

TODAY'S CATHOLIC



Message for Epiphany

BY BISHOP JOHN M. D'ARCY

Epiphany is another word for manifestation. In many countries this is a holy day of obligation no matter the day of the week on which it falls. Faith and recognition about the one who has come is always central to Christian faith.

The story of Three Kings shows adoration. The divinity of the Child is necessary for our faith.

Traditionally this feast is linked to the baptism of the Lord, which comes a week later. We hear the voice of God the Father: "This is my beloved Son; with whom I am well pleased." We are presented with the divine sonship of Jesus, and a first light is given us about the Holy Trinity. — Lk 3, 21-22.

The joy of this season, which cannot be taken away, lies in the fact that the divine life is now within us through truth and baptism.

We can certainly take a moment to look back at our Jubilee Year, and give thanks to God for the graces granted to us, and for the many people who have returned to the practice of their faith.

I give thanks to God also for our beloved priests, so willing and so joyful, who gave themselves to the labor of this year. I thank all the laity both on the diocesan and parish level who labored to make it a year of holiness, purification and evangelization.

But now, we look ahead. This feast of Epiphany, where we officially close the Jubilee Year, should be seen by all of us as a call to take ever more seriously our vocation to bring Jesus Christ to others. While looking back with gratitude, let us look forward in all our institutions, especially our parishes and in our personal life, to seek out ways to bring Jesus Christ to others.

A blessed feast of the Epiphany to all.

+John M. D'Arcy

BISHOP PRESIDES AT MIDNIGHT MASS



DON CLEMMER

Bishop John M. D'Arcy celebrates midnight Mass at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Fort Wayne. To the left is the Nativity scene, where Bishop D'Arcy placed the figure of the baby Jesus during the opening procession of the Mass. Video from midnight Mass at the cathedral can be found at the Today's Catholic group on www.facebook.com.

CHILD KISSES THE CHRIST CHILD IN BETHLEHEM



CNS PHOTO/NAYEF HASHLAMOUN, REUTERS

A child kisses a statue of the Christ Child in the Church of the Nativity in the West Bank city of Bethlehem Dec. 25.

Threats to traditional family threaten peace, pope says

BY CINDY WOODEN

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Anything that threatens the traditional family threatens peace, because the family "is the first and indispensable teacher of peace," Pope Benedict XVI said.

In his annual message for the Jan. 1 celebration of the World Day of Peace, the pope also said the responsibilities learned and the joys and struggles shared within individual families must be mirrored on a global level because everyone is part of one human family.

The pope chose "The Human Family, A Community of Peace" as the theme for 2008, the 40th anniversary of the Catholic Church's celebration of World Peace Day.

"The first form of communion between persons is that born of the love of a man and a woman who decide to enter a stable union

in order to build together a new family," the pope wrote.

"But the peoples of the earth, too, are called to build relationships of solidarity and cooperation among themselves, as befits members of the one human family," he said.

War and violence, exploitation of the weak, rampant poverty and underdevelopment, destruction of the environment and the arms race are all threatening signs that individuals and nations have not learned to live together in harmony and mutual responsibility, the pope said.

"Humanity today is unfortunately experiencing great division and sharp conflicts which cast dark shadows on its future," he said.

Cardinal Renato Martino, president of the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace, presented the message to the press Dec. 11.

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PUBLISHER: Bishop John M. D'Arcy

EDITOR: Tim Johnson

ASSISTANT EDITOR: Don Clemmer

STAFF WRITER: Kay Cozad

Editorial Department

PAGE DESIGNER: Francie Hogan

FREELANCE WRITERS: Lauren Caggiano,
Ann Carey, Michelle Castleman, Elmer
J. Danch, Michelle Donaghey, Bonnie
Elberson, Denise Fedorow, Sister
Margie Lavis, CSC, Jennifer Murray,
Jennifer Ochstein and Deb Wagner

Business Department

BUSINESS MANAGER: Kathy Denice

AD GRAPHICS DIRECTOR: Mark Weber

BOOKKEEPING/CIRCULATION: Kathy Voirol
kvoiro1@fw.diocesefwsb.org

Advertising Sales

Tess Steffen (Fort Wayne area)

(260) 456-2824

Jeanette Simon (South Bend area)

(574) 234-0687

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Wayne, IN 46802. Telephone (260)
456-2824. Fax: (260) 744-1473.

BUREAU OFFICE: 114 W. Wayne St., South
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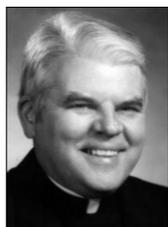
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Christmastime brings special moments of priestly ministry



NEWS
& NOTES

BISHOP JOHN M. D'ARCY

To be a priest at Christmas

I know it is very special for parents and grandparents. It is the joy they see in the eyes of the little ones.

I am so glad at Christmastime to be a priest, especially a parish priest because that is what a bishop is. Our priests heard thousands of confessions during Advent and the days preceding the feast of Christmas. Indeed, confessions were up all through the Jubilee Year. But, to be a priest at Christmas is to see the grace of Christ at work. Easter is in the eyes of many a more theological feast. The Paschal Mystery remembered and made present. Christmas grew up from the people. Also, the enormous joy at Christmas, even when tinged with the secular, is a sign of the root of that joy, namely the Divine present in the human. People instinctively turn to reconciliation with Christ at Christmas. Let me give an example.

An instinctive grace

On the evening of Dec. 23, it was my privilege to celebrate the evening Mass at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception at 5 p.m. In my homily, I spoke about reconciliation and forgiveness, something made possible when the Divine was joined to the human in the Incarnation. I mentioned how we should all have moments before the crib, the crucifix and at holy Communion when we offer ourselves to Christ and ask for purity of heart.

I had thought during the week that I should do this, and it came instinctively. I simply said: "I will be at this confessional over here on the left if anyone wants to go to confession after Mass." It was two days before Christmas.

After greeting the people at the back of church, I saw several benches filled with people waiting. With great joy, I went into the confessional. Fortunately Father Robert Schulte, our rector and vicar general who takes on so many burdens, was as alert as ever. He went into another confessional and summoned Father James Stoye and our two Nigerian priests, Father Francis and Father Tad, and soon there were several of us hearing confessions. Between us, we heard for 2 hours-30 minutes each. It shows clearly how the grace of Christ works, and also the hunger people have for forgiveness at a time like this.

Usual schedule

I was off the next day in early afternoon for St. Matthew, South Bend. As always, it was standing room only with people several rows deep at the back of church. Huge numbers at holy Communion. Reports of many confessions all week with Father Michael Heintz and Father André Léveillé,

CSC, hearing for many hours. But, Father Mike is a man of many gifts. He had cooked up some special pasta and meatballs with a lovely salad. Can you imagine a better Christmas Eve for a priest?

Off then to Fort Wayne, after passing through Warsaw, Jim Fitzpatrick and I said the joyful mysteries of the rosary. Home then for a few hours of rest and then to the cathedral.

Midnight Mass

Another standing-room-only crowd with people several rows deep at the back of church. A Mass that was televised throughout the area — even over to Ohio. Again the joy. Even when people cannot name the source of the joy, I have no doubt that it is rooted in the fact that humanity now has a solid hope. Death is not the end and sin has been overcome because God has assumed our humanity. Our Savior is among us and will not leave us orphans.

Something special

Then a joyful time at the cathedral rectory with Father Schulte and the priests who serve with him. A marvelous egg and sausage casserole and French toast. Pretty hard to beat that. To bed at 3 a.m. after watching a little bit of Pope Benedict in the midnight Mass from Rome. A cold clear

To bed at 3 a.m. after watching a little bit of Pope

Benedict in the midnight Mass from Rome.

A cold clear night with the lights everywhere.

night with the lights everywhere.

In the morning after five hours of sleep, I was off to the University of Saint Francis, where Sister Elise and the Franciscan Sisters make available their beautiful chapel for the Mass on television. Singing as always by the Lamping family and a full chapel.

As you know, a priest can say three Masses on Christmas, and there are three different Masses all with beautiful readings. I love them all, but I must say the Gospel for the third Mass has always been very special to me. Is it because when I was a young priest we read it in Latin every day, the so-called last Gospel: "In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God and the Word was God ... and the Word became flesh and dwelled among us." — John 1.

After that, I was home to collapse and give thanks to God that, however unworthy I am and that is a fact, that I was a priest at Christmas for the 51st time. If more young men understood the deep joy of this, the sense of service, the communion with Christ, they would consider this life and pray over it. I hope to be talking to some of them in a few days at the Andrew dinners in each of our cities, and I will try to convey it as best I can.

Always vocations

Peter brought his brother Andrew to see the Lord. I am preparing these few lines on the feast of John the Evangelist, my patronal feast. This is the apostle to whom Jesus spoke, looking on from the cross: "Mother behold your son, and son behold your mother." Priests, in the spirit of the Apostle Andrew, will bring young men to this dinner. I heard recently that Father Cam Tirabassi intends to bring 13 young men from his parish and from Saint Joseph's High School where he is the chaplain.

The Vatican Council has made it clear that the whole church is called to work for vocations to the priesthood. Let us make this a priority as we close out our Jubilee Year. Everyone can pray, and Christ will hear our prayers. His desire that there be sufficient priests is much greater than ours.

The closing of the jubilee

I look back with thanksgiving to God for this Jubilee Year that we have all lived together. On the front page of this edition, I have shared a brief message for everyone. I am grateful to God for the blessings of this year. So many returned to the practice of their faith, to the sacrament of reconciliation. The Eucharistic Congress with instructions and teaching, and the yellow umbrellas over the campus of Notre Dame with priests hearing confessions. Over 50 priests in all, and everyone kept busy. The catechesis from theologians and catechists given by priests, religious and laity. Rosary every half hour at the grotto in Spanish and English. Mercy Day with priests in many parishes hearing confessions all day. The confirmations in September, and the anointings and so much else.

I also observed 50 years of priesthood. My dear sister Mary, doing the first reading, her last such public reading before going to God just a few months later. Her sorrow because she could not come for the Eucharistic Congress. The vigil beside her bed as the summer turned into fall in the hills of southern New Hampshire. Her family all around her, especially her dear husband and children. The privilege to give her the sacrament of the sick as midnight drew near. The celebration of the Rite of Christian Burial, and the prayers at the grave with an Irish blessing graciously provided by Jim Fitzpatrick.

All very beautiful. Painful yes, but joyful too that I should have such a privilege.

See you all next week before I take a week of vacation to visit my family.

Pope: Christmas message of peace is sorely needed

BY JOHN THAVIS

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope Benedict XVI welcomed Christmas as a “day of great hope” and said its message of peace is sorely needed in a world beset by war, poverty and injustice.

In his Christmas day blessing delivered from the balcony of St. Peter’s Basilica, the pope appealed for an end to “the grim sound of arms” in Iraq, the Middle East, Afghanistan, Sudan’s Darfur and other “crisis situations that are frequently forgotten.”

“May the child Jesus bring relief to those who are suffering and may he bestow upon political leaders the wisdom and courage to seek and find humane, just and lasting solutions,” he said.

The night before, celebrating midnight Mass in St. Peter’s Basilica, the pope said Christmas should be experienced as a feast of “restored creation” in a spoiled and polluted world.

That will happen when modern men and women make time and space for God, he said.

The papal Mass and blessing were broadcast live to millions of people around the world, and the pope pronounced Christmas greetings in 63 languages — including for the first time Guarani, an indigenous language of South America.

In English, the pope said: “May the birth of the Prince of Peace remind the world where its true happiness lies; and may your hearts be filled with hope and joy, for the Savior has been born for us.”

In the message accompanying



CNS PHOTO/ALESSANDRO BIANCHI, REUTERS

Pope Benedict XVI blesses pilgrims from the central balcony of St. Peter’s Basilica at the Vatican Dec. 25 during his Christmas day blessing “urbi et orbi” (to the city of Rome and the world).

his “urbi et orbi” blessing to the city of Rome and to the world, the pope emphasized that Christ’s gift of hope and salvation is offered to all peoples, especially those suffering from oppression and lack of basic rights.

“It is the most vulnerable members of society — women, children, the elderly — who are so often the victims of brutal armed conflicts, terrorism and violence of every kind, which inflict such terrible sufferings on entire populations,” he said.

“At the same time, ethnic, religious and political tensions, instability, rivalry, disagreements, and all forms of injustice and discrimination are destroying the internal fabric of many countries and embittering international relations,” he said.

He also cited the rising number of refugees and evacuees from natural disasters, often caused by “alarming environmental upheavals.”

The birth of Christ brought a healing message of peace to the

world, the pope said. But to receive it, faith and humility are required, he said.

“Who has time to listen to his word and to become enfolded and entranced by his love?” he asked.

In his midnight Mass homily, the pope asked a series of similar questions: “Do we have time for our neighbor who is in need of a word from us, from me, or in need of my affection? For the sufferer who is in need of help? For the fugitive or the refugee who is seeking asylum?”

“Do we have time and space for God? Can he enter into our lives? Does he find room in us, or have we occupied all the available space in our thoughts, our actions, our lives for ourselves?” he said.

Yet while the reality of a closed world can be seen daily, “God does not allow himself to be shut out,” the pope said. He finds a space, “even if it means entering through the stable,” he said.

The pope noted a medieval tradition of Nativity scenes depicting the stable as a crumbling palace, whose former splendor has gone to ruin. The “new palace” brought by Christ is built not on royal power but on self-giving love, he said.

The pope also outlined an environmental theme implicit in the church’s celebration of Christmas.

He cited St. Anselm of Canterbury, who in the Middle Ages “in an almost prophetic way, once described a vision of what we witness today in a polluted world whose future is at risk: ‘Everything was as if dead, and had lost its dignity.’”

Likewise, he said, Gregory of

Nyssa, a theologian of the fourth century, saw the place of Christ’s birth, a rundown stable, as the symbol of an “ill-treated world.”

“What would he say if he could see the state of the world today, through the abuse of energy and its selfish and reckless exploitation?” the pope said.

Christ “came to restore beauty and dignity to creation, to the universe,” he said, and in this sense “Christmas is a feast of restored creation.”

The pope ended his homily by quoting from St. Augustine, who asked “Where is heaven?” and concluded that heaven can be found “in the saints and in the just.”

The pope said the saint made an important point: that the Lord is close to the humble.

“Heaven does not belong to the geography of space, but to the geography of the heart. And the heart of God, during the holy night, stooped down to the stable,” he said.

“The humility of God is heaven. And if we approach this humility, then we touch heaven. Then the earth too is made new,” he said.

The Mass included prayers of the faithful in five languages, including a prayer for peace in Arabic.

A prayer in Chinese asked that all those seeking God “may receive from each of us, in words and deeds, the announcement that today the Savior is born.”

Earlier on Christmas Eve, the pope lit a candle at his apartment window as an oversized Nativity scene was unveiled in St. Peter’s Square below, next to a giant Christmas tree.

PEACE

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

He said Pope Benedict’s concerns about the arms race, both nuclear and conventional, reflect the fact that global military spending reached an all-time high in 2006 and that, in many cases, countries have tried to justify their increased military spending by claiming it was necessary in order to combat terrorism.

“After the terrorist attacks against the United States of Sept. 11, 2001, the international community adopted severe measures against the risk of terrorism,” Cardinal Martino said. “At the same time, nations — especially the nuclear powers — began a renewal of their military apparatus and their weapons.”

“On this basis,” he said, “it seems correct to affirm that the current policy of state security threatens the very peace and security of the people it intends to defend.”

In his message, Pope Benedict wrote, “In difficult times such as these, it is necessary for all persons of good will to come together to reach concrete agreements aimed at an effective demilitarization, especially in the area of

nuclear arms.”

In explaining the theme he chose for the message, the pope said the fact that a strong, healthy family is the basis of a healthy society is not simply a slogan.

“In a healthy family life we experience some of the fundamental elements of peace: justice and love between brothers and sisters; the role of authority expressed by parents; loving concern for the members who are weaker because of youth, sickness or old age; mutual help in the necessities of life; readiness to accept others and, if necessary, to forgive them,” Pope Benedict said.

The pope said that anyone who weakens the institution of the family weakens “what is in effect the primary agency of peace” in society.

“Everything that serves to weaken the family based on the marriage of a man and a woman, everything that directly or indirectly stands in the way of its openness to the responsible acceptance of a new life, everything that obstructs its right to be primarily responsible for the education of its children, constitutes an obstacle on the road to peace,” he said.

The family needs and has a right to a home, employment, education for the children and



CNS PHOTO/HAZIR REKA, REUTERS

An ethnic Albanian man walks past graffiti that reads “Mitrovica Peace” in the ethnically divided town of Mitrovica, Kosovo, Dec. 9. Anything that threatens the traditional family threatens peace, because the family “is the first and indispensable teacher of peace,” Pope Benedict XVI said in his message for the Jan. 1 World Day of Peace.

health care, the pope said.

But the whole human family has parallel needs and rights, he said, including the need for an environment that is used with care and preserved for future generations.

“Human beings, obviously, are of supreme worth vis-a-vis creation as a whole,” the pope said.

“Respecting the environment does not mean considering material or animal nature more important than man.”

However, he said, the earth belongs to all people and to all generations and, therefore, must be used with care.

Pope Benedict said the costs and sacrifices required to protect

the environment and to halt its degradation must be shared globally, but — as in a family — with an awareness of the limited resources of the poorer nations and the greater responsibility of the industrialized countries.

The pope said it might be necessary to establish a new international agency to coordinate efforts to ensure “the stewardship of this ‘home’ of ours.”

Within the topic of ecology, he said, special attention must be paid to “the stewardship of the earth’s energy resources,” to exaggerated levels of consumption in some countries, to the need to expand the use of renewable energy sources and to ensure that poorer countries that possess natural energy resources are not exploited.

Pope Benedict also dedicated a chapter of his message to the need for people around the world, like members of one family, to hold certain values in common.

“For the sake of peace,” he wrote, “a common law is needed, one which would foster true freedom rather than blind caprice and protect the weak from oppression by the strong.”

In too many situations, the pope said, “the weak must bow not to the demands of justice, but to the naked power of those stronger than themselves.”

Ex-British Prime Minister Tony Blair received into Catholic Church

BY SIMON CALDWELL

LONDON (CNS) — Former British Prime Minister Tony Blair became a Catholic during a private ceremony in London.

Blair, previously an Anglican, was received into full communion with the Catholic Church by Cardinal Cormac Murphy-O'Connor of Westminster. Blair was sponsored at the Mass of reception by his wife, Cherie, a Catholic.

The Dec. 21 Mass at Archbishop's House, the cardinal's private residence, was attended by Blair's family and close friends. Cardinal Murphy-O'Connor said in a statement Dec. 22 that he was "very glad" to welcome Blair into church.

"For a long time he has been a regular worshipper at Mass with his family and in recent months he has been following a program of formation to prepare for his reception into full communion," the cardinal said. "My prayers are with him, his wife and family at this joyful moment in their journey of faith together."

Blair, 54, served as British prime minister from May 1997 until June 2007.

He now serves as envoy to the Middle East for the Quartet, a group comprised of the United Nations, the European Union, the United States and Russia.

