

# TODAY'S CATHOLIC

Volume 95 No. 42

TODAYSCATHOLIC.org

## Deacon Candidates Make Last Step Toward January Ordination

BY JENNIFER BARTON

The countdown has begun, the day is drawing near. In less than 30 days, 18 men will enter the service of the Church as permanent deacons, serving the people of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, as Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades pointed out at the Mass of Profession of Faith and Oath of Fidelity on Dec. 1 in the Ancilla Domini Chapel at Lindenwood Retreat Center. This is their last ceremonial step toward diaconate ordination, to take place on Jan. 7 at St. Pius X Church in Granger.

At the start of the Mass, Bishop Rhoades noted how appropriate it was that this ceremony was held in a chapel dedicated to Mary as the handmaid of the Lord, since service to God and others brought the 18 to the diaconate.

The day's Gospel reading from Matthew also fit the occasion, as Jesus relayed the parable of the man who built his house on rock. Bishop Rhoades focused on that for his homily. "To build on the rock means, first of all, to build on Christ, the Word of God, the Word made Flesh. He is the sure foundation for our lives and our ministry. Our ministry must not be about ourselves, but about Him. He is the only sure and sound foundation. He is our strength and our salvation."

He cautioned the deacon candidates not to focus their diaconal ministry on themselves, like the man who builds a house on sand, but on Jesus and His Church, of which they were to become servants. "We cannot separate Christ and His Body, the Church. To build our lives and our ministry on Christ is to be in communion with His Body, the Church, which He built on Peter, whom He made the Rock, the visible foundation and center of unity of His Church.

"My brothers, you are on the threshold of ordination. I don't think you would be here if you had not built your lives on Christ. I'm sure there have been storms in your lives



Jennifer Barton

Deacon Candidates Harry Verhiley, Orlando Miranda, James Summers, and Rob Lortie place their hands on the Book of the Gospels to give their Oath of Fidelity at Ancilla Domini Chapel on Dec. 1, for which Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades celebrated Mass. They are among the 18 men who have been studying for ordination to the permanent diaconate, with ordination approaching in January.

### Held In Hope

Mishawaka Ministry Focuses on Women and Miscarriage

Page 5

### Gingerbread Family Tradition

Bishop Dwenger Freshmen Win with Cookie Cathedral

Page 8

### Catholic Charities Christmas Help

Families in Need Served at Christmas and Year Round

Page 9

### Outdoor Nativity Set Fundraiser

Bishop Luers Capitalizes on the Reason for the Season

Page 11

## TODAY'S CATHOLIC

(ISSN 0891-1533)  
(USPS 403630)Official newspaper of the  
Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend  
P.O. Box 11169  
Fort Wayne, IN 46856

PUBLISHER: Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades

PUBLICATION DIRECTOR: Nicole Hahn

## Editorial Department

PUBLICATION MANAGER:

ASSISTANT PUBLICATION MANAGER:

Jennifer Barton

PAGE DESIGNER: Francie Hogan

## Business Department

BOOKKEEPING/CIRCULATION:

circulation@diocesefwsb.org

ADVERTISING ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE:

Erika Barron: ebarron@diocesefwsb.org

Website: [www.todayscatholic.org](http://www.todayscatholic.org)

260-456-2824

Published weekly, except for the last Sunday in December and every other week from the fourth Sunday in May through the last Sunday in August by the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, 915 S. Clinton St., P.O. Box 390, Fort Wayne, IN 46802. Periodicals postage paid at Fort Wayne, IN, and additional mailing office.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to: Today's Catholic, P.O. Box 11169, Fort Wayne, IN 46856-1169 or email: [circulation@diocesefwsb.org](mailto:circulation@diocesefwsb.org)

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

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

News deadline is 10 days prior to publication date. Advertising deadline is nine days before publication date.

Today's Catholic may be reached at :

Today's Catholic,  
P.O. Box 11169, Fort Wayne, IN  
46856-1169; or email:

[editor@diocesefwsb.org](mailto:editor@diocesefwsb.org)



## Find us on Facebook

[www.facebook.com/todayscatholicFWSB](http://www.facebook.com/todayscatholicFWSB)

## Follow us on Twitter

[@diocesefwsb](https://twitter.com/diocesefwsb)

## Follow us on Instagram



# Annual collection aims to support nearly 25,000 elderly men and women religious

WASHINGTON, D.C. - The annual collection that supports nearly 25,000 elderly religious sisters, brothers, and religious-order priests in the United States will take place in participating dioceses on the weekend of December 10-11. The collection, coordinated by the National Religious Retirement Office (NRRO), distributes financial assistance for retirement needs to eligible religious institutes.

Historically, Catholic sisters, brothers, and religious-order priests served in Church ministries such as parishes, schools, and health care facilities for little to no pay. As a result, many now lack adequate retirement savings. With rising health-care expenses, hundreds of U.S. religious communities are struggling to care for elder members and now face a large gap between the needs of their older members and the funds available to support members' care. The bishops of the United States initiated the Retirement Fund for Religious Collection in 1988 to help address this deficit in retirement funding among U.S. religious orders. Last year, the NRRO annual collection raised more than \$28 million.

"The care of our aging religious presents an enormous financial responsibility. I feel we are deeply blessed by the generosity of the Catholic faithful who steadfastly contribute to this fund, helping us meet the needs of our aging religious," said Sister Stephanie Still, a member of the Sisters of the Presentation of San Francisco, and Executive Director of the NRRO. "This national collection is one way that we can honor the lifelong work of the women and men in religious communities by caring for them in their retirement," she added.

According to statistical data gathered by the NRRO in 2022, only 7 percent of the religious communities that provided data to the NRRO reported being adequately funded for retirement. Since 1988, U.S. Catholics have generously donated close to \$948 million, with almost \$920 million distributed to support hundreds of religious communities as they care for aging members and plan for their retirement. Since 2009, the annual cost to support senior women and men religious has exceeded \$1 billion.

For more information on the work of the National Religious Retirement Office and how you can support the retired sisters, brothers, and religious-order priests, please visit [retiredreligious.org](http://retiredreligious.org).

**Retirement Fund for Religious**

Please give to those who have given a lifetime.

[retiredreligious.org](http://retiredreligious.org)

Jim Judkis. ©2022 United States Conference of Catholic Bishops. Used with permission

Elderly religious need your help. Like those pictured, nearly 25,000 senior sisters, brothers, and religious-order priests have devoted their lives to prayer and ministry — educating the young, tending the sick, aiding the needy, and more. Yet years of serving for little or no pay have left a profound shortage in retirement savings. Your support of the Retirement Fund for Religious helps furnish care, medicine, and other necessities.

## How Donations Help

- Each year, hundreds of U.S. religious communities receive financial assistance made possible by the Retirement Fund for Religious. Communities can use this funding for immediate retirement expenses or invest it for future needs. Since the first collection, U.S. Catholics have donated nearly \$948 million.
- Since the collection began, almost \$817 million has been distributed to support the day-to-day care of elderly sisters, brothers, and religious-order priests. An additional

\$102 million has been allocated for programs to assist religious institutes with comprehensive retirement planning.

- In addition to direct financial assistance, proceeds from the annual collection underwrite educational programming, services, and resources that enable religious communities to evaluate and prepare for long-term retirement needs.
- Support from the Retirement Fund for Religious helps religious communities care for senior members while continuing important ministries to the people of God.

# Being 'Inclusive' of Those with Disabilities Means Valuing Them, Pope Says

BY CINDY WOODEN

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Making churches accessible and services understandable is important, but having wheelchair ramps and sign-language interpreters is not enough for a parish to call itself “inclusive,” Pope Francis said.

The Church also must meet people's needs for “belonging, relating to others, and cultivating their spiritual lives so they experience the fullness and blessing of the Lord” for the “unique and marvelous gift” that they are, the pope told a group of people with disabilities and those who minister with them.

The pope's meeting with the group on Dec. 3 marked the International Day for Persons with Disabilities; the pope also issued a written message for the occasion.

In the meeting, Pope Francis called for the “conversion” of the Catholic community to move from using inclusion as a “slogan” to ensuring people with disabilities are welcomed, integrated, recognized, and supported as full members of the community.

“There is no inclusion if the experience of fraternity and mutual communion is missing,” the pope said. “There is no inclusion if there is no conversion in the practices of coexistence and relationships.” Inclusion, he said, means “each person, with his or her limitations and gifts, feels encouraged to do his or her part for the good of the entire ecclesial body and for the good of society as a whole.”

In his written message for the international day, Pope Francis focused on how Catholics with disabilities can teach others one of the central messages of the Gospel: human beings need God's love, mercy, and strength.

The awareness of one's limits, he wrote, “allows us to appreciate all the more God's loving decision to help us in our weakness. An awareness that frees us from sorrow and lament — even for good reason — and opens our hearts to praise.”



Pope Francis greets a family at the end of an audience with people with disabilities on Dec. 3, 2022, in the Clementine Hall of the Vatican.

CNS photo/Vatican Media

“The joy that radiates from those who encounter Jesus and entrust their lives to Him is no illusion or the fruit of naiveté,” the pope said. “It is the power of His resurrection penetrating lives marked by fragility.”

“Truly, we can speak of a ‘magisterium of fragility’ that, if heeded, would make our society more humane and fraternal, enabling all of us to understand that happiness is bread that is not eaten alone,” he said.

If everyone became more aware of their frailty and need for others, he said, it would “help us to have less hostile relationships with those around

us” and begin to work together to find solutions to “the senseless conflicts we are experiencing.”

Pope Francis also used his message to urge people to remember “all those women and men with disabilities who live in the midst of war or have been themselves disabled as a result of warfare.”

“How many people, in

Ukraine and in other theaters of war, remain imprisoned by ongoing conflicts, without the possibility of escape?” he asked. “They need to be given special attention and their access to humanitarian aid facilitated in every possible way.”

The pope also thanked Catholics with disabilities who participated in the listening process for the Synod of Bishops, sharing their experiences and pointing out the ways they have been included or excluded in their parish communities.

The synod process, he said, is a reminder that in the Church “there can be no us and them, but a single us, with Jesus Christ at the center, where each person brings his or her own gifts and limitations.”

“This awareness, founded on the fact that we are all part of the same vulnerable humanity assumed and sanctified by Christ, eliminates arbitrary distinctions and opens the door to the participation of each baptized member in the life of the Church,” he said.

“I trust that every Christian community will be open to the presence of our brothers and sisters with disabilities and ensure that they are always welcomed and fully included,” Pope Francis wrote.



## Public schedule of Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades

Tuesday, Dec. 13: 11 a.m. – Mass of Christian Burial for Rev. P. David Carkenord, St. Michael the Archangel Church, Waterloo

Wednesday, Dec. 14: Noon – Catholic Community Foundation Meeting, Fort Wayne

Saturday, Dec. 17: 11 a.m. – Mass and Luncheon for Seminarians and Families, St. Dominic Church, Bremen

Sunday, Dec. 18: 10 a.m. – Mass, St. Stanislaus Kostka Church, New Carlisle

## For Converts to Catholicism, RCIA is Now ‘OCIA’: What’s Behind the Name Change?

BY DANIEL MELOY

IRA TOWNSHIP, Mich. (CNS) — For anyone interested in becoming Catholic, wishing to complete the sacraments or wanting to learn more about what the Church teaches, the answer for decades was “join RCIA.”

