

TODAY'S CATHOLIC

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Immaculate Conception Parish marks 150-year anniversary

BY BONNIE ELBERSON

Immaculate Conception Parish in Kendallville celebrated its 150-year anniversary most appropriately on Friday, Dec. 8, the feast of the Immaculate Conception. As the pastor, Father James Stoyle, had predicted, the imposing church edifice was filled to overflowing with throngs of parishioners, their families, friends and guests who had come to celebrate the special occasion with their bishop.

The evening began with recitation of the rosary and a musical prelude presented by the choir, under the direction of Julie Kessler, choir director and longtime parishioner. A hush fell over the congregation as the Fourth Degree Knights of Columbus, in full regalia, processed up the center aisle and stood in anticipation of the entrance of the celebrant, Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades, and the beginning of the anniversary Mass. Joining him on the altar were celebrants Father Stoyle and former pastor Father Jacob Gall.

Bishop Rhoades greeted those in attendance and noted the joyous occasion for their parish. "Today we celebrate all the blessings God has bestowed on you," he said. As he began his homily he noted the solemnity of the Immaculate

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John Martin

On the solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of Mary, Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades celebrated a Mass observing the 150th anniversary of Immaculate Conception Parish, Kendallville. Pictured at the altar during the Liturgy of the Eucharist are, from left, former Immaculate Conception pastor Father Jacob Gall, Bishop Rhoades and pastor Father James Stoyle.

Mideast Christian leaders to Trump: Jerusalem move could have dire results

BY JUDITH SUDILOVSKY

JERUSALEM (CNS) — In an open letter to U.S. President Donald Trump, Christian leaders in Jerusalem said U.S. recognition of the city as the capital of Israel could have dire regional consequences.

"We have been following, with concern, the reports about the possibility of changing how the United States understands and deals with the status of Jerusalem. We are certain that such steps will yield increased hatred, conflict, violence and suffering in Jerusalem and the Holy Land, moving us farther from the goal of unity and deeper toward destructive division," the Christian leaders said, just hours before Trump announced the U.S. was recognizing Jerusalem as the capital and relocating the U.S. embassy.

They appealed to Trump to take their viewpoint into consideration, as did the leaders who met at Camp David in July 2000 to decide the status of Jerusalem. The Christian leaders said their "solemn advice and plea" for the president was to continue recognizing the international status of Jerusalem.

"We ask you, Mr. President, to help us all walk toward more love and a definitive peace, which cannot be reached without Jerusalem being for all," they said Dec. 6.

"Any sudden changes would cause irreparable harm. We are confident that, with strong support from our friends, Israelis and Palestinians can work toward negotiating a sustainable and just peace, benefiting all who long for the Holy City of Jerusalem to fulfill its destiny."

The Christian leaders, who include Catholic and Orthodox patriarchs as well as

the Franciscan custos of the Holy Land, said Jerusalem could be "shared and fully enjoyed" once a political process helped "liberate the hearts of all people that live within it from the conditions of conflict and destructiveness that they are experiencing."

With Christmas approaching they asked that Jerusalem "not be deprived" of peace; they wished Trump a merry Christmas and asked that he help them "listen to the song of the angels."

"As the Christian leaders of Jerusalem, we invite you to walk with us in hope as we build a just, inclusive peace for all the peoples of this unique and Holy City," they said.

In 1967, Israel annexed East Jerusalem, which had been under Jordanian control since

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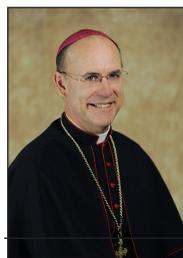
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St. Vincent de Paul and St. Juan Diego



IN TRUTH AND CHARITY

BISHOP KEVIN C. RHOADES

The following is the text of the homily delivered by Bishop Rhoades at the annual Mass with the St. Vincent de Paul Society of Fort Wayne on Dec. 9 at St. Mary Mother of God Church in Fort Wayne:

Jesus was moved with pity, filled with compassion, at the sight of so many people who were sick and suffering. He had been healing people as He travelled through the towns and villages of Galilee, teaching in synagogues and proclaiming the Gospel of the Kingdom. He then empowered the Twelve to do the same, to preach the Kingdom, to cure the sick, to raise the dead, to cleanse lepers and to drive out demons. Our Lord entrusted His mission to the Twelve and to the Church.

Jesus and the Twelve proclaimed the Gospel of the Kingdom. In fact, Jesus ushered in the kingdom of God, a kingdom that surpasses any kingdom than man can create. It is not an earthly, political kingdom. As He told Pontius Pilate at His trial: "My kingdom is not of this world." The kingdom established by Christ the King is an everlasting kingdom, a kingdom of justice and peace, a kingdom of love and grace. The kingdom of God was present in Jesus and is mysteriously present in the Church. This kingdom remains in our midst in the Holy Eucharist that we celebrate here this morning. And, as Advent reminds us, it will appear in its final glory when Christ comes again.

When we read the Gospels, we learn a lot about Christ's kingdom. We learn, for example, that it belongs to the poor and lowly, to those who accept it with humble hearts. That's why Jesus says in the first Beatitude: "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of God." Jesus Himself, the king in this kingdom, shared the life of the poor from the manger to the cross. He experienced hunger, thirst and privation. He identified Himself with the poor of every kind and He made active love toward the poor the condition for entering His kingdom.

There is a wonderful family within this kingdom: the Vincentian family. Four hundred years ago this year, in 1617, the father of this family discovered his mission in the kingdom. He has been called "the Father of the poor." This father was St. Vincent de Paul. It was 400 years ago this year that he received his charism and surrendered his life to God in service to the poor. In 1617, he founded the Confraternity of Charity and wrote the first rule for the group of women in his parish dedicated to serving the sick and the poor. Like Jesus in today's Gospel, he saw the needy and was filled with compassion for them. You are part of the Vincentian family that grew from this root during the past 400 years. St. Vincent went on to found the community of Vincentian priests and brothers and then co-founded with St. Louise de Marillac the Daughters of Charity.

Two hundred years later, another branch grew on the Vincentian family tree, the



Wikipedia

A portrait of St. Vincent de Paul by Simon François de Tours from the 17th century.

Society of Saint Vincent de Paul. Blessed Frederic Ozanam was resolved to respond to God's call after the example of St. Vincent de Paul by dedicating himself and the new Society to the service of the poor, to bringing them food and material help, and even more, to bringing them the gift of friendship and love. This is living the Gospel Jesus and the Twelve proclaimed, the Gospel of the Kingdom.

As Vincentians, you proclaim the Gospel of the Kingdom by your deeds of mercy and charity. You care for those in need. You have learned from St. Vincent de Paul, as he often liked to repeat, that "when you go to the poor, you encounter Jesus." This gets to the heart of the Vincentian charism – actually, the words of Jesus: "Whatever you do to the least of my brothers and sisters, you do for me." You have the model of St. Vincent de Paul, Blessed Frederic, and other Vincentian saints to inspire you. I encourage you to call upon them frequently to intercede for you and your work and for the needy you serve.

I mentioned that the Gospels teach us that Christ's kingdom belongs to the poor and lowly, to those who accept it with humble hearts. When we read the Gospels, how often we see our Lord choosing the poor and the lowly for a special mission: Mary and Joseph, Elizabeth and Zachary, the shepherds, fishermen, tax collectors, widows, etc. Of course, Mary is the greatest human being in the kingdom. Mary is Our Lady of Humility, Our Lady of Poverty. How often in apparitions she chooses to appear to the poor and lowly, like St. Bernadette and the children of Fatima!

Today, we remember one of those lowly ones, St. Juan Diego. In 1531, God sent the Virgin Mary to this humble native Aztec Indian on Tepeyac Hill to bring comfort to the suffering, conquered people of America. Juan Diego is the first indigenous saint of the American continent, canonized 18 years ago by Pope St. John Paul II. This simple and humble native American was chosen by God to receive the beautiful private revelation of the Mother of God, Our Lady of Guadalupe. This revelation, like Mary's other apparitions to the poor and lowly, remind us of what Mary proclaimed in the Magnificat: "God has



CNS photo/Tyler Orsburn

A mosaic of St. Juan Diego is seen in the Trinity Dome at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington. The mosaic was dedicated Dec. 8.

cast down the mighty from their thrones and has lifted up the lowly." Of course, Mary herself exemplifies this and proclaimed in the Magnificat that God had looked with favor upon her, "His lowly servant." She always magnified the Lord, not herself. Our Lady and St. Juan Diego remind us of the words of Jesus that "the one who humbles himself shall be exalted." They remind us, as St. Vincent de Paul reminds us, that God has a special love for the poor and suffering.

Mary appeared on Tepeyac Hill as our loving, compassionate mother. She guided and comforted Juan Diego. This was the beginning of the great evangelization of America. Our Lady embraced Juan Diego in her loving arms and, through him, all his people. She gave him precious roses in the middle of winter. And she left her image on his tilma. Through this event of Guadalupe, God brought comfort and love to His poor children.

The tender and compassionate love of Mary, experienced by Juan Diego and his indigenous brothers and sisters, led them to her Son Jesus. It is your tender and compassionate love as Vincentians that is the greatest gift you give to those you serve. This is how you proclaim the Gospel of the Kingdom, through your words and your deeds. On this feast of the humble St. Juan Diego, I pray that he, along with St. Vincent de Paul and all the Vincentian saints, will intercede for you. And may Our Lady of Guadalupe also intercede for you as you serve her beloved spiritual children, the sick, the poor, and the needy. And, of course, we turn to her as our spiritual mother who says to us, especially in times of trial and suffering, as she said to Juan Diego:

"Listen and let it penetrate your heart... do not be troubled or weighed down with grief. Do not fear any illness or vexation, anxiety or pain. Am I not here who am your Mother? Are you not under my shadow and protection? Am I not your fountain of life? Are you not in the folds of my mantle? In the crossing of my arms? Is there anything else you need?"

Father Kafka laid to rest in Michigan

FORT WAYNE — Father Matthew Kafka, a priest of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, died Tuesday, Dec. 5, at the age of 84, at St. Joseph Mercy-Oakland in Pontiac, Michigan. He had lived in Imlay City, Michigan, since his retirement in 2002.

Born Matthew Stanley Kafka on Sept. 15, 1933, in Chicago, Illinois, Father Kafka was the son of the late Mathew S. and the late Helen (Sarna) Kafka, Sr. He was a high school graduate of DePaul College Prep in Chicago and attended DePaul University.

Father Kafka served in the Army during the post-Korean War era, 1956-58. He attended seminary at SS. Cyril & Methodius in Orchard Lake, Michigan, and was ordained at St. Matthew Cathedral, South Bend, on May 29, 1965.

From 1965-2001 Father Kafka served at several churches as a seminarian, assistant or pastor. In 1965 he served at St. Adalbert Parish, South Bend; in 1971 he was appointed the assistant at



FATHER MATTHEW KAFKA

St. Patrick Parish, Fort Wayne. In 1976 Father Kafka was appointed the assistant at Holy Family Parish, South Bend.

In 1978 Father Kafka became the administrator at St. Mary of the Lake Parish, Culver, and in 1979 was named its pastor. In 1987 he was named pastor of St. Hedwig Parish, South Bend. He served at Orchard

Lake Seminary, Orchard Lake, Michigan, beginning in 1988.

Father Kafka became the pastor of St. Patrick Parish, Fort Wayne, in 1991; subsequent appointments include associate pastor of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish, Fort Wayne, in 2000; and pastor of St. Patrick Parish, Arcola, in 2001.

In 2002, Father Kafka retired to St. Cornelius Parish in Dryden, Michigan, and concluded his retirement at Sacred Heart Parish in Imlay City.

A Mass of Christian burial took place Dec. 9 at Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Imlay City, with Father Paul Ward officiating. A rosary was prayed on Dec. 8, at Sacred Heart Catholic Church, followed by solemn vespers and Scripture and a Vigil for the Dead. Burial was in Resurrection Cemetery, Justice, Illinois on Dec. 12.

Prayers for the repose of the soul of Father Kafka are being offered during Masses throughout the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend.

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1948. In 1980 Israel declared a united Jerusalem as its capital. Palestinians see East Jerusalem as the future capital of an independent Palestine.

Earlier Dec. 6, Pope Francis expressed concern that a U.S. move recognizing Jerusalem as the capital would further destabilize the Middle East.

The internationally unsettled status of Jerusalem and its central importance to Jews, Muslims and Christians explains why, while recognizing the state of Israel, no nation has its embassy in the holy city. Since the early 1990s, the Vatican has called for a special status for the city. It has insisted the political question of the city's status must be the result of negotiation.

Although the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops did not comment on Trump's announcement, earlier this year, Bishop Oscar Cantu of Las Cruces, New Mexico, chairman of the bishops' Committee on International Justice and Peace, urged U.S. Secretary of State Rex Tillerson to keep the U.S. Embassy in Tel Aviv.

"Relocating the embassy to Jerusalem is tantamount to recognizing Jerusalem as the undivided capital of Israel," which would destabilize the region, Bishop Cantu said in the letter.

The bishops' former adviser on Mideast issues, Jesuit Father Drew Christiansen, said declaring Jerusalem the capital of Israel "is a serious step, signaling diplomatic approval for Israel's seizure of the city by force and eroding what had been united international opposition to the idea that the Holy City could be claimed through Israel's military victory."

