

TODAY'S CATHOLIC

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New Year calls for courage, hope; no more hatred, selfishness, pope says

BY CAROL GLATZ

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Whether the new year will be good or not depends on us choosing to do good each day, Pope Francis said.

"That is how one builds peace, saying 'no' to hatred and violence — with action — and 'yes' to fraternity and reconciliation," he said Jan. 1, which the church marks as the feast of Mary, Mother of God and as World Peace Day.

Speaking to the some 50,000 pilgrims gathered in St. Peter's Square for the first noon Angelus of 2017, the pope referred to his peace day message in which he asked people to adopt the "style" of nonviolence for building a politics for peace.

Lamenting the brutal act of terrorism that struck during a night of "well-wishes and hope" in Istanbul, the pope offered his prayers for the entire nation of Turkey as well as those hurt and killed. A gunman opened fire during a New Year's Eve celebration at a popular nightclub early Jan. 1, killing at least 39 people and wounding at least 70 more.

"I ask the Lord to support all people of good will who courageously roll up their sleeves in order to confront the scourge of terrorism and this bloodstain that is

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CNS/Paul Haring

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

World Youth Day pilgrims reunite

BY JODI MARLIN

Five months after they hiked for miles, slept on the hard ground, ate strange foods and pushed through exhaustion, several dozen young people came together Dec. 26 at St. Mary Mother of God Parish, Fort Wayne, to rekindle the elation they felt celebrating World Youth Day in Krakow, Poland.

The teens and young adults, including a number of religious, seminarians and Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades, spent 10 days in July savoring the universality of their Catholic faith and the invigoration of celebrating it with the head of the Catholic Church on earth, Pope Francis.

Bishop Rhoades recalled the experience in his homily during the Mass, using the word "joyful" to describe the company of hundreds of thousands of young brothers and sisters from all over the world and their inspiring reflections on divine mercy and the pope's call to live the beatitude of Jesus,

"Blessed are the merciful."

The pilgrims and some of their family members attended the reunion Mass, which was celebrated on the feast of St. Stephen, the first martyr of the church.

"Yesterday, the Church celebrated what Saint Francis of Assisi called 'the feast of feasts,'" Bishop said. "We celebrated the Nativity of Our Lord. As Catholics, we celebrate the solemnity of Christmas not just on one day, December 25th, but for eight days, which we call 'the Octave of Christmas.' Today, the second day of the Octave, is the feast of Saint Stephen. It may seem like a contradiction, a bit perplexing that on the day after we celebrate the peace and joy of Christ's birth, we reflect on the violent death of the first martyr of the Church and the beginning of the fierce persecution against the Church. But this apparent contradiction is overcome

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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

NEWS SPECIALIST: 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

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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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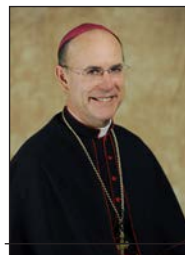
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An ancient blessing for the new year



IN TRUTH AND CHARITY

BISHOP KEVIN C. RHOADES

The following is the text of the homily of Bishop Rhoades at Mass on the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God, at Saint Mary Church in Huntington on Dec. 31, 2016:

Every year on January 1st, on this Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God, we hear in the first reading the ancient priestly blessing from the Old Testament book of Numbers: "The Lord bless you and keep you! The Lord let His face shine upon you, and be gracious to you! The Lord look upon you kindly and give you peace!"

This ancient blessing was entrusted by God, through Moses, to Aaron and his sons, that is, to the priests of Israel. It was entrusted to them as they led the people on the journey of the Exodus through the Sinai desert. Later, this blessing was used in the temple liturgy in Jerusalem. The Church carries on the tradition of this blessing, not only today, but often throughout the year since it is one of the options the priest can use for the blessing at the end of Mass. It is a prayer for God's protection and for grace and peace — three gifts that sum up our aspirations as human beings. In our journey through life, and especially at the beginning of a new year, we ask the Lord for these blessings.

We ask the Lord to let His face shine upon us. What does this mean? God's face, which we see in the face of the Child Jesus in the manger, is a face of mercy and love. To ask God to shine His face upon us is to ask Him to bless us with His mercy and love. We ask the Lord to be gracious to us: to bestow upon us His saving grace, His divine life. And we

ask Him to look upon us with kindness and to give us His peace.

The Catholic Church observes January 1st as the World Day of Peace. Today, at the beginning of a new year, we pray for peace in the world, the peace that begins in our own families. We remember in prayer all who are suffering the ravages of violence, war, and terrorism, in the Holy Land and the Middle East and in so many other places where there is conflict and discord. We also pray for peace in our own country, especially in cities like Chicago where the murder rate continues to climb. We ask for God's gift of peace in this new year 2017.

The great priestly blessing from the book of Numbers, "The Lord let His face shine upon you," fell upon Mary and Joseph in the most unique way, for they had the experience of beholding the true face of God. In gazing upon the face of the little infant Jesus, they were gazing upon the face of God. From the face of Jesus, a new light issued forth upon the world, the light of salvation, the greatest blessing for humanity.

In today's Gospel, we heard that "the shepherds went in haste to Bethlehem and found Mary and Joseph and the infant lying in the manger." The grace and peace invoked in that ancient Jewish blessing descended upon the shepherds as they adored the child in the manger. And it descends upon us when we adore the Lord Jesus, especially in the Blessed Sacrament.

The first person to be swept up by this great blessing from God was Mary. She was the first to see the face of God made man in the small fruit of her womb. Elizabeth rightly

called her "blessed among women." We honor her today as the "Mother of God." She is the first of the blessed, the one who bore the blessing, the woman who received Jesus into herself and brought Him forth for the whole human family.

Today's Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God, is the oldest feast of the Blessed Virgin Mary in the Church's calendar. We honor her who played such a great role in the mystery of the Incarnation, in the accomplishment of God's plan of salvation. Her "yes" to God's invitation to be the mother of His Incarnate

Son teaches us to say "yes" to God's will and to be open to His grace.

Thanks to Mary's "yes," Our Savior was born. As Saint Paul wrote to the Galatians: "God sent His Son, born of a woman, ... so that we might receive adoption as sons. As proof that you are sons, God sent the Spirit of His Son into our hearts, crying out, 'Abba, Father!' So you are no longer a slave but a son, and if a son then also an heir, through God."

We cannot foresee what this New Year 2017

will bring, but we can live each day knowing that God is our loving Father, that His Son has saved us, and that He has given us His Holy Spirit to dwell in our hearts. We can live each day also knowing that Mary, the Mother of God, is also our mother, the Mother of the Church, who intercedes for us with her Son.

As we begin this New Year, I invoke upon you and all your families and loved ones the ancient priestly blessing: "The Lord bless you and keep you! The Lord let His face shine upon you, and be gracious to you! The Lord look upon you kindly and give you peace!"

"The Lord bless you and keep you!

The Lord let His face shine upon you,

and be gracious to you!

The Lord look upon you kindly

and give you peace!"



John Martin

Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades and several altar servers from the parish of St. Mary, Huntington, make the sign of the cross before the parish crèche during a vigil Mass celebrating the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God.

Father Derrick Sneyd retires after nearly 50 years in the priesthood

BY CLAIRE KENNEY

Ordained in 1970 in his home country of India, Father Derrick Sneyd recently retired from his administrative duties as a priest. He has served the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend in some capacity for more than 40 years.

Father Sneyd studied to become a priest at Saint Charles Major Seminary in Nagpur, India. Immediately after his ordination, he served as secretary to Archbishop Emeritus Eugene D'Souza from 1970-72.

He was transferred to the United States to serve the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend in a variety of roles. Some of those included associate pastor of Our Lady of Hungary Parish, South Bend; faculty member and chaplain at Marian High School, Mishawaka; pastor of St. Stanislaus Kostka, New Carlisle, St. Thomas the Apostle, Elkhart, St. John the Baptist, New Haven, and St. Monica, Mishawaka; and associate director of the diocesan Marriage Tribunal.

Father Sneyd said that his decision to enter the seminary was partly due to his Catholic education.

"My entire educational background through grade school, high school and the first university were all Catholic institutions where, for Catholics, classes, courses, in religion were a must," he said. "The sisters, in the beginning years, and the priests, in high school and later, were themselves great examples of the Catholic way of life. I have very pleasant memories of these leaders."

He discerned his calling



FATHER DERRICK SNEYD

through interactions with St. Mother Teresa of Calcutta, who was personal friends with his mother.

"It was my privilege to have been in her (Mother Teresa's) care on many occasion(s) when my mother would go to Calcutta for shopping," he explained. "She would leave me with Mother Teresa, do her work in the city and return in the evening to pick me up and head home by train." She once told him, "Derrick, be a good priest."

Though these specific occurrences played a role, he considers the Holy Spirit's influence to be the overarching factor in his decision.

"After 46 years of celebrating ministerial priesthood, I confidently say that the decision to become a priest was a prompting of the Holy Spirit that gave me the impetus to discern the implications of saying yes to the divine will," he reflected.

Father Sneyd had some advice to those currently discerning the

priesthood.

"When life gets overwhelming, and believe me it does at times, get down on your knees and implore the grace of God to help you get through such times," he said. "The perception of priesthood today is different than yesteryears; but the reality of being a priest today is the same as ever — (following) after the heart of the great high priest, Jesus."

Father Sneyd said each community he served impacted his ministry.

"Now in my 46th year of priesthood, I can look back and praise God for bringing me into contact with wonderful folk whose genuine response to their individual vocations have been an encouragement for me," he commented. "Each community of parishioners has taught me more about priesthood ... of trust and kindness, forgiveness and love. For me, such occasions were indeed milestones in ministry. I am grateful."

After an annual vacation to his home country of India this winter, Father Sneyd will begin his retirement in Charleston, S.C., where he will minister in ways that vary from his active administrative role as priest.

"One never retires from priesthood. It continues 'til the final call of the Master," he said. "It is my continuing intention to serve God's people in sacramental and catechetical ministry."

Of this continual service, he said, "This to me is priesthood at its best. The spiritual development of oneself and, thereby, the continuing development of the faithful, will constitute my priesthood in my retirement years."

mothers who never stop embracing, supporting and fighting for what is best for their children incarcerated in prisons, ill in hospitals, enslaved by drugs or suffering from war.

"Where there is a mother, there is unity, there is belonging, belonging as children," he said.

Just like all mothers of the world, Mary, Mother of God, "protects us from the corrosive disease of being 'spiritual orphans,'" that is when the soul feels "motherless and lacking the tenderness of God, when the sense of belonging to a family, a people, a land, to our God, grows dim."

