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He pointed out the beautiful vestments OUR LADY, PAGE 5

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Celebration of Catholic faith and Mexican-Catholic culture

BISHOP JOHN M. PARCY

Our Lady of Guadalupe

The affection of those born in Mexico for Our Lady of Guadalupe is wonderful to behold. They know the event of her coming, the miracle of the roses and the conversation between the young boy and the Mother of God.

What a joy it was to arrive on a lovely winter day at our new church in Warsaw, dedicated to Our Lady of Guadalupe. It is a fact that this church would never exist except for Jerry and Savina Kralis. Jerry was a businessman in Warsaw, who I believe was in the poultry business. He has a large family — I think about a dozen children — most of whom, like Jerry himself, went to Purdue, a family of Boilermakers. He and Savina own property in Warsaw and gave 11 1/2 acres to the diocese, provided a church was built for Hispanic Catholics. Jerry and Savina saw the increasing population. I believe many worked for him. His own heritage was that of immigrants, so he promised this land to the diocese, but with the condition it be used to build a church for the Spanish-speaking Catholics. Most of them come from Mexico. I can remember walking through that hilly area many years ago with Monsignors Jim Wolf and Bill Lester and Father Paul Bueter. We went through brush and trees, and later accepted this worthwhile gift. Jerry was with us when we broke the ground. He was in a wheelchair suffering from a severe cancer. It was a lovely spring day, and he was able to see the beginning of the construction work before the Lord brought him home. What a thrill to drive up there on the Lord’s Day, the feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe. A packed church, with several rows standing in the back. The new baptismal font had recently been put in place. The church is set up on a hill, and it has a Spanish, or more accurately a Mexican, flavor to it. I do not think we would have this church, except for Linda Furge, who worked on this project for about 10 years. Also it never would have been possible without the Legacy of Faith. The millions of dollars went into this church from that effort. The parish raised the rest and is responsible for the debt.

It has become a strong parish. I have always been impressed with Sister Joan Hastreiter, SSJ. She spent many years in Peru and speaks perfect Spanish. Of course, Father Paul Bueter, who served many years in Panama with the legendary Archbishop McGrath, a Holy Cross priest, has been a blessing for English- and Spanish-speaking Catholics for a generation.

A day of prayer with our priests

A dear friend of mine for 50 years, Msgr. Thomas McDonnell, gave an Advent Day of Prayer for our priests. Father Tom is a writer and brought with him a nice pamphlet with beautiful Advent recollections. His material was substantive and focused on Our Lady. The afternoon conference was a reflection on the Magnificat. There was ample opportunity for the sacrament of penance, and the priests eagerly picked up the pamphlet he brought with him. As is always the case, it is the life and the spirit of the retreat master, which comes through. Father Tom has spent most of his life working with the poor in the inner city and also with the handicapped and the parents of those who are handicapped. His authenticity came through. A beautiful day with about 55 of our priests at Sacred Heart, Warsaw, for prayer and the sacrament of penance.

The Oriental Orthodox Church

I heard for the first time in over 50 years the Armenian language. The occasion this time was the visit of a distinguished Prelate from the Armenian Orthodox Church. You see, there is a man in Fort Wayne, Zohrab Tazian, who grew up and was educated in Lebanon. Many Armenians, I have learned, came to Lebanon at the time of the terrible Armenian holocaust. Over a million were killed in an attempt to destroy an entire people. This is what brought many of them to my hometown of Brighton and Watertown across the Charles River. They had small shops and many worked at shoe repair. They were religious and spoke with heavy accents, and they became devoted Americans.

His Holiness, Aram I, was a luncheon guest of the Tazian family. Much of the religious community of Fort Wayne was there. I met many Orthodox priests and learned, among other things, about their close relationship between the Oriental Orthodox Church, which includes the Armenians and Coptic Christians, and the Eastern Orthodox Church.

Zohrab is like so many who came here and found an opportunity in business. He became an instrument in helping many to raise and build family homes and to get a joy in being in a pulpit whose church is also apostolic.

Pope John Paul II used to say that the church must breathe with two lungs, meaning both East and West. The East with its sense of the Trinity, its strong sacramental life and the celebration of the Holy Liturgy and its devotional life; the West has a Church that shares our heritage and tradition, and we must draw closer to them.

St. Vincent de Paul Society

You ask any priest what he thinks of the St. Vincent de Paul Society, and he will tell you it is one of the most remarkable organizations in the church. So it was a joy to celebrate Mass at Our Lady of Good Hope Church in Fort Wayne with the Vincentians of Allen County.

These are men and women who bring food and clothing to the hungry, transport elderly for medical help without charge, and administrative costs, are always among those in need. I read a few lines to them from Pope Benedict’s first encyclical, “Deus Caritas Est” (“God is Love”): “The church can no more neglect the mission of charity than it can neglect the ministry of the Word or the sacraments.”

Every parish has the obligation to reach out to those in need and do it in a way that is humble, but also visible; and do it always in prayerful communion with Christ, who made this central to his mission. We read this throughout the Scriptures, especially in the 25th Chapter of the Gospel of Matthew. Congratulations to Mike Brey and the Irish basketball team, with two victories over ranked teams within one week. Let us hope it continues.

We will be watching those University of Saint Francis Cougars, as they once again battle to bring home the national championship of the N.A.I.A., in Savannah, Tenn. Best of luck to Coach Donley, his players and Sister Elise Kris, OSF, and all the young people of Saint Francis.

From your last week

His authenticity came through. A beautiful day with about 55 of our priests at Sacred Heart, Warsaw, for prayer and the sacrament of penance.
VATICAN CITY (CNS) — After years of archaeological work, Vatican officials announced they have identified the tomb of St. Paul beneath the Rome basilica dedicated to him.

Authorities said Dec. 11 that a roughly cut marble sarcophagus was found beneath a historic inscription that reads: “Paul Apostle Martyr.” The tomb lies several feet below the main altar of the Basilica of St. Paul Outside the Walls.

“Only one end of the sarcophagus has been opened to view, and the rest is buried beneath building material. If Pope Benedict XVI gives permission, the experts may attempt to open the sarcophagus and find out whether the saint’s relics are inside,” he said.

He said it is certain that this is the tomb of St. Paul,” Cardinal Andrea Cordero Lanza di Montezemolo, archpriest of the basilica, told a Vatican press conference.

“No one ever had any doubt that the Basilica was built on the site of the tomb. Now we can see it, through a small window we have created,” the cardinal said. He said Vatican experts attempted to X-ray the tomb to view the contents, but it did not work because of the thick marble walls of the sarcophagus.

“An ‘internal exploration’ of the sarcophagus would pose technical problems but probably will be attempted, the cardinal said. He said it was certain that the tomb had remained sealed since it was placed there in the fourth century.

“The Basilica of St. John Lateran says they have the heads of Sts. Peter and Paul. I don’t know how they can, since this tomb has never been opened,” the cardinal said.

Giorgio Filippi, the Vatican archaeologist who carried out the studies on the tomb area, said that, archaeologically speaking, it did not matter whether relics of St. Paul were discovered inside the sarcophagus or not.

He said precise identification of the tomb was made using historical and scientific methods, independent of the presence of relics.

Experts believe the marble sarcophagus was put in place during the reconstruction of the basilica in 390. The church was remodeled several times afterward and almost completely destroyed by fire in 1823.

Vatican officials say they found St. Paul’s tomb in Roman basilica.

By John Havis

CARACAS, Venezuela (CNS) — Latin American Catholic bishops are urging their governments to coordinate with the Roman Catholic Church and others to prepare for the period after the end of the current war.

At their annual meeting in Chile Oct. 10-12, the Latin American bishops said they were concerned about the “chaotic” situation in their countries and the need to prepare for the “chaotic” situation in the Middle East.

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Mary not just for Catholics anymore

BY PATRICIA ZAPOR

WASHINGTON (CNS) — As publications from Time magazine to Christianity Today have discovered recently, Mary, the mother of Jesus, is not just for Catholics anymore.

Features on Mary are perennial favorites for editors looking for a religion-themed story before Christmas, and in the last few years many of these articles have focused on the increasing populari-
ty of Mary among Protestants. Marianist Father Thomas Thompson, editor of the Marian Library Newsletter at the University of Dayton in Ohio, points out that the expanding Protestant acceptance of Mary is based upon a strictly scriptural view of her, rather than on any change in Protestant theol-
y. Some Catholic doctrines about Mary, such as the Immaculate Conception — the belief that she was conceived without sin — has not had fair treatment either from Protestants or Catholics,” Robertson argued that while Catholics have “deified” Mary evangelicals have coldly neglected her.

“We have been afraid to praise and esteem Mary for her full worth,” said George, citing Robertson. “We need not go through Mary in order to get to Jesus,” George concluded, “but we can join with Mary in pointing others to him.”

Another recent book, “Blessed One,” is a collection of 11 essays about Mary by Protestant scholars. John Alden Williams, professor emeritus in the humanities of religion at the College of William and Mary in Virginia, is a Catholic his-
torian who has studied Islamic civ-
ilization and religion. He and fel-

low William and Mary professor James A. Bill published “Roman Catholics and Shi’i Muslims” in 2002. It notes that two sections of the Quran, the sacred book of Islam, are devoted to Mary, known there as Maryam. She is recognized as the purified woman chosen to be the mother of the promised Messiah. Islam considers Jesus an important prophet, but not the incarnation of God.

Williams explained in a phone interview that, like Catholics, Shi’ite Muslims, who are a minori-
ty compared to the vastly more numerous Sunni Muslims, believe in intercessory prayer through saints and other holy people. That includes Mary, who is highly revered as a mediatrix between humans and God, or Allah. Sufis, another Islamic sect, also believe in intercession.

In Sunni Islam, “the whole idea of intercession is disputed,” Williams said, “just as it is among Calvinist Protestants.”

As the differences the lead-
ers of the Protestant Reformation had with the Catholic Church was the growth during the Middle Ages of devotion to Mary, Reformers argued that Jesus was the only mediator between God and mankind and that “exal-
toration Marian devotion seemed to them to threaten the clarity of the Gospel message of salvation by grace alone, through faith alone, through Christ alone,” wrote Daniel L. Migliore, a theology pro-
fessor at Princeton Theological Seminary, in his chapter in “Blessed One.” “Muslims who seek Mary’s intercession, on the other hand, see her in much the same way Catholics do, said Williams.

While living in the Middle East, he said he witnessed several strik-
ing examples of the reverence many Muslims have for Mary. At the Convent of Our Lady, an Orthodox church in Sednaya, Syria, where thousands of Muslims roll out prayer rugs to join Christians in reverencing an icon of Mary that is reputed to have been painted by St. Luke the Evangelist and believed to have the power to cure illnesses.