"In quiet acts of ethnic cleansing, Palestinian Jerusalemites



CNS photo/Debbie Hill

The gold-covered Dome of the Rock at the Temple Mount complex is seen in Jerusalem's Old City on Dec. 6.

are denied residency because of extended absences or because they have married residents of the West Bank," he wrote in America magazine. "Their neighborhoods are rezoned for public uses; their homes are occupied by Jewish settlers and they have no legal recourse. Moving the U.S. embassy to Jerusalem means giving the seal of approval to 'facts on the ground' that despoil Palestinian Jerusalemites of their birthright."

In Jerusalem, Wadie Abunassar, chairman of media relations for the Christian leaders, said the status of Jerusalem is not only an issue for Israelis and Palestinians, but also for other Muslim countries as well. He noted that already a gathering of Arab foreign ministers has been organized for Dec. 11 as well as a meeting prepared by Turkey for Muslim countries.

"Jerusalem is a sensitive issue for all, so the Christian leaders, (following) the pope, are making an appeal to President Trump to

be wise — there is a need for wisdom ... especially in such an explosive situation," he said.

With violent demonstrations already in evidence even before any announcement had been made, Abunassar said more steps that produce confidence-building measures are needed rather than steps that "add oil to the flame."

Hamas, the Palestinian Islamic political party with an armed faction, called for more protests in the coming days, particularly Dec. 8, the Muslim day of prayer. The U.S. labels Hamas a terrorist organization.

In Lebanon, Abdul Latif Derian, grand mufti of Lebanon's Sunni Muslims, called on Arab Islamic leaders to counter the U.S. embassy's relocation to preserve the Arab identity of Jerusalem. The mufti is an important figure for Sunni Muslims, not just locally but regionally. Most of the Palestinian population in the region is Sunni Muslim.

"The transfer of the U.S. Embassy to Jerusalem and the recognition of the Holy City as the capital of Israel is a blatant challenge and provocation to the feelings of Palestinians, Arabs and Muslims," the mufti said in a statement Dec. 6. "This step would turn the region into a flame of conflicts that will inevitably lead to disastrous consequences and would adversely affect the region and the international community. This will have serious repercussions on the Arab and Islamic region."

"Confrontation is a legitimate right aiming to defend the occupied land of Palestine," he said.

Many Israelis celebrated the move; U.S. Jewish groups were split in their reaction.

Contributing to this story was Doreen Abi Raad in Beirut.



Public schedule of Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades

Sunday, December 17: 4 p.m. — Sacrament of Confirmation, St. Stanislaus Bishop and Martyr Church, South Bend

Monday, December 18: 11 a.m. — Mass and Luncheon for Diocesan Employees of South Bend Area, St. Francis Convent, Mishawaka

Tuesday, December 19: 11 a.m. — Mass and Luncheon for Diocesan Employees of Fort Wayne Area, Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, Fort Wayne

Thursday, December 21: 11 a.m. — Mass and Luncheon for Seminarians, their Families and Father Solanus Casey Vocational Society, Bishop Dwenger High School, Fort Wayne

Obligations for the Fourth Sunday of Advent and Christmas

There are two separate obligations that must be fulfilled for the Fourth Sunday of Advent (Sunday, Dec. 24) and Christmas (Monday, Dec. 25). Given that Christmas falls the day after the Fourth Sunday of Advent this year, the expectation might be confusing to some.

The Sunday obligation can be fulfilled by going to Mass on Saturday evening (Dec. 23) or anytime on Sunday (Dec. 24). The Christmas obligation can be fulfilled by going to Mass on Sunday evening or anytime on Monday (Dec. 25). So, to give two examples, the faithful may attend a Christmas Eve Vigil Mass to fulfill the Sunday obligation and then go to a Christmas Day Mass on Monday

to fulfill the Christmas obligation; or attend Mass on Sunday morning, Christmas Eve, to fulfill the Fourth Sunday of Advent obligation and then attend the Christmas Eve Vigil Mass that evening to fulfill the Christmas obligation. (If this combination is chosen, the Eucharist may be received at both Masses, providing those are the only two instances of receiving the Lord in the Eucharist that day.)

No matter how it is accomplished, the key is that the two obligations must be fulfilled separately.

Additionally, the feast of Mary, the Holy Mother of God falls on Monday, Jan. 1, 2018, and is therefore not a holy day of obligation.

Vatican renews call for peace, negotiated solution on Jerusalem

BY JUNNO AROCHO ESTEVES

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Following days of violence and backlash after U.S. President Donald Trump's decision to recognize Jerusalem as the capital of Israel, the Vatican appealed for "wisdom and prudence" to prevail.

The Holy See "reiterates its own conviction that only a negotiated solution between Israelis and Palestinians can bring a stable and lasting peace and guarantee the peaceful coexistence of two states within internationally recognized borders," the Vatican said in a Dec. 10 statement.

President Trump announced his decision Dec. 6 to move the U.S. embassy to Jerusalem from Tel Aviv, fulfilling a promise he made during his presidential campaign.

The announcement sparked

anti-U.S. protests throughout Asia and the Middle East, including a four-day protest in the Palestinian territories, Reuters reported. An Israeli security guard in Jerusalem, the report said, was in critical condition after he was stabbed by a Palestinian man at the city's bus station.

Pope Francis expressed his "sorrow for the clashes in recent days" and called for world leaders to renew their commitment for peace in the Holy Land, the Vatican said.

The pope "raises fervent prayers so that the leaders of nations, in this time of special gravity, commit themselves to avert a new spiral of violence, responding with words and deeds to the desires of peace, justice and security for the popu-

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Nativity scene, Christmas tree are visible signs of God's compassion

BY JUNNO AROCHO ESTEVES

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — A Nativity scene and Christmas tree, like those displayed in St. Peter's Square, are visible reminders of God's benevolence and closeness to all men and women, Pope Francis said.

The traditional Christmas displays are "the signs of the heavenly Father's compassion, of His participation and closeness to humanity who experience not being abandoned in dark times, but instead visited and accompanied in their difficulties," the pope said.

"Every year, the Christmas Nativity scene and tree speak to us through their symbolic language. They make more visible what is captured in the experience of the birth of the Son of God," Pope Francis said Dec. 7 in a meeting with delegations from Poland and Italy, responsible respectively for the 2017 Vatican Christmas tree and Nativity scene.

The centerpiece of the Vatican's Christmas holiday decorations is the towering 92-foot spruce tree.

Measuring nearly 33 feet in diameter, the tree was donated by the Archdiocese of Elk, Poland, and transported to the Vatican on a flatbed truck traveling over 1,240 miles across central Europe.

Thanking the members of the Polish delegation, the pope said the tree's soaring height "motivates us to reach out 'toward the highest gifts'" and to rise above the clouds to experience "how beautiful and joyful it is to be immersed in the light of Christ."

"The tree, which comes from Poland this year, is a sign of the faith of that people who, also with this gesture, wanted to express their fidelity to the see of Peter," the pope said.

The Nativity scene was donated by the Benedictine Abbey of Montevergine, located in southern



CNS/Paul Haring

The Christmas tree is seen after a lighting ceremony Dec. 7 in St. Peter's Square at the Vatican.

Italy. Created in a traditional 18th-century Neapolitan style, it covers a surface of over 860 square feet and features 20 terracotta figures, some as tall as 6 feet.

The representation of the night of Jesus' birth, the pope said, is "inspired by the works of mercy" and is a reminder "that Jesus told us: 'Do to others what you would have them do to you.'"

"The crib is the evocative place where we contemplate Jesus who, taking upon Himself human misery, invites us to do the same through act of mercy," Pope Francis said.

As it was last year, the Christmas tree was adorned with ornaments made by children receiving treatment at several Italian hospitals.

"These children, with their parents, participated in a ceramics recreational therapy program" organized by the Countess Lene Thune Foundation for young boys and girls suffering from oncological and hematological disorders, the Vatican said Oct. 25.

Additionally, children from the central Italian Archdiocese of

Elise Bohl, St. Aloysius, Yoder —

Catholic school teachers shine the 'Light of Learning'

BY EMILY DIEHM

The Diocese Fort Wayne South Bend celebrates its outstanding educators each year by announcing "Light of Learning" award recipients. The award goes to an educator at each diocesan Catholic school whose skills as an educator and catechist are deemed outstanding by his or her peers and by school parents. The nominees will be recognized at a banquet during Catholic Schools Week, Jan. 28-29-Feb. 2.

Among this year's nominees is Elise Bohl, a religion teacher at St. Aloysius School, Yoder.

"As her principal, I am humbled by her enthusiasm to help her colleagues and her loving patience with students. She's always smiling," said St. Aloysius School principal, Tina Voors. "God is blessing our school through Bohl's vocation."

Those around her believe Bohl has found a way to offer high-quality spiritual formation and academic education at the same time. St. Aloysius has the distinction of being the oldest, continuously running, Catholic school in the Fort Wayne-South Bend Diocese. Over 140 years of education and tradition are the foundation for its faculty and staff. This year, Bohl will represent them.

"Parents expressed their appreciation of how Bohl lives out the Catholic faith and encourages her students to be true disciples," said Voors.

Leading by example, her knowledge and love for Christ is contagious.

"Bohl is a great teacher," said eighth-grader Hayden Hammond. "If I need help, or if I ask a question, she will always



Provided by St. Aloysius School

Elise Bohl, in front of her eighth-grade class at St. Aloysius School, Yoder, teaches how the Bible states that everyone will be judged by faith and by works.

have or get the answer. She always does it with a smile on her face."

In addition to teaching religion, her contracted position, Bohl also plans all of the school's liturgies, is responsible for sacrament preparation and ensures diocesan catechetical guidelines are followed.

"She is a very good teacher and role model. Bohl is dedicated to her Catholic faith," said eighth-grader Henry Kiracofe. "She teaches in a way that makes it fun."

In her 13th year of teaching, Bohl takes her role in help-

ing students fulfill the school's mission to 'Form Saints and Scholars in Christ' to heart with each lesson. In a recent eighth-grade religion class, she worked through a lesson covering Galatians 2. After reading a passage, students flipped through the Bible, finding, reading and discussing verses that supported the overall topic of how everyone will be judged according to their faith in the Lord as well as by their works. All of the students seemed anxious to learn more.

"Bohl always finds a way for us to spiritually connect to everyday life, and finds ways for us to understand what we're learning, even if it's confusing," said eighth-grader, Sage Herber.

Bohl feels that winning the Light of Learning is an opportunity that will inspire personal motivation of self-accountability. She stated that she will continue to do her best to service the students.

In 2015, Bohl earned a Master's degree in Theology from the University of Notre Dame by taking part in a diocesan program partnered with the University of Notre Dame. The program is funded by Our Sunday Visitor.

"This program accommodates those working in the diocese or those who are aspiring to," said Bohl.

Earning this degree has equipped her for teaching religion courses at various levels, and deepened her faith.

"Over the years I have learned more about this vocation God has called and asked of me," said Bohl. "This vocation has lead me to desire a deeper level of my spiritual life, and a strong yearning for students to deepen their Catholic faith that will last a lifetime."

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'Crowning jewel' of national shrine — Trinity Dome Mosaic — dedicated

BY CAROL ZIMMERMANN

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The overflowing congregation at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception hardly needed reminding to raise their "eyes to the heavens" during a dedication of the Trinity Dome Mosaic on Dec. 8.

Before Mass began, all eyes were already on the newly completed gold dome above the front central section of the Upper Church.

When it was blessed during Mass, incense rose above the congregation and bright lights were turned on to give a better view of the newly finished dome that includes the words of the Nicene Creed encircling the base and a depiction of the Holy Trinity, Mary, the four Evangelists, angels and more than a dozen saints connected to the United States or the shrine.

During the blessing and before and after Mass, phones and cameras were held aloft to capture the completed work more than two years in the making. But it would take more than a few pictures to capture the details in this majestic work of art described as the "crowning jewel" of the national shrine during introductory remarks by Msgr. Walter Rossi, the rector.

The dome mosaic is composed of more than 14 million pieces of Venetian glass covering more than 18,300 square feet of the dome's surface. Its completion marks the final step in finishing the work of the Upper Church that began in 1955.

The dome was dedicated, fittingly, on the feast of the Immaculate Conception, reflecting the basilica's namesake. The dedication Mass was celebrated by Washington Cardinal Donald W. Wuerl and Cardinal Kevin J. Farrell, prefect of the Vatican's Dicastery for Laity, the Family and Life, who was named by Pope Francis to be his special envoy at the dedication Mass.

Other cardinals concelebrating the Mass included Cardinals Theodore E. McCarrick, retired archbishop of Washington, and Justin Rigali, retired archbishop of Philadelphia, along with Cardinal Daniel N. DiNardo of Galveston-Houston, president of



CNS photos/Tyler Orsburn

Mosaic tiles depicting the Most Holy Trinity are seen in the Trinity Dome at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington. The mosaic was dedicated Dec. 8.

the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops. They were joined by more than two dozen bishops and 90 priests.

Cardinal Wuerl pointed out in his homily that the mosaic tiles in the dome are symbolic of the living body of Christ regularly filling the pews of the shrine and reflecting the church's diversity.

He urged the congregation of families, women religious, students and people of all ages and ethnic backgrounds who filled the pews, the side chapels and stood in the back at the dedication Mass to always look to this "great majestic dome mindful of our prayer to Mary" and ask for her intercession.

He said Mary is the model of "what our faith should be" because she believed that nothing was impossible with God.

The cardinal said he remembered coming to the shrine when he was a student at The Catholic University of America in the 1960s when the walls were simply brick except for the mosaic image of the Risen Christ at the front of the church.