"This attitude of spiritual orphanhood is a cancer that silently eats away at and debases the soul," which soon "forgets that life is a gift we have received — and owe to others — a gift we are called to share in this common home," he said.

A "fragmented and divided culture" makes things worse, he said, leading to feelings of empti-


ness and loneliness.

"The lack of physical and not virtual contact is cauterizing our hearts and making us lose the capacity for tenderness and wonder, for pity and compassion," he said, as well as making us "forget the importance of playing, of singing, of a smile, of rest, of gratitude."

Remembering that Jesus handed his mother over to us "makes us smile once more as we realize that we are a people, that we belong" and can grow, that we are not just mere objects to "consume and be consumed," that we are not "merchandise" to be exchanged or inert receptacles for information. "We are children, we are family, we are God's people."

Mary shows that humility and tenderness aren't virtues of the weak, but of the strong, and that we don't have to mistreat others in order to feel important, he said.

The pope also presided over an evening prayer service with



Public schedule of Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades

Sunday, January 8: 11 a.m. — Mass, Saint Matthew Cathedral, South Bend

Monday, January 9: 9 a.m. — Mass and Pastoral Visit, Bishop Luers High School, Fort Wayne

Tuesday, January 10: 6:30 p.m. — Vespers and Meeting with Knights of Columbus, Saint Andrew Church, Fort Wayne

Wednesday, January 11: 10 a.m. — Meeting of Bishop's Cabinet, Archbishop Noll Center, Fort Wayne

Wednesday, January 11: 5:30 p.m. — Reception for Catholic Charities' Donors, Women's Club at University of Saint Francis, Fort Wayne

Thursday, January 12: 11 a.m. — Mass for Postulants of Franciscan Friars Minor, Saint Felix Friary, Huntington

Friday, January 13: 9 a.m. — Mass and Pastoral Visit, Bishop Dwenger High School, Fort Wayne

Black and Indian Mission office reports donation

Most Reverend Kevin C. Rhoades

Thank you for your support of the Black and Indian Mission Collection. Your check in the amount of \$75,027.21 which we received on June 23, 2016 is a blessing to your brother bishops. This collection so clearly authenticates Pope Francis call to us as pastors to work as a family to help all of our brothers and sisters and share the Love, Faith and Hope of Jesus Christ. We continue to be led by the missionary spirit of St. Katharine Drexel as we evangelize through our African American, Native American, and Alaskan Native missions.

With the foresight of our brother bishops who have gone before us, the Black and Indian Mission Collection was established. In 1884 the Third Plenary Council of Baltimore mandated that this Collection be established as a national collection and it has proven itself as a successful vehicle to marshal our Church's resources to provide for those most in need.

This National Office is pleased to cooperate and support diocesan evangelization by disbursing the Collection returns in the form of diocesan grants.

With the grace of the Holy Spirit and the charity of the people, we are able to accomplish so much in our Native American and African American communities. Please continue to encourage your clergy, religious, and laity to strengthen our efforts by their daily prayers, sacrifices, and collaboration. Even if your diocese doesn't take up a single collection, the promotion of the collection as it benefits evangelization would be greatly appreciated.

With assurance of my prayers and of those of our U.S. missionaries serving in African American and Native American communities, I am, with best wishes and prayers,

Yours respectfully in Christ,
Reverend Maurice Henry Sands Executive Director
Black and Indian Mission Office

POPE

Continued from Page 1

enveloping the world with the shadow of fear and confusion," he said.

Earlier in the day, the pope spoke of how maternal tenderness, hope and self-sacrifice were the "strongest antidote" to the selfishness, indifference and "lack of openness" in the world today.

Celebrating Mass in St. Peter's Basilica, which was decorated with bright red anthuriums, evergreen boughs, white flowers and pinecones brushed with gold paint, the pope said that a community without mothers would be cold and heartless with "room only for calculation and speculation."

The pope said he learned so much about unconditional love, hope and belonging from seeing

eucharistic adoration and the singing of a special hymn of thanksgiving to God Dec. 31 in St. Peter's Basilica.

As the year ends, he said in his homily, he asked people to reflect on how God has been present in their lives and to thank the Lord for all signs of his generosity, "seen in countless way through the witness of those people who quietly took a risk."

Gazing upon the manger, we remember how Jesus "wanted to be close to all those who felt lost, demeaned, hurt, discouraged, inconsolable and frightened. Close to all those who in their bodies carry the burden of separation and loneliness, so that sin, shame, hurt, despair and exclusion would not have the final word in the lives of his sons and daughters."

His sacrifice and love challenges people "not to give up on anything or anyone," and to find the strength to forge ahead "without complaining or being

resentful, without closing in on ourselves or seeking a means of escape, looking for shortcuts in our own interest."

"Looking at the manger means recognizing that the times ahead call for bold and hope-filled initiatives, as well as the renunciation of vain self-promotion and endless concern with appearances."

He urged everyone to help "make room" for young people, who are often marginalized and forced to migrate or beg for undignified jobs. Everyone has a duty to help them grow and fulfill "the dreams of their ancestors" in their own nation and community.

After the prayer service, the pope walked into St. Peter's Square instead of using the popemobile. He walked the entire periphery of the square, stopping to shake hands, receive cards and notes, offer happy New Year's greetings, bless babies and chat with people lining the barricades.



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PILGRIMS

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when we consider more in depth the mystery of Christmas.

The child Jesus lying in the manger came to save by dying on the cross, Bishop pointed out, adding that Byzantine icons of the Nativity, which show the baby Jesus wrapped tightly in linen strips, call to mind the wrapping of the body of Jesus after His crucifixion as He is put in the tomb. In fact, he said, these icons depict the manger as a kind of altar or tomb.

"This indicates that Christ our Redeemer was born to die, was born to give His life for us, for our redemption. The wood of the manger, as seen in other Christian art, indeed points to the wood of the cross. The mystery of divine love and mercy that we contemplate on the feast of Christmas is the mystery of divine love and mercy that we also contemplate on Good Friday. As Saint Paul says, the Son of God who emptied Himself to be born as a slave, humbling Himself to be born in the likeness of men, also humbled Himself in accepting death, even death on a cross.

"So it should not be so perplexing that the Church celebrates her first martyr on the day after Christmas," he continued. "Jesus was born on earth so that we could be born into heaven. Saint Stephen, stoned to death for His fidelity to Christ, was born into heaven because Jesus was born on earth. Through His Incarnation, death, and resur-



Photos by Jodi Marlin

Following a reunion Mass celebrated at St. Mary Mother of God Church in Fort Wayne, World Youth Day 2016 pilgrims and their families gathered in the parish hall for a meal and took the opportunity to catch up on their extraordinary experience. At left, WYD pilgrim Colin Stroud provides musical accompaniment during the Mass.

rection Jesus opened for us the gates of heaven."

The Latin word for Christmas is Nativitas Domini, the day of the birth of the Lord, Bishop pointed out. "Nativity in English. Navidad in Spanish. Natale in Italian. The Latin word birthday is "dies natalis." Christmas is the dies natalis of Jesus, the birthday of Jesus that took place in Bethlehem. Today is the dies natalis of Saint Stephen, but it is not the day of his birth on earth. It is the day of his birth into heaven. You see, the Church very early on celebrated the feasts of the martyrs on the day of their deaths, calling it their dies natalis (birthday), the day of their definitive birth into heaven. So there is this link between the dies natalis of Jesus on

Christmas and the dies natalis of the martyrs. If Jesus was not born on earth, we could not be born into heaven. Because Christ is born, we can be reborn!"

Following the Mass, those who had gathered enjoyed a meal of pizza and salad and relished the opportunity to catch up with those with whom they had experienced so much.

While in Poland the group toured the former Auschwitz concentration camp, contemplated the sacrifices of St. Maximilian Kolbe, worshipped at the Warsaw church where Blessed Jerzy Popieluszko served, learned about the life and homeland of WYD founder St. John Paul II and attended papal Masses with 300,000 others near the heart of Krakow.

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Patriarchs call for peace amid Christian persecution

BY DOREEN ABI RAAD

BEIRUT (CNS) — Lamenting the exodus of Christians from their ancestral homelands, Catholic patriarchs of the Middle East pleaded for peace and security in their annual Christmas messages.

In separate statements, the prelates shared their anguish regarding the persecution and uprooting of Christians from the region.

Cardinal Bechara Rai, patriarch of Maronite Catholics, appealed to the international community to work to end terrorism “that is killing and displacing families and depriving them of their rights and dignities.” He made the comments in his message from Bkerke, the patriarchate north of Beirut.

He also called upon the U.N. Security Council “to work seriously to find political solutions to the wars, aimed at bringing comprehensive and lasting peace and the repatriation of refugees back to their homelands.”

In his message, Syriac Catholic Patriarch Ignace Joseph III Younan called attention to “our beloved brothers and sisters of Syria and Iraq ... deprived of the Christmas joy, having endured the horrible consequences of war, violence, and all kind of persecutions.” They suffered “all this hardship” because of their Christian faith and their willingness “to persevere in faithfulness to Jesus the Savior,” he added.

Patriarch Younan reiterated that Christians were “uprooted from their lands and driven out unjustly from their homes by barbarian terrorists, in Mosul and the Plain of Nineveh, Iraq,” referring to the exodus of some 100,000 Christians -- among them more than 60,000 Syriac Catholics -- when the region was overtaken by Islamic State militants in 2014.

“How would they welcome Christmas, but in tears and anxiety for their future!” the patriarch wrote.

Regarding his visit in late November to the recently liberated Christian villages in the Nineveh Plain, Patriarch Younan said “there is still a lot to do” to inspire confidence “to our eradicated and exiled community” to return to their ancestral land.

“We have to keep hoping that the local government and international leaders will expel the terrorists and restore peace and security,” he said, emphasizing that this is a basic condition for the return “of our uprooted people.”

“We hope the same for all the inhabitants of war-torn Aleppo, the second largest city of Syria, after being liberated and reunified,” he added.

Patriarch Younan expressed his appreciation for the “praiseworthy efforts of many Catholic politicians in the West who

would disagree with the official policy of their government in dealing with the plight of Christians in the Middle East.”

“We need the honest and courageous solidarity of elected people, like Congressman Chris Smith of New Jersey, to speak up on behalf of Christians and other minorities who have been oppressed, abused and uprooted by jihadists who kill innocents in the name of their religion, either in Iraq, Syria, Egypt and Nigeria.”

