SOUTH BEND — It was a Mass that combined elements of the past and future into an afternoon of celebration, song, praise and reminiscence for all in attendance.

Bishop John M. D’Arcy celebrated his 25th and final Christmas vigil Mass at St. Matthew Cathedral as bishop of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend at 4 p.m.

Bishop D’Arcy said the Incarnation “shows God at his merciful best, condescending from the very center of the Trinity, sending his Son to live among us, transform us, and to make us children of God. In the Catechism of the Catholic Church it says that with the coming of John the Baptist, the forerunner, the predictor, finally the restoration of man to the likeness of God has begun.”

According to St. Matthew Rector Msgr. Michael Heintz, the 4 p.m. vigil is one of the best attended of the Christmas Masses at the cathedral. The number of families in attendance with small children contributed to the atmosphere of joy and innocence in the celebration of Christ’s Incarnation.

Four second graders were selected to carry the baby Jesus on a platform processing to the front of the church where Bishop D’Arcy placed Jesus in the manger. The children’s participation in the procession was a part of their preparation for their first Communion in May.

One of the second graders participating in the procession, Luke Krizman, shared his excitement about the Christmas vigil Mass: “This Mass is important to me because Christmas is about celebrating Jesus’ birth day. I go to Mass with my family and sing songs for Jesus, along with the children’s choir.”

In his homily Bishop D’Arcy spoke of making time for Christ in a technology-driven world. He joked that
Today’s Catholic

Column is a conversation with the people of the diocese

I will do it again on or near the Installation of our new bishop and this time with immense gratitude; sorry for my sins and failings, but trusting always in God’s mercy.

Rise; let us be on our way

Those words taken from the Gospel of Mark represent the striking title of a book Pope John Paul II wrote about his years as Archbishop of Krakow. He was sentimental about those years, but grateful and filled with thanksgiving. So am I. Pope John Paul II even referred to his guardian angel that protected him. I am also grateful to my guardian angel for, among other things, bringing me back and forth, often late at night, between our two major cities. I believe that this beloved angel kept me from serious accidents, sometimes just barely. However, in his special angelic wisdom, he chose not to protect me from an occasional speeding ticket.

I remember one night, after the chimst Mass, when I had stopped as a result of an invitation to visit briefly with the Holy Cross priests at their provincial house. They had been to the chimst Mass and renewed their promises. So it was very late when I approached Fort Wayne, and I was trying hard to get home at a reasonable hour. Suddenly the lights flashed behind me, and I will never forget the words of the firm, but gracious, state trooper as he gave me a slip, “Be careful now, Bishop, this is a warning. After all, I cannot give a ticket to the man who gave me the sacrament of confirmation.”

Recent events

I am grateful to Mike and Dee Dee Dabbs, Joe and Marilyn Stockeck, and a number of other people who have worked to prepare the house where our new bishop will be living. It is where the leg­endary priest, Father Tom O’Connor, lived next to the historic St. Mary’s Parish. They have done a wonderful job. It will be a comfortable, but modest, home for our new bishop. I will be meeting with Bishop Rhodes this week, and I hope he can attend two events related to vocations: the Luncheon of the Serra Club and The Andrew Dinner — we have two, one in Fort Wayne and one in South Bend, and this has been a great instrument for the recruiting of priests.

Congratulations to Father David Voors and the people of St. Mary, Decatur, for the erection of a beautiful facility — a gymnasmum for their school with a beautiful hard­wood floor. It was a joy to bless it this week. That parish is very devoted to the continuation of their school and it was a joy to be among them.

And I will look forward to seeing you next week in this same place for the final time. God bless you all.

Coming to an end; and yet, a new beginning

It is late Sunday afternoon and I am sit­ting in my office watching the snow increasing in intensity and looking at our beautiful Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception. I just celebrated Mass there for the feast of the Holy Family and preached on this beautiful feast. It is hard to believe that this is (I think) the second last column that I will write as the bishop of this dio­cese. I began this practice as soon as I became bishop; and somehow by the grace of God, I have written a column every week missing only once a year while on vacation.

The idea of this column has been to tell you what a bishop does and to share with you the extraordinary activity that goes on in our parishes. This is what I will remember most and cherish most, and what I hope to still enjoy; namely, the throbbing, spir­itual life of the diocese. I usually prepare these remarks late on Sunday evening sometimes after I have returned from South Bend. I always wondered what I would write about, but once I started tapping the remarks they came full-force. There was always something interesting and joyful. There was always the life of the diocese and of parishes. There was always the splendid example and sacrifice of our priests.

People seem interested

I was always encouraged in meeting people around the diocese who spoke to me about these columns and how they enjoyed them. I have no illusion that it has been great literature or deeply insightful. I always saw it as a conversation with the people of the diocese, an attempt to teach and to bring alive for everyone all that was happening so that our love for the Catholic Church might grow.