He also noted that the completion of the dome finishes a work that began nearly 100 years ago when the shrine's cornerstone was placed in 1920.

As construction began on the National Shrine, as it was then called, Catholics across the country were invited to contribute however they could. Some donated pieces of gold jewelry and even precious stones, the cardinal said, which were fashioned into what came to be known as the "first chalice of the National Shrine" and was used at the

Dec. 8 mosaic dedication.

When Pope Francis was at the shrine in 2015 to celebrate Mass and canonize St. Junipero Serra, he also blessed a piece of the mosaic: the words for the beginning and end of the Nicene Creed: "I believe in one God" and "Amen."

At the end of the dedication Mass, Msgr. Rossi thanked the artists and workers, some of whom were seated at the front of the church, for their work on the mosaic, which was done in Italy and shipped in 30,000 sections weighing 24 tons. He pointed out that no one was injured and no damages occurred in the installation.

He also thanked the many donors who contributed to the dome work and gave to the shrine's one-time national collection for the project on Mother's Day.

"This crowning jewel of Mary's shrine is really your work, your gift to the Blessed Mother," he said.

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God does not lead us into temptation, Satan does, pope says

BY CINDY WOODEN

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The Italian and English translations of the “Our Father” can give believers the wrong impression that God can and does lead people into temptation, Pope Francis said.

The Italian bishops’ television channel, TV2000, has been broadcasting a series of conversations between the pope and a Catholic prison chaplain looking at the Lord’s Prayer line by line.

The episode broadcast Dec. 6 focused on the line, “Lead us not into temptation.”

Father Marco Pozza told the pope that friends have asked him, “Can God really lead us into temptation?”

“This is not a good translation,” the pope said.

The standard versions of the prayer are translated from the Latin, which was translated from the New Testament in Greek.

While he said nothing about ordering a new translation, Pope Francis noted how the French bishops had decided that beginning Dec. 3, the first Sunday of Advent, French Catholics would change the line to the equivalent of “do not let us enter into temptation.”

French-speaking Catholics in Benin and Belgium began using



Worshippers recite the Lord’s Prayer during Mass at Corpus Christi Church in Mineola, N.Y., Oct. 13. The Italian and English translations of the “Our Father” can give believers the wrong impression that God can and does lead people into temptation, Pope Francis said.

CNS photo/Gregory A. Shemitz, Long Island Catholic

the new translation at Pentecost last June. The common Spanish translation already is “no nos dejes caer en la tentacion” or “do

not let us fall into temptation.”

The Italian bishops’ conference in 2008 adopted a new translation of the Bible; for the

Lord’s Prayer both in Matthew 6 and Luke 11, they chose “do not abandon us in temptation,” although they did not order the

change in liturgical use. The New American Bible, revised edition, is the basis for the Lectionary used at English-language Masses in the United States; the petition from the Lord’s Prayer in Matthew and Luke is translated as: “do not subject us to the final test.”

Pope Francis told Father Pozza, “I’m the one who falls. But it’s not (God) who pushes me into temptation to see how I fall. No, a father does not do this. A father helps us up immediately.”

“The one who leads us into temptation is Satan,” the pope said. “That’s Satan’s job.”

The Catechism of the Catholic Church, in its discussion of the Lord’s Prayer, says, “our sins result from our consenting to temptation; we therefore ask our Father not to ‘lead’ us into temptation. It is difficult to translate the Greek verb used by a single English word: the Greek means both ‘do not allow us to enter into temptation’ and ‘do not let us yield to temptation.’”

Referring to James 1:13, the catechism says, “‘God cannot be tempted by evil and He himself tempts no one’; on the contrary, He wants to set us free from evil. We ask him not to allow us to take the way that leads to sin.”

SOLUTION, from page 3

lations of that battered land,” the Vatican said.

Trump’s decision also drew warnings from Middle Eastern and European leaders that overturning the United States’ long-standing policy would further complicate peace negotiations.

Former presidents Bill Clinton and George W. Bush had made similar promises to recognize Jerusalem as Israel’s capital during their presidential campaigns.

However, once in office, they did not carry through with the move, citing its potential negative impact on Israeli-Palestinian peace talks.

The Arab League, a regional organization consisting of 22 Arabic-speaking member states, held an emergency meeting in Cairo, Egypt, Dec. 9 to discuss Trump’s announcement, calling it “dangerous and unacceptable.”

Recognizing Jerusalem as Israel’s capital goes “against international law and raises questions over American efforts to support peace,” said Ahmed Aboul Gheit, the Arab League’s secretary-general.

Just hours before Trump had announced his decision, Pope Francis urged respect for “the status quo of the city in accordance with the relevant resolutions of the United Nations.”

In his appeal, Pope Francis said, “Jerusalem is a unique city, sacred to Jews, Christians and Muslims who venerate the holy places of their respective religions, and has a special vocation to peace.”

The Vatican consistently has called for a special status for Jerusalem, particularly its Old

City, in order to protect and guarantee access to the holy sites of Judaism, Christianity and Islam.

“The Holy See is attentive to these concerns and, recalling the heartfelt words of Pope Francis, reiterates its well-known position concerning the

singular character of the Holy City and the essential need for respecting the status quo, in conformity with the deliberations of the international community and the repeated requests of the hierarchies of the churches and Christian communities of the Holy Land,” said the Vatican’s Dec. 10 statement.

The Vatican consistently has called for a special status for Jerusalem, particularly its Old City, in order to protect and guarantee access to the holy sites of Judaism, Christianity and Islam.



Palestinians burn a U.S. flag during clashes with Israeli troops near the West Bank city of Ramallah Dec. 7.

CNS/Mohamad Torokman, Reuters

Bishop lays out policies for 'morally acceptable' tax reform

BY DENNIS SADOWSKI

WASHINGTON (CNS) — In a new letter to members of Congress, Bishop Frank J. Dewane of Venice, Florida, outlined a sweeping package of changes in pending tax reform legislation to ensure the final bill is “morally acceptable.”

Bishop Dewane, chairman of the U.S. bishops' Committee on Domestic Justice and Human Development, also addressed positive aspects of the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, which members of both houses of Congress continued to hash out Dec. 6 to reconcile their respective measures for a final bill.

A vote on a final version was expected in the House of Representatives and the Senate before Christmas.

Bishop Dewane in his Dec. 6 letter reminded Congress that the country has long followed tax policy “that is good for workers, families who welcome life, families who are struggling to reach — or stay in — the middle class, and the very poor, (and) has been part of our tax code for

years.”

“Any modification to these important priorities of our nation should only be made with a clear understanding and concern for the people who may least be able to bear the negative consequences of new policy. For the sake of all people — but especially those persons we ought, in justice, to prioritize — Congress should advance a final tax reform bill only if it meets key moral concerns,” he said.

The letter called for a reversal of the bill's plan to gradually increase taxes on taxpayers in the lowest income brackets while maintaining tax cuts for higher earners, including the most wealthy.

“No tax reform proposal is acceptable that increases taxes for families struggling to meet their daily needs in order to finance cuts for millionaires and billionaires. The final proposal must be amended to avoid this outcome,” Bishop Dewane wrote.

He also called for restoring the personal exemption, which has been eliminated in both chambers' version of the reform package. Even with the

doubling the standard deduction as included in the legislation, families with more than three children would be penalized, leaving them financially worse off, he said.

While lauding the elimination of the marriage penalty under the child tax credit for low-income working families, Bishop Dewane called for removing the bill's requirement that taxpayers provide Social Security numbers to claim the credit. Such a requirement would harm immigrant families, he said.

Bishop Dewane urged lawmakers to pass a final bill that does not include a Senate provision that eliminates the Affordable Care Act individual mandate requiring people to purchase of health insurance or face a penalty. He said dropping the mandate would lead to millions of people becoming uninsured and that the issue would better be addressed in broader comprehensive approach to health care policy.

The letter welcomed the legislation's bid to double the standard deduction, saying it should be retained. He called the plan

“a positive change that will help some families, including many facing economic challenges, avoid tax liability.”

However, other provisions of the House and Senate bills were cited in the letter for their negative impact on low-income taxpayers. The letter called for:

— Retaining the deduction for medical expenses; the deduction is included in the Senate bill, but not the House version.

— Retaining the adoption assistance incentive for employers; the provision was eliminated in the House bill, but remained in the Senate.

— Ensuring that employer incentives for paid family and medical leave do not end in 2019.

— Adopting an “above-the-line” charitable deduction that would be available to all taxpayers, whether they itemize on tax returns or not to encourage charitable giving.

— Restoring provisions that were cut in the House bill that assist working families such as the Work Opportunity Tax Credit, a credit for people who retire on disability, and deductions

for tuition and student loans, state and local taxes, employee business expenses and moving expenses; restoring other provisions cut in the Senate bill including deductions for union dues and expenses, clothing and uniforms and work-related education.

— Retaining the housing credit and housing bonds that support development of low-income housing and calling for additional measures so that both the credit and bonds are not significantly devalued because of the lower corporate tax rate, restricting such projects.

— Adding a plan for the creation of “opportunity zones” for struggling communities.

— Leaving in place the current alternative minimum tax and estate tax “to ensure that the risks taken in tax reform fall on those who stand to benefit most rather than on those who struggle on the margins of society.”

The full text of the letter can be found online at <http://bit.ly/2BGkVPX>.

Answering the call for room at the inn

For Christians around the world, Advent means anticipation. It's when we prepare for the coming of Jesus and reflect on the true meaning of Christmas. Advent reminds us of the Holy Family's journey to Bethlehem, and what Pope Francis said is our journey to “the horizon of hope.”

But for the millions of refugees and displaced people around the world, it can be difficult to find the hope in their journey. They need our help along the way.

“A lot of work goes into being ready to respond to this kind of crisis,” said Bill O’Keefe, vice president of government relations and advocacy for Catholic Relief Services. “We live in some ways in a state of constant anticipation, in constant preparation for the refugee. We wait for God's people on the move who, like the Holy Family, find themselves forced to flee to a place where there's no room in the inn.”

For the Holy Family, the search for a safe place did not end with the birth of Jesus. Just days later, Joseph was warned in a dream to take Jesus and Mary to Egypt because of King Herod's threat to kill the newborn King.

“They were migrants and spent years living in a foreign land. They fled the political and social conditions in their country,” said Richard Coll, director of Catholic Home Missions, the division of the

U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops that provides basic pastoral services such as sacraments and baptisms to transient or remote Catholic communities, including migrants.

“Jesus himself experienced the same concerns and the same fears that migrants today fear,” Coll said. “It's really in our DNA as Catholics to serve these members in very troubled communities.”

Every day, families leave their homes in places like Syria, Iraq and Afghanistan, driven by conflict, violence or poverty, and desperately seeking safety. Some spend their life savings or take on massive debt to pay for the journey. Many risk their lives for a new start. Since 2014, more than 15,000 refugees and asylum seekers drowned in the Mediterranean Sea attempting to reach European shores.

One young Syrian woman reached the shores of Greece at 9 months pregnant. Like thousands of others, Zaynab, her husband and their five children embarked on a perilous journey in search of a better future. They hoped to arrive in Germany or Norway in time for the baby's birth, but as soon as their train pulled into the station in northern Macedonia, Zaynab knew it was time.

Exhausted, and with the early signs of labor, Zaynab was greeted by staff of Caritas Macedonia. Zaynab soon gave birth to a healthy baby girl. They found shelter in a CRS-supported transit camp. CRS

and Church partners across the region provide food, clothing, hygiene items, and medical, legal and translation services to families like hers.

Zaynab and her family plan to continue their journey.

“I am constantly thinking about my children and the people on the border,” she said. “The more we stay here, the more anxious we get. Our only concern is to keep moving. We have lived through war. We don't need much help — we only want to keep moving.”

The response to the refugee crisis, carried out by a compassionate and strong network of Catholic organizations, exemplifies Pope Francis' reminder of our moral obligation to increase assistance to vulnerable people, old and young, who suddenly find themselves without a home or a room.

“All of us are called by God, by the Holy Father, by our consciences to be that inn, to provide that room, to share that journey, that every day millions of innocent people just like us are forced to take,” O’Keefe said. “Refugees know they have a long way to go. They know it's going to be a difficult journey — but at least they know there's someone on their side now.”

Remembering Zaynab and her newborn baby, O’Keefe adds: “I just kept thinking that we helped provide room at the inn.”

Article reprinted from www.sharethejourney.org

“The future is made of you, it is made of encounters”

POPE FRANCIS



Share the Journey
#sharejourney

journey.caritas.org

A prayer for migrants and refugees

On Sept. 27, Pope Francis launched a global campaign to support migrants and refugees around the world.

Adonai, Lord and Master,

Many are the journeys your people have taken: Abraham's journey led from fear to understanding; Moses' journey led from bondage to liberty; the disciples' journey led from death to new life.

Even today, your people journey — immigrants and refugees, pilgrims and nomads, searching for hope, searching for opportunity, searching for peace, searching for you.

Lord, I know that I too am called to journey. Yet too many times, I have heard your call, and my feet have remained unmoved.

Continue to call me beyond my comfort and into encounter. And when I meet a companion on the road, may we find you in each other's embrace.

Let us share the journey. Amen

Iowa priest honored for heroism as chaplain at Pearl Harbor

BY DAN RUSSO

DUBUQUE, Iowa (CNS) — Relatives of the first chaplain to die in World War II accepted the Silver Star on his behalf 76 years to the day after he died saving 12 sailors during the Pearl Harbor attack.