He was admitted into the church using the liturgical rite of reception of a baptized Christian, which involved him making a profession of faith during the course of the Mass.

He was given doctrinal and spiritual preparation by Msgr. Mark O'Toole, the cardinal's private secretary, and also made a full confession before his reception.

For most of his adult life, Blair has attended Mass each Sunday with his wife. Their four children — Euan, Nicky, Kathryn and Leo — were baptized in the Catholic Church and raised as Catholics.

In a Dec. 23 interview with the British Broadcasting Corp. Radio 2 "Good Morning Sunday" program, Cardinal Murphy-O'Connor described the Mass of reception as "very intimate, very prayerful."

"It was a very moving occasion," said the cardinal. "I suppose for him (it was) the end of a process, in the sense that he's been thinking about becoming a Catholic for a long time."

"But also, in another sense it's



CNS PHOTO/PAUL HARING

Former British Prime Minister Tony Blair speaks at the annual Alfred E. Smith Memorial Foundation dinner in late October in New York City. Blair, previously an Anglican, was received into full communion with the Catholic Church by Cardinal Cormac Murphy-O'Connor of Westminster, England, Dec. 21.

a beginning, because when you become a Catholic, as so many people who have become Catholics have said to me, it's like coming home," he said.

"This was a gift for Tony, a personal journey, a gift for his family," he said, adding that Blair became a Catholic "partly because of the example of his family."

"I think also it's not just in his travels as prime minister, but even before that, there was something he said to me, that he feels at home in the Catholic Church in a way that he didn't in any other church or in the Anglican community," the cardinal added.

At the Vatican, a spokesman expressed "joy and respect" at Blair's decision.

"The Catholic Church joins in the sentiments of satisfaction expressed by Cardinal Murphy O'Connor," the spokesman, Jesuit Father Federico Lombardi, said Dec. 22.

Father Lombardi said the church was happy to welcome such a "prominent personality." He emphasized that Blair's decision was not an impulsive one, but came at the end of a "long and profound journey of faith."

Some Catholics and pro-life groups questioned the sincerity of Blair's profession of faith in view of a political career in which he consistently voted for abortion rights.

John Smeaton, director of the Society for the Protection of Unborn Children, said in a Dec. 22 statement that he found Blair's decision to become a Catholic "decidedly strange."

"We are very concerned," said Smeaton, a Catholic. "During his premiership, Tony Blair became one of the world's most significant architects of the culture of death: promoting abortion, experiments on human embryos — including on cloned human embryos — and euthanasia by neglect."

"We are writing to Tony Blair to ask him whether he has repented of the anti-life positions he has so openly advocated throughout his political career," he said.

Ann Widdecombe, a Conservative Party member of Parliament and a former Anglican who became Catholic in the early 1990s, told Catholic News Service Dec. 24 that the church would not have accepted Blair unless he assented to all its teaching on faith and morals.

"He would have had to change his mind" on matters such as abortion, said Widdecombe. "But I think he should now make that public for the avoidance of doubt."

Blair was just 42 years old when he swept to power in a landslide election to become the youngest prime minister since 1812. His 10 years of office made him the Labor Party's longest-serving prime minister and the only one to lead the Labor Party to three consecutive general election victories.

Even before he became prime minister there was speculation that he was about to become a Catholic. In the mid-1990s, the late Cardinal George Basil Hume of Westminster wrote to Blair to ask him to stop receiving Communion in the Catholic parish of St Joan of Arc near his home in north London.

When Blair moved to Downing Street, he continued to worship with his family but at nearby Westminster Cathedral.

The onset of the war on terror following the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks meant it was dangerous for him to attend public services. Masses were then celebrated at Downing Street by Father Michael Seed, a Franciscan Friar of the Atonement, who renewed speculation over Blair's conversion earlier this year when he told a journalist that Blair was "practically a Catholic."

Pope advances sainthood cause of 6-year-old girl

BY CINDY WOODEN AND JOHN THAVIS

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Although she never reached her seventh birthday, Antonietta Meo "reached the summit of Christian perfection" and is an example of holiness for all children, Pope Benedict XVI said.

"What a shining example your little peer left us," the pope told members of the children's section of Italian Catholic Action during a Dec. 20 audience.

Antonietta, known by the nickname "Nennolina," lived in Rome in the 1930s and died of bone cancer at age 6.

The pope advanced her sainthood cause Dec. 17, signing a decree recognizing that she heroically lived the Christian virtues.

When she was 5, one of her legs had to be amputated, and she bore it cheerfully, saying she connected it with Jesus' suffering. As her disease worsened, she dictated poems or letters to God, Jesus and Mary. She died five months before her seventh birthday, and the letters were later cited as the record of a young mystic.

The pope told the Catholic Action children, "I hope that her cause for beatification will conclude soon and happily."

The recognition of a miracle attributed to her intercession is needed for her beatification and recognition of another miracle is needed for canonization. If eventually canonized, she would become the youngest nonmartyr saint to be recognized under modern saint-making procedures.

Pope Benedict told the children that although Nennolina was very young "she demonstrated a very special faith, hope and charity, as well as the other Christian virtues."

"Although she was a fragile girl, she was able to give a strong and robust witness to the Gospel and left a profound mark on the Rome diocesan community," the pope said.

"You can consider her your friend, a model to inspire you," he said.

"Her existence, so simple and yet so important, shows that holiness is for people of every age: for children and young people, for adults and for the aged," Pope Benedict said.

"Every season of our existence can be the right one for deciding to love Jesus seriously and to follow him faithfully," the pope told the children. "In a few years, Nennolina reached the summit of Christian perfection that we are all called to climb; she quickly trav-



CNS PHOTO/COURTESY OF ASSOCIATION ANTONIETTA MEO

Pope Benedict XVI has advanced the sainthood cause of Antonietta Meo, an Italian child who died of bone cancer at age 6.

eled the superhighway that leads to Jesus."

The same day he recognized her heroic virtues, the pope addressed the Vatican's saint-making experts and encouraged them to keep finding new models of holiness to propose to contemporary society.

The pope said saints today "help make the words of the Gospel and the mission of the church more credible and attractive."

"Contact with the saints opens the way to real spiritual resurrections, to lasting conversions and to the flowering of new saints," he said.

The pope spoke to more than 300 postulators, the people responsible for presenting and defending the evidence in sainthood causes.

The pope noted that in January the church will mark the 25th anniversary of the promulgation of "Divinus Perfectionis Magister," a document issued by Pope John Paul II to simplify church procedures for the declaration of sainthood.

Pope Benedict said the process was less complicated under the new rules, but still retained the "solidity of research" needed before someone is made a saint.

The pope said it was important for the church to "propose ever new models of holiness" because people are convinced by real witness. He said there was evidence of a growing interest in the saints, on a religious and cultural level.

Postulators, he said, have a delicate task that requires careful discernment and objectivity. They and everyone involved in sainthood causes are called to place themselves "exclusively at the service of the truth," he said.

BARNES & THORNBURG LLP
btlaw.com

600 One Summit Square • Fort Wayne, Indiana 46802
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Father's stem cells provide new life for 3-year-old son

BY DAVID MYERS

DODGE CITY, Kan. (CNS) — Three-year-old Andrew Mueiting of Dodge City is a bright, happy-go-lucky, energetic little boy. But when he was 4 months old, doctors gave him a bleak prognosis.

Born with malignant infantile osteopetrosis, an exceedingly rare blood disorder that affects approximately 20 U.S. babies a year, Andrew was expected to spend his few years of life fighting anemia and infections, struggling with weak bones and eventual blindness and deafness.

Now, thanks to a new procedure that utilized his father's adult stem cells, Andrew is expected to live a long, healthy life with few ill effects.

The troubles began for Nick and Paula Mueiting soon after Andrew was born. He wasn't growing, it was a struggle for him to eat and he had a bulge atop his head where most babies have a soft spot.

"He spent a week in a Wichita hospital," said Nick Mueiting. "They didn't know exactly what was wrong. They saw on a blood test he was slightly anemic. Finally they took some X-rays and realized that all of his ribs were fractured and his bones appeared very dense."

A radiologist looked at the films, recalled a very rare disorder she had studied in school, and diagnosed the illness.

"Against the doctor's advice, we started researching osteopetrosis on the Internet," Mueiting said. "They warned us of the severity of the disorder, but we had to learn what we could do to help our little boy."

Because the disease is so rare, there are only a few facilities in the country that treat it. One is St. Jude Children's Research Hospital in Memphis, Tenn. It was there that Mueiting learned of a machine created by a German scientist that would remove the T-cells from adult stem cells. T-cells can lead the body to reject the new, life-saving cells.

With the new treatment in mind — the only hope Andrew had for a cure — the Muetings moved temporarily to Memphis.

"Andrew had to go through eight days of chemotherapy to



CNS PHOTO/DAVID MYERS, SOUTHWEST KANSAS REGISTER

Nick and Paula Mueiting are pictured with their 3-year-old son, Andrew, outside their home in Dodge City, Kan., in late September. As an infant, Andrew was diagnosed with malignant infantile osteopetrosis, an exceedingly rare blood disorder that affects approximately 20 U.S. babies a year in which children typically don't live past age 10. Thanks to a new procedure using his father's stem cells, Andrew is expected to live a long, healthy life.

completely wipe out his immune system," Mueiting said. "During the last five days of his treatment, I took a medicine that helped my body produce a lot of stem cells in my blood. At the end of that period ... I was hooked up to a machine for five hours as it extracted the stem cells from my blood. The stem cells ran through this machine that pulled out the potentially harmful T-cells."

When the filtering was completed, 50 cubic centimeters of stem cells from Andrew's father were injected into his blood.

"The doctor told me, 'Here's where the hard part begins,'" Mueiting said.

Andrew then spent more than 50 days in a medically induced coma and nearly another month in intensive care. The Muetings never left Memphis during those difficult days — days made much easier by St. Jude Children's Research Hospital's unique ability to help families.

"St. Jude provided us temporary housing," Mueiting said. "They even have a 'parent room' with a couchlike bed right in the hospital. That's where one of us stayed every night while the other slept in Andrew's room."

St. Jude also removes the stress of worrying about how families are going to pay the bills; the Muetings were able to

concentrate entirely on their child.

"St. Jude is kind of different," Mueiting explained. "They bill the insurance company, but whatever insurance doesn't pay, they don't require from the patient family. They took care of our housing and helped with the meals. We were well taken care of."

It has been more than two years since the Muetings brought their son home from the hospital. During that time, the family has made close to 20 trips back to Memphis for follow-up care, and has devoted much time to helping Andrew fully recover through physical, occupational, speech and vision therapies.

Andrew is about to graduate to a six-month interval between checkups, which consist of bone scans, X-rays, lab work, therapy sessions and other tests; but the prognosis is very good.

"Our families have helped us so much to make sure that Andrew didn't miss a beat," Mueiting said. "He's really a bright kid; it's truly amazing. He remembers just about everything. Ask him to sing a song and he'll sing it for you. He knows the alphabet, numbers, shapes and colors. He's known that for a year. Intelligence-wise, it hasn't slowed him down a bit."

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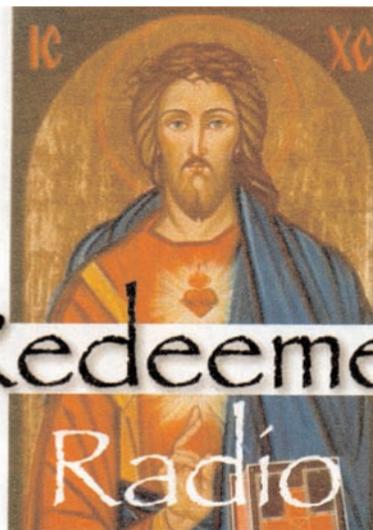
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Catholic leaders in Pakistan condemn assassination of Benazir Bhutto

THRISSUR, India (CNS) — Catholic leaders in Pakistan have condemned the assassination at an election rally of former Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto, leader of the opposition Pakistan People's Party. "We condemn this dastardly act. It is a terrible tragedy for Pakistan," said Bishop Anthony Lobo of Islamabad-Rawalpindi, secretary-general of the Catholic Bishops Conference of Pakistan, in a Dec. 27 telephone interview with Catholic News Service from Rawalpindi, where Bhutto was assassinated. According to reports, Bhutto, 54, and at least 20 others were killed Dec. 27 in a suicide attack. "Obviously, this is a setback for democracy," he said. "The forces that were opposed to it have succeeded this time." Describing Bhutto as "an extraordinary, brave woman," Bishop Lobo said that "she was aware of the great danger to her life. Yet, she went around to assert democracy and laid down her life in the process." Peter Jacob, executive secretary of the National Commission for Justice and Peace of the Pakistani bishops' conference, told CNS, "The people are stunned and angry."

Senate confirms Mary Ann Glendon as U.S. ambassador to Vatican

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The U.S. Senate confirmed Mary Ann Glendon, a U.S. law professor and president of the Pontifical Academy of Social Sciences, as the new U.S. ambassador to the Vatican Dec. 19. President George W. Bush had announced plans to nominate Glendon Nov. 5. In the flurry of end-of-the-year activity, the Senate Foreign Relations Committee held a hearing on the nomination on the morning of Dec. 19 and the full Senate approved dozens of nominations and military promotions in its next-to-last action before adjourning that evening. Glendon, a Catholic, will succeed Francis Rooney, a Catholic businessman who has held the post since October 2005. Glendon is a law professor at Harvard University in Cambridge, Mass., and has been a member of the social sciences academy since its founding in 1994.

Vatican astronomers to move to bigger, more modern facilities

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — After more than half a century based at the papal palace in Castel Gandolfo, the Vatican's astronomers will be moving to bigger, more modern facilities. The astronomers' new offices and residences still will be located on the grounds of the papal summer residence in the hill town of Castel Gandolfo, about 15 miles south of Rome, but they will be in a completely renovated convent nestled in the papal gardens. "This is going to be a great improvement" for carrying out the astronomers' work and studies and the new residences "will be a whole lot more comfort-

NEWS BRIEFS

CHICAGO CARDINAL RECEIVES GIFT FROM INMATE



CNS PHOTO/KAREN CALLAWAY, CATHOLIC NEW WORLD

Cardinal Francis E. George of Chicago receives a gift from Stewart Marshall following Mass with men detained in Cook County Jail's maximum security section in Chicago on Christmas day. The cardinal also visited Children's Memorial Hospital to visit with families and their children who are hospitalized and could not be home for Christmas.

able," said U.S. Jesuit Brother Guy Consolmagno. Work has not yet begun on the new headquarters, so the relocation is not likely to occur before next fall, he said. While the papal palace, where the observatory and two powerful telescopes are located, is "a beautiful, historical building" dating back to the 1500s, "it's also freezing in the wintertime and too hot in the summer," the Vatican astronomer told Catholic News Service Dec. 21.

Chinese priests teary-eyed as classmate ordained; elderly bishop dies

HONG KONG (CNS) — Priests of the Ningxia Diocese in northwestern China were moved to tears when Father Joseph Li Jing was ordained their coadjutor bishop. On Dec. 21, about 2,000 Catholics packed the cathedral in Yinchuan city, the capital of Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region, to witness the episcopal ordination of 40-year-old Father Li. Father Paul Zhang Shaoqing of Ningxia said many priests standing around the altar, especially seminary classmates of the new bishop, were moved to tears. "We shared the same feeling that even if our crosses are heavy we can shoulder them with God's help," he told the Asian church news agency UCA News Dec. 21. "We have to devote our entire lives to Jesus." Bishop Li's ordination — with the approval of the Holy See and the Chinese government — was expected to be the last ordination of a new Chinese bishop in

2007. Chinese Catholics say they need dozens of new bishops to replace aging bishops, at least 11 of whom have died this year.

Man accused of spiking drink with RU-486

KAUKAUNA, Wis. (CNS) — A Wisconsin man accused of causing his pregnant girlfriend's abortion by spiking her drink with RU-486 is being prosecuted under the Wisconsin fetal homicide law that classifies unborn children as potential crime victims. Manishkumar Patel of Kaukauna, free on a \$750,000 cash bond, was awaiting a Jan. 30 preliminary hearing in Outagamie County. "In charging Patel with attempted homicide, Outagamie County law enforcement is simply using common sense," said Peggy Hamill, state director of Pro-Life Wisconsin. "All preborn children deserve equal protection under the law, without exception," she added. "Ironically, under Wisconsin law, if the woman had taken RU-486 by her own hand, there could be no charges. God willing, more law enforcement officials will work to protect the lives of preborn children in our state, wanted or unwanted." "Without Wisconsin's fetal homicide law, there would be no basis on which to charge Patel in the death of the child," said Susan Armacost, legislative director of Wisconsin Right to Life. The mother of the unborn child is Dr. Darshana Patel, a family physician from Kaukauna who is not related to the accused. Both Patels are from India; Patel is a common Indian name.

Brazilian Cardinal Lorscheider, defender of poor, dies at 83

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Brazilian Cardinal Aloisio Lorscheider, known as an advocate for the poor and one of Latin America's most influential churchmen, died at age 83. Pope Benedict XVI, in a condolence telegram, praised the cardinal for his "constant and generous dedication" in Brazilian dioceses and at the Vatican, where he was a member of several congregations. Cardinal Lorscheider died Dec. 23 in a hospital in Porto Alegre, Brazil. He reportedly had experienced heart problems for some time. A Franciscan known for his simple spirit and his dedication to social justice, Cardinal Lorscheider served as president of the Brazilian bishops' conference and the Latin American bishops' council, CELAM, in the 1970s. In 1978, he was said to have been considered as a papal candidate in the conclave that elected Pope John Paul II.

New Hampshire bishop: Despite hard choices, Catholics must vote

MANCHESTER, N.H. (CNS) — Catholics must not seek to avoid difficult decisions about political candidates by choosing not to vote, Bishop John B. McCormack of Manchester said in a new document on "Conscience and Your Vote." The bishop's diocese covers the entire state of New Hampshire,

where the first primary in the 2008 presidential campaign is to take place Jan. 8. The Iowa caucuses are to take place five days earlier. "Some candidates advance proposals that fail to mirror the commitment of the church to the protection of all human life," he wrote. "In many cases, these same candidates advance other policies and proposals that can be supported in light of church teaching. 'This frequent mixture of laudable and unacceptable positions causes great perplexity,'" Bishop McCormack said. But "in order to sustain a healthy democracy, all citizens have a moral obligation to vote," he added. "Deciding not to vote therefore is an unacceptable solution, even to this difficult situation." The bishop's five-page document is based largely on "Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship," approved by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops in November.

Commission to study archives about Pope Pius XII

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope Benedict XVI has established a commission to study new archival material about the papacy of Pope Pius XII and to examine how his possible beatification would impact Catholic-Jewish relations, an Italian newspaper reported. The commission "must analyze every possible repercussion, including diplomatic ones, of the beatification," reported Andrea Tornielli in the Dec. 18 edition of *Il Giornale*. Tornielli, a reporter for the paper, also is the author of the 2007 book, "Pius XII, Eugenio Pacelli: A Man on the Throne of Peter." Jesuit Father Peter Gumpel, the official charged with shepherding Pope Pius' sainthood cause through its Vatican process, told Catholic News Service Dec. 19 that the commission's work "has nothing to do with the merits of the cause; it is a diplomatic matter."

