



TODAY'S CATHOLIC

Forgiveness, love defeat violence

Ecumenical Prayer Service unites many to pray at St. Adalbert



DIANE FREEBY

Holy Cross Father Christopher Cox of St. Adalbert Church, South Bend, hosted the ecumenical prayer service "Preparing for the Prince of Peace in a Violent Community."

BY DIANE FREEBY

SOUTH BEND — "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called children of God."

Father Virgilio Elizondo, professor of pastoral and Hispanic theology at the University of Notre Dame, spoke about the significance of this beatitude during Sunday's ecumenical prayer service held at South Bend's St. Adalbert's Church. He advocated the defeat of violence through the power of forgiveness and love.

"Even in the violence of the cross," explained Father Elizondo, "Jesus did not stop loving. He asked his Father to forgive them."

The prayer service, "Preparing for the Prince of Peace in a Violent Community," drew area religious leaders and lay people from various churches to unite in prayer for one common intention.

"Crime in South Bend has gone up so high it astounds me," said Minister Kalume J. Tshimanga of Emmanuel Community Church. He was first of several preachers to take the altar following a prayerful candle-lighting ceremony and moment of silence for 20 people murdered this year in South Bend.

"Even when we mess up, God still loves us," preached Minister Tshimanga. "That's an undeserving grace — something we didn't earn. He gave it to us."

The two-hour prayer service included the lighting of the Advent candles, Scripture reading and shared prayer responses. Many young people participated with dance and musical contributions. The Conservatory of Dance performed an interpretive piece to the song, "Hands" by pop singer Jewell. Also providing opportunity for prayer was the Culver Academies Gospel Choir and the New Generations Church sign choir.

St. Adalbert's Church has a large Hispanic population, and music minister Benito Salazar led one of the parish choirs in "Coro Celestial," a Spanish worship song. Father Elizondo gave his sermon in both English and Spanish.

Bishop John M. D'Arcy joined other area religious leaders as he wrapped up the prayer service with Benediction and closing prayers.

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Third part in Msgr. McDonnell's reflection

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Hispanics urged to commit to, train for ministry

BY JODI MAGALLANES

WARSAW — The leadership of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend challenged Hispanic lay ministers this week to follow up their desire to serve the church with the knowledge to teach the faith to others.

A day of reflection and motivation held at Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish and Diocesan Shrine in Warsaw brought several hundred Hispanic ministers to hear that message, which was presented by the foremost national authority on the Mexican-American Catholic experience, Father Virgilio Elizondo. Bishop John M. D'Arcy and several members of the Office of Catechesis and the Office of Hispanic Ministry also dedicated the entire day on Dec. 6 to the event and participated in the

presentations and discussions.

Against a backdrop of the tilma of Juan Diego imprinted with Our Lady of Guadalupe's image, Father Elizondo reminded participants that they were created because God wanted them to be and that he wants to share his love with them.

Recalling the social status of a young, poor, unmarried woman named Mary and that of the Indian peasant Juan Diego to whom she appeared in Mexico in 1531, Father Elizondo challenged the crowd to think of themselves as worthy of being called to ministry.

"That's the heart of Christianity, that you value as much as you, and you, and everyone else. By means of baptism, we are all worthy of his love," Father Elizondo said.

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MAYOR A ROYAL READER



PROVIDED BY ST. THERESE SCHOOL

Fort Wayne Mayor Tom Henry visited St. Therese School as a Royal Reader on Friday, Dec. 5. The students all bowed to the Royal Reader as he entered the classroom. The mayor read "Merry Christmas Curious George," which was taped and will be used as part of the listening library.

TODAY'S CATHOLIC

Official newspaper of the
Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend
P.O. Box 11169
Fort Wayne, IN 46856

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Web site: www.diocesefwsb.org/TODAY

Published weekly except the fourth
Sunday in June, first and third weeks
in July, first week in August and last
week in December by the Diocese of
Fort Wayne-South Bend, 1103 S.
Calhoun St., P.O. Box 390, Fort Wayne,
IN 46801. Periodicals postage paid at
Fort Wayne, IN, and additional mailing
office.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to:
Today's Catholic, P.O. Box 11169, Fort
Wayne, IN 46856-1169 or e-mail:
kvoirol@fw.diocesefwsb.org.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES: Domestic in
advance, one year \$20. Bundle rates
available on request. Single copy 50¢.

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

BUREAU OFFICE: 114 W. Wayne St., South
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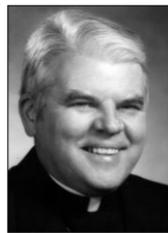
News deadline is the Monday morn-
ing before publication date.
Advertising deadline is nine days
before publication date.

LETTERS POLICY: Today's Catholic wel-
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Mail letters to: Today's Catholic,
P.O. Box 11169, Fort Wayne, IN
46856-1169; or e-mail:
editor@fw.diocesefwsb.org

ISSN 0891-1533
USPS 403630

Presenting the teaching of the church in all its fullness



NEWS
& NOTES

BISHOP JOHN M. D'ARCY

A day to remember

For some time now, we have been searching for a suitable method for the religious instruction of our beloved Hispanic Catholics, a method which will integrate them more and more into the diocese and draw them closer to the bishop, while also presenting in all its fullness the teaching of the church.

We have been blessed with Our Lady of Guadalupe Church and Shrine in Warsaw. The land was given by Jerry Kralis, a Warsaw businessman, with the only condition that it be used to build a church for the Hispanic Catholics. Jerry and his wife, Savina, were concerned about so many who were being drawn away from the Catholic Church, their true spiritual home, to the evangelical storefront churches. The church was built in great part from funds raised as part of the Legacy of Faith Campaign, along with funds from the parish itself. Jerry has gone to God, but he was present at our groundbreaking.

So, with the hard work of two departments, the Office for Hispanic Ministry and the Office of Catechesis, 370 adults and about 40 children came together early on a snowy morning at this beautiful new church, elevated on a hill overlooking the town of Warsaw — just off Route 15.

The entire day was in Spanish. There were two catecheses given by Father Virgil Elizondo, the first on God's call and the second on our response. Father Virgil is a priest of the Diocese of San Antonio, and a professor of the theology and Latino studies at Notre Dame. All prayers and conferences and sacred liturgy were in Spanish. With the help of Enid Roman-De Jesus and Lourdes Silva, of the Office of Hispanic Ministry, English translations were provided. It was truly a day of prayer, and I left the day with much gratitude to God and to Our Lady of Guadalupe, and with a sense of satisfaction and peace. Gratitude to Sister Jane Carew and Christina Emilian, of our Office of Catechesis.

I was especially pleased that so many of our priests who speak Spanish were present for part of the day. This community is a blessing. The devotion to Our Lady, the strong sense of the providence of God, their love for the church and for the Office of Bishop constitutes a great blessing for our diocese. I was especially pleased to see that the tabernacle in this church now has a central position, which was made possible with the full approval of the community. More on that subject on another day.

Only a beginning

As is well known with the help of a major continuing grant from Our Sunday Visitor, we have over the last 20 years, under the direction of our Office of Catechesis, established an in-depth program for training catechists. Over 60 have achieved masters degrees in theology, first from the University of Dayton, and in more recent years from Notre Dame, and they are now teaching in our parishes, high schools and in various ministries throughout the dioceses.

The grant has also made possible a second program of four semesters entitled Education for Ministry. It will now include a Spanish component, entitled Educación Para El Ministerio, and the first course will begin in January at the Archbishop Noll Catholic Center in Fort Wayne.

All of this has been a longtime building. Important things in life do not come easy. We now have a central place, a beautiful sanctuary, which our Hispanic Catholics can claim as their own. It is a place for everyone from throughout the diocese, and we hope we can soon establish pilgrimages of prayer to this holy place.

In recent years, there has been a program entitled ICLM, mostly in the South Bend, Elkhart, Goshen area, and we are very grateful to Father Thomas Florek, SJ, for this program, which will complete its final cycle in May.

The new program, which eventually will be offered in both ends of the diocese, will be a program rooted in the Catechism of the Catholic Church and in the American adult Catholic catechism approved by the bishops and now translated into Spanish, "Catecismo Católico de los Estados Unidos para los Adultos."

All of this has been a longtime building. Important things in life do not come easy. We now have a central place, a beautiful sanctuary, which our Hispanic Catholics can claim as their own. It is a place for everyone from throughout the diocese, and we hope we can soon establish pilgrimages of prayer to this holy place. I celebrated Mass at the end of the day with a short greeting in Spanish, and Father Virgil Elizondo and I drove west with gratitude to Our Lady of Guadalupe for such a splendid moment.

You know we have three priests scheduled to be ordained in October, and all are fluent in Spanish. Two are natives of Mexico, Deacon Gabriel Hernandez and Deacon Fernando Jimenez. In addition, we have Deacon Jake Runyon, who spent a summer in Mexico learning Spanish, and is now proficient in that language.

I am looking forward to being with this community on Friday night in Warsaw for the celebration of the feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe, and two days later for the noon

Mass at St. Patrick, Fort Wayne.

One cannot leave this subject without speaking of Father Paul Bueter. Father Paul will officially retire effective Jan. 3, 2009. He has been the director of our ministry to Hispanic Catholics for many years and pastor of Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish. I recall him serving in Milford when this parish was located there. The church was in a building that was once a used car center. Father Paul celebrated Mass and heard confessions in the most difficult circumstances. A true and dedicated priest, who will continue to serve part-time after his retirement.

A prayer against violence

I fought through the snow to Mishawaka to the Franciscan Sisters, high on a hill, where I now stay when I am overnight in South Bend. An intense lake-effect snow was with me most of the way. On Sunday, after celebrating Mass at St. Matthew's Co-Cathedral Parish, with the ever delightful Father Michael Heintz, rector of the cathedral, I was off to St. Adalbert — surely one of the most beautiful churches ever built. However, I was there for a service rarely held in that historic church. South Bend has suffered a number of killings and stabbings in the past year. It was a service against violence. Our ecumenical officer for the South Bend area, Nancy Cavadini had worked with the Protestant leadership to bring together a service of prayer for peace and for an

end to such attacks. We prayed especially for all the victims of violence. The service took two hours, more than we are used to as Catholics. But it was a worthy effort and also strengthened our relationship with many in the area. Several beautiful talks were given. I was especially impressed with the Mennonite pastor, who taking up the theme of St. John the Baptist in the wilderness, included in his talk mention of the various forms of violence in South Bend, the violence against the unborn. I believe he was the only one who made such a reference, and those of us of the Catholic faith who must always keep this particular sin in mind were especially touched by his words. Back late at night with time to pray upon my return, and also to prepare for a homily for the next day at noon in the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception. Our special feast day — in honor of the patron of our diocese and our cathedral parish and our country.

A full church at the cathedral that bears her name, and a chance to share with our people the importance of this truth about Mary, always preserved from sin, the history of this doctrine and its importance in our lives. I was also very grateful this past week to have a meeting with our six vicars. Our vicars are all pastors of large parishes, which are busy and demanding. At the same time, in fulfillment of their mission, they are visiting every parish now to spend time with the pastor and inquire about the parish. It was a joy to hear their reports and in this way to be in touch through them with many of our parishes.

Third Sunday of Advent coming up. See you all next week.

Charity is necessary for happiness, speakers say at Rome conference

BY CINDY WOODEN

ROME (CNS) — Even at a time of global financial crisis, human beings need to give charity in order to be happy, said several speakers at a Rome conference on philanthropy and human rights.

Expecting a government to provide all social services and assistance robs those who are economically stable of the opportunity to help others and risks being inefficient, cold and even immoral, said the speakers at the Dec. 3 conference sponsored by the Michigan-based Acton Institute and the U.S. Embassy to the Holy See.

Father Robert A. Sirico, co-founder of the Acton Institute, said, "The market economy is not only the most efficient system to produce and distribute goods and services; it is also the system most respectful of our God-given creative freedom and which allows us to meet the basic needs of our brothers and sisters."

Father Sirico was the only speaker at the conference — which included Catholic thinkers who have long praised the potential of the free-market economy — to speak directly about the current crisis.

"It would seem to be a difficult time for those of us who have committed our livelihoods to defending this cause" — the cause of economic liberty, Father Sirico said.

Yet in an interview after his speech, the priest said he was convinced that it was not the market economy and a lack of government regulation that led to the crisis. Rather, he said, a significant trigger was government interference in the mortgage finance agencies Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac.

"These were not market phenomena; these were government interventions that guaranteed — in the service of a good cause — the availability of housing" for people who did not have the credit rating usually necessary for obtaining a mortgage, he said.

The government's interventions removed the incentives the mortgage companies needed to loan money only to people who could repay them, he said.

Father Sirico was opposed to the government easing access to mortgages, and said he also is opposed to the proposed government bailouts of the financial institutions and other key industries.

"If we outlaw failure, we outlaw success, we outlaw prudence, we outlaw temperance," he said.

Whether or not the government intervenes, he said, "there will be disaster."

The government bailout will have to be paid by someone, either those alive and trying to work today or those who will enter the job market and start paying taxes in the future, Father Sirico said.

In his address to the conference, the priest said that "economic freedom is necessary for the right understanding and flourishing of Christian charity," because in order to be generous people must be able to create wealth so that they can give.