The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults, the process by which the Church brings in new converts and educates catechumens and candidates, has been a staple in Catholic life and lingo for years.

But in November of 2021, the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops changed the name of one of the best-known acronyms in the church, reorienting the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) into the new Order of Christian Initiation of Adults (OCIA).

So, is the new answer simply, “join OCIA”?

Yes, but there's more to it than that.

The change from “rite” to “order” is in part because of a retranslation of the Latin name into English, said Mercy Sister Esther Mary Nickel, Director of Sacred Worship in the Archdiocese of Detroit's Department of Evangelization and Missionary Discipleship.

“(The bishops) retranslated the Order of Initiation of Adult Catechumens (Ordo Initiationis Christianae Adultorum) from Latin,” Sister Nickel told Detroit Catholic, the archdiocese's news outlet.

“When I studied in Rome, we had OCIA, because it was all in Latin. All we have done is taken the ‘O,’ which is ‘ordo,’ and made it back to ‘order,’ instead of the ‘R’ for ‘rite.’ I don't want to say it was a mis-translation, but the new trans-

lation is more comprehensive.”

It might seem like semantics, but changing the process of entering the Church from a “rite” to an “order” has practical implications, Sister Nickel said.

For one thing, rites are still part of the order but the new structure is meant to invite candidates and catechumens into a continuous process of spiritual formation as opposed to fixed checkpoints on the path to Baptism, first Communion, and Confirmation.

Ideally, those interested in joining OCIA would not have to wait until the fall to do so, Sister Nickel said.

“We want to propose and help people institute in Families of Parishes (parish clusters) an ongoing catechesis and formation so people can come into the Church more frequently and not necessarily wait to begin the process of faith formation as disciples. That will be the big difference of a yearlong catechesis and accompaniment,” she explained.

The catechumenate is meant to be an ongoing formation process in which the initiated are invited to become involved in the parish, attend Mass and OCIA classes, and work with catechists in delving into topics such as creation, salvation, the sacraments, the Church, and the four “last things” (death, judgment, heaven, and hell).

Still part of the OCIA process are rites such as the Rite of Entrance to the Catechumenate and the Rite of Sending, which both occur at the parish level, and the Rite of Election, which occurs at the cathedral with the bishop, said Amy Wyss, Associate Director of Sacred

# First Deaf Priest in U.S. Visits Minnesota Parish, Inspires Jesuit Novice

BY BARB UMBERGER

MINNEAPOLIS (CNS) — Parishioners at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church in Minneapolis, about half of whom are deaf, had the chance to attend Mass celebrated by the first deaf man ordained a Roman Catholic priest in the U.S., Father Tom Coughlin.

About 80 people attended the Mass on Nov. 20 at the small church, a fact noted by Father Coughlin in his welcome.

He used American Sign Language to say he came from a “huge, fancy, million-dollar cathedral” in New Jersey to this “cute, little church” that is cozy and warm.

Ordained in 1977 for the Trinitarians, Father Coughlin, 75, left that order and helped found a community of priests and brothers who minister to the deaf, disabled, marginalized, and minorities in parishes and hospitals. The order, the Dominican Missionaries for the Deaf Apostolate, is based in Newark, New Jersey.

“I feel all the warmth and love,” he told the congregation. “Jesus is here with you.”

After the liturgy, deaf parishioner Carol Buley, 73, said it was “really exciting” to have a deaf priest celebrate Mass, which doesn’t happen often.

“It’s ... fantastic to be able to see a deaf priest signing directly with us,” she said. “It’s great to have interpreters, but to have somebody of our own culture, having a deaf priest signing directly with us, is just fantastic.”

Interpreter and parishioner Susan Sweezo, born to deaf parents, used a microphone at

the front of the church to speak Father Coughlin’s words to the hearing audience. During parts of the Mass with singing, parishioner Stephanie Stork stood near the altar and signed the words. Two others each took a turn.

Father Coughlin, an incardinated priest in the Diocese of Honolulu, concelebrated Mass with Father Mike Krenik, pastor, who is learning ASL. The parish has about 120 parishioners.

Jesuit Father William O’Brien, Director of Novices for the Jesuit Novitiate of St. Alberto Hurtado in St. Paul, had invited Father Coughlin to visit sometime with deaf novice Todd Honas of Nebraska, who is in his first year of formation. That opportunity presented itself when Father Coughlin traveled to the Twin Cities to preside at a wedding on Nov. 19.

Honas, 25, has been helping at Our Lady of Mount Carmel since September, serving as a lector at Masses, leading a weekly “faith group,” and, occasionally, delivering Communion to deaf parishioners. Father Coughlin said Father O’Brien hoped to give Honas support and encouragement.

“He has the right personality, skills, and intelligence, and he has the vocation for it,” Father Coughlin said of Honas. The pair have been communicating for about a month via a “video relay phone,” signing back and forth on the screen.

“It’s very important for him that I’m his friend and supporter because he’s so new in this experience, coming into a religious community, religious life, ... and I’m so happy to give him advice and support,”



CNS photo/Dave Hrbacek, The Catholic Spirit

**Father Tom Coughlin, the first deaf man ordained a priest in the U.S., prays the Eucharistic Prayer using sign language during Mass at Our Lady of Mount Carmel in Minneapolis on Nov. 20, 2022. At left is Father Mike Krenik, Pastor of Our Lady of Mount Carmel, who is learning American Sign Language.**

Father Coughlin said through an interpreter.

Honas said having the first ordained deaf priest in the U.S. connect with “the most recent man to want to become a deaf priest (is) kind of a cool mix.”

Father Coughlin recalled feeling lonely when he was a novice and thinking about leaving. But his director told him, “You have to suffer so that other people can have it easier.” Father Coughlin then understood the meaning of his suffering. “That gave me a purpose of why I have to suffer

coming into the seminary,” he said. He decided to stay.

Through an interpreter, Honas said people who are deaf do not need to be “fixed” and they don’t want sympathy.

“We accept our deafness ... but we want (others) to understand that from our perspective,” he said.

It can be frustrating meeting with priests and bishops who cannot communicate with the deaf, he said. Noting that many priests know Latin, Greek, Spanish, “Could they learn ASL?” he asked. He suggested

offering ASL classes at seminaries as a start.

Deaf people face significant challenges as priests, he said, such as administering the Sacrament of Penance because “you can’t use an interpreter for penance; you have to have a deaf priest.” He wishes interpreters were not needed at Mass because “circumventing has to occur.”

“It’s not direct communication,” he said.

Father William Kenney, 92, who served the deaf and hard of hearing in the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis for 40 years, attended the Nov. 20 Mass. Our Lady of Mount Carmel initially served a large population of Italians, and as numbers dwindled, there had been talk of closing the parish, he said.

So, he told parishioners that “if we wanted to keep it open, if we brought our deaf community here, they would have the opportunity to stay open,” he said. “And they all wanted the deaf to come.”

Serving those who are deaf or hard of hearing is a reminder, Father Kenney said, “that we should be mindful of those who are not able to use the normal avenues to make contact with their religious faith.”

**Good Shepherd**  
BOOKS • GIFTS

**St. Nick Sale**

**20% OFF**

**December 5-10**

[www.goodshepherdbookstore.org](http://www.goodshepherdbookstore.org)

FREE REFRESHMENTS | FREE PARKING IN GARAGE  
915 S. Clinton St., Fort Wayne | 260-399-1442  
Fri. 10 am to 6 pm | Sat. 10 am to 4 pm

DIocese OF FORT WAYNE: SOUTH BEND

NATIONAL Eucharistic Revival

**EUCCHARISTIC FORMATION DAYS**

BECOME EQUIPPED TO  
LEAD A EUCCHARISTIC CHURCH

Jan. 14 | Fort Wayne  
Feb. 11 | Granger  
[diocesefwsb.org/formation-day](http://diocesefwsb.org/formation-day)

# New Mishawaka-Based Ministry Serves Women Suffering a Miscarriage

BY ERIN LYNCH

When Amber Hassett found out she was pregnant this past June, she and her husband were thrilled. But their joy was quickly cut short when at her 11-week appointment, she discovered that the baby had died and that she should expect to miscarry. She and her husband had known through testing that the baby that she had been pregnant with was a girl. They decided to name her Hope.

"I left, not remembering what was said during that appointment," said Hassett. "I went home and waited at home to miscarry. I just was Googling everything to figure out what to expect." She had thought to herself, "there has to be a better way. I need to do something to help others going through this."

This experience is what led her, together with her friend Kenzie Covarubbias, to start a nonprofit that provides miscarriage kits to those who are anticipating a miscarriage. Inspired by Hassett's daughter's name and a verse in the Bible, Colossians 1:23, which reads, "do not move from the hope held in the Gospel", they named their new ministry

Held in Hope. They decided to make and provide these kits so that other women might feel more equipped and more informed while they undergo such a difficult loss. These kits include information on what to expect during a miscarriage at home, the medical and surgical options available, and items to take care of the woman during this time, such as cozy socks, chocolate, and a mug. Covarubbias said that it was really important to be able to "get women the resources that they can look over in their own home, in their own space, and on their own time because upon diagnosis, everything has just changed in a moment."

Hassett said, "it was really important to me that we take care of the whole person, not just the medical side of things. We are validating that yes, you

were pregnant with a baby, and yes, this is a significant loss and we care about you. It's more than just about the baby, it's about you as well."

Dr. Lindsey Connolly, a local OBGYN, reflected on how grateful she was for the ministry and having the ability to give these boxes to her patients. She said, "It's such a stark difference from what we used to be able to offer. We used to give them a grocery bag with medical supplies and it seemed so undignified. It didn't really have any appreciation for the gravity of what was happening and it just seemed so sterile. Being able to give these boxes feels like we are giving something that has a lot of information as well as some extra things for comfort. It's trying to take what could be the worst day of their life

and give them some encouragement." She continued by saying that these boxes really help show patients that even through their miscarriage, "It does not have to be an undignified process. You can do it in a way that celebrates the life of your baby."

Both Hassett and Covarubbias are Catholic and feel that their faith really inspired their desire to start this Mishawaka-based ministry. They both talked about their Catholic faith compelling them to "want more for women." They also passionately spoke about the importance of people feeling the freedom to share about their experiences with miscarriage. Oftentimes, miscarriage can be a lonely and isolating experience and they believe that the Catholic Church has an opportunity to really

minister to those suffering from the loss that comes through miscarriage.

Lauren, a mom who received a box through Held in Hope, said, "As I looked at its contents, I felt at peace with my decision to miscarry at home. My doctor was right. The box had everything I needed to pass my pregnancy, and in a way which honored this precious life which was growing inside of me just weeks before. Passing my pregnancy was the darkest day I have experienced. And nothing can lessen the pain a mother feels when losing her baby. But the resources provided by Held in Hope gave me comfort ... comfort that my baby left my body in a dignified way and, comfort that another mom understood the heaviness of early pregnancy loss, and comfort that I was not alone."