Before Christmas, Smith, R-New Jersey, visited Irbil, in the Kurdistan region of northern Iraq to meet with Christians who had fled Islamic State forces.

The patriarch said it is “quite evident that our people have been persecuted because of religious hatred and forgotten because of the political opportunism of the powerful of this world.”

Patriarch Younan, a native of the Syrian province of Hassake, served for 14 years as bishop of Our Lady of Deliverance Syriac Catholic Diocese of the U.S. and Canada, which is based in Newark, New Jersey. He was elected patriarch in January 2009.

Melkite Catholic Patriarch Gregoire III Laham, in his message, stressed that “today in the Middle East, the cradle of Christianity, the Christian presence is threatened ... by wars that have given rise to this terrifying exodus, especially of Christians.”

“This is a prayer for the peace of Christmas to protect our suffering countries, especially Palestine, Iraq and most especially our beloved Syria,” the Syrian-born patriarch wrote. “I continue to repeat my motto: give us peace and security, because that is the warranty and condition for Christian resistance, presence, role and witness.”

Patriarch Laham urged the region’s Christians to stay in their homelands, stressing that “our presence here is of great, global and historical significance! We are not asked to sacrifice our families, though we must struggle to remain here despite dangers, difficulties and hardships.”

“If Christians emigrate,” Patriarch Laham added, “it is as though Christ were leaving his country and homeland.”

From Baghdad, Iraq, Chaldean Patriarch Louis Sako, wrote: “Amidst the concerns and worries of Iraqis, Syrians, and people of the Middle East, in which children and civilians are victims of a harsh war, millions of persons are displaced from their homes, driven out of their lands and are living in tragic conditions, after the destruction of their towns’ infrastructure.”

He expressed his hope that “this feast may revive our people’s hope to return to their homes, ancestral lands, history and memories.”



CNS photo/Youssef Badawi, EPA

Women light candles before attending Christmas Eve Mass at the Melkite Catholic Cathedral in Damascus, Syria.

Redeemer Radio

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Encounter 2017 gathering blends talks, music, spirituality

NEW YORK (CNS) — Members of the Catholic lay ecclesial movement Communion and Liberation are gearing up for their annual gathering in New York City, a three-day event featuring lectures, music and socializing. Labeled a “cultural event,” the free gathering takes place Jan. 13-15 in New York City and features talks by scientists, writers, economists as well as exhibits and music. “It’s a blend of music and culture a lot of talk about different Catholic topics,” said Father Drew Curry, from the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend in Indiana, who attended the event in 2013. Holly Peterson, director of communications for Communion and Liberation in New York, said the event, now in its ninth year, hopes to provide “a place of dialogue and friendship with everyone and anyone, in the heart of the city — which it truly is, in the heart of Manhattan.” Those who participate in the annual event, called Encounter, “have the unique experience of seeing proposals from a diversity of people, from all walks of life; discussions that are not afraid to look at the depth of life, from 360 degrees, and to speak about it together,” Peterson told Catholic News Service.

Benefits association, diocese file suit over HHS transgender regulation

FARGO, N.D. (CNS) — The Catholic Benefits Association, the Diocese of Fargo and Catholic Charities North Dakota filed a lawsuit Dec. 28 in U.S. District Court in North Dakota against a federal regulation scheduled to take effect Jan. 1 that redefines “sex” for anti-discrimination purposes to include sexual orientation and gender identity. The regulation from the Department of Health and Human Services requires that Catholic hospitals and health care providers perform or provide gender transition services, hormonal treatments and counseling as well as a host of surgeries that would remove or transform the sexual organs of men or women transitioning to the other gender. The HHS regulation requires group health plans to cover these procedures and services. The Catholic Benefits Association is made up of Catholic dioceses, hospitals, school systems, religious orders and other entities that offer their employees insurance and benefit programs that adhere to Catholic teaching. The regulation, which also mandates abortions be performed, affects health insurers, hospitals and health plans administered by or receiving federal funds from HHS. There is no religious exemption.

NEWS BRIEFS

Father Tolton remains exhumed in Illinois church



CNS photo/Karen Callaway, Catholic New World

Funeral director P.J. Staab and Father Christopher House, chancellor of the Diocese of Springfield, Ill., place vestments on the remains of Father Augustus Tolton Dec. 10 as they are exhumed and verified at St. Peter Cemetery in Quincy, Ill. Father Tolton, a sainthood candidate, was a former slave who died in Chicago in 1897. He is the first recognized American diocesan priest of African descent. In 2011 the Archdiocese of Chicago officially opened his cause for sainthood; and while digging up a grave may seem like a macabre undertaking and the antithesis of the prayer “may they rest in peace,” it is actually a reverent and well thought-out part of church law regarding the remains of holy people.

Ministry marks 20 years of helping church embrace diversity

INDIANAPOLIS (CNS) — Cardinal Joseph W. Tobin has mentioned frequently that the Archdiocese of Newark, N. J., where he is to be installed Jan. 6, has Mass celebrated in 22 languages each weekend. It’s a large number, yes. But it might be a surprise to some that across central and southern Indiana, in the Archdiocese of Indianapolis, Mass is celebrated in as many as five languages. Mass in Spanish is celebrated in 19 parishes in 12 cities and towns, in Vietnamese in Bloomington, and in Vietnamese, French and Korean in Indianapolis. The Masses are just one of the many accomplishments of archdiocesan Intercultural Ministry, which celebrated 20 years of service this year. The office’s current director, Oscar Castellanos, said he is grateful for his predecessors’ perseverance “and saying ‘yes’ to this par-

ticular ministry. You planted the seed so that others could continue the harvesting.” His vision is to have “more communities embracing diversity, and opening their doors and hearts to other ways of thinking, organizing, celebrating and praying. I see this ministry promoting intercultural competency through awareness, knowledge and skills that would allow our offices, schools and parishes to be enculturated in a church that is more diverse than ever,” he said.

Cleveland bishop cites vascular dementia as reason for early resignation

CLEVELAND (CNS) — Pope Francis has accepted the resignation of Bishop Richard G. Lennon of Cleveland. He has headed the diocese since 2006. Bishop Lennon, who turns 70 in March, said during a news conference at diocesan offices Dec. 28

that he had developed vascular dementia, leading to his decision to submit his resignation for health reasons to the pope in November. “Recently it has come to my awareness that my health has declined to such an extent that I should resign as diocesan bishop,” he said. “Given the progressive nature of this illness,” he added. “Pope Francis has accepted my request for an early retirement.” Normally, bishops do not turn in their resignation to the pope until they turn 75, as required by canon law. The pope named Bishop Daniel E. Thomas of Toledo, Ohio, as the apostolic administrator of the diocese until the installation of a new bishop. Bishop Thomas, 57, called Bishop Lennon’s request for an early retirement “both a humble and courageous act, one that speaks volumes to his love for the local church and his desire that the people of God receive the pastoral care they need.”

‘Creating a Culture of Encounter’ for National Migration Week

WASHINGTON (CNS) — “Creating a Culture of Encounter” is the theme of 2017’s National Migration Week, an annual observance the U.S. Catholic bishops began over 25 years ago. Taking place Jan. 8-14, the week “is an excellent opportunity to highlight biblical tradition and our mission to welcome the newcomer,” said Bishop Joe S. Vasquez of Austin, Texas, who is chairman of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops’ Committee on Migration. “While the observance is only a week long, it is a vital time to show welcome, compassion and solidarity with our migrant and refugee brothers and sisters,” he added in a statement. With over 65 million people forcibly displaced from their homes globally, the world is increasingly affected by migration. The USCCB said goals of National Migration Week include educating Catholic communities about migration and urging Catholics to come together to encounter immigrants and refugees in parishes, dioceses and the wider community. Educational materials and other resources for the special week are available for download at www.usccb.org/nationalmigrationweek. Posters, prayer cards, and booklets are available through the USCCB publishing service at www.usccbpublishing.org

Vatican says 3.9 million pilgrims visited during Jubilee year

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — More than 3.9 million pilgrims visited and attended papal events, liturgies or prayer services during the Holy Year of Mercy in 2016, the Vatican said. The Prefecture of the Papal Household, the Vatican office that coordinates the audiences and distributes the free tickets to papal audiences and liturgies, said a total of 3,952,140 people attended a papal event at the Vatican. The Vatican released the statistics Dec. 29. Although the total was slightly higher from the 3.2 million visitors received by Pope Francis in 2015, for a jubilee year it still fell short of the 5.9 million pilgrims who visited in 2014. Terrorists attacks in Europe throughout the year are also thought to have discouraged visitors from traveling during what are typically busy tourist seasons in Italy. The statistics released by the Vatican stand in contrast to the numbers published on the Jubilee of Mercy website, which states that over 21 million participated in the Holy Year of Mercy. The papal event statistics do not include papal events in the city of Rome or international visits made by Pope Francis.

More than 12,500 attend SEEK2017

DENVER — The week after Christmas, more than 12,500 registrants were gearing up for SEEK2017, held Jan. 3-7 in San Antonio, Texas. Attendees hailed from more than 500 college campuses and at least 10 countries, including Austria, Ireland, Mexico and South Korea.

The biennial event featured the theme "What Moves You." Seminars, worship opportunities and peer discussions challenged each heart to discover God's will through truth, goodness and beauty.

The new "Awaken" program of events, which included an art and poetry exhibit along with a musician side stage, featured students sharing their talents and showing beauty as a bridge to the Divine, a window to encounter the person of Christ. More than 200 priests concelebrated daily Mass, and adoration and confession provided opportunities for prayer and reflection.

Bishop Luers receives \$50,000 gift from anonymous donor

FORT WAYNE — Bishop Luers High School is the recipient of a \$50,000 gift from an anonymous donor for Phase II of the Faith in Our Future Capital Campaign. The donation was announced on Dec. 15.

The school is engaged in a \$4 million capital campaign. Some capital improvements have been made, such as the new Chapel of Saint Francis of Assisi and media center. Additional improvements include the completion of core infrastructure including building renovations and the addition of a 4,000 square-foot performing arts assembly hall.

Those interested in supporting the campaign should contact Kathy Skelly, director of Office of Mission Advancement; visit bishopluer.org; or call 260-456-1261, ext. 3142.

Catholic Boy Scouts classes available

FORT WAYNE — Young men who are in grades seven or above and would like to earn their Ad Altare Dei Religious Emblem can attend classes beginning Jan. 8, from 2-3:30 p.m. in St. Elizabeth Ann Seton's Scout Room (lower level of school). For those who are in High School and would like to earn their Pope Pius XII Religious Emblem, classes begin on Jan. 15.