On Dec. 7, Del and Dan Schmitt, and Fran Hemesath — nephews and a niece of Father Aloysius Schmitt — were among the family members who participated in a memorial Mass and medal ceremony at Loras College in Dubuque.

They still remember time they spent with their uncle as children before anybody ever called him a hero.

"He would be very humble," reflected Del Schmitt on how the priest would react to the recognition. "He would probably tell them to give the medal to someone else."

"We're very proud," added Hemesath.

Rear Adm. Margaret Kibben, chief of chaplains of the U.S. Navy, led the military delegation bestowing the award, the third-highest medal in the armed forces, given for bravery in combat.

"It was his actions that helped to save 12 souls," said the admiral during the ceremony. "Father Schmitt has lived out the motto of the U.S. Navy Chaplain Corps ... 'called to serve.'"

She also took a moment during her remarks to thank all those who died for their country at Pearl Harbor, "their actions unrecorded."

Father Schmitt, a native of St. Lucas and a 1932 graduate

of Loras College, was ordained for the Archdiocese of Dubuque before joining the Navy. The 32-year-old lieutenant was killed aboard the battleship USS Oklahoma during the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor Dec. 7, 1941.

The priest had just finished saying Mass at about 7:48 a.m. when his ship was struck by torpedoes and began to sink. Father Schmitt sacrificed his own chance to escape and helped save the lives of a dozen men by pushing them through a porthole to safety.

"Father Al was an inspiration to our family; let him now be an inspiration to you to do great things with the rest of your lives," Dr. Steve Sloan, another of the chaplain's relatives, told the crowd who gathered for the medal ceremony. Sloan helped lead the effort to upgrade the priest's military awards, a process that took several years.

For his heroism, Father Schmitt was initially awarded the Navy and Marine Corps Medal and the Purple Heart. His family and others compiled evidence and eventually submitted a 29-page document to military authorities making the case for an upgrade.

"Members of this family for the last several years have been trying to upgrade his award and have gathered quite a bit of first-hand information from people who were there on the ship," Kibben explained in an interview before the ceremony.

"(They identified) the fact that he really did deserve a much higher award from our country, and just recently the secretary of



CNS photo/Witness files

the Navy approved it," she told *The Witness*, newspaper of the Archdiocese of Dubuque.

The military has stringent requirements that must be met before someone can be awarded any of the top combat medals. Kibben touched briefly on how authorities determined Father Schmitt should receive the Silver Star.

"One has to be in the thick of combat and one has to display actions related to heroism," she said. "The heroism is clearly identified by his own personal

sacrifice, which is evident in the actions that he took."

Sloan publicly thanked a group of people he identified as "The Father Al Team" who were key to the effort and recognized many others, including Republican Sen. Joni Ernst of Iowa and Father Daniel Mode, a priest of the Diocese of Arlington, Virginia, who is director of plans and operations for the Office of the Chief of Chaplains of the Navy.

Before the medal ceremony, a Mass was held at Christ the King

Father Aloysius Schmitt, the first U.S. chaplain killed in World War II, is pictured in an undated photo. He died during the Pearl Harbor attack in 1941 while helping others escape his ship, the USS Oklahoma. Seventy-six years later, Father Schmitt was awarded the Silver Star posthumously during a ceremony Dec. 7 at his alma mater, Loras College in Dubuque, Iowa.

Chapel at the college. Father Schmitt was laid to rest at Loras College in October 2016.

His remains had been identified following efforts by the U.S. Department of Defense to use modern DNA testing to identify members of the USS Oklahoma's crew who had been buried as "unknowns" at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific in Hawaii. The chaplain's remains are now entombed near the main altar in the chapel.

Father Mode concelebrated the Dec. 7 Mass with three priests of the archdiocese. He said Father Schmitt "truly was a witness and example of Christ." Father Schmitt's chalice, recovered from the shipwreck, was used for the liturgy.

"Father Al Schmitt does not need our honor, but we need to honor him," Father Bill Joensen, dean of spiritual life at Loras, said in his homily. "We need his example and witness to illuminate our own darkness."

Father Schmitt's love for God and country continues to have an impact today. Nick Radloff, a seminarian for the Archdiocese of Dubuque, was inspired to investigate the priesthood after learning about Father Schmitt while serving in the Air force. He was among those who spoke at the medal ceremony.

The chaplain's legacy "lives on through us, so it is my prayer that we all tell that story well," he said.

Dan Russo is editor of The Witness, newspaper of the Archdiocese of Dubuque.

Books on women saints may bring appreciation beyond Church

BY GRAHAM YEARLEY

It's good to have new biographical works of two women saints: St. Clare of Assisi and St. Therese of Lisieux. Both are famous saints to Catholics, but there is limited knowledge of them outside the Church. These publications may correct that.

Eight hundred years separate the lives of these two women. Clare lived in the 12th and 13th centuries and Therese in the 19th.

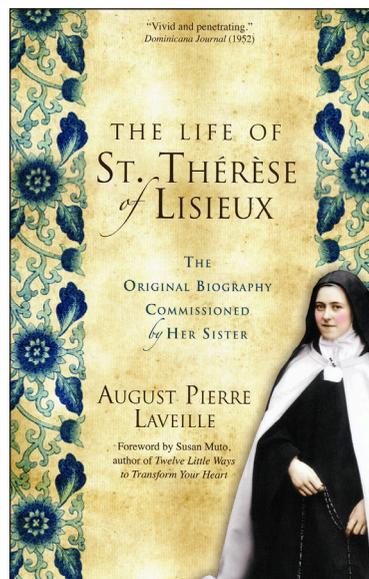
But both sought the religious life early, both had no interest in following the standard roles of women as wife and mother, and both practiced forms of self-mortification and self-denial that make us uncomfortable to hear about in the 21st century. We no longer believe that extreme fasting and sleeping on beds of twigs makes us dearer to God.

Bret Thomas' "St. Clare of Assisi" is not a biography, as the author openly states in the preface. Some parts of St. Clare's life are well-documented, but there are other parts where there

is no record. Consequently, the author has imagined scenes and thoughts from her life, so "St. Clare of Assisi" bears greater resemblance to an historical novel than a biography. It is, nonetheless, a lively and informative read.

Clare, born into a wealthy noble family of Assisi's upper class, had an early sense that the life of an arranged marriage and child rearing was not for her. She got to know Francis, who became St. Francis, from an early age in Assisi. She was attracted to his preaching and dedication to a life of poverty that imitated the life of Christ. When she turned 18, she sold off her possessions and gave her inherited money to the poor.

On Palm Sunday in 1212, Clare escaped by night with the help of a sympathetic servant. Several miles from Assisi, she met up with Francis and some of his followers. That night she was given her tonsure by Francis, her hair was cut short and she was dressed in a rough woolen tunic. Her family traced her and



CNS

This is the cover of "The Life of St. Therese of Lisieux" by August Pierre Laveille.

demanding that Clare return to Assisi with them, but she refused. Henceforth, she would dedicate her life to living in a community of women in poverty.

Three years after her escape,

when she was 23, Clare was declared the abbess of San Damiano. Clare recognized that the women who became her followers could not lead an itinerant life, begging for alms as Francis' followers did, so she established a stable community and would create other communities led by other women.

But that did not mean the "Poor Clares," as they became known, lived in comfort. All the women slept in one large room on hard mats; Clare herself slept on a bed of sticks. The rigors of poverty and sustained fasting undermined Clare's health and she would live for many years confined to her bed. Despite the toils she exacted on her body, Clare still lived over 60 years, a very advanced age in the 13th century.

August Pierre Laveille's "The Life of St. Therese of Lisieux" is a biography, but not a new one, as it was published originally in 1925. Laveille's work was commissioned by Therese's own sister Pauline, who also had been her prioress in the Carmelite order. Eventually, all four daugh-

ters of Louis and Zelig Martin would join the order.

One could say the four girls got their call to the religious life directly from their parents. Louis Martin had wanted to be a monk; Zelig had wanted to become a saint. They lived as a married couple in harmonious celibacy. It was a priest who pointed out to them that bearing children was a natural and holy vocation, too. The couple would take that advice to heart and bear nine children, but only four survived to adulthood, all girls. Therese was the youngest.

The first great crisis was her mother's death when Therese was 4-1/2 years old. From then on, Therese was raised by her sister Celine. Her second crisis came when Celine joined the Carmelites several years later.

Her sister's departure, however, only intensified Therese's desire for the religious life. At 15, she asked the prioress of the Carmelite convent in Lisieux if she could be allowed to enter

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Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 115th CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

WASHINGTON, FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 2017

House of Representatives

HONORING FATHER SOLANUS CASEY

HON. JIM BANKS
OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Father Solanus Casey and to celebrate his upcoming beatification on Saturday, November 18th. Father Casey was born in Oak Grove, Wisconsin, the son of Irish immigrants. Though he faced challenges in the early part of his life, Father Casey's love for God guided him to the priesthood. Thus, he joined the Capuchin Order and was ordained a simplex priest. On July 31, 1904, he celebrated his first Mass.

Father Solanus' journey took him to all parts on the country. He was assigned to monasteries in New York, Detroit, and most importantly Huntington, Indiana, where he served the Capuchin novitiate of Saint Felix. He was known for his kind demeanor, his "attitude of gratitude," and his devotion to the Church and God. He served the people of Huntington with distinction from 1946 to 1956. Shortly after, Father Solanus passed away on July 31, 1957.

After years of research and advocacy by the Father Solanus Guild, Father Solanus will be recognized as another step farther along the path to Sainthood this weekend. I am particularly pleased that the Catholic Church is recognizing a man who touched so many lives in Northeast Indiana. Father Solanus still has a strong following to this day, and I would like to congratulate the Catholic Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend for all of its efforts throughout the years to celebrate the life and memory of this generous man. I am excited to celebrate this momentous occasion with all of my constituents whose lives have been touched by Father Solanus and his ministry. Father Solanus Casey truly lived a noble, Christian life.



Jim Banks

A recognition of Father Solanus Casey was entered into the Congressional Record of the U.S. House of Representatives Nov. 17 by Congressman Jim Banks. Banks represents the Third District in Indiana, which includes Huntington, where Father Solanus lived for several years. Father Solanus was declared "Blessed" by Pope Francis during a beatification ceremony the following day in Detroit, Michigan.

BOOKS, from page 8

and she was refused. She went to the local bishop and asked again and was refused again. Both wondered if the beautiful but delicate Therese could withstand the rigors of religious life.

After Therese eventually received permission to join the order, her joy was evident, but further trials would await her. Therese would be told that as she had two sisters who had taken their final vows, she would have to remain a novice, junior in both age and status.

But it was within the walls of the convent that Therese began thinking and living out her "Little Way," a pathway toward holiness through prayer and self-denial and self-debasement.

Being "little" in God's world was not something to be resented, but accepted joyfully. The smaller we are, the greater the gift of God's love becomes, in Therese's view. If one was accused falsely of a mistake, take the blame anyway; refuse lighter work and insist on doing the humblest jobs. As her health declined, partly because of sustained fasting, her superiors asked Therese to write down her spiritual discoveries.

What emerged as "The Story of a Soul" began as an exercise in humility, with no thought of publishing her diaries or

other written works. In her final months of dying of tuberculosis, she endured agonies of pain, but Therese seemed to respond with gratitude that she was nearing death and would be joined with God.

It was reported after she died Sept. 30, 1897, her face, which had been contorted with pain, suddenly transformed into a face filled with beatific ecstasy.

While Therese's life is a fascinating one, this first biography is essentially hagiography, uncritical and overly reverential. The style is so syrupy one feels like one is drowning in caramel. It is a pitfall that is hard to avoid when one is dealing with lives so extremely and heroically dedicated to serving God.

Yearley writes for Catholic News Service. He is pursuing a doctorate of ministry in a joint program sponsored by Ashland Seminary in Ashland, Ohio, and the Ecumenical Institute at St. Mary's Seminary and University in Baltimore.

"St. Clare of Assisi: Light from the Cloister" by Bret Thomas, OFS. Tan Books (Charlotte, North Carolina, 2017). 239 pp., \$24.95.

"The Life of St. Therese of Lisieux" by August Pierre Laveille. Christian Classics (Notre Dame, Indiana, 2017). 424 pp., \$18.95.

Individuals consecrate themselves to Jesus through Mary at ND Mass

BY CHRIS LUSHIS

"Behold your mother!" These words spoken by Jesus to the beloved disciple at the cross became a living reality on Dec. 7 for members of the University of Notre Dame's Militia Immaculata, as nearly 30 men and women consecrated themselves to Jesus through Mary during a special Vigil Mass commemorating Mary's Immaculate Conception.

The Mass, celebrated by Holy Cross Father Gregory Haake, signified the culmination of 33 days of preparation for becoming consecrated to Jesus through Mary. While the traditional formula of Marian Consecration was developed by St. Louis de Montfort, students were invited to use the more recent and widely popular book "33 Days to Morning Glory" by Father Michael Gaitley, MIC, for their preparation. The book incorporates de Montfort's Marian teaching with contemporary saints, including St. Mother Theresa of Kolkata, St. John Paul II, and St. Maximilian Kolbe, the founder and patron of the Militia Immaculata.

In his homily, Father Haake recounted the importance, significance, and profound reality of undertaking such a consecration. "In making this consecration you say yes to graces which God offers through Mary, but you also say yes to the many type of trials, sufferings, and crosses that were present in Mary's life." He continued, "People have often come to me through the years and told me they were doing the total consecration. And I always say to them: 'That's wonderful, but that's also dangerous.' I say it is dangerous because of that 'yes'. Because if you look and examine Mary's life, that is

what you are saying yes to. It is a glory of glories, but it is also disappointment and suffering — but we do it joyfully, because it is for the Lord. But what gets us through is Mary's example and the way in which she so wonderfully and gracefully endured it. She did so with hope. It allows us even in the darkest moments to continue to hope in Our Lord Jesus Christ, her Son."