The miscarriage kits are currently available through some doctors' offices, at the St. Joseph Hospital emergency room, and through Michiana-area Women's Care Centers. Hassett and Covarubbias are planning to be able to have the Held in Hope kits available for purchase and shipping in the near future. For more information on how to get a box or participate in the ministry, visit their website at [heldinhope.org](http://heldinhope.org).



## O CIA, from page 3

Worship at the archdiocese.

"Following that is a series of rites called the scrutinies, and after that are the Rites of Initiation," Wyss explained.

These rites are not new to the Church, but by making the entire process an "order," the candidate or catechumen understands the rites received in church or at the parish are just one part of the ongoing journey of discipleship that will culminate with Baptism and Confirmation — usually during the Easter Vigil — but will continue throughout their lives.

Catechumens (those who have yet to be baptized) and candidates (those yet to be confirmed in full communion with the Catholic Church) will not progress to the next rite in the OCIA process until they are ready, Wyss said.

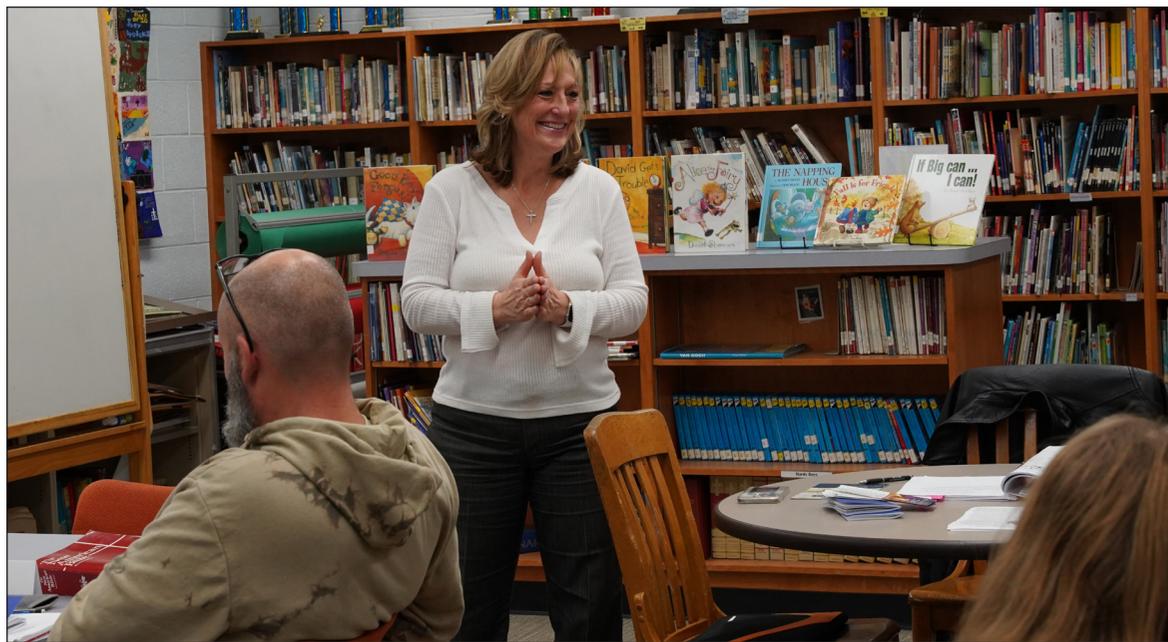
"It's about a relationship with Jesus Christ. It's about coming to knowledge of Jesus Christ and then bringing my life into conformity with His teachings. Yes, we have these beautiful experiences in the liturgy that are integrally part of this. But what is happening is the process of coming into relationship with our Lord," she said.

A major benefit is that people can enter the OCIA process at any time in the calendar year and can receive the sacraments of initiation at any time, not just during Easter.

"For those coming into the catechumenate, it's not a straight line where everyone is doing the same thing or on the same path," said Tina Kovalcik, Director of Religious Education at Immaculate Conception Parish in Ira Township, 40 miles northeast of Detroit. "If they are not ready to go through to the next step, we don't push them. It is up to the catechumens and the pastor, and if they are not at the level of faith yet, we don't go through with the next rite. Likewise, others really catch onto it and are ready almost immediately."

The OCIA process encourages candidates and catechumens to take charge of their faith education, ask questions of catechists, and explore the answers.

Most catechumens and candidates will still be received into the Church during the Easter Vigil, but OCIA encourages them to get involved in the parish community even before they receive the sacraments, sowing seeds of discipleship



CNS photo/Daniel Meloy, Detroit Catholic

**Tina Kovalcik, Religious Education Director for Immaculate Conception Parish in Ira Township, Michigan, teaches an Order of Christian Initiation of Adults class at the parish on Nov. 28, 2022. While the rites remain the same in OCIA as they were in RCIA, the use of the word "Order" emphasizes the continual development candidates and catechumens go through in the faith formation process.**

that will grow well beyond confirmation, said Matthew Hunt, Director of Religious Education at St. Thecla Parish in Clinton Township, near Detroit.

In some cases, a person might be spiritually ready to join the Church before Easter, and that's an option, Hunt

said.

"Instead of just waiting, if a person has the conviction in their heart, if they are ready, they can join the Church quicker than waiting for the Easter Vigil," Hunt said. "For a lot of people, the waiting sometimes is the downfall. You have to

wait and go through the process, and some people need that. But at any point a priest can get a special dispensation to do Confirmation."

*Meloy is a Staff Writer for Detroit Catholic, the news outlet of the Detroit Archdiocese.*

# NEWS BRIEFS

## Spanish Catholic Federation Denounces Draft Family Law

MADRID (CNS) — Family groups have condemned a new draft law that would recognize 16 different “family types” in the traditionally Catholic country. “For three years, they have been weaving this plan to deconstruct the family — to break it up according to different circumstances, and mix these with ideological and sectarian snares,” said a representative from the Federation of Catholic Family Associations. “They have thus managed to invent a grotesque and false representation of the family, a legislative trap to redefine it away from something born from the marriage of a man and woman,” a federation official said in a statement on Nov. 29. The coalition government of Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez was preparing final approval of the family law. If approved by parliament, it would recognize “intercultural,” “transnational,” “biparental,” and other family types. It said various forms of family life were already “legally and socially protected” in Spain, making the new classification by Spain’s Ministry of Social Rights “as ridiculous as it is unnecessary.” “This law clearly carries a great ideological charge, which is serious given our country’s already serious problems, including a grave economic crisis affecting thousands of homes,” Madrid-based federation officials said. “The government is losing itself in ideological debates instead of dedicating itself to doing important things for families and society. We consider it incredible that the word ‘birth rate’ is barely even mentioned, when we face a grave fall in births and serious problems from an aging population.”

## Senate Passes Respect for Marriage Act; Bill Now Heads to House

WASHINGTON, D.C. (CNS) — Ahead of the U.S. Senate’s Nov. 29 61-to-36 vote approving the Respect for Marriage Act, the chairmen of two U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops’ committees reiterated the bishops’ “firm opposition” to the “misnamed” measure legalizing same-sex marriage. In a Nov. 23 joint letter to all members of Congress, the chairmen said they were writing “to implore Congress to reverse course” on H.R. 8404, also known as RMA. The Senate advanced the measure with a 62-37 vote on Nov. 16. Its final vote passing the bill sends it back to the House for a vote. If it passes that chamber, President Joe Biden is expected to sign the bill into law. The U.S. House first passed the bill on July 19 with a large, bipartisan

## Congolese Catholics Take to the Streets to Protest Violence



CNS photo/Courtesy of Justin Makangara, Reuters

Women wave Congolese flags during a march to protest escalating violence in Congo in the capital city of Kinshasa on Dec. 4.

vote of 267-157, but now has to take up the Senate’s amended version. Issuing the joint letter were Cardinal Timothy M. Dolan of New York, Chairman of the USCCB’s Committee for Religious Liberty, and Bishop Robert E. Barron of Winona-Rochester, Minnesota, Chairman of the USCCB Committee on Laity, Marriage, Family Life, and Youth. The bill codifies the Supreme Court’s 2015 ruling in *Obergefell v. Hodges* that found a constitutional right to same-sex marriage. It also codifies interracial marriage. In a Nov. 17 statement after the bill advanced in the Senate, Cardinal Dolan called it “a bad deal for the many courageous Americans of faith and no faith who continue to believe and uphold the truth about marriage in the public square today.”

## Migration Must Be Managed, Not Stopped, Pope Tells European Governments

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Migration across the Mediterranean Sea is as old as humanity, and while some governments say they want to stop that movement of people, it will not and should not happen,

Pope Francis said. “Migration is essential to the well-being of this area and cannot be stopped. Therefore, it is in the interest of all parties to find a solution that is inclusive of the various aspects and just demands, beneficial to all, and ensures both human dignity and shared prosperity,” Pope Francis wrote in a message to participants in the Italian foreign ministry’s annual Rome MED Dialogues. The lack of coordinated solutions to help potential migrants thrive in their home countries and to welcome those who set off for Europe “continues to result in unacceptable and almost always avoidable loss of life, especially in the Mediterranean,” the pope wrote. The meeting on Dec. 1-3 brought together representatives of the European Union and European countries on the Mediterranean with representatives from the Middle Eastern and North African nations that face the sea and that often are crossed by migrants and refugees seeking a better life in Europe. For millennia, the Mediterranean was a crossroads of civilizations and cultures and a place of encounter that benefited all humanity, the pope said. It has “a vocation for progress, development, and culture that unfortunately seems to have been lost in the recent past and that needs to be recovered fully and with conviction.”

## Pope Supports Jewish-Catholic Project for Social Justice

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — A person who helps others but does not worship God is a “good atheist,” while someone who claims to believe in God but does not do anything to help others “is a cynic, a liar,” Pope Francis said. Meeting with a delegation from the Latin American Rabbinical Seminary in Buenos Aires, Argentina, the pope supported their proposal to launch a series of educational programs aimed at helping Christians and Jews in Latin America tap into their common spiritual heritage to become “agents of social change.” Rabbi Ariel Stofenmacher, Rector of the seminary, said in a statement that they saw Pope Francis as a key ally in harnessing religious teachings to combat indifference, the breakdown of the family, growing social conflicts, “the disenchantment with democracy,” hopelessness, addiction, and “the madness of new wars.” Speaking without a prepared text to the group on Dec. 2, Pope Francis said he was not kidding when he told them that when a religious leader speaks of justice, echoing the prophets’ call to care for the orphan, the widow, the stranger, the poor — often detrac-

tors will “tell you that you are a communist. And look, they say to me: ‘This pope, instead of talking about God, is talking about social things.’” But the two go together, he said. Throughout the Bible, believers are called to love God and love their neighbor, “that is, worship and serve, worship and help.”