A heart that is full

This is a great transition in my life and it is the intensity of prayer, for me personal prayer in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament, which helps me to understand this precious moment. On the one hand, there is the difficulty of laying down a pre­cious responsibility. I am currently reflect­ing and putting together in my mind some thoughts that I will share with my beloved priests when I meet with them on Jan. 5 at Sacred Heart, Warsaw; a place where we have met so many times over the years. Over 24 years, I have made every Day of Recollection with priests except one, and part or all of every retreat. In addition, we have met to ponder difficult things and to give thanks to God at special moments. This meeting will be to share with them some things in my heart.

A responsibility of love

It is the laying down of a responsibility of love that is on the one hand difficult and on the other hand beautiful. The responsi­bility, so sacred, is something you carry in the center of your being. Indeed, the same could be true of any good pastor of a parish. I think it is something that is so­me­­thing that is sacred and almost like being married. Indeed, that is the ancient image which is given of the relationship of a bish­op to his diocese. The episcopacy has been described as an “Officium Amoris,” an “Office of Love.” The Second Vatican Council had as a central focus the spiritual renewal of the Office of Bishop. It has been said that the bishops who left Rome after that extraordinary me­et­ing realized that the Office of Bishop would never be the same again.

Challenges to be met

My strongest realization as I live out these final days filled with joy, but also try­ing to comprehend every thing that has happened, is to put it all in the context of God’s love. I find myself not concentrating so much on those times when I should have done better, areas of incompleteness. I am aware of them, but the greatest thing is I am receiv­ing one of gratitude to God for all that has been accomplished.

In my prayer, I place these years into the hands of Christ and of his Mother, the Blessed Mother Mary, as my mother called her when she prayed to her at night alone in her room after she had lost her husband. Our Lady has been with me since I was a boy, and I can remember riding my bicycle during the month of May up to Our Lady of Presentation Church to attend May devo­tions.

A period of time

The realization that the church does not belong to any of us. The parish does not belong to the pastor and the diocese does not belong to the bishop. There is a temptation to think it so. Both the parish and the diocese belong to Christ. What an extra­or­dinary gift it is, that the diocese is placed in the hands of a bishop and the parish in the hands of a priest for a period of years. It is important when the time comes to give it up, and to do so with joy and acceptance. It is a time to give thanks to God that he allowed me to care for this diocese in the name of Christ for so many years.

Almost a quarter of a century. In my prayer, I have always felt unworthy of such a gift and that has intensified as the days slip down to a precious few. Unworthy, but at the same time very grateful and thankful to Christ and his mother for their constant protection.

The promises made

On the anniversary of my ordinations: Feb. 2, 1957, as a priest; Feb. 11, 1973, as a bishop; and May 1, 1985, as bishop of this diocese; I always try to sit down with the Ordination Service and read over the beautiful words.
tion it is not a new message — it’s the Gospel, Jesus Christ, the same yesterday, today and forever — what’s new is new adorn, new methods and expression — that’s what John Paul said. And I think that’s where we’re challenged.”

Bishop Rhoades said, “We have to be able to reach people, especially young people who are especially plugged in to new technologies and just be creative in our ways of bringing the Gospel to people today.”

Bishop Rhoades has a devotion to Our Lady of Guadalupe and sees it as “the first evangelization of America, so many converts after (Our Lady’s) apparition to Juan Diego.”

Bishop Rhoades was ordained to the episcopate on the feast of St. Juan Diego, Dec. 9. The three roses in Bishop Rhoades’ coat of arms represent Mary and shows the roses that were in St. Juan Diego’s tilma.

“I think that’s also a connection because the evangelization of America received such a great impetus and really moved forward after that appearance on American soil in Mexico. So I think that is why the title Mary, Star of Evangelization, the Virgin of Guadalupe (used in the prayer of Catholics in the Diocese of Harrisburg this Marian year), they all kind of go together.”

Reaching out
And reaching out to the Hispanic and other cultures is all a part of evangelization.

Bishop Rhoades is interested in languages, but “Italian and Spanish are the two that I would be the most comfortable with,” he told Today’s Catholic.

He spent one summer in Spain as a deacon, both serving a parish and also studying Spanish at the University of Salamanca, at the request of Bishop Joseph T. Daly in 1982.

After ordination to the priesthood, he was given an assignment in York, Pa., as an assistant pastor, but also asked to serve “one day a week in Hispanic ministry. And that’s where I met and worked with Father Pistone, at a Spanish parish in York. Then there was a mission out in the orchards near Bendersville, near Gettysburg, that was without a priest, so I filled in there two days a week to take care of the migrant Mexican community there.”

Bishop Rhoades noted, “Really I learned Spanish more from the people — mostly being immersed in it. That’s where it really began.

That experience in York and in Bendersville: That only lasted two years. In 1985, Bishop Rhoades was sent back to Rome for studies from 1985-1988.

