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TODAY'S CATHOLIC

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For New Year, pope urges help for refugees, respect for life



CNS/Paul Haring

Pope Francis gives a homily during vespers on New Year's Eve in St. Peter's Basilica at the Vatican.

BY CINDY WOODEN

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope Francis began the New Year praying the world would demonstrate a marked increase in solidarity and welcome for migrants and refugees.

"Let's not extinguish the hope in their hearts; let's not suffocate their hopes for peace," the pope said Jan. 1 before reciting the Angelus with a crowd gathered in St. Peter's Square.

For the New Year's celebration of World Peace Day and the feast of Mary, Mother of God, Pope Francis had chosen to focus on migrants and refugees and their yearning for peace.

"For this peace, which is the right of all, many of them are willing to risk their lives in a journey that, in most cases, is long and dangerous and to face trials and suffering," the pope told an estimated 40,000 people gathered in the square around

the Christmas tree and Nativity scene.

Pope Francis said it is important that everyone, including individuals, governments, schools, churches and church agencies, make a commitment to "ensuring refugees, migrants — everyone — a future of peace."

Entrusting the needs of migrants and refugees to the maternal concern of Mary, the pope led the crowd in reciting a traditional Marian prayer: "Under thy protection we seek refuge, holy Mother of God; despise not our petitions in our needs, but from all dangers deliver us always, Virgin, Glorious and Blessed."

Pope Francis had begun the day celebrating Mass in St. Peter's Basilica for the Marian feast, which he said was a celebration of "a magnificent truth about God and about ourselves: From the moment that our Lord became incarnate in Mary, and for all time, He took on our humanity."

"To call Mary the mother of God reminds us," he said, that "God is close to humanity, even as a child is close to the mother who bears him in her womb."

God becoming human in the baby Jesus, the pope said, is an affirmation that human life "is precious and sacred to the Lord," so "to serve human life is to serve God."

"All life, from life in the mother's womb to that of the elderly, the suffering and the sick, and to that of the troublesome and even repellent, is to be welcomed, loved and helped," he said.

Pope Francis also drew people's attention to the fact that in the Gospel stories of Jesus' birth, Mary is silent. And the newborn Jesus, obviously, cannot speak.

"We need to remain silent as we gaze upon the crib," he said. "Pondering the crib, we discover anew that we are loved; we savor the real meaning of life. As we look on in silence, we let Jesus speak to our heart."

"May His lowliness lay low our pride; His poverty challenge our pomp; His tender love touch our hardened hearts," the pope prayed.

Celebrating evening prayer Dec. 31 and offering thanks to God for the year that was ending, Pope Francis gave a special acknowledgement to people — especially parents and teachers — who are "artisans of the common good," working to help their families, neighbors and communities each day without fanfare.

But, he said, people also must acknowledge that God gave humanity the year 2017 "whole and sound," yet "we human beings have in many ways wasted and wounded it with works of death, with lies and injustices. Wars are the flagrant sign of this backsliding and absurd pride. But so are all the small and great offenses against life, truth and

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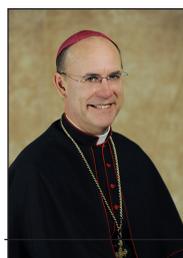
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The shining example of the Holy Family of Nazareth



IN TRUTH AND CHARITY

BISHOP KEVIN C. RHOADES

Following is the homily delivered by
Bishop Rhoades on the Feast of the Holy
Family, Dec. 31, 2017:

On this first Sunday after Christmas, while we are still immersed in the joyful climate of the celebration of the Nativity, the Church calls us to contemplate the Holy Family of Nazareth. Today is the Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph. In the opening prayer of Mass today, we ask God, who gave us the shining example of the Holy Family, to grant that we may imitate Jesus, Mary and Joseph in practicing the virtues of family life and in the bonds of charity. This is a great prayer. Every family can look to the Holy Family for strength and inspiration. We also can and should ask the Holy Family often to help us and our families to grow in faith and to live in love.

What can we learn from the Holy Family? In the Gospel today, we heard St. Luke's account of the Presentation of the Child Jesus in the Temple 40 days after Jesus' birth. Why did Mary and Joseph make that trip to the temple in Jerusalem? They did so in religious obedience to the Law of Moses. The Law required that the first-born son be presented to the Lord. Luke tells us four times in the Gospel today that Mary and Joseph wanted to do what was required by the Law of the Lord. It wasn't just that they had to do it. They wanted to do it. One can feel and perceive that they have joy in fulfilling the precepts of their faith. They had joy in living according to the Law of the Lord! I think this is the first lesson we can learn from the Holy Family. It is a lesson of faith.

In the family life of Mary and Joseph, God is truly at the center — Jesus is at the center. The life of the Holy Family breathed with faith, the faith that gave the family the energy which allowed them to face difficult challenges, like the difficult ordeal of the flight into Egypt. This is an important lesson for Christian families throughout history and for us today. We are called to build families where God is at the center, families that breathe with faith, that have joy in living according to the Law of the Lord. How many families can testify that it is because of their faith that they have been able to endure challenges and difficult ordeals! It is faith that gives families the energy they need to persevere amid the difficulties of life. This faith is evident when a family prays together regularly and when it is not just an obligation, but a joy, to follow the Law of the Lord: for example, to attend and worship together at Mass every Sunday and Holy Day. The Holy Family teaches us the joy of faith and the joy of obeying the precepts of the Lord.

Another great lesson we can learn from the Holy Family, of course, is love. We contemplate today the human warmth of the Holy Family, the love of Mary and Joseph for each other and for their son, as well as Jesus' love for his parents. This loving harmony is a model for every family. But it can be difficult sometimes. Families may experience



Joe Romie

The Presentation of the Child Jesus in the Temple, from the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, Fort Wayne.

discord at times: disagreements, fights, divisions. The light from the Holy Family can encourage such families to practice mercy and forgiveness, so that harmony will be restored. Of course, this requires what I already mentioned. It requires faith, the faith that motivates us to forgive those who trespass against us. There will never be peace in a family, just like there will never be peace in the world, without forgiveness and mercy.

I wish to highlight one other important lesson from the Gospel today. It's about the elderly. Simeon and Anna were both elderly people. They were moved by the Holy Spirit to approach the Holy Family in the temple. They recognized the child Jesus as the Messiah. The priest Simeon blessed Mary and Joseph and praised God for their child, whom Simeon recognized as "a light for revelation to the Gentiles and the glory of the people of Israel." The Holy Spirit inspired Simeon to say these amazing words about Jesus. The 84-year-old Anna, a woman of deep faith who prayed night and day in the temple, was also moved by the Holy Spirit to recognize the identity of Jesus. The Gospel says that "she gave thanks to God and spoke about the child to all who were awaiting the redemption of Jerusalem."

Reflecting on Simeon and Anna, it is good to think about the elderly in our families and in the family of the Church. How much we can learn from the faith of our elderly brothers and sisters! I think of grandparents — how important their presence is in our families! We need their wisdom, their wealth of experience, which helps us to progress and

to address the challenges of life.

Pope Francis, like his predecessors, speaks often about being attentive to the role of the elderly in our families. He notes the role of grandparents in helping to pass on the faith and the important values of our faith. I invite you to think about these words of Pope Francis: "Listening to the elderly tell their stories is good for children and young people; it makes them feel connected to the living history of their families, their neighborhoods and their country. A family that fails to respect and cherish its grandparents, who are its living memory, is already in decline, whereas a family that remembers has a future. A society that has no room for the elderly or discards them because they create problems, has a deadly virus; it is torn from its roots." This feast of the Holy Family in which the Gospel features the holy elders Simeon and Anna reminds us of the gratitude and appreciation we should have for the elderly members of the Church and of our families.

I invite you today to entrust your families to the prayers of the Holy Family of Nazareth, the true model of a Christian home, an icon of faith and love. And let us remember in a special way in our prayers all families that are in difficulty, including broken families and so many refugee families in the world today. Let us turn with trust to Jesus, Mary, and Joseph in whom we contemplate the beauty of faith and love, God's plan for every family! May the Holy Family of Nazareth hear our prayers for our families and all families!

Pope prays for world's suffering children on Christmas

BY CINDY WOODEN

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Those who recognize the Lord in the Baby Jesus in the manger also should recognize His presence in children suffering today because of war, poverty and immigration, Pope Francis said.

"Jesus knows well the pain of not being welcomed and how hard it is not to have a place to lay one's head," the pope said Dec. 25, praying that people would work together to make the world "more human and more worthy for the children of today and of the future."

Standing on the central balcony of St. Peter's Basilica on a clear, crisp Christmas day, Pope Francis spoke about the world's children before formally giving his blessing "urbi et orbi" (to the city and the world).

Christmas is a time to live again "the mystery of the God who comes, who assumes our mortal human flesh, and who becomes lowly and poor in order to save us," the pope said. "And this moves us deeply, for great is the tenderness of our Father."

The shepherds, who were the first after Mary and Joseph to adore the newborn Jesus, are models for people today, teaching them to not be "scandalized" by His poverty and lowly birth, but to acknowledge Him as Lord and learn to recognize His presence in others shivering in the cold, wrapped in rags and without a worthy home, the pope said.



CNS/Paul Haring

Pope Francis greets the crowd after delivering his Christmas message and blessing "urbi et orbi" (to the city and the world) from the central balcony of St. Peter's Basilica at the Vatican on Dec. 25.

"We see Jesus in the many children forced to leave their countries to travel alone in inhuman conditions and who become an easy target for human traffickers," he said. "Through their eyes we see the drama of all those forced to emigrate and

risk their lives to face exhausting journeys that end at times in tragedy."