Recounting Mary's role in salvation history, Father Haake further indicated, "Your total consecration today is another hit, another strike at the serpent's head, it's another moment where you take down a brick in the worldly edifice that attempts to set itself up against the edifice of the Church. Your total consecration is in your own little way your effort at reversing Adam and Eve's sin in the garden. Of course, Jesus did that for us. But it is our little weak, feeble, yet joyful contribution. It is where we say, 'I understand what Adam and Eve have done, I understand how they have set themselves up as rivals to God and along with Mary, who reversed that sin in the garden, I join with her, and I put my lot in with the Lord. I love God with all my mind, soul, and strength, and I give everything, all that I am, all that I do, and all that I say to Him.' He goes before us, guiding us, comforting us. And so does His Mother, who continues to pray for us. And this day you receive her protection. Be not afraid!"

After the homily, participants were invited to renew their baptismal promises and recite a prayer of consecration composed by St. Maximilian Kolbe. One by one, each newly consecrated (or re-consecrated) individual was then invested with a blessed Miraculous Medal, worn as an

external sign of their internal commitment to Our Lady and reliance on her protection.

In acknowledging the significance of the event, NDMI President Nicole O'Leary expressed her joy at seeing fellow students embrace such a commitment. She expressed, "We have the privilege of witnessing as students experience Mary's powerful, maternal intercession in their lives. Like any encounter with grace, experiencing Our Lady's love prompts a response of love. Total consecration — in other words, self-gift — is their response. Marian devotion among students is a channel of grace and a wellspring from which the lives of countless individuals and the university community as a whole are blessed."

The mission and goal of the NDMI is "to lead every individual with Mary to the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus by continuing Father Sorin's vision for Notre Dame, who dreamed of building a great university in honor of Our Lady and her special relationship to Christ." The organization includes students from Notre Dame, Saint Mary's College, and Holy Cross College who meet weekly to discuss issues of faith, and also coordinate the distribution of rosaries and Miraculous Medals on football weekends, host presentations by major Catholic speakers, offer various retreats, lead service projects, and organize extended hours of eucharistic adoration on campus.

This mission is undertaken with a specific focus on the life and work of St. Maximilian Kolbe, who in his devotion to Mary sought to become ever more conformed to her example and to embody her life of sacrifice and union with Our Lord in his own.



Students from Saint Mary's College and Holy Cross College stand together in Notre Dame's Alumni Hall Chapel after being consecrated to Jesus through Mary at the Vigil Mass of the Immaculate Conception on the evening of Dec. 7.

Chris Lushis

PARISH SERVES THE KENDALLVILLE

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION, from page 1

Conception of Mary by saying, "Today we celebrate the beginning of the world's redemption. In His desire to save humanity through His Son, God freed Mary from the power of sin at the first moment of her existence. In His plan for the new creation and in view of the merits of His Son Jesus, God kept the Virgin Mary free from every stain of original sin from the moment of her conception. In this way God the Father prepared to give us the gift of His Son as our Redeemer.

"The Immaculate Conception is an awesome truth," he continued. "Our nation, our diocese and this parish have Mary as our patroness, under the title of the Immaculate Conception."

Bishop Rhoades offered parishioners a historical perspective. "In the year 1854, Blessed Pope Pius IX defined the dogma of the Immaculate Conception. Thirteen years later, in the year 1867, this parish began.

"There were Catholics in Kendallville prior to 1867," he told his listeners. "Priests would visit Kendallville to celebrate the sacraments periodically ... (but) Catholics would normally go to Avilla for Mass. Then the pastor at St. Mary's, Avilla, Father A.B. Oechtering, began to regularly visit Kendallville, celebrating Mass in the home of Peter Ringle." Since the number of Catholics was increasing significantly because of the construction of the Grand Rapids and Indiana railroad, "Father Oechtering bought a Baptist church and converted it to a Catholic church. The church and congregation became a mission of St. Mary's Parish, Avilla." After Father Oechtering's transfer, Father Dominic Duehmig became pastor there.

Both priests had been recruited by the first bishop of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, Bishop Luers, to come to the diocese from their native Germany. "Our diocese at that time encompassed the whole northern half of the state of Indiana. There were a lot of new churches being built, as the number of Catholics was growing because of immigration. Many of the churches were mission churches, like here in Kendallville, served by priests from other parishes. ... You probably know that the first resident pastor of this parish was Father John Noll, later to become Bishop Noll and Archbishop Noll. Later, in 1923, this present beautiful church was built.

"I mention some of this early history today because it is important to know our roots. We give thanks to God for the devoted priests and faith-filled parishioners who built this parish. They did so not long after the end of the Civil War. They were mostly poor immigrants, but they were rich in faith, strong Catholics who sacrificed much to build this parish. They passed on their faith to their children and grandchildren. The Catholic faith has been passed on here the past 150 years. I imagine there are some parishioners today who can trace their ancestry back to those original pioneer Catholics of Kendallville. I am sure those pioneers had a strong devotion to Our Lady and to her Immaculate Conception, the patroness of this parish."

The prophecy heard in the book of Genesis was fulfilled at the Immaculate Conception, the bishop said. "God said to the serpent: 'I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will strike at your head, while you strike at his heel.' God established enmity, hostility between the woman and the devil when He preserved Mary from all power of sin. Her offspring, Jesus, would indeed strike at the head of the serpent. Through His death and resurrection, Christ defeated Satan and set us free from the power of sin and death. His Mother received in advance the benefits of her Son's victory. He granted her the power to resist the devil. He made her 'full of grace,' the name the angel used in addressing Mary at the Annunciation.

"Now, it is true that none of us was immaculately conceived like Mary, but God has also blessed us with His grace," he continued. "He freed us from sin at



Photos by John Martin

Immaculate Conception Church, Kendallville, saw a Mass celebrated by Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades and concelebrated by former pastor Father Jacob Gall and pastor Father James Stoyle Dec. 11 in honor of the 150th anniversary of the founding of the parish.

our baptism. He made us his adopted children. And He calls us to be holy, to live in His grace, to live in friendship with Him. He continues to give us the grace and strength to conquer sin's influence in our lives after Baptism. He forgives our sins and strengthens us with His grace every time we go to confession. He gives us an increase of grace every time we receive holy Communion. For 150 years, parishioners have received God's grace in these sacraments here at Immaculate Conception Parish."

On the occasion of the 150th anniversary of the parish named in honor of Mary's Immaculate Conception, Bishop Rhoades asked Our Lady to intercede for the parish community, that it might continue to grow not only in numbers, but in holiness, inspired by its ancestors in the faith in Kendallville.

"May your commitment be strong, like theirs, to the passing on of the faith to your children and grandchildren. May this be an evangelizing community that reaches out to your neighbors with love, especially to the poor, the needy, the sick and the suffering. And may this parish be a beacon of hope here in Kendallville, a parish that radiates the love of Jesus and Mary in all you say and do. May God bless you."

A celebratory dinner for 200 people hosted by the Rosary Sodality took place in the church hall after Mass. In advance of the evening, reception committee member Ruth Durbin had said that parishioners were eagerly awaiting the celebration, and noted that a 150-year historical account of the parish being compiled was nearing completion and would soon be made available to parishioners. An upcoming church directory will feature that historical information as well. Also available for sale during the evening were painted wooden replicas of the church that commemorated the



Altar servers sing the processional song.

150th anniversary.

According to Father Stoyle, the parish had been celebrating its anniversary all year. A German dinner was hosted in October, a Mexican dinner was prepared and served by Hispanic parishioners in November and an Italian dinner is slated for January.

Cheryl Barker echoed the joy shared by many parishioners that evening when she said, "It has been a one-year anticipation ... Dec. 8 is finally here." Parishioner Vince Helmkamp called the 150-year milestone "amazing."

Many improvements to Immaculate Conception Church have been made over time. Stained-glass windows depicting the Eight Beatitudes were created and installed in 1939. A community hall with parish offices, classrooms, kitchen and a spacious meeting and banquet room was built in 1994. A new pipe organ was purchased in 2011, a St. Francis Peace Garden was installed in 2016 and a memorial bell tower is slated to be built in the near future. According to information provided by Jansen, the new organ and synthesizer has allowed Father Stoyle, who was formerly the parish organist and music director, to record a music library of nearly 1,000 instrumental, choral and congregational pieces to enrich church liturgies for many years to come.

...ILLE FAITHFUL FOR 150 YEARS



An Immaculate Conception of Mary image graces the entry hall of Immaculate Conception Parish, Kendallville.



Parishioner David Sible proclaims the second reading.



Father Gall converses with a parishioner following the parish's 150th anniversary Mass, the date of which was scheduled to coincide with the solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of Mary.



Parishioners pray and reflect prior to the beginning of the Mass.



Father Stoyale, pastor of Immaculate Conception Parish, greets a parishioner following the anniversary Mass.



Father Stoyale, Bishop Rhoades and Father Gall enjoy a dinner held in honor of the parish's 150 years as a Catholic faith community in Kendallville.

Pope names longtime ally to lead Mexico City Archdiocese

MEXICO CITY (CNS) — Pope Francis picked a longtime ally to lead the world's largest archdiocese, where many professing the Catholic faith have fallen away from the Church and senior clergy have failed to influence many changes in social policy. Cardinal Carlos Aguiar Retes of Tlalnepanla was named archbishop of Mexico City Dec. 7. He succeeds Cardinal Norberto Rivera Carrera, who submitted his resignation June 4 upon turning 75, as required by canon law. In 2007, Cardinal Aguiar collaborated with then-Cardinal Jorge Mario Bergoglio of Buenos Aires — who would become Pope Francis — in writing a document on evangelization in the Americas for the Latin American and Caribbean bishops. The document, which became known as the Aparecida document for the city in Brazil in which it was written, calls for Catholics to prioritize reaching people on the peripheries of society. It has become a guide of sorts for the current papacy. In a statement via Twitter, Cardinal Aguiar said he recognized God's will and would accept the new position "with trust in the Holy Spirit to obey, and full of hope for this ecclesiastical responsibility in favor of God's people."

Catholic bishops, agencies criticize Trump decision on global compact

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The chairmen of the U.S. bishops' committees on international policy and on migration urged President Donald Trump Dec. 5 to reconsider his decision to withdraw the United States from the U.N. process to develop a global compact on migration. "Participation in that process allows the U.S. to draw on our experience and influence the compact," said Archbishop Timothy P. Broglio of the U.S. Archdiocese for the Military Services, who is chair of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Committee on International Justice and Peace. Catholic Relief Services and Jesuit Refugee Service were among other groups criticizing Trump's decision, announced Dec. 2 by Secretary of State Rex Tillerson. The move came two days before the opening of an intergovernmental conference in Puerto Vallarta, Mexico, to adopt a Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration. In his statement, Bishop Joe S. Vasquez of Austin, Texas, who is chairman of the USCCB's Committee on Migration, said that Catholic social teaching on migration "recognizes and respects the sovereignty of each nation, indeed each nation's right and responsibility, to ultimately decide how it will regulate migration into its territory."

NEWS BRIEFS

Indiana town embodies spirit of Santa



CNS photo/Katie Rutter

Young parishioners shake hands Dec. 2 with an actor portraying St. Nicholas, the namesake of their church in Santa Claus, Ind. The church hosted the visit from "St. Nick" ahead of the saint's Dec. 6 feast day. Belief in the merry man with a bag full of presents inspires thousands of children to write letters addressed to "Santa Claus" each year; the notes wind up in the Indiana town that bears his name. "They come from the U.S.A. and from all over the world," said Patricia Koch, founder of the Santa Claus Museum.

Fundraising starts to aid victims of Southern California fires

LOS ANGELES (CNS) — The Archdiocese of Los Angeles has started a fund for victims of the wildfires that have raced through the archdiocese and were threatening to spread to locations in the nearby Orange and San Diego dioceses. "Friends, as the wildfires continue, the needs of our neighbors continue to increase," said Archbishop Jose H. Gomez of Los Angeles on the archdiocesan webpage that hosts the fundraising campaign, <https://tinyurl.com/yaa4qlu2>. "In this season of giving, let us open our heart to our brothers and sisters in need," he added. "Let us keep praying for an end to the fires and let us keep praying for the safety of our police, fire and emergency workers — and all those who are in harm's way." In a Dec. 8 statement from Washington, Cardinal Daniel N. DiNardo, president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, asked prayers for all those in danger, "both those

whose homes are in the fire's path and those courageous first responders and firefighters who are putting their lives at risk." The wildfires, which have stubbornly resisted most efforts to be reined in by firefighters, have hit Los Angeles, Ventura and Santa Barbara counties in the archdiocese.

Catholics urged to fight world's indifference to persecuted Christians

NEW YORK (CNS) — Cardinal Timothy M. Dolan of New York said Catholics should learn from their "Jewish elder brothers and sisters" how best to advocate with elected leaders to alleviate the plight of persecuted Christians in the Middle East. "It took us a while to answer the alarm clock" on the issue, but Catholics have responded generously with aid, awareness and prayers, he told participants at a Dec. 5 conference on "Preserving Christian Communities in the Middle East and Curbing Anti-Semitism." Cardinal Dolan and

other speakers said indifference, secularism and a societal reluctance to call evil by its real name contribute to lack of large-scale outrage and political action to protect Christians and help them live safely in their homelands. "Indifference gave us the Holocaust and indifference gave us the genocide situation in the Middle East. Who will stand up for the Christians?" asked Ronald S. Lauder, president of the World Jewish Congress and former U.S. ambassador to Austria.