And in the late 1960s, many Muslims were among the millions who gathered in a Coptic Orthodox church in Cairo, hoping to catch a glimpse of reported Marian apparitions, he said.

For more than a year starting in 1995, apparitions of Mary were reported over the domes of the Church of the Virgin Mary in the Zaitoun area of Cairo.

Williams went to the church once during that time and was sur-
priised to see Muslims among the crowd, he said.

“I asked some people, ‘Isn’t it a little funny for you to be coming here to a Christian church?’” Williams said. They said they con-
sidered it only proper that Mary would appear at a church dedicat-
ed to her, but explained that they believed she was speaking to all Egyptians, not just Christians.

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Catholic leaders say new provinces make Mexican church more efficient

BY JONATHAN ROEDER

MEXICO CITY (CNS) — Mexican Catholic officials have said that a recently approved plan to restructure the nation’s ecclesiastical provinces will give the church greater flexibility and efficiency. The changes, enacted by Pope Benedict XVI in late November, established four new Mexican ecclesiastical provinces, which serve as administrative districts for the church’s operations. The bishops in the cities designated as metropolitan sees, or capitals, of the new provinces have been elevated to archbishop, bringing the number of Mexican archbishops from 14 to 18.

The new provinces are:

- Baja California, administered from the new Archdiocese of Tijuana.
- Bajio, administered from the new Archdiocese of Leon.
- Hidalgo, administered from the new Archdiocese of Tulancingo.
- Chiapas, administered from the new Archdiocese of Tuxtla Gutierrez.

Carlos Villa Roiz, information director for the Archdiocese of Mexico City, told Catholic News Service the restructuring was in response to Mexico’s geographic and demographic complexity.

“In Oaxaca, for example, there are 500 civil municipalities,” he said, referring to the southern state’s local political districts, which are equivalent to counties in the United States.

“If the archbishop visits one municipality every day, it will still take him well over a year to visit the whole state,” he said. By creating new ecclesiastical provinces, the church will be able to streamline its operations, he added.

“IT was necessary to make the administration more efficient,” he said.

A statement by Auxiliary Bishop Jose Gonzalez Gonzalez of Guadalajara, released Nov. 29, said the changes were made following a broad study of Mexico’s demographics and the church’s ability to reach remote, underserved areas.

“This decision by the Holy Father confirms the intention of Mexico’s bishops to better serve our homeland,” Bishop Gonzalez wrote.

In some states — especially Chiapas — the rapid expansion of Protestant evangelical groups is often attributed to the Catholic Church’s lack of a presence due to a complicated geography and isolated communities.

Pope Benedict also approved a reconfiguration of existing dioceses, with a number of cities shifting from one ecclesiastical province to another.

Mexican bishops first petitioned the Vatican for the restructuring in 2003. Mexico is the world’s 11th-largest country in terms of population, with close to 108 million inhabitants. It is the 15th-largest country in the world in terms of area.

Bishop John D'Arcy wearing special vestments with the image of Our Lady of Guadalupe at a ceremony in Warsaw to celebrate Mass on the feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe. Standing at the ambo is student translator Anna.

Photos by Denise Fedorow

Some of the children of Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish dressed in traditional Mexican costume present gifts of baskets of fruit and flowers to the altar.

Photo by David Malag

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Pope Benedict XVI speaks to a crowd as he arrives to consecrate the Church of Santa Maria Stella della Evangelizzazione in Rome Dec. 10. The banner in Italian reads “You are Peter,” referring to Jesus’ words to St. Peter in the Gospel of St. Matthew. The parish, founded in 1989 in one of Rome’s fastest-growing suburban areas, today has the youngest population and the highest number of baptisms of any Rome parish.

Pope accepts resignation of Polish Cardinal Glemp

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope Benedict XVI accepted the resignation of Polish Cardinal Jozef Glemp of Warsaw, who turns 77 Dec. 18, but said the cardinal will retain the personal title of Polish primate until his 80th birthday. Announcing the cardinal’s retirement Dec. 6, the Vatican also announced the pope had named Bishop Stanislaw Wielgus of Plock to succeed him. Cardinal Glemp has headed the Archdiocese of Warsaw since 1981 and led it through the tumultuous years of Poland’s martial law, underground Solidarity movement and the fall of communism in the late 1980s. The new archbishop of Warsaw, 67, spent 30 years teaching philosophy at the Catholic University of Lublin. Pope John Paul II named him bishop of Plock in 1999.

Chilean cardinal prays God will disregard Pinocchio’s wrongdoings

SANTIAGO, Chile (CNS) — A Chilean cardinal prayed that God would “not consider the wrongdoings” of Augusto Pinchot, the Chilean general and dictator who died Dec. 10 at age 91. “May the Lord value every good he did in life and (may he) rest in peace,” Santiago Cardinal Francisco Errazuriz Ossa said at a Dec. 11 Mass at the Santiago Military Academy, where Pinchot was to be cremated Dec. 12. The death of Pinchot, a Catholic who ruled Chile from 1973 to 1990, brought mixed reactions in Chile, where for years he had been a controversial figure. Chilean human rights organizations say that under Pinchot’s regime at least 2,100 people were executed for political reasons, more than 1,100 prisoners disappeared, and an estimated 10,000 prisoners were tortured in the country’s clandestine jails.

Former Massachusetts Catholic church sold, to become mosque

INDIAN ORCHARD, Mass. (CNS) — It will still be a house of worship. That’s something that was important to Yarabil and Catholic parishioners regarding the former St. Matthew Church in Indian Orchard. The 142-year-old colonial church and the rectory next door were sold for $150,000 in October to the Turkish-American Islamic Society Inc., which plans to convert the church into a mosque. “We did this for the children,” said Yanbul, referring to the local Turkish-American community.

Chinese cardinal prays for country’s development

HONG KONG (CNS) — China’s State Administration for Religious Affairs has congratulated Cardinal Joseph Zen, the Vatican’s advisor in the country’s liaison office, on the 70th anniversary of its founding.

Archbishop Myers ordains former Episcopal priest

SOUTH ORANGE, N.J. (CNS) — Joining approximately 80 other married former Episcopal priests who have become Catholic priests in the country in the past 26 years, Father Alvin Kimel Jr. was ordained Dec. 17 to serve the Archdiocese of Newark, New Jersey, Cardinal William J. Brennan, who was named in 2005 as ecclesiastical delegate for the pastoral provision that allows married men to become Catholic priests in the U.S. Latin Church in certain circumstances. Among those witnessing the ordination at Our Lady of Sorrows Church in South Orange were Father Kimel’s wife, Christine; his mother, Ninon; and several other members of his family, which includes three sons and a daughter — all adults. An Episcopal clergyman for 25 years, Father Kimel, 54, said his decision to leave the Episcopal Church, which he entered as an adult, was not an easy one.

Italian Cardinal Pappalardo, outspoken against Mafia, dies

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The Italian Catholic Church’s strongest voice against the Mafia for 26 years, retired Cardinal Salvatore Pappalardo of Palermo, died Dec. 10 at the age of 88. In a Dec. 11 telegram to the archdiocese, Pope Benedict XVI praised the cardinal as a “zealous and generous pastor” who tried to promote the “moral and cultural growth of Palermo’s society.” The pope sent a separate telegram of condolence the same day to Cardinal Pappalardo’s sister, Maria, and said her brother “knew how to generously and wisely serve the church” with “intense and patient pastoral work.” Named archbishop of Palermo in 1970, when the Mafia appeared to rule significant segments of life in Sicily, Cardinal Pappalardo often was called on to preside over the funerals of the innocent victims of Mafia violence. The funerals as well as interviews, pastoral letters and public appearances became occasions for the cardinal not only to condemn Mafia involvement, but also to urge Sicilians to reclaim control over their social, political and economic lives.

Bill requiring notice about fetal pain in abortions fails in House

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The U.S. House of Representatives failed to pass a bill that would have required women undergoing an abortion at least 20 weeks into their pregnancy be told that the procedure causes pain to the fetus, which had been backed by President George W. Bush. The U.S. Senate in December took a stand on the bill. The vote in the House was 250-162 in favor of a motion to suspend the rules and pass the legislation. A two-thirds majority was needed for such a procedural move. During floor debate on the bill, Rep. Chris Smith, R-N.J., his chief sponsor, cited expert testimony showing that unborn children have “a developed system of pain perception and response” by 20 to 22 weeks into the pregnancy.

Daily Mass readings now available for download as podcasts

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Audio recordings of the daily Mass readings from the New American Bible are available for download as podcasts through links on the U.S. bishops’ Catholic Communications Web site — www.usccb.org/ccw. “The Internet is now a part of our lives and a medium which can help provide for the传播 of the Gospel,” said Archbishop George H. Niederauer of San Francisco, chairman of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops’ Committee on Communications. “This service complements the text versions of the daily Mass readings already available on the USCCB Web site and responds to the many requests for podcasts of the readings,” he added. Podcasts are recordings that are prepared with actual radio broadcast material and can be listened to on computers or the iPod personal music storage system. The term podcasting is derived from the iPod name.

Chinese spokesman rejects Vatican criticism of illicit ordination

HONG KONG (CNS) — China’s State Administration for Religious Affairs has rejected Vatican criticism of the ordination in Xuzhou of a bishop without papal approval. A spokesperson from the administration told the Xinhua news agency Dec. 3 that the criticism makes “no sense.” He said China and the Vatican have no official ties, have not reached a tacit understanding or agreement on the ordination of bishops. The spokesperson has recognized the government-sanctioned Bishops’ Conference of the Catholic Church in China. The spokesman said the government performed the Vatican in advance of the selection and ordination, “which showed their genuine will.” The spokesperson said. A Dec. 2 Vatican statement said Pope Benedict XVI was deeply saddened by the Nov. 30 ordination of Father Wang Renli, 36, as coadjutor bishop of Xuzhou.
The Franciscan Center to close Clothes Closet and Toy Chest

FORT WAYNE — The Franciscan Center announced Dec. 7 that it will close its Clothes Closet and Toy Chest on Thursday, Dec. 21.

“The Clothes Closet is one of our longest-running programs,” explained Sally Ley, founder and chief executive officer of The Franciscan Center. “But we have found demand steadily declining over the past several years. The Franciscan Center has always based its programs and activities on the needs of the community, and we see the current and future need elsewhere.”

Closing the program will allow the organization to focus on its existing, and growing programs: the Food Pantry, Medicine Cabinet and Sack Lunch programs. “These programs, especially our Medicine Cabinet where we distribute such nonfood items as over-the-counter medicine, vitamins, Band-aids, toothpaste and toilet paper, are growing every week,” explained Ley.