"We see Jesus in the children of the Middle East who continue to suffer because of growing tensions between Israelis and Palestinians," he said, adding a

Public schedule of Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades



Sunday, January 7: 11:30 a.m. — Closing Mass for 175th Anniversary Year for Sacred Heart Parish at Notre Dame, Basilica of the Sacred Heart, University of Notre Dame
Monday, January 8: 12 p.m. — Blessing of Offices of Those Catholic Men, Fort Wayne
Thursday, January 11: 9 a.m. — Mass and Pastoral Visit, Bishop Dwenger High School, Fort Wayne
Friday, January 12: 10:30 a.m. — Meeting of Hispanic Apostolate, Our Lady of Guadalupe Church, Warsaw

plea for peace in Jerusalem and for a resumption of negotiations "that would allow the peaceful coexistence of two states within mutually agreed and internationally recognized borders."

"We see Jesus in the faces of Syrian children still marked by the war that, in these years, has caused such bloodshed in that country," Pope Francis said, adding prayers for a shared commitment to rebuilding the country with full respect for religious and ethnic differences.

Children continue to suffer in Iraq, torn by war and conflict over the past 15 years, he said. And in Yemen, which has been "largely forgotten" by the world, conflict has led to a serious humanitarian crisis with hunger and disease, including a massive cholera outbreak, threatening more than 20 million people — three-quarters of the nation's population.

Pope Francis also prayed for the children and people of South Sudan, Somalia, Burundi, Congo, Central African Republic and Nigeria.

"We see Jesus in the children worldwide wherever peace and security are threatened by the

danger of tensions and new conflicts," he said, adding a prayer for the end of tensions and the threat of nuclear war with North Korea.

Looking to South America, the pope said, "to the Baby Jesus we entrust Venezuela that it may resume a serene dialogue among the various elements of society for the benefit of all the beloved Venezuelan people."

In Eastern Ukraine, where a "Christmas truce" went into effect Dec. 23, Pope Francis said, "we see Jesus in children who, together with their families, suffer from the violence of the conflict in Ukraine and its grave humanitarian repercussions; we pray that the Lord may soon grant peace to this dear country."

But children suffer greatly not only because of war, conflict and migration. The pope also prayed for "the children of unemployed parents who struggle to offer their children a secure and peaceful future" and for "those whose childhood has been robbed and who, from a very young age, have been forced to work or to be enrolled as soldiers by unscrupulous mercenaries."

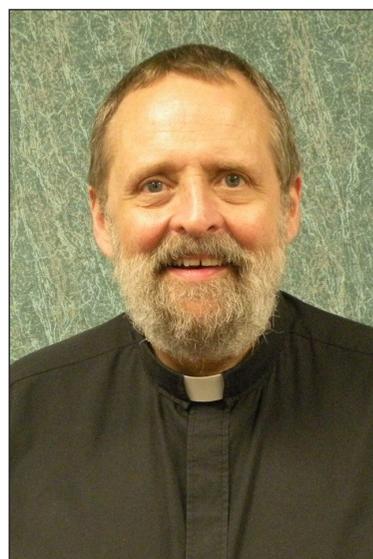
Diocese mourns passing of Father Thomas Lombardi

FORT WAYNE — Father Thomas Lombardi, a retired priest of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, died Dec. 28 after a two-month battle with cancer.

Ordained in 1975, Father Lombardi had served at St. Mary Parish, Huntington, while also assigned as assistant diocesan director of religious education and chaplain and faculty of Huntington Catholic High School. Later he was appointed principal of Huntington Catholic High School.

After a year at St. Joseph Parish, Mishawaka, and a time of study in Europe, he was appointed pastor of St. Louis, Besancon, New Haven, in 1986. He also served as pastor of St. Joseph Church, Garrett, and St. Joseph - Hessen Cassel. He was a past chaplain of the Fort Wayne Society of St. Vincent de Paul.

Father "Thom," as he was known, was noted for his sense of humor and hospitality. He was a talented cook, and often



FATHER THOMAS LOMBARDI

exchanged culinary duties at dinners with his friend, Father Tim Wrozek, whom he had met for the first time when both were assigned to parishes in the South Bend-Mishawaka area. The two stayed in touch.

"He loved to eat! We'd have lunches out, and dinners at least once every couple of weeks" at which Father Lombardi would sometimes cook "really great" Italian dishes, Father Wrozek said. "We just found a lot of support in each other."

A Cocker Spaniel breeder and rescuer for many years, Father Lombardi was often found in the company of a dog. According to Father Wrozek, he also had a strong interest in ancient manuscripts and prayers proper to the saints, and would look all over the world for such manuscripts. His favorite saint was St. Thomas Becket, whose feast day is Dec. 29 — the day following Father Lombardi's passing.

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated for Father Lombardi on Tuesday, Jan. 2, at 10:30 a.m. at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, Fort Wayne. Burial was in Highland Park Cemetery, Fort Wayne.

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Popularity of Gregorian chant has flourished in recent years

BY CHAZ MUTH AND
JOSE MONTOYA

WASHINGTON (CNS) — James Senson grew up in the Virginia Beach, Virginia, area in the 1980s and his exposure to music in his home parish sounded remarkably similar to the tunes played on popular radio stations in the region.

"You know, there was nothing really special about the music, nor did it really say something about the Church to me in it," said Senson, a Filipino-American who's had a passion for music since he was a child.

Senson had drifted away from religion by the time he was a college-age adult, but his love of music flourished.

When he discovered Gregorian chant near the turn of the century, he was inspired to reconnect with the Church.

"This music was so different and mysterious to me," Senson told Catholic News Service during a recent interview. "It was telling me something. It was leading me somewhere."

It eventually led him to Catholic music ministry. The 33-year-old is now music director at St. John the Beloved Catholic Church in McLean, Virginia, a parish community where Gregorian chant is the principal sound.

This church community is unique in that the ancient sounds of Gregorian chant are deeply woven into its fabric, interlaced in every Mass, every choir and the education of the students in the parish school.

Church leaders at St. John the Beloved made the bold decision in 2005 to switch its music from the praise and worship genre to sacred music featuring Gregorian chant, decades after the practice fell out of favor following the Second Vatican Council.

It turns out that parish is part of a growing trend in American



CNS photo/Chaz Muth

Thomas Stehle, director of music ministries at Washington's Cathedral of St. Matthew the Apostle, conducts a Sept. 20 Gregorian chant rehearsal of the cathedral's Schola Cantorum. Gregorian chant is the singing of the liturgy, and its texts are almost entirely scriptural.

Catholic culture in which Gregorian chant is slowly being re-embraced.

That movement began following the success of a 1990s album titled "Chant," recorded by the Benedictine monks of Santo Domingo de Silos, Spain, said Timothy S. McDonnell, director of the Institute of Sacred Music at The Catholic University of America.

"People became interested in it," McDonnell told CNS. "Then you would start to hear Gregorian chant as samples in popular music. You'd start to hear it in soundtracks, things like that. So, Gregorian chant became popular with all kinds of people with all kinds of belief systems."

That was a turning point for some Church officials who recognized the music had intrinsic value, he said. "That this is our proper music for our liturgy. That movement of recovery of this material I think started at that point when it was recognized more broadly as a tremendous

treasure."

Though still not the core music in most American Catholic parishes, Gregorian chant continues to gain popularity among the youth, said Scott Turkington, director of sacred music at Holy Family Catholic Church and the parish school, Holy Family Academy, in St. Louis Park, Minnesota.

Young Catholics — intrigued by the chant famous for its long melodic lines where several notes are sung on one syllable — began asking questions about the music, its history and how it enhances the liturgy, Turkington told CNS.

Catholic Church music directors throughout the country recognized "that we should give young people what they want," he said. "They want a sense of beauty. They want a sense of mystery."

Turkington discovered that Gregorian chant was an effective tool in teaching children the importance of sacred music in the Church.

"If you give Gregorian chant to kids, they love it," Turkington said.

With the help of the leaders of his parish, Turkington opened a summer camp in 2014 at the church dedicated to introducing youngsters to Gregorian chant.

Additionally, Turkington hosts a weeklong session for

high schoolers, teaching them how to read chant notation and perform a concert at the end of the educational program at Holy Family.

He and other members of the Church Music Association of America continue to uphold the value of traditional music by actively teaching it to others.

Every year the association hosts a symposium that invites priests, musicians and choristers to immerse themselves in Gregorian chant.

Turkington was among the workshop leaders in St. Paul, Minnesota, last June.

The 250 conference attendees learned ways to teach Gregorian chant in their parishes.

Turkington believes it is important for those participants to "go home and improve the liturgies of their own parishes."

"Not to go home to be in an ivory tower and meditate upon these things," he said. "To go home and put them into practice and teach their own choir, teach their congregations and teach their pastors."

The growing number of conferences and camps throughout the U.S. dedicated to Gregorian chant leads McDonnell to believe there is a bright future for the music in American Catholic Church communities.

Though documents from Vatican II are supportive of the

use of Gregorian chant, church leaders in the 1970s faced difficulties in incorporating the music — all written in Latin — in a Mass that was now celebrated in the dominant language of the culture, he said.

The natural response was to adopt music in the native language, McDonnell said, much of which came in the form of genres popular in the culture.

Gregorian chant also was seen as something that was old at a time when liturgical reforms from Vatican II were transforming the Mass into something new, he said.

Senson said he understands the reasoning for implementing new musical styles in the Mass that fit that particular generation of Catholics.

However, in his view, what these parishes accomplished was generating music that sounded dated a decade later and wasn't uniquely Catholic.

"You could walk into any Protestant church and hear the same kind of music," Senson said. "When you hear Gregorian chant, you know you are hearing something connected to the ancient church and it's timeless. It's not dated, because it's the music of the Catholic Church."

Gregorian chant today isn't just limited to Latin. During the course of the past few decades, composers have scored English arrangements and compositions in other languages, McDonnell said.

"There's been a flowering of publication of English-language version of Gregorian melodies and changes that have emerged over the years," McDonnell said. "Even if you are not using the original Gregorian chant in Latin, there is some sense of the chant style and the sacred nature of chant is being recaptured."

Catholics now are used to hearing the Mass celebrated in their native tongue, Turkington said.

"Latin is not in the ears of (today's) average man and woman who go to Mass on Sunday," he said. "If you're from France, you want to hear Mass in French. If you are from Colombia, you want to probably hear Mass in Spanish."