Court allows travel ban as legal challenges continue

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The U.S. Supreme Court said Dec. 4 that President Donald Trump's travel ban restricting entry into the United States by nationals from some countries can be fully implemented while legal challenges to the ban work their way through the lower courts.

In a brief unsigned order, the high court stayed a preliminary injunction on implementation of the ban, granting the Trump administration's request to allow its latest ban, released in late September, to go into effect. The order also urged the two appeals courts with cases before them to render "with appropriate dispatch" a decision on whether the ban is constitutional. Justices Ruth Bader Ginsburg and Sonia Sotomayor "would deny the application," according to the order. The Supreme Court's order means that the Trump administration can fully carry out the ban — which is now in its third iteration. It currently restricts travel to the United States from eight nations, six of them predominantly Muslim. Most citizens of Iran, Libya, Syria, Yemen, Somalia, Chad and North Korea will be barred from entering, along with some Venezuelan government officials and their immediate family. A friend-of-the-court brief filed on behalf of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops in mid-September said the travel ban was "cruel and inhumane treatment" and that "denying refugee children life-saving entry to the United States based on an executive order clearly motivated by anti-religious bias, is both un-Catholic and un-American."

Pope asks Mary's help in fighting fear, indifference



CNS/Paul Haring

A firefighter places a wreath of flowers on a statue of Mary overlooking the Spanish Steps in Rome on Dec. 8, the feast of the Immaculate Conception. Later that day, the pope thanked Mary for watching over him and over the people of Rome, especially "the sick, the aged, all the poor, the many people who have immigrated here from lands of war and hunger," and he prayed that Mary would help people "develop antibodies against some of the viruses of our times: the indifference that says, 'It's not my problem'; civic rudeness which ignores the common good; the fear of what is different and of the foreigner."

Local effort reunites Iraqi refugee family

BY CHRIS LUSHIS

For many refugees, the process of entering the United States in search of a better life requires significant patience and perseverance. The journey can be even more difficult for families seeking safety and security while remaining united during long periods of separation. Such was the case for Entidhar Abbood, an Iraqi refugee living in Jordan, who after years of waiting to be reunited with her husband, two daughters, and 10 grandchildren, was finally granted permission to come to Indiana last month.

Greeted with joyful enthusiasm by her family members on Nov. 10 at South Bend International Airport, Abbood was deeply moved by the experience and expressed sincere gratitude for the generosity and compassion of the many individuals who made her dream possible.

"Thank you for everything!" Abbood exclaimed. She later shared, "My heart is very full."

Her case had not been a simple one, and it required the assistance of many dedicated people before finally reaching approval. One of these passionate advocates was Dr. Michael Griffin, vice president of Holy Cross College and parishioner of Holy Cross Parish. Griffin explained that although her husband of 40 years, Hazim Yousif Al-Adilee, had been granted refugee status in 2014, and their daughter Zinah had been welcomed here years earlier, Abbood's case received additional scrutiny for two reasons: She had been employed at a government-run school, and during the interview process she had received poor legal advice.

As an employee for many years at a school operated by the Baath party, the dominant politi-



Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades stands with Hazim Yousif Al-Adilee (immediate left), Entidhar Abbood (immediate right), their daughter Liqqu and her five children after the Advent Lessons and Carols held at Notre Dame's Basilica of the Sacred Heart on Dec. 3.

cal force in Iraq under Saddam Hussein's rule, Abbood became associated with the former leader's policies, although she had no control over the affiliation. Then, before meeting with officials who could have provided her with assistance, she was encouraged by an attorney in Jordan — where she had been granted sanctuary on a temporary basis — to remain silent regarding the political association. Without offering sufficient knowledge of her background, her case was not approved and she was unable to join her family in the United States.

Griffin learned of Abbood's status from Laurie Pinter, who regularly works with refugees at St. Joseph Parish, South Bend. Pinter shared with him the issues regarding Abbood's status and asked for assistance.

Griffin had initially encountered the family through friend-

ship with Hazim based upon shared mutual intellectual and faith related interests. Through contacts at the USCCB, Griffin was able to bring Abbood's case to a new team of attorneys dedicated to helping Iraqi refugees. These men and women based in New York traveled to Jordan to meet with Abbood and discuss her case in person. Although additional details about her case were revealed, it was not a quick or simple process. Griffin emphasized, "The biggest danger in these cases is that there are so many that they just get lost and languish. It was clear to me, knowing the family and talking with Abbood, that hers was an example where an initial decision was made wrongly. I knew it would be different if someone looked at the whole case and situation. We tried to continue to shine a light on it to make sure her case didn't get lost."

Eventually, this dedicated effort paid off. Through coordination between the United Nations, the USCCB, Catholic Charities, support from Rep. Jackie Walorski and Sen. Joe Donnelly, and assistance from members of Holy Cross and Sacred Heart parishes, Abbood was finally approved to travel to the United States and join her family again.

Although the family members are Muslim, they have long-standing ties to the Catholic faith and acknowledge with gratitude that their reunion could not have happened without the persistent effort of hardworking men and women within the Church.

As children, Hazim and his brother attended Catholic primary school in northern Iraq, where they were taught by Chaldean sisters. Their father also worked at the school. Hazim, who prays often, recounted that their family seeks to know God, seeing Him

present both in the mosque and the church.

Griffin acknowledged that their resettlement has provided greater local awareness of the beautiful intellectual and religious culture of Iraq, as well as the country's ancient tradition of Muslim-Christian friendship, much of which has now been largely eradicated due to groups like ISIS.

Such friendship has brought forth much fruit and newfound hope for this family. Abbood, who has now been able to receive vital medical care since her arrival, acknowledged that although the journey was long and included lengthy periods of separation and sadness, she is now filled with much joy and is "very, very happy to see this beautiful country" and be surrounded by such loving and supportive friends who have helped her return to her family.



South Bend Tribune. Reprinted with permission
Entidhar Abbood embraces one of her daughter and two of her granddaughters at South Bend International Airport Nov. 10. After years of separation, Abbood was finally granted permission to join her family in the U.S. last month.

Rebuilding park gives wings to Eagle Scout

BY CLAIRE KENNEY

Though not an initial goal of his, for years Huntington resident Jack Young worked his way up through the Boy Scouts of America program to earn the status of Eagle Scout, the organization's highest honor. So, it's not hard to imagine the sense of accomplishment he felt the day he received it.

"When I was still in Cub Scouts I didn't think I was going to move on to Boy Scouts, but I did because I liked the feeling of completing something. I wanted to accomplish more in scouting," Jack explained.

That feeling of accomplishment was apparent when Jack completed the project that would earn him the Eagle Scout honor, a project that sought to revital-

ize the Clear Creek Township Park in Huntington County. As part of the rebuilding process, Jack worked alongside Township Trustee Jay Hammel — who has been the Clear Creek trustee for more than 40 years — to ensure that his plans did not exceed the funding set aside for the project. He drew two design layouts for consideration, which included replacing the seats on the swing set, building a barrier around a portion of the park's fencing and replacing the sod surrounding the playground with woodchips.

Jack said the most rewarding part of the whole project was the opportunity to witness his younger siblings and the other children who will benefit from his work on the park. Because of Jack's efforts, the park playground and area surrounding the baseball field are now safe and clean.

Jack chose this particular proj-



Provided by Jack Young

Jack Young of St. Mary Parish in Huntington stands in front of the local playground he helped to refurbish as his Eagle Scout project.

ect because of the park's connection to his childhood.

"When I was first deciding on an Eagle Scout project, I envisioned helping out the Clear Creek Township Park just because I played baseball there for eight years and it's less than a mile away from my home," Jack said. "We would go often to play there, as younger kids."

The son of John and Barbara Young and a parishioner at St. Mary Church, Jack also recently became a first-degree member of the Knights of Columbus No. 1014. Service to others seems to be close to his heart, and his mother said he also learned many things from his work on the Eagle Scout project.

"This project has taught him a lot about giving back to the community," Barb explained. "The playground has needed some attention for a long time, and I

think he enjoyed being the individual instrumental in making it really happen."

According to Barb, while working on the project Jack also cultivated patience and responsibility.

Hammel, who helped build the original Clear Creek Township Park in 1974, is impressed with Jack's work and believes he will continue to make an impact as an Eagle Scout.

"Jack was very self-motivated and self-directed," Hammel recalled. "I discussed the generalities of the project with him, and he took the responsibility upon himself. Jack is a quality young man with a heart for helping his community. He possesses the qualities that will make a fine Eagle Scout."

Jack officially became an Eagle Scout on Oct. 25. A ceremony at the end of December will highlight his accomplishment.

In MY diocese

St. Anthony de Padua

St. Joseph County

Family, homelike feel found at St. Anthony de Padua

BY MOLLY WYNEN

The stained-glass windows inside St. Anthony de Padua Church, South Bend, are more than just decoration. As is often the case in Catholic churches, the colorful glass fragments that line both side walls of the church depict Truths of the faith.

Those on the eastern wall illustrate the Apostles' Creed. On the western wall are depictions of various images of Mary. One is from the Litany of Loreto; another is Mary, Help of Christians; and Mary, the Mirror of Justice. At the back of the church, above the choir loft, is a large window featuring St. Anthony. Father David Ruppert recalls his awe at seeing the windows when he came to the parish in 2011. "We have the most beautiful stained glass," he said. "It really says a lot about the people who built the church."

The construction happened in 1960 when many parishioners came together to help with the design and the manual labor. The parish had previously existed as a small school with a community room as a worship space. Various expansions and upgrades have been made since, all with the help of parishioners. This past year they were called upon again, to help construct a new playground that is a part of the newly accredited Catechesis of the Good Shepherd program for pre-K and kindergarten classes.

"It's a community that comes together," said longtime parishioner and parish secretary Tina Masterson. She found St. Anthony de Padua when her husband moved to South Bend



FATHER DAVID RUPPERT

for work. They became members because of the family community and the excellent school. "All of my children went to school here, and now my grandchildren do too," she added.

The central location of the parish attracts people from all areas of South Bend, Mishawaka and the University of Notre Dame, creating a diverse community. Father Ruppert invites many priests who are studying at Notre Dame to visit and assist with the celebration of the Mass. There are currently three other priests on rotation for Mass: Father Bruno Shah, OP, Father Philip Neri Reese, OP, and Father Toochukwu Agha. Deacon Brian Miller also has a presence in the congregation, leading baptismal preparation, ministries to the homebound and adoration.

For Masterson, having so many leaders around means there is always someone she is able to relate to. "That's why people feel able to open up here."

There are many different groups with a presence at St. Anthony de Padua: Legion of Mary, the Holy Name Society, St. Joseph County Right to Life and the St. Vincent de Paul Society, to name a few. Members of these organizations bring many volunteer and giving opportunities for parishioners and students that connect people to their own city.

Father Ruppert likes to joke about the St. Anthony de Padua campus needing two ZIP codes. The school, church and gymnasium are located on the east side of Ironwood Road, which is the dividing line for two South Bend ZIP codes. The parish rectory and office buildings are on the west side of Ironwood, just a short walk or drive away.

Although physically separated, the setup helps students and parishioners to feel like

the parish is part of the greater community, not its own private world.

"Our parish community is the heart of our school," boasts the parish website. That is evident from the many faith-based student activities. Adoration, confession and volunteer opportunities are part of the students' routine. The children have even implemented their own adoration club.

Seeing the participation of adult parishioners in daily confession and weekly adoration has been a strong influence for students, Catholic and non-Catholic alike.

Principal Karen Bogol also sets a strong example for the 320 students as someone who is passionate about her faith. She is a part of the Alliance for Catholic Education at Notre Dame, which helps provide excellent Catholic education. Bogol is in her second year as principal at St. Anthony de Padua School, but she has been part of the parish for many years as a teacher and a parishioner.

The school is proud to maintain an "A" rating from the state and is working to become STEM certified. "We are very purposeful when implementing new technologies. There must be a use for it, and someone who is able to teach," said Father Ruppert, who himself spent 13 years as a computer analyst in engineering. Students are very comfortable using technology in real-life situations, and they carry that skill with them to high school and beyond.

Father Ruppert hasn't left his passion for technology. He still enjoys new gadgets and is working on a model train set. It has provided opportunities for him to connect with people over a common hobby, as well as a means to relate to students. "It's important for people to see the private side of the priesthood," he said.

The parish office at St. Anthony de Padua, where many meetings and small gatherings are held, is a repurposed house, bringing about a true feeling of home and openness. "People feel comfortable in a home. It's somewhere they can be open." The community at St. Anthony de Padua Parish certainly feels like a family, parishioners and staff say, and the church its home.



Provided by St. Anthony de Padua Parish

A large stained-glass window above the choir loft at St. Anthony de Padua Church depicts St. Anthony. A Novena to St. Anthony de Padua takes place every Tuesday after 5:30 p.m. Mass.

St. Anthony de Padua

2320 E. Jefferson Blvd.
South Bend, IN 46615
574-282-2308
www.stasb.org

Masses: Sunday — 7, 9, 11 a.m.
Saturday — 4:30 p.m.
Holy Day — see bulletin
Weekday — M,W,F,S — 8:15 a.m.;
T and Th — 5:30 p.m.