Starting now until Dec. 21, all remaining clothes and toy inventories will be distributed free of charge and without limit.

Contact The Franciscan Center at (260) 744-3977 for more information or visit the facility at 4643 Gaywood Dr.

Hispanic Outlook recognizes Saint Mary’s College

NOTRE DAME — “The Hispanic Outlook in Higher Education magazine named Saint Mary’s College, Notre Dame, as one of its 2006 Publisher’s Picks. According to publisher José López-Isla, “Our list of publisher’s picks represents our larger and best picks about which colleges and universities offer Hispanic students a solid chance for academic success.” Saint Mary’s is one of eight Indiana colleges and universities to receive recognition.

Student surveys conducted by “The Hispanic Outlook” determine which institutions make the list.


Bluffton-based Bi-County Services Inc. received a $2,500 contribution Dec. 8 from the Knights of Columbus council at St. Aloysius Catholic Church at Yoder. The contribution was from proceeds of the K of C’s major fundraisers this year, including a September golf outing and this year’s Tootsie Pop fundraiser in May. The Knights of Columbus is in its fifth year of service in contributing funds to Bi-County, which provides services to people with disabilities in Adams and Wells counties.

AROUND THE DIOCESE

ST. ALOYSIUS KNIGHTS SUPPORT BI-COUNTY SERVICES

Bluffton-based Bi-County Services Inc. received a $2,500 contribution Dec. 8 from the Knights of Columbus council at St. Aloysius Catholic Church at Yoder. John Whicker, center, president of Bi-County Services holds a check presented by Mike Folliis, left, the grand knight of St. Aloysius Council #13142, and Alan Gunkel, right, the K of C treasurer. The contribution was from proceeds of the K of C’s major fundraisers this year, including a September golf outing and this year’s Tootsie Pop fundraiser. The K of C is in its fifth year of service in contributing funds to Bi-County, which provides services to people with disabilities in Adams and Wells counties.

NOTRE DAME — The Notre Dame Task Force on Catholic Primary and Secondary Schools in the United States, “The Future of Catholic Primary and Secondary Schools in the United States,” is the result of a yearlong study commissioned by Notre Dame’s president, Holy Cross Father John I. Jenkins, and chaired by Holy Cross Father Timothy J. Scully, director of Notre Dame’s Institute for Educational Initiatives. According to Father Jenkins, the report is the university’s response to the United States Catholic Conference of Bishops 2005 pastoral statement, “Renewing Our Commitment to Catholic Elementary and Secondary Schools in the Third Millennium.”

“We all know of the many challenges that have confronted the Catholic community in the United States as generation after generation has struggled to build and sustain this extraordinary school system,” Father Jenkins said. “These challenges certainly have not diminished at the outset of the 21st century and, in many ways, have increased.”

Emphasizing “the responsibility of the entire Catholic community” for the Catholic schools, the bishops’ Pastoral statement had appealed to Catholic higher education to address the now familiar problems — declining enrollments, rising tuitions, inaccessibility to new Catholic immigrants, diminishing academic quality, and a shrinking labor pool of vowed religious among the teaching ranks — and to propose some hopeful responses.

The Notre Dame task force report responds as it designed Notre Dame commitment to serve Catholic elementary and secondary schools through programs such as:

• the Alliance for Catholic Education (ACE), which annually supports nearly 200 teachers in more than 100 Catholic schools in more than 30 communities nationwide.

• the ACE Leadership program, which has received a $1.1 million grant from the Goizueta Foundation to expand its enrollment by 50 percent and to build the recently approved master of arts in educational administration degree, which prepares principals for Catholic schools.

• the ACE Fellowship, which supports aspiring Catholic educators, and encourages ACE graduates to become lifelong advocates of service to Catholic schools.

• the recently launched Magnuson-Schulz Program, which provides principals, parents, and school board members with leadership, strategic planning and development training to strengthen schools that might otherwise close.

• a proposed ACE Consulting Initiative, which will provide administrators and advocates of Catholic elementary and secondary education expertise in marketing, governance, board training, management, strategic planning and investment management.

In addition to recommending that the American bishops place the responsibility among the Catholic schools to address the highest priorities, the report urges them to “teach clearly and boldly with one voice that parents have a right to send their children to Catholic schools, that these schools contribute to a healthy civil society by strengthening the family, and that they contribute to the poor and disadvantaged.”

The report is available online at http://president.nd.edu/catholic-schools/
Blessed Mother leads guitarist to music ministry

BY DIANE FREEBY

SOUTH BEND — What began as a mother’s prayer that her son just make it through his senior year of high school blossomed into both a musical and spiritual adventure for South Bend native Mike Nolan.

Inspired by his older brother, Mike started playing guitar 20 years ago at the age of 11. With no formal training, he picked the instrument up quickly and was hooked. But as Mike looks back, he says his self-image became reliant on what he could do musically.

“I loved making music,” recalls Mike. “But I didn’t necessarily share it to bring joy to others, or to give glory to God.”

Meanwhile, Cathy Nolan was worried about her son’s education.

“One day, his mother was praying for him,” explained Mike’s dad, Denis. “He was going to begin his senior year and didn’t have much of an educational direction, and she was worried about his future. She asked the Lord what she could do to help, and felt the Holy Spirit say, ‘Get him music lessons.’”

So, the Nolans called Mendoza’s Guitar and asked if anyone there could take him on, and if they could possibly get him ready for music school in one year. The answer was “yes” and Mike graduated from Richard Wisner. “He is an excellent teacher,” said Mendoza’s owner Mary Green (Wasoski).

“Mike began lessons at age 18. He sped through the classical curriculum and was ready for a family rosary at home,” said Mike. “But also being filled with wisdom and the presence of God as the Holy Spirit to come to me and lead me, and to keep my eyes and heart on him always. Well, I took this seriously and consecrated my music to God over and over again.”

“I literally loathed music.

“I still had a spat musical personality,” explains Mike. “I was consecrating it to God and still using my music to draw attention to myself. Finally, God stripped me of music completely. Let the seed fall to the ground and die, it remains only a seed. Well, he allowed me to ‘die’ musically and for two years I didn’t even look at my guitar. I didn’t listen to music. I didn’t sing in the shower, even while I was driving. I literally loathed music.”

Mike says he was still completely devoid of any music when he received the idea for his guitar rendition of “Litany of the Lady,” now featured on his most recent compact disk, “Clothed With the Sun.”

“I actually dreaded picking up my guitar to start recording, but I came down to the studio having spent some time in adoration, and I just decided to go through it for Our Lady.”

Dedication to the Blessed Mother

As Mike emerged from his musical dry spell, he took more joy in playing his music, consecrating it all to Jesus through Mary, Queen of Peace. Mike’s devotion to the Blessed Mother is essential to both him and his wife, Anne, as they raise their four young children in the Catholic faith.

“I have found that Our Lady is like a warp zone to the heart of Jesus,” explains Mike. “You can go to Jesus your own way, or you can use one of the greatest gifts God has given us, Mary.

Especially in this time, she is able to accomplish things unheard of. I am definitely not attentive enough to her, but the daily rosary especially is the lifeblood of myself and my family. I don’t think we would survive without it.”

Mike and Anne make a prac-
tice of saying the rosary together each morning, and again in the evening with their children. Anne leads the children herself just two nights out of the week while Mike teaches guitar in the basement of their home.

Families are so busy these days that stopping to say the rosary together might seem like a tall order. But the Nolans are firm believers in the power of the rosary. “We have received with such a devotion to Our Lady. Mike and Anne agree that one key to involving children in the rosary is to just make it a part of the daily routine.”

“I heard some great advice once,” said Mike. “If your children are agitated during lunch, you don’t eliminate lunch altogether, do you? You find a way to get through and slowly they grow into responsible lunch-eaters who will probably continue to eat lunch every day for the rest of their lives. Well, the same goes for the family rosary. Many people start with good intentions, but give up because the kids can’t handle it.”

Mike suggests keeping the fam-

ily rosary in the spirit of invitation, and utilize your children’s amazing imaginations with descriptive meditations. And most of all, the parents must pray with their whole hearts. Even if the child is distract-
ed, he or she is absorbing the spirit of prayer.

“I remember pouring out and hating it when my dad called us to the family rosary at home,” said Mike. “But also being filled with wisdom and the presence of God as the rosary progressed. God is patient and kind, and he worked with me where I was. He needed my par-
ents to be faithful to daily family prayer and to actually pray with their hands.”

Mike’s Catholic faith and fami-

ly life remain intertwined with his music. His first CD, “Majka” is a devotion to Our Lady, lots of improvisa-
tion with a few acoustic pop songs thrown in.” His second CD is a different story. Mike has received much more response from “Clothed With the Sun,” which he attributes to Our Lady.

“Basically each piece was writ-
ten and recorded without knowing a CD was the finished product,” explained Mike. “I was writing each piece because it was burning in my heart at the time. A friend urged me to make a CD, but it has definitely not been my project from the start. God sort of designed the whole thing and let me in on it at the end, which is why I think he is able to use it that way.”

“Artists have a moral responsi-
bility to be vehicles for true beauty. I desperately want my children to be filled with life. And I would never want darkness for someone else’s child. I earnestly hope to be morally responsible as an artist.”

But perhaps the best success Mike Nolan, the family man and musician, has achieved is stated very simply by his own parents. When asked what makes them most proud of their son, they sim-
ply say, “He’s responsible to God.”

Mike Nolan teaches classical guitar to a young student.

MICHAE L NOLAN’S CDs ARE AVAILABLE by visiting www.michaelbaru.com. They can also be purchased by phone at (574) 247-1605. “Clothed With the Sun” is available at Divine Mercy Gifts.

Mike’s most recent tribute to Our Lady may also be found on line in the form of a video slide show combined with the Litany of Our Lady. “In Honor of Our Mother” has received thousands of views on the Internet at www.michaelbaru.com.

Looking For A Wedding Facility With Something Special?

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1500 Buffton Road

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Set the date and we’ll make it a day you and your guests will remember! Your wedding plans deserve our special touch. The catering staff here at Lester’s will be happy to help coordinate the wedding reception of your dreams. Our first class services are available for presentation in other facilities, banquet halls, churches, or private homes. Contact our sales office to arrange your special event.

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747-0767

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WEDDING CAKE ARTISTRY!

747-0767
Bishop Luers capital campaign features year-end raffle

BY BONNIE ELBERSON

FORT WAYNE — The Bishop Luers High School capital campaign, “Faith in our Future,” has just taken a new turn. Now in its third year, the campaign is nearing the $3 million mark in fundraising and an exciting year-end raffle is underway to help reach that goal.