The increased popularity of the chant in recent years has extended beyond the Catholic Church, McDonnell said. "There are people who don't really have a connection to the institutional Church, but who find Gregorian chant as attractive."

The appreciation of the chant's beauty is more than just the resonances of the music, but resides in the text, which are prayers, Scripture and liturgy essential to the Mass, Turkington said.

"If the music in the church is really appropriate and mysterious," he said, "the texts of the Gregorian chant ... are really substantial."

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Young Catholic invites readers to explore Church's truth, goodness

BY MITCH FINLEY

Catholic wunderkind Brandon Vogt, who joined the church in 2008, is one of the go-to spokesmen for both Catholic and secular media when they need an articulate young Catholic to interview.

A best-selling author of seven books on Catholic topics, he also is the founder of the website StrangeNotions.com and content director for Los Angeles Auxiliary Bishop Robert E. Barron's Word on Fire Catholic Ministries.

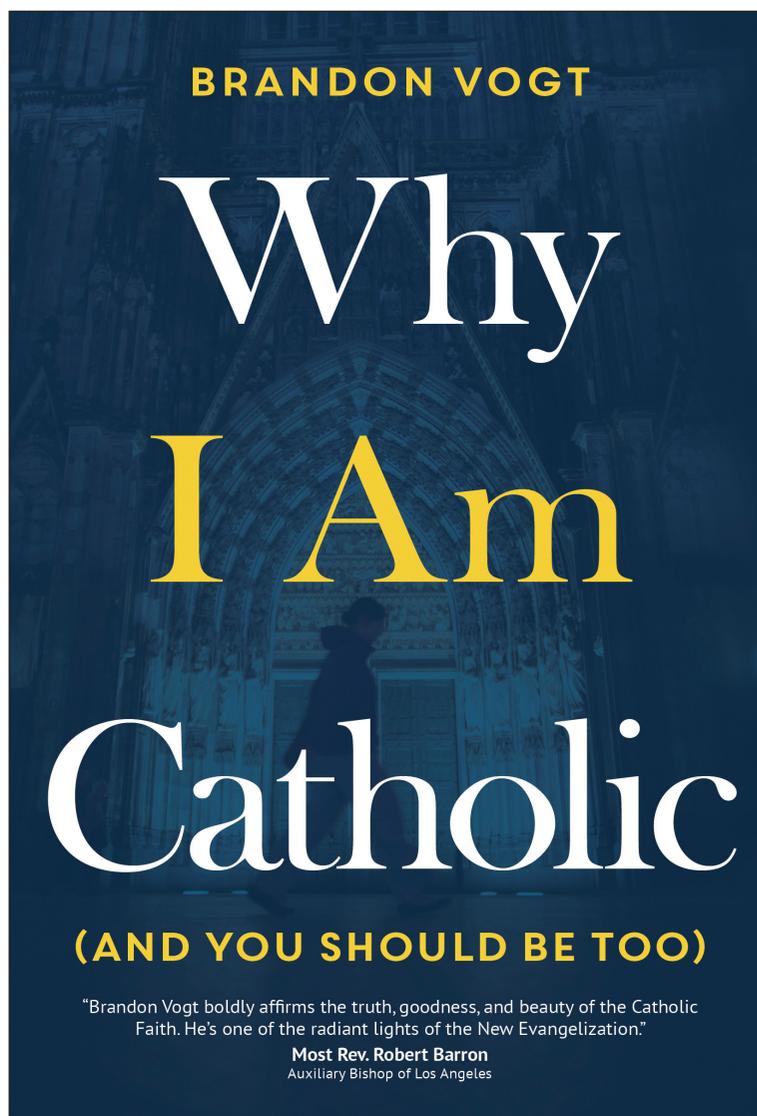
Vogt's eighth book is a highly readable apologetic treatment of Catholicism that should attract many readers. To his credit, the book isn't organized into explanations of the traditional "marks of the church," i.e. "one, holy, catholic and apostolic." Instead, following an introduction titled "The Only Rebellion Left," the three parts of the book unpack declarations that Catholicism is "true," "good" and "beautiful."

Each of the three major parts of "Why I Am Catholic" is divided into various subtopics that explain why Catholicism is "true," "good" and "beautiful." For example, Vogt declares that Catholicism is good because of its heroic charity and because it built Western civilization; also because it doesn't go with the times and offers true forgiveness.

Among the explanations for "Catholicism is true" are "because Jesus is God" and "because Jesus started a Church." While faith cannot deny what Vogt says here, it is in parts of his book such as these that his academic background — mechanical engineering, not theology — peeks through.

Perhaps Vogt should have explained that such beliefs are far from simple; indeed, they involve complex historical, scriptural and theological issues, and an adult faith needs to gain at least some understanding of this complexity.

Theologians have written many books on what it means to say that "Jesus is God" and



"Why I Am Catholic (and You Should Be Too)" by Brandon Vogt. Ave Maria Press (Notre Dame, Indiana, 2017). 245 pp., \$20.

"Jesus started a Church," and no one should simply repeat these declarations without helping the reader to understand the complex issues they raise. What does it mean to say that Jesus is God? What does it mean to say that Jesus started a Church?

"Why I Am Catholic" does get around to the above-mentioned four "marks" of the church — one, holy, catholic and apostolic. These "marks," Vogt says — found in the Nicene Creed — are what one must look for to find "the Church Jesus established." Indeed, this book explains admirably the meaning of each of these "marks" of the Church.

The overall aim of this newest of Vogt's books, however, is,

one may propose, to show how attractive Catholicism is and to extend an invitation to the reader to take a closer look at it.

"If your heart hungers for something more than what you've found elsewhere," Vogt writes, then you're warmly invited to open the door to the Catholic Church and "discover all that waits on the other side."

Mitch Finley is the author of more than 30 books on Catholic themes, including "What Faith is Not" (Sheed & Ward) and an updated edition of "The Rosary Handbook: A Guide for Newcomers, Old-Timers, and Those In Between" (Word Among Us Press)

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solidarity, which cause multiple forms of human, social and environmental degradation."

The pope also led the mid-day Angelus prayer Dec. 31, the feast of the Holy Family.

The Sunday Gospel reading recounted Mary and Joseph taking the baby Jesus to the temple "to certify that the child belongs to God and that they are the guardians of His

life and not the owners," the pope said.

Mary and Joseph experience the joy of seeing their son grow in wisdom, grace and strength, the pope said. "This is mission to which the family is called: to create the best conditions that will allow for the harmonious and full growth of children, so that they can live a life that is good, worthy of God and constructive for the world."

Growth and rebirth are possibilities open to every family, he said. "Whenever families, even those wounded and marked by frailty, failure and difficulty, return to the source of Christian experience, new paths and unimagined possibilities open up."

Parishioner, St. Aloysius





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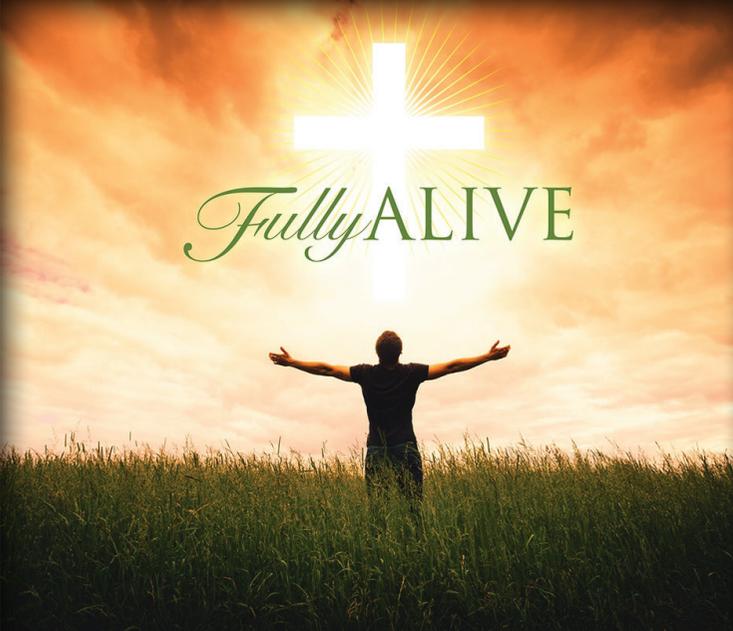
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The Catholic Men's Conference is a work of sponsorship and collaboration with the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend

NEWS BRIEFS

Christians, Muslims join for Christmas Mass in liberated Mosul

MOSUL, Iraq (CNS) — Cries of joy and seasonal hymns once again filled St. Paul Cathedral in Mosul as Christmas Mass was celebrated there for the first time in 3-1/2 years, following the northern Iraqi city's liberation from Islamic State militants. The Iraqi national anthem opened the Mass as women wailed with emotion. Armored police outside protected the worshippers. Led by Chaldean Patriarch Louis Sako of Baghdad, Christians and Muslims attended the Christmas Mass on Dec. 24 in a display of unity. "My message is to our brothers the Muslims," said Patriarch Sako. "I ask them to change their way of thinking; you should know Christianity better. In the past, Christians were the majority in Iraq; today we are minority, but without us, Mosul will never be the same." He urged the faithful to pray for "peace and stability to reign in Mosul, Iraq and the world."

Mideast Catholic patriarchs express hope amid uncertainty at Christmas

BEIRUT (CNS) — Catholic patriarchs of the Middle East -- with hope, despite uncertainty in the region — called for peace, security, prayer and solidarity at Christmastime. From Baghdad, Chaldean Catholic Patriarch Louis Sako expressed hope for a "new phase" for his country, that the recent triumph over the Islamic State and the termination of terrorist control of Mosul and other Iraqi cities is a step toward security and stability. But the liberation of those areas, he said, requires the Iraqi government to work to facilitate "the return of Christians to their homes and properties, preserving their rights as indigenous citizens, recognizing their culture, civilization and heritage as an essential part of Iraq's history and preventing demographic changes in their historical geographic areas." Patriarch Sako reiterated that before the American-led invasion of 2003, there were more than 1.5 million Christians in Iraq. More than half of that Christian population has migrated due to discrimination, threats, abductions and the expulsion from their homes in Ninevah Plain by the Islamic State in 2014, he said. "This is our homeland and we insist (we) remain here," he said.