In MY diocese

St. Therese, Little Flower

St. Joseph County

Parishioners embody patron's missionary spirit

BY MEGAN GETTINGER

How did a young nun who spent most of her short adult life within the walls of a cloister come to be named the patron saint of missions?



FATHER TERENCE COONAN JR.

Mission comes from the Latin word "mittere," meaning "to send." All Christians, by virtue of their baptism, are sent out to love, serve and be witnesses of Christ, and it was St. Thérèse of Lisieux's passionate love for the Lord that kindled in her a burning zeal for loving and serving others. She discovered that she was being sent out to love in small but impactful ways, first in her home among her family, then in the Carmelite monastery at Lisieux, and finally, in heaven as a powerful intercessor. St. Therese, Little Flower Parish in South Bend was born out of this missionary spirit, and continues to live out St. Thérèse's mission of love and service today.

The roots of the parish trace back to 1937. Two seminarians of the Congregation of Holy Cross were out searching for the seminary's lost horse when they happened upon a small settlement of Catholics living in extreme poverty. Convicted to do something that would meet both their physical and spiritual needs, the seminarians obtained permission to form a mission church that would gather in a small chapel. Father Joseph Payne was originally assigned to serve as its temporary pastor, but continued in the role until 1972. It is written in the parish's history that "Father Payne's leadership brought into being a parish with the charisms of vibrant liturgy, faith development and reaching out to those in need."

In 1950 the mission church officially became St. Therese, Little Flower Parish, lovingly called just "Little Flower." Soon the little chapel could no longer accommodate the growing family of the parish, and in 1958 the current church building was dedicated.

Throughout the years Little Flower has continued to grow. New ministries and faith formation programs have been developed, and additions and renovations have been made to the physical space. Nevertheless, in

the midst of this growth, service to the poor and a commitment to social justice have remained at the heart of the parish's mission. In the early 1980s this dedication to service was formalized in the parish mission statement, part of which reads, "We are called to be the hands and feet of Jesus in our world today, with a mission to share the faith, to serve others, and to promote peace and justice in our world."

There are many examples of this mission being lived out at Little Flower. Members faithfully raise funds specifically for use in the direct assistance program, through which over 25 families are given monetary assistance for paying monthly rent or utilities. The parish food pantry helps feed the poor in the community and even invites local farmers to get involved by donating produce.

Phyllis Singleton, a lifelong parishioner of Little Flower whose parents were founding members, recalls her years of helping run the food pantry. "We put in a lot of hours and fed so many people. We worked hard, but also had a lot of good times while we served. I'm glad the food pantry has expanded from one tiny room to the huge ministry it is now," she said. Working together in these and other service ministries deepens the sense of community and family connection among parishioners.

"We, the people of St. Therese, Little Flower Catholic Church, are a Eucharistic family, united in our relationship with Father, Son and Holy Spirit," says the mission statement. The diversity within the parish provides a vibrant sense of family and adds a welcoming atmosphere.

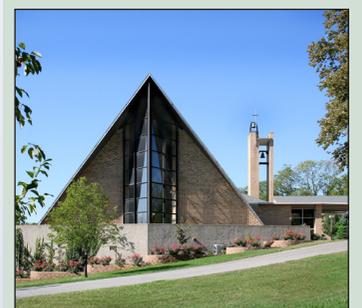
The parish embraces members of all ages; youth and young adult ministries are well-established and the parish center serves as the site of the Forever Learning Institute, a program that provides lifelong learning experiences for over 1,300 seniors each year. A dynamic Filipino community calls Little Flower home, and brings energy and joy to the parish.

Father Terrence Coonan Jr., pastor of Little Flower, said he is grateful for the beautiful diversity of the parish and that "... we know it is the Lord God Himself who unites us all. This is especially apparent at Mass," at which the diversity of those in the pews becomes a testament to the shared love and mission of all the members.



Paula Giver

Winners of the past three St. Therese, Little Flower annual Chili Cook Off fundraisers pose during this year's event. All funds from the cook-off are put toward the parish's "Whatever You Do" financial outreach program.



St. Therese, Little Flower

54191 Ironwood Rd.
South Bend, IN 46635-1699
574-272-7070
www.littleflowerchurch.org

Masses:
Sunday — 8, 9:30, 11:30 a.m., 8 p.m.
Saturday — 8 a.m.; 5:30 p.m.
Holy Day — as announced; Vigil/
Holy Day — as announced
Weekday — 8:30 a.m. M-F
Reconciliation: Tues. - Fri. after
Mass; Saturday — 8:30-9:30 a.m.;
4:30-5 p.m. and by appointment
Adoration: Saturday — 8:30-9:30
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The joy of Advent

During the Third Week of Advent, Christians seek the joy that flows from the infinite love of God, who is about to reveal Himself to us in Jesus Christ.

— *Evangelii Gaudium*, 7



Liam Murphy
Kindergarten
St. Charles Borromeo



Anne Bergler, Grade 1, Huntington Catholic School



Carol Rose Mondok, Age 3, Northeast Indiana Catholic Home Educators



Jessica Bauer, St. Joseph - Hessen Cassel School



Elin Mickley, Grade 1, Huntington Catholic School



Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.

Matthew 5:4

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Pinpricks of Light

I had a dream last night. It was just a brief moment, almost like a page in a storybook. In the dream, a husband and wife were lying in bed under a puffy quilt, comforting, soft and large. The couple was relaxed and sleeping deeply and soundly. The room was midnight blue, except for a gentle shaft of butter yellow light softly shining in, and casting a mild, half-moon image on the wall. In this quiet, in this darkness, there would be teeny, bright pinpricks of light. Tiny pops in the darkness, here and there. There might be a moment or two, then a burst of them, here in the room, on the left side, then the right. Two together there, then for a moment, one, or none. It was understood that whenever a pinprick of light popped, someone, somewhere in the world, was thinking about one of the two people who were lying in that in bed, or praying for them. It was beautiful. I "stood" there pondering this for a while, and then I woke up.

Our minds play games in dreams, and of course they are just images our own mind creates; but that dream stuck with me in the morning and all throughout the next day. I couldn't help but think of that scene as a little metaphor for prayer. We are in darkness, not always uncomfortable darkness, but a blanket of one nonetheless, and when someone prays for us, it's like a little pop of light for our souls, like the pinpricks of

light in my dream. Our prayers can illuminate the darkness in tiny little ways that are beautiful, and almost imperceptible except to those who really pay attention.

We can help each other get through a difficult moment, a minute of fear, a temptation to be offended, and so on simply by offering a quick prayer. Thinking of your husband? Pray an Our Father for him. Your daughter far away? Send her a Memorare. An old friend? Hail Mary on the way. And so on.

Ejaculations are short mini-prayers, also called "aspirations" or "invocations." They can be said throughout the day when you are worried, want to reach out to God in prayer but don't have a lot of time, or just to remind yourself of the purpose of this life: heaven. Pray these as you walk to your car, as you cook dinner, as you fold towels or change the loads of laundry. If you have a spare minute in your office between phone calls, and so on. Praying these short prayers, little treasures in the Church, keeps our minds focused on heavenly things and to remember to consecrate our efforts. It is good to adopt one of these as your own so that particularly in times of trouble or anxiety, the words that can focus your attention back to the holy come easily.

- My Jesus, mercy!
- My Lord and my God. (John 20:28)



EVERYDAY CATHOLIC

THERESA A. THOMAS

- O God, have mercy on me, a sinner. (Luke 18:13)
- Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, have mercy on us.
- Jesus, Mary and Joseph.
- Blessed be God!
- Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. (Roman Missal)
- Holy Mother of God, Mary ever Virgin, intercede for us. (Roman Breviary)
- Holy Mary, pray for us. (Roman Ritual)
- O Mary, conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to thee!
- Thy will be done!

When I was in high school, one of my teachers had spent some time in the monastery where there was constant silence and prayer. A couple of boys in class challenged him in saying, "What good is that? Just praying and not doing anything." I will never forget the teacher's response.

He replied: "What if what was the reality was that there was a spiritual, not just material world? What if the prayers of

THOMAS, page 18

Are we distracted receivers?

As we prepare for Christmas, I am sure many readers have had the experience of thoughtfully selecting a gift for a child and laboriously tracking down the item. The present, upon being opened, brings moments of squealing, then disappears into a pile of shredded colorful wrap, forgotten within the hour.

For the first Christmas after David and I got married, my mother sent from Hong Kong a one-of-a-kind embroidered, lace and crochet tablecloth. I was awed by its delicate touch and totally intimidated by its care.

I could also never see myself using such a fancy cloth for my homey fares. I probably had an attitude that my mom did not recognize the modern professional woman I had become: one no longer confined by the expectations for elegance, perfection and showmanship to be exhibited by a refined Chinese hostess.

After appropriate thanks, the tablecloth was carefully packed into a box that was lodged in basements and garages through decades of moving and relocation.

Not too long ago, I had the chance to forage among stacks of forgotten boxes. With anticipation, I reached into the one labeled "Lace tablecloth from mom." Out came the treasure, but in fragments of loose fabric



OUR GLOBAL FAMILY

CAROLYN WOO

and broken threads. A mouse had made a feast of the cloth!

I tried to see what I could salvage: There was nothing. No segment was big enough, as the mouse had created a hole through all the folded layers. After castigating this creature, I broke into a good cry and sank into a much-deserved guilt fest.

It was not the physical loss that hit me the hardest, but a sense of my thoughtlessness: how little I tried to take seriously my mother's efforts, financial sacrifice and intentions behind this present.

Her gift was an invitation for me to maintain some aspect of my Chinese culture and to grow into a hostess who could honor my guests through aesthetics by "pulling out all the stops." I regret not putting stains on the tablecloth from use and showing off not the tablecloth, but my mother's love for her immigrant daughter.

WOO, page 18

Prepare the way for the Messiah, the Son of the God in whom we rejoice



THE SUNDAY GOSPEL

MSGR. OWEN F. CAMPION

Third Sunday of Advent John 1:6-8, 19-28

This weekend the Church celebrates "Gaudete" Sunday, the name coming from the opening word of the Entrance Antiphon. In Latin, "gaudete" means "to rejoice." Rejoicing is not indicated because Advent, and its stress on prayer and penance, is half completed; but rather because Christmas is nearer.

Another reason for rejoicing is that, hopefully, we all feel closer to God as a result of observing Advent with prayer, reflection and penance. If we have used Advent as intended by the Church, we are nearer to a fuller communion with the Lord, the "light of the world."

Priests may wear rose-colored vestments on this weekend, symbolizing the dark violet of Advent already being lightened by the forthcoming light of the Lord's arrival in our souls.

The third part of Isaiah furnishes the first reading. When this passage was written, God's people were weary and frustrated.

They, or their forebears, had undergone the humiliation, uncertainty and misery of exile in Babylon. When allowed finally to leave Babylon and return to their homeland, they understandably were overjoyed.

They found, however, a sterile and parched land awaiting them. Life was brutally hard. Had God tricked them, providing for their release from Babylon only to subject them to further, worse trials at home? Did God even exist?

Typical of the third part of Isaiah, this reading glows with optimism. Whatever may be the reality of the moment, for those loyal to God, a wondrous future awaits.

St. Paul's First Epistle to the Thessalonians provides the second reading. Belief in

the Lord's second coming, and impatience to see it occur, were widespread in the first generations of Christianity. This reading well catches this mood.

Longing for the second coming among the early Christians is not hard to explain. They had much to endure. Actual, severe persecution had developed. The culture all around the Christians was hostile. Temptations to renounce the Gospel abounded.

Paul reassured the Christians of Thessalonica, urging them to be true to the Gospel. God, and God's goodness, will one day prevail.

St. John's Gospel is the source of the last reading. The reading is a story about John the Baptist, whose own identity puzzled his contemporaries. Some even assumed that John was the Messiah. If not the Messiah, others wondered if he were Elijah, or another prophet who had returned to earth.

Replying to these questions, John was very firm. Another would follow him, he insisted. John was to prepare the way for this future representative of God,

who would be wonderful for all humanity. John is not worthy even to untie the straps of His sandals.

Reflection

In calling us to rejoice this Gaudete weekend, the Church either presumes that we have spent the weeks of Advent pondering within ourselves the meaning of salvation for us personally and individually, or it urges us to use the remaining time in this season to seek God with all our hearts.

Excitedly, the liturgy proclaims that when the Lord's kingdom comes, how wonderful it will be! "Gaudete!" Rejoice! Why? When the Lord's kingdom comes, death and evil indeed will end. Still, we voluntarily must turn to God, admitting God into our hearts. Necessarily, we wholeheartedly must reject our own sin.

Many influences will weaken our determination to reject sin. Holy resolve will require conviction, discipline and focus. Paul was correct in telling the Thessalonian Christians to be

strong in faith, saying that they will not be patient in vain.

Always the good teacher, the Church, through this reading from John's Gospel, instructs us to look for Jesus, as Jesus actually is, never creating our own false versions of the messiah.

Jesus was obedient to God. Our lives and hearts must reflect Jesus in every respect. Understanding all this is the purpose of Advent.