## Pastor Reflects on 10th Anniversary of Sandy Hook School Shooting

RYE, N.Y. (CNS) — Ten years ago, Newtown, Connecticut, was catapulted into the national spotlight when a young man shot and killed 26 people on Dec. 14 at Sandy Hook Elementary School. Twenty of the victims were children in first grade; the other six were adult staff members. Many were members of St. Rose of Lima Parish, where Msgr. Robert Weiss has been the pastor since 1999. Reflecting on the horror and the events of the intervening years, Msgr. Weiss said: “Gratitude sustains me. I pray a lot and try to keep myself in the Lord’s hands.” The priest presided at funerals for eight of the children in a five-day period in December of 2012, as well as wakes and burials. He also said he continues to experience post-traumatic stress for which he has been treated. “I haven’t had a full night’s sleep since then. It’s been a difficult experience for me and for others, too,” he told Catholic News Service in a telephone interview on Nov. 21. In the immediate aftermath of the shooting, there was an outpouring of generosity from all over the world. “We were overwhelmed with things people sent us, from ornaments and prayer chains to cards and donations,” Msgr. Weiss said. Parish staff was on site 24 hours a day to answer calls and emails and Msgr. Weiss restricted volunteers to two-hour shifts opening the mail because it was such an emotional experience.

## Representatives Meet Pope, Discuss ‘Continental Phase’ of Synod

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — While some people want to “reform” the Catholic Church and others want “to put the brakes on the synod process,” those involved in preparing the continental phase of the synod process want “to mend” the Church under the guidance of the Holy Spirit and the pope, said Cardinal Jean-Claude Hollerich of Luxembourg, Relator General of the Synod. As final plans are made for the continental phase leading to the Synod of Bishops 2023-24, the bishops and coordinators responsible for the regional meetings met at the Vatican on Nov. 28 and Nov. 29.

# AROUND THE DIOCESE

## Living Nativity Held as Part of Christmas Events at the University of Saint Francis



Provided by Reginald Hayes

Members of the University of St. Francis community portrayed the living Nativity on Saturday, Dec. 3 as one of the many special events going on in celebration of Christmas. The living Nativity is in honor of the Christmas creche tradition begun by St. Francis in 1223, which reenacts the birth of Christ.

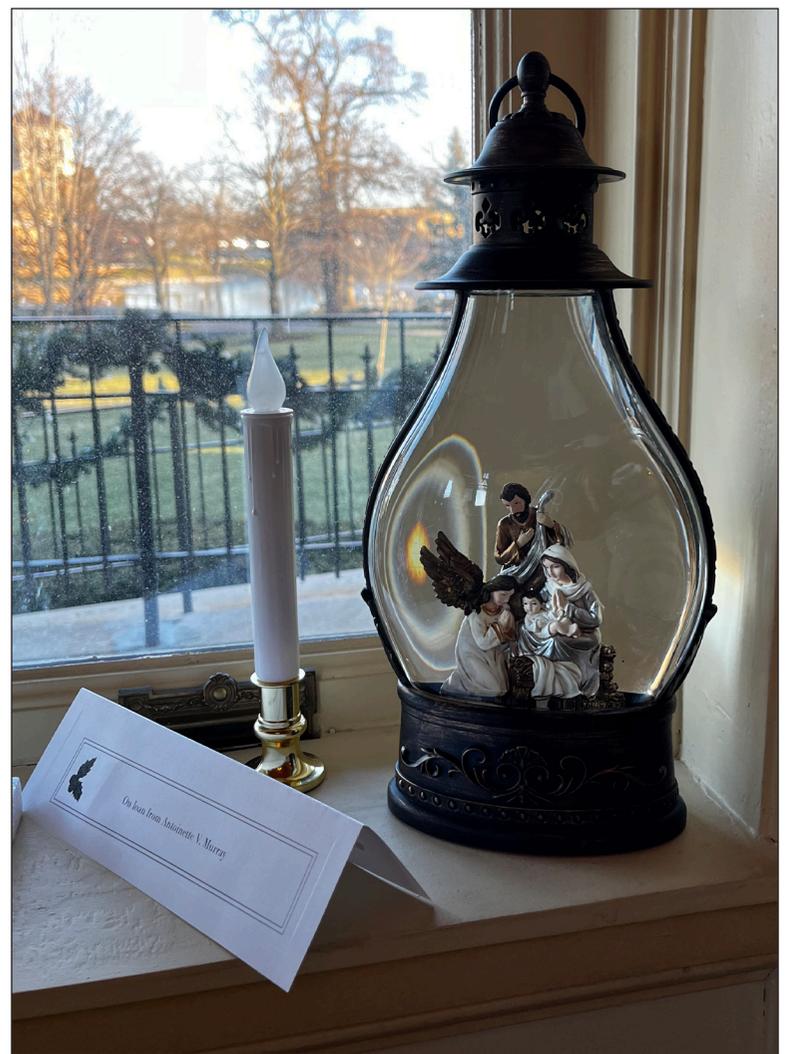
## Queen of Angels Holds Appreciation Dinner for Volunteers



Chris Lushis

Queen of Angels Catholic Church, Fort Wayne, hosted a volunteer appreciation dinner on Friday, Dec. 2 for all those who have offered their time and energy to assist the parish community throughout the last several years. The event was organized by Laverne Gladieux, Christy Etter, Desirée Hilger, and Sheila Gillett, with the assistance of Laurie Reynolds. Emcees for the event were Father Spenser St. Louis, Pastor, and Dennis Wiegmann, Principal, who expressed their gratitude for the generosity of the Queen of Angels parish family.

## Creches on Display



Francie Hogan

FORT WAYNE – The University of Saint Francis offered tours of the Brookside Mansion with a focus on more than 90 creches on loan and part of the permanent collection. This one in the drawing room is on loan from Antoinette V. Murray.

## Spanish Mass offered in Columbia City



Photos by Sarah Walter and José Aguilera

COLUMBIA CITY – Father José Arroyo celebrated the first Spanish Mass at St. Paul of the Cross in Columbia City on Sunday, Dec. 27. More than 60 people were in attendance with varying backgrounds and ethnicities. Following the Mass, Father José baptized a Mexican-American baby girl to add to the day of celebration.



Provided by Jason Nees

Cousins Mackenzie Nees and Ellie Short, along with assistance from their grandmother, Peggy Leffers, create gingerbread works of art for the Festival of Gingerbread in Fort Wayne. This year, the Bishop Dwenger High School freshmen constructed the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, winning first place in their category.

## A Grand Tradition – Family Creates Cookie Cathedral

BY JENNIFER BARTON

*“We’re obviously all Catholic and it was a cool downtown building that has a lot of meaning.”*

Christmastime joys – portrayed in the picture-perfect nostalgia of Norman Rockwell paintings, where families gather at grandma’s house for dinner and delectable desserts. The Leffers family, with their Christmas tradition of making gingerbread houses for the Festival of Gingerbread in Fort Wayne, could have been the subjects of one of these paintings. This year, the Catholic family created an award-winning reproduction of the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in gingerbread form.

It started five years ago. Mackenzie Nees decided she wanted to make a gingerbread house to enter in the competition. The first year, her parents Jason and Stephanie aided her, then “happily transferred to Grandma,” Jason commented. Two years later, her cousin Ellie Short decided that she wanted to get in on the fun as well.

For the last several years, Peggy Leffers has turned her kitchen into a winter wonderland of flour and powdered sugar – the aspect of Christmas preparation that Rockwell did not depict in his paintings – for her two granddaughters, now freshmen at Bishop Dwenger High School, to bake and decorate their gingerbread creations.

The cousins have always had a close relationship. Born less than a month apart, “we kind of grew up as sisters,” Ellie shared. The pair even attended the same grade school – St. Vincent de Paul – though they rarely were in the same classes.

For previous years’ festival entries, the pair replicated Salomon Farm, a park in Fort Wayne; another time it was a Nativity scene “which we may or may not have been hot-glued together,” Mackenzie said, and last year replicated a local iconic train station. Generally, they pick their designs based on local historic buildings, ones that seem possible to make. Leffers said that “Mackenzie wanted to do the cathedral this year.”

When asked why she chose the cathedral, Mackenzie said, “We’re obviously all Catholic and it was a cool downtown building that has a lot of meaning.” Neither of the young ladies can recall being inside the cathedral, though they have seen the exterior and Leffers has attended Christmas Eve Mass there in the past.

Mackenzie learned a great deal about the more-than-150-year-old church when writing the essay that goes along

with historic festival entries. “I didn’t realize it started off as a different building than the original,” she stated. “There was a priest there who ended up raising money and they were able to build their now cathedral. It’s cool that it started off as a small thing, not too many people, then was built bigger.”

The three agree that every year is a learning experience and this time, the girls learned how to make stained-glass windows for the gingerbread Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception using crushed Jolly Rancher candies.

This was the third year they placed in the competition, taking first place in the teen group category. In previous years, they had placed third and first.

But winning is not why they enter the contest. “It teaches you humility if you go in thinking you’re going to win,” Leffers stated. “You may be disappointed. You just go for the fun.”

Creating something so detailed is difficult but gives

— Mackenzie Nees

the family many hours of enjoyment and togetherness. The trio estimates that they put in somewhere close to 15-20 hours of man-hours and seven or eight batches of frosting into one creation. Leffers even bought a kit for one of her grandsons, which “kept him entertained for about five hours.”

Through the example of the older girls, Mackenzie’s younger sister Scarlett Nees and Ellie’s younger brother Tate Short have begun their own tradition of making gingerbread houses together.

Leffers admits that baking is not among her list of hobbies prior to her granddaughters’ interest in gingerbread houses, and gingerbread is about the only Christmas baking she does. Aside from handling the baking aspects and taking an advisory and supervisory role in the construction, she offers minimal help, allowing the girls’ creativity to shine. She also has the unenviable task of cleaning up afterwards, but “I don’t let that bother me. It’s not a deterrent.”

After all, she is able to spend time with her granddaughters, whom she said “are a blessing.”

The girls greatly value their grandmother, as well. “She’s awesome,” Ellie said. “We probably wouldn’t be able to do half the stuff without her.”

“We would have a broken gingerbread house and we would have cried at least twice,” Mackenzie added, laughing.

After assembly is completed, it is Jason’s job to drive the girls’ entry – very carefully – to the History Center in downtown Fort Wayne where the colorful creations go on display from late November until Dec. 18. After the exhibit closes, the gingerbread cathedral will be moved to the Diocesan Museum directly next door to its life-sized counterpart to be put on display for the remainder of the Christmas season.

Interestingly, Leffers was born on Christmas Day, so the family has an extra-special reason to enjoy their favorite traditions, which include a family breakfast of biscuits and gravy to celebrate her birthday and a large gathering for Christmas “anytime we can have a nice space of time we can be together and everyone can be there,” Leffers remarked.

The cousins plan to continue their gingerbread tradition for as long as possible among changing and often-busy schedules, but Grandma Leffers awaits the day they reach adulthood, when she will gleefully hand the process over to them.