Zambian street children inspire Minnesota woman to be their mother

MAPLE LAKE, Minn. (CNS) — Carol McBrady has no biological children. Yet on the streets of Lusaka, the capital of Zambia,

Pope receives Ambassador Gingrich



CNS photo/L'Osservatore Romano

Callista L. Gingrich presents her letters of credential to Pope Francis Dec. 22 at the Vatican, formally assuming her duties as U.S. ambassador to the Holy See. She met privately with the pope Dec. 22 after introducing her husband, former House Speaker Newt Gingrich, and members of her staff. Ambassador Gingrich gave the pope a collection of sacred music recorded by the choir she was a longtime member of at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, the embassy said. She also gave him a donation for the charity of his choice.

she is known as Mama Carol. It started 16 years ago when she was invited to visit Africa to help care for children with AIDS. She was supposed to go to Zimbabwe, but violence rocking the country diverted the trip to Zambia. Ultimately, the journey changed the course of her life. After two trips to Zambia, she sold her home in Crystal, Minnesota, and moved to Lusaka in 2004. She later started Action for Children — Zambia, a nonprofit that helps street children by providing crisis intervention, housing — and most importantly — a sense of family. She also teaches the children how to play blackjack. It sounds simple, but to the kids, who have suffered incredible hardships such as abandonment by their parents, playing the game gives them, in many cases, their first meaningful contact with an adult. "I think the first day or the second day, they took me to the streets, and I worked with the street children and fell in love," said McBrady, 58, who maintains ties with her parish, St. Timothy Church in Maple Lake.

Vatican agency says at least 23 church workers killed in 2017

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The majority of Catholic Church workers violently killed in 2017 were victims of attempted robberies, the Vatican's Fides agency said, with Nigeria and Mexico topping the list of countries where the most brutal murders were carried out. The agency said 23 people working for the church worldwide — 13 priests, one religious brother, one religious sister and eight lay persons — died violent deaths in 2017; that number was down from 28 people killed in 2016. Each year, Fides, the news agency of the Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples, publishes a list of pastoral workers who died violently. The 2017 list was released Dec. 28. For the ninth year in a row, the Americas continued to be the continent most affected by violence against Catholic Church workers with 11 people killed there in 2017; with four of those deaths in Mexico,

that nation continues to be where the greatest number of priests in Latin America are killed, it said.

Pope: Festivities become a facade when Christ is left out of Christmas

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Only when Christ is the focus of the Christmas season do all the colorful lights, carols, special meals and traditions help create a festive and joyous atmosphere, Pope Francis said. "If we take Him away, the lights go out and everything become fake, illusory," he said at his weekly general audience Dec. 27. "Without Jesus, there is no Christmas. It's some other celebration, but it isn't Christmas," he said to applause. Dedicating his audience talk to the true meaning of Christmas as a celebration of Christ's birth, the pope greeted pilgrims gathered in the Vatican's Paul VI audience hall, which was decorated with a Christmas tree and a life-size

Nativity scene. The crèche, the liturgies and the seasonal songs all help the faithful relive today the birth of Christ the Savior, he said. However, especially in Europe, he said, Christmas is being stripped of its true nature "in the name of a false respect for those who are not Christian." But, often the true motive behind eliminating any reference to the birth of Christ is a desire to "marginalize faith."

Complex world needs clear essentials of Gospel, pope tells theologians

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — In an increasingly complex world of unprecedented scientific and technological challenges, theologians must communicate what is essential about life and help Christians proclaim God's merciful, saving grace, Pope Francis told a group of Italian theologians. The theologians' task requires being "faithful and anchored" to the teachings of the Second Vatican Council and continuing the council's focus on the Church "letting itself be enriched by the perennial newness of Christ's Gospel," he said. Speaking Dec. 29 at the Vatican to members of the Italian Theological Association, which was celebrating its 50th anniversary, the pope said theologians and other Church workers must always refer back to Vatican II where the Church recognized its responsibility to "proclaim the Gospel in a new way." Such a task is done not by changing the message, but by communicating the perennial message with "faithful creativity" to a world experiencing rapid transformations, he said.

Pope, Turkey's president discuss status of Jerusalem

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope Francis and Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan spoke by telephone Dec. 29 about the status of Jerusalem. Paloma Garcia Ovejero, vice director of the Vatican press office, confirmed the telephone conversation took place and said the call was Erdogan's initiative. The Turkish newspaper *Hurriyet* reported that Erdogan and Pope Francis both expressed satisfaction with the U.N. resolution Dec. 21 calling on the United States to rescind its recognition of Jerusalem as the capital of Israel. The resolution passed 128 to 9, with 35 abstentions. U.S. President Donald Trump announced Dec. 6 that he was formally recognizing Jerusalem as Israel's capital and ordering the State Department to begin preparations for moving the U.S. embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem.

Office of Worship to offer liturgical training

FORT WAYNE — The Office of Worship has organized diocesan liturgical trainings on upcoming Saturdays in early 2018 for lectors and extraordinary ministers of holy Communion. There is no charge to attend a training, but advance registration is required by mail or email.

Lector trainings will be on Feb. 3 at St. Jude Church in Fort Wayne, and on Feb. 24 at St. Jude Church in South Bend. Extraordinary minister trainings will be on Jan. 27 at St. Charles Borromeo Church in Fort Wayne, and on Feb. 3 at St. Pius X Church in Granger. The times and durations of the trainings vary.

More specific information, as well as the full registration form, can be found online at www.diocesefwsb.org/Trainings-And-Retreats.

Theology on Tap Winter Series

SOUTH BEND — The Office of Young Adult Ministry has announced that the winter season of Theology on Tap will begin Jan. 16 with a presentation by Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades. The event will take place at Mishawaka Columbus Club, 114 W First St, Mishawaka.

Theology on Tap is a Catholic speaker series for young adults in their 20s and 30s, single and married, and is an opportunity to share in food, fellowship, and

AROUND THE DIOCESE

Seminarians go back to school in Avilla



Provided by Heather Taube

The school community of St. Mary of the Assumption, Avilla, walked a few steps of the faith journey of seminarians of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend during Advent, when it was visited by, from left, Caleb Kruse, Daniel Koehl, Daniel Niezer, Keeton Lockwood, David Langford and Deacon Jay Horning. Principal Andy Adams stands on the left. The seminarians shared their experiences with all of the classrooms.

faith. On Feb. 13 the Theology on Tap gathering will include a Mass.

For more information contact Sean Allen, director of Young Adult Ministry, at 858-354-9006 or sallen@diocesefwsb.org; visit www.diocesefwsb.org/tot; or like South Bend Area Catholic Young Adults on Facebook.

Lindenwood series focuses on 'Living as Missionaries of the Gospel'

DONALDSON — Lindenwood Retreat and Conference Center hosts "United in Christ: Living as Missionaries of the Gospel," a five-part discipleship series that begins Monday, Feb. 5 and continues Feb. 12, Feb. 26, March 5 and March 12. Cost for the series is \$100, which includes lunch each day, refreshments and materials. This series is led by Christopher Thelen, director of Lindenwood from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. EST.

The Christian vocation is a call from God to engage in mission, by bringing others to a committed relationship with Jesus Christ.

Registration deadline for this series is Jan 29. For more information, visit Lindenwood's website at www.lindenwood.org; email lindenwood@poorhandmaids.org; or call (574) 935-1780. Lindenwood Retreat and Conference Center, a part of The Center at Donaldson, is a ministry of The Poor Handmaids of Jesus Christ.

Guided by a star



Provided by Pam White

Justin Heintzelman of St. Anthony de Padua School, South Bend, created a colored pencil drawing of the Magi seeking the Child Jesus for a classroom project in December. The feast of the Epiphany, celebrated on Jan. 7 this year, remembers the arrival in Jerusalem of three kings from the East to worship the Child they recognized as both King and Savior.

St. Vincent de Paul Society Top Hat Awards



Provided by Darrel Dodane

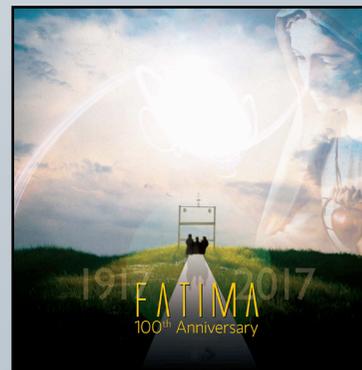
FORT WAYNE — The St. Vincent de Paul Society of Fort Wayne celebrated its annual Mass and breakfast Dec. 9 at St. Mary, Mother of God Church, Fort Wayne. Several members were honored with the once-in-a-lifetime Top Hat Award, given to individuals who are outstanding examples of the Vincentian way of life. Pictured with celebrant Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades are, from left, awardees Paul and Jackie Moreau, St. Vincent Conference; Penny Koehl, St. Jude Conference; Jim Redwanski, St. Vincent Conference; Bill Nussa, Our Lady of Good Hope Conference; and Richard Wade, Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception Conference. Not pictured is Theresa Meyer, St. Mary of the Assumption Conference, Avilla.

2017 YEAR-IN-REVIEW

Compiled by Nick Stump

While there was entirely too much suffering in 2017, the year did have some positive aspects to it.

People rushed to help those in need, stood up for those who feared standing up for themselves; and expressed solidarity with one another. These responses help rebuild what was destroyed and gave hope to the hopeless.



Gorsuch fills SCOTUS seat

Judge Neil Gorsuch is nominated to replace the vacant Supreme Court seat of Justice Antonin Scalia.



Trump inauguration

Donald Trump is sworn in as the 45th president of the United States.

Beatification of Father Rother

A beatification date of Sept. 23 is set for Oklahoma priest Father Stanley Rother, the first martyr born in the United States.

Fatima 100th anniversary

2017 marked the hundredth year since the Fatima apparitions, which occurred from May to October, 1917, in which the Virgin Mary appeared to three children, Lucia, Jacinta and Francisco in Portugal.