Arthur Brooks, a professor of business and government policy who will become president of the American Enterprise Institute, a think tank in Washington, Jan. 1, told the conference he has studied the relationship of generosity, happiness and productivity.

When he started out, he said, he believed that good acts are rewarded; "I just didn't believe they are rewarded on earth."

But what he found, he said, was that "when people give they get happier, and when they get happier, they are more productive and become richer."

Brooks told his audience, "You can be happier by injecting greater charity into your lifestyle."

The professor said he knows many people believe that if the government did its job in providing for the needs of its citizens there would be no need for charity. However, he said, "people need to give. The day we do not need to give is the day we get sadder and poorer."

"Charitable giving is not just a good investment; it is also a patriotic act because it creates jobs, it creates tax revenues, it creates general prosperity," he said.

Michael Novak, director of social and political studies at the American Enterprise Institute, told the conference that social justice is not a government program, but a virtue that motivates individual actions and the efforts of people who join together in families, parishes, organizations and foundations to serve others.

"These are the activities that both raise the level of the common good and add to it a human touch — person-to-person contact — both in humble ways and in grand," he said.

Novak said governments cannot bring about social justice because government handouts induce dependency and tend to limit freedom, sometimes becoming immoral, as in the case of mandating that hospitals receiving government money provide abortions or that adoption agencies allow gay couples to adopt children.

Mary Ann Glendon, the U.S. ambassador to the Holy See, spoke of the partnership of U.S. governmental and private philanthropies — particularly faith-based groups — in meeting the needs of the poor, the sick and those struck by natural disasters.

Charity "exerts its transformative influence" on both givers and receivers, she said. "When charity is reduced to social service, its recipients are reduced to 'problems' rather than persons whose dignity must be respected."

Charities in need of assistance

The Franciscan Center, Inc.
(260) 744-3977
4643 Gaywood Dr.
Fort Wayne, IN 46806
Web site:
www.thefranciscancenter.org

Our Father's House, Inc.
(574) 268-1800
401 Argonne Rd.
Warsaw, IN 46580-3811

St. Vincent de Paul Society of St. Joseph County, Inc.
(574) 234-6000
3408 Ardmore Trail
South Bend, IN 46628-1302
Thrift Store:
3408 Ardmore Trail
South Bend, IN 46628-1302
Web site:
www.saintvincent-in.org

St. Vincent de Paul Society of Allen County, Inc.
(260) 456-3561
1600 S. Calhoun St.
Fort Wayne, IN 46802-5254
St. Vincent de Paul Store
1600 S. Calhoun St.
Fort Wayne, IN 46802-5254

Ask Ministries
(260) 744-9540
2513 S. Calhoun St.
Fort Wayne, IN 46807

Matthew 25 Health and Dental Clinic
(260) 426-3250
413 E. Jefferson St.
Fort Wayne, IN 46802
Website:
www.Matthew25online.org

Sister Maura Brannick Health Center
(574) 239-5255
326 S. Chapin St.
South Bend, IN 46601-2542

Vincent Village
(260) 456-4172
2827 Holton Ave.
Fort Wayne, IN 46806
Web site: www.vincentvillage.org

Women's Care Center-Pregnancy Help Center
Web site:
www.womenscarecenter.org
Linea En Español
(260) 420-8232
1-(800) 944-3350

1144 W. Plymouth St.
Bremen, IN 46506
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(219) 874-4646
201 Lincolnway West
Mishawaka, IN 46544
(574) 252-3680
151 S. Locke
Nappanee, IN 46550
(574) 773-4662

621 E. Main St.
Niles, MI 49120
(269) 684-4040
224 N. Michigan St.
Plymouth, IN 46563
(574) 936-5141
907 E. LaSalle
South Bend, IN 46617
(574) 234-0363
3423 S. Michigan
South Bend, IN 46601
(574) 231-0658
234 S. Chapin St.
South Bend, IN 46601
(574) 239-5280
2004 Ironwood Circle, Suite 1
South Bend, IN 46635
(574) 273-8986

Christ Child Society of Fort Wayne
(260) 424-3624
P.O. Box 12708
Fort Wayne, IN 46864

Christ Child Society of South Bend
(574) 288-6028
P.O. Box 1286
South Bend, IN 46624

Food collections

The Indiana Bureau of Motor Vehicles is sponsoring a holiday food drive through Tuesday Dec. 23. All food collected in northeast Indiana will be donated to Community Harvest Food Bank.

Also see the Catholic Charities pages 8-9 and the Dec. 7 issue News and Notes page 2.

HISPANIC

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Appropriate responses to that love and esteem followed lunch as the topics of Father Elizondo's afternoon presentation. This great love that we receive should motivate us to silent, reflective prayer; service to others, from spouses to prisoners; and the study of the Bible, catechism and Catholic tradition, he said.

Sister Jane Carew and staff from the Office of Catechesis took the opportunity at the gathering to unveil the diocese's newest tool for developing knowledgeable Spanish-speaking catechists — a Spanish-language version of the long-running Education for Ministry program.

While a number of Hispanic lay ministers in the diocese participate in a three-year program that prepares them spiritually for ministry, Bishop D'Arcy said he desired a formation program that would be more catechetical, instructional and in keeping with the Catechism of the Catholic Church.

"It's important that the bishop appoint the people who are teaching the faith. This program is more central, more closely linked to our central departments," Bishop D'Arcy said.

The Spanish-language version



JODI MAGALLANES

A day of reflection and motivation held at Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish and Diocesan Shrine in Warsaw brought several hundred Hispanic ministers to hear that message, which was presented by the foremost national authority on the Mexican-American Catholic experience, Father Virgilio Elizondo.

of Education for Ministry will integrate the study of Scripture into each topic instead of concentrating on it in two sessions, a study of the Old Testament and a study of the New Testament. Otherwise, the two programs are similar. A pilot program of EFM will begin next month in Fort Wayne, followed in the fall by a full, two-year program in both Fort Wayne and South Bend.

Angelina Arana of St. Patrick Parish in Fort Wayne was inspired by the attention being given to Hispanic Catholicism and plans to participate in the pilot Education for Ministry program that begins in Fort Wayne next month.

"God has called us here today," she said. "I think something very positive is going to come out of this."

Our Lady of Guadalupe celebrations

Our Lady of Guadalupe, Warsaw

Dec. 11 — midnight to 3 a.m. Mariachi's
Dec. 12 — 5 a.m. Mañanitas
Dec. 12 — 5 p.m. Mass, followed by a compartir (fiesta)

St. Adalbert, South Bend

Dec. 11 — midnight Spanish Mass preceded by Mañanitas
Dec. 12 — 7 p.m. bilingual Mass, followed by a compartir

St. John the Evangelist, Goshen

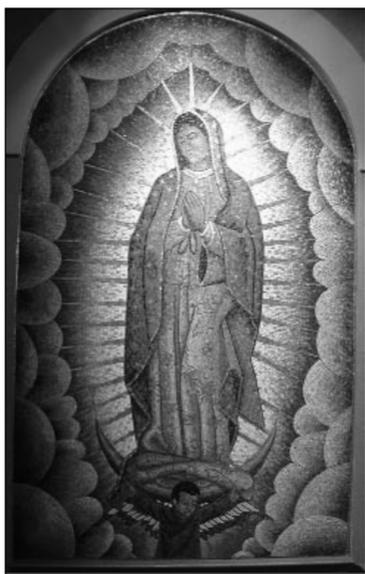
Dec. 11 — 10:20 p.m. drama of Our Lady of Guadalupe (Representación de Guadalupe)
Dec. 11 — midnight Mass, followed by Mañanitas
Dec. 12 — 6 p.m. Mass, followed by a compartir (fiesta)

St. Patrick and St. Joseph, Fort Wayne

Dec. 8 — 6 p.m. joint bilingual Mass at St. Patrick for Immaculate Conception, Our Lady of the Americas and Vigil of Juan Diego with reflection by Enid Roman from the Office for Hispanic Ministry, followed by reconciliation

St. Patrick, Fort Wayne

Dec. 11 — Vigil Mass then, visit St. Joseph for joint reconciliation.
Dec. 12 — 5 a.m. Mass,



Mañanitas, reception

Dec. 12 — 6 p.m. Mass

Dec. 12 — Society of Guadalupanas presentation at Bishop Luers with flowers for those attending

Dec. 14 — 12 p.m. Mass celebrated by Bishop John M. D'Arcy

St. Joseph, Fort Wayne

Dec. 11 — midnight

Mañanitas

Dec. 12 — 7 p.m. bilingual Mass

St. Dominic, Bremen

Dec. 4-12 — rosary and novena begins
Dec. 12 — 7 p.m. Mass

St. Michael, Plymouth

Dec. 11 — 11 p.m. Mañanitas, followed by Mass
Dec. 12 — 7 p.m. Spanish Mass

Dec. 13 — 5 p.m. Mass with procession, followed by a fiesta at the Knights of Columbus Hall

St. Patrick, Ligonier

Dec. 12 — 5 p.m. procession from downtown Fire Department Gazebo towards St. Patrick Church, followed by Mass and compartir

St. Vincent de Paul, Elkhart

Dec. 13 — 5 p.m. Mañanitas, followed by a breakfast. Mass TBA

St. Joseph, La Grange

Dec. 12 — 6:30 p.m. rosary, 7 p.m. Mass with dramatization, followed by Mañanitas and convivir

St. Anthony of Padua, Angola

Dec. 7 — Mass and rosary with convivio

Dec. 12 — 4 a.m. Mañanitas

Teens offer service, not performance, at St. Bavo

BY SUSAN BAXTER

MISHAWAKA — They love performing — the singing, the dancing, the roar of response from a delighted crowd. But for three Marian High School students singing in the annual "Festival of Lessons and Carols" at St. Bavo Dec. 14, this gig is nothing like performance.

It is service.

The "Festival of Lessons and Carols" originated with St. Bavo's director of liturgy and music, Joe Higgenbotham, and has become an annual event built on Scripture, reflection and prayer.

"The students that volunteer seem to be more faith-filled than your average student," Higgenbotham said. "They make it prayerful without a lot of coaching from me."

Caroline LaDue, Libby Mae Troyer and David Stutzman are three of those students who will offer their talents with the Marian Liturgical Choir. Youth lectors, musicians and other voices from the local community will also join in the retelling of the salvation story.

"I love this service," LaDue said. "I love being able to sing gorgeous music; I watch people's faces as they listen to the Scripture..."

"Then they get this music that just flows through the Scripture. It makes everything more beautiful; helps people understand on a deeper level," LaDue added.

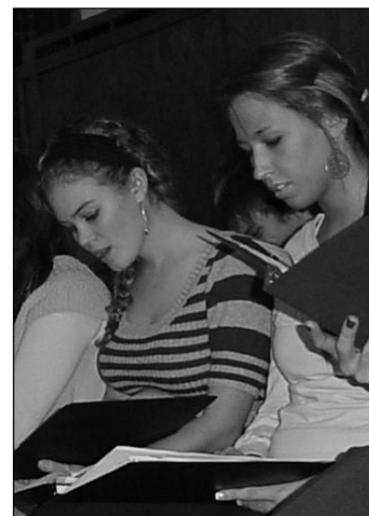
LaDue acknowledged that it was a busy time of the year, and that her schedule already conflicted with rehearsal times.

"But then Mr. Higgenbotham read us some e-mails from people who came last year, and there was no way I could refuse." Troyer was quick to agree.

"It was really touching," Troyer said. "Someone said they had been sick, and that they didn't know if they'd be able to come. But they came, and it really meant a lot to them."

"So many people who were having troubled times wrote that the service lifted their spirits. It's hard to say no to something that can do that."

The Service of Lessons and Carols was first promoted by Anglican Bishop F.W. Benson in Britain in 1880, and later became a staple in Christmas worship in Episcopalian, Anglican and



SUSAN BAXTER

Caroline LaDue, left, and Libby Mae Troyer, both seniors at Marian High School, rehearse with the Marian Liturgical Choir for the annual "Service of Lessons and Carols" at St. Bavo in Mishawaka Dec. 14 at 7 p.m.

Lutheran churches.

In recent times, Catholic churches have adopted it, not as a substitute for Mass, Scripture study or private devotions, but as an enhancement to them. Since Catholic the liturgical year is structured to connect Old Testament prophecy with its fulfillment in the Gospels and Epistles, the eight readings fit well into this tradition.

Father Robert Lengerich, of St. Pius X in Granger, will preside at the service. The eight Scripture readings will be proclaimed by youth lectors from various area parishes, all of whom belong to the Antioch Youth Group in Mishawaka.

The "lessons" of Scripture begin with the fall of Adam and Eve, and end with the story of the Three Kings, when Christ becomes the "light of revelation" to all humanity.

But this opportunity to serve God comes with a reciprocal gift, says Marian junior David Stutzman: the music is challenging, and provides an opportunity for real musicianship.

"Mr. Higgenbotham uses some really awesome harmonies," he said. "I sing as much as I can, and learn as much as I can. It's kind of an added bonus."

The event begins at 7 p.m., but Higgenbotham advises early arrival, since the event increases in popularity every year.

Advanced Care, Close to Home!

Riley Hospital for Children at Saint Joseph Regional Medical Center

For some kids in our community, there is more than one annual trip to the doctor.