U.N. vote against death penalty seen as victory for 'culture of life'

WASHINGTON (CNS) — A Dec. 18 vote by the U.N. General Assembly to ratify a resolution calling for a moratorium on executions "with a view to abolishing the death penalty" was hailed as a "victory for the culture of life" by a Catholic activist opposed to capital punishment. Although the resolution is not binding on U.N. member states, the vote has strong implications, according to Mario Marazziti, spokesman for the Rome-based Sant'Egidio Community and head of its campaign against the death penalty. The resolution — approved 104-54, with 29 abstentions — states that "there is no conclusive evidence of the death penalty's deterrent value and that any miscarriage or failure of justice in the death penalty's implementation is irreversible and irreparable." Marazziti, who was in New York for the vote, said a vote in favor of the moratorium would signify that capital punishment is not just a judicial matter for individual countries but a public issue that "concerns human rights."

South Bend Knights' council receives international recognition

SOUTH BEND — Knights of Columbus Santa Maria Council #553 of South Bend is a Columbian Award winner for the 2006-2007 fraternal year. The award is presented for excellence in the sponsorship of programs that serve the church, community, families and youth — as well as council members.

The announcement was made by the Knights of Columbus international headquarters located in New Haven, Conn. District Deputy Vincent Feck presented the engraved plaque to the council at a special ceremony held on Dec. 10, 2007.

Supreme Knight Carl A. Anderson, president of the international organization, in recognizing the local winner said, "Please accept my sincere congratulations on attaining this prestigious award. The dedication to the order shown by your council is seen in the high standard of excellence you have achieved. At the same time, I encourage you to carry forward this enthusiasm to meet the challenges that will face the Knights of Columbus in the years ahead. May this award be a reminder and an inspiration to the members of your council to continue to promote the ideals of Columbianism for the good of the church, your community and the order."

In accepting the award, Kevin M. Large, head of the local council, said, "Receiving this award is quite an honor. We're very pleased with this accomplishment."

The Knights of Columbus is the world's largest Catholic lay organization. It provides members and their families with volunteer opportunities in service to the Catholic Church, their communities, families and young people. With more than 1.7 million members in more than 13,000 councils around the world, the Knights of Columbus annually donates over \$1,423 million and 68 million hours of service to charitable causes. Please visit www.kofc.org for more information. The local council's Web site is www.kofc553.com.

Saint Mary's College Women's Choir wins NBC choir competition

NOTRE DAME — NBC announced on Monday's prime-time broadcast of "Clash of the Choirs" that the Saint Mary's College Women's Choir was one of 12 choirs from across the country to win the show's "Holiday Challenge," a national contest of choral ensembles. Saint Mary's choir was one of three choirs to be featured Monday, the first night of the program's four-night broadcast this week. You can see the clip now on the NBC Web site at www.nbc.com/Clash_of_the_Choirs/ (click on "Holiday Challenge") or go directly to

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Students in Michelle Story's first grade class at St. Bernard, Wabash, delighted the audience as they shared the Christmas story at the annual Christmas program.

www.nbc.com/Clash_of_the_Choirs/video/#mea=196464.

In a congratulatory e-mail to the college, Lewis de Dios, associate producer of comedy/on-air promotion at NBC, wrote, "Your performance of 'Amazing Grace' was incredibly inspired and beautiful."

"Clash of the Choirs" is a four-night competition that began on Monday featuring five celebrity choir directors — Nick Lachey, Patti LaBelle, Blake Shelton, Michael Bolton and Kelly Rowland. The five traveled to their hometowns and assembled amateur choirs that will compete live for the title of "America's Best Choir." Viewers at home will judge the choirs.

Saint Mary's College Women's Choir is a select 37-voice ensemble. Choir Director and Music Department Professor Nancy Menk found out about the "Holiday Challenge" contest while reading about the new "Clash of the Choirs" show on the NBC Web site. The national contest invited choirs from across the country to send in performances for select songs, including "Amazing Grace." Menk taped the choir and sent it to NBC.

"The (contest) specified four or five pieces that could be performed, and the Women's Choir had just performed a beautiful arrangement of Amazing Grace this fall, so we had that in good shape," Menk said.

The college's music program is one of its six accredited academic programs and a draw for many incoming students. "The Women's Choir stands out as one of the most delightful experiences we offer our students," said Patricia Ann Fleming, Ph.D., and vice president and dean of faculty.

"The excellence of the choir, under the superb direction of Dr. Menk, demonstrates our mission to promote a life of aesthetic appreciation in our young women students. NBC's recognition of our choir as the winner of the 'Clash of Choirs' holiday competition is well-deserved."

The Women's Choir regularly commissions and performs new works for women's voices. The choir tours nationally every other year, and regularly performs with the University of Notre Dame Glee Club in joint performances of major works with the South Bend Symphony Orchestra. They have appeared in concert at Carnegie Hall in 1999 and 2001, and returned there in November 2005 to perform music by Gwyneth Walker for women's voices and orchestra. The Women's Choir has recorded four compact discs on the ProOrgano label: "Ave, Ave!," recorded in 1997, "Amazing Day!," recorded in 2002, "Anima mea!," recorded in 2004, and "Across the Bar," recorded in 2007.

Homeschoolers' curriculum share to be held at University of Saint Francis

FORT WAYNE — For Catholic homeschoolers or those considering homeschooling, the Catholic Homeschool Support Group, NICHE, is having its annual curriculum share and used book sale on Saturday, Jan. 19, from 9:30 a.m. to noon at the University of Saint Francis Doermer Center, Room 156. The event is free with snacks and door prizes.

Breakout session topics

include: Living the liturgical year; a father's role in homeschooling; orientation for new homeschoolers; high school programs and college admission procedures at USF; homeschooling with babies and toddlers; and household management.

Child care is available at a cost of \$5 for one child, \$7 for two children and a maximum of \$9 for three or more children. This charge is for the entire share. This service is being offered so both mom and dad can attend together to connect with Catholic homeschool moms and dads.

Please reserve child care by contacting Nancy Bequette at n_bequette@yahoo.com or (260) 436-8704. Reservations are not required to attend, but it would be a help for planning purposes.

Survey ranks Notre Dame junior faculty among most satisfied

NOTRE DAME — When it comes to job satisfaction, the University of Notre Dame is hitting many of the right notes among its junior faculty members, according to a recent survey that gauges the opinions of tenure-track scholars about work environments at some 80 institutions of higher learning.

Released by the Harvard University-based Collaborative on Academic Careers in Higher Education (COACHE), the report, "Top Academic Workplaces 2005-2007," is based on a survey of about 7,000 junior faculty from 78 colleges and universities who rated their satisfaction level in such categories as the tenure process, work and family balance and collegiality.

Notre Dame scored notably higher than similar institutions and achieved exemplary status in four categories — policy effectiveness: overall; nature of work: overall; nature of work: research; and nature of work: support services. Only four other universities were rated higher.

"At Notre Dame, we seek to provide faculty with an exceptional environment in which to grow as scholars and teachers," said Thomas G. Burish, Notre Dame's provost. "It is reassuring to have, in this report, an indication that we are on the right track. I am very grateful to the deans, department chairs and other academic leaders and staff who make this such a wonderful place for faculty to work."

Saint Mary's College president to serve two roles for the Women's College Coalition

NOTRE DAME — Beginning on Jan. 1, Saint Mary College President Carol Ann Mooney has been serving as vice chair and secretary on the board of directors of the Women's College Coalition, an association of women's colleges and universities in North America.

"It's an honor to be asked to represent these fine women's institutions," said President Mooney. "For years, the coalition has been a critical voice in the success of women's colleges in the United States and Canada and I look forward to assisting in its continued success in the coming years."

President Mooney took the helm at Saint Mary's College on June 1, 2004, as the college's first lay alumna president. Her long-time professional involvement in Catholic higher education began when she became a member of the University of Notre Dame Law School faculty in 1980. She received the law school's Teacher of the Year award in 1983 and later served terms as both assistant and associate dean of the law school. President Mooney served as Notre Dame's vice president and associate provost from 1996-2004.

Founded in 1972, the Women's College Coalition is an association of women's colleges and universities — public and private, independent and church-related, two- and four-year — in the United States and Canada whose primary mission is the education and advancement of women. The coalition's board of directors is made up presidents of women's colleges.

The Women's College Coalition makes the case for women's education to the higher education community, to policy makers to the media and to the general public. Additionally, the coalition collects and disseminates information relating to the education of women and gender equity in education. Other priority areas are the issues of recruitment and retention of women in math, science and engineering, and the development of women's leadership.

Sisters of Providence to celebrate jubilees

SAINT MARY-OF-THE-WOODS — The Sisters of Providence were honored Saturday, Dec. 8, 2007, for 75th, 70th and 60th anniversaries during a senior jubilee celebration at Saint Mary-of-the-Woods.

Those sisters celebrating 75th jubilees are Sisters Frances Joan Baker, Marie Consolata Gallagher, Jean Karier, Mary Ellen Kilday and Ann Miriam Zell.

Two formerly ministered in the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend. They are:

• **Sister Frances Joan Baker** is a native of Washington, Ind. She currently ministers as a member of the residential services staff at Saint Mary-of-the-Woods. Sister Frances Joan entered the congregation Jan. 27, 1932. She professed perpetual vows Aug. 15, 1939. She graduated from Saint Mary-of-the-Woods College with a bachelor's degree in education. She received a master's degree in education from Indiana State University. In Fort Wayne, she was a teacher at St. John the Baptist School (1974-1977).



• **Sister Mary Ellen Kilday** is a native of Sterling, Ill. She currently ministers in prayer at Saint Mary-of-the-Woods.



Sister Mary Ellen entered the congregation Feb. 14, 1932. She professed perpetual vows Aug. 15, 1940. She graduated from Saint Mary-of-the-Woods College with a bachelor's degree in biology. She received a master's degree in zoology from the University of Notre Dame and a master's degree in education supervision administration from Indiana State University. In Fort Wayne, she was a teacher (1951-1953) and a guidance counselor (1969-1970) at Central Catholic High School.

The sisters celebrating 70th jubilees are Sisters Jane Bodine, Ann Kathleen Brawley, Charlotte Bruck, Dorothy Deal, Brendan Harvey, Beatrice Hoberg, Helene Marie Kelly, Catherine Livers and Alma Louise Mescher.

Four formerly ministered in the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend. They are:

• **Sister Jane Bodine** is a native of Saint Mary-of-the-Woods Village. She currently ministers on the residential services staff and as coordinator of Ladywood School Alumnae at Saint Mary-of-the-Woods. Sister Jane, the former Sister Janet, entered the congregation Jan. 9, 1937. She professed perpetual vows Aug. 15, 1945. She graduated from Saint Mary-of-the-Woods College with a bachelor's degree in physics. She received a master's degree in chemistry from the University of Notre Dame. In Fort Wayne,



Sister Bodine was a teacher (1962-1964) and assistant principal (1970) at Central Catholic High School.

• **Sister Ann Kathleen Brawley** is a native of Chicago. She currently ministers in prayer at Saint Mary-of-the-Woods. Sister Ann Kathleen entered the congregation July 22, 1937. She professed perpetual vows Jan. 23, 1946. She graduated from Saint Mary-of-the-Woods College with a bachelor's degree in education. She received a master's degree in European history from Indiana State University. In Fort Wayne, she was a teacher at St. Patrick School (1940-1945).



• **Sister Charlotte Bruck** is a native of Peru, Ind. She currently ministers in prayer at Saint Mary-of-the-Woods. She was the creator and author for a series of programs and books on child guidance that was used nationally. Sister Charlotte, the former Sister Charlotte Marie, entered the congregation July 22, 1937. She professed perpetual vows Jan. 23, 1946. She graduated from Saint Mary-of-the-Woods College with a bachelor's degree in English. She received a master's degree in guidance from Marquette University. In Fort Wayne, she



was a teacher at St. Jude School (1963-1965), a teacher at St. John the Baptist School (1965-1967) and ministered on the diocesan office staff (1968-1972).

• **Sister Catherine Livers** is a native of Loogootee. She currently ministers as a member of the spiritual direction staff at Saint Mary-of-the-Woods. Sister Catherine, the former Sister Agatha, entered the congregation June 29, 1937. She professed perpetual vows Jan. 23, 1946. She graduated from Saint Mary-of-the-Woods College with a bachelor's degree in education. She received a master's degree in education from Indiana State University and a master's degree in ministries from Seattle University. In Fort Wayne, she was a teacher at St. Augustine School (1942-1945).



Thirteen sisters were honored for their 60th anniversary during the senior jubilee celebration at Saint Mary-of-the-Woods. They are Sisters Agnes Maureen Badura, Joyce Brophy, Rosemary Eggerman, Joan Frame, Ann Francis Hammersley, Margaret Heese, Mary Ann Lechner, Joan Matthews, Maureen Ann McCarthy, Lucille Nolan, Ruth Sampson, Anne Scott and David Ellen Van Dyke.

Two formerly ministered in the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend area. They are:

• **Sister Rosemary Eggerman** is a native of Chicago. She currently ministers in prayer at Saint Mary-of-the-Woods. Sister Rosemary entered the congregation Feb. 2, 1947. She professed perpetual vows Aug. 15, 1954. She graduated from Saint Mary-of-the-Woods College with a bachelor's degree in education. She received a degree in addictions counseling from Triton College. In Fort Wayne, she was a teacher at Cathedral School (1963-1964).



• **Sister Ann Francis Hammersley** is a native of Malden, Mass. She currently ministers in prayer at Saint Mary-of-the-Woods. Sister Ann Francis entered the congregation July 22, 1947. She professed perpetual vows Jan. 23, 1955. She graduated from Saint Mary-of-the-Woods College with a bachelor's degree in education. She received a master's degree in reading from the University of New Hampshire. In Fort Wayne, she was a teacher at Cathedral School (1959-1962).



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'Hairless for Hannah': Scores support teen cancer patient

FISHERS, Ind. — The "Hairless for Hannah" fund raiser here was a big success — scores of people shaved their heads in solidarity with a 15-year-old cancer patient on Nov. 19.

Salon Krelc hosted the benefit in honor of Hannah Roth, parishioner of St. Louis de Montfort Church and a freshman at St. Theodore Guerin High School in Noblesville. Hannah had cut her hair short before losing it as a side effect of chemotherapy treatments.

"More than 100 people had their hair buzzed," Joanie Zigmund, event organizer, said. "Toward the end of the event, about a dozen girls had their ponytails cut off. We raised \$3,090.20."

Stylists at the salon were on hand to shave heads; for those not ready to go bald, gift certificates and raffle tickets were sold. Guests could sign a keepsake book.

One hundred percent of bald styling donations, 10 percent of all AVEDA products purchased and 50 percent of haircut certificate proceeds went to the Hannah Roth Fund.

Hannah was admitted to the Peyton Manning Children's Hospital at St. Vincent on Oct. 3, after feeling tired, nauseous and in some pain, according to her mother, Lisa Roth. After testing, doctors found a large cancerous tumor on her liver, which was diagnosed as hepatoblastoma. The hope is that chemotherapy will shrink the tumor so Hannah can have a liver transplant.

— *The Catholic Moment*

Parishioners invited to ring a bell

PERU, Ind. — St. Charles Borromeo Church, a downtown landmark since 1865, hopes that more parishioners hear the call to become volunteer bell ringers. The brick church, sheathed in artificial stone, has a steeple that towers over downtown Peru, the seat of Miami County. Inside the belfry is a single bell, cast by the Buckeye Bell Foundry of Cincinnati and installed in 1873. It is more than 3 feet in diameter and weighs approximately 1,000 pounds.

It is still rung the old-fashioned way — by a volunteer who tugs on its long manila rope before Mass. Bell ringing is "a neat ministry," says Mary Revelant, parish secretary and an occasional bell-ringer. "It's something we want to restart. It's not hard; it's fun."

A callout for prospective bell ringers will be held at the church at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, Dec. 11. Bell ringers will be there to show them the rope, so to speak; it runs from the belfry down the choir loft.

St. Charles used the traditional pull rope for generations.

"They used to ring it at 6 a.m., noon and 6 p.m. They did that for years," said Bill Quigley, 86, a lifelong parishioner.

"I used to ring it once in a while. I thought it was fun," said Vic Tully, 75, another lifelong parishioner. "I was probably 8 or 10 then. You needed a little weight or it would pull you right off the ground." — *The Catholic Moment*

A note of gratitude through music

St. Joseph Parish pastor connects experiences of Advent and Christmas

BY ALEX SCHEIDLER

SOUTH BEND — Gratitude was the inspiration behind this project. Holy Cross Father John DeRiso, pastor of St. Joseph Parish in South Bend, created a music CD along with his director of music and liturgy, Theresa Slott, and a handful of other musicians and production personnel.

"The project emerged out of a desire to express thanks to the people of St. Joseph Parish for their support of the parish and for their participation in the life of the parish," Father John said.

"This expression of gratitude also extends to those families of our school who are not parishioners of St. Joseph," he added.

The CD, entitled "Creator of the Stars of Night," was sent out to all parish and school members along with a letter from Father John. In the letter, he explained the motivation for the CD, as well as his hope that it could be used to help with Advent preparation and Christmas celebration.

In addition to appreciation, Father John hoped to reclaim the Advent season, which he felt is often eclipsed by the celebration of Christmas.

It seems only natural the inspiration would lend itself through the gift of music, given the fact that Father DeRiso sang in Glee Club at Notre Dame, and Theresa Slott sang in the Notre Dame Folk Choir.

The project was no impulsive reaction on his part. Originally, the idea came to him around Thanksgiving 2006 as a result of the nagging thought: What would be a great way of expressing thanks to the people of St. Joseph Parish?

After Father DeRiso proposed the recording, Slott suggested making it an album of Advent and



PROVIDED BY ST. JOSEPH PARISH

"Creator of the Stars of Night" is a CD created out of gratitude to the parishioners and benefactors of St. Joseph Parish and School in South Bend. Holy Cross Father John DeRiso, pastor of St. Joseph Parish in South Bend, created the CD along with the parish director of music and liturgy, Theresa Slott, and a handful of other musicians and production personnel.

Christmas liturgical hymns. This made good sense to him, as gratitude and joy directly connect with that special time of year.

"It ties into Advent because we are waiting in joyful hope for the comings of the Lord," Father DeRiso explained.

In further explaining the tie, Father DeRiso connected the coming of the Lord at three stages: the end of time, in daily living and as the baby at Christmas.

"As we wait in joyful hope for the coming of the Lord during the Advent season, this CD project is a way for the word of the Lord, in song, to come into the homes of our parish and school families," Father DeRiso concluded.

Slott produced and directed the CD, in addition to her role as director of liturgy and music at St. Joseph Parish. She chose the hymns that would be familiar to parishioners. She wanted to help parishioners connect easily with the music and use the recording to pray through the season.

"We wanted them to be able to connect with experiences of

Advent and Christmas they have had before," she said.

"While there are lots Christmas albums and Christmas music everywhere, it can be harder to find Advent music to listen to," she added.

Father DeRiso and Slott both hope the CD will be played in homes beyond Christmas day.