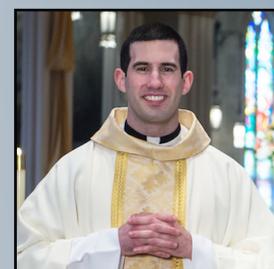
St. Pius X Church construction complete



After two years of construction, St. Pius X Parish in Granger celebrates a dedication Mass for the newly built church.

Two new Holy Cross priests

Michael Palmer, above, and Ryan Pietrocarlo are ordained priests at the University of Notre Dame.



Bishop finds 'hope'



While in the Holy Land on a trip with Catholic Relief Services, Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades finds "hope" literally written on the wall in Hebron — a sign of the people's resolve to move forward despite conflict.

Five ordained to diaconate



Patrick Hake, David Huneck, Nathan Maskal, Thomas Zehr and Jay Horning are ordained deacons for the diocese.

Catholic Charities grant

Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend receives a grant of \$532,507 from Senior Service America Inc.



Hurricane Harvey

As Hurricane Harvey ravages in Texas, Catholic groups such as Catholic Charities, mobilize to help.

New archbishop of Indianapolis



Bishop Charles C. Thompson of Evansville named by Pope Francis to shepherd the Archdiocese of Indianapolis.

Bishop Rhoades elected chairman, USCCB Committee on Doctrine

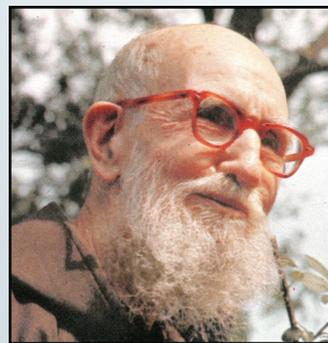
Bishop Rhoades is elected new chairman of the USCCB Committee on Doctrine, and is also re-elected to the CRS board.

Solar eclipse



The United States gets a front row seat for watching the solar eclipse, and many schools take advantage of the rare opportunity.

Solanus Casey



Father Solanus Casey, who spent a number of years at St. Felix in Huntington, is beatified Nov. 18.

New bishop of Evansville



Bishop Joseph M. Siegel became the sixth bishop of the Diocese of Evansville.

Trinity Dome Mosaic



The Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception becomes a 'crowning jewel' when the Trinity Dome Mosaic is dedicated.



First baseball state title

Saint Joseph High School claims its first state title in baseball.



Notre Dame anniversary

The University of Notre Dame celebrates its 175th anniversary with a special pilgrimage of the Notre Dame Trail and a Mass with Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades.



Sister Breckler's final vows

Sister Isaac Marie Breckler, OP, completes her final vows with the Dominican Sisters of Mary, Mother of the Eucharist.



Albion parish gets a surprise

A last-minute anonymous donation secures for the Blessed Sacrament Church parishioners what they desperately needed: a larger place of worship.

Two ordained to priesthood

Priestly ordination of Dennis Di Benedetto and Eric Burgener on June 3, at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Fort Wayne. by Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades



Today's Catholic free subscriptions end

Today's Catholic moves to a subscription model and offers a brand new website, email edition, news through social media and an app in addition to the original print subscription.



Seminarians notch first Cupertino Classic win



Photos by Joseph Raymond

Representatives of the seminarians and priests of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend reach for the opening tipoff of the fourth annual Cupertino Classic basketball game Dec. 27 at Saint Joseph High School, South Bend. The seminarians won the fun and furious fundraising event for the first time.



Father Terrence Coonan Jr., left, drives the basket, while protecting the ball from seminarian Benjamin Landrigan.

Those called to diaconate encouraged to 'Come and See'

BY JILL A. BOUGHTON

The Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend is looking for a few faith-filled men — up to 25 of them — willing to consider beginning formation for the permanent diaconate. Pastors throughout the diocese have been encouraged to speak with and facilitate the discernment of men of deep and proven faith, integrity and character who profess an interest in serving the Church as a deacon and who meet other requisite criteria.

Deacons are ordained members of the clergy who promise to obey their bishop. Besides human and spiritual qualifications, they must undergo a year of aspirancy, three years of rigorous study and pastoral ministry, and undergo scrutiny and discernment by the Church. Like priests, they can preach, teach, lead prayer, baptize and witness weddings, although they cannot celebrate Mass or forgive sins. They are often involved in counseling as well as visiting the sick. Unlike most priests, they may be married men; in that case, the full consent of their wives is essential.

The minimum age for ordination to the diaconate is 35, and interested candidates should be 65 or younger when a formation program begins in January 2019. Men interested in exploring this vocation are invited to one of several "Come and See" sessions at parishes across the diocese, during which current deacons will share their stories and answer questions.

Bishop Leo Pursley ordained

Diaconate Information Session Schedule		
St. Matthew	Jan. 10, 7 p.m.	Bill Gallagher, Cafeteria
St. Pius X, Granger	Jan. 13, 10 a.m.	Lou Giovannini, Parish Life Center
St. John Paul II Center, Mishwaka	Jan. 17, 7 p.m.	Fred Everett, Conference Room
Blessed Sacrament, Albion	Jan. 23, 7 p.m.	Stan LeMieux, Main Hall
St. Augustine, South Bend	Jan. 25, 7 p.m.	Mel Tardy
Sacred Heart, Warsaw	Jan. 27, 10 a.m.	Stan LeMieux, Living Well Room
Queen of Peace, Mishwaka	Jan. 28, 2 p.m.	Bob Byrne, Commons
St. Jude, Fort Wayne	Jan. 29, 7 p.m.	Jim Tighe, Parish Hall, basement
St. Elizabeth Anne Seton, Fort Wayne	Jan. 30, 7 p.m.	Jim Kitchens, St. Mother Teresa Room
St. Vincent de Paul, FW	Jan. 31, 7 p.m.	Jim Fitzpatrick, Spiritual Center Room A
St. John, Goshen	Feb. 17, 10 a.m.	Dave Elchert, Church basement

For information contact Deacon Stan LeMieux at 260-215-1339 or slemieux@diocesefwsb.org

the first permanent deacons in the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend in 1973, but none were ordained after 1975 until Bishop John M. D'Arcy began the process for the 11 men ordained by Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades in 2011. There is currently a class

of Spanish-speaking deacon candidates scheduled for ordination in June 2018.

Deacon Stan LeMieux, director of the formation program, said he'd been thinking about the diaconate for about five years before his pastor nominated him. He

is currently serving in his home parish, St. Patrick, Ligonier.

"What I've enjoyed most, besides teaching and ministering to the sick, is growing deeper in prayer with fellow parishioners," he said. Although people sometimes find his role confus-

ing, he feels deacons provide an important bridge between priests and laymen, who are heavily involved in the demands of work and family life.

Deacon Jim Tighe of St. Jude Parish, Fort Wayne, was surprised when his pastor nominated him, but it made sense. Besides being a seminarian during college, he was involved in liturgical ministry and teaching in the parish. After he and his wife Pat lost two daughters in a 1999 car accident, he began to counsel other parents whose faith was challenged by the death of their children, even making a presentation at the 2000 Eucharistic Congress. When he entered the deacon formation program, Deacon Tighe said he wasn't sure he'd persevere; but about halfway through, he realized this wasn't his idea but rather God calling him.

Deacon Bob Byrne had a similar experience. When he realized the Church was asking him to explore this vocation, he agreed to give it his best shot. He figured if it wasn't supposed to happen, he'd wash out during the process. Instead, he woke up on the day of his ordination praying Psalm 57:8, "My heart is ready, God. My heart is ready."

Deacon Tighe said his faith has continued to grow as a deacon. "That's the grace of ordination. The Lord will give me what I need to do what he's calling me to do." He rarely says no to anything he's asked to do, and he loves it all: RCIA, marriage preparation, nursing home visits or working with those who are grieving. "I try not to make plans. My daily prayer is, 'Here

Lara Fairchild, Bishop Dwenger High School —

Catholic school teachers shine the 'Light of Learning'

BY EMILY DIEHM

The Diocese of 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 Lara Fairchild, a teacher at Bishop Dwenger High School, Fort Wayne.

Lara Fairchild has served the diocese for 21 years, all of which have been at Bishop Dwenger High School. She currently is teaching both honors chemistry and advanced placement chemistry.

Knowing how hard all the teachers around her work, Fairchild said she feels working at a Catholic school is incredibly humbling.

"Lara teaches with a strong belief to cultivate the drive for the pursuit of excellence in her students," said principal Jason Schiffli. "She is arguably one of the most devout teachers at Bishop Dwenger."

Fairchild enjoys the challenging subjects she teaches. She has taught the same subject since she was hired, although she claims, "It is not at all what I would have pictured myself doing when I was younger, but isn't that how life is?"

According to Schiffli, Fairchild embodies and models the ethos of the Catholic Church. "Her colleagues and students know this and we are grateful for her inspiration."

Fairchild sees teaching at a Catholic school as her vocation. She feels God is calling her to teach at Bishop Dwenger, she said. This choice has not always proven easy; however, Fairchild believes it is God's will.

"There have been difficulties through the years, but I always heard God saying, 'This is where I want you,'" said Fairchild. "My faith is very important to me. I

want the students to feel loved and respected in my classroom. I want them to feel that it is a safe haven for them."

Those around her claim that she never rests. Fairchild has a highly active church and school life, dedicating her Saturdays to work with the Marching Saints pit crew, advocating and sharing her passion for the performing arts. She started working with the band in 2013 alongside her freshman son.

"I enjoy being part of such a great organization, and it allows me to see the students in a different light. Working with the Marching Saints allows me to see students' gifts and talents that aren't always evident in the classroom," said Fairchild.

Fairchild continuously changes her curriculum to improve and maintain rigor. Students describe her as a selfless teacher who is always giving her time. She can be found working with students before and after school to help them with the demanding curriculum.