READINGS

Sunday: Is 61:1-2a, 10-11 (Ps) Lk 1:46-50, 53-54 1 Thes 5:16-24 Jn 1:6-8, 19-28

Monday: Jer 23:5-8 Ps 72:1-2, 12-13, 18-19 Mt 1:18-25

Tuesday: Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a Ps 71:3-6, 16-17 Lk 1:5-25

Wednesday: Is 7:10-14 Ps 24:1-6 Lk 1:26-38

Thursday: Sg 2:8-14 Ps 33:2-3, 11-12, 20-21 Lk 1:39-45

Friday: 1 Sm 1:24-28 (Ps) 1 Sm 2:1, 4-7, 8abcd Lk 1:46-56

Saturday: Mal 3:1-4, 23-24 Ps 25:4bc-5ab, 8-10, 14 Lk 1:57-66

The risks of overusing antibiotics

When penicillin was first discovered in 1928 it was a godsend for patients and physicians. Thousands of lives were saved by successful treatment of serious bacterial infections. Now we have hundreds of potent antibiotics to use. The purpose of this article is to give readers some pause as to the overzealous use of antibiotics.

I have overheard people on more than a few occasions say that they went to their doctor with the flu and thankfully got a shot of antibiotics; or that they were getting a cold and planned to get into their doctor right away to get an antibiotic before they got worse.

Influenza and the common cold are caused by viruses, and treating them with antibiotics does nothing to shorten the illness. Antibiotics should be prescribed for bacterial infections only. They do absolutely nothing for a viral illness. Some doctors actually prescribe antibiotics because they feel pressure from the patient or are worried their patient will just go to another provider if they don't satisfy their consumer's demands. On other occasions, it's the parents of ill children who insist on an antibiotic prescription that may not be indicated.

A common example is seeing your doctor for a sore throat. About 80 percent of sore throats in children are caused by viruses. In adults that number is closer to 90 percent. Strep throat only accounts for about 20 percent of sore throats in children and 10 percent in adults. Yet, in one study, 70 percent of people presenting to doctors in this country for a sore throat received antibiotic treatment. That number should be 10-20 percent. If you have a sore throat accompanied by a significant fever, then having your doctor do a swab for

strep is certainly worthwhile. If the test comes back positive, treatment with an antibiotic would then be indicated.

Antibiotics can have serious side effects in some people, and even life-threatening reactions do occur. A common side effect is diarrhea. Sometimes this is fairly benign and more of a nuisance than anything. But there is a very serious type of diarrhea that is directly related to antibiotic use. It is called "C-diff," for "clostridium difficile." I almost lost a daughter to this years ago, and to this day she has to be extra careful to avoid antibiotics unless absolutely necessary because she is at high risk for recurrence. Antibiotics suppress the normal bacterial flora in the intestines, and pathologic bacteria like C-diff can take over. The Mayo Clinic estimates that 500,000 people suffer with this yearly, with a significant mortality rate. In the worst cases, one can develop what is called "pseudomembranous colitis." The colon becomes so inflamed that serious bleeding can occur, or there can be the onset of what is called megacolon. This is when the colon becomes massively dilated and there is actually risk for rupture. Emergency surgery is sometimes needed to prevent this life-threatening complication.

Overuse of antibiotics can also help promote drug-resistant bacteria. This is becoming a very serious problem throughout the world. When I was a resident in training in the late 1970s, amoxicillin killed just about every E. coli infection we ran across. Now there are many E. coli infections that are difficult to treat. Recently an E. coli superbug has been discovered that is resistant to nearly all antibiotics. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Atlanta have been warning doctors and hospitals that a life-threatening epidemic

THE CATHOLIC DOCTOR IS IN

DR. DAVID KAMINSKAS

could be on the horizon from these superbugs.

The bottom line is this: Only take antibiotics if you have a serious bacterial infection that needs treatment. Like all of God's gifts, antibiotics have a specific purpose that serves the well-being of the human family when used properly. If we fail to use antibiotics properly, however, rather than restoring health, we risk causing great harm to ourselves and others. As St. Paul reminded the Christian community in Corinth many centuries ago, when speaking about coordinating God's gifts, "Everything must be done properly and in order" (1 Corinthians 14:40).

Dr. David Kaminskas is a board certified cardiologist and member of The Dr. Jerome Lejeune Catholic Medical Guild of Northeast Indiana, www.fortwaynecma.com.

"The Word become flesh. Ultimate Mystery born with a skull you could crush one-handed. Incarnation. It is not tame. It is not touching. It is not beautiful. It is uninhabitable terror. It is unthinkable darkness riven with unbearable light.

"Agonized laboring led to it, vast upheavals of intergalactic space/time split apart, a wrenching and tearing of the very sinews of reality itself. You can only cover your eyes and shudder before it, before this: 'God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God ... who for us and for our salvation,' as the Nicene Creed puts it, 'came down from heaven.'"

Carolyn Woo is the distinguished president's fellow for global development at Purdue University and served as the CEO and president of Catholic Relief Services from 2012 to 2016.

THOMAS, from page 17

people could hold together physical realities as well as spiritual ones? Because that is true. If suddenly, all the contemplative orders of nuns and monks ceased praying, so much could befall mankind. We don't fully know or realize how much is held together in this material world by prayer." At just 17, the profundity of what he said stuck with me.

Novenas and Mass, the rosary and litanies are all good forms of prayer. It is good to offer sacrifices for intentions for ourselves and others. But it is also good to say just tiny little prayers here and there, when someone pops in our minds. These prayers can be little pinpricks of light in a dark room, illuminating the realities of those we love.

Theresa Thomas is the wife of David and the mother of nine children.

WOO, from page 17

Christmas is not just a time to give gifts, but also a time to receive. The ultimate gift of course is Christ. Many of us nod to this, warm our hearts to the beautiful Advent readings, and visit the nativity with nostalgia and a moment of prayer.

Then we busy ourselves with shopping, cooking, visiting, office parties, Christmas cards to ring in the spirit of Christmas until we are too exhausted to attend to the Christ in Christmas. Another Christmas passes. Like children, we too are distracted receivers: getting lost amid the bounty of things, failing to engage the giver and appreciate what the gift is about, what it does to us, how to use it and share it.

When the Christmas message becomes flat for me, I recall these words from American writer and theologian Frederick Buechner:

SCRIPTURE SEARCH®

Gospel for December 17, 2017

John 1:6-8, 19-28

Following is a word search based on the Gospel for the Third Sunday of Advent, Cycle B: what John the Baptist said about his own vocation. The words can be found in all directions in the puzzle.

- | | | |
|--|---|--|
| A MAN
BELIEVE
DENY IT
ANSWER
STRAIGHT
BAPTIZE
WORTHY | TESTIFY
JEWS
ELIJAH
VOICE
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WATER
UNTIE | LIGHT
LEVITES
I AM NOT
CRYING OUT
ISAIAH
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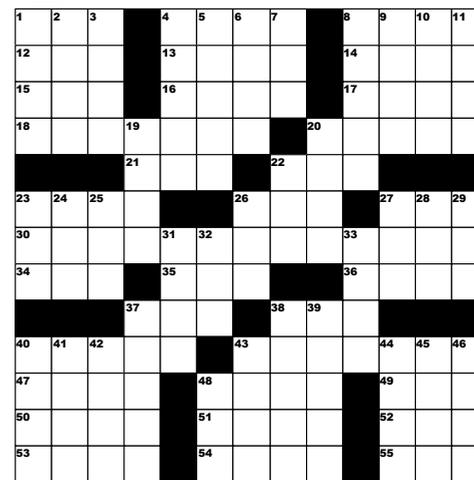
TO TESTIFY

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

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The CrossWord

December 3,10
and 17, 2017



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Sunday readings: Is 63:16b-17, 19b; 64:2-7; Mk 13:33-37 and Is 40:1-5, 9-11; Mk 1:1-8 and Is 61:1-2a, 10-11; Jn 1:6-8, 19-28

ACROSS

- 1 Rotten
- 4 Reveal deepest thoughts ___ soul
- 8 Cast for Jesus tunic
- 12 Past
- 13 Devil is
- 14 A Ba'al
- 15 Carry
- 16 December bishop saint
- 17 Bull gouge
- 18 The Christ
- 20 Type of mouse
- 21 No room here
- 22 Bathtub rug
- 23 Scoop out of

26 ___ of David

- 27 Alien's spaceship
- 30 Not paid
- 34 Eye infection
- 35 Electroencephalograph (abbr.)
- 36 Tear the heavens
- 37 Compass point
- 38 Advent month
- 40 Christ the Lord
- 43 Across the Jordan
- 47 Spoken
- 48 Meat alternative
- 49 Contend
- 50 Shall be made low
- 51 Winter toy

- 52 Peter's mother-in-law was
- 53 Peter and Andrew used
- 54 Skin hole
- 55 Delaware

DOWN

- 1 ___ of Gilead
- 2 Shivering fit
- 3 Licked Lazarus' sores
- 4 African nation
- 5 Relating to birds
- 6 Dives was the ___ man
- 7 Deer relative
- 8 John testified to the
- 9 Incense has sweet one
- 10 High priest did to garment
- 11 Cain did to Abel
- 19 Farm tower
- 20 Speaks
- 22 Males
- 23 Mass transport
- 24 Picnic pest
- 25 Frozen
- 26 Beer holder
- 27 North American Indian
- 28 Marsh
- 29 Mismatched
- 31 Not women's
- 32 Church seat
- 33 Gothic ___, in churches
- 37 Voids
- 38 Hold off
- 39 Musical composition
- 40 The Baptist
- 41 Canal
- 42 ___ of the earth
- 43 Knife
- 44 Eager
- 45 Pharaoh's river
- 46 Shriek
- 48 Teaspoon (abbr.)

Answer Key can be found on page 19

WHAT'S HAPPENING?

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

St. Thomas to offer live Nativity
ELKHART — St. Thomas the Apostle Church and School, 1331 N. Main St., will offer a live Nativity Saturday, Dec. 16, from 6:30-9:30 p.m. St. Thomas students, faculty and parents, as well as live animals, will bring the Nativity scene to life, while the crowd reflects on Scripture. Caroling and hot chocolate will be provided.

Breakfast offered by Knights
FORT WAYNE — St. Gaspar del Bufalo Council No. 11043 will host a Breakfast in the Most Precious Blood Gymnasium, 1515 Barthold St., on Sunday, Dec. 17. Proceeds will benefit diocesan and Franciscan seminarians.

Festival of Lessons and Carols
FORT WAYNE — St. Therese Church, 2304 Lower Huntington Rd., will host a Festival of

Lessons and Carols on Monday, Dec. 18, at 7 p.m. Prelude music begins at 6:45 p.m. There is no charge, but a free will offering will be taken up to benefit the St. Vincent de Paul Society of the parish. After the service, all are invited to a reception in the Parish Hall.

Young Adult Theology on Tap
SOUTH BEND — Theology on Tap Downtown invites young adults to St. Joseph Church for the Advent Reconciliation Service on Tuesday, Dec. 19, at 7 p.m. Afterwards, head to LaSalle Kitchen and Tavern, 115 1/2 W. Colfax Ave., for a night of fellowship.

Christmas Lessons and Carols
GRANGER — Lessons and Carols with the choirs of St. Pius X, 52553 Fir Rd., will take place before each Christmas Eve Mass at 4, 6:30 p.m. and Midnight.

The Children's Choir and Adult Ensemble will sing at 3:30 p.m. The Sunday Evening Choir will sing at 6 p.m. The Sunday Morning Choir will sing at 11:15 p.m. Instrumentalists will join all choirs. The Parish Adult and Youth Handbell choirs will play prelude music 15 minutes before Mass on Christmas Day at 9 and 11 a.m.

Quiet evening in the church
SOUTH BEND — St. Joseph Church, 226 N. Hill St., will be open for quiet prayer before the Blessed Sacrament from 5-9 p.m. on Thursday, Dec. 21. This is an opportunity to slow down and spend time with God in this Advent season. Come when you can and stay as long as you wish.

Catholic Business Network First Friday Breakfast
FORT WAYNE — The next Catholic

REST IN PEACE

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Anna Ciesielski, 92,
St. Anthony of Padua

Auburn
William Long,
87, Immaculate
Conception

Donaldson
Peggy Hiss, 85,
Catherine Kasper
Chapel

Fort Wayne
John C. Suelzer, 71,
St. Patrick

Nancy H. Willcutts, 92,
St. Joseph

Marilyn Jean Vorndran,
St. Jude

Eugene F. Curran,
St. Charles Borromeo

Linden Joseph Wyss,
St. Joseph Hessen
Cassel

Lagro
Mary J. Forrester, 92,
St. Patrick

Mishawaka
Joann D. Bell, 85,
Queen of Peace

Sister M. Esther
Stammen, OSF, 90,
St. Francis Convent
Chapel

New Haven
Yvonna Elaine Conrad,
88, St. Louis Besancon

Eleanor V. Schnelker,
93, St. John the Baptist

Paul R. Shaffer, 86,
St. John the Baptist

Notre Dame
Valeria A. Martin, 89,
Our Lady of Holy Cross
Chapel

South Bend
Lorraine M. Leszcz, 91,
Holy Cross

James M. Leblang, 61,
Christ the King

Gibbi Antonio Aversa,
87, Holy Cross

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Business Network breakfast will be on Friday, Jan. 5, at the St. Mother Theodore Guerin Chapel, 1122 S. Clinton St., (by the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception). Mass is at 7 a.m., followed by networking, breakfast and featured speaker at 8 a.m. in the Cathedral Center. This month's featured speaker is Bob Buescher, who will share his story: "Bob the Builder: The Spiritual Journey of Building a Strong Foundation." All are welcome.

The CrossWord

December 3, 10 and 17, 2017

B	A	D	B	A	R	E	L	O	T	S		
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Please support this vital effort with your gift at Christmas in the Catholic Charities parish envelope provided to you.