But he returned to Hispanic ministry. “In 1988 when I came back, I was working in the diocesan office but also in charge of the Spanish community in Harrisburg,” Bishop Rhoades said. From 1988 to 1995, he was very involved in Hispanic ministry and then, in 1990, he has made pastor of St. Francis of Assisi Parish, a predominant Spanish-speaking, poor parish, a multicultural parish. There were African-Americans, several Vietnamese, Italians and a large number of Hispanics, mostly from Puerto Rico but also Mexico and other Latin American countries.

His charge at St. Francis was to bring these multicultural together. “So now it was time to integrate, and that was a big job in 1990,” Bishop Rhoades said. “But thanks be to God it worked.”

Bishop Rhoades said the Vietnamese would come to either the Spanish or English Masses at St. Francis, because “their faith was so strong, the language wasn’t important. (They were) coming to receive the Eucharist.”

The parish would have parish festivals, where “we would have food from all the different countries, which was really a lot of fun,” he said. St. Francis had a soup kitchen that fed hot lunches to 200 people Monday through Saturday.

People came by all the time with their needs, Bishop Rhoades noted, “so we had a very active outreach to the poor and needy. Even though we were a poor parish, a lot of other Parishes there that were really multicultural, it was really a lot of food, he said.”

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“Working with different cultures, I find enriches us,” Bishop Rhoades said. “We learn the universality of the church.”

Work with the deaf
This inclusion is also pertinent to the ministry of the deaf in the Diocese of Harrisburg.

As a seminarian in Philadelphia, Bishop Rhoades’ first apostolic assignment in education was to teach deaf children at Archbishop Ryan School for the Deaf. “I had never even met a deaf person until then, but I loved it.”

Bishop Rhoades studied sign language at Gallaudet University in Washington, D.C., and then as bishop of Harrisburg, sent his cathedral pastor to study sign language there.

“So now there is a small deaf community living in the neighborhood that has been growing, because they see the church is interested in them,” Bishop Rhoades said.
WASHINGTON (CNS) — The debate over healthcare reform topped the religious news stories of 2009, and Pope Benedict XVI and President Barack Obama were again the top newsmakers, according to the annual poll conducted by Catholic News Service.

The continued effects of the recession on the U.S. and global economy took second place among the 30 news stories on the ballot. The controversy over Obama’s commencement address at the University of Notre Dame in May and the decision to award the president with an honorary degree came in third.

Most first-place votes on the newsmakers list went to either Obama or Pope Benedict, although the pope was the clear winner this year. The late Sen. Ted Kennedy of Massachusetts was a distant third.

The poll was the 48th annual survey conducted by CNS. This year’s ballots were distributed Dec. 4 and the deadline for returns was Dec. 10.

When the editors’ poll was first conducted in 1962, the overwhelming choice for top story was the opening of the Second Vatican Council. Last year, editors chose the election of the first African-American U.S. president and controversy surrounding the role of Catholic voters in the campaign as the top religious story of the year. Pope Benedict and Obama were the top newsmakers.

Editors were asked to vote for the top 10 news stories from a list of 30 selected by CNS staff, and the top five newsmakers from a list of 22. Votes were weighted by the rankings editors gave — 10 points for a first-place vote, nine points for second, etc., and five points for top newsmaker, four for second, etc.

Eleven different stories received first-place votes, including three that did not make the top 10. With 29 editors and CNS staff members submitting ballots, the maximum points a story could have received was 290. The most a newsmaker could receive on the five-point scale was 140, because one editor voted only for top stories and not newsmakers.

Rounding out the top five for religious news stories were the papal encyclical “Caritas in Veritate” (“Charity in Truth”) and the Vatican-ordered visitation of U.S. women religious, which was to continue into 2010.

Pope Benedict took first place in the CNS poll for his travels to the Middle East and Africa, his outreach to Anglicans and traditionalist Catholics and his proclamation of a Year for Priests. Obama, whose first year as president included the Notre Dame controversy, his reception of the Nobel Peace Prize and a fight over abortion funding in health reform legislation, was second.

The next three top newsmakers were separated by only one vote each. The late Sen. Ted Kennedy of Massachusetts was fourth, followed by points received in the weighted ballot count and, in parentheses, the number of first-place votes received.

STORIES
1. Health reform, (8) 211.
5. Visitation of U.S. women religious, 94.
6. President Obama’s first year, (2) 86.
7. Year for Priests, (2) 82.
8. H1N1 flu outbreak, 77.
10. Anglicans, (2) 59.

Also receiving first-place votes were climate change, sainthood causes and the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq.

NEWSMAKERS
2. President Barack Obama, (9) 73.
4. Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor, (2) 33.
6. U.S. women religious and Holy Cross Father John I. Jenkins, president of the University of Notre Dame.

