN GARVEY

oversee the terms and conditions of employment for teachers at religious universities. The Department of Health and Human Services has ordered the Little Sisters of the Poor to help give contraceptives and abortifacients to their employees. The Equal Employment Opportunity Commission has decided that Title VII forbids discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation.

I could go on, but you get the idea. If the court has withdrawn from the field, and we are governed by people we don't elect, religious freedom is at risk.

I wish I could say that President-elect Trump won't govern without consulting Congress, as President Obama has done. But Republicans are subject to the same temptation as Democrats. Given the nature of the coalition that elected him, I do think that the president-elect and his agencies will be more attentive to the concerns of evangelicals, Catholics and other traditionally minded people of faith.

And he has promised to sign the First Amendment Defense Act if Congress can pass it. The First Amendment Defense Act protects

GARVEY, page 15

## God's love and care are constant, despite our shortcomings



### THE SUNDAY GOSPEL

MSGR. OWEN F. CAMPION

### 2nd Sunday of Advent Matthew 3:1-12

Once again, the first section of the Book of Isaiah provides the weekend's first biblical reading, which is in the same mood as that of last week. Isaiah was very unhappy with the turn of events of his time. As was so often the case with the ancient Hebrew prophets, Isaiah saw the misfortunes facing his people as the result of their own disloyalty to God.

While direct and uncompromising, however, his words were not menacing or hostile. Rather, they were reassuring. They declared the prophet's firm belief that despite the sins of the

people, God would not forsake them. Furthermore, in due time, God's holy will would be vindicated. Wrongs would be righted. Errors would be corrected. Justice and peace would prevail.

St. Paul's Epistle to the Romans supplies the second reading this weekend. In the reading, the Apostle Paul repeats the basic message given earlier by Isaiah. It is a testimony to God's love. St. Paul maintains that throughout history God guided the chosen people to righteousness and ultimately to union with the Divine.

Paul describes God as the source of all patience and encouragement. Despite human failings, God is constant in love and care. The Apostle also counsels the Christian Romans to accept each other in love and good will. After all, he insists, Christ accepted them. Indeed, Christ was a visible and effective instrument on earth of God's mercy and goodness.

For its third reading, the Church this weekend offers us a reading from the Gospel of

Matthew. The central figure is John the Baptist, mentioned in Luke as the child of Elizabeth and Zachary. Elizabeth, of course, was the "kinswoman" — probably a cousin — of Mary. Therefore, John was related to Jesus.

From the earliest days of Christianity, John the Baptist has been a favorite figure. His absolute commitment to the most basic dedication to God has made him a model for the devout since the first century A.D.

By journeying to the place where he encountered Pharisees and Sadducees — religious experts, but surely not his admirers — John showed that he was on a mission to prepare the way for Jesus. Travel in ancient Palestine was understandably rare. It was undertaken with a purpose in mind.

John never sugarcoated the failings of people or the stubbornness of some in his demands that the people reform. Here in this reading he chastises his listeners, in effect, for their pride and self-interest. Their lack of true devotion to God only

strengthens and protracts the reign of sin in the land. Thus, their personal shortcomings add to the burdens weighing heavily upon the entire society. He challenges them to purge themselves of this self-interest and humbly to turn to God.

### Reflection

As we progress through Advent, the Church calls us to make ourselves worthy of receiving God. Advent's purpose is not just to plan for a memorial of Christ's birth: It is primarily to make our hearts fitting dwelling places for the Lord. To be fitting dwelling places, we must rid ourselves of our sins.

Advent calls us to this very resolve, to confront our own sins and to turn from sin. As an example, John himself was stark and direct, absolutely and completely committed to God.

To realize our personal sinfulness and the sinfulness of the world, we, too, must be resolute, making no excuses for ourselves. We must be frank with our-

selves. Frankness comes only in humility.

Placing John the Baptist before us, the Church urges us personally to put first things first. Our goal must be union with God. Following self-interests and self-deception will lead away from God.

God will empower us in our quest for holiness. God will be our strength and guide. He loves us and forgives us.