RSVP to Theresa Dirig at tscoutlady@yahoo.com or 260-414-9172 so books can be ordered.

Historical perspective offered on the Crusades

FORT WAYNE — The University of Saint Francis invites the public to a free lecture as part of the

AROUND THE DIOCESE

SEEK2017 participants hit the road



Photo provided by Scott Opperman

Students from the University of St. Francis, Fort Wayne, and IPFW thanked Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades for celebrating Mass on Jan. 2 and blessing those who were about to depart for the SEEK2017 conference in San Antonio, Texas. The national young adult conference is presented annually by The Fellowship of Catholic University Students.

Philosophy/Theology Lecture Series. Associate professor of theology Dr. Adam DeVille will give the lecture, titled "ISIS and the Crusades: On the Uses and Abuses of History" on Wednesday, Jan. 25, at 7 p.m. on the USF campus, Brookside Ballroom, 2701 Spring St.

For additional information contact Angie Springer at 260-399-7700 x8100 or aspringer@sf.edu or visit the website at <http://philosophy.sf.edu/lecture-series/>.

St. Meinrad to host Black History Lecture

ST. MEINRAD — Dr. Cecilia Moore, associate professor in the Department of Religious Studies at the University of Dayton, will deliver the annual Black History Lecture at St. Meinrad Seminary and School of Theology, St. Meinrad, Ind.

Her lecture, "Hidden in Plain View: Black Catholics and the Civil Rights Movement," will be Tuesday, Feb. 7, at 7 p.m. Central Time in St. Bede Theater.

This lecture presents the hidden history of Black Catholics and their allies in advancing the agenda of the modern civil rights movement. It looks at the role of Black Catholics from the late 1890s in New Orleans to Black Catholics working for civil rights in society and church in

the 1920s and 1930s to the many individual Catholics who, in the 1960s participated in important civil rights initiatives.

The lecture also will consider the contemporary Catholic

Church in the United States and its relationship to current efforts to retain and expand civil rights, particularly for African Americans.

Seminarians gather for lunch with Bishop in Elkhart



Kevin Haggengjos

Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades visited St. Vincent de Paul Parish in Elkhart on Dec. 20 to celebrate an annual Mass and luncheon with the seminarians of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend. Pictured following the Mass, in the front row, from left, are Father Tom Shoemaker, Deacon Dennis di Benedetto, Deacon Eric Burgener, Jay Horning, Father Andrew Budzinski and Father Terry Coonan. In the second row are Father Matt Coonan, Ben Landrigan, Jonathan Evangelista and David Huneck. In the third row are a representative of Holy Cross Congregation, Caleb Kruse, Tom Zehr, Dominic Garrett, Bishop Rhoades, Patrick Hake, Mark Hellinger, Logan Parrish, Jonathan Alvarez, David Langford, Stephen Felicichia and a representative of Holy Cross Congregation. In the back row are Nathan Maskal, Dan Niezer, Joseph Knepper, Brian Isenbarger, Michael Ammer, Sam Lyon, Keeton Lockwood, Dan Koehl and Father Zach Barry.

Notre Dame Sacred Music program names assistant professor

NOTRE DAME — Dr. Mark Doerries has been named an assistant professor in the practice of choral conducting and a special professional specialist in the program, Sacred Music at Notre Dame. He also has an appointment in the Department of Music.

Doerries is the artistic director of the Notre Dame Children's Choir. In addition to his teaching and conducting responsibilities, he is associate director for Communication and Community Outreach in the SMND.

USF examines human side of business

FORT WAYNE — The University of Saint Francis welcomes Sister Helen Alford, OP, as the keynote speaker at the 2017 Servus Omnium Tuesday, Feb. 28 in the USF Robert Goldstine Performing Arts Center Ballroom, 431 W. Berry Street. The event will begin at 7 a.m. with an opening blessing from Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend. Then a Mardi Gras breakfast will be served before Sister Alford's presentation, "Have You Been Served? Human Dignity, the Common Good and the Purpose of Business."

Tickets cost \$10 in advance, \$15 at the door. Tables may be purchased in advance for \$80. Corporate sponsorships are available.

For more information visit sf.edu/servus-omnium or contact Dr. Lance Richey at 260-399-8112 or lrichey@sf.edu.

A holy Year of Mercy and a historic elect

BY MOLLY GETTINGER

An election of extraordinary contentiousness marked, or perhaps marred, the year 2016 for Americans. During the journey, Catholics across the country and within the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend found it necessary to look more deeply into their faith and contemplate the considerations and direction of their leadership in ways they had not done previously.

However, the year was also frequently punctuated by manifestations of mercy, encouraged and inspired by Pope Francis' proclamation at the end of 2015 that 2016 was to be a Jubilee Year of Mercy.

In accordance with that proclamation, Holy Doors were opened from Rome to the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, and they would welcome pilgrims who wished to observe it by passing through them to pray, pause and reflect. Others chose to embrace the specific focus of the jubilee year by performing works of mercy in their family, their neighborhood or by involving themselves with diocesan agencies that serve the homeless, the hungry, the incarcerated and the *anawim*, a Hebrew word meaning the poor and afflicted.

Other notable moments during the past year that showcased God's mercy in the lives of His faithful included:

January

Bishop blesses narthex, baptismal font at St. Charles Borromeo Church.

Project Rachel offers post-abortion hope in the Year of Mercy.

Our Lady of Hungary recognized by NWEA for academic progress.

Holy Cross College launches Summer Theology Institute for high school youth.

February

St. Dominic, Bremen, expands facilities to enhance parish life.

Pope Francis visits Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe in Mexico.

Pope calls for jubilee year moratorium on the death penalty.

March

Christ the King team crowned Inter-City Catholic League boys' basketball champions.

Parishes participate in 24 Hours for the Lord.

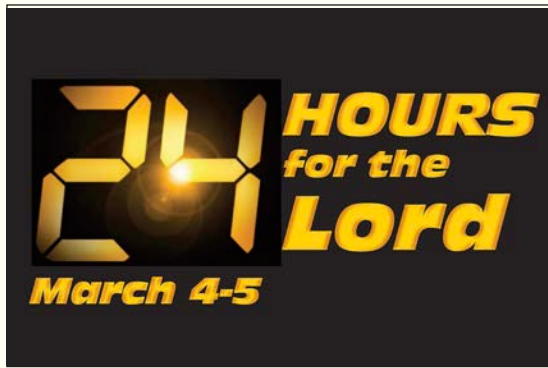
The glory of Easter is experienced at Masses throughout the diocese.

Dismas House in South Bend observes 30 years of reconciliation.



Provided by Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades

Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades is shown in Ouanaminthe, where he visited a center last January run by the Sisters of St. John the Evangelist from Colombia and supported by CRS. They care for migrant women and children, while the Jesuits care for the larger number of men. The sisters also run an educational program called "Sowers of Peace" for the local youth.



Provided by Marilyn Karpinski

The Via Dolorosa re-enactment at St. Anthony de Padua Parish in Angola shows Jesus falling for the first time.

April

Mother Angelica, founder of EWTN, dies after a long illness.

Congregation of Holy Cross ordains Rev. Matthew Earle Hovde, CSC, and Rev. Dennis Anthony Strach II, CSC.

Diocesan priests challenge Congregation of Holy Cross seminarians in John Bosco Jam basketball game.

The 2015 Annual Bishop's Appeal set a new record of \$6,721,656.

Apostolic exhortation "Amoris Laetitia" ("The Joy of Love") is released for the benefit of families.

May

Redeemer Radio celebrates 10-year anniversary.

Diocese celebrates ordination to the diaconate of Dennis Di Benedetto and Eric Burgener.

June

Bishop Luers girls' tennis team finishes season with 7-0 record: takes home championship.

Our Lady of Hungary Parish, South Bend, celebrates a century of faith and fellowship.



The Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend ordains St. Matthew Cathedral in South Bend. From left Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades and Father Robert Gauger.



Bishop Rhoades blessed the newest Women's Care Center in Fort Wayne on Tuesday, June 6. With him are Rev. Dennis Di Benedetto; and Ann Koehl, director.

New Fort Wayne Women's Care Center blessed.

St. Joseph Parish, LaGrange County, breaks ground for Our Lady of Guadalupe Chapel.

July

Fort Wayne College Crew unites students of faith.

Fort Wayne woman, Sister Nancy Frentz, professes perpetual vows to eremitical life.

New jail ministry forms in Elkhart County.

St. Paul Chapel, Clear Lake, celebrates 75 years of faith-filled history.

August

Young people from around the world attend World Youth Day 2016 in Poland.

The University of Saint Francis, Fort Wayne, inaugurates downtown campus.

Mishawaka Catholic School celebrates five-year anniversary.

tion: 2016 from a Catholic perspective



Kevin Haggenjos

ed three new priests on Saturday, June 4, at... it is Father David Violi, Father Craig Borchard, ... row.



Nate Proulx

Diocesan pilgrims were jubilant at WYD.



Vince LaBarbera

In front of a statue of Mary, Bishop Rhoades begins prayers for the blessing of the new Our Lady School at Our Lady of Good Hope Parish, Fort Wayne.



Nate Proulx

are Center located at 4600 W. Jefferson Blvd., ... e Bobby Williams; Ann Manion, board presi-

September

Bishop Rhoades blesses diocese's newest Catholic school, Our Lady of Good Hope School in Fort Wayne.

'Mother' Teresa canonized St. John the Evangelist Church, Goshen, hits the airwaves with bilingual radio station.

St. Joseph Hessen Cassel celebrates 175 years.

Msgr. John Suelzer, Father Jeffery Largent and St. Therese, Fort Wayne, Principal Chuck Grimm pass away.

October

Bishop blesses Queen of All Saints Chapel, dedicates altar at Bishop Dwenger High School, Fort Wayne.

Elkhart County parishes join forces to found new young adult ministry.

Miriam's Blessing, new diocesan ministry, provides support through difficult prenatal diagnosis.

November

Marian High School boys defend 1-A soccer state championship title.

Jubilee Masses for prisoners call attention to jail ministry.

Bishop Luers High School, Fort Wayne, Chapel of Saint Francis of Assisi blessed.

Jubilee Year of Mercy Holy Doors closed.

December

Bishop Luers High School, Fort Wayne, boys' tennis team repeats SAC win.

Father Kenneth Sarrazine passes away.