"We try to inculcate in the people of our parish the awareness that the Christmas season is not just one day," he said.

"The birth of Christ is something so wonderful to celebrate that it extends even beyond the eight days of the Christmas octave."

The CD was recorded during

the summer, over a series of four nights. There are 17 songs, with seven Advent hymns and 10 Christmas hymns. Everything was recorded at St. Joseph Church.

The recording itself, as well as the reproduction and distribution to the parish, were all generous donations of time, treasure and talent — each person involved was connected to St. Joseph Parish or School in some way.

Funding for the projects was an anonymous donation from three parish families.

St. Joseph Parish associate pastor, and fellow Holy Cross Father Nate Wills, designed the CD jacket. The design depicts St. Joseph leading Mary across the desert at night, with a star-filled sky. The title, "Creator of the Stars of Night," is the first song on the CD.

Jim Bilek did the sound engineering, editing and mixing — volunteering a significant amount of time as well as talent in assisting with the project.

"It was many hours of editing and mixing the songs," said Father DeRiso. "So we're really grateful to Jim for all of his hard work."

The CD is a balance between meditative hymns and celebratory hymns, all done in a contemporary but traditional liturgical style found at St. Joseph Parish at a typical Sunday liturgy.

As a concluding thought, Father DeRiso reiterated his gratitude toward his parish: "I am profoundly grateful for their support of our school and for their participation in the life of the school and for entrusting their children to our care."

"We try to inculcate in the people of our parish the awareness that the Christmas season is not just one day."

FATHER JOHN DERISO



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Adult faith formation education returns this Lent and beyond

BY TIM JOHNSON

FORT WAYNE — Many will begin the new year with the resolution to learn more about their Catholic faith. And the diocesan Office of Catechesis readily offers opportunities for individuals to meet this resolution.

"A lot of people think catechesis is for children," said Sister Jane Carew, diocesan director of the Office of Catechesis, "but catechesis for adults should be lifelong. There is no end to adult catechesis in a person's life."

Sister Jane cited the "Catechesi Tradendae" ("On Catechesis in Our Time") as it was written in the "National Directory for Catechesis": "The catechesis of adults ... is the principal form of catechesis, because it is addressed to persons who have the greatest responsibilities and the capacity to live the Christian message in its fully developed form."

Beginning this Lent, adult faith formation will return throughout the diocese with a roster of exciting classes for adults to learn more about their faith. These short courses will offer three nights of catechesis for adults. They are open to adults who want to learn more about their faith.

With the success of Office of Catechesis-sponsored recent programs— Amy Welborn's discussion on decoding the DaVinci code; the Sister of Providence discussion of St. Theodore Guérin; and Father John Pfister's three-evening series on the Book of Revelation — all at the Archbishop Noll Catholic Center in downtown Fort Wayne, this new diocesan building seemed a good place to offer such classes with ample space and free parking in the garage.

But a new model of clustering parishes and offering classes at a centralized parish will also be utilized for the sessions. For example, classes are being planned at Decatur, Elkhart and Fort Wayne where neighboring parishes will be especially encouraged to attend. Also, Marian High School in Mishawaka and Saint Joseph's High School in South Bend have offered their facilities for the classes.

Sister Jane told *Today's Catholic* that adult faith formation classes had been offered since 1988, but the classes were placed on hold for a time to allow the Disciples in Mission process to be initiated at parish levels. But success of the Office of Catechesis programs mentioned earlier was very encouraging and offered the impetus to relaunch the adult faith formation education this year.

Diocesan pastors Father David Voors of St. Mary of the Assumption, Decatur, and Father John Pfister of St. Mary, Huntington, will teach two of the courses. (See adjoining descriptions in this week's *Today's Catholic*.)

Other adult faith formation education instructors will include Marian High School theology teacher Vicki Schwab, Franciscan Sister Anita Holzmer, Greg Doyle,



ARCHBISHOP NOLL CATHOLIC CENTER IN FORT WAYNE

who is from the Institute of Church Life at the University of Notre Dame, and Marilyn Fech, a popular presenter from Bishop Luers High School.

One of the goals of this adult education program is to help people become familiar with the new U.S. Catholic Catechism for Adults. This month, the U.S. catechism for adults will also be released in Spanish. Two classes will be offered in Spanish.

Ongoing education for the Education for Ministry graduates

Meg Hanlon, who chairs the Bishop Luers theology department, will teach a course on the Vatican II documents, which is earmarked for adults who are past and current graduates of the Education for Ministry program and want to continue their faith formation.

Hanlon, who graduated from the Office of Catechesis-coordinated master's of theology program, told *Today's Catholic*: "I will serve as a teacher/facilitator in the project. The bishops have called for an increase in programs like this so that the message of Vatican II can be more widely understood in order for the Holy Spirit to bring about the full fruits of the council."

Hanlon added, "It is sadly true that many people talk about the 'spirit' of Vatican II or their perceptions of Vatican II without ever having read the documents. The real tragedy is that the documents are quite accessible to the lay person, but they are not aware of how accessible they are."

She shared her excitement for the classes. "It has been dream of mine to facilitate a class on the documents of Vatican II, and Sister Jane and the bishop believe that now is the time," Hanlon said. "The expectation is that those who take the class will read the document to be studied before each class, listen to the presentation, and be prepared to discuss and reflect on it."

Hanlon spoke of the agenda. "This spring we will cover the four constitutions, "Dei Verbum" ("Word of God"), "Lumen Gentium" ("The Church"), "Sacrosanctum Concilium" ("Sacred Liturgy"), "Gaudium et Spes" ("The Church in the Modern

World"), as well as "Orientalium Ecclesiarum" ("Catholic Churches of the Eastern Rite"). It is a lot to cover, and we will have to be quite disciplined to keep on pace but I am confident that we can accomplish our goal."

Other adult education opportunities

The Office of Catechesis also oversees several areas of adult catechesis.

The Education for Ministry program is in its 15th year. Tracks are offered in Fort Wayne and South Bend. Sister Jane told *Today's Catholic* that 700 participants have gone through the program since 1992. It is meant to offer training for those teaching in the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) and expands training for directors of religious education without bachelor's degrees in theology. This program has also trained junior high religious education teachers in Catholic schools.

But many adults have enriched their own faith life and become very involved in their own parishes. Homeschooling parents are also enjoying the classes.

Now in its 18th year, 84 people have participated in the master's program in theological studies with 20 still working on their master's degree. These graduates work in the diocesan high schools and are directors of religious education.

Sister Jane says the monies the diocese has received from Our Sunday Visitor for the last 18 years, has "provided the leaven and pay for the Education for Ministry program."

As master's graduate Hanlon noted, "As a graduate of the master's program, I am deeply indebted to the people of the diocese and Our Sunday Visitor, and so teaching in the Education for Ministry program is a way for me to give something back."

Sessions will take place from 7-9 p.m. on the dates indicated in the roster. Registration is required for each session and can be completed at the Office of Catechesis Web site, www.diocesefwsb.org/OC under Adult Faith Formation, by e-mailing Janice Martin at jmartin@fw.diocesefwsb.org, or by calling her at (260) 399-1411 unless otherwise noted.

Adult faith formation

"The catechesis of adults ... is the greatest responsibilities and the o

Come and take advantage of these opportunities to strengthen the gift and knowledge of your faith.

All sessions will take place from 7-9 p.m. on the dates indicated for the session. Registration is required for each session and can be completed at the Office of Catechesis Web site, www.diocesefwsb.org/OC under Adult Faith Formation, by e-mailing Janice Martin at jmartin@fw.diocesefwsb.org, or by calling her at (260) 399-1411 unless otherwise noted.

DECATUR

Growing Closer to Jesus Christ — the Value of Prayer

FATHER DAVID VOORS
Feb. 19, 26 and March 4
St. Mary of the Assumption,
414 Madison St., Decatur

In this workshop we will look at the value of prayer through the eyes of others, oneself and Jesus Christ. Our hope is to instill the importance of daily prayer. Each workshop will build upon the other:

- Tuesday, Feb. 19: Workshop 1 — An Overview of Prayer
- Tuesday, Feb. 26: Workshop 2 — Lots of ways to go on a date with God
- Tuesday, March 4: Workshop 3 — Putting it all together: Learning a specific style of prayer

ELKHART

Catecismo Católico de los Estados Unidos para los Adultos 2008

Talleres 2008
LOURDES SILVA
16 de febrero, 23 de febrero y el 1 de marzo del 2008
Centro Pastoral de la Parroquia de San Vicente de Paúl,
1108 S. Main St., en el pueblo de Elkhart

La Oficina de Catequesis en conjunto con la Oficina para el

Ministerio Hispano de nuestra Diócesis Fort Wayne — South Bend, ofrecerá tres talleres en español sobre el tema del nuevo Catecismo Católico de los Estados Unidos para los Adultos.

Invitamos a nuestro pueblo Hispano para aprender más sobre nuestra fe Católica, o simplemente cono-

cer el recurso nuevo del Catecismo específicamente para adultos. Vamos a repasar los cuatro pilares de nuestra Iglesia Católica: Credo, Sacramentos, Moralidad, y Oración, con énfasis particular en la oración. Le aconsejamos que se matricule lo antes posible.

Este taller se llevará a cabo en el Centro Pastoral de la Parroquia de San Vicente de Paúl, 1108 S. Main St., en el pueblo de Elkhart, Indiana. Las fechas de estos tres talleres (todos con un tema distinto) se llevará a cabo tres sábados consecutivos: 16 de febrero, 23 de febrero y el 1 de marzo del 2008, comenzando a las 6 p.m. y terminando a las 8 p.m. Para más información comuníquese con Lourdes Silva al teléfono (574) 259-9994, ext. 217. También, usted podrá matricularse en la página cibernética de la Diócesis. Utilizaremos el nuevo libro en español que estará disponible en nuestra oficina a fines del mes de enero del 2008, o se le puede facilitar el primer día de clase.

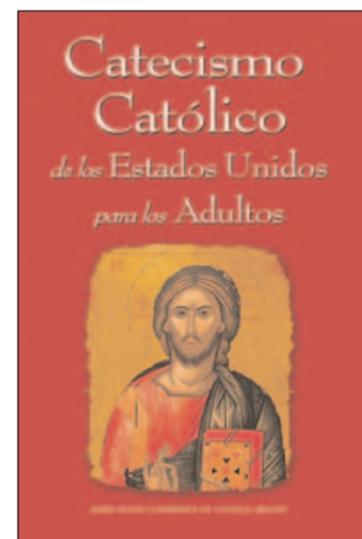
FORT WAYNE

Franciscan Spirituality

SISTER ANITA HOLZMER, OSF
Feb. 12, 19 and 26
St. Mary Catholic Church,
1101 S. Lafayette St., Fort Wayne

This course includes a brief overview of the lives of St. Francis and St. Clare of Assisi. Through writings by and about Francis and Clare, participants will study and reflect on Franciscan conversion, obedience, poverty, humility, simplicity, chastity, prayer and joy and how these are lived out and expressed. Sister Anita encourages partici-

pants to have read the book, "Francis of Assisi: Writer and Spiritual Master" and to read information found at the Web site "The Franciscan Experience" run by the Franciscan Friars of the Province of Malta. The Web site for the Franciscan Friars of the Province of Malta can be found at <http://198.62.75.1/www1/ofm/fra/FRAmain.html>



Program sponsored by the Diocesan Office of Catechesis

the principal form of catechesis, because it is addressed to persons who have the capacity to live the Christian message in its fully developed form.”

— National Directory for Catechesis, # 48

Our roots in Judaism: from the Old Testament Covenant to Christ

MARILYN FECH
Feb. 13, 20 and 27; March 5 and 12
Archbishop Noll Catholic Center,
115 S. Clinton St., Fort Wayne

Join us for an analysis of our roots in Judaism — from God’s establishing of the covenant with his chosen people up until the time of its fulfillment in Christ. Our aim will be to gain a deeper appreciation for our “older brothers in the faith,” opening our hearts and minds to a broader spectrum of possibilities. Then as we draw nearer to Easter we will take these insights into the triduum we celebrate. Make this Lent and Easter richer than ever before.

Creo en Dios

MARIA FERNANDA BECKER
6 de febrero, 23 de febrero y el 1 de marzo del 2008
Iglesia Católica San Patricio, 2120 Harrison St., Fort Wayne

Clase de catecismo para adultos: “Creo en Dios” Este curso tendrá el propósito de ayudarnos a entender y profundizar nuestra fe en Dios y en su creación. Para nuestro estudio usaremos el Catecismo para Adultos en los Estados Unidos y estudiaremos tres capítulos correspondientes a la sección del Credo. Primero, nos concentraremos en el Capítulo 5 que habla de Dios y su creación. Luego, en el Capítulo 7 La Buena Nueva: El Dios Ha enviado A Su Hijo. Finalmente, estudiaremos el Capítulo



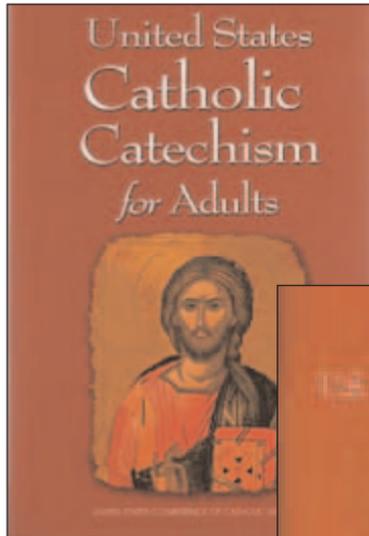
2 que nos iluminará sobre el rol de nuestra Madre, La Virgen María, en el plan de salvación y en nuestras vidas. La clase será de dos horas y tendrá lugar en la Iglesia de San Patricio, durante tres sábados: 6 de febrero, 23 de febrero y el 1 de marzo del 2008, comenzando a las 7 p.m. y terminando a las 9 p.m. La clase será guiada por la señora María Fernanda Becker, originaria de Ecuador y profesora de español en Bishop Dwenger High School.

SOUTH BEND

Deepening our Faith Life with the United States Catholic Catechism for Adults

VICKI SCHWAB
Feb. 26; March 4 and 11
Marian High School; Room 121/122
1311 S. Logan St., Mishawaka

Many books have been written which can help us to deepen our faith life, but few focus on both “head and heart” development. The recently published United States Catholic Catechism for Adults, a gift to the church by the United States bishops, allows the reader to engage both the “head and the heart” at the same time. These three sessions will explore church teachings with practical suggestions of how to live a more faithful life bringing growth within the fullness of the human person.

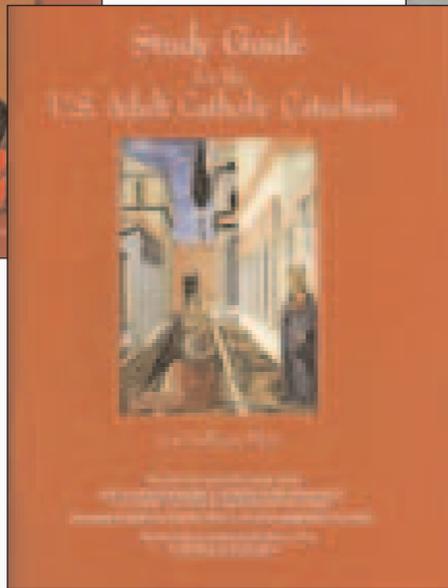


Encountering Christ in the United States Catholic Catechism for Adults

SHAWN SULLIVAN
Feb. 28; March 6 and 13
Saint Joseph’s High School, Room 116
1441 N. Michigan St., South Bend

Ever wonder where to look to find all of the basic tenets of the faith tailored to life in the United States of America? Wonder no more. Every adult in the faith, and those interested in learning about the faith, should attend this series. The enriching contents of the United States Catholic Catechism for Adults (USCCA) will better enable the faithful to deepen their faith and live their lives as Catholics in the United States. The sessions will explore the history and purpose of the USCCA as well as its relationship to the Catechism of the Catholic Church. The contents of the USCCA will be examined from cover to cover, including its excerpts on the saints and other holy persons that have shaped the faith experience of the United States. Questions and troubling issues will also be examined in the context. The focus of the sessions will not simply consist of a regurgitation of “do’s and don’ts.” The

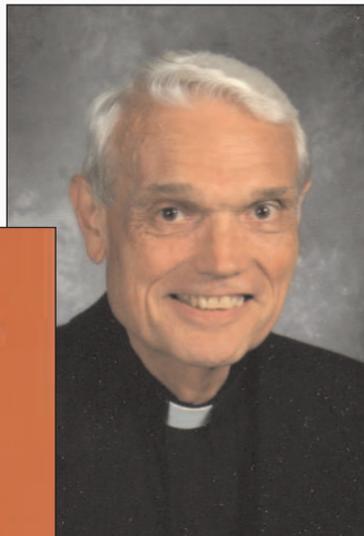
love and hope of Christ’s revelation will be expressed in all church doctrines as applied to the diverse cultural settings of the United States. The sessions will use the United States Catholic Catechism for Adults. For those desiring to read in advance of the sessions: first, introduction through 162; second, pages 163 through 338; third, 339 through 501. Also, Pope Benedict XVI’s two encyclicals, “Deus Caritas Est” (“God is Love”), and “Spe Salvi” (“Saved by Hope”) will be discussed in relation to the USCCA. The themes of hope and love, as exemplified by the pope’s encyclicals will be stressed throughout the discussions. Pope Benedict XVI’s encyclicals can be downloaded for personal use from the Vatican Web site at www.vatican.va



“Lumen Gentium,” “Orientalium Ecclesiarum,” “Sacrosanctum Concilium” and “Gaudium et Spes.”

The required texts are “Vatican Council II” by Austin Flannery, OP, and the “Final Report of the 1985 Extraordinary Synod.” All Vatican Council II documents can also be found on the Vatican Web site at www.vatican.va or by searching by title on the Web. The Final Report of the 1985 Extraordinary Synod can be found at www.saint-mike.org/Library/Synod_Bishops/Final_Report1985.html.

Participants are asked to have the documents with them the first night.



SOUTH BEND

The Book of Revelation

FATHER JOHN PFISTER
April 9, 16 and 23
Marian High School, Room 121/122
1311 S. Logan St., Mishawaka

Father John Pfister will give three sessions on the Book of Revelation at Marian High School, Mishawaka, on April 9, 16 and 23. The Book of Revelation is one of the most misunderstood books of the Bible. Our Catholic understanding of this book is quite different from how many TV evangelists have been presenting it and also some authors of popular books. It is not a book of fear but rather a book of hope for the faithful Christian.

It is especially important not to miss the first session, which begins with placing the book in its historical context and also gives some understanding of the apocalyptic style of writing. Father Pfister will then go through the book chapter by chapter. He will be using the New American Bible translation of Scriptures. Please bring your Bible — whatever translation — and join us.