The latest effort is the brainchild of co-coordinators Keith Pautler and Jason Draper and the fund-raising committee, with raffle prizes guaranteed to stimulate interest and promote ticket sales.

First prize is a two-year, 24,000-mile lease on a new car or a $10,000 cash option. Second prize is a 30-inch plasma high definition television set. Third prize is a laptop computer and fourth prize is $500 cash.

The cost of a raffle ticket is $100, and only 1,000 tickets will be sold, says Pautler. The drawing will be held and the winner announced at the Luers girls’ varsity basketball game on Thursday, Dec. 21.

Draper describes the prizes as “really cool” and the raffle a unique way to make the fundraising effort attractive to the general public and those with no direct ties to the Luers community.

Assistant principal Pautler describes his behind-the-scenes role in the campaign. “My job is numbers.” He keeps records of contributions, sends out pledge reminders and makes sure things stay on track. “The face man is Jason Draper.”

Draper, a 10-year Luers physics teacher and technical coordinator for the school, is the public face of the campaign. He attends meetings of booster organizations, alumni groups and other community gatherings in order to make the case for necessary improvements and what he calls “a major face-lift” at the school. He asks his listeners to “pray about it” and give sacrificially, and the outstanding results attest to his efforts.

The nearly half-century-old school building has long required extensive updating, according to Principal Mary Keefer. The original boiler needs replacement, drafty old single-pane windows must be insulated, and air conditioning should be added to improve the learning environment. A lift is currently being installed to provide handicapped accessibility to the entire building. “These are not frills,” she has consistently pointed out.

The first entire phase of reconstruction is expected to cost just over $6 million, but with pledges in hand for $2.2 million and a year-end goal of $3 million, major renovations will begin in late April. After that the work will “go like gangbusters” through the summer so that the building is ready for the start of classes next school year, says Pautler.

Draper is equally optimistic. When site preparation begins and cranes move in next spring, he says, the three-year vision will finally become reality and that will excite Bishop Luers students, staff, administration and alumni.

The surrounding community will benefit as well. With so much rebuilding and corporate investment currently underway on Fort Wayne’s south side, “we get to be part of that,” Draper says.

Cathedral of St. Matthew

Christmas Confession and Mass Schedule

CONFESSIONS
December 18-22 - 7:30-8:00 am and 4:00-5:00 pm
December 23 - 10:00 am - Noon

CHRISTMAS EVE MASSES
4:00 pm (with Children’s Choir)
6:00 pm and Midnight

(less and Carols begin at 11:30 pm)
CHRISTMAS DAY MASSES
9:00 am and 11:00 am

1701 Miami Street • South Bend

TodAy’s CaTholiC
Seniors have a vital role in family Christmas celebrations

By Lisa Petsche

The Christmas season is a hectic time for many people, due to the preparations and festivities that typically take place. Staying sane, not to mention enjoying this special time of year, is even more of a challenge for those raising a family — a labor-intensive role at the best of times.

It’s perfectly quiet. But if you listen closely — really listen — to what Kagel hears, you’ll realize he’s not alone.

It seems the Holy Spirit is in this place. Through that guidance, the retired florist who owned a flower shop — Kagel’s Flowers — across from Memorial Hospital for 54 years, has a ministry that seems to extend beyond himself. Known as a man who could always find any kind of icon you might need, Kagel occupies much of his time now creating clay religious statues, crosses and sculptures, only it’s an act of contemplation.

But his ministry is more than that. People seem to find their way to Kagel, and he’ll be the first to tell you that he can’t imagine why. Take, for instance, the man who was not Catholic, but eventually became Catholic after long discussions with Kagel and now is his confidant.

Sitting in his hermitage, Suzy curled up on his lap, Kagel becomes emotional when asked why people come to him unburden themselves.

“I think God is using me as an instrument,” said Kagel, a eucharistic minister and member of the Third Order of St. Francis of Assisi. “In all humility, I don’t know why. Maybe they come because of my gray hairs and my glasses. People would come, and they still do because everyone wants to talk to someone.”

He says we all need to “unload ourselves,” which is what is technically called confession, often nowadays considered an act of the past.

But Kagel insists that it is. It happens every day when people place their confidence in someone else.

Kagel turns it around, though. By not going to confession regularly with a priest, people miss out on the special blessings from the church, he says.

“When you’re not creating sculptures, Kagel has himself on a tight schedule, visiting the Handmaids of the Most Holy Trinity daily — Saturday and Sunday included — for either Mass or Eucharist Service and liturgy.

He calls Sister Emmanuel, a slight nun who lived in the hermitage behind his home with his cat Suzy, who lives in the hermitage. He’s holding a sculpture he created, which, for him, is an act of contemplation.

Fred Kagel of South Bend spends time in the hermitage behind his home with his cat Suzy, who lives in the hermitage. He’s holding a sculpture he created, which, for him, is an act of contemplation.

The minister visits with Kagel regularly attend Mass in South Bend, and the minister visits with Kagel. They come for the sculpture and the icons, it seems, and stay for something else.

But Kagel insists that it is not. It happens every day when people place their confidence in someone else.

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All the while confessing that he is certainly striving for the day he’s a saint and God calls on him to tell him his work is done, “I’m just on a bumpy road like everyone else.”

But for now, Kagel insists he’s on the path God has chosen for him. The balls of clay he forms near daily is a work that is a gift from God.

“The secret is not trying to be in the driver’s seat in our lives,” reveals Kagel. “We have to let Jesus flow like a river through us and let him work.”
Giving year-end gifts to charity and family

Last month we looked at some charitable gifts that can help you fulfill your stewardship commitments to your parish, school or other diocesan agency as well as provide tax savings yet this year. Here we will review year-end planning techniques that can result in significant gifts to family members and help save federal estate, gift and income taxes.

Annual gift tax exclusion. For 2006 and 2007, you can give $12,000 each year to an individual, and the gift is excluded from federal gift tax. You can use the gift-tax annual exclusion for as many individuals as you wish. For example, on Dec. 31, you give $12,000 to your son and $12,000 to your daughter. Then, on Jan. 1, you give another $12,000 to your son and another $12,000 to your daughter. If you made no other gifts to your son or daughter during those two years, all of these gifts are subject to the annual exclusion.

If you are married, your spouse can also make annual exclusion gifts because you and your spouse each have your own annual exclusion amount, regardless if you file joint federal income tax returns.

Extension of long-term capital gains rate

The Tax Increase Prevention and Reconciliation Act (TIPRA), which was signed into law this year, extends preferential rates and the gift-tax annual exclusion for as many individuals as you wish. For example, on Dec. 31, you give $12,000 to your son and $12,000 to your daughter. Then, on Jan. 1, you give another $12,000 to your son and another $12,000 to your daughter. If you made no other gifts to your son or daughter during those two years, all of these gifts are subject to the annual exclusion.

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Section 529 College Savings Plans. Individuals can invest in state-sponsored Section 529 college savings plans to cover qualified higher education expenses at any qualified college or university for a beneficiary in the future. Gifts made to a Section 529 college savings plan do not qualify for the tuition exemption. However, they can be considered an annual exclusion gift. A donor may contribute $60,000 in a single year to a Section 529 plan and elect to spread the contributions over five years for annual exclusion purposes.

Before the Pension Protection Act of 2006, the federal tax-exempt status of Section 529 plans was set to expire in 2010. This new law makes such tax benefits permanent. Now, distributions from Section 529 plans used for qualified higher education expenses are exempt from federal income tax, permanently, and monies can be invested to grow tax-free.

Effective Jan. 1, 2007, Indiana taxpayers will receive a 20 percent state tax credit on contributions to a maximum of $1,000 for contributions to Indiana’s Section 529 college savings plans. Note: This information is for educational purposes only and is not intended for tax advice. Please consult with your professional advisor.

Medicare Part D enrollment tips

INDIANAPOLIS — Medicare beneficiaries who are enrolled in a Medicare prescription drug plan should examine their coverage to ensure it continues to meet their needs. Seniors who are satisfied with their current plan do not have to take any action during the open-enrollment period (Nov. 15 through Dec. 31), but those who wish to make a change will find new options with lower costs and more comprehensive coverage available for 2007.

Know your three Cs. Consider the following when making a decision:

Coverage. Does the plan cover your medicines? Does the plan have a coverage gap? Do you need more comprehensive coverage in 2007?

Cost. What is a plan’s monthly premium? Does the plan have a deductible? How does the plan handle co-payments?

Convenience. Is your local pharmacy in the plan’s network? Does the plan have a mail-order option?

For help answering these questions and finding the right plan, seniors can turn to Medicare’s prescription drug finder, available at www.medicare.gov, or they can call 1-800-MEDICARE. Free personalized health insurance counseling also is available through local State Health Insurance Assistance Programs (SHIP). (They are listed in the “Medicare & You 2007” handbook, which is sent to everyone with Medicare.)

Estimate your annual drug costs. The majority of seniors do not spend enough on their medications to reach the coverage gap. If a beneficiary’s total drug spending in 2007 is less than $2,400, there is likely no need to select a plan with gap coverage. However, beneficiaries with higher drug costs may want to consider one of over a dozen plans available in each state in 2007 that will cover the gap. The Medicare Web site (www.medicare.gov) now includes a monthly cost estimator to help seniors calculate and compare monthly prescription drug costs for all plans.

Don’t cancel your existing plan. Seniors intending to switch to a new Part D plan should not cancel their existing plan. Enrollment in a new plan will automatically terminate a beneficiary’s current coverage.

Apply for extra help. Additional assistance is available to low-income seniors who have trouble affording their out-of-pocket costs. According to federal health officials, over 3 million Medicare beneficiaries nationwide were eligible for the low-income subsidy this year but didn’t apply. For information, visit your local Social Security office or call (800) 772-1213.

Currently, there are 46 member organizations participating in the Medicare Rx Access Network of Indiana that represent seniors, patients, people with disabilities and chronic diseases, pharmacists, healthcare providers and businesses. The network provides information and assistance with outreach and education for the new Medicare Part D prescription drug benefit.

Members share an interest in educating Medicare beneficiaries about the new Medicare prescription drug benefit and work closely with the appropriate agencies to obtain up-to-date information to ensure that information disseminated by the network about Medicare Part D is factual and accurately conveyed and to equip beneficiaries and their caregivers to make informed choices. By sharing information with each other about member organizations’ independent efforts, collaborating on activities, and identifying ways to work together, the network aims to eliminate duplication of efforts and maximize the effectiveness of outreach efforts.

Planning Giving

ELISA SMITH, CPA/PFS

SECTION 529 COLLEGE SAVINGS PLANS

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Project turns into rosary ministry

BY DIANE FREEBY

SOUTH BEND — Amidst the crowds of people and tables full of holiday crafts, one booth stood out at the annual Corpus Christi Christmas Bazaar.