Realizing that it can be challenging to bring the Catholic



Provided by George Ijames

Bishop Dwenger High School teacher Lara Fairchild works with her AP chemistry students, teaching them about molecular shapes.

faith into a chemistry classroom, Fairchild prays every morning, asking, "Jesus, let the students see You, not me."

Schiffli believes that Fairchild has built a strong moral foundation that exhibits perseverance, prudence, fortitude and compassion. All are graces he feels are

necessary when teaching the brightest students at Bishop Dwenger.

"Lara Fairchild is an awesome role model in and out of the classroom. She is a woman of great character, intelligence, talent, faith and humility."

I am, Lord,' for whatever You send me today."

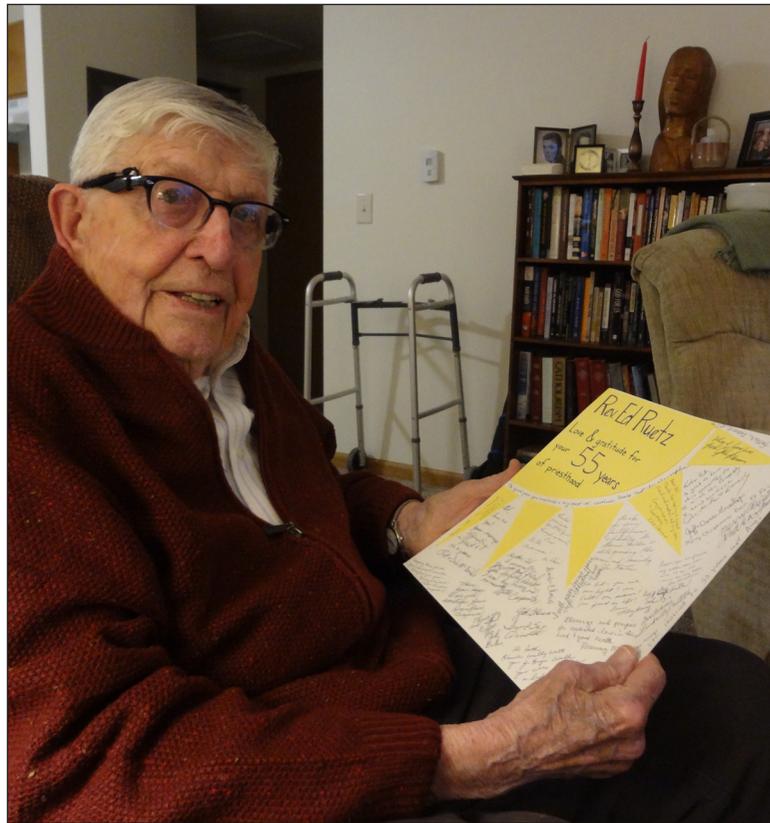
Nine of the men ordained in 2011 are serving in their home parishes, but such placement is not guaranteed. Deacon Bob Byrne, for example, was active at St. Anthony de Padua, South Bend, for 24 years but has been a deacon at St. Joseph and Queen of Peace, both in Mishawaka. When he first thought about becoming a deacon in his home Diocese of Rockford, Illinois, he was too young; by the time both his pastor and a former pastor nominated him, he wondered if he might be too old. However, he learned that Bishop D'Arcy was looking for men close to retirement age with grown children, which would leave them more free time for ministry.

After 40 years as a computer programmer, he retired in 2012 but wonders, "Where did my retirement go? I work just as late, and I'm getting up earlier now."

However, Deacon Byrne loves everything he does — especially adult catechesis, the joy of baptizing babies and getting into school classrooms so young people can understand his vocation. Visiting those in nursing homes has been "a phenomenal blessing. You can see the faith shining in their eyes when they receive Communion." He has also been impressed with the holiness of the priests with whom he has been privileged to work.

Those who have further questions before one of the sessions may contact Deacon LeMieux at slemieux@diocesefwsb.org.

Senior priest receives 55th anniversary greetings



Provided by Don Clemmer

Father Edward J. Ruetz holds a card from friends and parishioners of St. Mary, Mother of God Church, Fort Wayne, at his apartment in Mishawaka on the eve of the 55th anniversary of his ordination to the priesthood, which was Dec. 23. Father Ruetz, who at age 92 is the senior priest of the diocese, served the parish as associate pastor from 1966-74, playing a foundational role in the parish's advocacy for peace and racial justice, as well as its ongoing ministries to the poor.

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'It's no use reasoning with you!'

Have you had arguments in which the other person would not concede your point, no matter how many compelling facts and reasons you brought to bear?

That is most common in partisan politics, where mutual distrust and character assassination seem to have replaced rational debate. But it happens on moral issues as well.

Rod Dreher, author of the influential book "The Benedict Option," suggests on the website The American Conservative that Christians might as well get used to this.

He says reasoned arguments about right and wrong, including what Catholics call natural law arguments, are "impotent" today. Not that they are invalid, but in practice "it's like trying to explain color to people who have lost most of their sight, or music to someone who has lost the faculty of hearing."

In this postmodern age, worshipping individual "choice," he says, most people take moral arguments to be "statements of how the person making them feels about a thing." With philosopher Alasdair MacIntyre, he calls this reigning approach "emotivism."

After decades of promoting Catholic convictions on human life to members of Congress and others, using well-grounded factual claims and nonreligious arguments, I partly agree.

For example, the availability of ultrasound photos and public images showing the gruesomeness of procedures like partial-birth abortion have probably changed more views

on abortion than biological facts about unborn human life. These allow people to see the child in the womb as someone like themselves and their empathy is engaged.

At a conference on embryo research I once presented a series of quotes — from embryology textbooks and expert panels advising a "pro-choice" administration — agreeing that the early human embryo is a human life. A distinguished professor replied that this secular documentation was a nice facade for where I was "really coming from" as a proponent of religious faith.

So even among academics proud of their commitment to reason, emotion (and the assumption that opponents offer only emotion) can dominate moral discussion. People don't discover that unborn children are not human lives, then accept abortion; they feel they need abortion, then deny or evade facts about the unborn.

However, I would add some qualifiers.

First, this has been going on for a long time. G.K. Chesterton said a century ago that genuine argument had become rare. Most debates were about personalities and feelings. And "if you attempt an actual argument with a modern paper of opposite politics," he wrote in 1910, "you will find that no medium is admitted between violence and evasion."

Second, some psychologists claim this has always been true of the human condition. People make their moral commitments based on emotion and intuition, and cobble together seemingly rational arguments to back these



A MORE HUMAN SOCIETY

RICHARD DOERFLINGER

up after the fact.

Presented with factual claims that back up their preconceived views, they look for reasons to believe them; they make the opposite effort when faced with claims contradicting those views. (Of course all the testing for this process had to be done on thoroughly modern people.)

Third, I doubt that things are quite this bad. Yes, people resist inconvenient facts. Rational arguments alone are often not enough to persuade.

We must first listen to people, to understand the experiences and emotional connections that lead them to their views. Often it is by offering equally compelling narratives, images and appeals to empathy that we can level the playing field, allowing facts and reasons to be heard on their merits.

As Blaise Pascal said, the heart has its reasons that reason cannot know. We need to reach both hearts and minds to counter a culture of death.

Richard Doerflinger worked in the Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops. He writes from Washington state.

On cracked knuckles and self-care: a resolution for 2018

The themes emerge predictably. When it comes to New Year's resolutions, we gravitate toward the biggies: Get healthy, get organized, get a life. We vow to travel more, read more, save more and volunteer more. We conjure visions of the expansive, to live life to the fullest.

Scan Twitter and you'll find a multitude of plans.

"In 2018, I will skydive. No exceptions."

"Put myself out there. Don't be afraid of making a mistake."

"No more plastic bags!"

"I'd like my life to be as on point as my eyebrows in 2018."

"I resolve to use my cookbooks more often!"

"2018 is the year we say goodbye to my auto loan."

"I'm just going to leave the past in the past."

My inspiration sprang from three cracked knuckles on my right hand — the casualty of a biting winter and dry skin. At first I ignored them. But I nicked them enough that I finally took the time to bandage them. The simple relief that provided gave me pause.

This year I'm resolving to practice the art of self-care — and to do so within a faith-based framework, as a spiritual exercise. I want to take better care of myself so I can grow more fully into the person God designed me to be.



TWENTY SOMETHING

CHRISTINA CAPECCHI

St. Francis de Sales, the great 16th-century bishop and doctor of the Church, is guiding my way. He was a prolific writer whose achievement was paved by patience and perspective.

"Be gentle with yourself," he wrote. "It is unjust to demand something of yourself that is not in you."

It might sound like the mantra for an anti-resolution, a permission slip to try less, but it contains the seeds for a more loving, creative way, an abundance made possible when you put on your own oxygen mask first.

I'm also entering into conversation with Catholics I admire to deepen my thinking and help my goal stick. I like to hear the details of what self-care looks like in action.

My pastor connects with friends or picks up a good novel. My sister-in-law pours a tall glass of Fairlife chocolate milk.

For my mom, a full-time

CAPECCHI, page 13

All nations are invited to know the Messiah



THE SUNDAY GOSPEL

MSGR. OWEN F. CAMPION

Feast of the Epiphany of the Lord Matthew 2:1-12

This weekend the Church invites us to celebrate the feast of the Epiphany of the Lord, one of the most revered feasts in the Christian calendar.

Clear and distinct in the first reading from the third section of the Book of Isaiah is a brilliantly triumphant note. Why? The long, dreary exile of the faithful Hebrews in Babylon has ended.

It was not all rejoicing, however. For those who returned to the Holy Land, life was not easy. The land was decimated.

Despite this, the prophet insists, a new day will come. It

is not necessarily a prediction of material success, although this would be a part of it. Rather, the new day would come when the chosen people realized their vocation. Then, when they returned to God, the world would see the majesty and power of the great God of Israel.

For its second reading, this liturgy presents a selection from the Epistle to the Ephesians. In the first generations after Jesus, as converts increased the numbers of the Christian community, great interest began to surround the question of who was the object of the salvation secured by the Lord.

Prompting this interest was the fact that so many new converts were from pagan backgrounds. It intensified when, in short order, once pagan Christians outnumbered the Jewish Christians.