### READINGS

**Sunday:** Is 11:1-10 Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17 Rom 15:4-9 Mt 3:1-12

**Monday:** Is 35:1-10 Ps 85:9-14 Lk 5:17-26

**Tuesday:** Is 40:1-11 Ps 96:1-3, 10-13 Mt 18:12-14

**Wednesday:** Is 40:25-31 Ps 103:1-4, 8, 10 Mt 11:28-30

**Thursday:** Gn 3:9-15, 20 Ps 98:1-4 Eph 1:3-6, 11-12 Lk 1:26-38

**Friday:** Is 48:17-19 Ps 1:1-4, 6 Mt 11:16-19

**Saturday:** Sir 48:1-4, 9-11 Ps 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19 Mt 17:9a, 10-13



# Gloucester fisherman, American veteran, Polish benefactor

Two weeks before Veterans Day, 88-year old World War II vet Curtis Dagley of Gloucester, Mass., was decorated by the Republic of Poland. The great, late-Gothic sculptor Wit Stwosz (known in German as Veit Stoss) was smiling, from what I trust is his current station at the throne of grace. And therein lies a tale.

The colossal wooden altarpiece that Wit Stwosz carved in Kraków for the Basilica of the Assumption of Our Lady, the Mariacki, is one of the great feats of decorative art in Christian history. More than 40 feet high and some 36 feet wide, the altarpiece is a gigantic triptych, the centerpiece of which is the Dormition of the Virgin in the presence of the apostles. The two flanking panels depict numerous scenes from the Bible, including the Annunciation, the Nativity, the Resurrection, the Ascension and the Descent of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. Because the biblical figures (some of which are 12 feet tall) were modeled on the burghers, tradesmen, waitresses and housewives that Stwosz met during his mid-15th century labors in Kraków, the altarpiece is a marvelous evocation of what the Creed means by the "communion of saints."

Just before the German invasion of September 1939, the altarpiece was disassembled and the main wooden figures taken to the cathedral in Sandomierz for safekeeping. But Nazi looters were determined to take Stwosz's composition to Nuremberg, his native city, and got their way in 1941 when the altarpiece was removed to Nuremberg Castle and hidden in its basement. Discovered by the U.S. Army detachments known to moviegoers as the "Monuments Men," the Wit Stwosz altarpiece was

returned to Kraków on a 30-car train in April-May 1946, escorted by American GIs.

Enter Curtis Dagley. The 18-year old Gloucesterman was a buck private at the time, assigned to guard duty on the train bringing recovered art treasures back to Poland. But tensions were high in Kraków, where the newly installed Polish communist regime was not, to put it gently, popular. The regime planned a large May Day "workers' celebration" on May 1; it was quickly followed by an anti-communist demonstration on May 3 in which 800 protesting students were arrested and 30 wounded. (The role played in that demonstration by a then-obscure seminarian named Karol Wojtyła — later to be known as Pope St. John Paul II — likely had something to do with Cardinal Adam Stefan Sapieha's decision to send Wojtyła to Rome for graduate studies immediately after his ordination in November 1946.)

So congenitally nasty regime officials and their secret police goons were in an even more petulant frame of mind than usual on May 5, when the altarpiece was officially and ceremonially returned. Perhaps to underscore their unhappiness, they claimed that an American soldier had shot two Polish militiamen. Private Dagley was charged with this "crime," handcuffed and held in custody, even after another GI admitted to randomly firing his pistol and accidentally wounding one Pole the previous night. The falsely charged Private Dagley's commanding officer made the imprudent decision to leave him behind under Polish arrest, thinking that everything would sort out in due course. Thus, Curtis Dagley spent unnecessary (and certainly unwanted)



## THE CATHOLIC DIFFERENCE

GEORGE WEIGEL

time as a guest of the ill-named Polish People's Republic before being returned to American control and mustered out of the Army.

I first learned about all this from my friend Agata Wolska, the archivist of the Mariacki, who was a great help when I was preparing "City of Saints: A Pilgrimage to John Paul II's Kraków." Dr. Wolska, a charming and tenacious scholar, spent a year tracking down the American who helped restore the Wit Stwosz altarpiece to Kraków and was unjustly imprisoned as a result. Her persistence was rewarded when she met Dagley in Gloucester in 2012. Last month's ceremony, at which he was presented with the Bene Merito medal of the Polish foreign ministry, completed a work of thanksgiving in fidelity to historical truth.

There's more than a whiff of isolationism in the American air these days. The remarkable, wonderful story of Curtis Dagley and the Poles who remembered him with gratitude 70 years later is a poignant reminder that some still look to the United States as a pillar of stability and decency in a very nasty world.

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

## GARVEY

Continued from Page 15

people who believe in traditional marriage against discrimination by the government.