The Saint Joseph Pediatric Specialty Clinics, in partnership with Riley Hospital for Children in Indianapolis, serve as a referral center for children whose conditions require special evaluation and treatment.

For our families, this means avoiding the delay, inconvenience and expense of driving to Indianapolis.

For our kids, this means making those trips to the doctor a little easier.

Saint Joseph

Pediatric Specialty Clinics:

- Endocrinology & Diabetes
- Cardiology
- Rheumatology
- Gastrointestinal
- Cystic Fibrosis & Chronic Pulmonary Disease
- Neurology
- Neuromuscular/Myelodysplasia
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Father Tom O'Connor 2009 Light of Christ Award encourages servant leaders

FORT WAYNE — St. Mary Catholic Church, Fort Wayne, in cooperation with Bishop John M. D'Arcy and the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, is now accepting nominations for the 2009 Father Tom O'Connor Light of Christ Award in the category of education.

The Father Tom O'Connor Light of Christ Award is presented annually to an individual whose work reflects the strong values exemplified by Father O'Connor in one of the following areas: peace and justice; nonviolent resolution of conflict; racial and cultural diversity; education; food for the hungry; and shelter for the homeless. One category is designated each year for nominations.

This award carries with it a gift of \$1,000 given in the name of the recipient to his or her designated project, school, faith community or nonprofit organization. In the words of Bishop John M. D'Arcy, the Father Tom O'Connor Light of Christ Award has been designed to encourage "the next generation of Father Toms." Previous winners include Cliff Kindy — 2007 peace and justice and Sister Janet C. Gildea, M.D. — 2008 racial and cultural diversity.

Father O'Connor, who died March 17, 2004, at the age of 74, served as pastor of St. Mary Parish for 34 years, and is considered by many to be an icon of Catholic faith in action. He was instrumental in the creation of the St. Mary's Soup Kitchen, which has operated nonstop since opening on Jan. 22, 1975, the Matthew 25 Health and Dental Clinics, St. Mary's Thanksgiving Day dinner and an annual Christmas box distribution that helps more than 500 families each year.

After the death of Virginia Schrantz, Father O'Connor insured the continuation of Miss Virginia's Mission House under the St. Mary Parish umbrella, and he was co-creator of the national award-winning East Side, West Side program for children and families from diverse racial, cultural and economic backgrounds. Father O'Connor was a member of the original steering committee of Vincent House at the time of its creation by the diocese, and also worked tirelessly to secure

Catholic school scholarships for central city youngsters through the Bells of St. Mary's campaign.

Father O'Connor was actively involved in ecumenical and interfaith activities and was a strong advocate for peace, both locally as well as in the wider community. He was an important resource for persons seeking discernment as they considered conscientious objector status.

Father O'Connor was honored during his lifetime with many accolades and awards, including the prestigious national Catholic Extension Society's Lumen Christi Award, described by the society's president as the "church's equivalent of the Nobel Prize."

Father O'Connor's efforts, extended through the work of St. Mary Parish, was rooted in his Catholic faith, in the Scriptures and in his priestly vocation. Because of this nominees for the Father Tom O'Connor Light of Christ Award must be committed to and active in their own faith traditions.

2009 Father Tom O'Connor Light of Christ Award nomination guidelines

The Father Tom O'Connor Light of Christ Award committee is seeking nominations of persons of faith, high school age or older, whose activities serve as an example and encouragement to youth through education. The committee may defer selecting a winner in any given year. Application information is available online at www.diocese-fwsb.org, as well as from the St. Mary Catholic Church office at (260) 424-8231.

How to apply:

1. Nominations are to be made by letter from someone who knows the nominee well.

2. Nominees must come from a strong faith background and be of good character. Nominations are open to persons of all faiths.

3. The nomination must include the following information in the order listed:

- Nominee's name
- Contact information
- Age, school or occupation
- Faith affiliation
- Where the cash award is to be directed, should the nominee receive the award.

• Name and contact information of the person submitting the nomination.

• Names and contact information of three references.

• A brief narrative no more than two pages in length explaining how the nominee's activities in the field of education reflects the ideals exemplified by Father O'Connor's life and work and why the nominee should be considered for this award.

4. E-mail submissions in a Word document attachment are preferred and should be sent to jan.stmarys@verizon.net. E-mail nominations must be received no later than 4 p.m. Jan. 16.

5. Letters of nomination for 2009 may be mailed to Father Tom O'Connor Award Committee, St. Mary Catholic Church, P.O. Box 11383, Fort Wayne, IN 46857-1383, and must be received no later than Jan. 16.



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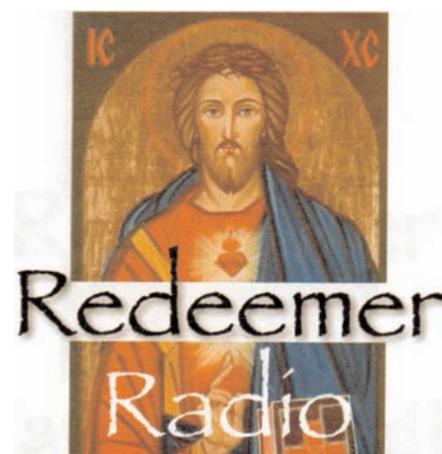
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DEC. 17 - 5:30PM	DEC. 16-5PM ANOINTING MASS
DEC. 18 - 7AM & 5:30PM	DEC. 24-4:30PM (VIGIL)
DEC. 19 - 9AM & 5:30PM	DEC 25-12 MIDNIGHT AND
DEC. 20 - 9AM & 3:00PM	8AM & 10:30AM
DEC. 22 - 9AM & 5:30PM	DEC. 27-4:30PM (SUNDAY VIGIL)
DEC. 23 - 7AM & 5:30PM	DEC. 28- 8AM & 10:30AM
DEC. 24 - 9 AM	DEC. 31 -4:30 PM HOLYDAY VIGIL
ANYTIME BY APPOINTMENT	JAN. 1 - 8 AM & 10:30AM



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Roses and thorns: Pope lays achievements, concerns at feet of Mary

ROME (CNS) — Laying a basket of white roses at the foot of a statue of Mary, Pope Benedict XVI said Catholics can lay everything at the feet of their heavenly mother. "Symbolically, these roses can express everything beautiful and good that we have done during the year," the pope said during his visit to the center of Rome Dec. 8 for the traditional ceremony alongside the statue of the Immaculate Conception near the Spanish Steps. "But, as the saying goes, 'Every rose has its thorn,' and the stems of these stupendous white roses are not lacking thorns, which represent the difficulties, sufferings and ills that have marked and still mark the lives of people and of our community," the pope said. Under brilliantly sunny skies, bundled up against a crisp chill, thousands of Romans and tourists jammed the square around the Spanish Steps to see the pope and pray with him.

Detroit religious leaders urge action to save auto industry

DETROIT (CNS) — Detroit-area religious leaders convened by Detroit Cardinal Adam J. Maida emerged from a Dec. 4 meeting to call on Washington lawmakers to provide federal assistance to stabilize the American automobile industry. "There is great concern for the countless individuals and families who are under great stress because of the uncertainty of our economy," Cardinal Maida said at a media briefing following the meeting. "They need to hear words of hope and encouragement. This is a time to stand in solidarity with all who are suffering the loss of jobs or homes, and all those who are anxious about what will happen in the future to the automobile industry in metro Detroit," he said. Cardinal Maida said both business and labor leaders had expressed fear of what could happen if there is no government action. "The alternative is not only unwise; it is unthinkable. If nothing is done, one can only imagine what would happen to all of us who call this corner of Michigan home," he added. The 11 religious leaders represented local Catholics, Anglicans, Protestants, Jews and Muslims.

Pope seeks prayers for Alexy II; Vatican names funeral delegation

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope Benedict XVI asked the world's Catholics to join prayers with "our Orthodox brothers and sisters" for the peaceful repose of the soul of the head of the Russian Orthodox Church. Patriarch Alexy II of Moscow died Dec. 5 at his home outside the Russian capital. He was 79. Although the cause of his death was not immediately made public, he had suffered from a heart condition and had been ill for some time. After praying the noonday Angelus with pilgrims gathered in St. Peter's Square Dec. 7, the pope said, "We unite ourselves in prayer with our

NEWS BRIEFS

CARDINAL MAIDA CHATS WITH RELIGIOUS LEADERS



CNS PHOTO/LARRY A. PEPLIN, POOL VIA MICHIGAN CATHOLIC

Detroit Cardinal Adam J. Maida, Rabbi Daniel Syme of Temple Beth El, and the Rev. Oscar King III chat during a meeting in Detroit Dec. 4. Cardinal Maida and other religious leaders representing local Anglicans, Protestants, Jews and Muslims emerged from the meeting to call on Washington lawmakers to provide federal assistance to stabilize the American automobile industry.

Orthodox brothers and sisters in order to commend his soul to the goodness of the Lord, so that he may welcome him into his kingdom of light and peace." A Vatican delegation, led by Cardinal Walter Kasper, president of the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity, was scheduled to attend the patriarch's Dec. 9 funeral in Moscow. Also named to the delegation were Cardinal Roger Etchegaray, former president of the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace, and the Vatican's nuncio to Russia, Archbishop Antonio Mennini. Patriarch Alexy led the world's largest Orthodox church since 1990.

Chicago still bears mark of tragic 1958 fire at Catholic school

CHICAGO (CNS) — Ninety-five people — 92 students and three nuns who were teachers — died in the fire that rampaged through the second floor of the north wing of Our Lady of the Angels School Dec. 1, 1958. The tragedy, painstakingly documented in the book "To Sleep With the Angels" by David Cowan and John Kuenster and the subject of many magazine articles, books and films, led to reforms in the fire code for schools across the country and dramatic changes in school construction and fire-alarm systems in Chicago. But more than bricks and mortar were affected: The people of the parish, especially the hundreds of students who were in the school, its surrounding neighborhood and the whole city

still bear the marks of the fire.

Vatican opposition clarified on declaration of homosexuality by U.N.

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The Vatican has made clear its opposition to the United Nations endorsing a universal declaration to decriminalize homosexuality. Archbishop Celestino Migliore, the Vatican's apostolic nuncio to the United Nations, and Vatican spokesman Jesuit Father Federico Lombardi said unjust forms of discrimination against homosexuals must be avoided. However, the Vatican does not approve of a formal declaration with political weight that might be used to put pressure on or discriminate against countries that do not recognize same-sex marriage, they said. A draft declaration, drawn up by France and endorsed by the European Union, was to be presented to the U.N. General Assembly Dec. 10. It condemns discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity. Archbishop Migliore told the French news agency I.Media Dec. 1 that adding these "new categories (to be) protected from discrimination" would create in turn "new and inflexible (forms of) discrimination."

Vatican signs, ratifies convention banning cluster bombs

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The Vatican has signed and ratified a new treaty to end the production

and use of cluster bombs, and appealed to the international community to ban "this inhumane type of weapon." Archbishop Dominique Mamberti, Vatican secretary for relations with states, was one of more than 100 diplomats who signed the Convention on Cluster Munitions in Oslo, Norway, Dec. 3. In a speech during the signing ceremony, the archbishop said the Vatican chose to sign and ratify the convention the same day in order to send "a strong political signal" to the rest of the world. The Vatican made the archbishop's remarks public Dec. 4. The United States and other major countries that produce cluster weapons — including Russia, China, Israel, India and Pakistan — have not signed it. The United States has expressed concern that a ban would restrict what it sees as the legitimate use of such weapons and has said that cluster bombs were essential to U.S. military operations.

Evangelical sects put Iraqi Christians in danger, Iraqi bishop says

ROME (CNS) — The proliferation of foreign evangelical Christian sects in Iraq is putting Iraqi Christians in greater danger, said a Chaldean bishop. The fall of Saddam Hussein opened the doors to a large influx of Christian groups and movements from abroad, said Chaldean Auxiliary Bishop Shlemon Warduni of Baghdad. These groups, many of which are from the United States or the United Kingdom, "have money and vehicles which they use to attract

children and young people offering them food and money," he told the Italian Catholic agency SIR Dec. 3. This activity puts the Iraqi "Christian minority at risk, exposing it to the unjust accusation of proselytism," he said. Even though much progress has been made in reducing violence in Iraq, "security and stability are still lacking," the Iraqi bishop said, and people are still afraid.

Couple say rosary, prayers helped them survive ordeal at Mumbai hotel

BOSTON (CNS) — The prayers of family and friends and the rosary helped a Brockton couple endure a 15-hour ordeal waiting to be rescued from their room in the Taj Mahal Hotel in Mumbai, India, which came under siege from terrorists Nov. 26. William and Geraldine Stadelmann were on the last day of a three-week tour of India, which included a visit to the tomb of St. Thomas the Apostle in the city of Chennai, formerly known as Madras. The following day, the couple was to depart with a smaller tour going to Nepal to see Mount Everest. The India leg of the trip concluded with an afternoon reception on the hotel's ground floor for the tourists, many of whom William Stadelmann said stayed downstairs for dinner, while he and his wife returned to their room to pack for their 4 a.m. departure for the airport. "At the party we were all saying how safe we felt in India," he said in a Dec. 2 interview with *The Pilot*, Boston archdiocesan newspaper. From under the bed in their room, the couple could hear terrorists moving down the hallway and a sniper firing over the atrium. With the sniper outside, he said, his wife did not want to risk getting up and going to the bag with her rosary beads, so she used her knuckles to keep track, he said. "Of the 15 hours, my wife was saying the rosary for, I'd say, 14 and a half hours."