Bishop D'Arcy to bless new St. Mother Theodore Guérin statue

BY VINCE LABARBERA

FORT WAYNE — Bishop John M. D’Arcy will bless a new statue, that of St. Mother Theodore Guérin, on Wednesday, Jan. 6, following the 12:10 p.m. Mass in the cathedral. The statue is located in front of the diocesan chancery at the corner of Jefferson Blvd. and Calhoun Street in Fort Wayne.

St. Mother Theodore Guérin, foundress of the Sisters of Providence of Saint Mary-of-the-Woods, Terre Haute, became the eighth saint whose ministry was prominent in the United States to be canonized. She also was the first canonized saint from Indiana. St. Mother Theodore Guérin is considered a co-foundress of the Catholic schools in the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend.

St. Mother Theodore Guérin was canonized by Pope Benedict XVI on Oct. 15, 2006. After entering the Sisters of Providence of Ruillé, France, Aug. 18, 1823, she came to the United States from France in 1840 to establish a congregation of women religious in a dense forest adjacent to a remote community known as Saint Mary-of-the-Woods near Terre Haute.

Her influence is found in Fort Wayne’s Catholic school history. In 1845, Msgr. Julian Benoît built the first Catholic school in Fort Wayne on the northeast corner of the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception grounds — now the chancery site. The three-story brick school was named St. Augustine Academy for Girls. Msgr. Benedict requested that the Sisters of Providence staff the school.

St. Mother Theodore Guérin's leadership, schools were founded throughout the state before expanding into other areas such as Chicago, Boston and Los Angeles.

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St. Mother Theodore Guérin suffered from illness most of her life. She was treated for a disease at an early age, and the treatment is believed to have damaged her digestive system. Eventually, her condition overtook her, and she died May 14, 1856.

Pope John Paul II said St. Mother Theodore Guérin was “a perfect blend of humanness and holiness.” People who knew her did not forget her. Each had a story to tell about her kindness, her love, her goodness and her devotion. She was an inspiration for others in many ways.

Mother Theodore’s presence is still strong throughout the congregation. Her remains rest in a tomb under the floor of the church of the Immaculate Conception at the motherhouse at Saint Mary-of-the-Woods.
Blackberry cell phones are nick named “crackberries” because of their addictive nature. He reminded the congregation that Pope John Paul II said that “technology was for the dignity of the person not vice versa.”

The bishop then challenged the congregation to find Christ’s divinity in their lives by prayers, thanksgiving and giving witness to others. “One of the ways we witness is joy. If the Holy Trinity is within you, that is the source of peace and it gives you strength.” Bishop D’Arcy spoke of a number of ways that we can keep the transformation of the Incarnation in our lives year round. “Maybe there is someone here who has been away from church. Christ is asking you to complete it. But he gives you free will.”

“Maybe someone is being called to be a priest or a religious to complete it not for themselves but for others. Maybe God is calling people in a difficult or trying marriage to forgive. Maybe young people are being called to turn away from a way of life that includes drugs and alcohol. He will strengthen us if we pray and through the sacraments,” Bishop D’Arcy emphasized.

“We are called upon to believe two things about Jesus Christ; that he is the Son of God and he is the Eternal Word and became man for our salvation. He came as a savior to die on the cross for us. Let us love him with our whole heart and respond to him with all our hearts.”

He said the moment of transformation of the Incarnation in our souls and in our lives, “Maybe (it’s) God’s way to say we need more time to ponder.” Bishop D’Arcy noted, “and turn off the Blackberries.”

Bishop D’Arcy asked the faithful in the cathedral and watching on television to take a few moments to ponder: What does it mean — what was waited for all of the centuries; talked about by prophets; spoken about by John the Baptist who called all to repentance.

“At the coming of God becoming man, showing the condensation, mercy and love of God. Christmas shows us who he is. One who cares and loves and gives the ultimate gesture — becoming our brother — to offer himself for our salvation. God in the flesh.”

Citing the Magnificat prayer, a prayer which he said should be our prayer at Christmas, Bishop D’Arcy encouraged the faithful to “recount what God has done for us. We also recount what he has done in our individual lives. We recount the goodness of our parents who brought us to be baptized. We recount our holy marriage day. We recount the day we are made priests or bishops. We recount all the good people he gave us to set us for life. We recount his forgiveness for sins. (The Magnificat) is the perfect prayer. It brings us out of ourselves and focuses us on God.”

Near the conclusion of the homily, Bishop D’Arcy said, “We make our act of faith, in God becoming man — in every way man except sin — in every way God transforming us, purifying by his blood our sins. How could we not give thanks? How could we not change? How could we not complete the work of the Incarnation in our souls? “This is the joy to which everyone is called,” he said. “We’re incomplete. But at Christmas he gives us the chance to complete his work in our souls.