So I think that in the near term religion has less to fear from executive orders and agency action. The thing is, I don't think we can rely much longer on the assumption that our elected representatives will share our faith commitments.

In 1993, the Religious Freedom Restoration Act passed the House unanimously and the Senate 97-3. In 2014, Democrats in Congress called for its amendment after the Supreme Court enforced it regarding Hobby Lobby. In 2015, Indiana was convulsed by an effort to pass a state Religious Freedom Restoration Act. Opponents said

it would shield discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation.

In 2016, religion functioned like the totem of a political faction, not a commitment shared by the electorate and their chosen candidates. President-elect Trump himself was distressingly frank about the limits of his own ecumenism — remember his quarrel with Pope Francis and his hints about surveillance of Muslims. Majorities of evangelicals and Catholics supported Trump not because he shared their values on life, family and faith, but because he promised to protect them.

This is why I worry about the long term. It is no longer a given that our faith is shared widely enough that we can count on a properly functioning democracy to protect it.

John Garvey is the president of The Catholic University of America.

## BARRON

Continued from Page 15

cerned him were those simple books that fed his relationship to God. Or to turn it around, he wasn't frightened by the loss of any finite good; but he was frightened to death at the prospect of losing his contact with the living God.

So what would you cling to like a desperate animal? What loss would you fear? What do you ultimately love?

Bishop Robert Barron is an auxiliary bishop of the Archdiocese of Los Angeles and the founder of Word on Fire Catholic Ministries.

## SCRIPTURE SEARCH®

Gospel for December 4, 2016

Matthew 3:1-12

Following is a word search based on the Gospel reading for the Second Sunday of Advent, Cycle A: the preaching of John the Baptist. The words can be found in all directions in the puzzle.

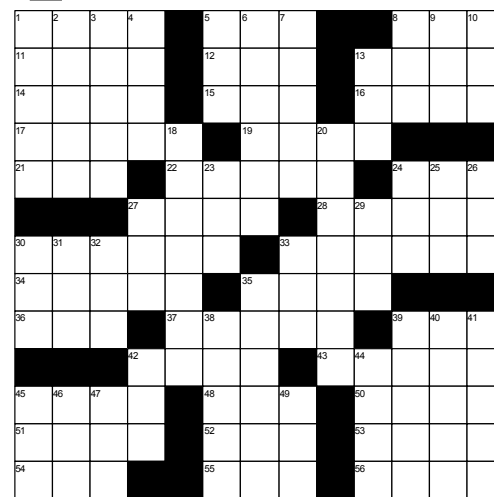
- |            |         |            |
|------------|---------|------------|
| PREACHING  | JUDEA   | HEAVEN     |
| IS AT HAND | PROPHET | A VOICE    |
| PATHS      | LOCUSTS | WILD HONEY |
| VIPERS     | WARNED  | WRATH      |
| FRUIT      | ABRAHAM | TREES      |
| CUT DOWN   | FIRE    | MIGHTIER   |
| WINNOWING  | WHEAT   | CHAFF      |

### HARSH WORDS

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

## The CrossWord

December 4 and 11, 2016



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Based on these readings: Is 11:1-10; Rom 15: 4-9; Mt 3: 1-12 & Is 35: 1-6a, 19; Jas 5: 7-10; Mt 11: 2-11

### ACROSS

- 1 Priest does before Mass
- 5 Physician
- 8 Italian monk title
- 11 Tropical island
- 12 Epoch
- 13 They hear Good News
- 14 Press
- 15 Typing rate
- 16 Org. of Petroleum Exporting countries
- 17 St. Martin cut his in half
- 19 Hercules' wife
- 21 Eastern Time
- 22 Vatican sits inside

### 24 Shall graze with bear

- 27 Soon, poetic
- 28 African nation
- 30 Priests and bishops
- 33 Grubby
- 34 What a road is
- 35 John preached repentance of
- 36 Laid to the root
- 37 Very fat
- 39 Advertisements
- 42 Bad sign
- 43 Cleft
- 45 The Lord is King all the earth
- 48 Limb
- 50 South of border crazy

- 51 He will baptize with
- 52 Sorbet
- 53 Upon
- 54 Ball holder
- 55 Feed
- 56 Tell John they were raised