The statuette of hands folded in prayer held more than an heirloom rosary. It also held a tangible sign of our Catholic faith and the love of God that is ever-present, especially during the hustle and bustle of the Christmas season.

Bob Lema was looking for a retirement fund project, when St. Matthew’s parishioner Patty Opaczewski provided the idea of creating heirloom rosaries. What started out as a joint business venture has turned into so much more. “My true feelings are it would be wonderful to have this become a profitable business,” explains Patty. “But truly, the success is in spreading the love of prayer to bring more people closer to God.”

That seems to happen wherever the two set up shop to display their handmade, carefully crafted rosaries. A November Saturday in the crowded Corpus Christi gym was no different. “It was wonderful to have grandmothers and others pull their rosaries out of their purses and share their stories with us,” recalled Patty. “It doesn’t matter how many they’ve had fun learning the history of the church, it’s the craftsmanship that makes each rosary unique.”

“I told Bob, when we make these we have to hold them in our hands and see how they lay,” said Patty. “As I make the rosaries, I like to pray the rosary.”

So far, response has been overwhelmingly positive, if not always like to pray the rosary. “Because of Patty’s deep devotion to the Catholic Church, I have become more inspired to pray, attend church and do my part to become more inspired to pray, especially during the hustle and bustle of our Catholic faith and the love of prayer held more than an heirloom rosary,” explained Bob.

“Patty and Bob say they’ve had fun learning the history of the church, it’s the craftsmanship that makes each rosary unique.”

“For information on heirloom rosaries, contact Patty at (574) 291-8689 or e-mail her at pattyo22@comcast.net.

Holy Family Church
56405 Mayflower Road - South Bend
Advent and Christmas Schedule

CONFESSIONS
Saturday, December 16 11:00 AM - Noon 4:00 - 4:45 PM
Monday, December 18 7:00 PM
Tuesday, December 19 7:00 PM
Wednesday, December 20 11:00 AM
Thursday, December 21 7:00 PM
Friday, December 22 7:00 PM
Saturday, December 23 11:00 AM - Noon 4:00 - 4:45 PM

CHRISTMAS MASSES
Sunday, December 24 4:00 PM
Midnight Mass
(Choir presentation begins at 11:30 PM)
Monday, December 25 7:00 - 9:00 and 11:00 AM

NEW YEAR’S MASS
Monday, January 1 - 9:00 AM

Holy Cross and St. Stanislaus Parish
Holiday Schedule

Christmas Eve - Dec. 24
4:00 pm - Holy Cross Church (Children’s Mass)
5:00 pm - St. Stanislaus Church

Christmas Day - December 25
Midnight Mass 12:00 am - Holy Cross Church
9:30 am St. Stanislaus
11:00 am Holy Cross Church
New Year’s Eve - December 31
4:30 pm - St. Stanislaus

New Year’s Day - January 1, 2007
8:00 & 11:00 am - Holy Cross Church
9:30 am - St. Stanislaus Church

Planning ahead

• Be sensitive to family members’ competing obligations in terms of work schedules and holiday plans with in-laws. Don’t make assumptions about availability or insist on certain dates, times or locations for family events, but rather negotiate plans that work for everyone.

• Be prepared to modify or forego traditions that are no longer practical (for example, a post-midnight Mass meal). Recognize, too, that young parents may wish to start some family traditions of their own — don’t take it personally if you’re not included.

• Consider starting a new family tradition — perhaps a tree decorating party at your home or a festive sing-along (obtain songbooks and easy-to-use musical instruments such as tambourines and maracas).

Quality time — fostering connections

• Take your grandchildren on a special outing — perhaps a holiday light tour, attending a church bazaar or the local Santa Claus parade, shopping for a special gift for their parents or purchasing gifts to donate to a toy drive.

• Invite the grandkids over for baking or decorating or to watch a classic holiday movie. Afterwards, read aloud a favorite Christmas story.

• Attend grandchildren’s school Christmas pageants or holiday recitals.

• Invite your family to join you for Christmas Mass.

• Share cards, letters and photos you receive from relatives and family friends.

• Share family recipes for special dishes or sweets. Invite members over for a hands-on cooking or baking demonstration.

• reminisce together about past holiday events. Bring out photo albums or play home movies.

• Share your recollections of childhood Christmas, including family customs, memorable gifts and touching or humorous moments.

Lisa M. Petsche is a clinical social worker and a freelance writer specializing in intergenerational issues.

PETSCHER
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 10

good values. For contemporary fiction, music or movies, for instance, check out the selection in Catholic and Christian gift shops.

• If you’re not sure what to give, choose a gift certificate from the person’s favorite place to shop or dine, if known, otherwise from a large department store or bookstore.

• For wrapping, choose reusable gift bags and boxes, or get creative and make the wrapping part of the gift — for example, a scarf or photo storage box. Leave oversized gifts unwrapped, help them and provide clues on where to find them.

• Enlist your grandchildren’s help in making gift tags from old Christmas cards.

PHOTOS BY DIANE FREEBY

St. John the Baptist - Fort Wayne
Holiday Schedule

CONFESSIONS
Dec. 17 - 6PM
Dec. 18 - 7AM & 5:30PM
Dec. 19 - 9AM & 5:30PM
Dec. 20 - 7AM & 4:30PM
Dec. 21 - 9AM & 7PM
Dec. 22 - 7AM & 5:30PM
Dec. 23 - 9AM & 8PM

FAIRFIELD AVE.
Fort Wayne

MASSES
Dec. 20 - 5:30PM (ANNoyING)
Dec. 24 - 4:30PM (JAENICKE
Dec. 25 - 12AM (ADULT CHOR
Dec. 25 - 12AM (ADULT CHOR
Dec. 30 - 4:30PM

ANY TIME BY APPOINTMENT

For information on heirloom rosaries, contact Patty at (574) 291-8689 or e-mail her at pattyo22@comcast.net.

PHOTO BY DIANE FREEBY
What’s new this Christmas?

Part of the cherished beauty of Christmas is its rich tradition as the story of the birth of Jesus again unfolds with all its uniqueness and, of course, its timeless message, “Today is born our Savior, Christ the Lord.” The Gospels of Matthew and Luke provide the familiar details of the journey of Mary and Joseph to Bethlehem, the Messiah’s birth in a manger, the angel’s announcement to the shepherds and the visit of the Magi. It is up to us, however, to apply the “old” message to whatever is “new” in our lives.

It’s a time to reflect on past Christmas celebrations and the pending observance this year. How have we grown or changed both physically and spiritually since last December? Maybe we are living in a different home or apartment, perhaps our physical condition has altered due to surgery, accident or illness, or we have experienced the loss of a loved one since last Christmas.

We seem to measure or center our lives on the Christmas holidays perhaps more than a major birthday or anniversary. We often reflect on where we were or what we were doing last year at this time.

The custom of sending greeting cards can move us to tell the story of our lives the past year to distant friends and family, frequently in great detail in a preprinted, lengthy letter.

Even though the Christmas story is the same every year, our perception of it is filtered by what we have experienced during the year or are enduring currently. Someone who has just gone through a divorce, lost a job, or suffered a serious accident or illness obviously is going to perceive the holidays differently than the person who just got married, received a promotion or was issued a clean bill of health.

For many, unfortunately, the Christmas holidays are among the saddest days of the year because loved ones have died, and friends and family have moved away, leaving age and loneliness as one’s only companions. The music, the decorations, the commercial promotions and the many traditions of Christmas only serve to remind the lonely of what is now missing from their lives.

For those fortunate to be actively caught up in the Christmas rush — often complaining about a lack of time and money, the holiday hassle can be just that: a frenzy to accomplish too much for fear the annual festivity will flop if they fail.

Moderation in all things

There needs to be balance in our lives with the realization we can’t bring back the past or do everything in anticipation of making the annual event a rousing success. Christmas comes and goes at the end of every year whether or not we want it to, or are ready for it to happen.

To make Christmas new this year maybe we just need to sit back and let that old “holiday feeling” wash over us. If we are alone throughout the season perhaps our memories of past Christmases can serve as a substitute for gatherings of family and friends. If we tend to get caught up in the Christmas rush, maybe we need to slow down and take a few minutes to appreciate the significance of the season.

Reviewing the Gospel accounts of the birth of Christ can lead us into celebrating Christmas anew in our hearts. Does the Christ Child have a message especially for us this year? We only can hear it if we make time to listen. Hearing the sounds of the season, from the variety of carols playing everywhere throughout the month to the tinkling Salvation Army bell, can make us more aware of the spirit of giving and charity so prevalent during the Christmas season. Hopefully, the holiday sounds will arouse a desire within ourselves to give more to those less fortunate this year.

Finally, learning to appreciate the many customs of the season, rather than just those surrounding the birth of Christ, but also the holiday traditions observed by other religions and cultures, may help us realize in a new way another timeless message of Christmas: “Peace on Earth and Good Will Toward All!”

Service of Evening Prayer was wonderful gesture of Christian unity

What a wonderful evening we spent on Sunday, Dec. 3, at Messiah Lutheran Church as Catholics and Lutherans united for a Service Of Evening Prayer under the leadership of Bishop James R. Stuck representing The Indiana-Kentucky Synod of The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and Bishop John M. D’Arcy representing the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend.

The two banners with half of the cross on each, symbolizing our separations when placed side by side on the altar also represent our growing ever closer together, an inspiration to all of us to work together for Christian unity.

Bishop D’Arcy spoke of the years of alienation caused by missteps on both sides and the need for healing and reconciliation. Bishop Stuck highlighted the importance of understanding the meaning of suffering in our journey as disciples of Christ. Both bishops commented on the success of our journey together thus far, to heal the rifts that have separated us, and pledged to diligently pursue the process toward full unity.

Wouldn’t it be a great gift to the Christ Child this Christmas if during this Advent season each Christian family would reach out to a Christian family of a different faith experience in a gesture of Christian unity that would further unite us? “That they all may be one, as you, Father, are in me and I, in them, that they also may be in us, that the world may believe that you sent me.” — John 17:21

Komen Foundation, sat on the Planned Parenthood advisory board at least as late as 2002.

Considering that the Vatican recently confirmed Bishop Bruskewitz’s excommunication of those in the Lincoln, Neb. diocese involved with dissenting organizations including Planned Parenthood, should Catholics anywhere be supporting an organization that in turn funnels money to Planned Parenthood?

I suggest that Fort Wayne-South Bend folks read the report from their neighbors at Right to Life at Indianapolis found at www.lifesues.org/abortion/breastcancer/komen/ fact_sheet.pdf.