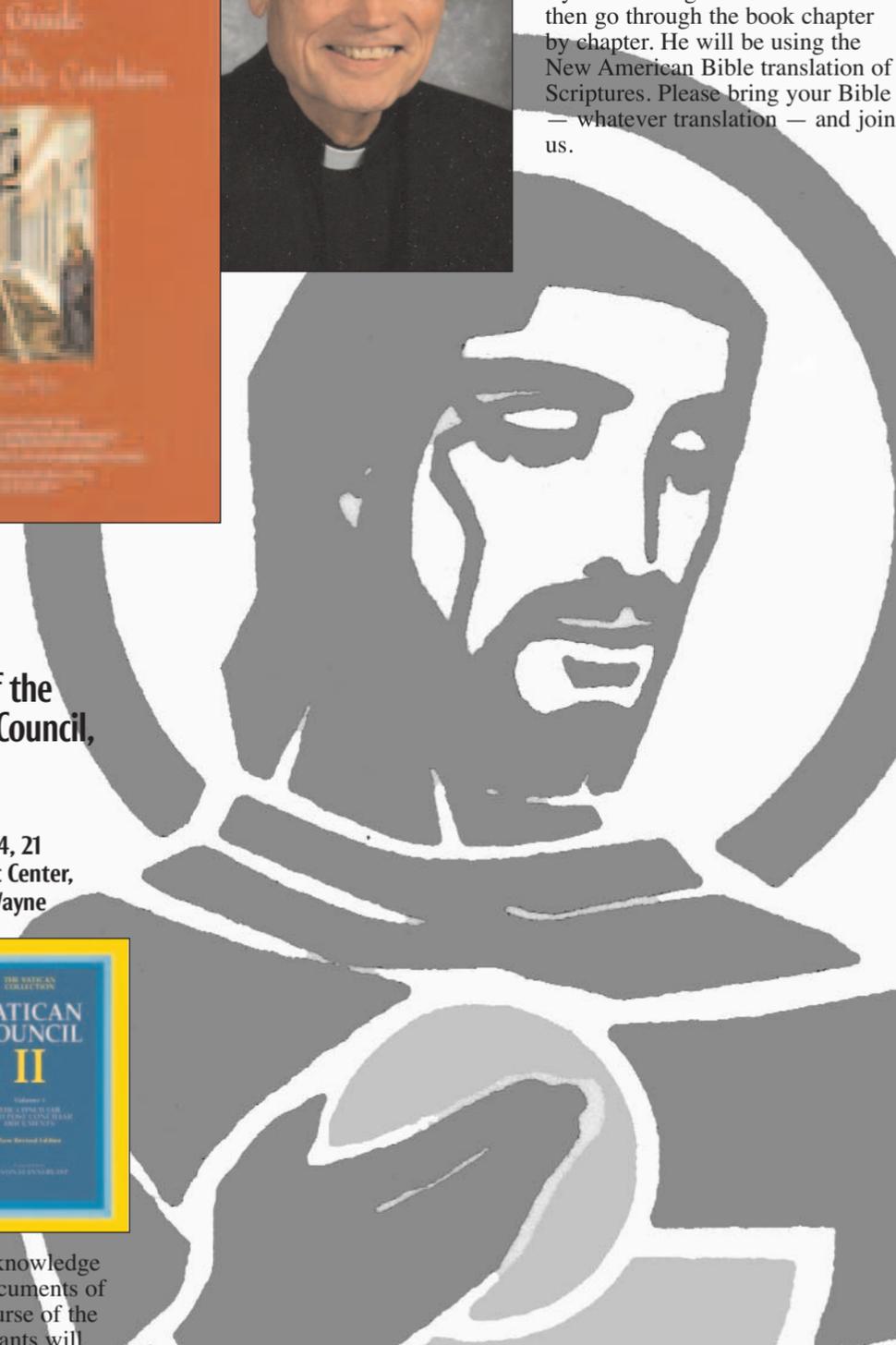
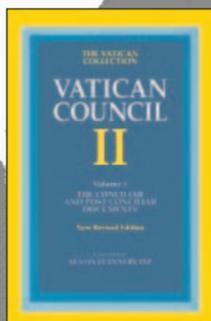
After Lent

FORT WAYNE

The Documents of the Second Vatican II Council, Part I

MEG HANLON
April 16, 23, 30; May 7, 14, 21
Archbishop Noll Catholic Center,
915 S. Clinton St.; Fort Wayne

This class, open to past and current graduates of the Education for Ministry Program, is a response to the call of Pope John Paul II and the Extraordinary Synod of Bishops to deepen the knowledge and reception of the documents of Vatican II. Over the course of the six-week class, participants will read and discuss “Dei Verbum,”





Vices and Virtues



Vices and Virtues shared-faith series offered for Lent 2008

Today's Catholic invited Ginny Kohrman and Jennifer Kohrman from the Office of Spiritual Development and Evangelization and Linda Furge from the Office of Campus and Young Adult Ministry to discuss the Lenten series that will be offered, called *Vices and Virtues*. The series will begin Feb. 3 and run weekly in Today's Catholic through the Easter edition.

The following is their response:

Yes, we all have them — vices as well as virtues. They are part and parcel of our human nature. Our Catholic tradition teaches that, even though Adam and Eve were “egged on” by Satan, part of their decision to disobey God was that they believed they would become Godlike. Adam and Eve forgot that they owed their very existence to the one who made them; they forgot about their “right relationship” to God.

This human inclination towards pride and selfishness — and we all have it to a lesser or greater degree — is what we call original sin. Don't we often forget what our right relationship

with God is — or should be? Don't we often find ourselves inclined to be proud of ourselves, our accomplishments, our possessions, our relationships? Isn't our first reaction to most things most of the time centered on how we are impacted?

During Lent 2008 we will

Just as each of us has a unique personality so, too, each of us has our own “brand” of sinfulness.

examine more closely the seven deadly or capital sins and their corresponding virtues. The church calls them capital sins because they are the root of all other sins or tendencies towards vice and evil. They are the “worst offenders,” the ones that lead us

away from God, just as they did for Adam and Eve. Tradition names these seven sins: pride, gluttony, avarice (greed), lust, sloth (laziness), envy and anger.

In our daily struggle to remain focused on God, we try to avoid these seven sins and act as Jesus did. To counter pride, we attempt to become humble. For gluttony we try to learn moderation; for avarice, generosity; for lust, chastity; for sloth, diligence; for envy, love and for anger, meekness.

Just as each of us has a unique personality so, too, each of us has our own “brand” of sinfulness. Looking at each of these capital sins in more detail during Lent 2008 will help us realize to which of these sins we are prone and how they block a right relationship from God, our creator.

Look for this Lenten faith-sharing series to be offered in your parish, to be featured in *Today's Catholic*, or on the Web at www.diocesefwsb.org/OSD during Lent 2008.

Rome basilica establishes ecumenical chapel as prep for Pauline year

BY CINDY WOODEN

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — In preparation for the 2008-09 celebration of a special Pauline year convoked by Pope Benedict XVI, Rome's Basilica of St. Paul Outside the Walls is establishing an ecumenical chapel.

Cardinal Andrea Cordero Lanza di Montezemolo, arch-priest of the basilica, told the Vatican newspaper that with the new chapel “we will give non-Catholic Christian communities the possibility to come to the basilica to pray, to celebrate the liturgy.”

The Vatican newspaper, *L'Osservatore Romano*, published an interview with the cardinal Dec. 19, two days after the cardinal met with Pope Benedict to discuss plans for the Pauline year.

When Pope Benedict announced in June the special year of events marking the 2,000th anniversary of St. Paul's birth, he said the celebrations should have a special ecumenical character.

St. Paul, “who was particularly committed to bringing the good news to all peoples, did everything he could for unity and agreement among all Christians,” the pope said.

He prayed that St. Paul would help Christians “move forward in the humble and sincere search for the full unity of all the members of the mystical body of Christ.”

Cardinal Cordero Lanza di Montezemolo told the newspaper the new ecumenical chapel would be located in what, since the 1930s, has been a baptismal

chapel in the southeast corner of the basilica.

“The altar will be the one we found and removed during the recent work alongside Paul's tomb,” he said.

Tradition holds that St. Paul was martyred by beheading in the first century and that his body was buried in a cemetery along the Via Ostiense, where the basilica was built.

But because of destruction and rebuilding, the exact location of the tomb was unknown for centuries. Vatican officials announced in December 2006 that several feet below the basilica's main altar and behind a smaller altar, they had found a roughly cut marble sarcophagus beneath an inscription that reads: “Paul Apostle Martyr.”

The small altar was removed and a window inserted so that pilgrims now can see the sarcophagus.

During the Pauline year — June 28, 2008, to June 29, 2009 — the basilica will host monthly reflections by different cardinals and special events for particular groups such as families, young people, religious and new ecclesial movements, Cardinal Cordero Lanza di Montezemolo said.

An ecumenical conference, bringing together Pauline scholars from a wide range of Christian communities, will be held in October 2008, he said.

In addition, he said, the Benedictine monks, who staff the basilica and publicly lead morning and evening prayer there each day, will invite a different Christian community to evening prayer on Fridays throughout the year.



Pope Benedict XVI to visit the United States

With the announcement of Pope Benedict XVI's visit to the United States April 15-20, 2008, many requests for tickets to papal events have been received through the Archdiocese of New York and Washington, D.C. The Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend will be granted some tickets through Bishop John M. D'Arcy's office, but the number may be very limited.

Those interested in attending the public papal events should notify our diocesan offices by either filling out the form found on the diocesan Web site www.diocesefwsb.org or by filling out the form below and returning it to: Papal Visit, P.O. Box 390, Fort Wayne, IN 46801.

I am interested in tickets to the following events — IF AVAILABLE

_____ April 17: Public Papal Mass, Nationals Park, Washington, D.C.

_____ April 19: Youth Rally, St. Joseph's Seminary, Yonkers

_____ April 20: Public Papal Mass, Yankee Stadium, New York

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

E-mail _____

Telephone _____

Note: All ticket holders will be required to provide appropriate identifying information.

RETURN BY JANUARY 11, 2008



CNS PHOTO/GREGORY A. SHERITZ, LONG ISLAND CATHOLIC

In preparation for the 2008-09 celebration of a special Pauline year convoked by Pope Benedict XVI, Rome's Basilica of St. Paul Outside the Walls is establishing an ecumenical chapel.

New bishops, new church signs of Eastern Catholic revival in Romania

BY VICTOR GAETAN

BUCHAREST, Romania (CNS) — The Romanian Catholic Church, an Eastern rite suppressed under communism, is experiencing a revival.

In December 2005, Pope Benedict XVI elevated its status to a major archbishopric, granting it greater autonomy.

This December, two young bishops were installed as auxiliaries for the Archdiocese of Fagaras and Alba Iulia, which includes the capital, Bucharest. Auxiliary Bishops Mihai Fratila, 37, and Vasile Bizau, 38, were installed Dec. 16.

"The Greek Catholic church is going on and on and growing up," Bishop Florentin Crihalmeanu of Cluj told Catholic News Service. "The Lord is with us. People keep coming back, more every month. Our church witnesses so many miracles, despite the many obstacles."

In September, when Bishop Crihalmeanu, 48, consecrated Descent of the Holy Spirit Church, 2,000 people thronged the square outside the new building. The church is one of the few new buildings in a country where Eastern Catholics, sometimes referred to as Greek Catholics, have fought for return of property expropriated under the communist regimes.

In 1948, one of the Communist Party's first acts of aggression against Romanian culture and religion was to transfer the Romanian Catholic Church's 1.5 million members to the

Orthodox church. Communist officials arrested its bishops, confiscated its property — including four cathedrals — for use by the state or gave the property to the Orthodox church.

"All Greek Catholic bishops were arrested and put in a villa surrounded with barbed wire," Bishop Crihalmeanu said. "In 1950, they were transferred to a notoriously severe prison where they were put, like Christ, among common criminals. It was the Greek Catholic church's Passion week, but the week lasted for 42 years."

Four of the bishops arrested in 1948 died in jail; two were released to house arrest and died there. Six new bishops, consecrated clandestinely, took their places.

Bishop Crihalmeanu said he studied theology in secret as the student of an older priest.

"If the secret police found theological writings about (the) Greek Catholic church in your possession it was a matter of prison, so everything was very secretive. The 'seminary' was at a priest's house, and we developed an elaborate system of entering the building to avoid detection," he said.

"I was working as a mechanical engineer from 7 (a.m.) to 3 p.m., then going to this seminary from 4 to 8 p.m. All the students were working as well," and some traveled up to 35 miles for classes, he said.

He was ordained a priest Sept. 9, 1990, in a ceremony held outside as a sign of protest against "the ongoing state and Orthodox possession of our property."

"Greek Catholics had so many churches in this city and in surrounding villages, but by fall 1990, although a sort of democratic revolution had occurred, we were not getting them back," he said.

Since 1990, the Romanian Catholic Church has reopened six seminaries and more than a dozen primary and secondary schools.

In January 1997, Bishop Crihalmeanu was one of 12 bishops ordained by Pope John Paul II in St. Peter's Basilica.

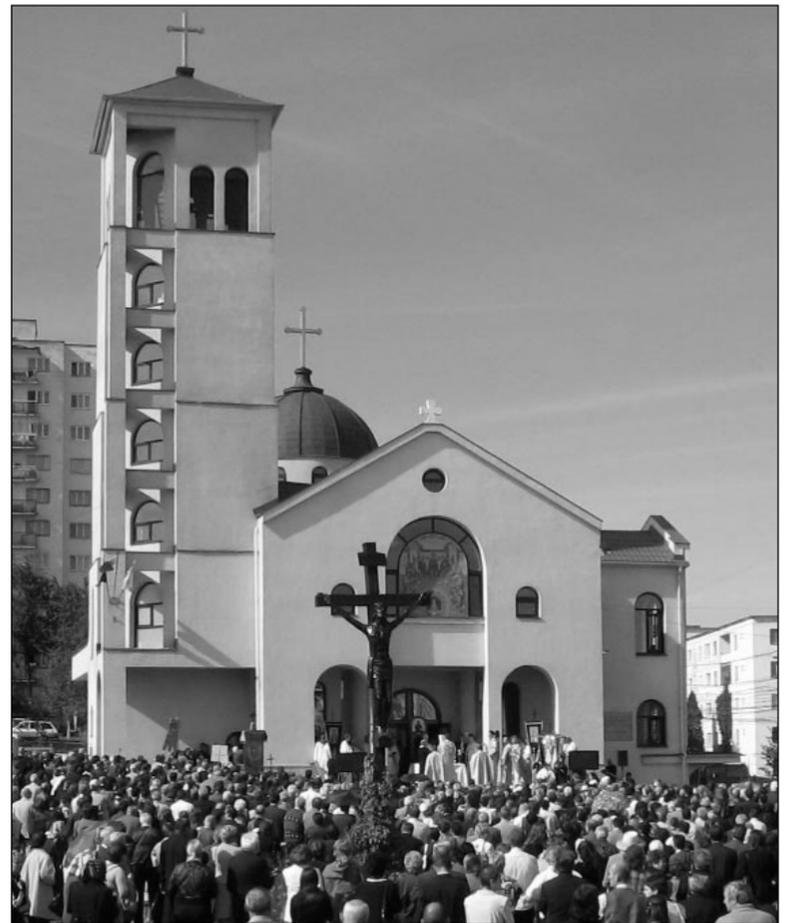
"It was a sign of recognition of our loyalty to the church through the dark years of communism," he said.

Bishop Crihalmeanu said he does not blame the Orthodox church for the property disputes.

"The Romanian Orthodox Church is our sister, and she is not the one who confiscated these goods. It was the Romanian state," he said.

"But certainly, we face many, many obstacles at the local level, in the villages especially. We tell the Orthodox, 'We don't want (to take) your faithful.' We want people to have the option of saying 'I want to return to my confession.' Let the people themselves — who were Greek Catholics but were forced to participate in Orthodox faith communities if they wanted to continue active worship or bury their relatives as Christians — let them decide, not the Orthodox priests or the police," he said.

"Especially in small villages, the Orthodox priests are very strong. I try to understand them by seeing the situation through their eyes," said Bishop



CNS PHOTO/VICTOR GAETAN

Some 2,000 people attend the consecration of Descent of the Holy Spirit Greek Catholic Church in Cluj-Napoca, Romania, in September 2007. The church in Romania has experienced a revival after the fall of communism.

Crihalmeanu. "The number of faithful in their church represents money. No faithful, no money. They try to keep their faithful in order to keep their income. If they don't have a certain number of parishioners, they suffer. Priests don't have large salaries. It's understandable."

Despite high-level agreements between the Orthodox and Eastern Catholic hierarchies committing both sides to tolerance and good faith, local Orthodox priests sometimes prevent the Eastern Catholics from using churches that used to belong to Catholics.

"It's a very complex problem, but it is all right. It is interesting. The church is going on despite these problems, and we are very optimistic," Bishop Crihalmeanu said.

He added: "Despite 42 years of oppression, the Greek Catholic conscience did not disappear in our country. There are places where the faithful came back to our church together with the building. We need only prayers. Knowing that others are praying for us is the very best thing in these times."

Muslim scholars send Christmas greetings, accept dialogue invite

BY JOHN THAVIS

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — An international group of Muslim scholars has accepted an invitation from Pope Benedict XVI for a major dialogue session at the Vatican.

Meanwhile, the group has issued a message of Christmas greeting to "our Christian neighbors all over the world."

A letter from Jordan's Prince Ghazi bin Muhammad bin Talal, architect of the Muslim scholars' project, said the group planned to send representatives to the Vatican in February or March to work out details of the dialogue.

The letter, dated Dec. 12 and addressed to Cardinal Tarcisio Bertone, Vatican secretary of state, thanked the pope for inviting the Muslim experts to meet with him and for the pontiff's personal encouragement of the dialogue initiative.

The letter also raised a delicate issue when it spoke of "some recent pronouncement emerging from the Vatican and from Vatican advisers ... as regards the very principle of theological dia-

logue with Muslims."

Cardinal Jean-Louis Tauran, the new president of the Pontifical Council for Interreligious Dialogue, said in October that he was not sure theological dialogue was possible with Muslims. That view also has been voiced by some other Catholics experts.

The prince's letter said that although the Muslim scholars think that complete theological agreement between Christians and Muslims is impossible by definition, they do wish to seek a common stand based on areas of agreement — "whether we wish to call this kind of dialogue 'theological' or 'spiritual' or something else."

The Muslim response was the latest in a series of cooperative steps that began in October, when 138 Muslim scholars addressed a letter to the pope and other Christian leaders. The letter called for new efforts at Christian-Muslim dialogue based on the shared belief in the existence of one God, in God's love for humanity and in people's obligation to love one another.

In November, the pope

responded by inviting a group of the Muslim scholars to meet with him and with the Pontifical Council for Interreligious Dialogue. The Vatican expressed the pope's appreciation for the "positive spirit" of the Muslim text.

Talal, president of the Royal Aal al-Bayt Institute for Islamic Thought in Amman, said in his latest letter that the Muslim scholars foresee a dialogue with two dimensions.

The intrinsic dimension refers to "our own souls," he said, and would be based on the shared affirmation of one God and the twofold commandment to love him and one's neighbor.

An extrinsic dimension, more connected to the world and society, would use the pope's "excellent idea" of the Ten

Commandments as the basis of dialogue among Jews, Christians and Muslims, he said.