“Love asks love,” he concluded. “Each one returns it in his or her own way. — The One asking us for the completion of the work of redemption in our souls is our God, who is also our Savior. Let us respond to him with all our hearts.”

The children’s choir sings “O Come All Ye Faithful” during the Christmas vigil Mass at St. Matthew Cathedral in South Bend.
Senate health reform bill remains ‘deficient,’ USCCB chairmen say

WASHINGTON — The Senate should not approve its current health reform bill “without incorporating essential changes to ensure” that it “truly protects the life, dignity, consciences and health of all,” the chairmen of three committees of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops said. In a letter sent late Dec. 22, about 36 hours before the Senate voted Christmas Eve morning, the USCCB urged opposition to the Senate bill and pledged continued efforts to incorporate needed changes during the work of the House-Senate conference committee. “For many months, our bishops’ conference has worked with members of Congress, the administration and others to fashion health care reform legislation that truly protects the life, dignity, health and consciences of all,” said the letter signed by Cardinal Daniel N. DiNardo of Galveston-Houston and Bishops William F. Murphy of Rockville Centre, N.Y., and John C. Wester of Salt Lake City. The three chair the USCCB committees on Pro-Life Activities, on Domestic Justice and Human Development and on Domestic Justice Activities, on Domestic Justice

Pope clearly warns for ‘new thinking’ to address climate change

COPENHAGEN, Denmark (CNS) — The world must confront its current moral crises, ranging from hunger to environmental destruction, with “discernment and new thinking,” said the head of the Vatican delegation to the United Nations climate change conference. Archbishop Celestino Migliore, the Vatican’s nuncio to the U.N., invited delegates during a plenary session Dec. 17 to “a new and deeper reflection on the meaning of the economy and its purposes, and a profound and far-reaching revision of the model for development, to correct the malfunctions and distortions.” The archbishop’s address in Copenhagen came as negotiations slowed on a climate change pact to build upon the 1997 Kyoto Protocol, which obligated industrialized countries to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by a specific amount every year through 2012. No agreement had been reached by midday Dec. 18, the conference’s final day. “With realism, trust and hope we must assume the new responsibilities which call us to the scene of a world in need of a deep cultural renewal and a rediscovery of fundamental values on which to build a better future,” Archbishop Migliore said. He called attention to efforts being made to reduce energy consumption around the globe. He said efforts should not only revolve around scientific and technical solutions but must include changes in personal habits and lifestyle. “The wisest and most effective programs focus on information, education and pastoral work,” he said. “The cure of a French nun from Parkinson’s disease, the same disease from which Pope John Paul suffered. The decree on Pope Pius came as a surprise. His sainthood cause has been a point of contention with some Jewish groups and others who say he failed to do enough to protect Jews during World War II — an accusation strongly rejected by Vatican historians. After the Congregation for Saints’ Causes unanimously recommended the heroic virtues decree for Pope Pius in 2007, Pope Benedict put the cause on hold and put out the word that both critics and supporters should stop pressing the issue. In the end, Pope Benedict paired the announcement of Pope Pius “heroic virtues” with that of Pope John Paul, who is remembered for his acts of friendship and bridge-building with the Jewish community.

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**Bishop Dwenger to offer SAT prep classes**

FORT WAYNE — Bishop Dwenger will be offering SAT Prep classes beginning Jan. 19 to help students become familiar with the SAT and PSAT formats. The 14-week series will include diagnostic testing — six on the verbal section and six on the math section — and will meet on Tuesday and Thursday evenings from 6-7:30 p.m. The fee for the class is $170 and includes the text for the course. For more information, visit www.bishopdwenger.com, or call (260) 496-4700.

**Bishop Luers offer sporting, performing arts events on WebTV**

FORT WAYNE — Bishop Luers High School has recently collaborated with inCommand Broadcasting LLC of Dallas, Texas, getting its own designated WebTV.

“We have been broadcasting our home sporting events and performing arts concerts,” said Monica Zwick, director of public relations for Bishop Luers. “We really want to spread the word.”

Zwick said WebTV is linked to their Web site, www.bishopoulers.org.

“We do charge $5 for each event that you watch,” Zwick said. “All events are archived and if you can’t watch them live, you can watch them at your convenience.”

inCommand Broadcasting is enabling and issuing Internet TV channels to schools to broadcast both audio and video live (and On-Demand) over inCommand’s IP — TV network via the Internet (just like TV, but even better because it is interactive). The technology has not only provided great expanded communication capabilities for schools, but has empowered schools to achieve fundraising abilities.

**Way of Praying series begins Jan. 9 at Victory Noll Center**

HUNTINGTON — Beginning in January, Victory Noll Center will present “Way of Praying,” a program of study and reflection to deepen a relationship with God.

Sessions will be once a month from January through June, from 9 a.m. to noon on the second Saturday of each month. Each session will present different ways of praying, beginning with praying the Scriptures in the opening class on Jan. 9.