Breast cancer is increasing at an alarming rate in our country and we should do all that we can to prevent it. However, our best bet is to seek reliable information rather than flock to the popular wolves in sheep’s clothing. I would watch to see if the new Indiana organization really does increase awareness of breast cancer by disseminating information such as:

1. Oral contraceptives are carcinogenic (see www.who.int/reproductive-health/family_planning/cccs_breastcancer.ht ml)
2. Women who breastfed for two years or longer reduced their risk of breast cancer (see www.breastfeed ing.com/all/about/all_about_breast_cancer.html)
3. Child bearing, as well as breastfeeding, exercise and dietary measures can decrease the risk of breast cancer (see www.hcpiinsti tute.org/booklet.htm)

By their fruits you shall know them.

Diane Vincent
Lewis Center, Ohio

Bible reading:

1 Corinthians 3:16. As the body of Christ, we are ambassadors for Christ. We cannot hide our faith. We need to be open about it. We need to be living testimonies to others. We need to be a light in the darkness. We need to be a beacon of hope. We need to be a source of joy. We need to be a source of comfort. We need to be a source of inspiration. We need to be a source of encouragement.

Peter Canisius 1521-1597 feast – December 21

This doctor of the church was born in Holland and studied canon law in Belgium before turning to the study of theology in Germany. He entered the Society of Jesus in 1543 and soon was a well-known preacher. He attended two sessions of the Council of Trent and was an important figure in the post-conciliar Catholic revival in Europe. As the Jesuit provincial in southern Germany, Austria and Bohemia, he started schools, colleges and seminaries, and is credited with keeping the southern German peoples Catholic.
Vatican officials gauge life span, geographic reach of Turkey visit

**VATICAN CITY (CNS) —** Buoyed by Pope Benedict XVI’s successful visit to Turkey, Vatican officials began trying to gauge its long-term effect on ecumenical and Catholic-Muslim dialogue in other parts of the world.

Would the rave reviews and upbeat headlines carry over into coming weeks and months? And in the case of Islam, would the pope’s outreach to a Muslim population on the edge of Europe at least make a similar impact in Arab and East Asian countries?

Vatican and other experts gave a tentative but hopeful “yes” to both questions. At the same time, they cautioned that ecumenical and interreligious dialogues are long projects, involving historical tensions that reach far beyond the 24-hour news cycle.

The most dramatic advance appeared to come in the Vatican’s relationship with Islam.

Several observers said that by praying in a mosque next to an imam, Pope Benedict was signaling the Roman Catholic Church’s willingness to engage Muslims at a distance from them in a serious conversation.

“His approach was quite clearly framed in it an expression of respect,” said Father Daniel Madigan, director of the Institute for the Study of Religions and Culture at Rome’s Pontifical Gregorian University and an advisor to the Vatican on Islamic issues.

“I think that will have a broader effect in the Islamic world. All the responses I’m getting from Muslims around the world are positive and saying we need to keep the momentum going,” Father Madigan said.

Sources said the Vatican’s Pontifical Council for Interreligious Dialogue was making plans for a number of meetings with Islamic scholars and groups in Europe, Africa, Asia and the Middle East, focusing in part on the questions raised by 38 Islamic scholars in response to the pope’s Regensburg speech.

“For these dialogues, the atmosphere created by the Turkey visit will be very important. They will not have to begin under the burden of getting things back on track,” Father Madigan said.

**SUNDAY GOSPEL**

**THE VATICAN LETTER**

**JOHN THAVIS**

**LETTER, PAGE 15**

Vatican officials gauge life span, geographic reach of Turkey visit

**THE SUNDAY GOSPEL**

MSGR. OWEN F. CAMPION

**3rd Sunday of Advent Lk 3:10-18**

This weekend the church observes the Third Sunday of Advent. The Book of Zephaniah furnishes the first reading. It is a short book, only three brief chapters. Little is known about this prophet, beyond what can be assumed from the writing itself. This much, however, is known. Zephaniah was the son of Chusi and traced his ancestry to Hezekiah, presumably King Hezekiah of Judah.

It appears that the book was written between BC 640-609, or during the reign of King Josiah of Judah. Josiah was a reformer, and his reforms were religious in intent and in impact. Such is not surprising. The kings saw themselves, if they viewed themselves properly, as representatives and agents of God. Aside from all else, their duty was to do the will of God more closely to God. Zephaniah, obviously supported this position.

This weekend’s reading is an exhortant and bold exclamation of joy. When the people are faithful to God, they bring peace and prosperity upon themselves. So, if they draw more closely to God, if they are more attentive to the covenant, their good fortune will be assured. Their enemies will be turned away.

They will be secure. For the second reading on this weekend the church presents a passage from the Epistle to the Philippians. Philippi was a city, in what today is Greece, founded centuries before Christ and named in honor King Philip, the father of Alexander the Great.

By the time of the first century AD, it was an important center in the Roman Empire, and it was important as a military base.

Such centers often became the sites of Christian communities, as their population was considerable by contemporary standards, and there was much movement of people through them. People came from all parts of the empire, bringing their ideas and values, such as Christianity.

As was the reading from Zephaniah, this reading is filled with excitement and joy. The coming of the Lord is predicted, and it will be soon. Such was the assurance of many of the early Christians.

When Jesus would come again, all wrongs would be righted. Evil would be defeated. To prepare, Christians should conform themselves to the Lord’s will as possible and in every respect to the Lord.

The epistle proclaims that this holy transformation has occurred. It is delightedly understood that the Christians of Philippi are unsullied. St. Luke’s Gospel is the source of the last reading. In this reading, John the Baptist appears, urging that the man with two coats give one to the poor.

John also tells a tax collector to assess only the fixed amount. The Roman system of taxation was in effect legalized extortion. The Roman authorities were not able, or even inclined, to send citizens of Rome into the far reaches of the empire to collect taxes. So locals had to be induced to do the work. Some incentive was necessary. Local tax collectors were turncoats, despised as such. Profit made it worthwhile.

They achieved their profit by adding to the assessed tax their own demand. Then, John declares that the true Messiah will come soon. The prophetic, holy, fearless John foretells the coming of Jesus.

**Reflection**

This weekend’s reading is sometimes called Gaudete Sunday, the word coming from the opening of the entrance song, “Gaudete — be joyful!”

Zephaniah, Philippians and the Gospel all predict the coming of God’s power and justice. Such is the Lord’s promise. However, even while the Scriptures look forward to a sudden, dramatic coming of Jesus in glory, these readings this weekend also remind us that we will not have to begin under the burden of getting things back on track today.

**READINGS**

**3rd week of Advent Sunday:** Zep 3:14-18a (Ps) B 122-6 Psa 44:7-13a 10-18a

**Monday:** Jer 23:5-8 Ps 72:1, 12-13, 18-19 Mt 1:18-24

**Tuesday:** Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a Ps 71:3-6, 16-17 Lk 15:25

**Wednesday:** Jgs 7:10-14 Ps 26:1-6 Lk 12:1-38

**Thursday:** Sg 1:28-14 Ps 33:2-3, 11-12, 20-21 Lk 13:49-52

**Friday:** 1 Sm 1:24-28 (Ps) 1 Sm 1:21-4, 7-8b; Tob 14:46-56

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

**CATEQUIZ’EM**

By Dominic Caplison

In this season of gift giving, this quiz looks at the gifts of the Magi.

1. Which one of these gifts is a mineral?
   a. gold  b. franciscense  c. myrrh

2. What are the primary uses of franciscense?
   a. It is used as a medicine for camels and pigs owned by the Israelites.
   b. It was used to produce fragrant smoke used in rituals.
   c. It is an emergency food source for observant Jews.

3. Where were the most common sources of franciscense?
   a. Southern Nubia and West Chad
   b. South Arabia and Somalia
   c. Italy, Gaul and Hibernia

4. The first mention of frankincense in the Bible is not in the New Testament. In Exodus, God commanded incense be made containing amongst other ingredients, franciscense. What was unusual about this recipe?
   a. It was forbidden to replicate it for everyday use, under pain of shunning.
   b. It was regarded as too valuable to write down, so was only shared verbally.
   c. It was highly expensive, so the high priests were often killed while making it.

5. In a reference to a realm ruled by a famous queen, Isaiah 60 mentions franciscense as coming from:
   a. Sheba  b. Egypt  c. Kush

6. What happened to the usage of such materials when Christianity arrived?
   a. They were discontinued as being of Jewish origin.
   b. They were carried over and are still used in Catholic rituals today.
   c. They were identified as pagan and so stopped forever.

7. While various interpretations of the gift of franciscense are possible, it likely supports this idea in the nativity:
   a. Jesus was the ultimate cure-all for the world, so he needed medicines.
   b. Jesus was the King of Kings, so he needed to wear a perennial golden plant.
   c. Jesus was worthy of worship, including ritual use of incense.

8. Like franciscense, myrrh is one of these:
   a. a word that cannot be pronounced
   b. insect secretions
   c. gum resins

9. Myrrh, like franciscense, came sometimes from Punt. We know better as the chaotic region of:

10. These verses praising the joy of spices “…gather my myrrh and my spices…” are from:

11. In the New Testament, what common use for myrrh makes this possibly an ominous gift for a newborn?
    a. Amongst many medicinal and cosmetic uses, it was used to anoint a dead body.
    b. Amongst many medical uses, it was used to place a curse on a Gentile.
    c. Amongst many cosmetic uses, it was meant to mark a man as a victim.

12. Gold is one of the most familiar and immediately recognizable of these gifts. As far as we know it is mentioned, most notably when the Israelites made this for worship in Sinai:
    a. a golden Jahweh  b. a golden cross  c. a golden calf

13. Gold is frequently used in churches and rites, but even then could be golden, especially those of this “Golden Mouthed” church father:

14. Gold, as well as silver, encouraged this “most Catholic” monarch to explore most of South America:
    a. Genoa  b. Spain  c. Andorra

ANSWERS:
1a, 2b, 3b, 4a, 5a, 6b, 7c, 8c, 9a, 10c, 11a, 12c, 13a, 14b
We are always to be open to the good of our fertility

My wife and I are both Catholic. I guess what I'm trying to ask is, when we practice natural family planning, how sexually intimate does the church allow a husband and wife to be without actually having intercourse? Can a couple engage in foreplay without having intercourse? During times of fertility, should a husband and wife abstain from all sexual activity? Kevin

Here is my brief answer to your question. According to God’s plan for human love, we are always to be open to the good of our fertility, in our marriage. It is directly related to the procreation of a unique person, made in the image and likeness of God. We should not turn against the good of our fertility, since it is directly from all sexual activity? Kevin

Or, put another way: For the church, the biological possibility of pregnancy is crucial. If you cannot satisfy this requirement, then NFP is a morally acceptable reason for spacing their children, as well as the end of the tax year. But Mark Melia, director of fundraising for Catholic Relief Services in Baltimore, thinks it is the special Christmas season, not only because of the thought of tax deductions that drives increased giving during the holidays.