On this basis, the prince said, the Muslim scholars would approach the three specific areas of dialogue mentioned by the Vatican: respect for human dignity, objective knowledge about the

religion of other believers, and promotion of mutual respect among younger generations of Christians and Muslims.

Talal's letter said the Muslim scholars' motive for dialogue is essentially "wanting to seek good will and justice" in order to practice what

Muslims call "rahmah" and what Christians call "caritas" — love and mercy.

The message of Christmas greetings began by citing the Quran: "Peace be upon Jesus

**"Peace be upon Jesus
Christ who says: Peace is
upon me the day I was
born, the day I die, and
the day I am resurrected."**

Christ who says: Peace is upon me the day I was born, the day I die, and the day I am resurrected." Then it thanked Christians for the "beautiful and gracious responses" to the Muslims' dialogue initiative.

The message noted the recent close of the Muslim feast of the hajj or pilgrimage, which commemorates the faith of the Prophet Abraham. It said God's refusal of the sacrifice of Abraham's son reminds all followers of the Abrahamic faiths to "do their utmost to save, uphold and treasure every single human life and especially the lives of every single child."

It pointed out that Muslim scholars recently issued a declaration affirming "the sanctity of human life — of every human life — as an essential and foundational teaching in Islam that all Muslim scholars are in unanimous agreement upon."

The Christmas greeting offered a prayer that the new year may bring "healing and peace to our suffering world" and "mutual forgiveness within and between communities."

EDITORIAL

An uncharacteristically hurried church calendar

Conventional wisdom says that it is modern society that moves at a breakneck speed and the church that inches along at a steady, even pace. But as we turn the the calendar to 2008, it is clear that even the church has a lot coming at it pretty quickly in the near future.

Just a week into the new year, the feast of Epiphany draws to a close the Sesquicentennial Jubilee year. A mere month after that, and the entire church finds itself plunged into the season of Lent with Ash Wednesday on Feb. 6. Holy Week follows quickly with Palm Sunday on March 16 and Easter on March 23. These early dates don't mean that the church is in any sort of hurry, merely that the method for deriving the date of Easter (the first Sunday after the first full moon on or after March 21) happens to have turned up a particularly early date this year for Western Christianity.

Opportunities to grow in the faith

As we enter 2008, the 151st year of the history of the diocese, we recall our efforts to keep building the faith.

There will be ample opportunity for catecheses and faith sharing offered in the diocese. The center pages of this week's paper tells of adult faith formation sessions, which will be offered at various locations throughout the diocese. Many classes will be held at the Archbishop Noll Catholic Center in downtown Fort Wayne. It's covered parking garage, easy access off and onto Washington Street in Fort Wayne and ample meeting room space make it a prime location for some of these class offerings. The covered garage will be especially welcome during the wintry weeks of Lent. Registration information is located in this week's paper and available on the diocesan Web site, www.diocesefwsb.org.

For those who wish to be involved in faith sharing, *Today's Catholic* will continue its monthly Sharing Faith feature. This year, the page will be offered the second week of the month. During Lent, the Virtues and Vices feature will offer weekly reflection on the seven capital sins. This feature will begin with the Lenten preview Feb. 3.

A new feature in *Today's Catholic* this year is the Book of the Month. *Today's Catholic*, consulting with the Cathedral Bookstore, will feature a book that will present a book overview and small group discussion questions. Announced last November, the books chosen this year will begin with lighter topics on Catholicism — many selections will affirm the faith.

Parishes are welcome to use the Book of the Month page as a resource for their book clubs, or individuals may choose to form their own group with friends. *Today's Catholic* wishes to be interactive with its readers and perhaps attract some new ones.

For those who want to comment about the featured book, but may not be interested in joining a particular group, *Today's Catholic* will post a blog page on its Web site, www.diocesefwsb.org for each book where comments may be posted and a Web conversation can take place.

Forging ahead to renewal season

In this age of high technology, *Today's Catholic* is forging forward as a tool of evangelization and Catholic news for its readers. Soon, renewal time will be upon us. Here is a reminder about some means we use to reach our readers.

Most readers know us by newsprint delivered to homes through the mail. But some have enjoyed the digital version of *Today's Catholic*. It looks exactly the same as the postal-delivered version, but the digital version comes to subscribers through e-mail as a PDF file. People who live outside of the diocesan boundaries find the digital version quite expedient. Another advantage of the digital is viewers can adjust the size of the print on their computer screen. To receive the digital version, it is necessary to have a high-speed Internet connection. The files range from 3 to 8 MB.

For the visually impaired, the Office of Communications offers the paper on cassette tape.

We also continue to offer a weekly newscast-type presentation of the newspaper with the *Today's Catholic* Podcast. Our numbers show that our podcasts receive about 2,000 hits monthly. And Redeemer Radio — Catholic Radio 1450 broadcasts our podcast at 1:45 p.m. every Sunday.

We have also initiated a Facebook group. Facebook (www.facebook.com) is a social networking site utilized primarily by young adults. Besides news and opportunities for networking and discussion, the *Today's Catholic* Facebook group features video and additional photos.

And the diocesan Web site also remains a source for news highlights from the week. We archive back issues, four weeks and older, on the Web site. It is a tremendous resource for those looking for recent years' back issues.

Today's Catholic editorial board consists of Bishop John M. D'Arcy, Ann Carey, Don Clemmer, Father Mark Gurtner, Father Michael Heintz, Tim Johnson and Vince LaBarbera.

COMMENTARY

TODAY'S CATHOLIC welcomes letters from readers. All letters must be signed and include a phone number and address for verification. Today's Catholic reserves the right to edit for clarity and length. Address letters to: Today's Catholic • P.O. Box 11169 • Fort Wayne, IN • 46856-1169 or e-mail to: editor@fw.diocesefwsb.org

Christmas through a child's eyes

As a relatively new dad, I would say that Christmas this year with our five year old, Heather, could not have been more refreshing and exciting than perhaps since my own childhood. Certainly a five year old sees things differently with bright childlike eyes than those of a jaded 42-year-old editor.

All through Advent, we used a calendar that had a book for 24 days, each telling a story about the birth of Christ. After reading the story, the book could be hung on a Christmas tree. It was always interesting to get Heather's "take" on the story of birth of Christ — how the Holy Family traveled to Bethlehem on a donkey and then couldn't find a place to stay.

Every night, Heather came home singing Christmas songs that she and her classmates were learning for the school Christmas pageant, which was delayed because of the snow storm. Heather would ask, "Do you know that song, Dad?" and be amazed that I knew songs like "Go Tell It On the Mountain." I didn't have the heart to tell her my Christmas Eve children's choir sings it every year, and she heard it for herself on Christmas Eve vigil Mass.

Heather wrote the letter to Santa — sent south to Santa Claus, Indiana — and received a response back from the jolly old

man. Then we made our visit to the little house at Jefferson Pointe in Fort Wayne where she rattled off a list of items, including some we knew she wanted and a few surprises.

Of course, we took a trip a few blocks over from the Archbishop Noll Catholic Center for hot dogs at Coney Island and then to see the lighted Santa display on the National City bank building.

And then the wait began. On Christmas Eve, my tradition since I graduated from college in the late 1980s, is to direct the children's Christmas choir at my parish with a few helpers. My wife Rose and Heather sat up close to the front, and Heather was anxious to see the baby Jesus in the manger and the Nativity crèche.

At home she would pick up the statue of baby Jesus and feed him with one of her doll bottles.

After dinner and a visit with Grandma Johnson on Christmas Eve, Heather insisted that I go to bed early so Santa would be sure not miss our home. I told her Santa and I were pretty tight, and maybe I would even help him put the toys around the tree.

Up early on Christmas day for an early Mass, I glanced into Heather's bedroom, where she was lying in bed with her big brown eyes wide awake. She made her way to the tree, and for

MANY HATS



BY TIM JOHNSON

a moment she thought Santa missed us. Then I pointed out the gifts. She opened a few and then waited for me to get back from playing the organ at Mass. We finished the few more presents before heading to Grandma and Grandpa Noll's house.

It was good to see Christmas through the eyes of amazement and childlike wonder. We often forget as adults that God still wants us to come to him with childlike innocence, wonder and awe. As Matthew's Gospel tells us, "Let the children come to me, and do not prevent them; for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these."

I am thankful to have seen Christmas this year with renewed childlike wonder. My resolution this year is to learn to approach God with the same.

Tim Johnson is editor of *Today's Catholic* newspaper for the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend.

The courage of one, with support from many

BY MARY E. JAMINET

As I held this tiny newborn baby in my hands, a million thoughts raced through my mind. Since learning that my unwed friend, Mary Elizabeth, was pregnant, I had not yet fully grasped the reality of her situation. Not even after agreeing to be one of her birth coaches, helping her move into a new apartment or throwing her a baby shower. But as I watched this new mom kiss her baby and tell her she loved her for the first time, I became acutely aware of all the lessons to learn from this unique experience and from the courage of my friend.

For the first time, I truly understood the power and impact of just one new life. The incredible force of the presence of a new person is indescribable. As the nurse handed the baby to me that day in the operating room, I struggled to grasp the concept of her creation. I wondered how our culture could allow such fear to be associated with someone so profound and beautiful.

A mother I know told me giv-

ing birth is like "your heart just growing 10 times bigger."

Mary Elizabeth summed it up by saying "You finally know what it means to love someone more than you love yourself." Though she is my friend's baby, her birth was life-changing and insightful even for me.

I learned of the incredible personal growth that occurs in a split second. Throughout her pregnancy, my friend maintained her amazing energy and organized manner of living. She is one of those fearless, independent women who give 110 percent to everyone and everything. Yet she learned that even the most capable pregnant woman can only give so much.

She was often filled with incredible uncertainty about how it would all work out. Yet God worked miracles in her, giving her the courage to ask for help and to persevere despite emotional and financial challenges.

I'll never forget watching her change before my very eyes in the operating room that day as she handled her baby with the quiet assurance and natural tenderness of a mother.

Most importantly, I learned that each of us is not unlike a woman choosing life for her unexpected child and that we can all draw inspiration from her example. Just as she spends months preparing for the moment of birth, we spend our lives preparing to see the face of God. Each day brings new, unanticipated challenges. We can either turn away from the messy and wonderful reality that is life, with all of its pain, struggles and surprises, or we can turn to God and have faith that our crosses will bring us closer to him and our final destination.

Let us reflect on ways that we can allow and support the powerful gift of new life to transform our families, parishes and our communities. May we all be able to give 110 percent of ourselves, and may we all learn from the courage and faith of women like Mary Elizabeth.

Mary Jaminet is special project coordinator at the Secretariat for Pro-Life Activities, U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops.

Jesus' birthplace explored: stable, cave or house

Was Jesus born in a stable, cave or house?

St. Matthew's Gospel speaks of a house in two places: 1) Mary is found to be with child. An angel appears to Joseph in a dream that this conception has been achieved by the Holy Spirit. Joseph receives Mary into his home as his wife. Mary gives birth to Jesus. 2) The Magi from the east follow a star to Bethlehem looking for Jesus. The star stands still over the place where Jesus was. They enter the house and find the child with Mary, his mother.

St. Luke's Gospel says Mary and Joseph went to Bethlehem, the hometown of Joseph, and there she gave birth to Jesus, wrapped him in swaddling clothes and laid him in a manger because there was no room for them in the inn.

Father Jerome Murphy-O'Connor says Mary and Joseph were natives of Bethlehem and could have already been living in Bethlehem. The original Greek version of "she laid him in a manger because there was no room for them in the inn" can also be rendered "she laid him in a manger because they had no space

in the room."

The Gospels make no mention of a cave, yet in the second century, St. Justin Martyr and the Protevangelium of James speak of a cave in which Jesus was born. Many houses in the area are still built in front of caves and perhaps we should envisage Joseph (then living with his parents) as taking his wife into such a back area in order to give birth away from the confusion of the living room. The cave part would have been used to shelter animals in bad weather.

Another opinion says the manger could have been in a house, for domestic animals were kept in the lower part of a Palestinian house.

St. Justin Martyr (A.D. 155) regards the birth of Jesus in Bethlehem as generally accepted belief and is the first to say Jesus was born in a cave. "Since Joseph had nowhere to lodge in that village, he lodged in a certain cave near the village; and while they were there, Mary brought forth the Messiah and laid him in a manger, where the Magi from Arabia came and found him."

The theologian Origen (A.D.



HIRE HISTORY

FATHER RICHARD HIRE

248) lived in Palestine and says: "If anyone wants further proof to convince him that Jesus was born in Bethlehem, he may observe the cave at Bethlehem where he was born and the manger in the cave where he was wrapped in strips of cloth. These things that they show you are recognized in the district even by those who do not share our faith."

St. Jerome (A.D. 384), who lived in Bethlehem, says in A.D. 135, the Roman emperor Hadrian planted a wood or grove to the god Tammuz or Adonis, the lover of Venus, over the cave or grotto where Jesus was born. "At the cave where the Christ child once

HISTORY, PAGE 16

God guides us to true Light of the World



THE SUNDAY GOSPEL

MSGR. OWEN F. CAMPION

Epiphany Mt 2:1-12

This weekend the church celebrates the feast of the Epiphany of the Lord, the feast's name being drawn from the Greek word meaning that God has appeared. It is a major feast day in the church.

The first reading is from the third section of the book of Isaiah. When this passage was written, the attitude of many of the Jews could not have been good. Their nation had been overcome generations earlier when the Babylonians had invaded.

The two Hebrew kingdoms, Judah and Israel, had ceased to exist at least as sovereign territories. Many had been killed. Survivors had been taken to Babylon where they, and their descendants, languished for many years.

At last freed, the Jews returned to what was their ancestral homeland only to find conditions quite bleak. After all the enthusiasm that God at last had spared them and was liberating them from their misery in Babylon, they came home only to find a sterile and unhappy place.

So, many must have been very disappointed, to say the least.

Nevertheless, this prophet literally sings his promise that

Jerusalem, the ancient heart of Jewish life, will rise again in majesty and in prosperity. God will be the savior. He will return the people to peace and plenty.

For its second reading, the church offers us a section of the Epistle to the Ephesians. It reflects the circumstances that prevailed in the first decades of Christianity.

Jesus was Jewish, as were all the apostles. The first followers of Christ were Jewish. The Lord's message rested very much on the revelation of Moses and the prophets.

Yet, Paul and others took the Gospel far and wide, in the process finding many gentiles who yearned to know the Lord Jesus. Obviously, Christianity was not exclusively for Jews. It was for all who earnestly search for God's peace and mercy.

St. Matthew's Gospel is the source of the last reading. It is the story of the visit of the Magi to Bethlehem where they paid homage to the newborn Christ. (Matthew's Gospel is the only one of the four Gospels to recall this event.)

Scholars still debate exactly who the Magi were and from where they came. At times, they are called "wise men." At other times they are called kings.

Regardless, they were learned, as only the educated could follow the movement of the planets and stars. They came from a place far-away. They were in search of God. They found God in the infant in Bethlehem. Perhaps most consolingly for us, God led them to Bethlehem by showing them a great star in the sky and by protecting them from the treachery of Herod.

Reflection

This feast of the Epiphany of the Lord recalls one of the most expressive, and best known, stories of the infancy of Jesus, namely the visit to Bethlehem of these wise men from a distant place.

It is more than an anniversary, however. It has for each of us a powerful lesson. The lesson is that we are incomplete unless God is in our lives. We must search for God, but marvelously, God will guide us and assist us in our search.

No one is without the opportunity to find God. In the early church the preoccupation of course with the ethnic connection of people. People wondered if only Jews could be saved.

The barrier between us and God today is not ethnic in its origin, but rather it is the result of our own sin or indifference. Perhaps serious sin distances us from God. Even so, if we ask forgiveness, God will guide us, as the Magi followed the star, to the true Light of the World.

We need only seek God with humility and trust, as the Wise Men sought God.

READINGS

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

Monday: 1 Jn 3:22-4:6 Ps 2:7-8, 10-12a Mt 4:12-17, 23-25

Tuesday: 1 Jn 4:7-10 Ps 72:1-4, 7-8 Mk 6:34-44

Wednesday: 1 Jn 4:11-18 Ps 72:1-2, 10, 12-13 Mk 6:45-52

Thursday: 1 Jn 4:19-5:4 Ps 72:1-2, 14, 15bc, 17 Lk 4:14-22a

Friday: 1 Jn 5:5-13 Ps 147:12-15, 19-20 Lk 5:12-16

Saturday: 1 Jn 5:14-21 Ps 149:1-6a, 9b Jn 3:22-30

CATEQUIZ'EM

By Dominic Campisson

In Christianity too there is a great deal of symbolism. Let's look at some.

1. That last book of the Bible is one that makes great use of symbolism. Which one is that?

- a. The Gospel of Peter (Catholic Bibles only)
- b. Acts of the Apostles
- c. Revelation

2. Often animals are symbolic of personal characteristics. Which animal typified courage and power and was incorporated into a title?

- a. The tiger of the Twelve Tribes
- b. The lion of Judah
- c. The swine of Babylon

3. Sometimes there are multiple symbols for one person or entity. To whom do all these symbolic titles apply: the lamb, the Good Shepherd, the Lion of Judah, the Anointed?

- a. Mary
- b. Jesus
- c. Peter

4. Numbers have great significance in biblical literature. Although they may just mean simply their numeric value, they often have a greater meaning. For example four means completeness. Forty often means

- a. a very long time, like fasting 40 days, wandering 40 years, or an entire generation.
- b. red, as in any numbers starting with four or eight refer to the Hebrew "Edom."
- c. instantaneously, because 40, as in "40 seconds" was a short time.

5. The interpretation of numbers assigned to names by calculating their cumulative value is, in classical Jewish study, known as

- a. numismatics
- b. numerology
- c. gematria

6. The most notorious symbolic number in the Bible is

- a. Pennsylvania 65,000
- b. 144,000, the number of the saved. (Me and 143,999 others)
- c. 666 the number of the beast

7. Judas is often portrayed in art with this hair color, signifying perfidy

- a. green
- b. red
- c. blonde

8. Colors have symbolic significance. Purple was often associated with authority and rule. Why?

- a. Rulers tended to be fatter than the average citizen, so had reddened faces.
- b. Purple was the most expensive dye (made from a shellfish).
- c. Purple was the only color to be color fast and so was most valuable.

9. The Jews of Jesus' days were familiar with the use of many symbolic actions. Tearing one's garment was a sign of this:

- a. Mourning, or anguish akin to mourning (such as upon hearing blasphemy)
- b. Preparation for death
- c. Dividing one's self from the community due to illness

10. The symbolic actions of Jesus were known originally as "signs." We often use this term for many of them:

- a. theophanies
- b. allocutions
- c. miracles

11. So many of the events of the New Testament have both a practical purpose and a symbolic nature. This event not only took care of mundane needs but showed that Jesus was indeed the bread of life:

- a. the devouring of the fat cows by the thin cows
- b. the rescuing of the fatted calf from the prodigal's son's barbecue crew
- c. the feeding of the multitude with the loaves and fishes

12. Perhaps the most dramatic symbolic presentation of Jesus as the conqueror of death (before his own Resurrection) was

- a. the raising of Lazarus
- b. the death of Judas
- c. the discourse with the Samaritan woman at the well

13. Actions in our church life that actually do what they symbolize are

- a. rubrics
- b. sacraments
- c. dogma

14. Full of symbols, this is a core activity of Catholic worship

- a. social engineering
- b. theophism
- c. liturgy

ANSWERS

1.c, 2.b, 3.b, 4.a, 5.c, 6.c, 7.b, 8.b, 9.a, 10.c, 11.c, 12.a, 13.b, 14.c

How can a marriage never exist?