### DOWN

- 1 It cries in wilderness
- 2 Non-Scandinavian jarls
- 3 Comes from root of Jesse
- 4 Bonito
- 5 Manna arrived like the
- 6 Widow and
- 7 John wore its hair
- 8 Dandy
- 9 Abortion decision
- 10 St. Joan of
- 13 "Raven" author
- 18 It's at hand
- 20 Let be
- 23 Plaything
- 24 Calorie
- 25 The Lord is
- 26 Compact bundle
- 27 Blessed you
- 29 Sheep of flock
- 30 Public accountant
- 31 Flabby
- 32 Adam's wife
- 33 Sister for short
- 35 One of Iroquois nations
- 38 Misrepresent
- 39 Lonely
- 40 Legal statements of opinion
- 41 Made a stand
- 42 Unrefined metal
- 44 Trudge
- 45 Often, poetically
- 46 Contend
- 47 Bard's before
- 49 Receive

Answer Key can be found on page 19



# Sports

**SIX FROM USF GET CROSSROADS LEAGUE POST-SEASON RECOGNITION** University of Saint Francis volleyball had six team members earn Crossroads League post-season recognition, including All-CL selections Cassidy Rammel and Valorie Flick. Flick earned two awards playing libero for USF: All-CL second team and All-CL freshman team. Rammel is a sophomore outside hitter who earned All-CL second team. All-CL Honorable Mention selections included senior setter Chloe Hubner, junior defensive specialist Emily Poe and sophomore outside hitter Becca Pruden. Middle-hitter Megan Diagostino was also named to the All-CL freshman team.

## Luer's boys' tennis team repeats SAC win

BY JOEL PYLE

In early August, the Bishop Luers boys tennis team started the 2016 season with one very clear main goal in mind: to regain the Summit Athletic Conference crown, a title it won in 2014 for the first since 1968. The team built on a foundation of improved talent, enthusiasm, depth and character, and had a very successful 2015, but came up just short of repeating the title.

A year ago Luers added two very strong opponents to the boys' tennis schedule, state contenders Homestead and Carroll. The addition of this level of competition to an already-solid schedule helped develop the Knights. The boys were more than up for the challenge, finishing this season with a varsity record of 12-3 in regular season play, including 7-0 in the SAC and winning the conference for the second time in three years. The season ended with a hard-fought loss to Homestead in sectional play.

Several Bishop Luers players



Provided by Joel Pyle

**The Bishop Luers 2016 boys' tennis team built a winning season.**

were honored this year with individual accomplishments. Senior Maximilian Pyle, co-captain, earned Academic All-State honorable mention. Earning positions

on the All-SAC conference team were juniors Cole Scheible and Johnny Woehner, co-captain, first team; and junior Charlie Burton, second team.

The boys conducted themselves well both on and off the court and in how they represented Bishop Luers. The junior varsity had another successful season, too. There is returning

depth and talent, and the teams are encouraged with everyone's improvement on both varsity and JV. The future of Bishop Luers boys tennis looks very bright.

## little flower holy hour

December 6  
7:00 p.m.

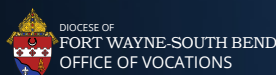
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# Future Saints Wrestling Club

BY RON BUSCH

Young persons can learn positive assets through sports like wrestling. Wrestling encourages good sportsmanship, self-confidence, friendship and the development of good, Christian character.

One opportunity for boys in grades 5-8 in Fort Wayne is the Future Saints Wrestling Club. This program combines athletes from area schools including St. Vincent de Paul; St. Charles Borromeo; St. Jude; Most Precious Blood; St. Elizabeth Ann Seton; Queen of Angels; Our Lady of Good Hope; St. John the Baptist, New Haven; some area home school students; and others.

Last year the program had 45 student-athletes competing in classes of 75 to 195 pounds. This is a large increase in num-

bers from the 20 boys involved in 2010. Beginning in 2010, coaches Gary Weilbaker and athletic directors Paul Cassabon and Terry Coonan laid the groundwork for a successful program. They coached the boys until 2014. Every wrestler has a chance to wrestle, and last year each wrestler had at least one victory. Many graduates of the program go on to wrestling careers at Bishop Dwenger, Bishop Luers and Carroll High School.

The Future Saints Wrestling Club varsity posted a team record last year of 17-6, with over 220 combined individual victories. This year's team will be coached by John Delaney, Dan Delaney, Dee Ferris, John Michaels and Phil Hilger. The season runs from January through March.

The Bishop Dwenger High School wrestling team and coaches also assist the Future

Saints. Bishop Dwenger Coach John Tone and Athletic Director John Bennet provide the team with a practice facility, and location for conditioning. Official practices begin on Jan. 9.