“December is the season that calls giving to mind,” as Christians reflect on God’s great gift of his Son to the world, he told Catholic News Service. To help others is “an expression of our faith,” he added. CRS, the U.S. Catholic overseas relief and development agency, receives 42 percent of its total private donations in December, November and January, Melia said.

At Catholic Charities USA in Alexandria, Va., its 1,300 member agencies around the country, the Christmas season is both a time of increased giving and a time of increased need.

“For many families in our diocese are walking a tightrope, hoping to have enough just to make it through the day and keep from falling into poverty,” said Rachel Hrbolich, associate director of social services for Catholic Charities in the Diocese of Washington. “They are facing emergency assistance cases locally are becoming more complex. "People are no longer simply dealing with one bill or one form of food," she added. "They are delinquent with several bills, need food, clothing and medicine. We are in danger of foreclosure/eviction or are homeless."
Are feeding tubes required?

These considerations hold most notably for patients who are near death, where it is clear that we are not obligated to extend or “string out” an imminent death, and where the benefits of the feeding tube will be subject to considerable discussion. It should be emphasized, however, that in weighing the propriety of tube-feeding, we must specifically examine the burden of the technique itself, and not try to make some kind of global assessment about whether we believe that a person’s life in general is burdensome or not worth living.” Life can be burdensome, as it is for all of us at times, but that doesn’t provide us with license to shorten it by refusing a standard and effective intervention.

Sometimes when families are discussing whether to provide a feeding tube to a loved one who is dying, there may be concern that such a tube, once inserted, can never be ethically removed after it has been put in place. In point of fact, however, such an understanding would be incorrect.

As a general rule, we ought to die from a disease or an injury that we wish to cause our death (for example, withholding nutrition and hydration). Our death, in other words, should result from the proper starting point for the discussion, therefore, is the recognition that feeding tubes should be offered to patients because they are likely to provide two benefits: they bring comfort to the patient and alleviation of the suffering that comes from hunger and dehydration.

This is not to say that feeding tubes will always be proportionate to the patient’s health care needs, especially when it comes to feeding someone who has difficulty swallowing.

Several other examples where feeding tubes would not be required could be mentioned. In some cases, feeding tubes may actually cause significant problems of their own for a patient. For example, if someone is very sick and dying, perhaps with partial bowel obstruction, the feeding tube may cause them to vomit repeatedly, with the attendant risk of inhaling their vomit, raising the specter of lung infections and respiratory complications. The feeding tube under these circumstances may become disproportionate and unduly burdensome, and therefore non-obligatory.

In some instances, providing drops and naso-gastric feeding may actually be preferable to the surgical course of dehydrating in a way that causes acute discomfort to the patient near death. When the kidneys have not shut down, the fluids can sharply increase the flow of urine. If patients are extremely weak and have lost bladder control, they may need to have a catheter inserted, which can be distressing to patients and their families.

Intestinal fluids also tend to increase respiratory secretions, making it more difficult for patients to catch their breath or cough, and suction may be required. Providing IV hydration can further cause gravity accumulation in the abdomen and expand the edema layer around tumors, aggravating symptoms, particularly pain.

Other circumstances must also be considered. Is the patient suffering from dementia, perhaps due to Alzheimer’s or another nervous system ailment? Demented patients present a special challenge, as they may need to be restrained in order for a feeding tube to be inserted, and restraint may need to continue so as to prevent them from pulling out the tube.

Both the restraint and the presence of the tube can cause fear, anxiety, and pain. Patients should therefore carefully consider whether such a tube would really be proportionate to the patient’s health care needs, especially in advanced dementia at a point to close death. Our desire to comfort and palliate suffering those from an end-stage disease is an important part of the equation in mapping out the best options for health care treatment. If we have to choose between a patient’s desire to die with dignity and the uncontrollable anxiety in order to provide a feeding tube, such a tube may well become disproportionate and non-obligatory.

Meet The Priest

Father Tadeusz Pacholczyk, Ph.D.

Father Tadeusz Pacholczyk, Ph.D. earned his doctorate in neuroscience from Yale and held postdoctoral work at Harvard.

He is a priest of the Diocese of Fall River, Mass., and serves as the director of education at The National Catholic Bioethics Center in Philadelphia.

Jesus refers to the cleansing of Naaman in the Gospel of Luke when he was preaching in his hometown of Nazareth. Jesus said: “No prophet gains acceptance in his own country.” Naaman returned to Elisha and his servants. Elisha said: “If the prophet had told you to do something extraordinary, would you not have done it? All now, since he said ‘wash and be clean,’ should you do as he said.” So Naaman plunged himself into the Jordan seven times. His flesh became again like the flesh of a little child, and he was clean.

These two incidents are either the same or very similar.

What is your favorite reading material?

Father Richard Hire

What is your favorite reading material?

Father Hire is a priest and author who has written and edited several books on bioethics.

Father Richard Hire

HIRE HISTORY

Father Richard Hire

FATHER RICHARD HIRE

Father Hire is a priest and author who has written and edited several books on bioethics.

What is your favorite food?

Rice and curry — I do not know how to like to stop there. I would like to taste different types of food from different countries.

Do you have a pet?

No

How do you prefer to be addressed by the lady?

Father Polycarp

Father Polycarp

Ordonied to the priesthood: Aug. 19, 1978
Pastor, St. Dominic, Bremen

What is your favorite food?

What is your favorite food?

Meet The Priest

Father Polycarp

Ordonied to the priesthood: Aug. 19, 1978
Pastor, St. Dominic, Bremen

What is your favorite food?

Rice and curry — I do not

Meet The Priest

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Meet The Priest
Hessen Cassel CYO basketball team builds on last year's record

BY MICHELLE CASTLEMAN

Fort Wayne — With an experienced group returning, the Squires from St. Joseph, Hessen Cassel, are looking to improve their fourth-place Blue League finish from a year ago in the Catholic Youth Organization (CYO) basketball season.

In his second CYO season, Coach Jim Knapke feels his eighth graders are strong leaders. “We have a great group of kids this year and we are hoping to build on what we did last year,” said Knapke. St. Joe has nine on their roster this year, has nine on their roster this year, which includes sixth, seventh and eighth graders.

Returning starters include James Knapke, Steven Kiermaier, Hunter Tohe and Ty Wyss. Brian Nichter, Will Knapke and Alex Miller are noted as key newcomers. The assistant coaches are Tom Miller and Tony Wyss.

The Squires finished in third place out of 10 teams in the Queen of Angels Invitational over the Thanksgiving holiday. They have jumped out to a 2-0 regular season record with wins over St. Therese and Huntington early in the 2006-2007 race.

Fifth and sixth grade

St. John, Fort Wayne, 34; St. John, New Haven, 18; St. Louis-St. Rose, 41; St. Charles 17
St. John, Fort Wayde, 49; Memorial Park 41
St. John, Fort Wayne, 36; Benoit 23
St. John, Fort Wayne, 34 (8-0); St. Joseph-St. Elizabeth 4

Blue League Boys

St. Joseph, Hessen Cassel, 27; Huntington 17 (W. Knapke, S. Kiermaier, Landrum 8) St. Louis-St. Rose 26; St. Therese 42 (Collett 13, Delia 14)

Gold League Boys

St. Charles 44; St. Joseph-St. Elizabeth 22 (Book 13, J. Tohe 12) St. John, New Haven, 22; Queen of Angels 19

Blue League Girls

Huntington 11; St. Therese 32 (Birely 12, Stoffel 4)

Cathedral Books & Gifts

Annual Saint Nicholas Sale...now through December 22

ALL BOOKS, BIBLES, ROSARIES, MEDALS, CRUCIFIXES, GIFT ITEMS
and FONTANINI MERCHANDISE DISCOUNTED 20%

This offer includes any items not in stock which you may order during the sale!

For this sale, we will be open on Saturday, December 16 from 9 AM to 3 PM with live music 10 a.m. til Noon

By Beverly Reiger, composer, recording artist and performer.

Beverly is offering a 20% discount on any of her CDs purchased in the Cathedral Bookstore.

Director of Worship

Full-time position with Good Shepherd Catholic Church, a vibrant parish serving 870 families in the Diocese of Evansville in Southwest Indiana.

- Responsibilities include providing pastoral presence to parish and planning all liturgies, including musical selection and accompaniment.
- The ideal candidate will bring education and experience in liturgy; proficiency in organ, piano, and vocal directing; excellent organization and communication skills; collaborative working style; and the ability to organize volunteer ministers. Membership in National Pastoral Musicians a plus. Attractive salary and benefits package.
- Submit cover letter and resume to:

Search Committee - Good Shepherd Church
2301 N. Stockwell Road, Evansville, IN 47715
or, e-mail to: Worship@wordman.org

Bilingual Medical Translator/Health Advocate

Catholic Charities seeks a flexible self-starter to provide services to Spanish-speaking clients. A Bachelor of Social Work or related degree is preferred. This position also requires demonstrated organizational and interpersonal skills. The ability to speak and write fluent English and Spanish is essential. This position will require travel in the Fort Wayne/Allen County area. This is a full-time position, with a starting salary of $24,000 per year. Please send resume to:

Attn: Operations Director - Catholic Charities
315 E. Washington Blvd., Fort Wayne, IN 46802
e-mail: dkrabach@ccfwsb.org

High scorers define early ICCL basketball season

By Elmer J. Danch

South Bend — Although the current basketball program of the Inter-City Catholic League is still in its infancy, individual performances continue to stand out.

Alex Bauters of St. John the Baptist burned the nets for 21 points, yet St. John dropped a 35-28 decision to St. Jude. Corey Samuels of St. Jude popped in a sizzling 17 points.


Nick Pellegrino tallied in 17 points to lead St. Joseph of South Bend to a 37-21 victory over St. Matthew in the John Rosco East. In the second division game, St. Anthony squeezed out a 48-37 win over St. Thomas of Elkhart. Sean Hart with 13 points and Pete Gillis with 10 points led St. Anthony.

Jordan Greene with 11 points and Ty Roddy with 10 paced St. Thomas. In the second game, Holy Cross topped Holy Family, 37-36, with a 15-point performance from Colton Pedaki, who also tipped in the winning bucket. Collin Skodinski had 16 points for Holy Family.