In the Dec. 2 issue of Today's Catholic, Father Mark Gurtner wrote that the Lord teaches in Scripture that those who divorce and remarry commit adultery, that the first marriage is unbreakable except by death. How then can annulments by the church be explained? Please explain. MG, Fort Wayne

An annulment is a declaration by church authority that a marriage never existed in the first place. There are many reasons why the church might declare that a marriage never existed in the first place. There is not space here to give all the reasons in detail so one example will have to suffice.

When a man and woman marry, they must consent to everything that marriage is, as it

has been given to us by God, for example, that one intends to be faithful to one's spouse, that one is open to the begetting of children, that one intends the marriage to be permanent. Let's say that one of the parties at the time of marriage willfully intends never to be open to children. If it is later proved in a church court that the person indeed did not intend to be open to children, then a marriage never really took place even though both parties said their vows to each other and a declaration of annulment is granted.

So, an annulment is not the breaking of a marriage. It is a declaration that a marriage never existed in the first place.

THAT'S A GOOD QUESTION

I am discussing predestination with my daughter, who is sophomore. We are confused about free will and predestination. We have gone to many Catholic Web sites, yet still do not understand. If our free wills can impact predestination, then how do we as Catholics believe in predestination? Help us understand how free will and predestination can both be truths. Can you explain in simple terms. M.B. Fort Wayne

Catholics do believe in predestination but only in a specific sense. The Council of Valence declared that no one is predestined for damnation. So to believe that some are predestined for heaven and some for hell is a heresy.

We do believe in predestination in the sense that God has planned for all of us to go to heaven. In that sense we are all predestined for heaven. However, not in the sense that it is predetermined that we will all go to heaven. Our free will is firmly intact, and those who reject God's invitation to grace and repentance even up to the moment of death can go to hell forever.

Another sticky theological question, which comes up concerns God's knowledge. Certainly

God knows who will in the end chose to be with him forever and who will not. However, in no way does his knowledge of that determine our choice. We are still completely free.

This is somewhat of a mystery here. We can't completely understand how it is that God already knows and yet at the same time this doesn't affect our choice. We simply will never be able to understand this completely until we die. However, suffice it to say that we are not predetermined. We are free to accept or reject God's gift of grace although God wishes us all to be with him forever.

Father Mark Gurtner, pastor of Our Lady of Good Hope Parish, answered this week's questions.

Cardinal Kasper on the state of ecumenism

The year 2008 marks the 100th anniversary of the Chair of Unity Octave, which has evolved into an annual pan-Christian week of prayer running from Jan. 18-25. Prayer, it seems, is what is most required in the early 21st-century quest for Christian unity, a quest that reached a peak of euphoria in the mid-1960s and that has suffered many disappointments ever since. Cardinal Walter Kasper, president of the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity, briefed his brother cardinals on the current state of the ecumenical enterprise, at the consistory this past Nov. 23. Kasper made several important points in the course of his ecumenical overview:

1) The recovery of Christian fraternity is "the most significant, and most gratifying, result of ecumenism over the past few decades." Documents and agreements are important, but "the fact that we have rediscovered that we are brothers and sisters in Christ, that we have learned to appreciate one another," is the crucial accomplishment of the recent past. One important, and perhaps unanticipated, part of this rediscovery of Christian fraternity is that other Christian communities have seen in the See of Peter, the papacy, "an increasingly important point of reference" for everyone.

2) After 1,500 years of separation, contact has been reestablished between the universal church and the churches which separated from Rome because of the Council of Ephesus (381) and the Chalcedon (456).

3) The dialogue with Orthodoxy has begun to recognize that "1054" — the year of mutual excommunications between Constantinople and Rome — was not a discrete moment but the culmination of "a long process of estrangement and alienation," such that the neces-

sary path today is "a reverse process of mutual reconciliation." This is going to take time. Still, important achievements have been realized, including the regular exchange of visits and messages between the pope and the Ecumenical Patriarch of Constantinople, a process of fraternal communication that had lain fallow for 900 years.

A breakthrough of potentially great consequence took place in October 2007 in Ravenna, when Catholicism's Orthodox dialogue partners "recognized a universal level of the church" (that is, the "church" is not simply a federation of patriarchates). Moreover, the Orthodox dialogue partners agreed that, at this universal level, there is a primate "who can only be the bishop of Rome, according to the hierarchy of the early church." This important step will, of course, have to be developed in future theological conversation, but it is nonetheless



GEORGE WEIGEL

the goal posts.

5) At the same time as the dialogues with the Anglican, Lutheran and Reformed communities have hit the skids, a new dialogue has opened up with those evangelical Protestant communities that hold fast to classic Christian convictions about Christ, the Trinity and the moral life. (Kasper didn't mention it, but the "Evangelicals and Catholics Together" initiative led by Father Richard John Neuhaus and Charles Colson is the most developed of these dialogues.)

There are difficulties in the Catholic/evangelical dialogue because of aggressive proselytization by Pentecostals in Latin America. But as Kasper said, on this front, "we should begin by

asking ourselves, not what is wrong with the Pentecostals, but what our (Catholic) pastoral shortcomings are."

Ecumenical progress, Kasper concluded, must rest on "rediscovering ... the foundations of our faith." Everything becomes "unstable and empty of meaning" if we do not have a "firm faith in the living God, Triune and One, in the divinity of Christ, in the saving power of the cross and resurrection."

Which would seem to be as true within the Catholic Church as in ecumenism.

George Weigel is a senior fellow of the Ethics and Public Policy Center in Washington, D.C.

THE CATHOLIC DIFFERENCE

The real logjams ecumenically are in the dialogues with liberal Protestantism.

a key move in the path toward full communion between Rome and the Christian East.

4) The real logjams ecumenically are in the dialogues with liberal Protestantism. Different understandings of church, different understandings of the ministry, and different understandings of how apostolic authority binds (or doesn't bind) the community of Christ today have made agreement on key issues very difficult. Add to that "new divergences in the ethical field" (nature of marriage, sexual ethics, abortion, homosexuality) and the picture becomes even more complicated, and more difficult. In other words, it is very difficult to engage a fruitful theological conversation with dialogue partners who keep moving

SCRIPTURE SEARCH

By Patricia Kasten

Gospel for January 6, 2008

Matthew 2:1-12

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

| | | |
|------------|----------|-----------|
| JESUS | JUDEA | THE EAST |
| JERUSALEM | HIS STAR | HOMAGE |
| KING HEROD | PRIESTS | BETHLEHEM |
| JUDAH | RULER | SHEPHERD |
| THE CHILD | SET OUT | HOUSE |
| MARY | MOTHER | TREASURE |
| GOLD | MYRRH | DREAM |

2 KINGS, 3 MAGI

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

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HISTORY

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 15

cried, the pagans wept for Venus' lover."

The pagan farmers loved the god Tammuz because he personified the seed that dies and springs to life again. This pagan shrine may have been an attempt by the Romans to interfere with or wipe out the veneration of Christians. But it actually helped maintain the traditional site of the birth of Jesus where the early pilgrims did him homage. The subsequent bitterness of the Christians would have reinforced the memory of the local tra-

dition.

Finally the Roman emperor Constantine, friendly to Christianity, began to build a Christian church over this site where Jesus was born. His mother St. Helena dedicated this church on May 31, 339.

K. Prag says excavations have shown that Constantine's basilica was a square church, divided by four rows of nine columns into a wide nave and four side aisles. From the 4th century, many Christian pilgrims came to Bethlehem. The church was visited in 333 A.D. by the Bordeaux pilgrim whose description includes the traditional cave with the manger.

Sports

TOUGH TO OPEN, BUT LADY COUGARS' GIFT TO COACH IS 150TH WIN AT USF WITH CONQUEST OF NO. 18 AQUINAS

Beating Aquinas College was like trying to open a Christmas present that your ornery brother wrapped. Eventually you get it opened; it just takes more time and muscle to tear through layers of tape and wrapping paper. But it was worth the extra effort. Besides the 10th straight win to improve to 12-1, the gift was "W" No. 150 for Gary Andrews in his seventh season as coach of the third-ranked University of Saint Francis Lady Cougars, an 80-71 win over a hard-nosed, in-your-face 18th-ranked Aquinas College 5 at Hutzell Athletic Center on Dec. 19.

Tenured coaches lead CYO girls

BY MICHELLE CASTLEMAN

FORT WAYNE — Catholic Youth League (CYO) teams will be idle from league play over the holiday break, but the Lady Gators from St. Aloysius hope to finish strong in the 2007 Hoopfest.

This year's 11-team Christmas tournament for the girls will feature several CYO teams, St. Peter's Lutheran and a few Fort Wayne junior high schools. At the press deadline, St. Aloysius had a win in their bracket with a victory over Blue League foe St. Therese.

In his 23rd season, St. Aloysius Coach Bud Sorg's primary goal is to not repeat last year when he experienced his first "losing" season ever. The Lady Gators plan to compete for the girls Blue League title and are off to a good start with big wins over Huntington Catholic, Most Precious Blood and St. John, New Haven, 8 giving them a 3-0 conference record. "We can

shoot the ball well and just need to improve on our defensive skills yet," concluded Sorg.

The assistant coaches this year for the Gators are Blaine Sorg and Dick Kryder.

The roster for 2007-2008 includes Cheyenne Kramer, Cheyenne Gamble, Alayna Kelty, Anna Gill, Demari Sorg, Mariah Hoger, Heather Sterrett, Maria Zarembo, Rachel Phillips and Kailey Thiele.

Just about the time he learned his St. Louis-St. Rose boys would not be having a team this year, Coach Herb Widner found out the girls' team at St. Vincent was looking for a new coach. With 32 years of CYO basketball under his belt and his youngest daughter in the eighth grade, it sounded like a perfect fit.

Coach Widner and his Lady Panthers are hitting it off with a 10-3 start overall. St. Vincent is 2-1 in Gold League play. They have advanced in the holiday tournament with wins over Huntington Catholic and St. Charles so far and are on a roll

winning their last six outings.

Coach Widner is very pleased with this group of girls. "They are playing very well together and can pass the ball. They hit the open person as well as any team I have ever coached," he remarked.

The Panthers are led by balanced scoring with all five starters reaching double digits in one game or another. The team consists of Olivia Fawcett, Melanie Heiny, Sarah Kleber, Kathryn Manalo, Hailey O'Brien, Eleni Shea, Chris Widner and Sarah Wilder. Elise Epple serves as assistant coach and Margaret Widner keeps the scorebook for the Lady Panthers.

"Our goal is to improve each game we play and to have as many girls as we can go on to play at the high school level," concluded Widner.

In early action of the seven-team boys Hoopfest tournament, St. Joseph Hessen Cassel got by two Gold League powerhouses — St. Charles and St. Vincent — to advance in their bracket.



MICHELLE CASTLEMAN

St. Aloysius Coach Bud Sorg and the Lady Gators Maria Zarembo, Demari Sorg, Rachel Phillips and Heather Sterrett are shown at the girls basketball holiday tournament held at the University of Saint Francis last week.

God on the gridiron: Faith helps football players on, off the field

BY SEAN GALLAGHER

INDIANAPOLIS (CNS) — After beating the Chicago Bears in Super Bowl XLI in February, the Indianapolis Colts stormed to another strong start, winning their first seven games of the 2007-08 season.

Even with a faith-filled head coach like Tony Dungy, it might have been easy for players on the team to think they are invincible.

But the players know better. And consecutive losses to the New England Patriots and the San Diego Chargers helped bring that reality into perspective, as have serious injuries suffered by some of the team's star players.

Father Peter Gallagher, volunteer chaplain of the Colts and chaplain of Cardinal Ritter Junior-Senior High School in Indianapolis, said coping with injuries is an opportunity for football players to grow closer to Christ.

"I would try to get them to associate whatever they're experiencing with the suffering of Christ," he said. "If we can't associate even those difficult things in our lives with Christ's

experience of those same things, then we're really not fully trusting in his message and in his presence in our lives."

Linebacker Rocky Boiman and former Colt Keith O'Neil have experienced the effects of injuries this season. Both have relied on their Catholic faith to keep them grounded through the many twists and turns of a professional football career.

Last season was Boiman's first year with the Colts after spending four years with the Tennessee Titans. He played mainly on special teams and had limited playing time on defense as a backup linebacker. But this season, Boiman has been a starter in several games.

Although injuries make his profession a tenuous one, Boiman said they aren't part of his mind-set.

"I never try to focus on them because you get negative thoughts in your mind," he said. "But whatever happens, I just try to play the hardest I can and the fullest I can. And whatever happens, happens. Football or not, I know I'm going to be fine in life. I know I'd have another calling in life."

Being confident when your

career can end at a moment's notice and striving for excellence despite the risks are principles instilled in Boiman at St. Xavier High School in Cincinnati and reinforced at the University of Notre Dame in Indiana.

"You always strive to be the best person and everything you can be," Boiman told *The Criterion*, newspaper of the Indianapolis Archdiocese. "I think that's something that Notre Dame always preached, in the classroom and outside the classroom. I think it was definitely something that helped shape who I am."

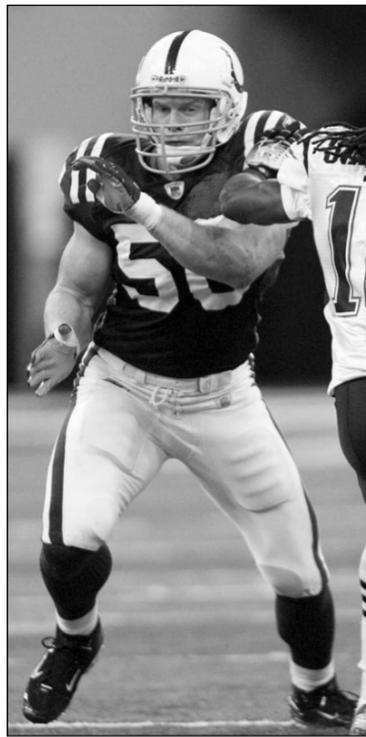
He added, "To those who have been given much, much is expected. I try to live up to that."

Even if you've been given much, success doesn't always come easily or stay around for long. Just ask O'Neil, who was on top of the football world last February as a reserve linebacker for the world champion Colts.

But a series of lingering injuries, including a sports-related hernia, contributed to his being cut from the team Aug. 26 — his 27th birthday — during the team's training camp last summer.

As difficult as this was for O'Neil, it's been a part of his life from the very beginning — literally. O'Neil's father was cut from the New England Patriots by then-assistant coach Bill Parcells on the day that Keith was born in 1980.

After playing at Northern Arizona University, the younger



CNS PHOTO/COURTESY OF INDIANAPOLIS COLTS

Indianapolis Colts linebacker Rocky Boiman, left, fights off a block by New England Patriots wide receiver Donte Stallworth during the teams' Nov. 4 game at the RCA Dome in Indianapolis. Boiman, a Catholic who played football at St. Xavier High School in Cincinnati and the University of Notre Dame in Indiana, said his Catholic education instilled in him the drive to excel as a way of showing gratitude for the blessings of his athletic talents.

O'Neil earned a spot with the Dallas Cowboys on his birthday in 2003. The head coach was none other than Parcells.

O'Neil was getting ready to start his third year with the team when he was cut.

Such coincidences might have led O'Neil to think that God was playing a cruel, lifelong joke on him. But he doesn't view it that way.

"I kind of liked it," O'Neil said. "It's something between my father and God and my birthday, and being born in August and always being in football around the day I was born."

"I kind of embraced that, knowing that my father got cut on the day I was born. Maybe I was supposed to play in the NFL because of that," he said.

O'Neil's family ties go beyond football and extend to his faith.

"I grew up in a Catholic family that went to Mass every Sunday and had prayer at night," he said. "It was a very close-knit family who turned to God and to Jesus in times of need."

O'Neil hasn't been back on the field yet. But he hopes to play in the NFL again and has received calls from some interested teams.

"If I do get back on the field, hopefully I can perform to the best of my ability," he said. "But if I can't (get back to playing), we just believe that it's in God's hands and we'll make the most of it."

Recent releases aim for young adults, faith affirmation

BY TIM JOHNSON

The following are new releases sent to *Today's Catholic*. This is not an endorsement of the book, but rather a brief description of some of the new Catholic reading available.

Doubleday has released the latest George Weigel book, "Faith, Reason, and The War Against Jihadism: A Call to Action." Weigel explains that even six years after the horrific events of 9/11, we do not comprehend the motives that drive jihadists to commit acts of terror, nor do we know how to confront the omnipresent danger they present to our country. (ISBN-13: 978-0-385-52378-3)

For young people, "John Paul II, We Love You! Young People Encounter the Pope," is a new Servant Books release by Father Peter Mitchell. The book tells the stories of young people whose lives were touched by the pope and offers on-the-scene coverage from Rome of the pope's final decline, death and funeral. (ISBN: 978-0-86716-806-8)

"I Choose God: Stories from Young Catholics" is a Servant Books release written by Chris Cuddy and Peter Ericksen. Scott Hahn provides the foreword.