More photos are available at [www.todayscatholic.org](http://www.todayscatholic.org)



# Catholic Charities Helps Families in Need at Christmas and Throughout the Year

BY JOSHUA SCHIPPER

Christmas trees are a staple of the holiday season. While sentimental ornaments often adorn family trees, ornaments on the trees at some parishes and businesses in the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend aim to help families in need.

A program administered by Catholic Charities of Fort Wayne-South Bend gives a helping hand to families in need during the Christmas season. This social service arm of the diocese facilitates a charity gift program for those who struggle to provide Christmas presents for their children.

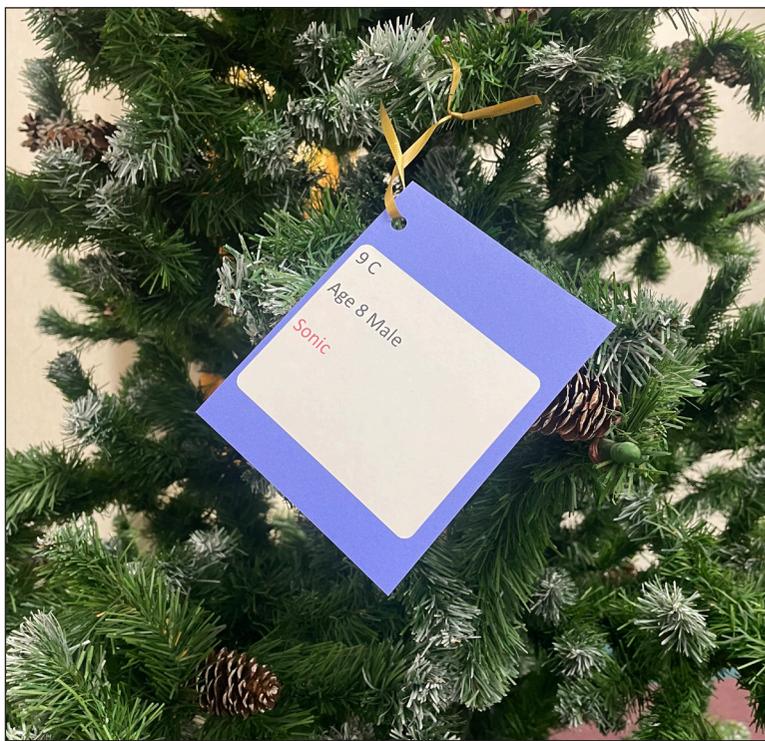
Claire Coleman, a Regional Director for Catholic Charities, says that the program generally begins with an internal referral: families who already participate in other services offered by Catholic Charities.

"We also receive referrals from parishes. Then, if we have remaining spots, we open it up to the public – people who just happen to call us for Christmas assistance."

Those who are referred for the Christmas program meet with a case manager and complete an assessment to make sure that they are qualified, allowing Catholic Charities to learn more about the family in the process. The families are also introduced to the other services that Catholic Charities provides throughout the rest of the year.

Some sponsors who contribute to the program will use a "giving tree" model. They hang ornaments that list an item to donate, and parishioners or employees will donate the needed items. The parish or business sends these items to Catholic Charities, which facilitates distribution to the families.

Other sponsors in the West Region, Coleman says, prefer to



Joshua Schipper

be matched with a child.

"What we do is we provide anonymous information about the children, such as their gender and their age, and some of their likes and dislikes, to the sponsors. Then they will purchase items for the children and drop them off here at Catholic Charities. We sort them into family packages, and then we distribute them to the family."

Coleman also noted that this entire process takes place within just six weeks, "but we get it done."

Catholic Charities provides the gifts to the parents unwrapped so that they can still participate in gift-giving by wrapping the presents for their children.

"I have seen people be really, really overwhelmed with the generosity of others, which is always nice – not expected at all – but always nice when that happens. I have seen folks who have been clients in the past, who turned around later when things were better for them and

have helped others."

The benefits of the Christmas program extend beyond the holiday season. For some families, this program is their first interaction with Catholic Charities. A number of these families will continue to take advantage of the aid offered by the organization, something they might not have otherwise encountered if not for the holiday assistance program.

In addition, the program gives parishioners in the diocese the annual opportunity to learn more about the services offered through Catholic Charities, and what they can do to help.

"Anytime we get an opportunity to interact with folks and tell them about what we do, we're excited to do that. And this is just one way that they can participate in the work that

we're doing."

Catholic Charities is the social services arm of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend. The organization offers a number of stability, counseling, migration, and pro-life services throughout the entire year. Contributing to the Catholic Charities Christmas program is a way to directly assist those in need this holiday season.

For more information about Catholic Charities or to make a donation, visit their website at [ccfwsb.org](http://ccfwsb.org).

Poor Handmaids of Jesus Christ

Partners in the work of the Spirit

# Joy TO THE WORLD

A Ministry-wide Christmas Gift Catalog for The Poor Handmaids of Jesus Christ

— ❄️ —

You can view all 31 gifts by visiting  
[www.poorhandmaids.org/donate](http://www.poorhandmaids.org/donate)

SCAN HERE  
 To Donate or Learn More

Parishioners:  
 St. Patrick Parish, Arcola  
 St. Paul of the Cross, Columbia City

**Free Consultation**

**Medicare Supplements Plans**

**Medicare Advantage Plans**

**Prescription Drug Plans**

**Life Insurance**

**Long-Term Care Insurance**

**Dental, Vision & Hearing Plans**

**Cindy K. Trahin**  
 trahininsurancellc@gmail.com

**Lisa Petrovas**  
 agentlpetrovas@gmail.com

**Office**  
 260-459-9004

**Fax**  
 260-459-3412

[www.TrahinInsuranceServices.com](http://www.TrahinInsuranceServices.com)

7127 Homestead Rd., Ste. B., Fort Wayne, IN 46814

# Notre Dame Concludes Its 50 Years of Coeducation Celebration

BY MICHELLE MCDANIEL

The University of Notre Dame is a world-renowned research institution known for competitive acceptance rates, elite academics, and a football team with passionate fans across the United States.

However, the opportunities for success and personal growth allotted to their students were not always open to women. In fact, Notre Dame did not officially welcome female students until 1972 — now 50 years ago.

This month, Notre Dame concludes a year-long celebration of 50 years of coeducation. The commemoration was filled with stories of glass ceiling-shattering accomplishments, of friendships that flourished despite discrimination, and of a diverse and welcoming trajectory for the university.

Notre Dame also hosted

events such as a “Golden Gala,” multiple “conversation” presentations with some of the first female alumni of the university, and an exhibit set up by Elizabeth Hogan, a senior archivist at the university.

One such event was the ND Women’s Connect event, “Celebration of ND Female Firsts”, held via Zoom on Nov. 16.

“We’re so grateful that [the speakers] have stepped forward to share their stories and also stepped forward years ago to be leaders on campus for women across campus and across the Notre Dame family,” said Karen Dehais, Board Chairperson of Notre Dame Women Connect.

This presentation was about what the female pioneers of Notre Dame experienced.

Brooke Norton Lais ’02, the first female student president; Molly Kinder ’01, the first female member of the Irish Guard; and Sister Jane Pitz ’72,



Today's Catholic file photo



Make a **legacy gift** to the

---

Saint Mother Theodore Guerin

---

FOUNDATION

You make an irrevocable gift of \$10,000 or more.

You receive payments for life based on your age; a portion of those payments are even tax free.

You receive a charitable deduction; you are building the future of the sisters through a gift to the Sisters of Providence.

ONE LIFE							
AGE	60	65	70	75	80	85	90+
RATE	3.9%	4.2%	4.7%	5.4%	6.5%	7.6%	8.6%

Rates Subject to change based on the ACCGA.

In exchange for a gift of cash or appreciated stock, you will receive immediate tax savings and a guaranteed, partially tax-free income stream for life. Best of all, while you're doing something good for yourself, you'll be doing something wonderful for our sisters.

Your gift today will have an impact on the Sisters of Providence for years to come! Please call us for two-life or deferred gift annuity rates.

To request a free proposal, contact Connie Gualano, manager of planned giving, at 812-535-2811  
PlannedGiving.SistersofProvidence.org

one of the first female rectors, shared their experiences with the attendees.

For Lais, promoting equality on campus was central during her time as class president. She presented to the board of trustees on what it was like to be a woman on campus years ago and gave recommendations for further improvement.

One such example was the creation of what is now called the Gender Relations Center, which designs and implements programs about healthy relationships, gender, and sexuality.

Among other projects, she worked to enforce equal security and oversight in male and female dorms and to change the fight song to include women. She says that the latter suggestion received audible gasps from the board but was implemented 20 years later.

“I recognized that I was the first person who held that role who really could appreciate what it was like to be a woman at Notre Dame and bring that perspective of what it was like to live in a women’s dorm and what it was like to walk into a room for a meeting and be one of the only women there with male faculty and administrators,” Lais said.

Kinder has seen her influence through changes within the Irish Guard, the elite group of students who lead the university’s band onto the field before football games, of which she was the first female member. As a full-fledged member, she passed the same tryouts her male colleagues faced and also met the former 6’2” height requirement.

“I had the sense, even at age 20, that this was an opportunity to be a role model, and

I really felt like the women in the community saw this as a win for Notre Dame. I felt that very strongly, and I still feel it today,” Kinder said.

But even though other women praised her bravery, she felt pressured by Irish Guard members and alumni who thought her presence hurt the “fraternity” of the group, which had only accepted men since its founding in 1949.

Her fellow guardsmen refused to speak to her, completely ignoring her for the entire time she served. The after-practice plans and secretive rituals never once included her.

“They were classmates and friends — guys that I had tried out with and bonded with,” Kinder said. “The captain of the guard was my neighbor. I had a party the night before [tryouts] at my apartment. They came; we were cheering each other on.”

Despite the cold treatment, Kinder knew that she was an inspiration for other young women, and she took courage from the fact that she was paving new ground. She worked hard to be a part of the group, keeping her mistreatment a secret from the press, and even cutting her hair short when the men shaved theirs.

In 2014, the Irish Guard eliminated its height requirement, and other women have

joined in the years since Kinder’s time.

Although she began at Notre Dame decades prior to Kinder and Lais, Sister Pitz does not recall dealing with much misogyny, nor did she receive complaints from the women for whom she was an assistant rector.

However, Sister Pitz does remember that there were many logistical issues to sort through as she worked with the women in her dorm. While her dorm was expected to function in the same ways that the male dorms had for decades, they were often left in the dark regarding the expectations.

“We didn’t have rules. We made them up as we went along,” Sister Pitz said.

Women now make up about half of the University of Notre Dame’s campus, and efforts have been made to make Notre Dame a more inclusive university for all attendees.

“We’re also excited about the future of women in the Notre Dame family and what our collaboration together and our connections together will look like,” Dehais said. “This is quite a remarkable moment as we close out 2022 and think about the close of the celebration of the 50th anniversary of coeducation.”

*“We’re also excited about the future of women in the Notre Dame family and what our collaboration together and our connections together will look like.”*

KAREN DEHAIS

# Blessed Wooden Outdoor Nativity Sets Remind Others of True Meaning of Christmas

BY GEORGIA LIEB

It's that time of the year when most people are thinking about decorating for Christmas. Bishop Luers High School joined in this year with a special décor offering, painted wooden Nativity yard scenes made to weather all sorts of winter cold and precipitation.