The cost for the course is $125 for the entire series or $25 for individual sessions. For those who sign up with a friend or family member, the price for the series is discounted to $100 per person.

Registration is required by Jan. 4.

Victory Noll Center is located at 1900 W. Park Dr. in Huntington.

To register or for more information about the program or Victory Noll Center, contact Director Sue Wilhelm at (260) 356-0628, ext. 128, or by e-mail at suewilhelm@olvm.org.

No one is ever turned away from a program because of inability to pay. Payment plans or other arrangements may be made by contacting Victory Noll Center.

**Marian High School students awarded science grants**

SOUTH BEND — Ken Andrzejewski, chairperson of the Marian High School Science Department, has announced that the following advanced research students have been awarded junior research grants from the Indiana Academy of Science for 2009-2010: Michelle Baranay — $300, Aaron Bulger — $254, Chloe Derank — $218, Andrea Freeze — $45, Katie Hansen — $134, Michael Hunckler — $300, Mark Imus — $300, Greg Janowiak — $300, Samuel Leung — $300, Dana Lind — $300, Emily Lohr — $300, Evan Merryman — $295, Yae Eun Oh — $150, Jasmine Podell — $150, Claire Sieradzki — $300, Abby Suckow — $285, Tim Trippel — $99 and Stephanie Van Overbeke — $300.

This is a total of $4,330 in grants for 18 Marian students.

**Area educator receives national recognition**

SOUTH BEND — A local teacher has received national recognition for outstanding performance in education, Renaissance Learning announced today.

Meredith Smith, who teaches at Corpus Christi School, was awarded Reading Model Classroom by the Wisconsin Rapids, Wis., based company. Model Classroom certification indicates that Smith’s efforts to adopt Renaissance Best Classroom Practices to a high degree have resulted in measurable improvements in student performance.

“Meredith exemplifies the kind of commitment to the success of every student that is at the heart of effective teaching,” said Judi Paul, chairman of the board at Renaissance Learning.

To receive Renaissance Model Classroom certification, an educator must demonstrate that their students are maintaining high-quality practice for a minimum of 12 weeks. In addition, educators must be actively working with individual students to meet Renaissance-recommended standards and be helping each student work at the level that promotes the most growth.

In addition to national recognition, Smith will receive a certificate in recognition of this class wide achievement, more opportunities for professional development and other benefits to share with the class and school.

Renaissance Learning, Inc. is the world’s leading provider of computer-based assessment technology for pre-K-12 schools.

**Bag lunch and book discussion in January at Victory Noll Center**

HUNTINGTON — William P. Young’s novel “The Shack” will be the subject of the opening Bag Lunch and Book Discussion on Wednesdays in January at Victory Noll Center.

Participants are invited to bring their own lunch for the book talk, which is designed to stir thoughts about God, Jesus, the Holy Spirit, forgiveness and eternity.

The lunchtime sessions will be held from noon to 1 p.m. Wednesdays on Jan. 6, 13, 20 and 27.

Victory Noll Center will provide beverages for the lunch. There is no cost and no registration is required. A freewill offering will be taken. Possible discussion questions about “The Shack” may be sent to Victory Noll Center director Sue Wilhelm at suewilhelm@olvm.org.

Victory Noll Center is located at 1900 W. Park Dr. in Huntington.

For more information about the program or Victory Noll Center, contact director Sue Wilhelm at (260) 356-0628, ext. 128, or by e-mail at suewilhelm@olvm.org.

**DeGeyter and Ogden state Spell Bowl champs**

SOUTH BEND — Matt DeGeyter of St. Bavo Parish in Mishawaka and Michael Ogden of St. Pius X Parish in Granger are Sunday Mass servers in their respective churches.

In addition to being a server, Ogden is also a cantor and a minister of the Eucharist at St. Pius X.

Both young men also helped their Penn High School Spell Bowl team “serve up” a state championship on Nov. 14 at Purdue University, West Lafayette, as Penn recorded a perfect score of 90, the only school to achieve perfection.

Ogden is a senior at Penn High School in Mishawaka. He correctly spelled 223 out of a possible 225 words in his four-year Spell Bowl career at Penn, including 71 of 72 this past season. He was nine out of nine in nine state finals this year, while also being a member of the 2006 and 2008 Penn state championship teams.

DeGeyter is also a senior at Penn High School. He correctly spelled 143 out of a possible 144 words in his four-year Spell Bowl career, including 72 of 72 this season. He was also nine out of nine in the state finals this fall, while also being a member of the 2006 and 2008 Penn state championship teams.

Both were co-captains of their team this season. Their coach is Pete DeKever, a member of St. Bavo Parish.