Mollie Schutt

Jubilee Year of Mercy Holy Doors closed. The faithful pray before entering the Holy Doors at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, Fort Wayne, for the closing Mass of the Jubilee Year of Mercy.



Joe Romie

Students, faculty, alumni and donors of Bishop Dwenger High School, Fort Wayne, celebrate Mass and observe the blessing of the chapel and dedication of the altar for the Queen of All Saints Chapel on Sept. 20.



John Martin

Bishop Rhoades celebrates the Eucharistic liturgy during a Mass with dedication of the altar at the new Chapel of Saint Francis of Assisi, Bishop Luers High School, Fort Wayne, Thursday, Nov. 10.

In MY diocese

South Bend — St. Matthew Cathedral



St. Matthew Cathedral, our bishops' South Bend parish home

BY ANDREW MENTOCK

In My Diocese: St. Matthew Cathedral in South Bend serves as the co-cathedral for the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend. It is located on Miami St., just south of downtown.



FATHER TERRY FISHER

St. Matthew went through a transition in 2016, when formal cathedral rector Msgr. Michael Heintz became the associate professor of systematic theology at the University of Mount Saint Mary's in Maryland and Father Terry Fisher was named the new rector. Msgr. Heintz had been the pastor at St. Matthew for over a decade.

Previous to coming to the cathedral Father Fisher was pastor at St. Joseph Catholic Church in Mishawaka, but he had strong roots at St. Matthew. His mother has been a parishioner there for over 40 years; additionally, he taught third grade at the elementary school for 10 years prior to becoming a priest.

"Coming back and getting to see and meet people all over again has been great," said Father Fisher. "Some of the parishioners I taught years ago



Kervin Haggenjos

Parishioners enter St. Matthew Cathedral, South Bend, on a sunny day in July.

have grown up and now have children of their own."

St. Matthew was also the site of the ordination of three diocesan priests last year, for the first time in several years. One of the ordained was Father David Violi, who is now parochial vicar at the cathedral.

Parish history

St. Matthew was established with humble beginnings, in 1922. The year prior, the plan for the parish included a church and a school; but after estimating the construction cost it was decided that a small wooden church would be built instead. The parish membership started out with 75 southeast South Bend families.

Its initial capacity was a mere 240 people, but the population quickly grew. The church went through several expansions in

its early days in order to accommodate the growth.

In 1959 ground was broken for a new church, and before completion it was named the co-cathedral of the diocese, along with the Cathedral of Immaculate Conception in Fort Wayne. Ever since then it has been the home of the auxiliary bishops of the diocese, who have traditionally lived in South Bend; as well as of the bishop when he visits.

In 1929 the church established an elementary school, which had an initial enroll-



Provided by Cassandra Horner

The co-cathedral of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, St. Matthew Cathedral, has historically served as home to both the auxiliary bishops of the diocese and to the bishop himself when he visits.

ment of 150 students. Later, in 1934, the parish turned the second floor of the elementary school into an all-boys Catholic high school known as Central Catholic.

However, in 1951, with the opening of St. Joseph High School in South Bend, Central Catholic closed. The second floor of the school was used to expand the elementary school.

St. Matthew Cathedral School today

St. Matthew Cathedral School has about 400 students in grades kindergarten through eighth.

The school is an area leader in utilizing new technology in the classroom. This past fall it received a couple large technology grants that allowed the addition of several "smart" televisions. The classrooms also have access to "wireless hotspots," which students without Internet access at home can use.

This technology has also allowed teachers to address the needs of their students, no matter whether they are visual or auditory learners. Students are

Dear Readers:

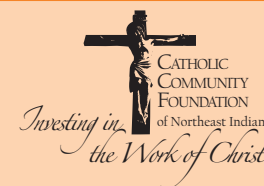
In 2016, Today's Catholic began a special series called "In MY diocese" to celebrate the uniqueness of the Catholic parishes and schools that make up the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend. In this monthly section of Today's Catholic, 12 different counties were featured; and we told the story of the 34 parishes contained within each.

From the urban churches to the rural parishes, we do each have a different Catholic story to tell. Yet, we are all one diocese — one Catholic church.

In MY diocese will continue in 2017, and will feature the stories of the parishes that are located in the remaining two counties, St. Joseph and Allen.

If you are interested in helping to tell these stories or take pictures, or if you would like to know when your parish will be featured, visit www.todayscatholicnews.org.

What is the Catholic Community Foundation?



The Catholic Community Foundation of Northeast Indiana consists of 137 endowments collectively invested to fund the various ministries and services of the Church throughout the diocese.

Making a gift to the Catholic Community Foundation

There are currently five endowments in the Catholic Community Foundation for schools and ministries at St. Matthew Cathedral: the Marilyn McGrane Fund, Bishop Crowley Fund, Joseph Dillon Scholarship Fund, Verhoestra Fund and the Michael Flynn Memorial Fund. These endowments fund various ministries, including charity support, school support and tuition assistance.

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

Savoring the strange and joyful life of a seminarian

My mother recently asked me what my very first memory was. I responded with a quick and confident, “9/11.” I don’t say this to set the mood of this piece or to make a political statement; I merely say it to date myself. I am a fairly young *Today’s Catholic* reader. While this may denote inexperience or a lack of worldview, I intend to view this in light of the good it could bring about.

The fact of the matter is, I was not shaped by the same world events as most of you. I don’t remember when we switched from Latin to English Mass, none of my friends were in Vietnam, I have only a faint memory of St. John Paul II’s papacy and I wasn’t even alive during the Challenger disaster. So I know, beyond a shadow of a doubt, that I have much to learn from you. What I hope to show you is that perhaps you, also, have an opportunity to learn from me, your younger brother in Christ.

I frequently feel as though my brother seminarians and I are in quite a unique place in our lives. We are looked up to by many in the diocese as part of the future of the church, while we are still trying to discern what our own future holds. It’s an exciting, joyful and sometimes extremely frustrating process. But it does provide us with an interesting perspective on life. While we aren’t necessarily more intelligent than our peers in secular

schools, I believe it’s fair to say that we are called to be more contemplative than the average college student. This contemplation, coupled with the transitory stage we are in, puts us in a place that’s alien to many. One of the questions that I’m most frequently asked upon one’s discovery that I’m a seminarian is, “What’s it like?”

While it’s impossible for anyone to fully quantify their life experiences, I intend to do my best in the course of this column. Of course, it’s sort of difficult to do without any common points of reference. Growing up, the constant question was “What’s it like to be a twin?” My unwavering response was always, “Imagine you have a sister, and now imagine she’s the exact same age as you.” Boom. Lived experiences are hard to relate to unless you’ve lived something similar to them. Luckily, we’ve all lived the Catholic experience in some way or another, so we’ll have plenty to talk about.

In this column, I’ll be sharing with you some of the perspectives of a young seminarian on Catholic themes and life in general. While this may seem a vague approach, it gives me quite a bit of flexibility in my material.

Now, I feel as though it’s absolutely necessary for me to introduce myself to you. My name is Sam Lyon, and I’m delighted to say that I am a second-year seminarian. I’m the proud twin brother of a



SAM LYON

THE STRANGE AND JOYFUL LIFE

Dominican sister, Sister Mary Vianney, and a grateful graduate of Bishop Dwenger High School. I’m currently living and discerning at Bishop Simon Brute College Seminary and attending Marian University in Indianapolis. I have a passion for reading and history, and I love to laugh. Lastly, I’m thrilled to be writing for *Today’s Catholic*. This opportunity is another exciting and unique place to which my strange seminary life has led me.

Fort Wayne native Sam Lyon is currently discerning the priesthood at Simon Brute College seminary and attending Marian University in Indianapolis.

The pursuit of happiness in the new year

Don Currey was a 30-year-old graduate student when he cut down the world’s oldest tree.

A brown-eyed, suntanned geography student at the University of North Carolina, Currey was striking in his looks and his ambitions: to better understand Ice-Age glaciology by examining bristlecone trees. So he found himself in Nevada in the summer of 1964, amid a grove of bristlecones on Wheeler Peak Mountain, when his tree corer got stuck in a tree.

Since it would not come out, a park ranger helped him remove his instrument by cutting down the tree. Currey began to count its rings and eventually realized, much to his dismay, that he had felled a tree that was 4,844 years old — what was then considered the oldest tree on the planet.

The tragic mistake advanced geographers’ understanding of longevity, which had been correlated with size of tree, like the Redwoods of California. Ice-burnished bristlecone pines, with their storybook swirls on gnarled limbs — trees that peak at just 20 feet — are, it turns out, some of the oldest trees in the world.

They’re able to live so long because even if a large portion of a bristlecone is damaged by erosion or fire, small strips of living bark, which one researcher dubbed “life lines,” can function and keep the tree alive. A strip of bark that might be only two inches wide can support all of the tree’s foliage.

Adversity begets longevity, analysis suggested. The



CHRISTINA CAPECCHI

TWENTY SOMETHING

severe conditions the bristlecone endured over time actually helped extend its lifespan.

As I look ahead to 2017 and that which has never been, I’ve been thinking of all the history that has come before me — both as a Catholic and a member of my family. The communion of saints feels more alive to me than ever before — almost hauntingly so. Yet, they are comforting: the canonized ones and my ancestors, stories of resilience and grace and the lifelines that sustained.

I’m resolving to study them this year and glean their stories and songs. I want to capture oral histories of those still living — the kind where I get out of the way and let them talk — and to read up on those no longer here.

Young adulthood may bring a sense of invincibility, throbbing with novelty and thrill; but lately, I’m feeling blessed and strengthened by my history. I want to dig deeper.

To begin, I’m reading Robert Ellsberg’s book “The Saints’ Guide To Happiness,” which frames that secular pursuit, an unalienable American right, in

CAPECCHI, page 12

All nations are invited worship the long-awaited King



THE SUNDAY GOSPEL

MSGR. OWEN F. CAMPION

Epiphany of the Lord Matthew 2:1-12

This weekend the church celebrates the ancient Feast of the Epiphany of the Lord, commemorating and reflecting upon the visit of magi “from the East” to the crib side of the newborn Savior.

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

When Persia, in turn, overtook Babylonia, Persia’s King

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

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

Thus, this reading rejoices in God’s salvation, not the bad fortune. He will vindicate the people. In justice and mercy, God will come. The prophecy predicts a great new day.

For the second reading the church offers us a selection from the Epistle to the Ephesians. It is a frank and direct statement that God intends salvation also for the Gentiles, not only for the chosen people.