Chinese Bishop Xu, forbidden to attend '98 synod, dies after illness

HONG KONG (CNS) — Bishop Joseph Xu Zhixuan of Wanzhou died of multiple organ failure Dec. 8 at the age of 92. Father Matthew Ran Qiliang, diocesan vicar general, told the Asian church news agency UCA News that during his last days the bishop was in and out of a coma and could not recognize anybody. The critically ill bishop was hospitalized in late September and was discharged in mid-November, after which he was treated at his home at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception. His diocese is based in the Wanzhou district of the Chongqing municipality, in China's Sichuan province. Bishop Xu's body was being kept at the cathedral so people could pay their last respects. Father Ran said the funeral would take place within five days. Bishop Xu was born in Sichuan province in 1916 and was ordained a priest in 1949. In 1989, he was ordained coadjutor bishop of Wanxian, as Wanzhou was then called.

Order of Malta host day of recollection

NOTRE DAME — The Order of Malta is hosting an Advent Day of Recollection on Dec. 13 from 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Sacred Heart Parish Center on Douglas Road near the University of Notre Dame. In attendance will be Knights, Dames, Auxiliaries and invited guests from the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, and the Archdioceses of Indianapolis and Chicago.

Franciscan Father John Coughlin who was invested into the order last month at St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York City, will direct the event. He joins Holy Cross Father Peter Rocca, director of the Sacred Heart Basilica, and Msgr. Joseph F. Schaedel, vicar general of the Archdiocese of Indianapolis as chaplains for the Indiana area.

The Order of the Knights of Malta is a lay religious order dedicated to providing for the sick and the poor, as well as defending the Catholic Faith. It supports many local charities, most notably the Christ Child Society, Logan Center, Women's Care Center, the Matthew 25 and Chapin Street Clinics, and the Lord's Pantry.

Newly appointed area-chair and Corpus Christi parishioner, Chris Godfrey, said, "This will be an opportunity to remove ourselves from the noise of holiday preparations to reflect on the lives of those who have preceded us in our ancient order and faith, and most importantly to prepare our hearts for Jesus whose birth we celebrate at Christmas."

New members invested in Order of Malta

NEW YORK — St. Patrick Cathedral in New York City was the site of the Nov. 14 Installation Mass where 100 new members were inducted into the Order of Malta, American Association.

Victoria A. Riel of St. Adalbert Parish in South Bend was installed during the ceremony and was invested as a Dame of Magistral Grace.

The Order of Malta is one of the oldest lay Catholic orders in the church, founded in 1099. The charm of the order is personal sanctification of members, defense of faith and service to the sick and poor. For more information visit www.maltausa.org.

Star of Bethlehem show times announced

FORT WAYNE — The Edwin E. Schouweiler Planetarium in Achatz Hall of Science at the University of Saint Francis will host their Christmas-themed Star of Bethlehem show, which began Saturday, Dec. 6.

The show begins under the Mideastern sky of 3 B.C. and follows the star of the Wise Men. During the live portion of the show, planetarium staff will guide attendees to the wonders of this winter's Fort Wayne night sky.

Parking is available off Leesburg Road. Admission: adults \$4, senior citizens and under 18 \$3, \$14 maximum per family. For more information, visit the planetarium Web site at www.sf.edu/planetarium.

AROUND THE DIOCESE

ST. MATTHEW TROOP CELEBRATES THREE EAGLE SCOUTS



PROVIDED BY KATHLEEN URDA

St. Matthew Troop 111 celebrated the addition of three new Eagles Scouts Nov. 29: Jared Sharkey, Jacob Domonkos and Michael Urda. Eagle Scout is the highest rank in Scouting and only about 2 percent of boys who enroll in Scouting achieve it. Many of the nation's clergy, military and business leaders have come from the ranks of Eagle Scouts. The candidate must earn 21 merit badges including 12 required. Each Scout must also complete a service project (assisted by fellow Scouts) and pass a board of review. Sharkey's project was to build cement foundations for the headstones for the graves of a number of American veterans buried in the Mishawaka city cemetery. Domonkos built a handicapped access ramp for Immanuel United Methodist Church in South Bend. Urda constructed a pedestal and wooden canopy for an outdoor statue of Our Lady at Marian High School. From left are Jared Sharkey, Jacob Domonkos and Michael Urda.

um or phone (260) 399-8068.

Dates and times for Star of Bethlehem are:

- Friday, Dec. 12 at 7:30 p.m.
- Saturday, Dec. 13 at 3 and 7:30 p.m.
- Sunday, Dec. 14 at 5 p.m.
- Friday, Dec. 19 at 7:30 p.m.
- Saturday, Dec. 20 at 3 and 7:30 p.m.
- Sunday, Dec. 21 at 5 p.m.

TAP participates in Washington forum

WASHINGTON — Members of Transforming Action through Power (TAP) traveled to Washington, D.C. on Dec. 4 to join 2,000 community leaders from across the country at "Realizing the Promise: A Forum on Community, Faith and Democracy." The forum provided grassroots leaders, everyday people, members of the new administration and Congress with an opportunity to discuss issues facing the nation and the solutions needed to make America work for all.

"We are excited to be participating in this historic event," said Father Christopher Cox, president of TAP and pastor of St. Adalbert and St. Casimir in South Bend. "This is a chance to keep democra-

cy alive after election day, and to make sure the voices of everyday people help shape the policies that affect us all."

"Realizing the Promise" is an extension of the Heartland Presidential Forum held on Dec. 1, 2007, in which then-Sen. Barack Obama pledged that grassroots leaders would help shape his agenda as president.

The forum will feature two roundtable discussions moderated by Juan Williams, journalist and news analyst for National Public Radio. These roundtables will provide a setting for dialogue between community and faith leaders, members of Congress and representatives of the incoming administration about the issues facing everyday Americans, including the economy, jobs, health care, immigration and the environment.

TAP's purpose is to build powerful public relationships between citizen-leaders through congregations and institutions, in order to increase communal self-determination and increase the quality of life for the Michiana region. TAP trains adults and youth to be positive forces for change in their communities with enhanced personal and civic skills.

"Realizing the Promise: A

Forum on Community, Faith and Democracy" is presented by the Gamaliel Foundation and the Center for Community Change's Campaign for Community Values. For updates on "Realizing the Promise" and to watch the Web cast of the forum, visit www.realizingthepromise.org.

St. Vincent de Paul Society Christmas basket delivery serves poor

SOUTH BEND — The St. Vincent de Paul Society of St. Joseph County will celebrate the 2008 Christmas Basket Program at 7:30 a.m. on Dec. 12 at the St. Vincent de Paul Thrift Store, located at 3408 Ardmore Trail in South Bend.

Society volunteers and staff will gather with Holy Cross Father Bill Neidhart, the society's spiritual advisor, to pray a blessing over the baskets that will be delivered to families throughout the community.

Volunteers are still needed to deliver the Christmas baskets throughout South Bend, Mishawaka and St. Joseph County on Dec. 12 between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m., and Dec. 13 beginning at 8

a.m. until finished.

For more information or to volunteer contact Charlie Thompson at (574) 251-4903 or e-mail devdirector@saintvincent-in.org.

USF holds best practices showcase

FORT WAYNE — The University of Saint Francis School of Professional Studies will host the Best Practices Showcase, highlighting educators who demonstrate outstanding professional practices such as effective classroom management, large and small group counseling, ELL clustering, cross-curricular scrap booking and enriching the parent-child relationship through literacy. The showcase will be held on Feb. 7 from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in the Pope John Paul II Center. For more information contact Nancy Hanke at nhanke@sf.edu.

Time corrected for Matthew Kelly talk

HUNTINGTON — Matthew Kelly, world renown speaker and author, will present his Christmas message on Dec. 16 at 7 p.m. at St. Peter and Paul Church, 860 Cherry St., in Huntington.

The presentation is open to the public, with babysitting provided in Gollner Hall.

Kelly is author of several books including New York best sellers, "Rhythm of Life" and "The Dream Manager" and travels across the country with speaking engagements. Originally from Australia, Kelly currently resides in Cincinnati, Ohio where he conducts retreats as well.

GIBALT MANAGER SPEAKS TO KNIGHTS



RICK ALEXANDER

Gibault Facilities Manager Jon Effner spoke at the Father J. A. Nieuwland 4th Degree Assembly Annual Christmas Dinner on Dec. 6. Effner and his wife Lisa were the honored guests of the assembly. Effner, who has been with Gibault for 10 years, spoke about Gibault's history and current endeavors, and the support that Gibault receives from the Indiana Knights of Columbus.

Food pantries in need

BY JUDY BRADFORD

SOUTH BEND — The poor aren't the only ones having trouble finding food. Food pantries that serve the poor are having trouble, too.

"It's getting harder and harder to find food," says Jo Fisher, administrator for the West Region of Catholic Charities, which operates a food pantry on the south side of the city. "The (Northern Indiana) food bank is down in supplies, and there are limits to what, and how much, we can purchase from them."

With recent layoffs and businesses closing, families are becoming more and more desperate and their needs are using up supplies almost everywhere. The need grows, and Fisher adds, "It's not just the poor asking for food. It's the working poor and the middle class. Some people, you can tell, have never asked for food before."

Many of the families are quite large. One family had 18 people living together because one large family took in a female relative with seven children, in addition to an elderly grandmother. "They were fine until they

took in the mom's sister and her seven children," says Fisher, "but all of a sudden, they became strapped."

Costs for the agency's food pantry have also gone up, from around 16 cents per pound to 18 cents per pound. Some items, like instant mashed potatoes and cereal, cost even more.

The number of people served started climbing over the summer, from roughly 1,800 in July to 4,200 in October.

The food from two major food drives — one conducted by the finance department at the University of Notre Dame and the other by the social concerns division at Holy Cross College — has been consumed. So has the food from a large USDA order that the pantry received.

What can be done to help? "Sponsor a food drive," says Fisher. "Big, small, anything. But call me first so I can help set it up and arrange for pickup with our van."

In December, a food drive can be an excellent social services project for a small business, or a department within a bigger business, as well as schools or classrooms within schools. Even one bag of groceries

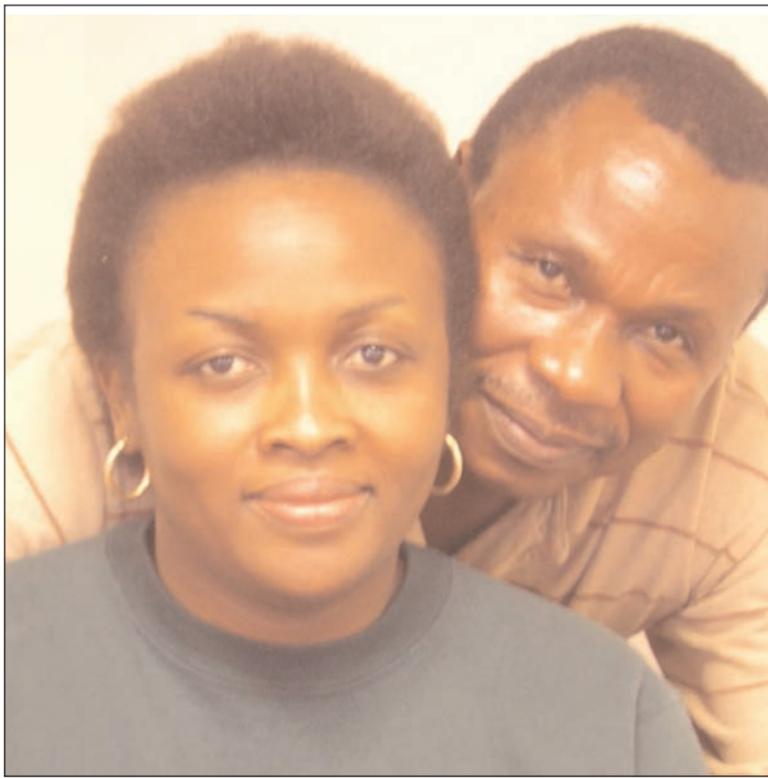
delivered to the front desk of Catholic Charities, 1817 Miami Street, helps. Protein items that can easily be eaten, like peanut butter and canned soups, are best.

Volunteers to work in the food pantry are always needed. Volunteers will be asked to fill out an application and choose the days and times that fit their schedule. A background check will also be conducted. "And you really need some customer service skills," says Fisher, "because customers (clients) are not always happy."

On the other hand, volunteering can be very rewarding, she says, adding, "When you see a grown man with a (grateful) tear in his eye, you know you've helped someone."

Cash donations are always welcome as it enables the food pantry to purchase more food than when it is donated due to lower than retail prices the pantries pay.

For more information on ways to help contact Jo Fisher at (574) 234-3111.



JUDY BRADFORD

Eunice and Joseph Bukassa

Congolese immigrant seeks peace in U. S.

BY JUDY BRADFORD

SOUTH BEND — Joseph Bukassa knows what it's like to be misunderstood, just as Christ was misunderstood.

The 48-year-old Congolese minister was simply preaching peace for all people, including his own family of 11, in his home country. But even that simple message was suspect in a climate of extreme political distrust caused partly when the Hutu-Tutsi conflict from Rwanda spilled over into neighboring countries.