The coaches expect 11 returning eighth graders from last year's team; those 11 accounted for some 40 victories. The Future Saints Wrestling Club continues to gain student-athletes and popularity in the local area.

Interested student-athletes may complete online registration at [www.saintv.org/school/Main/Departments/athletics](http://www.saintv.org/school/Main/Departments/athletics) or by completing a registration form in the wrestling room during December conditioning. Cost is \$50 per wrestler, which includes a warm-up shirt. Questions may be emailed to coach Coonan at [athleticdirector@saintv.org](mailto:athleticdirector@saintv.org). All levels of experience are welcome.

# When the field becomes a family affair

BY CLAIRE KENNEY

Oftentimes, a team is referred to as a family. The squad acts as a single unit working together toward a common goal. For Johnathan Tavarez, Francisco Tavarez, Oscar Tavarez, Alejandro (Alex) Rodela and Junior Ontiveros, the parallels between their family and their athletic team are particularly blurred.

Relatives, the boys are also teammates on the Marian High School varsity boys' soccer team. And, as the cliché goes, for the Tavarez, Ontiveros and Rodela clan, athletic ability runs in the family. All five boys are key players.

Brothers Johnathan, a junior, and Francisco, a freshman, are first cousins to Oscar, a junior, and Junior, also a junior on the team. Johnathan, Francisco and Junior are second cousins to Alex, a junior. Each one made the varsity soccer team during their freshman or sophomore year of high school — a feat typically reserved for juniors and seniors.

Coach Ben Householter describes their talent of all of the boys as an asset.

"The players from this family have been a real blessing to our soccer team. They all have great skill and understanding for the game," he said.

Between the five boys and relative Richard (Richie) Ontiveros, who graduated from Marian last year and is currently a freshman at Saint Joseph Rensselaer College, they have secured two class 1-A state championship titles. In 2015, the team finished 20-2, setting a school record for most wins in a season and defeated Indianapolis Cardinal Ritter for the championship title. This year, they beat Providence in the championship game.

Together, the family members scored 25 goals over the course of the 2016 season.

Members of the family also play or have played on the Marian girls' soccer team as well. Mya Pereira, a sophomore,

plays on the junior varsity team and Stephanie Ontiveros, a 2014 graduate, played on the girls' championship varsity team.

The boys not only have elite athleticism, but a contagious collaborative spirit as well — like loyal family members do.

"Their camaraderie and joy is contagious to the team," Householter said.

Growing up in South Bend, Johnathan, Francisco, Oscar, Alex and Junior regularly played soccer with each other, something that has given them a strategic advantage on the field.

"I was really born into soccer, because my whole family played and I guess that had a big influence on me," Johnathan said. "Since we are all around the same age, we grew up playing on the same teams and I feel that this always gave us an advantage over other teams because we knew the style of play that one another had."

The boys also push each other to get better.

"What I like about them is that they are competitive with me, so during practice we compete and it pushes us to get better," Johnathan said. "I always wanted to be like my older relatives just because they were so good."

But the sport of soccer has given these boys more than an athletic advantage. Playing together has brought them closer as a family.

"Family-wise, I know they are always supporting me," Oscar said.

According to school administration, the boys have a loyal following of family member fans at their games. The faith of the young men is evident as well, and they incorporate it into their play on the field.

"My positive attitude and the help of God helped me contribute in getting the back-to-back state championship," Oscar said.

Because all five boys will be eligible to play again next year, Marian will continue to have the influence of this family on the field.

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Provided by Johnathan Tavarez

Six current and recent members of the Marian High School varsity boys' soccer team are family both on and off the field.

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# Hope amidst the college hook-up culture

BY CLAIRE KENNEY

It's no secret that the Catholic Church and secular society do not promote parallel definitions of love. The Church emphasizes the selfless nature of love, while the culture typically promotes the idea that love is as much about one's needs as it is about giving. In other words, it describes an imitation of love.

Framed by the hook-up culture, or the idea that random physical intimacy is no big deal, imitation love is the exact opposite of real love. Recent studies claim that the hook-up culture is prevalent on college campuses. According to a 2015 article in Teen Vogue titled "The Surprising Reality About Hook-Up Culture in College," about 75 percent of college students hook up at some point during their college career. But there is hope, and it's present on a local level in South Bend.