Bishop Luers partnered with the Catholic Business Exchange in Indianapolis, which coordinates Nativity set fundraisers in the Indianapolis metro area. Bishop Luers students sold 69 Nativity sets this fall between Sep. 21 and Oct. 10.

The outdoor Nativity scene movement was born last year through the inspiration of Catholic Business Exchange founder Jim Liston. In an interview, Liston said that he always had the intention of buying an outdoor Nativity scene but hadn't acted on it until recently. He purchased one in November of 2020, and he enjoyed having it on the lawn. He said the scene made him feel great because the Nativity was the true meaning of Christmas, versus putting up a blow-up Frosty the Snowman or Santa Claus. In a January 2021 Business Exchange meeting, Jim mentioned the Nativity set he bought and the idea he had of making Central Indiana the outdoor Nativity scene capital of the United States. Since he mentioned this idea, the project has grown and people have taken on the challenge.

Liston contacted the manufacturer, located in Michigan, and made an agreement with them to sell Nativity scenes at a discounted rate through schools and parishes. Each participating location can then sell them as a fundraiser to further their



Rose Ann Scranton

Rose Ann Scranton displays an outdoor Nativity set in her front yard that she purchased through a Bishop Luers High School fundraiser this year.

Catholic mission. According to Liston, in 2021, 10 schools, parishes, and Knights of Columbus groups participated and sold 600 Nativity scenes. This number grew in 2022 to 28 groups selling 1,375 Nativity scenes. Liston said, "We know that close to 1,900 of these kits are now going to be adorning front yards throughout the next 5 to 6 weeks."

Msgr. Bill Stumpf, Vicar General for the Archdiocese of Indianapolis, blessed the Nativity sets prior to their shipment to participating locations. People who have come to pick up their kits have all had good things to say about the kits and were appreciative of the fact that they have been blessed. Several plan to put up spotlights to shine on their Nativity set in the yard. Bishop Luers currently has theirs set up in the courtyard next to the St. Francis of Assisi statue.

Based on this year's success, Bishop Luers anticipates taking part in this fundraiser again next year.

THIS DECEMBER, TAKE A

## EUCCHARISTIC PILGRIMAGE

IN OUR DIOCESE

ST. JOHN BOSCO PARISH, CHURBUSCO

Each month, you're invited on a self-guided pilgrimage to sites of special Eucharistic significance in the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend.

Learn more and download a monthly pilgrimage passport: [diocesefwsb.org/eucharist](http://diocesefwsb.org/eucharist)

CATHOLIC COMMUNITY FOUNDATION OF NORTHEAST INDIANA

During this great season of giving, let the Catholic Community Foundation of Northeast Indiana help you tailor your estate plan to benefit your Catholic parish, school, or favorite ministry. It is a true gift that will last a lifetime.

It's Simple. It's Stewardship. It's Forever.

Contact Mike Shade  
[mshade@ccfnei.org](mailto:mshade@ccfnei.org)  
 260-399-1436

# The Mission of Advent: Seeing the Holy Face of Jesus

News about a baby is always good news. For me, as an uncle, undoubtedly the most exciting moments came when I finally got to gaze upon the faces of my darling niece and nephews.

For months, we had been waiting. With each of my sisters' pregnancies, we had prayed that all would go well. We prayed for a healthy mom and healthy babies. And then we got to see their little faces.

It wasn't until we could see their faces that we especially felt we knew these babies. When we saw their faces, they were present to us as themselves. No longer anonymous, we knew them unmistakably unique and lovable.

In the Bible, the desire to know God is often expressed as the desire to see the face of God. In no book is this as remarkable and as clear as in the Psalms. The psalmist prays: "My soul thirsts for God, for the living God. When can I enter and see the face of God?" (42:3). In another place it is written, "'Come,' my heart says, 'seek his face'; your face, Lord, do I seek" (Ps 27:8). The longing for God is expressed as yearning to see His face.

The contest comes in the Psalms, however, when the psalmist perceives God is distant. It is then that he prays, "How long, Lord? Will you utterly forget me? How long will you hide your face from me?" (Ps 13:1). Just as the desire for God's presence is characterized as wanting to see

His face, distance from God is described as having His face hidden from us.

In Advent, we meditate on the mystery of the Holy Face. God is not distant, faceless, or hidden: He is Emmanuel, God-with-us. In the Christmas mystery, God takes a face — the face of Jesus.

St. Thérèse of Lisieux had a particular devotion to the Holy Face of Jesus. In one of her prayer poems dedicated to the Holy Face, she writes: "Your Face is my only homeland. / It's my Kingdom of love. / It's my cheerful meadow. / Each day, my sweet sun." Thérèse, like the psalmist, recognized in the mystery of the face of God, the encounter with a God who had become very near.

Meditating on the Holy Face, Pope Benedict XVI writes, "Your Face O Lord I seek — seeking the Face of Jesus must be the longing of all Christians, indeed, we are 'the generation' which seeks His Face in our day, the Face of the 'God of Jacob.'" We are seekers in this life, not for the glorification of restless wandering, but by the nature of this life itself.

St. Paul tells the Corinthians: "At present we see indistinctly, as in a mirror, but then face to face. At present I know partially; then I shall know fully, as I am fully known" (1 Cor 13:12). On this side of heaven, God has deemed it enough for us to know Him through Jesus. This is the face of God that we must seek. But the Christian promise is that we shall one



GUEST  
COMMENTARY

FATHER PATRICK BRISCOE, OP

day see Him as He is.

Dedicate these Advent days to the desire to see His face. Let the words of the psalmist fall from our tongue, dropping again and again from our lips. After all, this Advent pilgrimage to see the face of the child in the manger is the very pilgrimage of life.

Here and now, we kneel at cribs and contemplate the mystery of the face of Jesus, God born in human flesh. And yet, one day, we will see God forever, face to face.

Father Patrick Briscoe, OP, is Editor of Our Sunday Visitor.

# The First Notes: When Music and Prayer Converge

From the beginning, there was music. It signaled the parade of life — comings and goings, mornings and evenings, the chirping of birds, the clatter of dishes, and the croaking of frogs.

Guido Monaco, an 11th-century Italian, loved it all, especially the chanting of monks. It confirmed what he had always sensed: Sometimes, music isn't simply music. It is more. It is prayer.

The passionate Catholic was drawn to religious life, studying to become a Benedictine monk at the Pomposa Abbey on the Adriatic coast. With its rugged cliffs, lush groves, and turquoise waters, the beautiful setting kindled Guido's spiritual fervor. He knew where it came from. Singing felt like the best way to offer his thanks.

But learning the hymns and harmonies that stirred his soul was hard. They had to be memorized. There was no written system for musical notation and it often took months.

As Guido poured over the manuscripts in the abbey's legendary library, he wondered: Why couldn't music be written down and read like the words in a book?

One day, while practicing his hymns, Guido realized he was singing six basic tones. No matter the melody, no matter how high or low he sang, the same tones repeated themselves. He took a piece of



TWENTY  
SOMETHING

CHRISTINA CAPECCHI

parchment and drew six marks — each one stacked higher than the one before.

Now he had to name them. Guido studied a sentence in his favorite hymn to St. John: "In order for the servants to sing the wonders of your deeds, dissolve the defect on the weak lip, St. John." This was the longing of his heart: to more perfectly praise the Creator of all the beauty.

Guido used the first syllable of each Latin word — ut, re, mi, fa, sol, la — to name the six tones. He sang them out loud, raising his voice step by step. If every song could be written down in this way, people could learn to read music! They could know the correct melody to sing even if they had never heard it before!

His heart raced.

His fellow monks were less excited. One reprimanded him: spend less time thinking up silly ideas and more time praying.

But Guido's dream of shar-

CAPECCHI, page 13

# Focusing on Christ Dispels the World's Darkness



THE  
SUNDAY  
GOSPEL

MSGR. OWEN F. CAMPION

## Third Sunday of Advent Matthew 11:2-11

The Book of Isaiah is the source of this weekend's first reading.

Isaiah was between a rock and a hard place, so to speak. He realized that unwise alliances and behavior that forgot God put the Hebrews' kingdom of Judah at great risk. The prophet was convinced that if the nation did not return to God in genuine obedience and piety, then the whirlwind eventually would sweep away life as he and his contemporaries knew it.

He met dispute and outrage. It must have been frustrating, but despite the angry reaction to what he said on the part of many people around him, Isaiah unflinchingly called the people to God. It was not as if God would bring a terrible punishment upon the kingdom. Rather, the people, by their impiety, would create a nightmare for themselves.

The Epistle to James supplies the second reading. This epistle rarely appears in the liturgy. The identity of the author is unclear. The New Testament mentions four men with this name. Which, if any, wrote this epistle?

Regardless, this reading solidly establishes the author's faith that Jesus will be victorious. No power can exceed the power of the Lord. After all, the Lord is the Son of God.

While final victory undoubtedly will come, it will not necessarily come at a time when humans predict, and certainly it

will not come at their bidding. The great day nevertheless will come. God will prevail.

So, the epistle urges strong faith, but also forbearance.

The third reading, from St. Matthew's Gospel, centers on John the Baptist, whose denunciations of sin in high places led to his arrest. (In time, they led to his death.)

Despising the Roman occupation of the land, pious Jews at this time yearned for a Messiah who would rid the Holy Land of the pagan intruders, for whom Herod was a stooge.

John gave another description of the Redeemer. He saw the Savior not as a warrior, commanding armies to slaughter the enemies of the One God of Israel, but the compassionate, truly holy leader of the pious.

Jesus met this description: healing the sick, giving hope, and restoring life, lovingly coming to earth as Son of God.

In the last verses, Jesus

affirms that John is a prophet. In response, John insists Jesus is the greatest prophet.

## Reflection

Advent is approaching its close. Since Christmas is near, the Church looks ahead to the wonder of the Lord's birth. This is "Gaudete Sunday", using a title taken from the first word of the Introit in Latin, "Gaudete!", or "Rejoice!"

Priests may wear rose vestments this weekend instead of violet, as if the rays of dawn are already brightening Advent's somberness.

The readings make several points. Isaiah warned us as he warned his contemporaries that by sin we bring heartache upon ourselves. By sinning, we weave the cloth of our own misery. God never brings death. He brings life, just as Jesus brought life.

Advent penance and prayer hopefully lead us to follow

Christ. The liturgy presumes that we are using Advent to our advantage. If we center our lives on Christ, then our love for God and for others will brighten the darkness and terror of our times. It is that simple — and inevitable.

Advent is the opportunity to fortify and focus Christian resolve.