"I was just trying to tell everyone that they need to pray," says Bukassa. "And people were starting to listen. The message was even going out on radio and TV."

It was in early 2005 that Bukassa and his wife Eunice decided to flee the Democratic Republic of the Congo and fly to America. They brought with them their two youngest children. The other seven were able to follow them here two years later. They and all their children have been granted "asylee" status by Immigration Services.

Asylee status allows them to work here, and both are employed part-time as counselors for people with developmental disabilities. Getting green cards for all family members so they can stay as permanent residents, however, has proven to be expensive.

"A green card for someone over 14 costs \$1,110," says Courtney Preston, immigration case manager for Catholic Charities. "For a person under 13, it's \$933. But we haven't started the process yet because we have fees of our own," she adds.

Catholic Charities would welcome donations to help cover these costs or help with its immigration program, which often aids people who are here legally.

"When we're talking about immigration, we're not always

talking about illegal immigration," explains Preston. "The Bukassas didn't come here completely by choice. It's been determined that they have a well-founded fear of persecution in their own country."

Bukassa says the first time he considered leaving the Congo was in 2003, when he was arrested for speaking about peace. Congolese police held him at a house in his hometown, Bukavu.

"The Congolese government said I was working for the Rwandans. They were trying to find people who might be sympathetic to other governments. They figured, 'Why else would someone preach peace and trying to get along?'"

But they were wrong, he says. Bukassa, the head of a non-denominational church, spoke about peace because of his own Christian convictions. He became a Christian in 1982 and attended a Bible school, after being a teacher and working for a textile company.

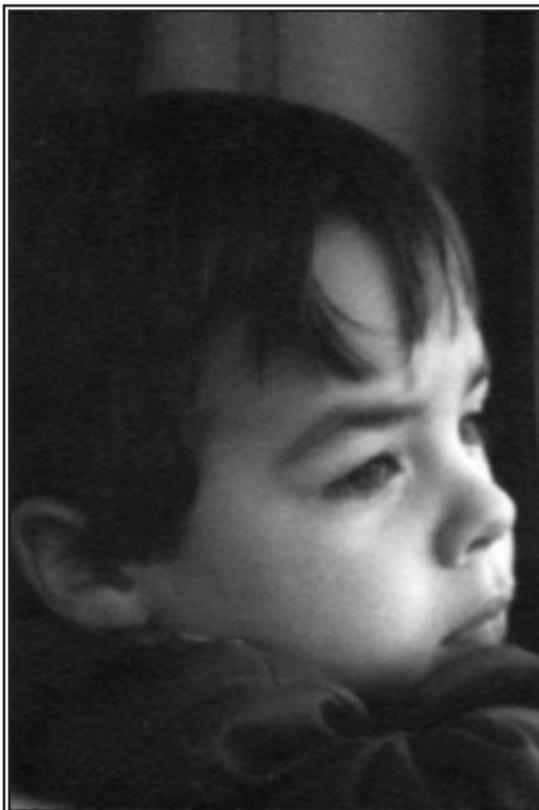
He and Eunice came to South Bend because they knew a Rwandan woman who had lived there with a connection to the University of Notre Dame. The university's Legal Aid Clinic handled the Bukassas's asylum paperwork, and also assisted the Bukassa family with their first housing, food stamps and Medicaid.

This year, Catholic Charities made sure the large family had plenty to eat on Thanksgiving Day, through donations.

Meanwhile, Bukassa has had the opportunity to speak in churches there. He has spoken for Voice Ministries, the Spoken Word and the Potter's House churches and says he appreciates freedom of speech in America, and regards peace here as "a gift from God."

To donate to assist the Bukassas or Catholic Charities immigration program contact Courtney Preston at (574) 234-3111.

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EDITORIAL

Preparing for Christ this Advent: Becoming 'signs of hope'

As we all know, Advent is a season that can all too easily become rolled right into the Christmas season that begins, and not ends, on Dec. 25 — and that's a shame. There was a time not too long ago when Christians put up Christmas trees and decorations only shortly before Christmas Day. Today, too many Christians take their cue from a consumer culture that promotes a Christmas season that begins on Black Friday and ends on Christmas Day. Even so, some might wonder, what's the big deal?

Well, it is a big deal for several reasons. The Advent season is not primarily about all the festive parties and preparations leading up to the great feast of the Nativity — though it is unquestionably a time of preparation. The church proposes that Advent is, in fact, about something much deeper: a threefold preparation for the threefold coming of Christ. Certainly, we remember and relive that first coming of Christ in poverty and humility; but the church wants to insist that Advent is actually a penitential season — a sort of "Lent lite" — to help us prepare for both the coming of Christ into our hearts and the second coming of Christ in power and authority. Advent, like Lent, should be about a spiritual preparation of prayer and even some sacrifice in order to make ever more room for Christ in our minds and hearts.

Advent should also be a time of waiting with palpable expectancy. Recently, Pope Benedict reminded Christians that this season is the "spiritual season of hope par excellence" and the time when Christians are particularly called to become "signs of hope" for each other and for the world. To do this, the pope reminds us, "requires a correct detachment from earthly goods, sincere repentance for one's errors, concrete acts of charity and, especially, humbly and trustingly placing oneself in the hands of God, our tender and merciful Father."

Chesterton once quipped that what is wrong with the world is that people forget what is right with it. Advent certainly brings to mind the centrality of marriage and the family in God's plan for humanity. It is in strong marriages and families that any culture will find its best hope for the future. However, Advent is a time of hope — not only because it brings to mind the arresting visage of a spotless mother and her suckling child, but even more so, because it points to the one who is the King of kings and the Prince of peace and who one day will come again to establish his kingdom. All that is truly good in the world comes through this prince, with him and in him. Pope Benedict reminds us that a correct detachment from earthly goods helps us to see more clearly what it is that the Master loves and what it is that he hates, so that we in turn may better love what he loves and hate what he hates.

Learning to do this, of course, is the work of a lifetime and it begins, as the Holy Father has often noted, with Scripture and prayer.

Making "time for God"

Earlier this year, Scepter published what may one day be considered a spiritual classic by the French priest, Jacques Philippe. It is titled, "Time for God." Father Philippe begins by pointing out that mental prayer is not primarily about methods or gimmicks. It begins with a desire to converse spiritually with God in order to get to know him better. It grows by expressing one's complete trust in God and in faithfully returning each day to a time set aside for prayer. This type of perseverance not only yields feelings of intimacy with God, but also times of spiritual dryness when God is purifying our hearts and preparing the soul for even greater intimacy. "We pray," he writes, "not to find self-fulfillment or self-satisfaction, but to please God. Without that, we will not be able to persevere."

This type of life of prayer, if offered with humility, leads to an increasing and all-consuming desire to entrust oneself fully to God. It leads to one being led more fully by the Holy Spirit so that it is God working through us each day. This Advent, let us commit or recommit ourselves to growing in friendship with God by setting aside time each day to get to know him better. We won't regret it.

Today's Catholic editorial board consists of Ann Carey, Kay Cozad, Fred and Lisa Everett, Father Mark Gurtner, Father Michael Heintz, Tim Johnson, Vince LaBarbera and Mark Weber.

COMMENTARY

TODAY'S CATHOLIC welcomes letters from readers. All letters must be 250 words or less, 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

St. Joseph School center of Monroeville community

For the last 90-plus years, St. Joseph School in Monroeville has prepared students for high school and beyond. The school has taught students not only the academics, but has also prepared them to lead good lives as Catholics. The school has received an exemplary rating

through ISTEP testing by the state of Indiana.

Many generations of families have attended the school and continue to do so. The school has seen an increase in the number of students in the last two years, and thanks to our marketing committee an increase is foreseeable in the future. Our Home and School Association has worked to help reduce tuition so that the cost is affordable for all families. Our school is financially stable and is not in debt.

St. Joseph School has been a

vital part of the Monroeville community for all these years. We who live in the surrounding Fort Wayne area enjoy our small towns and rural ways of life. Our small parishes and schools are often times the centers of our communities. If our schools continue to close, a bright spot in our communities will be darkened. I would ask that we keep open our schools so that many future generations can enjoy a sound and religious education.

Dan Foster
Monroeville

Germany and Italy have done it, shouldn't we?

Nearly 500,000 human embryos are currently stored in liquid nitrogen tanks in fertility clinics in the United States, a number comparable to the population of a mid-sized city like Cleveland or Tucson. By contrast, only a handful of human embryos have been frozen and held in storage tanks in the entire country of Germany.

The reason for this striking difference lies in the fact that Germany enacted an Embryo Protection Law during the 1990s, which included provisions outlawing the freezing of human embryos. Italy has similar legislation in force. Both countries closely regulate in vitro fertilization treatments, and allow the production of no more than three embryos at a time, all of which must be implanted into their mother. Both countries forbid the production of extra embryos, experimentation on embryos, embryo cloning and genetic testing of embryos.

The United States has largely failed to establish any reasonable legal or ethical framework to regulate its own multibillion dollar infertility industry, and the result has been aptly described as a kind of "Wild West of Infertility," a lawless frontier where nearly anything goes, including the routine freezing of scores of humans who are still in their embryonic stages. Indeed, this practice remains one of the great ongoing humanitarian tragedies of our time.

Not much ethical reflection is needed to appreciate the serious injustice involved in freezing another human being. The freezing and thawing process subjects embryonic humans to significant risk, and up to 50 percent of embryos may not survive the process. In many cases, stored embryos end up being abandoned by the couples who create them, condemned to a kind of perpetual stasis, and locked in time in the harsh wasteland of their liquid-nitrogen orphanages. Countless parents then find

themselves caught in agonizing dilemmas about what to do with their offspring held in suspended animation. This injustice, once it has been foisted upon human embryos, is then used by others to argue on behalf of an even more egregious offense against their dignity, namely, the destructive strip-mining of embryos to acquire their stem cells.

The argument that embryos will "just be thrown away anyway" has been very effective in convincing lawmakers and politicians to rally on behalf of scientists who desire to destroy human embryos for research. By appealing to a kind of American pragmatism that tries to "maximize return on investments," the embryo's subjugation has become nearly complete in our society, as he or she is reduced to a mere "thing," an object to be manipulated — valuable primarily for how he or she can serve the interests and desires of others.

Dr. Chi Dang, a professor of medicine at the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, building on the argument that frozen embryos will otherwise be discarded, put it this way during a recent interview: "The question is: Is it ethically more acceptable to destroy these embryos by pouring acid on them, or do you deploy these clusters of cells to create new cell lines that could benefit us in the future?" By promoting such false dichotomies and constructing these kinds of ethical sand castles, we have begun to slip into a kind of complacency, a deadening moral slumber regarding our most basic duties towards the weakest and smallest of humans.

Writing in the *New York Times*, Gary Rosen once observed that even a basic course in Ethics 101 ought to be enough to let us see the problem here, namely, that we should not be treating other people as a means to our own ends, but as ends in themselves. Yet even the



MAKING SENSE OF BIOETHICS

BY FATHER TAD PACHOLCZYK

most basic ethics can be hard to square with the efficient, cold, clinical discussions of "harvesting embryos" and "deploying clusters of cells." While the language of embryonic stem-cell scientists and their supporters remains thoroughly professional, it still exudes, in the words of Rosen, "an unmistakable whiff of cannibalism."

In the United States today, we urgently need Embryo Protection Laws. The temptation to dehumanize our own human brothers and sisters is a perennial one, harkening back to the time in our country when slaves could be considered three-fifths of a person for purposes of congressional representation. Treating embryos as zero-fifths of a person constitutes an even more deplorable human rights violation. The smallest members of our human family deserve legal protection. Laws like those in Germany and Italy, while they would not stop every injustice done to embryos, could go a long way towards stemming the tide and assuring that further forms of laboratory barbarism and human exploitation do not become commonplace.

Father Tadeusz Pacholczyk, Ph.D. earned his doctorate in neuroscience from Yale and did post-doctoral work at Harvard. He is a priest of the diocese of Fall River, Mass., and serves as the director of education at The National Catholic Bioethics Center in Philadelphia. See www.ncbcenter.org

Vatican ambassador to retire

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — When Mary Ann Glendon leaves her post as U.S. ambassador to the Vatican Jan. 19, she'll end a term that was the briefest on record yet one of the most active.

Since her arrival in Rome last February, Glendon has been kept busy with a trip by Pope Benedict XVI to the United States in April, a return visit to the Vatican by President George W. Bush in June, five major embassy-sponsored conferences and the daily rounds of diplomatic obligations at one of the world's premier listening posts.

In early December, she was co-hosting a Rome symposium on "Philanthropy and Human Rights," which featured nine expert speakers from around the world. Like many of the embassy's events, its editorial line largely reflected the Bush administration views on social and economic questions.

Glendon is unabashedly proud of having served under Bush, and she believes the last eight years have seen a convergence of U.S. and Vatican positions in such areas as humanitarian assistance, the role of faith-based institutions, religious freedom and the place of

religion in civil society.

"How lucky I've been to have served here at a time when relations between the United States and the Holy See have been so close and productive," she said in an interview with Catholic News Service.