Five games were played in the junior varsity Colons Division. Mike Henry of St. Jude Green set the nets aflame with 21 points as his mates downed Christ the King Gold, 45-40. Kyle Wieschaus of Christ the King had 10 points. Corpus Christi Blue defeated St. Joseph Blue, 46-23. Mike Ragoutos netted 16 points for the winners.

Heaven: Where Is It? How Do We Get There?"
What’s Happening?

What’s Happening carries announcements about upcoming events in the diocese. Send in your announcement at least two weeks prior to the event. Mail to: Today’s Catholic, P.O. Box 11169, Fort Wayne 46856; or e-mail: fhogan@fw.dioceseoffw.org. Events that require an admission charge or payment to participate will receive one free listing. For additional listings of that event, please call our advertising sales staff at (260) 456-2824 to purchase space.

Misc. Happenings

Little Flower Holy Hour
Fort Wayne — Father Adam Schmidt, retired and in residence at St. Joseph Parish, will celebrate the holy hour at MacDoughal Chapel on Tuesday, Dec. 19, at 7:15 p.m.

Oplatok dinner planned
South Bend — The American Relief Committee for Free Poland will have an Oplatok dinner on Sunday, Jan. 14, at 1:30 p.m. at the Z.B. Falcon Hall, corner of Sheridan and Western Ave. Advance ticket sales only by Jan. 15. Tickets are $12.50 for adults, $6 for children under 12. Contact Dolores Liwosz at (574) 259-7001 or Dr. Z. Sobol at (574) 272-3392.

Christmas services at Ancilla Donaldson — A Christmas Eve Service of Lessons and Carols will be held at 10 p.m. Christmas Eve at Ancilla Domini Chapel. The Mass will be celebrated at 10:30 p.m. There will not be a Mass at midnight. The Service of Lessons and Carols will include the Ancilla Domini Choir, Bell Choir and instrumentalists. There will be one Mass on Christmas Day at 11 a.m. in the Catherine Kasper Home Chapel.

Christmas music concert
South Bend — St. Adalbert’s St. Cecelia Choir, together with the Chopin Choir of St. Mary’s Polish National Catholic Church will present a concert of Christmas music on Sunday, Jan 7, at 3 p.m. at St. Mary PNCC, 1601 W. Sample St. Free admission.

Single group to meet
Fort Wayne — The GAP, a social group for single Catholics in the 40s to 60s age range will host a Christmas party on Friday, Dec. 15, at 7 p.m. in the fire station community room on Aboite Center Rd. Please bring a side dish for the carry-in and a white elephant gift for an exchange. For more information call (260) 432-7346 or e-mail gap4565@msn.com.

Christ Child Festival
Fort Wayne — The Christ Child Festival will be held at the Allen County War Memorial Coliseum, Friday-Sunday, Dec. 16-17. Times are 6-9 p.m. on Friday and noon to 6 p.m. on Saturday and noon to 6 p.m. on Sunday. Clown, music, balloon art and face painting. Food and drinks and entertainment will be provided. Admission is free.

FUNDRAISERS

Knights plan spaghetti dinner
South Bend — The Knights of Columbus Council 5521, 61533 S. Ironwood Dr., will have a spaghetti dinner on Friday, Dec. 15, from 5 to 7 p.m. Adults $6, children (5-12) $3. Dinner includes spaghetti, salad, garlic toast and coffee. Carry-out available.

Cookie walk planned
Mishawaka — The St. Monica Rosary Society will have a cookie walk on Saturday, Dec. 16, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the lower level of the church, 222 W. Mishawaka Ave.
Dedicated volunteers bring a sense of family to the Fort Wayne TV Mass

BY TIM JOHNSON

FORT WAYNE — Among the many volunteers who bring the TV Mass to the airwaves to viewers on WISE-TV, many have a family legacy in the ministry. Broadcasting the Mass on WKJG-TV (Channel 33) in Fort Wayne for the first time on Nov. 30, 1986, Ed McBride and Christine Bonahoom-Nix took the role of associate director. Ed, a veteran in the broadcasting field, had worked for a TV Mass and even traveled to Boston, at Bishop John M. D’Arcy’s blessing, to investigate the production there.

With Ed at the helm, soon his son, Sean, was stopping by the studio with his mornings to check out his dad’s work. Ed’s wife, and Sean’s mom, had a stroke when Sean was only 8 years old. With Mrs. McBride finding it difficult to attend Mass at a parish, the TV Mass became “a very special ministry for us.”

Sean said, who was helping regularly by the time he was in high school. “It was a true blessing. It was very personal for us, because that was mom’s church.”

Sean comments on the Mass: “To this day, we see the letters and letters describing how wonderful it is ... not only to see pastors and parishioners, but old friends. There is a very real connection between there to folks at home.”

As Ed McBride’s health began to fail, Sean found himself helping his father. Sean said, “It was just a natural progression to show him the ropes and unofficially help” with doughnuts and altar preparation. He would remind his dad, “You just have to have a seat, relax, I know what to do.”

When Ed no longer handled the TV Mass, Sean, after talking with his wife, decided to take up his father’s role.

Today, Sean’s son Devon can be seen at the TV Mass held at the University of Saint Francis Chapel. “By proxy, they begin to learn things,” he said. “If you take an interest, look at the cameras and wonder, “How does that take an interest, look at the camera?”

The McBrides are behind the cameras, the Lamping family is often in front of the cameras. As music directors, Jim and Theresa coordinate the music. If a parish cannot provide musicians and cantors, the Lamping’s take care of the music. Jim came to Fort Wayne from Minnesota to work in the broadcasting field and has been a liturgical musician since he was 11 years old.

When the children were small, the Lampings wanted to include the children in the music ministry. Because Jim and Theresa are tall, the children would sometimes stand on paper boxes at the television station to balance the height for the cameras. The Lamping’s sons, Christopher and Andrew, worked their way from singing on the television Mass to handling the camera duties. In eighth grade, Christopher needed confirmation service hours, plus he noted his voice was changing, so the move from in front of the camera behind the camera as an operator seemed feasible. His brother Andrew, who is older, had blazed the trail the same way for Christopher’s transition.

Co-director and volunteer Bob Nicola also welcomed his brother-in-law, John Bobay to the crew. Bob, who calls himself an audio-video geek, enjoys his volunteer work. Bob’s memories, as well as Sean and Jim’s, linger in last-second arrivals of a priest who overslept, malfunctioning microphones and climbing under the camera’s range to make the necessary changes — all without notice of the viewers.

It was Bob who encouraged his brother-in-law John Bobay to volunteer, a good effort for a music engineering major from Ball State University. Communications is a popular field in Nicola’s and Bobay’s family. John’s mother Joan, was the sports contributor to Today’s Catholic for many years and avid TV Mass viewer. This special ministry of communications continues in her son and son-in-law.

The people at home are ever on the mind of the newest host Ed McBride. They seem particularly interested in how well received the television Mass is. Father Galic’s favorite story is about the woman who asked him to come to her aide. When he got the call from the nursing home, he asked if they had the right priest, for his parish was on the other side of town.

The caller explained that the woman had asked for him by name, so he went to the nursing home. When he arrived, the woman’s daughter explained that the woman had been bedridden for years, and she considered Father Galic to be her pastor since she watched the television Mass every Sunday all of those years.

Sister Agnes Marie has had many stories to tell about how well received the television Mass is. Father Galic’s favorite story is about the woman who asked him to come to her aide. When he got the call from the nursing home, he asked if they had the right priest, for his parish was on the other side of town.

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Sister Agnes Marie has had similar experiences, and said that people stop her in stores to tell her they see her on the television Mass. She seems particularly pleased that the television congregation includes a group of prisoners at the state prison in Michigan City, and Bishop John M. D’Arcy celebrated the South Bend television Mass on Dec. 3 for the 20th anniversary.

PHOTOS BY ANN CAREY

TV MASS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Notre Dame is celebrant, volunteers are sought for the congregation.

The host for the day instructs the studio congregation off-camera before the Mass begins about protocol. For example, the congregation is instructed to remain seated, so as not to block the camera. And, because the Mass can be only 28 minutes long to fit into its allotted time slot, only the front row of the congregation receives Communion on camera; the rest of the congregation receives after worship.

Seating in the studio is limited to about 50 people, with about 20 of them being visible in two rows of pews. The remainder of the congregation is seated on folding chairs behind the camera.

Sister Agnes Marie told Today’s Catholic that televising the Mass usually proceeds well, but challenging moments do occur. Sometimes the celebrating priest will have difficulty with the 28-minute restriction, and the concluding blessing may be cut off because the station does not have the option of letting the Mass run over time.

However, she said that one of the most “terrifying” experiences she had was hosting at the other extreme, and occurred when a newly ordained priest finished the Mass five minutes early. Thinking on her feet, sister simply walked up and started interviewing the priest about his vocation, which turned out to be a bonus moment for the viewing congregation.

Sister Agnes Marie also recounts the time that she received conflicting instructions from the station personnel about how much time was left. Normally, the camera men hold up cards to indicate the time remaining, but on one Sunday, one member of the crew indicated to Sister Agnes Marie that she should bring things to a close, while another signaled her to lengthen her remarks. She apparently picked an awkward midway.

Both Father Galic and Sister Agnes Marie have many stories to tell about how well received the television Mass is. Father Galic’s favorite story is about the woman who asked him to come to her aide. When he got the call from the nursing home, he asked if they had the right priest, for his parish was on the other side of town.

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• Father Galic, who has hosted and presided at the TV Mass in Fort Wayne since its inception.
• Sister Agnes Marie, for her work over the past six years.
• Andy and Linda Knapp and their three children, who have provided music for the Mass for 16 years.
• Betty Zavor, a volunteer who helps with setup and arrangements for the St. Joseph Valley Knights of Columbus in providing refreshments after the Mass.
• Paula Olen, a volunteer who also helps with setup and arrangements for the St. Joseph Valley Knights of Columbus in providing refreshments after the Mass.

After the awards were distributed, Bishop D’Arcy also recognized O’Hagan, who was in the Dec. 3 studio congregation. O’Hagan — now retired — was general manager of WNDU-TV in 1986 when Bishop D’Arcy approached him about the possibility of televising the Mass. Bishop D’Arcy thanked O’Hagan for being receptive to the idea and making the televised Mass possible and so successful.

Father Bernard Galic, left, concelebrated the 20th anniversary of the televised Mass in South Bend with Bishop John M. D’Arcy, right. Father Galic has hosted the Mass since its inception.

The South Bend TV Mass audience has been able to watch the three Knapp children grow up during the 16 years the family has provided music for the Mass. Playing for the 20th anniversary Mass were Anna, left, and her parents, Linda and Andy. Caleb and Esther Knapp were out of town for the anniversary Mass.