## READINGS

**Sunday:** Is 35:1-6a, 10 Ps 146:6-10 Jas 5:7-10 Mt 11:2-11

**Monday:** Zec 2:14-17 (Ps) Jdt 13:18bc, 19 Lk 1:26-38

**Tuesday:** Zep 3:1-2, 9-13 Ps 34:2-3, 6-7, 17-18, 19, 23 Mt 21:28-32

**Wednesday:** Is 45:6c-8, 18, 21c-25 Ps 85:9-14 Lk 7:18b-23

**Thursday:** Is 54:1-10 Ps 30:2, 4-6, 11-13 Lk 7:24-30

**Friday:** Is 56:1-3a, 6-8 Ps 67:2-3, 5, 7-8 Jn 5:33-36

**Saturday:** Is 7:10-14 Ps 24L1-6 Rom 1:1-7 Mt 1:18-24

# Jesus Was a Teenager Too

If I asked you to imagine Jesus' childhood, you'd likely picture Him as a baby in the manger. But have you ever considered that Christ was once a teenager too?

In this season that sings of "the little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes," we can forget that the incarnation means Jesus became a teen too ... with hormones and growth spurts, with a changing body and a deepening voice, with all the questions and appetite and energy that young people bring.

Teens often get a terrible rap, but the roller coaster of adolescence is essential to our growth — and young people bring enormous gifts to the human family. Their enthusiasm, prophetic voices, and optimism are sources of deep hope and renewal.

Still, rare is the adult who would repeat middle or high school. So, what does it matter to us, young or old, that Jesus was once 13, 15, or 18 years old?

Jesus' adolescence affirms the overlooked and underappreciated chapters in our own lives. The one story we have from Jesus' childhood beyond His birth narratives — the time He was lost and found in the Temple — speaks to our growing callings, our desire for independence, and our need for strong role models in faith.

Jesus knew what it was to see the world as a child and then grow taller, stronger, and older: to change physically, emotionally, and spiritually. He

experienced the transformations that teens live daily: the same struggles that adults can be quick to forget when we're frustrated or flummoxed by the young people in our lives.

What a gift that Jesus blessed our most trying, tumultuous years by living them Himself.

There is good news in this truth for all of us, even those with adolescence far-off in the rearview mirror.

In Jesus' time, life expectancy was typically 30-35 years, a shockingly short life span by our modern standards. But this fact means He lived through what His time would have considered to be young adulthood and even mature adulthood.

While He did not get to grow to be an elderly man, He lived through huge swaths of the human experience during the decades He walked among us.

As a son and cousin, Jesus understood the joys and conflicts of families. He journeyed through friendship with women and men from different walks of life. He labored for decades as a carpenter and then spent three years in public ministry as a teacher, preacher, and healer, which means He understood work in many forms.

He knew physical, mental, and spiritual suffering — all the ordinary and extraordinary emotions and experiences of human life.

Jesus' adolescence reminds us that most of the Messiah's life was not dramatic moments recorded for posterity, but



## FAITH AT HOME

Laura Kelly Fanucci

everyday encounters much like our own: hidden or forgotten, but still meaningful.

Ultimately the details of age matter less than the deeper truth that God become one of us, among us, for us. Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany celebrate Christ as Emmanuel: with us in each stage of life.

If you look closely in this sacred season, you might just catch a glimpse of Christ in a child's eyes or a teen's smile. Whether you meet a new baby in your family, sit near a cranky toddler at church, or try to make small talk with a tween at your holiday table, remember that Jesus was once their age too.

Jesus, who knew what it was to be young, taught us to welcome the least. May His wisdom soften our hearts to heed His words and hear His echo in every baby's cry, every child's shout, and every teenager's voice.

Laura Kelly Fanucci is a writer, speaker, and author of several books. Her work can be found at [laurakellyfanucci.com](http://laurakellyfanucci.com).

pondering their delicate interplay, like snowflakes glittering in the sun. We may first identify beauty, but it is goodness too. We might sense a truth, but beauty is in its core. We are drawn to goodness because it contains truth.

This endless loop comes from God and points us back to Him. We need not fully grasp it, but we can feel it and follow it. And the gratitude that pours out will make a beautiful sound.

Christina Capecchi is a freelance writer from Inver Grove Heights, Minnesota.

### CAPECCHI, from page 12

ing music more readily never left him. Bishop Theobald of Arezzo visited the abbey, heard about Guido's passion for music and invited him to come train the choir at his cathedral. The bishop was dazzled by Guido's new method of musical notation and encouraged him to try it out with the cathedral singers. Within days, they had mastered hymns they had never heard before.

It worked!  
The bishop urged Guido to share his revolutionary idea in a book. Pope John XIX summoned the monk, eager to see it himself.

The pope recognized what was before him: the invention of a music notation, what was and would remain the only language common to all humanity ... a love of music that sprang from a love of the Lord.

Eventually, the first note was changed to do and a seventh note, ti, was added. But Guido's system endured.

As we sing Christmas carols this month, may we remember the earnest monk who embraced the transcendentals of our Catholic faith: truth, goodness, and beauty. They come from God and spill over into everything He created.

One could spend a lifetime

## SCRIPTURE SEARCH®

Gospel for December 11, 2022

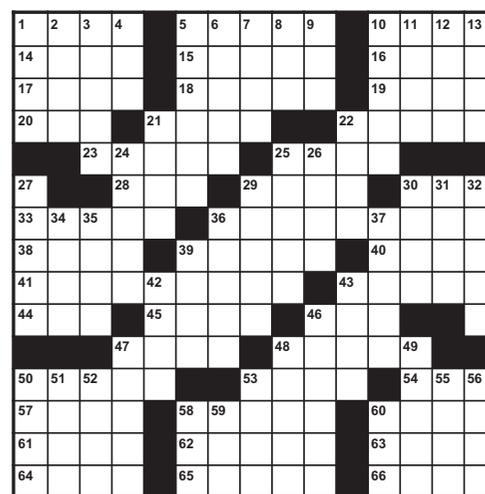
Matthew 11:2-11

Following is a word search based on the Gospel reading for the Third Sunday of Advent, Cycle A: The Baptist's questions of Christ. The words can be found in all directions in the puzzle.

HEARD	DISCIPLES	BLIND
SIGHT	LEPERS	HEAR
DEAD	RAISED	POOR
GOOD NEWS	BLESSED	REED
BY THE WIND	PROPHET	BEHOLD
MY MESSENGER	BEFORE YOU	BORN
GREATER	BAPTIST	HEAVEN

### PRAISING THE BAPTIST

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



www.wordgamesforcatholics.com

- ACROSS**
- 1 Sts. Simon and \_\_\_\_\_
  - 5 Does a car repair job
  - 10 Letters for a police call
  - 14 Autumn birthstone
  - 15 Take to the soapbox
  - 16 Landlocked African nation
  - 17 \_\_\_\_\_ Ground
  - 18 Angered
  - 19 Spoiled child
  - 20 Vane reading
  - 21 A biblical sea
  - 22 Middle Easterners
  - 23 Direction from Nazareth to Jerusalem
  - 25 Tax
  - 28 Chairman with a "Little Red Book"
  - 29 Deal out sparingly
  - 30 Winter worry
  - 33 Celestial being
  - 36 Shrewd
  - 38 Patron saint of France
  - 39 Lucifer
  - 40 A nobleman
  - 41 Describes leadership succession in the Church
  - 43 Interviewer, often
  - 44 Norse goddess
  - 45 Pundit's page
  - 46 There have been 13 popes with this name
  - 47 Lyric poems
  - 48 Fred Flintstone's wife
  - 50 Source of chocolate
  - 53 Lather
  - 54 OT book
  - 57 French protest cry
  - 58 Fragment
  - 60 Ready, willing and \_\_\_\_\_
  - 61 City southeast of Milan
  - 62 Biblical animal of transport
  - 63 Prod
  - 64 Forfeiture
  - 65 Sierra \_\_\_\_\_
  - 66 "\_\_\_\_\_ time..."
- DOWN**
- 1 St. \_\_\_\_\_ of God
  - 2 Atop
  - 3 Valleys
  - 4 English cathedral town
  - 5 Marian litany
  - 6 David married his widow
- 7 Like Michael Jordan
  - 8 Parisian season
  - 9 But, to Ovid
  - 10 Place for sacred vessels
  - 11 Monetary unit of Yugoslavia
  - 12 Reveal indiscreetly
  - 13 Obeys a basic canine command
  - 21 Double
  - 22 \_\_\_\_\_ plair
  - 24 Auguries
  - 25 Reasoning
  - 26 Israel's airline
  - 27 Prince of India
  - 29 He succeeded Saul
  - 30 Number of horsemen in Revelation
  - 31 Patron saint of lace makers
  - 32 Consumers
  - 34 Informal refusal
  - 35 London jail
  - 36 Graf rival
  - 37 "Piece of cake," for example
  - 39 Narcotic
  - 42 Commotion
  - 43 Our Lady, \_\_\_\_\_ of Christians
  - 46 Legally responsible
  - 47 Patriarch respite, perhaps
  - 48 They were first to see the empty tomb
  - 49 Boss monk
  - 50 Vocation
  - 51 Peek-\_\_\_\_\_
  - 52 Ill-bred fellows
  - 53 Form of wrestling
  - 55 Mr. Greenspan
  - 56 Repeat
  - 58 250, to Caesar
  - 59 "Norma \_\_\_\_\_"
  - 60 Muslim title of honor

# TODAY'S CATHOLIC

YOUR NEWS. WHEREVER YOU ARE.

**GET THE FREE DIGITAL EDITION**  
[TodaysCatholic.org/Subscribe](http://TodaysCatholic.org/Subscribe)



CNS photos/Paul Haring

The Nativity scene and Christmas tree decorate St. Peter's Square after a lighting ceremony at the Vatican on Dec. 3.

## Keep the Creche in Christmas, Pope Urges

BY CINDY WOODEN

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Stopping to gaze at and perhaps pray before a Nativity scene is one of the best ways to remember the real meaning of Christmas, Pope Francis said.

"In its genuine poverty," the pope said, "the creche helps us to rediscover the true richness of Christmas and to purify ourselves of so many aspects that pollute the Christmas landscape."

Pope Francis met on Dec. 3 with the artisans who carved the 18-piece Nativity scene in St. Peter's Square; the donors of the white pine Christmas tree; the residents of a psychiatric rehabilitation center who, along with a group of students and grandparents, created the ornaments; and with representatives of the government of Guatemala, which set up another Nativity scene in the Vatican audience hall.

"Simple and familiar, the Nativity scene recalls a Christmas that is different from the consumerist and commercial Christmas. It is something else. It reminds us how good it is for us to cherish moments of silence and prayer in our days, often overwhelmed by frenzy," Pope Francis told them during a midday gathering.

The group was scheduled to gather in St. Peter's Square in the evening for the official unveiling of the Nativity scene and the lighting of the Christmas tree. But a major

*"The creche helps us to rediscover the true richness of Christmas and to purify ourselves of so many aspects that pollute the Christmas landscape."*

— Pope Francis



Young people from Spain take a selfie as they wait for the unveiling of the Nativity scene and lighting of the Christmas tree St. Peter's Square during a ceremony at the Vatican on Dec. 3, 2022.

rainstorm with a forecast for more rain caused the Vatican to move the evening festivities indoors, although hundreds of people still were in the square for the lighting.