The pope's U.S. trip in April, she said, was particularly interesting to her because the pontiff made a point of praising the American model of religious freedom. Sometimes described as "positive secularism," it's a model that gives religious values a significant voice in the public square, rather than excluding them on the grounds of church-state separation.

That's a subject that's been on Glendon's mind for years as an academic. She has warned that this American model is "fighting for its life" today against persistent efforts to limit religion's influence on government.

It just happens that the American model of religious freedom is also the topic of the U.S. Embassy's last big conference under Glendon, to take place Jan. 13 in the presence of other diplomats accredited to the Holy See

THE VATICAN LETTER

JOHN THAVIS

and Vatican officials.

Among the speakers is Philip Hamburger, who is widely considered the leading scholar on separation of church and state in the United States. Also present will be Joseph Weiler, an expert on religion and European society; Richard Garnett, who has written on law and religious freedom; and Cardinal Jean-Louis Tauran, the Vatican's top interreligious dialogue official.

Glendon is already excited about the lineup.

"It doesn't get any better than that. It's going to be the grand finale; it's going to be fantastic. Be there or be square," she said.

LETTER, PAGE 12

Think pink, Gaudete means to rejoice



THE SUNDAY GOSPEL

MSGR. OWEN F. CAMPION

3rd Sunday of Advent Jn 1:6-8, 19-28

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

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

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

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

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

However, they returned to find a sterile and parched land. Life was brutally hard. Want was

everywhere. Had God tricked them? Did God provide for their release from Babylon only to subject them to further trials at home? Did God exist, anyway?

Typically for Third Isaiah, this reading glows with optimism. Whatever may be the reality of the moment, for those loyal to God, a wondrous future awaits. The faithful always have cause to rejoice.

St. Paul's First Epistle to the Thessalonians provides the second reading. Belief in this second coming, and impatience to see it occur, were widespread in the first generations of Christianity. This reading clearly anticipates the second coming of Christ.

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

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

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

Replying to these questions, John was very firm. Another would follow him. John's calling was to prepare the way for this future representative of God. This representative eventually to come will be wonderful. John is not worthy even to untie the straps of his sandals.

Reflection

The church calls us to rejoice, presuming that we have spent the

weeks of Advent pondering within ourselves the meaning of salvation for us personally and individually. It presumes that we have sought God, and truth, in our prayer and in our penance. It presumes our sincerity.

It also presumes that in this process of prayer and thought, we have increased our faith in Jesus. When the Lord's kingdom comes, how wonderful it will be. "Gaudete!" Rejoice!

When the Lord's kingdom comes, death and evil indeed will end. However, overcoming wickedness and despair is not accomplished instantly. It requires time. But, in the end, the Lord will prevail. We must be faithful, as Paul counseled the Thessalonian Christians, but we will not be patient in vain.

Always the good teacher, always interested in guiding us to reality and nothing else, the church, through the last reading, instructs us to look for Jesus, as Jesus actually is, and not to create our own version of the messiah.

Jesus reflects God's love. We must reflect Jesus. We must overcome selfishness and sin. This is the purpose of Advent.

READINGS

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

Monday: Nm 24:2-7, 15-17a Ps 25:4-9 Mt 21:23-27

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

Wednesday: Gn 49:2, 8-10 Ps 72:3-4, 7-8, 17 Mt 1:1-17

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

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

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

CATEQUIZ'EM

By Dominic Camplisson

Brrr ... it's dipped into the high 70s in San Diego where this quiz is being written, but for many of the people reading the quiz, it's cold outside. This quiz looks at coldness in Scriptures.

1. Zechariah 14 tells us when the Lord comes to rule the whole earth, there will be no more cold. What day is that?

- a. the day the guardian angels come
- b. the day of wrath
- c. the day the Lord shall become king over the whole earth

2. Nahum 3:17 uses the image of grasshoppers who stay put when it is cold, but as soon as it is warm they

- a. eat manna.
- b. spread their wings and fly.
- c. devour the crops of the poor of Israel and Judah and vanish — no one knows where.

3. Jeremiah 30 warns that this shall happen to Jehoiakim, king of Judah:

- a. He will be frozen for posterity
- b. His body will be cast out to ensure the heat of day, to the cold of night
- c. He will be treated as coldly as he treated the prophets including Jeremiah

4. In a rhetorical question Jeremiah 13 recounts how the Lord asks if the snow of this land, north of Israel, will "desert the rocky heights."

- a. Turkey
- b. Lydia
- c. Lebanon

5. Jeremiah, during a cold spree, recounts in chapter 6 how this has cold water:

- a. A spring
- b. A stew
- c. The Red Sea

6. In a contrast of translations, some Bibles render Isaiah 37 as discussing thatch destroyed by cold winds, while others, like the NAB use this term, implying

- a. heat scorched
- b. frigid
- c. luke warm

7. Proverbs 25 likens cold water to a thirsty person to this

- a. a poke in the eye with a sharp stick
- b. good news from a far country
- c. the death of one's enemies

8. Proverbs 25, in an unusual chemical allusion, compares a man who removes his coat during a cold spell to someone who puts vinegar on this:

- a. a plate of French fries
- b. a big Maccabee
- c. nitre (baking soda)

9. How, according to the same proverb, is a faithful messenger like snow at harvest time?

- a. He refreshes the soul of his master.
- b. His shoes can be wrung out for refreshment.
- c. He cools the anger of the irate masters.

10. Most Bibles say in Proverbs 20 a "sluggard" will not plough when it is cold, but the NAB narrows this down to mean specifically

- a. springtime
- b. seed time
- c. mid-July

11. Psalm 147 includes all of these frigid items:

- a. snow, frost and hail
- b. popsicles, icicles and bars in the form of a dove
- c. igloos, hibernating bears and penguins

12. Psalm 78 recounts how the Lord killed their vines with hail, and their sycamores with frost. Who does "their" refer to?

- a. the Israelites who deserted the Lord
- b. Christians
- c. the Egyptians

13. After Jesus' arrest, Peter warmed himself by a fire because it was cold. This was when he

- a. invented toast
- b. denied Jesus three times
- c. took the name Peter rather than the previous moniker Simon

14. According to the Revelation 3 the Spirit criticizes those in the church who are

- a. neither hot nor cold
- b. cold to strangers
- c. as cold as ice inside

15. In 2 Corinthians 11, who relates how he endured dangers, misery, heat and cold?

- a. Jesus
- b. Paul
- c. Simon Peter

ANSWERS:

- 1.c, 2.b, 3.b, 4.c, 5.a, 6.a, 7.b, 8.c, 9.a, 10.b, 11.a, 12.c, 13.b, 14.a, 15.b

Woman of faith

In his Introduction to Christianity (1069), then-theologian Joseph Ratzinger noted that faith was foundational. He reminded us of the insight of Isaiah: "Unless you believe, you shall not stand..." Is 7:9. His emphasis was that without faith, we would never have a firm or solid grasp on life and its meaning.

As Pope Benedict XVI, he still emphasizes the centrality of faith. But the careful reader will note how there is a remarkable sensitivity to the plight of so many modern men and women who struggle to believe. This is especially true in the secular atmosphere which seems to permeate Europe.

There is, however, another dimension to the struggle of faith, which often affects the believer. When, for example, the cross inserts itself into our lives, it often happens that the "firmness" and "stability" that Isaiah points to evaporates.

In a way, the poetess Denise

Levertov captures the desire we have in those moments to clutch something concrete and tangible — and our disappointments in these dark moments.

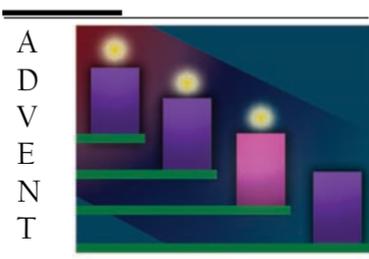
"I had grasped God's garment in the wind but my hand slipped on the rich silk of it. The 'everlasting arms' my sister loved to remember must have upheld my leaden weight from falling, even so for though I claw at empty air and feel nothing, no embrace I have not plummeted."

Mary's words at the Annunciation, "How can this be?" simply and clearly point to the truth that there will be struggles in the faith life — our inability to always comprehend God's ways. Journeying with Mary, we see again and again hints of this truth. We might think of her feelings at Bethlehem:

*"Born in a stable,
Cradled in a manger,
In the world his hands had made,
Born a stranger."*

— C. Rossetti

And of course, there were



BY MSGR. THOMAS McDONNELL

those dreadful moments on Calvary.

Granted that faith is a gift — "No one can come to me unless the Father draws him..." Jn 6, and something we must continually pray for, I believe that there is a Scriptural image, which might help us — as I am sure it did Mary — in times of struggle. It is often overlooked, but truly powerful and consoling: The image of God's hands.

Isaiah reminds us that our God is a God who personally cares for each individual. "Can a mother forget her infant, be without ten-

derness for the child of her womb? Even should she forget, I will never forget you, see, upon the palm of my hand I have written your name." Is 49:15-16.

From our own experience, we can recall the sense of security and support that holding onto our parents' hand offered. For example, we think of the first time we crossed the street. We should have this same sense of security and support when we think of God as our father. "Fear not, I am with you, be not dismayed, I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you and uphold you with my right hand of justice. Is 41:10.

"For I am the Lord, your God who grasps your right hand; It is I who say to you, 'fear not, I will help you.'" Is 41:13.

Recognizing our call — no matter what our vocation — the author challenges us to be molded by the father's care and love.

From our vantage point, he asks that we allow the father to imprint the image of his Son upon our being that we may show him forth to the world. "You, O Lord, you are our father, we are the clay and you are the potter, we are all the work of your hands."

Msgr. Thomas McDonnell is a retired priest from the Archdiocese of Boston. He has dedicated his life to the urban poor and disabled. A cancer survivor, he is the author of "Walking in the Dark Valley: When Cancer is a Constant Companion." This is the third of a series offered by *Today's Catholic* through Advent.

Advent thoughts for busy Catholic families

Who isn't busy this time of year? It seems that barely have the Thanksgiving dishes been washed and placed back onto the shelf, and leftover turkey has been consumed when Advent suddenly is in full swing and I find myself asking, "How did this sneak up so fast?" I regret to say that our Advent wreath did not make it up on the first Sunday of Advent. I wasn't lazy. I didn't forget. I simply couldn't find it. In my haste of putting things away last January, I may have inadvertently put it in one of the full-fledged Christmas decorations boxes. I had to pull them all out to check.

As you can see, our Advent celebration was off to a rocky start, but that doesn't mean it is or has to be a failure. I still have time to experience and create an enriching Advent season. And you do too.

I recently rediscovered one of my favorite books by one of my favorite authors, "Making Choices" by Peter Kreeft. I stumbled upon a chapter that spoke directly to my harried soul. The chapter dealt with powers of the Holy Spirit, which we need in daily spiritual warfare, and which when tapped, can help me and you experience the kind of Advent that brings us closer to God.

Kreeft identifies the first "power aid" as prayer. He says that "Prayer is touching the human wire to the divine dynamo." He reminds us of the poet Tennyson's comment "More things are wrought by prayer than this world dreams of."

Interestingly, many of us think about praying. We talk about praying. We read books about praying, but we often do not spend much time actually praying. During Advent we have a



EVERYDAY CATHOLIC

Theresa A. Thomas

unique opportunity to come closer to Christ through prayer. Many parishes offer extra devotions during this time. We just need to seek them out. Even if we stay at home we can set aside time for personal prayer with God. Kreeft says, "If we won't give God 15 minutes of totally uninterrupted prayer of any kind each day, then all the books in the world on how to pray will not help us much."

The second spiritual power aid Kreeft identifies is familiarity with God's word, the Bible. He writes, "Jesus says that the sacred of power in prayer is that his words are to 'abide' or 'dwell' in us. — Jn 15:7. Since God's Word is powerful and alive (Heb 4:12), therefore if it lives within us we will have not only truth but also power. We must not simply know God's word as a student knows a textbook ... we must know it as we know our own body or ... house. We must live in it." Pick up the Bible. Now.

The third spiritual power aid is the Christian community. Consider it positive peer pressure. Christianity isn't a solitary thing. We all need one another for spiritual growth. Praying together, worshipping together and studying the Bible together are all faith-building activities and help unleash God's power.

Kreeft writes, "Cut a table into four parts and no one of the parts will stand up. But when each leg of the table leans against the others, it stands. It's the same with us. The table is the church and each of us is a leg." For more

read 1 Cor 12.

A fourth power aid is silence. Kreeft rightly points out that this is the natural opposite of the community power aid and that most of us prefer one over the other but should neglect neither. Through silence we can hear God speaking to our hearts. Through silence prayer bursts forth.

A fifth power aid is joy. "The joy of the Lord is your strength." — Neh 8:10. "Do not give in to sadness, torment not yourself with brooding; Gladness of heart is the very life of man, cheerfulness prolongs his days. Distract yourself, renew your courage, drive resentment far away from you." — Sir 30: 21-23.

A sixth power aid is suffering. Suffering of some sort is inevitable in this life. By uniting our own suffering to that of Christ's, our suffering gains redemptive value. Besides, "... when the face is sad the heart grows wiser." — Eccl 7:3.

I pray this Advent that you will discover these spiritual "power aids" and find peace ... and God ... amidst the busyness of the season. I'm planning on tapping in on these aids. There's hope. Even if I don't find the Advent wreath.