This book offers 21 thought-provoking testimonies by young Catholics who talk about their search for truth in a world increasingly devoid of values and lasting peace. (ISBN: 978-0-86716-773-3)

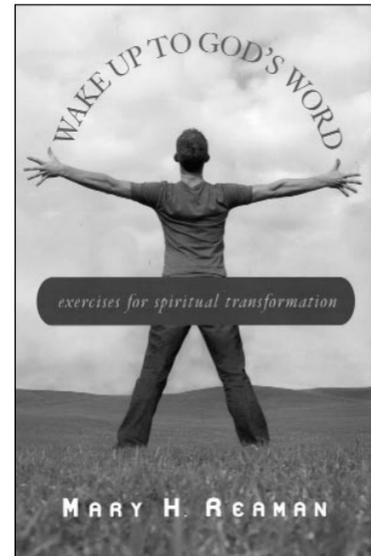
"Catholic and Loving It: Traditions for a New Generation" is written by two

University of Notre Dame graduates, Sabitha Narendran, class of 2006, and Andrew Salzman, class of 2005. Published by Servant Books, this book encourages young adults to reclaim their Catholic heritage, including sacramentals, blessings, novenas, parties in honor of the saints, the Angelus and even the scapular. These practices and prayers have enriched Catholic life for centuries, but have been neglected in recent decades. This collection will help readers celebrate Christ through all the days, weeks and months of the year. (ISBN: 978-0-86716-807-5)

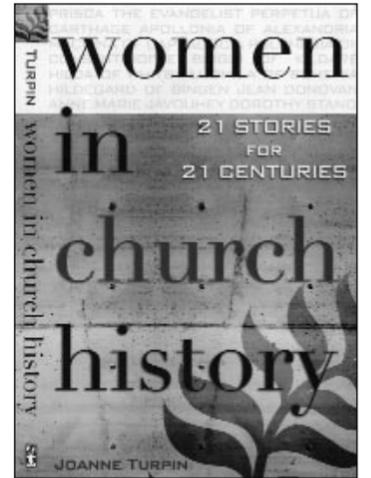
Author Mary Reaman shows how Scripture can play a central role in building a more meaningful Christian life — one that places God at the center in her new book, "Wake Up to God's Word: Exercises for Spiritual Transformation." Her approach makes sense of Scripture and offers concrete ways to make the word of God the starting point for contemplation, prayer and action. The book is published by St. Anthony Messenger Press. (ISBN: 978-0-86716-783-2)

"The Bible Made Easy: A Book-by-Book Introduction," by Father Timothy P. Schehr, a teacher at the Athenaeum of Ohio/Mount St. Mary's Seminary in Cincinnati,

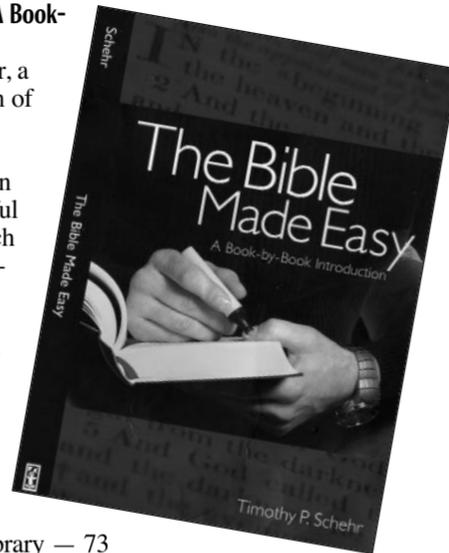
offers an insightful approach that recognizes that the Bible is not one monolithic text, but a complete library — 73 volumes of poetry, stories, history, imagination and revelation. He offers a quick introduction to each of these books, highlights the main characters, the great themes and the central questions and spiritual lessons. The book is published by St. Anthony Messenger Press. (ISBN: 978-0-86716-598-2)



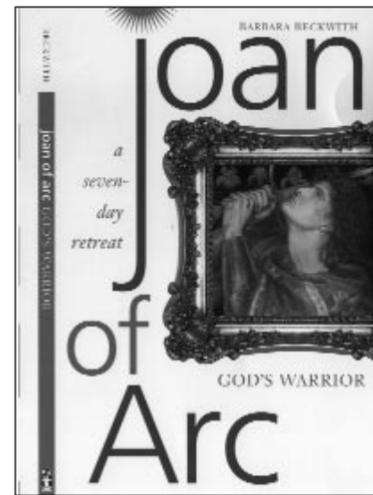
Arc as a person ... relevant for our times and indeed for all times." Each day includes a reflection on the life of Joan of Arc, reflection questions and prayers. St. Anthony Messenger Press publishes the book. (ISBN: 978-86716-570-8)



Author Joanne Turpin explores the lives of 21 women, each from the last 21 centuries and portrays their personal holiness and moral courage in "Women in Church History: 21 Stories for 21 Centuries." The book is published by St. Anthony Messenger Press. (ISBN: 978-08716-776-4)



Thinking about a retreat? Barbara Beckwith's new book, "Joan of Arc: God's Warrior: A Seven-Day Retreat" receives a quote from *Our Sunday Visitor's* associate publisher, Msgr. Owen Campion: "Barbara Beckwith has gone beyond details to give readers a sense of the Maid of



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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.diocesefwsb.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.

FUNDRAISERS

St. Jude silent auction and dance
Fort Wayne — St. Jude Church and School, 2130 Pemberton Dr., will have a dance and silent auction with the theme, A Star Is Born, on Saturday, Jan. 26, from 8-11:30 p.m. Tickets are \$12 per person in advance or \$15 per person the day of the event. Ticket price includes entertainment by Sound Spectrum, wine, soda, Mad Anthony beer and bidding on auction items. Big Daddy's Pizza will offer pizza by the slice for \$2. To purchase tickets contact the parish office at 484-6609.

Fish Fry
New Haven — The St. John the Baptist Holy Name Society will have a fish fry, Friday, Jan. 4, from 4-7 p.m. Adults \$6.50, children 5-12 \$3.50 and children under 5 free.

Country Chef fish dinner
Fort Wayne — The Bishop Dwenger Music Boosters will have a fish dinner on Friday, Jan. 11, from 4:30-7:30 p.m. in the cafeteria. Tickets are adults \$8, children \$6 and children 5 and under are free.

St. John the Baptist sells recipe book
Fort Wayne — "Taste and See," a recipe book of more than 430 recipes has been released by St. John the Baptist Parish. Copies are \$10 and may be purchased at Cathedral Bookstore or Waynedale Bakery. If you'd like to order a book call Tim Robison at (260) 745-7663. Shipped books will have an additional \$3 mailing charge.

MISC. HAPPENINGS

Register now
South Bend — St. Jude Parish, 19704 Johnson Rd., will offer a Scripture study by Father Eugene Hensell, OSB, associate professor of Scripture at St. Meinrad who will cover the entire Gospel of Matthew on Monday, Jan. 14, through Thursday, Jan. 17, from 7-9 p.m. in the Keller room. Cost is \$20 and is limited to the first 50 registrants. For information call the parish office at (574) 291-0570 to register.

Freshman registration
Fort Wayne — Bishop Luers High School freshman registration will be Tuesday, Jan. 15, and Thursday, Jan. 17, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Staff members will be available to answer your academic questions and guide you

through the sign-up process. The business office will be available to answer your financial questions. Financial aid and scholarship information will be available. For more information call (260) 456-1261.

Montreal Pilgrimage
South Bend — Christ the King Parish is organizing a pilgrimage to St. Joseph's Oratory in Montreal June 16-20, and will cost \$475 per adult (based on a double-occupancy room). Registration forms can be found online at www.christthekingonline.org. A \$50 deposit will reserve your seat. For information call Linda Fitzpatrick (574) 272-3113 ext. 315 or Deacon Steve Lacroix at ext. 316.

Light Weigh
Fort Wayne — An orientation meeting for the 12-week spiritual weight loss program, The Light Weigh, will be held in the east room of St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Church on Monday, Jan. 7, from 9-11 a.m. Meetings for the series will be held Monday mornings in the same location. For more information contact Nancy Simmonds at (260) 637-9041.

REST IN PEACE

Auburn
Stanley R. Fisher Sr., 94, Immaculate Conception

Avilla
Jeffrey D. King, 46, St. Mary of the Assumption

Decatur
Thelma M. Andrews, 94, St. Mary of the Assumption

Elkhart
John Phillip Rossi, 83, St. Vincent de Paul

Fort Wayne
Francis Burian, 87, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton

Eugene F. Erpelding, 71, Queen of Angels

Mary Jane Schwise, 92, St. John the Baptist

Florence A. DeMarco Walters, 85, Our Lady of Good Hope

V. Jane Wayer Kahn, 87, St. Jude

Martha L. Kramer, 92, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton

Mary C. Caruso, 87, St. Joseph

Robert E. Shoaff Sr., 84, St. Vincent de Paul

Frances E. Koehl, 93, St. Jude

Robert W. Burns, 86, St. Jude

Richard J. Hageman, 83, St. Therese

George W. Haverstick, 69, St. Charles Borromeo

Sarah Walker, 81, Queen of Angels

Goshen
Dayton M. Pletcher, 74, St. John the Evangelist

Huntington
Terry J. Turnock, 62, Ss. Peter and Paul

Rosanna Garwood, 81, Ss. Peter and Paul

Mishawaka
Murray Robert Modlin, 71, St. Joseph

Clement R. Andries, 88, St. Bavo

Morris G. DeGeyter Sr., 82, St. Bavo

Mary R. Bokhart, 92, St. Bavo

Eleanor Lopes, 86, St. Joseph

New Haven
Stella O. Ehinger, 88, St. John the Baptist

Denise L. Snyder, 42, St. John the Baptist

Norma J. Schnelker, 79, St. John the Baptist

Notre Dame
Theodore B. Ivanus, 91, Sacred Heart Basilica

Father Roman S. Ladewski, CSC, 93, Sacred Heart Basilica

Rome City
Edward A. Bauman, 82, St. Gaspar del Bufalo

South Bend
Lorraine L. Backer, Christ the King

Elizabeth R. Rhoads, 93, St. Matthew Cathedral

Lillian M. Vaselein, 81, Christ the King

Oleta Hayes, 66, Little Flower

Victor J. Couch, 93, Christ the King

Helen R. Spromberg, 89, Holy Cross

Kelly F. Weinberg, 34, Corpus Christi

Everett J. Potts, 91, St. Matthew Cathedral

Shirley L. Donohue, 86, St. Patrick

Mary Elizabeth Strasser, 87, Christ the King

Julia A. Sayer, 91, Our Lady of Hungary

Angela Kloski, 67, St. Stanislaus

Yoder
James P. Snyder, 53, St. Aloysius

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body, mind and spirit, to *mind*
improve the health of our *spirit*
communities and to *faith*
steward the resources
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Sacred Heart Parish, a parish of 900 families located on the campus of Notre Dame (although independent of Campus Ministry at ND), worshipping in the Crypt under the Basilica, invites applicants for the position of DRE. Duties include, but are not limited to, children's religious education, sacramental preparation programs, adult formation, and RCIA.

The ideal candidate would have some years of experience directing religious education, a graduate degree in theology, a lively prayer life, a faith-filled character, knowledge of the Church and world, an interest in justice, a commitment to Christ's peace, and the ability to work well with people of various backgrounds and experience. The parish wishes to fill the vacancy by January 2008. Send cover letter and resume to the pastor:

Rev. John Patrick Riley, CSC

Sacred Heart Parish, University of Notre Dame,

104 The Presbytery, Notre Dame IN 46556

or by email: John.P.Riley.33@nd.edu

Requests for more information can be addressed to

Chris Miller, DRE at cmiller4@nd.edu

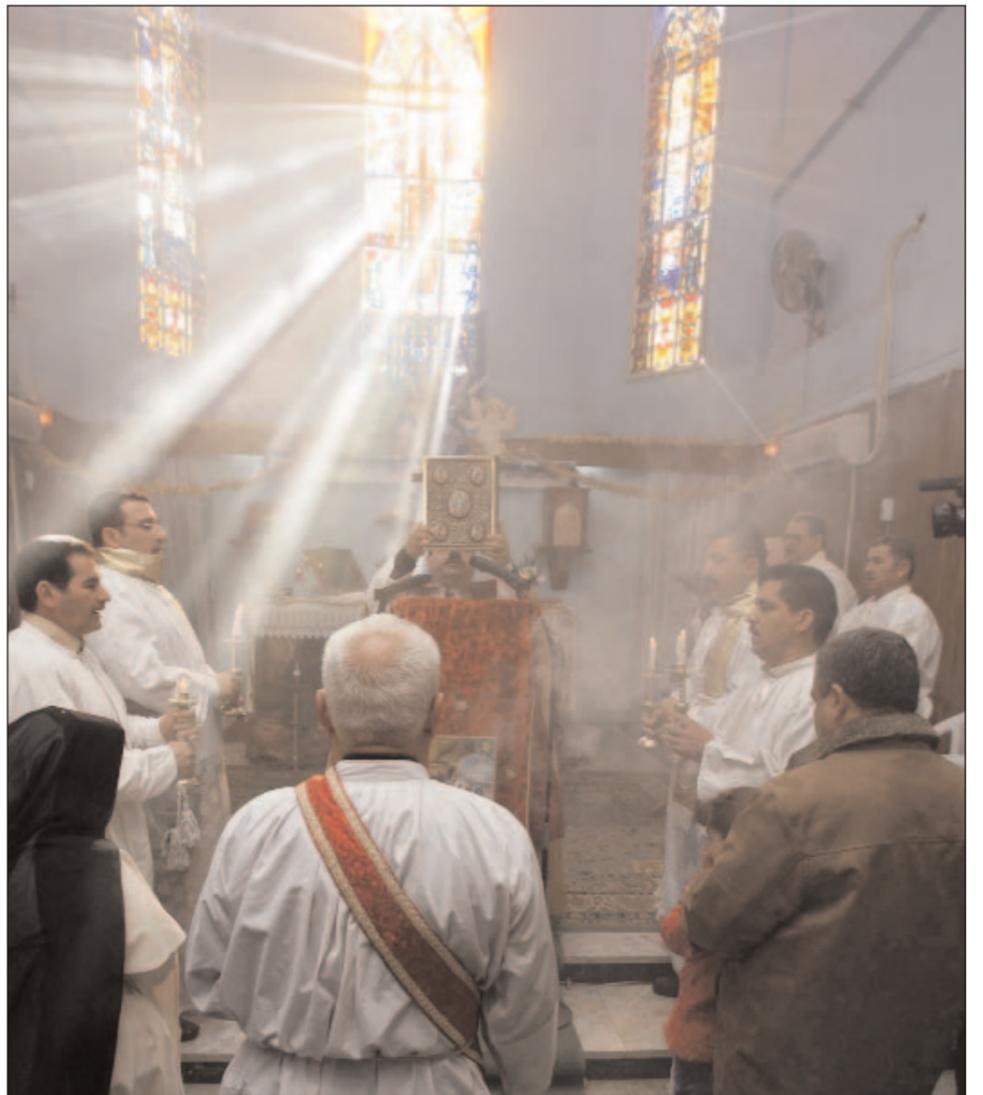
IT CAME UPON A MIDNIGHT CLEAR ...



CNS PHOTO/AMMAR AWAD, REUTERS

Latin Patriarch Michel Sabbah of Jerusalem carries a statue of the Christ Child during midnight Mass in St. Catherine's Church adjacent to the Church of the Nativity in the West Bank city of Bethlehem Dec. 25.

ON CHRISTMAS DAY IN THE MORNING



CNS PHOTO/ATEF HASSAN, REUTERS

Priests celebrate a Christmas Mass in a church in Basra, Iraq, Dec. 25.

Today's Catholic introduces

BOOK OF THE MONTH CLUB

This month's featured selection: Henri Nouwen's "Life of the Beloved"

As *Today's Catholic* looks forward to the new year, a list of Catholic literature has been compiled that is being offered for book study in 2008. Each month one book will appear in review along with several study questions in the hope that interested readers might form book study groups within their neighborhoods or church communities. Each of the 12 books was chosen to inform, provoke discussion and self-examination, and inspire spiritual growth. Whether in a group or individually, please join *Today's Catholic's* Book of the Month Club with this month's selection: Henri Nouwen's "Life of the Beloved."

Henry Nouwen's "Life of the Beloved" was written initially in response to a Jewish friend's request for spiritual direction in his secular world and appears in a conversational format that offers wisdom directed squarely at the reader.

Though the easy-to-read format spans a scant 119 pages it is packed with inspiration and deep meaning. In it Nouwen, respected academic and priest, directs the reader to understand life as he understands the Eucharist: being chosen, blessed, broken and given. Each of the four parts of this intricate mystery is examined by chapter, and Nouwen's style provides insight into the spiritual concepts he presents as he adds colorful and many times deeply touching real-life stories of the disabled population he lives with and holds so dear.

The initial pages demonstrate the beloved nature of every human being and ways to recognize and claim what Nouwen calls the truth. Addressing blessedness, the author reminds his reader that "to claim blessedness leads to a deep desire to bless others." And in addition to more heart-warming stories from his personal life, Nouwen offers suggestions to assist the serious reader in claiming this blessedness.

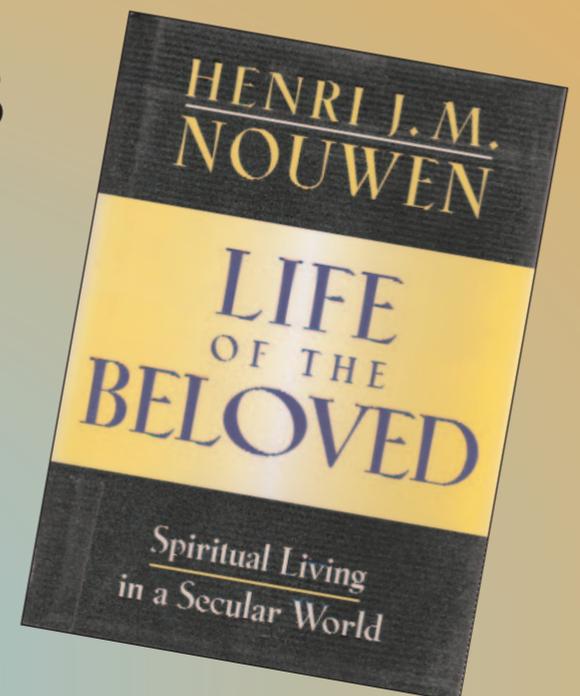
He believes that each is broken in a unique way by the sufferings of life, but suggests that in brokenness the gateway to joy can be found. Further, he says, to be given, not only in life but in death as well, is the fulfillment of life. His writing culminates with his insights on how to live this

challenge to be the Beloved in everyday life. Living as the beloved, he offers, requires change and much is asked of the reader in these short pages as the author seeks the response of "Yes!" to the one who calls him the Beloved.

An inspiring but sometimes imperceptible thread woven throughout this book is Nouwen's deepest desire to encourage humanity to find truth within community. His ability to present new insight and teaching along with continuous reiteration of the previous concept assists in a deeper understanding of his spiritual thought process. The heart begins to stir with the recognition that one must work to move from the acceptance of being the Beloved to fully becoming it in daily existence.

Questions for meditation and discussion

- What in your life keeps you "running helter-skelter ... never fully satisfied" as you seek the feeling of inner well-being? (page 30)
- How can the truth of your Belovedness become part of your everyday thoughts, words and deeds? (page 39)
- How do comparisons you make keep you from experiencing belovedness? How do they exclude others from being valuable? (page 46)
- In the face of what Nouwen refers to as "the manipulative world" how do you hear that deep gentle voice that blesses you?
- How does prayer and attentiveness to blessings open you to blessing others? (page 64)
- How can facing the pain of brokenness bring you healing? How does it strengthen you to offer others hope? (page 75)
- Discuss Nouwen's perception of the difference between talents and gifts. What are your talents? What gifts can you offer others? Which is more important to you? (pages 90-91)
- How do you understand and integrate both the secular and sacred aspects of your everyday life? How do you offer that to others? (page 118)



Surprisingly, the epilogue describes how Nouwen's Jewish friend rejected the manuscript causing the author to question the importance of publication. New personal insight concerning the gap between the sacred and the secular worlds was gained, however, with the realization that he could not teach or preach even to the secular world without God as the centerpiece.

If you seek to accept the truth of being deeply loved by God and to share that love with others, "Life of the Beloved" is a must read.

About the author

Nouwen, born in Holland in 1932, was ordained a diocesan priest in 1957. He moved to the United States in 1964 and taught at the University of Notre Dame. Eventually Nouwen made his home at L'Arche Daybreak, in Canada, one of hundreds of communities where disabled adults live with assistants. He has written over 40 books on the spiritual life, which are published in over 22 languages. He died in 1996.

Visit www.diocesefwsb.org/blog for discussion on this book.