**Corrections**

In the Dec. 20, 2009, issue of Today’s Catholic, the title on the back cover should be “Our Lady of Guadalupe gift to Bishop John M. D’Arcy should have included, ‘Our Lady of Guadalupe honored,’” rather than “adored.”

In the Bishop Kevin Rhodes piece, he was rector at Mount Saint Mary’s Seminary in Emmitsburg, Md. In the same story, Pope John Paul II’s “I Still Give You Shepherds,” is called an apostolic exhortation.

**Around the Diocese**

**Preschoolers cookies sweeten our Father’s House**

The Sacred Heart preschool students of Lili Bob’s and Cindy Hollowell’s classes, along with parent volunteers, frost and decorate cookies to be distributed by Our Father’s House to families in the area. Nearly 2,000 cookies were decorated and wrapped for the Christmas season.
Angel Tree program connects children to the parent in prison

BY LAUREN CAGGIANO

FORT WAYNE — For more than 100 children in the area, there will be one less person at the Christmas dinner table due to incarceration. However, thanks to the Angel Tree program, more children can feel connected to their parent(s), even when prison bars separate them.

Locally, Mark Michuda, of the Knights of Columbus Anthony Wayne Assembly 4th Degree, is responsible for introducing the program to the diocese. Last year, he and some St. Aloysius, Yoder, parishioners participated in a prison ministry program called Christmas Behind Bars whereby they went to several prisons to visit inmates. It was a pivotal moment there that spurred his dedication to the cause: “I walked by the visitation room to see a woman greeting probably her husband as he entered the room in his orange jump suit,” he recalled. She started crying uncontrollably as they embraced, I sensed the pain and hardship that woman must be going through.

Inspired to take action, he asked a fellow volunteer about the availability of other prison ministry programs. She told him about the national Angel Tree program, which strives to keep children connected to their parent in prison.

While it’s important to minister to the inmates, the children are often the most vulnerable parties in the situation. In Allen County alone, Michuda noted there are 1,000 children who have a parent away in prison or jail.

Michuda justified the need for this ministry: “It’s the children who suffer and they have done nothing wrong,” he said. “Statistics show that children who have a parent in prison become high risk. Many end up in prison themselves.”

Last year Michuda worked with the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception Parish to serve 30 families of inmates. This paved the way for the larger scale event at St. Henry Parish on Dec. 19. Families of inmates were invited to the parish center for an afternoon of activities, including a prayer service, gift and card making. Children received personal messages from their parent and had an opportunity to reciprocate the action through the Christmas cards to be sent back to the parent.

The ministry does not stop here, however, according to Michuda. The group intends to do a follow-up with the families and offer support groups, counseling and spiritual direction if they desire.

For more information about the Angel Tree ministry, visit www.angel-tree.org.

Father Tom O’Connor 2010 Light of Christ Award: Encouraging the next generation of servants

BY VINC LLABARBERA

FORT WAYNE — St. Mary’s Catholic Church, Fort Wayne, in cooperation with the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, is now accepting nominations for the 2010 Father Tom O’Connor Light of Christ Award.

This award is presented each year in March to an individual whose work reflects the strong values exemplified by Father O’Connor during his many years as a priest. This year the award committee invites nominations of persons of faith whose work among the disadvantaged encourages a just society and peaceful resolution of conflict. The 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 designated to encourage “the next generation of Father Tom.”

Father O’Connor, who died March 17, 2004, at the age of 74, served as pastor of St. Mary’s Parish for 34 years and is considered by many to be an icon of Catholic faith in action.

Father Tom believed that providing food to the hungry was a matter of both justice and charity. He was instrumental in the creation of the St. Mary’s Soup Kitchen that has operated 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. He was also part of the steering committee that created Vincent House/Vincent Village Transitional Housing.

Father O’Connor was actively involved in ecumenical and interfaith activities and was a strong advocate for peace both locally and in the wider community. He was also a strong advocate for civil rights.

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

Father Tom O’Connor Light of Christ Award nominations are open to persons of all faith traditions. Previous award winners are Cliff Kindy, 2007, for his work in nonviolence; Sister Janet Gildea, M.D., 2008, for her efforts among diverse cultures; and William Crittel, 2009, for his dedication to education among the disadvantaged.

Nomination guidelines

Each year the Father Tom O’Connor Light of Christ Award committee seeks nominations of persons of faith, high-school age or older, whose activities serve as an example and encouragement to youth. One category is designated each year in which to receive nominations, and one nominee in the designated category will be selected as the winner. The committee may defer selecting a winner in any given year. Application information is available from the St. Mary’s Church Office, (260) 424-8231, or available online at www.stmaryswf.org and www.diocecesfwb.org.

For the 2010 award the committee is seeking nominations of persons whose work among the disadvantaged served to encourage a just society and peaceful resolution to conflict locally, nationally or globally.