Theresa Thomas, parishioner of St. Matthew Cathedral Parish in South Bend, is the mother of nine children and wife of David. Visit her Web site at www.theresathomas.typepad.com.

SCRIPTURE SEARCH

Gospel for December 14, 2008

Luke 1:26-38

Following is a word search based on the Gospel reading for the Third Sunday of Advent, Cycle B, about John the Baptist and his testimony. The words can be found in all directions in the puzzle.

A MAN	FROM GOD	TESTIFY
LIGHT	TESTIMONY	JOHN
PRIESTS	TO ASK HIM	DENY IT
ELIJAH	ANSWER	THE VOICE
CRYING OUT	STRAIGHT	ISAIAH
BAPTIZING	AMONG	WORTHY
UNTIE	BETHANY	JORDAN

AMONG YOU

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

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LETTER

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11

The January conference marks the 25th anniversary of diplomatic relations between the United States and the Vatican. It is also the last in a series of embassy conferences commemorating the 60th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Glendon said she came to the ambassador's position knowing it would be a short stint and decided to set an ambitious agenda based

on those two anniversaries, convinced that human rights was an area where U.S. and Vatican interests coincided.

Glendon will return to her role as law professor at Harvard University in January.

At Harvard, Glendon goes back to a six-month research leave that will allow her to finish writing a book that she didn't manage to complete over the last year.

"I was halfway through writing it when I took the job of ambassador," she said. "I must say, I expected I would have a little spare time in this job, but it didn't work out that way."

Sports

2009 SAINTS BASKETBALL CAMP Bishop Dwenger High School, Fort Wayne will host a basketball camp for boys and girls in grades K-8 to teach the fundamentals of basketball, such as dribbling, passing and shooting, with an emphasis on fair play and sportsmanship. The camp will be held on Jan. 10, 17, 31, and Feb. 7 in the main gym. Two sessions will be offered: Session 1 for grades K-3 from 9-10:15 a.m.; and Session 2 for grades 4-8 from 10:30 a.m.-12 p.m. Costs is \$40, T-shirt included. For more information or to register, visit www.bishopdwenger.com or call (260) 496-4700.

CYO Raiders launch 'hoops' season with one-point victory

BY MICHELLE CASTLEMAN

FORT WAYNE — Just six days after the St. Jude Eagles beat them twice in a row for a Queen of Angels Thanksgiving tournament championship, the St. John, New Haven Raiders beat them back in yet another thrilling one-point victory.

With four seconds on the clock and the score tied at 32 each, Graham Renbarger hit a free throw to put the Raiders up by one point. The Eagles got a final lay up in but it was no good in the opening week of Catholic Youth Organization (CYO) regular season play.

According to Coach Steve Pepe, the Raiders came out sluggish and were down, 16-8, in the first quarter. It was more of the same in the second quarter with the Raiders behind by seven at the break, 23-16.

Pepe explained, "At half time, I told the boys they were going to have to step up on our home court."

The Raiders did just that — holding the tough Eagles team scoreless in the third quarter and adding 11 points turning the tables for a 27-23 tally heading into the final quarter.

"This was a defensive game to the end. It is always a battle between us," Pepe added.

The Raiders' big man, Weston Painter, led all scorers with 21 points, while Andrew Spencer paced St. Jude with 14. New Haven lists nine on their roster, but is still playing with just seven of their eighth graders for the start of the season.

Pepe relies heavily on his son Zach and Curtis Zink to assist him this year. Having very determined players and a balanced group are the areas Pepe feels his team is most strong in this sea-

son.

Thirty-year veteran, St. Jude Coach Tim Pedro agreed what a tough battle it is each time they meet the Raiders.

"In less than one year (counting summer Parks and Recreation action), we have played each other eight times. We are now split 4-4," outlined Pedro. The Eagles have 14 on their eighth-grade squad for the 2008-2009 season and benefit from Pat Henline and Dan Clevenger helping out with the coaching.

"We have players who love

the game and are willing to learn. We plan to work on fundamentals each week all season long," concluded Pedro. The two teams are sure to give their fans another nail-biter if and when they face off again, which very well could be in late February at the CYO tournament.

Other scores and highlights from opening week include:

Boys

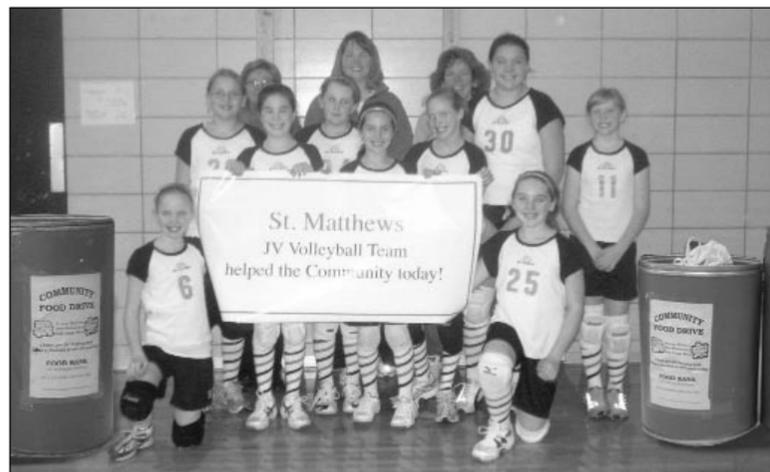
St. Joseph-Hessen Cassel 47, Precious Blood 21 — Teeters 22, Hamel 14

St. Charles (7) 25, Decatur (7) 36 — Feher 11, Alberson 8

Girls

St. Joseph-Hessen Cassel 39, Precious Blood 13 — Knapke 14, Sarah 9.

Coaches: E-mail your scores and highlights to Michelle Castleman at mmcastleman@aol.com.



DIANE FREEBY

Ten South Bend-area teams were invited by host school Corpus Christi, and players were asked to bring nonperishable food items to donate to the Northern Indiana Food Bank. All food would then be donated in the name of the team winning the Thanksgiving tournament.

Volleyball teams help needy

BY DIANE FREEBY

SOUTH BEND — Grade school athletes found a way to combine sports with corporal works of mercy last Thanksgiving week-end.

Carolyn Topolski organized the holiday tournament for South Bend area fifth- and sixth-grade volleyball teams. She realized it was also a great opportunity for the kids to give back to the community and help those in need.

Ten South Bend-area teams were invited by host school Corpus Christi, and players were asked to bring nonperishable food items to donate to the Northern Indiana Food Bank. All food would then be donated in the name of the team winning the Thanksgiving tournament.

After three days of competition, it came down to a tie between St. Matthew of South Bend and St. Thomas of Elkhart. St. Matthew won the tiebreaker, having the fewest point scored against their team.

"We just wanted to do something special during a time when people in our community can really use the help," said Topolski. "I'm happy to report we filled three large barrels with food, as well as some monetary donations. The girls all played hard and it was great to see so many families showing support for the kids and the community."

Other participating schools included Holy Cross, Holy Family, St. Pius X, St. Bavo, St. Anthony, St. Jude, St. John the Baptist and Corpus Christi.



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Love is in the air

BY LINDA FURGE

Opening Prayer: "Within Our Hearts Be Born"

O ancient love, processing through the ages; O hidden love, revealed in human form;
O promised love, the dream of seers and sages; O living love, within our hearts be born.
O homeless love, that dwells among the stranger; O lowly love, that knows the mighty's scorn;
O hungry love, that lay within a manger; O living love, within our hearts be born.
O gentle love, caressing those in sorrow; O tender love, that comforts those forlorn;
O hopeful love, that promises tomorrow; O living love, within our hearts be born.

Advent song by Michael Joncas, © 1994

Scripture: Jn 3:16

"God so loved the world that he gave his only Son...."

One thing I find really refreshing during Advent and Christmas is that the love celebrated in both the liturgical and the secular realms is almost completely focused on love of God and neighbor. Actually, that — in and

of itself — is pretty amazing, given our sex-driven materialistic culture. It is the only time of year when we see Salvation Army bell ringers allowed in front of stores, advertising that emphasizes loving others (as opposed to ourselves), religious symbols on public display, and shared concerns that others less fortunate than we will have nice holidays, too.

It seems to be one of the few times that Christianity and society are truly "in sync." Where religion and society part ways, though, is that after the holiday season ends, we believe that love of God and neighbor should last a lifetime, not just for a few weeks each year. We love others because God first loved us. Love should be "in the air" all the time.

Pope Benedict, in his first encyclical "Deus Caritas Est" ("God is Love") No. 17, puts it this way: "God loved us first ... and this love of God has appeared in our midst. God has made himself visible: in Jesus we are able to see the Father (cf. Jn 14:9). Indeed, God is visible in a number of ways. In the love-story recounted by the Bible, he comes towards us, he seeks to win our hearts, all the way to the Last Supper, to the piercing of his heart on the cross, to his appear-



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ances after the resurrection and to the great deeds by which, through the activity of the apostles, he guided the nascent church along its path.

"Nor has the Lord been absent from subsequent church history: he encounters us ever anew, in the men and women who reflect his presence, in his word, in the sacraments, and especially in the Eucharist. In the church's liturgy, in her prayer, in the living community of believers, we experience the love of God, we perceive his presence and we thus learn to recognize that presence in our daily lives. He has loved us first and he continues to do so; we too, then, can respond with love."

Pope Benedict goes on to challenge us even more: "Love of neighbor is thus shown to be possible in the way proclaimed by the Bible, by Jesus. It consists in the very fact that, in God and with God, I love even the person whom I do not like or even know.

Going beyond exterior appearances, I perceive in others an interior desire for a sign of love, of concern. Seeing with the eyes of Christ, I can give to others much more than their outward necessities; I can give them the look of love which they crave.

"Here we see the necessary interplay between love of God and love of neighbor ... Only my readiness to encounter my neighbor and to show him love makes me sensitive to God as well. Only if I serve my neighbor can my eyes be opened to what God does for me and how much he loves me. Love of God and love of neighbor are thus inseparable, they form a single commandment. But both live from the love of God who has loved us first (No. 18)."

These are powerful and demanding words in this season of "easy" love! Maybe this is a good time to make the first of our New Year's resolutions: to put into practice Pope's Benedict's

call to become more loving persons. Perhaps it is a good time to take to heart his words: "Love is the light — and in the end, the only light — that can always illuminate a world grown dim and give us the courage needed to keep living and working. Love is possible, and we are able to practice it because we are created in the image of God. To experience love and in this way to cause the light of God to enter into the world — this is the invitation I would like to extend with the present encyclical" (No. 39).

How willing are we to take up this invitation and ensure that "love is (always) in the air?"

*Silent night, Holy night!
Son of God, love's pure light
Radiant beams from Thy holy face,
with the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus Lord at thy birth;
Jesus Lord at thy birth.*

Austrian monks' CD of Gregorian chant is topping pop charts worldwide

BY ANGELO STAGNARO

NEW YORK (CNS) — They're Austrian. They're Catholic. They sing.

That description might make readers think of "The Sound of Music" and the von Trapp family, but the singers in question are Cistercian monks of Stift Heiligenkreuz Abbey, a 12th-century monastery near Vienna.

Their CD of Gregorian chants has become a phenomenal crossover hit topping pop charts around the world.

The monastery was founded in 1133 and its community has continued uninterrupted since then.

After the European release of "Chant: Music for the Soul" in May, it quickly became the top classical album in Great Britain before crossing over and becoming No. 7 in the British pop charts. Similarly, it's made the top-10 charts in Austria, France, Australia and Sweden.

When the CD was released July 1 in the U.S. on the Decca label, it became the most popular classical recording. The album sold 55,000 copies in its first two weeks, and sales are still going strong.

In an interview with Catholic News Service while he was in New York, Father Karl Wallner, 45, the monastery's communications director and webmaster, spoke about the growing interest



in Gregorian chants, their spiritual significance, and how he and his brother monks are handling their newfound notoriety.

The priest also is the director of the monastery's theological academy, the Pope Benedict Pontifical Institute.

"The Bible is the word of God. Our chants are our way of singing it back to God using melodies from the first millennia," he said. "Everything is about singing thanks to God. Gregorian chant has always been an intricate form of Christian spirituality."

He described the music as "calming" and having "the ability to touch people's hearts."

"Our biggest success is getting people interested in this music," he continued. "This is a special kind of prayer. God has called us to give him our whole lives."

"Gregorian chant is a means by which we can get in contact

with God. God is always near to us even though we don't realize it," he said. "God is a melody in my life. He is a piece of music that is always playing in the background. Sometimes I'm not listening."

Gregorian chant is popular with young people, said Father Wallner. He believes that the monastery receiving 28 new vocations in the past five years is a result of the chanting.

"We never thought this CD would be as popular as it is," said Father Wallner. "We're glad about it, but it's still a surprise. We are not Vienna's newest boy band."

At first, some of the monks were reluctant to produce a CD of sacred music, but with assurances from Universal Music that the CD would promote Christian spirituality, the hesitant monks came onboard.

"Gregorian chant is an amazing musical style. It heals and brings one closer to one's brothers and to God," the priest said.

The monastery earns one euro (US\$1.45) per CD sold. In addition, the chants can't be used as part of a video game or grafted into pop music. The Heiligenkreuz monks will never tour or perform publicly, outside of their chapel.