Meeting with the donors, Pope Francis encouraged

everyone to find some quiet time to spend before a creche at Christmas.

"Silence encourages contemplation of the child Jesus," the pope said, and "helps us to become intimate with God, with the fragile simplicity of a

tiny newborn baby, with the meekness of His being laid down, with the tender affection of the swaddling clothes that envelop Him."

"If we really want to celebrate Christmas," he said, "let us rediscover through the crib

the surprise and amazement of littleness, the littleness of God, who makes Himself small, who is not born in the splendor of appearances, but in the poverty of a stable."

To truly encounter Jesus, the pope said, people must meet Him in the manger, leaving their own vanity and pretense behind.

"Prayer is the best way to say thank you before this gift of free love, to say thank you to Jesus who desires to enter our homes and our hearts," he said. "Yes, God loves us so much that He shares our humanity and our lives."

"Even in the worst moments," the pope said, "He is there, because He is the Emmanuel, the God with us, the light that illuminates the darkness and the tender presence that accompanies us on our journey."

The lights on the Christmas tree, he said, are a reminder that Jesus came "to lighten our darkness, our existence often enclosed in the shadow of sin, fear, pain."

But, the pope said, the tree also should make people think about the importance of roots.

Like a tree, he said, only a person who is "rooted in good soil remains firm, grows, matures, resists the winds that shake him, and becomes a point of reference for those who look upon him."

The Christmas tree, Pope Francis said, is a reminder of the need to remain rooted in Christ.

# WHAT'S HAPPENING?

WHAT'S HAPPENING carries announcements about upcoming events in the diocese. View more Catholic events and submit new ones at [www.todayscatholic.org/event](http://www.todayscatholic.org/event). For additional listings of that event, please call the advertising sales staff at 260-399-1449 to purchase space.

**'Our Lady of Guadalupe: Spain to America' Musical to be Performed**

SOUTH BEND — "Our Lady of Guadalupe: Spain to America," a musical theater production that traces the history of Our Lady of Guadalupe in Spain to Our Lady of Guadalupe in Mexico, will be performed on Sunday, Dec. 11, at 12:30 p.m. at St. Therese Little Flower Church, 54191 N. Ironwood Rd. A taco bar will be furnished by the Knights of Columbus. Tickets are adults \$10, children 12 and younger \$5. Contact Carolynn Hine-Edington at 574-329-2977 or [carolynnhinejohnson@gmail.com](mailto:carolynnhinejohnson@gmail.com) for information.

**Knights of Columbus Pancake Breakfast with Special Guest**

FORT WAYNE — The Knights of Columbus will have a Pancake Breakfast following Sunday morning Mass at 8 and 10:30 a.m. on Dec. 18 in the Most Precious Blood Gymnasium, 1529 Barthold St. The Rosary Society will be having a Cookie Walk on Saturday and Sunday, where you can purchase a variety of cookies for just \$5 a pound. Visit [www.preciousblood.org](http://www.preciousblood.org) for information.

**Breakfast with St. Nick**

SOUTH BEND — St. Patrick Parish, 312 S. Scott St., will host a breakfast of pancakes, sausage, and eggs with gifts for children and a visit with St. Nick on Sunday, Dec. 11, from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in the gym. Cost is \$6 for children, \$12 adults, and \$30 for large families. Visit [www.stpatricksb.org](http://www.stpatricksb.org) or contact Paul Rumbach at 574-287-2270 or [niswongerpg1963@yahoo.com](mailto:niswongerpg1963@yahoo.com).

**St. Michael's Altar Rosary Cookie Walk**

PLYMOUTH — An assortment of homemade cookies will be for sale for \$4 per pound on Saturday, Dec. 10, from 8 a.m. to noon at St. Michael's School Cafeteria, 612 N Center St. All proceeds support St. Michael's Altar Rosary Society. Contact Chris Morrow at 574-540-9686 or [chris@morrowinsuranceagency.com](mailto:chris@morrowinsuranceagency.com).

**Christmas with Sacred Music Concert at Notre Dame Basilica**

NOTRE DAME — Christmas with Sacred Music at Notre Dame will be held on Saturday, Dec. 10 from 7-9 p.m. in the Basilica of the Sacred Heart, 101 Basilica Dr. This cel-

brates the seasons of Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany through the choral, organ, and vocal music of sacred music composers of Gregorian Chant to contemporary carols. The evening features performances by SMND faculty Kola Owolabi, Stephen Lancaster, and Mark Doerries as well as Concordia Vocal Ensemble and the Notre Dame Children's Choir. Organ prelude begins at 7 p.m. Concert begins at 7:30 p.m. Free and open to the public. Contact Suze Villano at 574-631-3384 or [SacredMusicAcademy@nd.edu](mailto:SacredMusicAcademy@nd.edu).

**CROSSWORD SOLUTION**

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

## REST IN PEACE

**Auburn**

Donald A. Dapp, 89, Immaculate Conception

**Bristol**

Linda J. Thompson, 74, St. Mary of the Annunciation

**Fort Wayne**

Juanito Adriano, 58, Queen of Angels

Irma Gerhardstein, 93, Queen of Angels

Eugene Neyman, 83, Queen of Angels

Dorothy Rebman, 105, Queen of Angels

Pauline Lueken, 94, St. Charles Borromeo

Charlotte L. Nill, 102, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton

Simon Kim Chan Ong, 87, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton

Marilyn A. Smith, 92, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton

Felicia C. Rodriguez, 78, St. Jude

Catherine Wyss, 59, St. Peter

**Goshen**

James F. Pingpank, Sr., 87, St. John the Evangelist

**Mishawaka**

Jerome McMahan, 90, St. Monica

**New Haven**

Barbara K. Kintz, 90, St. John the Baptist

Richard Metzler, 55, St. John the Baptist

**South Bend**

Paul Waddy, 77, Cathedral of St. Matthew

Madelyn Farrow, 90, Christ the King

Jean Witucki, 80, Christ the King

Edwin A. Jaroszewski, 69, Holy Cross

Joseph Tirota, 61, Holy Cross

Marcelo Iven Jaime, infant, St. Adalbert

Jose Torres, 77, St. Adalbert

Thomas A. Oesterling, 85, St. Jude

**Warsaw**

James L. Mornout, 60, Sacred Heart

## SUBMIT EVENTS at [TodaysCatholic.org/event](http://TodaysCatholic.org/event)

### St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish seeks a Full-Time Facilities Manager

(Beginning in May of 2023)

The Facilities Manager at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish/school in Fort Wayne is responsible for maintaining the parish/school and school buildings and grounds. The Facilities Manager performs and supervises tasks related to HVAC, electrical, plumbing, security, environmental, safety, custodial, and event coordination. This position requires a team player attitude, excellent interpersonal and communication skills, attention to details, and project coordination.

The candidate:

Must have good interpersonal skills and familiarity with the Church as an organization.

Must have knowledge of the Catholic Faith and be a participating Catholic in good standing with the Church.

Must have a GED or High School Diploma and a minimum 3-5 years of experience working in the facilities management field and supervising others.

**For more information and to apply, visit:**  
<https://theapplicantmanager.com/jobs?pos=D1280>

## A trusted local team that treats you like an individual

At D.O. McComb & Sons, we offer personalized funeral and memorial services arranged by our compassionate staff. We believe every final tribute should be as unique as the life it represents.

*Serving Fort Wayne families since 1925.*



260-426-9494 [McCombCares.com](http://McCombCares.com)



Fresh Cut Flowers | Custom Silk Arrangements | Plants | Gourmet Fruit Baskets | Balloons | & more!

*Mary Green*  
Owner

574.232.3354  
800.994.2687  
[www.wygants.com](http://www.wygants.com)

**PERMANENT DEACONS, from page 1**

already, but your houses did not collapse because of your faith in Christ. The Lord will continue to be your strength in whatever future storms may come as long as you continue to trust in Him and to stay close to Him. As deacons, I pray you will help all those whom you serve to also build their houses on the solid foundation of Jesus and His word. That's what you are being called to do as servants of Christ and His Church."

After the homily, the bishop asked the candidates to rise and together recite the Profession of Faith, a statement similar to the Nicene Creed spoken at Mass every day. Then, in groups of four (and two for the last group), the men approached the altar to lay their hands on the Book of the Gospels, from which they will proclaim the Word of God after ordination, and recite the Oath of Fidelity.

The deacon candidates come from all walks of life and all areas of the diocese. They have spent the last four years studying and preparing for the demanding life of service as a deacon. After their ordination, Bishop Rhoades will assign each of them to a parish within the diocese, though those assignments are still unknown at this time.

Once ordained, each of the 18 men will embark on a life of service and will be able to assist their priests at the altar at Masses, proclaim the Gospel readings and give homilies – for which Bishop Rhoades said they were well-trained – and perform other duties within the parish.

Candidate Max Ortega of St. Patrick Parish in Fort Wayne said he does not feel nervous as the day approaches. "When we started the program, I was very nervous," he said. He confessed that he had even driven to the classroom in Warsaw once or twice to ensure that he could get there and back home easily.

He was inspired by the two deacons at his home parish – Deacon Victor Sandoval and

Deacon Humberto Vasquez – to enter the program himself. Now, with ordination so close and no knowledge of his future assignment, Ortega said, "It's a big responsibility, but I can say I feel at peace."

On the South Bend-side of the diocese, Andy Oröss from Christ the King Parish said that he pursued the diaconate after his wife, the Religious Education Coordinator at the parish, and others invited him to explore the possibility. "I'm excited, very much.

"It's been a good process, the formation, spiritual formation, and I'm excited to do it."

Another candidate, Raymond Krouse, moved with his wife from Fort Wayne to their lake house around 10 years ago, making St. Gaspar del Bufalo in Rome City their home parish. He has thrived in two careers, retiring as a Senior Master Sergeant from 36 years of service in the 122nd Air National Guard, after which he found success in construction work before coming to the diaconate in his retirement.

Becoming a deacon "was not ever on my radar," he shared. But then, "I just came to the point where I just knew I had to make a change; I didn't know what it was." After much prayer, he finally told the Lord that he would follow wherever he was led.

"And two weeks later, Father Bernard at the time asked me if I wanted to get into the diaconate and I didn't even hesitate."

The formation was difficult for a man who claimed little academic achievements prior to this, but he found that "Mother Mary up there helped me do some homework" and he received many affirmations that he was following God's will, even after long, hard days of studying.

"I've been trained well, the training that they gave us was incredible; we had a lot of opportunities to learn, and I just kept going forward, trusting that I'd get through it," he said.

Now he feels prepared for the task laid before him. "I need just the Holy Spirit."



Photos by Jennifer Barton

**Prior to the Mass of Profession of Faith and Oath of Fidelity on Dec. 1, several members of the large deacon class pray at Ancilla Domini Chapel.**



**Deacon Stan LeMieux proclaims the Gospel at Mass. He has been instrumental in aiding the men in pursuing their vocations.**



**Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades looks on as four of the deacon candidates recite the Oath of Fidelity.**



**Two of the candidates bring up the gifts at the offertory.**