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

Between Matthew and Luke,

only Matthew has the story of the magi. This story is one of the most profound and expressive revelations in the New Testament. Better understanding of it requires recognizing the symbols and images contained in the passage.

First, the Gospel speaks of visitors “from the East.” “From the East” was a phrase referring to much more than a direction of the compass. It meant a distant and unknown place. It was a term of mystery. What was the origin of these visitors? All that is known is that they were “from the East.”

Who and what were they? Scholars cannot agree, and have not agreed, on a translation. Some think that they were astrologers, in a time when astrology was heavily associated with theology and philosophy. Others think they were nobles or kings. Another term is “magi,” its meaning unclear.

Whatever the answer, they were gifted, learned and very sincere people from someplace far away, strangers earnestly seeking the true God. Art and legend

have seen them over the centuries as three in number.

Herod tried to frustrate their search, hoping to remove any threat to his corrupt control over the people, fearful as to what a “newborn king” might do. Looking for clues, he discovers that according to the Scriptures, the Savior indeed will be born in Bethlehem.

Overall, the message is powerful. The magi, only human, yearn for God but cannot find God on their own. God assists them, with a star in the sky and even through the evil Herod.

Reflection

This wondrous feast teaches a vital lesson. First, we must recognize that we are limited humans, even sinners. We are helpless, in the last analysis.

Accepting our limitation is one message. We also should examine what we regard as rewarding. Too often, we allow ourselves to slip into the role of Herod. We look for security in earthly terms. We make judg-

ments based on earthly instincts. Fear overtakes us.

The divinity found by the magi in Bethlehem hardly met earthly expectations. God was a newborn child, innocent, indeed helpless, with Mary.

Finally, God alone supplies the answers — and reward — in life. The wonder is that if we are sincere, God will guide us to Himself, living in Christ.

READINGS

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

Monday: Is 42:1-4, 6-7 Ps 29:1-2, 3-4, 9-10 Mt 3:13-17

Tuesday: Heb 2:5-12 Ps 8:2ab, 5-9 Mk 1:21-28

Wednesday: Heb 2:14-18 Ps 105:1-4, 6-9 Mk 1:29-39

Thursday: Heb 3:7-14 Ps 95:6-7c, 8-11 Mk 1:40-45

Friday: Heb 4:1-5, 11 Ps 78:3, 4bc, 6c-8 Mk 2:1-12

Saturday: Heb 4:12-16 Ps 19:8-10, 15 Mk 2:13-17

'It's not wrong if it feels right!'

Many people today believe that moral judgments and values are merely expressions of sentiment. They deny that moral values are fixed or universally true, and instead argue that we have changing emotions that may or may not correspond to the moral feelings of those around us.

This can play out in various real-life situations when people say, for example, "You can't really know what it's like to have an unexpected pregnancy if you haven't been in the situation yourself, so you can't tell me it's wrong to get an abortion." The morality of terminating a "problem pregnancy," according to this view, depends on "being in the moment," and experiencing the mother's desperation, fears and sentiments.

Most of us, in fact, have probably granted our emotions leeway to trump our better moral judgment somewhere along the line. We can relate to stories of friends who make various solemn declarations like: "You don't know how hard it's been for me in this painful marriage, and you don't understand how it feels to fall in love with somebody who really cares for you, so you can't say it's wrong for me to be in a relationship with someone else."

Philosopher Alisdair MacIntyre notes that this emotive approach to moral thinking has gained broad societal approval. "To a large degree people now think, talk and act as if emotivism were true, no matter what their avowed theoretical standpoint may be. Emotivism has become embodied in our culture." In light of our tendency to try to justify our misdeeds, it can be appealing to imagine that ethics are always "first person" — from my vantage point — and to suppose that no one else can identify moral obligations regard-

ing another's situation. "How do you feel about it?" becomes the guiding principle and leads to the view that morals are relative, context dependent and subject to emotional confirmation. Reducing ethics to feelings, however, is a seriously deficient approach to thinking about right and wrong. It also, in the final analysis, doesn't work.

Imagine what would happen to the practice of medicine if physicians could treat patients only if they personally experienced and felt the diseases their patients had. Consider the miscarriage of justice that would occur if judges ruled only when they could feel and experience everything the perpetrator felt and experienced at the time the crimes were committed, and had to decide cases in line with those feelings. Such sentimentalism completely misses the objective foundations and concerns of morality.

Those objective foundations begin with the recognition that all men and women have a shared human nature, so whatever is always morally bad for one of us will also be bad for any of us. If it is immoral for me to steal the electronics out of your house, it will likewise be wrong for you to rob me or anyone else;

and it will be equally wrong for the president of the United States or the Pope to do so. If I rob others, it is objectively bad because it harms others by depriving them of their goods, and it transforms me into a thief, the kind of person who cheapens his humanity and degrades his integrity by stealing the goods of others. Even those who believe in a feelings-based morality are quick to decry certain actions as always wrong, at least when it comes to their own vehicles and homes being plundered, irrespective of whether the robbers might have their own moral sentiments



MAKING SENSE OF BIOETHICS

FATHER TAD PACHOLCZYK

favoring the practice.

To think clearly about morality, we need to start by acknowledging that certain moral duties do not depend on context or emotion, but are universally binding on us, having even a commandment-like quality. Professor William May, a remarkable teacher of moral theology at the John Paul II Institute for Studies on Marriage and Family, had a penchant for choosing clear and memorable examples when he would lecture. He used to tell his students that we all know certain actions are wrong, regardless of circumstances. One of his most graphic examples, recounted by his students even decades later, was his undeniable assertion that we all know barbecuing a baby is wrong. Similarly, he stressed that everyone recognizes the wrongness of adultery, an act, so often shrouded in secrecy, that attacks the good of our spouse and seriously violates an important and defining personal commitment we have made.

Even if something "feels right" in the moment, it can be very wrong for us to do it. Quite apart from the context or circumstances, certain kinds of acts, without exception, are incompatible with human dignity because, by their very nature, they are damaging and destructive to ourselves and to those around us.

Father Tadeusz Pacholczyk, Ph.D. earned his doctorate in neuroscience from Yale and did post-doctoral work at Harvard. He is a priest of the diocese of Fall River, MA, and serves as the Director of Education at The National Catholic Bioethics Center in Philadelphia. See www.ncbcenter.org

nor desire nor self-knowledge can reach, the core of their reality, the person that each one is in God's eyes."

I tear up when I read this passage. What more could we hope for in the new year, than to share in that vision?

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

CAPECCHI

Continued from Page 11

spiritual terms, showing how the saints' capacity for goodness and love, ultimately, made them happy.

My biggest takeaway is the book's message about learning to see and learning to love. "Our whole business in this life," St. Augustine wrote, "is to restore

to health the eyes of the heart, whereby God may be seen."

That's what happened to Thomas Merton, Ellsberg recounts, when he was on an errand in the shopping district of Louisville, Ky., at the corner of Fourth and Walnut. "I was suddenly overwhelmed with the realization that I loved all those people, that they were mine and I theirs ..." Merton wrote. "It was as if I suddenly saw the secret beauty of their hearts, the depths of their hearts, where neither sin

SCRIPTURE SEARCH®

Gospel for January 8, 2017

Matthew 2:1-12

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

HEROD	THE EAST	JEWS
HIS STAR	RISING	HOMAGE
CHIEF PRIESTS	INQUIRED	BE BORN
JUDEA	PROPHET	LORD
SHEPHERD	SECRETLY	SEARCH
THE CHILD	WORD	STOPPED
HOUSE	MARY	GIFTS

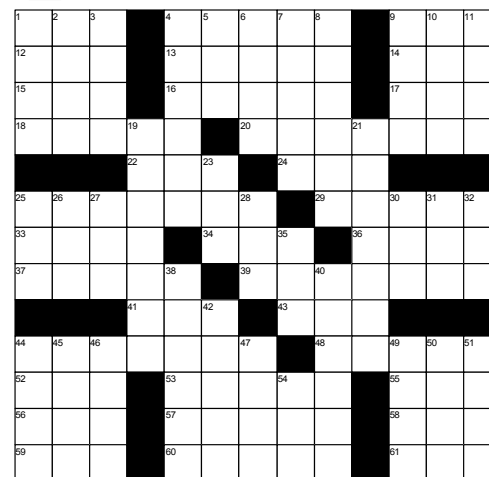
MAGI JOURNEY

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

Epiphany,
Jan. 8, 2017



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Based on these readings: Is 60:1-6; Eph 3:2-3a. 5-6; Mt 2:1-12

ACROSS

- 1 Representative
- 4 Jewish feast related to Queen Esther
- 9 Loose robe worn at Mass
- 12 Shoshonean
- 13 Protein part, with 'acid'
- 14 Rio de Janeiro
- 15 God makes it shine and good and bad
- 16 Defeat unexpectedly
- 17 Kitten's cry
- 18 We Three _____
- 20 Paul wrote to people here

DOWN

- 22 Moses did, from Egypt
- 24 # of Commandments
- 25 Visit (3 wds)
- 29 Type of race
- 33 Not many (2 wds)
- 34 Words per minute
- 36 Rodents
- 37 Control
- 39 Holy of Holies
- 41 Used to make Eve
- 43 Pope Urban VIII's symbol
- 44 Bound
- 48 Sacred poem
- 52 Gained
- 53 Strike out a word
- 55 Constrictor snake

- 56 Kimono sash
- 57 Stomach sore
- 58 Wheel tooth
- 59 Fast plane
- 60 Takes the skin off (as in fruit)
- 61 Slide on snow

DOWN

- 1 Twice-baked bread
- 2 Decorative needle case
- 3 Pennsylvania (abbr.)
- 4 Hesitate
- 5 BB referee
- 6 Jerusalem will do in splendor
- 7 Unskillful
- 8 Mary is Jesus' _____
- 9 Daughter carried in _____
- 10 In _____ of (instead of)
- 11 Arrow shooters
- 19 Glares
- 21 Foes
- 23 Morning moisture
- 25 Vapor
- 26 Often poetically
- 27 Ball holder
- 28 Ephesians (abbr.)
- 30 Give false witness
- 31 American Cancer Society
- 32 Still
- 35 Rabble
- 38 Arise Jerusalem
- 40 Jesus cured _____ of them
- 42 Beautiful (Fr.)
- 44 Deuces
- 45 Steals
- 46 Piece
- 47 Cubes
- 49 What children learn
- 50 Eye
- 51 Wise men
- 54 Eastern state

Sports

AREA PLAYER RECOGNIZED The Indianapolis Colts, the Indiana High School Athletic Association and the Indiana Football Coaches Association recognized Saint Joseph High School student and defensive back Sean Ratigan as one of 26 outstanding student-athletes with the 2016 Indiana Academic All-Stars Award presented by American Family Insurance. Of the players selected, there were 18 valedictorians and six salutatorians, and all 26 players were in the top 1.5 percent of their graduating classes. The winners were recognized during an awards ceremony in front of the Lucas Oil Stadium crowd on Dec. 11.