Part of the message of Jesus was that throughout the ages God had spoken through, and to, the chosen people, the descendants of Abraham, the Hebrews. Now, God spoke to all through Christ. Gentiles could

expect salvation.

This promise undergirds this reading. Salvation procured by Jesus is open to any human being.

St. Matthew's Gospel furnishes the last reading, the story of the Magi who came from the East to find, and then to adore, the newborn "King of the Jews." The story is unique to Matthew. No other Gospel reports such a visit.

The story situates Jesus, the newborn Son of Mary, in the great train of God's saving works. Jesus was born in Bethlehem, the birthplace of David, who as king established his own covenant with God. David ruled the chosen people, but he was much more than a political leader. His task was to bring the people to God, God to the people.

The Magi were searching for the "King of the Jews." The title often appears in the stories of Jesus offered in the Gospels. Christ's kingship was the subject of Pilate's interrogation when he tried Jesus. It was inscribed on the placard that was placed atop

the cross as Jesus was dying.

The Lord is King. His majesty eclipses all else. His law is perfect.

Finally, who were the Magi? No one knows exactly. Where was their home? We know only that they came from the mysterious East. How many of them? Tradition says three. The Gospel is silent.

In this, the Gospel is emphatic. They were searching for truth, for God, and they found both in Jesus.

Reflection

At the time of Jesus, salvation with its promise of God's mercy and eternal life was seen as being primarily, if not exclusively, available to the chosen people. Indeed, Jesus was a Jew, born of a Jewish mother. Could people of other nationalities expect to be saved?

The message of this feast is that all people may hope for salvation through Jesus. None is preferred. None is excluded. All are beloved.

Nationality is no longer so

much the issue, but sin, fear, guilt, or indifference separate people from God or from a sense of being with God.

On this feast, the Church calls us to come to the Lord, born of Mary, the King of the Jews, the Lamb slain on Calvary. He belongs to us all. He loves us all.

READINGS

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

Monday: Is 42:1-4, 6-7 Ps 29: 1a, 2, 3a-4, 3b, 9b-10 Mk 1:7-11

Tuesday: 1 Sm 1:9-20 (Ps) 1 Sm 2:1, 4-8 Mk 1:21-28

Wednesday: 1 Sm 3:1-10, 19-20 Ps 40:2-5, 7-10 Mk 1:29-39

Thursday: 1 Sm 4:1-11 Ps 44:10-11, 14-15, 25-26 Mk 1:40-45

Friday: 1 Sm 8:4-7, 10-22a Ps 89:16-19 Mk 2:1-12

Saturday: 1 Sm 9:1-4, 17-19; 10:1a Ps 19:8-10, 15 Mk 2:13-17

Viva Cristo Rey!

In the 1920s, when the United States had a quasi-Stalinist regime on its southern border, "Viva Cristo Rey!" was the defiant battle cry of the Cristeros who fought the radically secular Mexican government's persecution of the Church. "Viva Cristo Rey!" were likely the last words spoken by Blessed Miguel Pro, SJ, whose martyrdom in 1927 may have been the first in history in which the martyr was photographed at the moment of death. Today, in the United States, "Cristo Rey" has a different, although not wholly unrelated, meaning — for it's the name of an important experiment in Catholic education for poor children.

The Cristo Rey Network of Catholic high schools, which began in Chicago in 1996, is something different in U.S. Catholic education today. Many Catholic schools are closing because of decreasing enrollments and financial pressures; the Cristo Rey Network is opening new schools. Instead of losing students, Cristo Rey is attracting new students. And the Cristo Rey schools are doing this by serving low-income families in inner-city areas through a distinctive combination of Catholic educational commitment, partnerships with local businesses, and creative financing.

As a recent report by the Massachusetts-based Pioneer Institute put it, Cristo Rey schools "are returning Catholic education to urban areas. In its unique model, students receive a college-preparatory education and participate in a work-study program in which they learn employable skills and earn money to help pay their tuition." And while other approaches to funding Catholic high schools in inner-urban areas — parishioner tithing, soliciting alumni, raising tuitions, and so forth — have had what the report delicately calls "uneven" and "disappointing" results, schools in the Cristo Rey Network are experiencing real success: since the first Cristo Rey high school opened in Chicago 21 years ago, 31 other Cristo Rey schools have opened across the country, and

the network hopes to open eight more by 2020. More than 11,000 students are being empowered in Cristo Rey schools today, and some 13,000 have graduated from the schools in the past two decades.

The local business connection is one key to Cristo Rey's success. As the founder of this remarkable experiment, Father John Foley, SJ, put it, getting high school kids entry-level jobs as part of their education, was, at the beginning, simply a way "to pay the bills." But then other factors came into play. To cite the Pioneer Institute study again, over time, "the corporate work study program took on a more meaningful, transformative role. It became a self-esteem builder as teenagers saw they were earning money to help pay for their own education. They learned office skills in environments in which many had never envisioned themselves working. And they developed interpersonal skills with people outside their peer networks including supervisors, company presidents, and coworkers."

All of this was made possible by local businesses that saw the point of giving impoverished local kids whose parents agreed to pay some tuition a chance at higher education; family financial buy-in is as important to the Cristo Rey model as corporate partnerships. Cristo Rey also works because of a more demanding, and lengthy, high school schedule in which the Cristo Rey students work five eight-hour days per month in their jobs while attending classes during a longer school day (and year), 15 days a month.

It's real work in the businesses and hard work in class, yet the demands appeal to students. As Father Foley put it, "When you go to any of our schools and say to the kids, 'What do you like about our school?' inevitably it's the job. The kids feel like an adult. They're treated like an adult. They feel like they're part of something and they're taken into account." And the corporate partners seem to agree: The partnerships have an 88 percent retention rate.



GEORGE WEIGEL

THE CATHOLIC DIFFERENCE

This is Catholic social doctrine — which teaches the empowerment of the poor and the unleashing of their potential — in action. Catholic schools in inner-city America have always been the Church's most effective anti-poverty program. Keeping those schools alive under very different circumstances than those portrayed in "The Bells of St. Mary's" means meeting serious challenges through creative educational programs and imaginative funding. The Cristo Rey schools, which are some of the best news in U.S. Catholicism in 2018, are shining examples of both.

Blessed Miguel Pro would approve.

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

CAPECCHI, from page 12

granny nanny, self-care happens on Wednesday evenings when she joins fellow 60-somethings at a nearby grade school for tap-dance class. They dance to Justin Timberlake's "Can't Stop the Feeling" — "I got that sunshine in my pocket, got that good soul in my feet" — and for an hour, their movement becomes music, heel to toe, toe to heel.

Wednesdays are when my friend Roxane doubles down on self-care: hitting the treadmill at the YMCA by day and heading to an hour of Adoration by night.

My Aunt Jan also combines prayer and exercise, often

walking as she prays the rosary. Reconciliation is another gift she embraces.

"I like to have something on the horizon to look forward to," she added. Her dream of walking the Camino del Santiago, for instance, requires that she stay fit, ready for the opportunity. "And I like to practice the art of having fun!"

As we settle into 2018, I'm paying attention to the little forms of self-care that renew me: a citrus-scented face scrub that makes me feel squeaky clean, writing thank-you notes with a gel pen on cardstock paper, a pretty stamp, a morning prayer, a brisk walk, a hot bath.

I know it is pleasing to God when we care for ourselves, recognizing His great love for each of us and acting on it. It may not be as dramatic as skydiving, but it can be just as profound.

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

SCRIPTURE SEARCH®

Gospel for January 7, 2018

Matthew 2:1-12

Following is a word search based on the Gospel reading for Epiphany Sunday, Cycle B, a visit from travelers to Bethlehem. The words can be found in all directions in the puzzle.

- | | | |
|----------|-----------|-----------|
| JESUS | JUDEA | HEROD |
| MAGI | THE EAST | CHIEF |
| JUDAH | SHEPHERD | CALLED |
| SECRETLY | CHILD | OVERJOYED |
| MARY | TREASURES | GIFTS |
| GOLD | INCENSE | MYRRH |
| WARNED | A DREAM | COUNTRY |

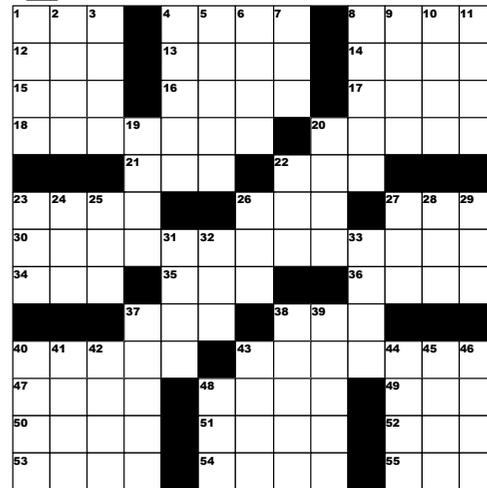
DANGER

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

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The CrossWord

January 7 and 14, 2018



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- 52 Compass point
- 53 Samuel did and went to Eli
- 54 Dregs
- 55 South southwest

DOWN

- 1 Dueling sword
- 2 Jesus was, in Bethlehem
- 3 Rosary part
- 4 Suggest
- 5 Creation's watery one
- 6 "It is finished"
- 7 Secretary (abbr.)
- 8 Smooth
- 9 St. Rose of _____
- 10 _____ the Red
- 11 Palm fruit
- 19 Magi were
- 20 Poke at cattle
- 22 Gone by
- 23 Harold's nickname
- 24 "The Lord our God is _____"
- 25 Easter food
- 26 A billion years
- 27 Food and Agriculture Organization (abbr.)
- 28 Danish krone (abbr.)
- 29 Martyrs' color
- 31 Not fat
- 32 Friday (abbr.)
- 33 Musical notation
- 37 Brief
- 38 Magi entered
- 39 Dimensions
- 40 They saw his star from _____
- 41 Go at it alone
- 42 Colors
- 43 Sugar plant
- 44 Potato sprouts
- 45 Immoral one does
- 46 Gush out
- 48 Cubic centimeter

ACROSS

- 1 Move away
- 4 Cat feet soles
- 8 Sleigh
- 12 "Raven" author
- 13 Double-reed instrument
- 14 Italian money
- 15 Time period
- 16 In _____ (work together)
- 17 Give off
- 18 How logs touch in a row
- 20 City of _____ (Jerusalem)
- 21 That (possessive)
- 22 _____ of the Covenant
- 23 Garden tools
- 26 Often inflated
- 27 New Deal president
- 30 Heavenly treat (3 wds.)
- 34 Angel struck Jacob's
- 35 White-tailed sea eagle
- 36 Called Samuel
- 37 Thai
- 38 Tint
- 40 Wan
- 43 Do before absolution
- 47 How many times God called Samuel
- 48 Hawaiian island
- 49 Shriek bark
- 50 Monks sometimes make
- 51 Institution (abbr.)