"I think at this day in age, we can easily be misguided into what society tells us what will make us truly happy," said Saint Mary's College freshman Amanda Fischer. "...as long as I discern what the Lord has planned for me, then He will lead me to true happiness," she went on to say.

University of Notre Dame junior Tierney Vrdolyak has a similar outlook.

"Every weekend I hear stories about friends and classmates confused and suffering from the effects of imitation love, yet everyday I see so many signs of hope on our campus," she explained. "Hope to ... revive this truly universal call to holiness that begins when we recognize our great value as young men and women made by and for God, a holiness to be shared through authentically loving each other."

Hope was also evident in a



Claire Kenny

Attendees of a talk by Leah Darrow, former contestant on "America's Next Top Model," about genuine love, gather with her following the presentation.

filled-to-capacity auditorium last month at the University of Notre Dame, when more than 100 local college students came to listen to Leah Darrow, former "America's Next Top Model" contestant and current Catholic speaker, describe the importance of human dignity and the detrimental effects that stem from imitation love.

Her talk, "Made for More: What I Wish Every College Student Knew," used Darrow's personal narrative of living a high-profile life without her Catholic faith as a guide, which led her to rely on imitation love. She focused on the fundamental idea of the dignity of the human person and its connection to

modesty and chastity.

"Authentic love at its core is true joy..." Leah explained to those in attendance.

"We've been made for that," she explained. "It (love) will never send you to the confession line. It's not a girl thing. It's not a Disney thing. It's not a Taylor Swift thing. It is a human thing."

Darrow detailed how her reversion experience and journey back to the Catholic faith was ultimately triggered by her realization that imitation love does not bring lasting happiness.

"Imitation love (is) under the bar of what you've been made for," she said emphatically.

Notre Dame senior Dana

Bouquet attended the event.

"I ended up talking with my boyfriend about this and how we see so many people fall into imitation love," she said.

Bouquet understands the hook-up culture's domino effect.

"The family is the foundation of our society and building healthy families starts with the way in which college students are dating today."

Saint Mary's freshman Teresa Niehaus agreed.

"Leah Darrow really understood the hook-up culture that is so normal and even expected in today's culture, especially in college," she said when reflecting on how the presentation touched

her life. "Her talk was really inspiring in that she was able to witness to the idea that it's possible to leave the sinful norms of the world around us and remember that even though everyone else is doing something, it's not fulfilling and ultimately we were 'made for more.'"

Following her presentation at Notre Dame, Darrow shared her goal for college students.

"It's my hope that this new generation, emerging from universities today, will courageously live out the gospel of Jesus Christ, fulfill their dreams in Him and defend the gifts and freedoms of life and faith," she said.

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**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](http://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.

**Live drive-through Nativity**

**ANGOLA** — St. Anthony of Padua will have a live drive-through Nativity on Sunday, Dec. 11, from 5-8 p.m. on the parish grounds, 700 W. Maumee St. Travel in the comfort of your car along a road lined with over 500 luminaries, past the Bethlehem Inn, through the fields where the angel appeared to the shepherds, past the three wise men following the star and ending at the manger. Each scene comes alive with a biblical passage, themed music, and live animals including a camel. There is no charge.

**Knights plan fish fry**

**SOUTH BEND** — The Knights of Columbus Council 5521 will have a fish fry on Friday, Dec. 2, from 5-7 p.m. at 61533 S. Ironwood Dr. Adults \$9, children 5-12 \$4. Shrimp or chicken strips available for \$9.50 and cheese pizza for \$1 per slice.

**Catholic Business Network meetings**

**FORT WAYNE** — The next Catholic Business Network meeting will be Friday, Dec. 2, with First Friday Mass in the Guerin Chapel at 7 a.m. followed by fellowship in the Cathedral Center at 7:30 a.m. The guest speaker will be Stephanie A. Patka, director of communications for the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend. She will speak on "Communicating to Connect: Why the Catholic Church Needs to Take Communications Seriously." Refreshments will be provided by *Today's Catholic*.

**Interpreter to be at Mass**

**FORT WAYNE** — An Interpreter for the deaf and hard of hearing will be present at the 11:30 a.m. Mass on Sunday, Dec. 11, at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception. For information con-

tact Allison at 260-399-1452 or [asturm@diocesefwsb.org](mailto:asturm@diocesefwsb.org).