CYO teams burn up the court in holiday Hoopfest

BY RON BUSCH

For the past 21 years there has been a Christmas holiday basketball tournament, now called "Hoopfest." Denny Jamison has done the organizational work for the event in recent years.

This year the tournament format was double elimination and featured four separate tournaments for seventh-grade girls, seventh-grade boys, eighth-grade girls and eighth-grade boys.

The games were held between Christmas and New Year's at St. Vincent de Paul, Queen of Angels parishes and the University of Saint Francis, all in Fort Wayne.

Hoopfest tournament tipoff was Monday, Dec. 27 at St. Vincent at 4 p.m. It was raining buckets of water outside as the tournament got underway. The St. Jude seventh-grade girl Panthers played against the home Panthers squad, a game that proved to be quite a barnburner.

St. Jude jumped out to a quick 8-2 lead in the first quarter, with four Eagles players each contributing two points in a balanced scoring attack. The second quarter featured much of the same and the half ended in an 18-9 tally, with the home team trailing.



Ron Busch

Members of the boys' St. Rose/St. Louis seventh-grade basketball team listen to their coaches during a timeout at the annual Hoopfest Christmas holiday basketball tournament. The Twins played hard again the St. Charles team, but were outmanned and lost to the Cardinals 53-18.

St. Vincent was not ready to give up and rallied to a 20-16 score at the end of the third quarter. The Panthers' scoring was led by Emily Szepanski and Kaylee Mulligan. A very close fourth quarter followed, with both teams vying for the win. The game was tied 25-25 going into the final minute, before Ava Panza of St. Jude poured in the winning bucket with just a few seconds left on the clock. Top scorers for St. Jude were Ava Panza and Bekah Landstoffer, and Hoopfest was off to an exciting start.

Seventh-grade boys' Tuesday night winner's bracket action

included a 7:30 p.m. game at Queen of Angels between the St. Charles Cardinals and a determined St. Rose of Lima/St. Louis, Besancon Twins team.

Although the Twins gave it everything they had, they were outmanned by the Cardinals. St. Charles immediately jumped out to a 15-3 first quarter lead and never looked back. Scores at the quarter stops were 15-3, 26-9 and 41-11. The final score was 53-18. St. Charles had balanced scoring, with nine play-

ers contributing to the win. Joe Smith had 12 points, including two three-point buckets. Henry O'Keefe followed with nine points, and Gavin Groves and Joe Eddy each contributed seven. St. Charles played with its squads substituting in and out to remain fresh, which proved too much for the undermanned yet tenacious St. Rose/St. Louis team.

The 5 p.m. Thursday-night game at Saint Francis' was an elimination game between the eighth-grade girls of St. Vincent de Paul and St. John the Baptist, New Haven. The winner would advance on to the final bracket, while the loser faced elimination.

Both teams seemed to sense the importance of the game, which went into overtime. St. Vincent led at the end of the first two quarters, 6-3 and 9-8. After the halftime break St. John fought back, led by Rachel McCarthy's five points. The exciting fourth quarter had the teams fighting to an 18-18 tie. The three-minute overtime period was won at the free-throw line, where St. Vincent sank four of six. Ashland Bennett of St. Vincent's totaled 10 points for the contest, while Rachel

McCarthy of the St. John Raiders led all scorers in the nail-biter.

Friday-night action was highlighted by the eighth-grade boys' finals at the University of Saint Francis. St. Vincent entered the game from the loser's bracket, with one tournament loss and played the St. Charles squad.

St. Vincent battled from behind the entire game and was unable to derail the Cardinals.

Despite a stellar performance from St. Vincent's Dillon Olson, St. Charles sealed the victory with a 43-35 final score. Olson's strong performance netted 19 points, including three three-pointers. Eleven of those points came in the fourth quarter of play. Meanwhile, St. Charles was led by Brenden Lytle's 19 points, which include three three-point shots as well. Devon Tippmann chipped in eight points for the Cardinals in the victory.

St. Charles also took wins in the eighth-grade girls tournament, with a 32-19 victory over runner-up St. Vincent, and its seventh-grade boys defeated St. Elizabeth 44-33. The St. Jude seventh-grade girls squad proved too much for the St. Vincent Panthers, who lost 27-20.

Runners pound the pavement at Msgr. Wolf memorial Run for the Heart

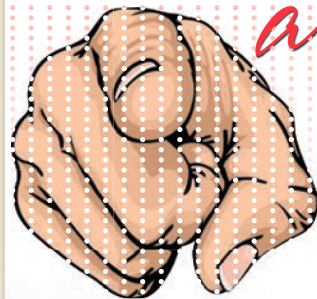


Provided by Winona Drake

The seventh annual Run for the Heart 5k and 1-mile Santa Chase in memory of Msgr. James Wolf took place Saturday, Dec. 3. There were 130 runners and walkers and 20 1-mile Santa Chasers who enjoyed the day. Overall male winner was Tim Morton, Warsaw, with a time of 18:48. Overall female winner was Corissa Koontz, Warsaw, with a time of 20:56. The first Santa Chaser to cross the finish line was Daylor Vilamaa, with a time of 6:40. Among the runners were volunteers and disabled athletes with MyTeam — Triumph. The effort netted \$4,519.63 for the Tuition Assistance Fund at Sacred Heart School. Since 2010 the Run for the Heart has raised a total of \$32,075.74.

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Priests eek out third win over seminarians in Cupertino Classic

BY PAT MURPHY

FORT WAYNE — It was youth verses experience when seminarians of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend clashed with several of its priests at the third annual Cupertino Classic basketball game Dec. 27 at Bishop Luers High School in Fort Wayne. And experience once again prevailed, as the priests defeated their younger opponents in overtime 46-44.

"This was the most exciting, the most competitive game I've seen," said Sean McBride, who has broadcast all three Cupertino Classic games on Redeemer Radio, "and the most physical. Clearly the seminarians had practiced and prepared for this one."

Both teams played admirably, said Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades, who added that the priests' experience might have indeed been the deciding factor in the hard-fought contest. But next year could be different, he said, because the seminarians continue to polish their skills.

A close game was to be expected, according to Doyle Minix, a member of St. Charles Borromeo Parish, Fort Wayne, and one of the estimated 1,200 people in the vocal audience. His children grew up with Fathers Matthew and Terrance Coonan when they attended Bishop Dwenger High School; nevertheless, Minix correctly predicted the priests would have a slight edge.

The game was tight from the opening tipoff. The seminarians, sparked by fiery guards Benjamin Landrigan, from St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, Fort Wayne, and Dominic Garrett of Our Lady of Good Hope, Fort Wayne, held a one-point lead, 20-19, at the end of the first half. They were also sparked



Photos by Stephanie A. Patka

Over \$4,400 was raised at the door during the third annual Cupertino Classic. The focus of this competitive game is on fraternity and good-natured fun.



Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades wears the colors of the seminarian team as he celebrates the priests' third Cupertino Classic victory.



This year was the first time that the game went into overtime.

by Daniel Niezer, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, who made nine out of nine free throws.

The seminarians looked like they might pull away when they surged to a 32-27 lead with less than five minutes remaining in the game. But the priests, with strong rebounding by Father Jason Freiburger of St. Thomas the Apostle, Elkhart, came back to knot the score at 40 just before regulation time ended.

As the four-minute overtime clock was drawing to a close, the priests set up for a final shot. Father Terrance "Tink" Coonan missed a 13-foot jump shot, but he put the rebound in for the winning margin.

The priests put a full-court press on the seminarians as time ran out, and the youngsters could only manage a desperation shot that didn't come close.

According to the official results, Father Matthew Coonan was the high scorer for the priests with 21 points, while his brother, Father Terry Coonan, chipped in with 15. Father Andrew Curry had eight and Father Jonathan Norton scored two. Father Zack Barry, Father Mark Gurtner, Father Ben Muhlenkamp and Father Jason Freiburger helped the team, although they did not score.

Landrigan lead the seminarians with 18 points, while Dan Niezer scored nine, Garrett seven and Brian Isenbarger, six. Mark Hellinger and Jay Horning each contributed two points. Patrick Hake, Joe Knepper, Caleb Kruse and Daviud Langford contributed to the seminarians' effort, but did not score.

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-St. Catherine of Siena



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WHAT'S HAPPENING?

WHAT'S HAPPENING carries announcements about upcoming events in the diocese. Send your announcement at least two weeks prior to the event. View more Catholic events and submit yours at www.diocesefwsb.org/bulletin. Events that require an admission charge or payment to participate will receive one free listing. For additional listings of that event, please call our advertising sales staff at 260-399-1449 to purchase space.

XLT Night at Bishop Dwenger High School
FORT WAYNE — St. Charles, St. Jude and St. Louis youth ministries will have an XLT event on Sunday, Jan. 22 at 7 p.m. in the BDHS Chapel. Music and adoration starts at 7 p.m. After adoration, a social time for high school students only will be offered until 9 p.m. Anyone may attend adoration and benediction from 7-8 p.m. Teens from All high schools welcome. Contact Vickie Lortie at 260-484-6609 ext. 1012 for information.

A little taste of peace
SOUTH BEND — Celebrate Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday Saturday, Jan. 14, from 6:30-9:15 p.m. at St. Therese, Little Flower Church, 54191 Ironwood Rd. People from all racial, cultural, and religious backgrounds are invited to bring a dessert or other finger food to share and participate in a conversation on current problems and solutions that can help to build Dr. King's dream. RSVP to Erin at 574-233-9491, ext. 316 or online at littleflowerchurch.org and provide details to assure diversity in each group by Jan. 12.

Bishop Luers High School show choirs to host Cabaret Knight
FORT WAYNE — Bishop Luers High School show choirs will host Cabaret Knight on Sunday, Jan. 15. Cabaret Knight is an event to showcase the talents of students and to raise funds. The evening begins at 4 p.m., and dinner is served at 4:30 p.m. Performers will take the stage at 5 p.m. with show choir performances beginning at 6:30 p.m. Tickets can be purchased by either contacting a show choir member or Beth Savieo

at mbsavieo@gmail.com until Jan. 8. Cost is \$15 for ages 10 and older; \$6 for children ages 4-9; and free to children 3 and younger.