"Money is important to the monastery but not to the monks," explained Father Wallner. "The church has preserved an ancient

musical tradition. The oldest in Europe and perhaps the oldest in the world.

"More importantly, it is sacramentalized music; it is dedicated to God and is used to express his love for us. It's important for Christians and non-Christians to learn about this beautiful musical style," he said.

The music expresses "the inexpressible" and communicates "the uncommunicable," he added. "This music is for God and I believe that if people listen to it, they will be open."

The music the monks sing dates back more than a thousand years, and is "sung entirely in Latin, without accompaniment," Father Wallner said. "These humble, simple melodies serve to purify the soul. It is a ladder into heaven. It is a means by which we can get back to our roots."



NEW YORK (CNS) — Following is a capsule review issued by the USCCB Office for Film and Broadcasting.

"Frost/Nixon" (Universal)

Successful expansion of Broadway and London stage hit about the genesis of talk-show host David Frost's (Michael Sheen) historic TV talks with disgraced former U.S. President Richard Nixon (Frank Langella) in 1977. Director Ron Howard and writer Peter Morgan build a good deal of suspense into Frost landing the interview and then getting Nixon publicly to admit for the first time his wrongdoing in the Watergate break-in scandal. Some conversational rough language, brief profanity and crude expressions. The USCCB Office for Film & Broadcasting classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R.



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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.

Living Healthier series sponsored by University of Saint Francis
 Fort Wayne — The Living Healthier series continues with "The Secret of the Non-Diet" by Dr. Rudy Kachmann, on Wednesday, Dec. 17, at 6:30 p.m. at the Doermer Center, Room 156. Doors open at 6 p.m. Refreshments and healthy snacks provided. Non-perishable food item donations accepted.

Volunteers needed for Christmas basket delivery
 South Bend — The St. Vincent de Paul Society of St. Joseph County will celebrate their 2008 Christmas Basket Program at 7:30 am on Friday, Dec. 12, at the St. Vincent de Paul Thrift Store, 3408 Ardmore Trail in South Bend. The society is in need of volunteers from the community to help deliver the Christmas baskets to families throughout South Bend, Mishawaka and St. Joseph County. Volunteers are asked to

help with delivery anytime on Friday, Dec. 12, between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m., and Saturday, Dec. 13, beginning at 8 a.m. until finished.

Christmas party planned
 Angola — Our Lady of the Lakes Knights of Columbus Council 7053 will have a Christmas party Friday, Dec. 12, at the St. Anthony Parish Hall. Doors open at 6 p.m. All Knights and their families are welcome. An unwrapped child toy is the entrance fee. Also bring a dish to share. Call (260) 665-2259 for information. The Knights will also have a breakfast with Santa Sunday, Dec. 14, from 7:30-10 a.m. at the church, 700 W. Maumee.

Cookie walk supports Rosary Society
 Mishawaka — The St. Monica Rosary Society will have a cookie walk in the lower level of the church on Saturday, Dec. 13, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Large

assortment of cookies available for \$4 per pound.

Knights plan spaghetti dinner
 South Bend — The Knights of Columbus Council 5521, 61533 S. Ironwood Dr., will have a spaghetti dinner on Friday, Dec. 19, from 5 to 7 p.m. Adults \$7, children (5-12) \$3. Dinner includes spaghetti, salad, garlic toast and coffee. Carry-out available.

Christmas in the neighborhood
 Fort Wayne — The St. Henry Community Center will have a Christmas party Saturday, Dec. 13, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Raffles, games, silhouettes, cookie walk, face painting, bake sale and more.

Victory Noll plans La Posada
 Huntington — "La Posada: Who is Knocking at the Door?" will be at 2 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 21 in the Bishop Noll Memorial Chapel. No fee or registration is

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Decatur

Reynaldo T. Arriago, 87, St. Mary of the Assumption

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James G. Loney, 78, St. Charles Borromeo

Angelina Mayfield, 90, St. Charles Borromeo

Marjorie D. Stephans, 90, St. Charles Borromeo

Bernice France, 90, St. Patrick

Beatrice P. Sawicki, 90, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton

Eugene Henry, 81, Most Precious Blood

James M. Keefer, 85, St. John the Baptist

Phillip A. Rudolph, 65, St. Vincent de Paul

May Schorey, 67, Sacred Heart

Mary Lee Sosenheimer, 84, St. John the Baptist

Frank E. Moyano, 85, St. Therese

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Sister M. Leo Anthony Maynard, CSC, Our Lady of Loretto

Granger

Ray H. McMann, 86, St. Pius X

Michael Liegel, 60, St. Pius X

Antoinette M. Jones, 101, St. Pius X

Karen S. Penn, 55, St. Pius X

Huntington

Sister Jean Marie Brosnan, OLVN, Victory Noll

Mishawaka

Marion C. Rusinek, 84, St. Joseph

Phyllis A. Toth, 79, Queen of Peace

Alexander J. Lugo, 22, St. Monica

New Carlisle

Martha M. Popiolek, 97, St. Stanislaus

Paul W. Baranowski, 61, St. Stanislaus

Loretta M. Davis, 94, St. Stanislaus

New Haven

Rosene G. Martin, 86, St. John the Baptist

Roanoke

Thomas A. Mills, 90, St. Joseph

South Bend

Jane G. Hatfield, 93, St. Jude

Mary Helen Peters, 86, St. Anthony de Padua

Frank Kurlowicz, 94, Sanctuary at St. Paul's

Joseph L. Szucsits, 77, St. John the Baptist

required. Call (260) 356-0628 for information.

Youth ministry plans Mass, dinner and talk by Cindy Black
 New Haven — A youth Mass on

Sunday, Dec. 21, at 6 p.m. at St. Louis Besancon Church will be followed by dinner and a teen level program on Pope John Paul II's "Theology of the Body," a beautiful teaching on sexuality.



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More books for Advent reading

BY KAY COZAD

The following are recent releases that have been sent to Today's Catholic. Summaries were taken from press releases and include publisher and ISBN number.

"Together But Alone: When God Means Something Different to Your Spouse," by Donna Erickson Couch offers spiritual guidance to help couples maintain their quest for a deeper understanding and richer experience of God from threatening the peace in their marriages. This valuable resource provides practical suggestions on how to face the issues that separate spouses. St. Anthony Messenger Press, ISBN: 978-0-86716-852-5

"Song of the Sparrow: New Poems and Meditations," by Murray Bodo, OFM, offers musings, meditations and messages of inspiration laid out in the four seasons of nature for those seeking new ways to pray. Author James Martin, SJ, says "Bodo draws upon the riches of his Franciscan heritage to help readers find God in all of creation and to call us to new seasons of growth in our lives." St. Anthony Messenger Press, ISBN: 978-0-86716-864-8

"Holy Simplicity: The Little Way of Mother Teresa, Dorothy Day & Therese of Lisieux," by Joel Schorn reveals how these three modern Catholic women found holiness in letting God's love flow into the most ordinary tasks — Mother Teresa and Dorothy Day among the poor and Therese within the confines of the cloister. Their stories will inspire the reader to seek God in the challenges of ordinary life. Servant Books, ISBN: 978-0-86716-815-0

"The Miracle of Lourdes: A Message of Healing and Hope," by John Lochran explores the history and meaning of the miracle of Lourdes, where 150 years ago, Our Lady appeared to French schoolgirl Bernedette Soubirous, in light of

modern theology and spirituality. He offers his own reflections on Lourdes as well. St. Anthony Messenger Press, ISBN: 978-0-86716-863-1

"Spiritual Freedom: God's Life-changing Gift," by Father Dave Pivonka, TOR, not only defines the true nature of freedom but also offers practical tools to achieve conversion, healing and restoration. Father Pivonka uses Scripture, teaching, stories, humor and questions for reflection to inspire the reader to embrace the truth of who they are, children of God. Servant Books, ISBN: 978-0-86716-860-0

"Living a Spirituality of Action: A Woman's Perspective," by Catholic theologian Joan Mueller is the second in the series "Called to Holiness: Spirituality for Catholic Women." It is a practical book that offers ideas and encouragement to live and act with courage to change the world, even with small actions. A women's goal, Mueller writes, is to ask God, "What do you need me to do for you today?" St. Anthony Messenger Press, ISBN: 978-0-86716-885-3

"Care For Creation: A Franciscan Spirituality of the Earth," by Ilija Deloi, OSF, Keith Douglass Warner, OFM, and Pamela Wood provides a wise and thoughtful approach to eco-

logical theology, offering meditations and reflection questions in each chapter. Denis Edwards remarks in the foreword, "Care for creation is part of a wider retrieval of Franciscan theology for our new time, but is unique in this blend of three interrelated disciplines, scientifically informed ecology, theology and the practice of reflective action." St. Anthony Messenger Press, ISBN 978-0-86716-838-9

"Meet John Paul II: The People's Pope," by Janel

Rodriguez invites the reader to consider the facts of John Paul's life — his impact on the world, his papacy that changed the face of the Catholic Church, his courage in handing crushing adversity — and to see the hand of God. Servant Books, ISBN: 978-0-86716-830-3

"Life of Christ," by Fulton J. Sheen is a reintroduction of this 50-year-

old masterpiece by this beloved priest. In his recount of the life, crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus of Nazareth, Sheen interprets Scripture with his customary reverence and provides new insight

into the person and message of Jesus Christ. Doubleday, ISBN: 978-0-385-13220-6

"Things Hidden: Scripture as Spirituality," by Franciscan Father Richard Rohr explores the central themes of Scripture and discovers new meaning essential for modern Catholics. He uncovers what the Bible says about

morality, power, wisdom and the generosity of God. St. Anthony Messenger Press, ISBN: 978-0-86716-659-0

"Faith, Finances, and the Future: The Notre Dame Study of U.S. Pastors," By Ronald Nuzzi, James Frabutt and Anthony Holter reports findings from a 2008 nationwide study of over 2,000 pastors from nearly every diocese in the country who are responsible for Catholic schools. The authors include recommendations for addressing the most pressing issues those pastors identified. Alliance for Catholic Education Press at the University of Notre Dame, ISBN 978-0-9788793-5-8

"Making Sense of God: A Woman's Perspective," by Elizabeth Dreyer is one in the eight-book series "Called to Holiness: Spirituality for Catholic Women." Dreyer, a Catholic theologian, encourages women to acknowledge their dignity, harvest their gifts and empower all women in church and society in this book. St. Anthony Messenger Press, ISBN: 978-0-86716-884-6

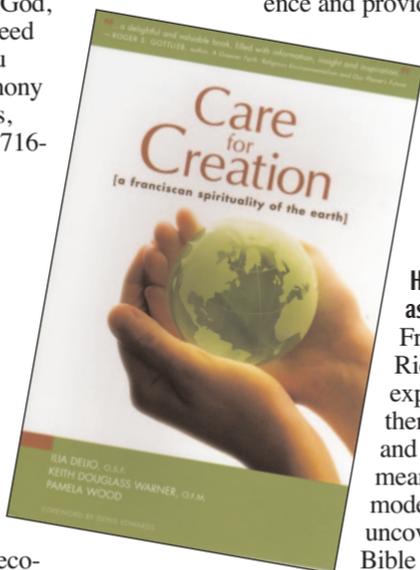
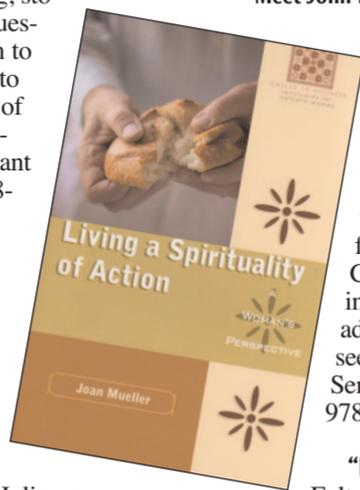
"Grieving With Grace," by Dolores R. Leckey is another in the "Called to Holiness: Spirituality for Catholic Women" series. It offers a moving and personal narrative from the author's own experience after the death of her husband. Leckey offers hope in adversity with entries from her journal. St. Anthony Messenger Press, ISBN: 978-0-86716-888-4

"God Loves You and There is Nothing You Can Do About It: Saying Yes to the Holy Spirit," by David Mangan, a member of the Renewal Ministries, an organization dedicated to the renewal of the Catholic Church, blends lively anecdotes, personal testimonies and humor to show the reader how to turn to God in expectant faith and be open to the "dynamite" of the Holy Spirit. Servant Books, ISBN 978-0-86716-839-6

"Deeper Conversion: Extraordinary Grace for ordinary Times," by Sister Ann Shields, SGL, is a powerful book rich with Gospel meditations that will assist the reader in an examination of life in light of the Bible. Servant Books ISBN 978-0-86716-811-2

"Ireland's Saint: The Essential Biography of St. Patrick," by J. B. Bury, the first modern biographer of St. Patrick, seeks to discover the man beneath the layer of myth and legend. He explores the life of the missionary who traveled Ireland bringing Christianity to its shores. Paraclete Press ISBN 978-1-55725-557-0

"Lourdes Today: A Pilgrimage to Mary's Grotto," by Kerry Crawford invites the reader to enter into the healing promise of the famous shrine of Our Lady of Lourdes through contemporary testimony, history and firsthand descriptions of 21st-century Lourdes. Servant Books, ISBN 978-0-86716-825-9



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