**St. Michael Parish plans cookie walk**

**PLYMOUTH** — The St. Michael's Altar and Rosary Society will have a cookie walk on Saturday, Dec. 10, at 8 a.m. until noon in the St. Michael School cafeteria, 612 N Center St. Homemade cookies will be sold by the pound.

**Advent vespers by candlelight**

**FORT WAYNE** — Lucernarium, the communal prayer of Solemn Vespers (evening prayer) by candlelight will take place Friday evenings in Advent at St. John the Baptist, 4500 Fairfield Ave. Eucharistic Adoration, beautiful music and prayer to prepare for Christ's coming will be Friday, Dec. 2, 9 and 16 at 6:30 p.m.

**DONATIONS**

**Sack lunch ministry in need**

**FORT WAYNE** — The Franciscan Center Sack Lunch Program is in need of donations and volunteers. Donations of brown paper bags, sandwich bags, napkins, potato chips, pretzels, fruit snacks, and granola bars are needed. Monetary gifts are also welcome. Contact Sony Laisure at 260-744-3977 or [contact@thefranciscancenter.org](mailto:contact@thefranciscancenter.org) for details.

**Mustard Seed Furniture Bank can use your donations**

**FORT WAYNE** — The Mustard Seed Furniture Bank accepts donations of bedroom and liv-

ing room furniture, tables, chairs, bed linens and towels. Items must be in working order. Donations may be picked up by calling 260-471-5802.

**St. Vincent de Paul Stores always in need of donations**

**FORT WAYNE** — Donations are always accepted for cars, trucks and vans. Donations are tax deductible. Call 260-456-3561 for pick up or drop off at the store, 1600 S. Calhoun St.

**Food donations needed**

**SOUTH BEND** — The St. Vincent de Paul Society is in need of specific food items to restock the warehouse. Tuna, jelly, breakfast cereal and potted meals, such as ravioli can be dropped off at a retail location: 3408 Ardmore Trail or SR 23 and Ironwood at Greenwood Plaza. Contact dale.seely@saintvincent-in.org or call 574-234.6000 ext. 12109 for information.

**Dismas House has immediate needs**

**SOUTH BEND** — Dismas House needs laundry and dish soap, trash bags, paper towels and toilet paper, bath towels, wash cloths, twin sheets, blankets, pillows and pillow cases. Contact 574-233-8522.

**Volunteers needed**

**FORT WAYNE** — The Franciscan Center Clothes Closet is in need of volunteers. Call 260-744-3977 for information.

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**Decatur**

Carolyn Hakes, 80, St. Mary of the Assumption

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**Fort Wayne**

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George F. Smith, Jr., 69, Our Lady of Good Hope

Jeanne E. Derheimer, 94, St. Joseph

Janine A. Higgins, 85, St. Jude

Robert E. Eash, 89, St. Vincent de Paul

**Granger**

Janet Szrom Auel, 46, St. Pius X

**Mishawaka**

Thomas K. McGuin, 63, Queen of Peace

Joseph Z. Blair, 50, Queen of Peace

William Michael O'Brien, Jr., 82, St. Monica

**Notre Dame**

Brother Thomas Peter Tucker, CSC, 81, Basilica of the Sacred Heart

**South Bend**

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Darlene M. Hoover, 83, St. Anthony de Padua

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

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- Campus ministry for students of Trine University
- Young adult ministry, with focus on ages 18-29

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

Visit [www.diocesefwsb.org](http://www.diocesefwsb.org) for the full calendar.



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# ADVENT peace

## You are Peace

BY MARY SIMCOX

We await you oh Jesus!

We are fretting – come and ease us  
With your Peace.

We are anxiously waiting  
And eagerly advocating;  
Bring us Peace.

A virgin is with child;  
On a donkey they are piled  
Carrying Peace.

A long journey lies ahead;  
Over mountains they must tread  
Yet there's Peace.

Shepherds sleep in restful grasses;  
Angels appear by the masses  
Singing Peace.

Telling of a newborn King,  
The one of whom these angels sing  
Of coming Peace.

Their song makes the shepherds weep;  
They load their packs and their sheep  
To meet Peace.

Kings come from foreign lands,  
Traveling years upon the sands  
To honor Peace.

Astronomy has pointed to a star  
That leads them to a place afar  
They find Peace.

Virgins, shepherds, sheep, and kings  
All await what this child brings.  
Who is Peace?

Oh mercy mild;  
Who is this child?  
You are Peace.

*Mary Simcox is a Bishop Dwenger  
High School sophomore.*