Catholic swimmer named AP Female Athlete of the Year

BY KELLY SANKOWSKI

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The Associated Press named Katie Ledecky the Female Athlete of the Year Dec. 26, after balloting by U.S. editors and news directors.

Ledecky, a graduate of Little Flower School and Stone Ridge School of the Sacred Heart in Bethesda, Maryland, received 351 points in the vote, placing her ahead of tennis star Serena Williams, who received 343 points. She was the eighth female swimmer to earn the honor and the first since Amy Van Dyken in 1996.

The vote reflected Ledecky's dominance in the July 2017 world championships in Budapest, Hungary, where she earned five gold medals and one silver medal.

Ledecky first entered the world stage as a 15-year-old in the 2012 London Olympics, the summer after her freshman year at Stone Ridge. In that competition, she surprised people around the world by winning a gold medal in the women's 800-meter freestyle and finishing the race in record time. In 2016, she returned to the Olympics in Rio de Janeiro and won gold in the 200-, 400- and 800-meter freestyle races, gold in the 4x200 freestyle relay, and silver in the 4x100 freestyle relay.



CNS photo/Tamas Kovacs, EPA

Katie Ledecky smiles after winning the women's 800-meter freestyle final of the 2017 FINA Swimming World Championships in Budapest, Hungary, July 29.

Ledecky is known for setting lofty goals for herself and achieving them, working hard and taking part in grueling workout schedules.

Another part of her routine, she told the *Catholic Standard* archdiocesan newspaper prior to the 2016 Olympics, is praying before races.

"I do say a prayer — or two — before any race," Ledecky said. "The Hail Mary is a beautiful prayer and I find that it calms

me." Now a sophomore at Stanford University, Ledecky also told the *Catholic Standard* that attending Catholic schools in the Archdiocese of Washington helped make her the person she is today.

"I received an excellent, faith-filled education at both schools. Having the opportunity to attend academically rigorous schools has facilitated my interest in the world and in serving others, and

has enriched my life so that it is not solely focused on my swimming and athletics," she said.

She said going to these schools was also important to her swimming because they challenged her and broadened her perspective and "allowed me to use my mind in ways that take me beyond just thinking about swim practices, swim meets and sports."

In March 2017, Ledecky became the youngest-ever

inductee in the Maryland Women's Hall of Fame, joining other esteemed women such as Harriet Tubman, Rachel Carson, Clara Barton and St. Elizabeth Ann Seton.

Now, Ledecky is preparing for this coming March, when she will compete in the NCAA championships with her Stanford teammates. During the last week of December, she is traveling with the team to Colorado Springs, Colorado, for high-altitude training.

After competing in the 2016 Olympics and before leaving for college, Ledecky visited her alma maters to answer students' questions and show them the medals that she had earned. With those school visits, she said she hoped to make an impact.

During the Olympics, she said she was "just praying to do my very best to represent my country."

"I always just use my faith to think, 'I have been given this gift, and I want to use it to the best of my ability,'" she said, adding that she doesn't want it to end there. She hopes her accomplishments will "inspire somebody or make an impact of some sort beyond just getting a good time or getting a gold medal."

Kelly Sankowski is a reporter for the Catholic Standard, archdiocesan newspaper of Washington.

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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.

Epiphany candlelight choral festival
MISHAWAKA — Choirs from St. Bavo, Queen of Peace and St. Monica Parishes will present an Epiphany candlelight choral festival at St. Bavo Church, 502 W. 7th St., Sunday, Jan. 7, from 4-5 p.m. Also featuring Mishawaka Catholic School Handbells. No admission charge. Donations of canned goods for St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry are requested. Reception to follow.

Epiphany concert
FORT WAYNE — An Epiphany concert will be Sunday, January

7 at 4 p.m. in the Mother Guerin Chapel on the corner Calhoun and Lewis Streets. Free parking in all lots. Handicap accessible with a reception following.

Day of reflection
MISHAWAKA — A day of reflection will be held at St. Francis Convent, 1515 W. Dragoon Tr., Wednesday, Jan. 10, from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. The theme for the day is "God's Holy Mountains." Bring a Bible. The cost of the day is \$20 and includes lunch. Register to 574-259-5427.

The CrossWord

January 7 and 14, 2018



REST IN PEACE

- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| Angola
Marcella L. Bandelier, 96, St. Anthony of Padua | Donald E. Scheiber, 91, Ss. Peter and Paul | Robert Larry Waltz, 77, St. Jude |
| Decatur
Salvador R. Jauregui, 91, St. Mary of the Assumption | Mishawaka
Bruce Chamberlin, 90, St. Monica | Reynold M. Derda, 80, Holy Cross |
| Fort Wayne
Judith Ann Bieker, 73, St. Charles Borromeo | Notre Dame
Thomas J. Busch, 91, St. Joseph Chapel at Holy Cross | Mary Kay McGinnity, 92, Christ the King |
| Norma J. Bauman, 96, St. Peter | Brother Fulgence James Dougherty, CSC, 95, St. Joseph Chapel | David Dressing, 53, St. Joseph |
| Dorothy Gertrude Ward, 93, Most Precious Blood | Cyriac K. Pullapilly, Ph.D., 85, Church of Our Lady of Loretto | Nancy Wilkeson, 86, St. Anthony de Padua |
| Joan F. Nix, 86, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton | Roanoke
Stanley L. Smith, 80, St. Joseph | Ronald F. Dudeck, 80, Holy Family |
| Sally A. O'Hara, 85, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton | South Bend
Evalyn Liszewski, 96, Sanctuary at St. Paul's | Raymond E. Sebelksi, 95, St. Adalbert |
| Huntington
Donna F. Brodrick, 87, St. Mary | Wilfried Vaerewyck, 74, Christ the King | Wabash
Roman Joseph Zech, 86, St. Bernard |

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

Matthew 5:4

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Christmas from around the diocese



Jerry Kessens

Father Tyrell Alles, OSB, incenses the Nativity at St. Peter Parish in Fort Wayne on Christmas Eve.



Jodi Marlin

The Child Jesus lies in the manger in a crèche at St. Thomas the Apostle Church, Elkhart, before a Christmas morning Mass.

At right, A cantor chants the Christmas proclamation before the start of Christmas Eve Mass at St. Matthew Cathedral, South Bend. "The announcement of the Solemnity of the Nativity of the Lord from the Roman martyrology draws upon Sacred Scripture to declare in a formal way the birth of Christ.



Jennifer Miller



Cathedral Museum highlights Church and diocesan history

BY MARIAM SCHMITZ

Editor's note: Today's Catholic is launching a new series focusing on Cathedral Museum in Fort Wayne and its artifacts.

Cathedral Museum is a treasure trove of religious artifacts that bring to life the Catholic faith's awe-inspiring history, especially in northeast Indiana. The items on display are sometimes thought-provoking, sometimes amusing, but always significant in telling the story of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend. Those artifacts include a mid-13th century handwritten Bible; an 85-year old statue showing a scourged Jesus, with wounds in graphic yet beautiful detail; a collection of dolls dressed as nuns, each one representing a different religious community; and so much more.

Father Phillip Widmann is the museum's director. He also serves as pastor of St. Mary, Mother of God Parish in Fort Wayne. Father Widmann was the driving force behind the museum's creation. As a seminarian in the early to mid-1970s he worked summers at Fort Wayne's Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, doing mostly yard work and sometimes office work too. During that time, the Cathedral's rector, Msgr. Thomas L. Durkin, expressed an interest in establishing a diocesan museum one day.

When Msgr. Durkin died in May 1977, just four months after Father Widmann's ordination, Father Widmann thought he would go forward with the museum idea as a tribute to Msgr. Durkin. In 1979, he began collecting items and the museum opened on May 17, 1981.

Originally, the museum was in the Cathedral Center, immediately to the northeast of the cathedral; it then expanded to the St. Mother Theodore Guerin Chapel basement before it relocated a second time

to its current home, the lower level of the Archbishop Noll Catholic Center, 915 South Clinton St.

Items for the museum have been donated for public viewing, but the museum also serves as a repository. For example, Father Widmann explained that sometimes when a priest dies, his chalice is donated to the museum and then given to a newly-ordained priest who does not yet have a chalice. Another example would be the museum's recent donation of items for display and decoration at the new Divine Mercy Funeral Home, also in Fort Wayne.

The museum has attracted and is geared toward both Catholic and non-Catholic visitors. It is a stop on Fort Wayne's annual "Be A Tourist in Your Own Hometown" day, and Father Widmann said that is often the museum's busiest day of the year. For the benefit of all visitors, each piece has an accompanying sign that briefly explains the item and its importance in Church or diocesan history as well as its use in the Church, if needed.

Cathedral Museum is open Tuesday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., except holidays or holy days. The museum is also open anytime by appointment and serves as a school field trip destination. Admission and parking are free.

The museum is staffed by volunteers and runs primarily on donations. According to Father Widmann, donations go toward restoring items, like re-plating chalices and monstrances in silver and gold. Contributions are welcome in the museum's offering box.

A statue entitled "Jesus in the Garden" greets visitors as they enter Cathedral Museum.



Nate Proulx