Worldwide Marriage Encounter plans upcoming weekend
Worldwide Marriage Encounter weekends are for married couples who have an OK marriage, but want to get back to when they were first married. The next weekend will be Jan. 27-29. Contact Greg and Jen at 260-422-0803 or go to wwme.org to apply. Go to wwme.org for more information.

Cathedral Choir announces Epiphany concert
FORT WAYNE — The Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception will have an Epiphany Concert on Sunday, Jan. 8, at 4 p.m. at the Mother Théodore Guérin Chapel on the Cathedral grounds. This event is free and open to the public. Join the choir for a post-concert reception in the lower level of the chapel. Free parking is available in the cathedral parking lots.

Vocation society to meet
FORT WAYNE — The January Vocation Society Meeting will be Friday Jan. 6, at St. Joseph Hospital, with Mass in the hospital chapel at 11:30 a.m. followed by lunch and guest speaker Franciscan Brother Pio Maria. He will share his vocation story and information about the activities of the Franciscan Brothers Minor in the diocese.

Consecration to Mary retreat set to begin
MISHAWAKA — A new group retreat, Consoling the Heart of Jesus, designed by Father

Michael Gaitley, the author of "33 Days to Morning Glory" will begin meeting on Sunday, Jan. 29, at 3 p.m. and finish on Palm Sunday, April 9 at St. Bavo. A consecration to Jesus will be on Divine Mercy Sunday, April 23. This is a 10 week retreat. Even if you cannot attend all sessions, you may still participate. RSVP to Monica at 574-514-0887 or mjoyhigg@sbcglobal.net.

Knights plan fish fry
SOUTH BEND — The Knights of Columbus Council 5521, 61533 S. Ironwood Dr., will have a fish fry on Friday, Jan. 6, from 5-7 p.m. Adults \$9, children 5-12 \$4. Shrimp or chicken strips available for \$9.50 and cheese pizza for \$1 per slice.

Divorced/Separated Catholic support
FORT WAYNE — St. Vincent de Paul Church, 1502 E. Wallen Rd., will continue "The Catholic's Divorce Survival Guide" on Thursday, Jan. 19, with the session "Finding Perfect Power," from 7-9 p.m. in the parish library, located off of the gathering space in the church. For more information visit www.saintv.org or call 260-489-3537 ext. 208.

Catholic Business Network meetings
FORT WAYNE — The next Catholic Business Network meeting will be Friday, January 13, with 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 Father Bob D'Souza, Parochial Vicar at St. Jude Parish. He will speak on the "Face of Mercy on Mother Teresa." Refreshments will be provided by Dave MacDonald Associates.

REST IN PEACE

Angola Judith L. Connelly, 77, St. Anthony of Padua	George J. Perkins, 93, Chapel of the Resurrection	Donna L. Stier, 81, St. John the Baptist
Margaret Ann Nagel, 71, St. Anthony of Padua	Dale Erwin, 61, St. Vincent de Paul	Edwin H. Martin, 70, St. Louise Besancon
Traci Lynn Dick, 45, St. Anthony of Padua	Joan Haefling, 93, Sacred Heart	Jon D. Ford, 74, St. John the Baptist
Elizabeth Vincent, 77, St. Anthony of Padua	Lisa M. Reed, 56, St. Charles Borromeo	Notre Dame James D. Conley, 88, St. Joseph's Chapel
Auburn Richard Prosser, 83, Immaculate Conception	Kimberly J. Cragun- Reber, 48, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton	South Bend Janina Krengel, 84, St. Adalbert
Decatur Bud E. Case, 81, St. Mary/Assumption	Denise A. Thornton, 63, Most Precious Blood	Kathryn M. McLaughlin, 65, St. Matthew Cathedral
Fort Wayne Lowell D. Dusseau, 80, St. Vincent de Paul	Sharon M. McCarthy, 64, St. Peter	Eugene R Jagla, 86, Christ the King
Marianne K. Johnson, 86, Most Precious Blood	Huntington John H. Carpenter, 69, St. Mary	Carmen P. Colón, 78, St. Anthony de Padua
Peter A. Hanchar, 46, St. Therese	Mishawaka Jerome Torzewski, 88, St. Monica	Warsaw Rita F. Kachlik, 81, Sacred Heart
Melissa F. Veldman 36, St. Vincent de Paul	Joseph Marion Piatkowski, 89, St. Joseph	Beverly Ann Shank, 69, Sacred Heart
Edward M. Dahm, 86, St. Jude	New Haven David L. Gibson, 59, St. John the Baptist	Donald M. Waggoner, 82, Sacred Heart
Mary Genevieve Koehler, 91, St. Charles Borromeo		Submit obituaries to mweber@diocesefwsb.org

Holy Name Society fish fry
NEW HAVEN — The Holy Name Society of St. John the Baptist Parish will have a fish fry Friday, Jan. 13, from 4-7 p.m. at the church. Adults \$9, children 5-12 \$5.50 and children under 5 free. The Holy Name Society will have a meeting Sunday, Jan. 8, from 7-8 p.m. at the church. Refreshments will be served.

Plays to be performed
FORT WAYNE — Three short children's plays called the "Mis-Adventures of Rebel Rachel"

and a one-act family play called "Christmas in His Eyes" will be performed Friday, Jan. 6, from 7-8:30 p.m. at the downtown Allen County Public Library.

Frasatti young adult game night
FORT WAYNE — Catholic young adults, ages 18-39, the Frassati group is having a game night at Our Lady of Good Hope on Jan. 14, at 6 p.m. in the gym. Bring board games, your own drinks and a snack to share. Babysitting available for \$15 per family.

The CrossWord

January 8, 2017

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



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Bishop blesses new Fort Wayne friary chapel

BY BROTHER JOSEPH MARIA,
OUR LADY OF PEACE, FFM

Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades blessed a new chapel and consecrated the altar at Our Lady of the Angels Friary in Fort Wayne on Dec. 29. The chapel bears the name of the first Franciscan Friary established in Assisi by St. Francis in 1209; "Our Lady of the Angels Chapel." Due to its smallness the original chapel was commonly known as "The Portziuncula." In the old Italian dialect it means "The Little Portion." The friars of Fort Wayne have thus dubbed their chapel "The Portziuncula."

Mass was celebrated by Father David Mary of Our Lady of Sorrows, FFM, with every member of the Franciscan Friars Minor in attendance. Also attending the liturgy were the property owners, who are members of the Tippman family; associates of the Mary Cross Tippman founda-

tion, which funded most of the project; and others who contributed to the bulk of the manual labor by way of resources and manpower.

The 48-seat chapel was nearly filled to capacity as the procession started Thursday morning.

A beautiful liturgy ensued, quietly orchestrated by Brother Leo Maria of the Mother of Mercy, FFM, who coordinated the sacred rites as master of ceremonies. Bishop Rhoades gave a powerful homily wherein he spoke of "the miracle of the Eucharist" as "the fruit of Jesus' sacrifice," which brings its participants into "union with Jesus Christ and with one another." Father David Mary spoke of a different sort of miracle in his notes of gratitude at the end of Mass, emphasizing the miracle of the chapel's completion amidst the formation work and the myriad apostolic endeavors of the friars who were working on the project alongside the gen-

erous friends and benefactors of the community. Our Lady of the Angels Friary is situated in an area of Fort Wayne where those in need can easily be reached.

Ministry to these poor people, along with countless outreaches to the youth, many parish missions, evangelization efforts across the country and even into foreign lands, and several other services rendered unto the people of God have kept the friars from getting into a consistent work regimen. This was a significant reason why the project took over three years to complete.

One could say they saved the least for last, with the blessing of this chapel coming at the end of the 2016 calendar year. In his thank-yous at the end of Mass, Father David Mary drew from our Lord's words in the gospel of Matthew, "...as long as you did it to one of these my least brethren, you did it to me." (Mt 25:40) It was the generosity of various friends of the community



Provided by Brother Joseph Maria

A former energy generation and distribution facility in New Haven, on property now serving as the home of Our Lady of Angels Friary, has been converted to a small prayer chapel called "The Portziuncula." The chapel was blessed and its altar consecrated by Bishop Rhoades on Dec. 29.

that enabled these friars minor to turn a former powerhouse for the generation and distribution of electricity into a powerhouse of prayer for the spread of grace throughout the world. As Father David Mary concluded his notes

of gratitude, one got the sense that it was fitting for words to fall short in the face of all the Lord has done for the completion of this chapel. At such a point all that's left to do is pray; thus the reason for which it was made.

IMD

Continued from Page 10

now better able to develop projects in collaboration with their classmates and they also connect with their entire class without moving from their seats.

St. Matthew young adults

St. Matthew Cathedral Parish has a very strong and dedicated number of young adults. As a result of their desire to form a community within their parish, the St. Matthew Young Adult Group was started in January of 2016.

Its first event was hosted after 5:30 p.m. Mass by Msgr. Heintz and Father Chris Lappin,

in the rectory. This allowed the participants to get to know the parish's priests and gave them the opportunity to meet other young adults.

The highlight of their 2016 gatherings was perhaps a Marian pilgrimage that took place in May. Participants prayed the rosary while visiting some of the Marian statues and shrines on the University of Notre Dame campus.

The group is also optimistic regarding its plans for 2017. "We're hoping to continue having opportunities for young adults to get together and also to encourage participation in the very active parish life of St. Matt's," said Caroline Cole, a member of the planning committee. "Monthly potlucks, small groups that meet regularly and daily Mass times are just

a few of the ways the Young Adult Group can be a part of the parish community." Other gatherings will take place as well, such as a possible "winter adventure" to an ice-skating rink or an outing to go sledding.

Looking forward

The parish is currently home to about 1,300 families. Some of the highlights every year are the Christ Mass, which takes place on the Monday of Holy Week, and any occasion on which Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades leads Mass at his home parish in South Bend.



St. Matthew Cathedral

1701 Miami St.
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Mass Times:

Saturday: 7 a.m., 4:30 p.m.
Sunday: 7, 9, 11 a.m.; 5:30 p.m.
Weekday: 7 a.m., 5:30 p.m.
Vigil Holy Day: 5:30 p.m.
Holy Day: 7, 9 a.m.; 12:15, 5:30 p.m.
Reconciliation:
Weekday: 7:30-8 a.m.
Saturday: 11 a.m. to noon

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