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 order listed:
   • Nominee’s name
   • Contact information
   • Age and school or occupation
   • Faith affiliation
   • Where the cash award is to be directed
   • Name and contact information of the person submitting the nomination

4. E-mail submissions (Word document attachment) are preferred and should be sent to jan.stmarys@verizon.net with Father Tom Award in the subject line. E-mail nominations must be received no later than 4 p.m. on Jan. 22, 2010.

5. Letters of nomination may be mailed to Father Tom O’Connor Award Committee, St. Mary’s Catholic Church, P.O. Box 11383, Fort Wayne, IN 46857-1383, and must be received no later than Jan. 22, 2010.

The Solemn Vespers service on January 12, 2010 at St. Matthew Cathedral, South Bend, and the Installation of the Most Reverend Kevin C. Rhoades as Ninth Bishop of Fort Wayne-South Bend at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, Fort Wayne January 13, 2010

Both DVDs available for $10. Order before the events and you will receive a commemorative prayer card blessed by Bishop Rhoades.

Please send _____ copies of the Installation DVD set at $10 per copy.
Enclosed is my check payable to the CATHOLIC COMMUNICATIONS OFFICE, for $________

Name___________________________Address_____________________________________________

City___________________________State Zip__________________ Please allow four weeks for delivery.

Mail to: Catholic Communications Office • 915 South Clinton Street • Fort Wayne, Indiana 46802
Holy Cross Father Leonard Collins reads the Christmas story to the children of St. Augustine Church, South Bend, on Christmas Eve at the children’s Mass.

Father Dale A. Bauman, pastor of St. Francis Xavier, Pierceton, is joined by the children of the parish during the eucharistic prayer on Christmas Eve as they celebrate Mass.

Decatur parish blesses new gymnasium

BY TIM JOHNSON

DECATUR — After an escorted tour with Father David Voors, pastor, to bless the new gymnasium at St. Mary of the Assumption Parish and St. Joseph School in Decatur, Bishop John M. D’Arcy praised all involved who made the effort possible.

The $1 million facility is located across the street from St. Joseph School and replaces a smaller gym in the school building which dates to 1925.

Construction funds were used from an over- $3 million campaign that included the gymnasium and a parish hall, which now is in the planning stages, according to St. Joseph School Principal Karla Hormann, who also serves on the building committee.

Despite a tough economy in Decatur where the unemployment rate was as high as 18 percent, Hormann told Today’s Catholic.

“We’re just about done collecting (money for the parish hall), so it’s all come in very well and everybody’s still giving, even if they’ve already (completed) their pledge.”

Planned gifts assisted the building campaign known as BOOH, Building On Our Heritage, and anchored with the diocesan-wide Legacy of Faith campaign drive.

“If it wouldn’t have been for all the parishioners in this area and giving, even after they had passed on, and remembering the school, we wouldn’t be here,” Hormann told Today’s Catholic after the gymnasium blessing on Dec. 18.

From studies, the parish determined a new gymnasium, a parish hall and work on the pre-

Bishop John M. D’Arcy joins students from St. Joseph School, and parishioners and donors of St. Mary of the Assumption Parish in Decatur to bless the new $1 million gymnasium.

school facilities were priorities.

The parish’s daycare and pre-kindergarten program has almost 100 children. But a donor provided the funds for the upgrades to the preschool facilities, so BOOH money was not used for those improvements.

“Think of all these people and many others who gave money so you can have this gym and grow up to be like Michael Jordan, and LeBron James and all those great players,” Bishop John M. D’Arcy told the students of St. Joseph School.

“Study hard, play hard. It’s a joyful gift to be young. You are only young a short time,” he said.

“Learn to love God early and pray to him every night.”

Bishop D’Arcy proceeded with the blessing of the building, going from room to room and sprinkling the facility with holy water.

“With praise and thanksgiving, let us ask God, through whom all things are accomplished, to bless this new building and bless all who will use it, especially the children,” he prayed.

The gymnasium, which seats 300, will be used strictly as an athletic facility. It could be rented out for tournaments.

“And hopefully we’ll see a lot more CYO games down here too,” Hormann said. “We have a nice gym, come on down.”

St. Mary Parish dates to 1840. The first school building opened in 1881 and the present-day school facility was built in 1925.

Decatur parish blesses new gymnasium

BY TIM JOHNSON

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BY TIM JOHNSON
EDITORIAL

A holy season of endings and beginnings

As the church celebrates the feast of Epiphany this Sunday, there is a long standing tradition of announcing the events and holy days for the coming year. Currently, as the diocese is in transition, the winter air sparkles with excitement as we announce the installation of our new ordinary, Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades, on Jan. 13. The faithful of the diocese look forward to the fresh new year with hopeful anticipation. And with that hope we pause to express our heartfelt gratitude to Bishop John M. D’Arcy for more-than-24 years of episcopal ministry here.

This issue of Today’s Catholic is dedicated to the learned man, who came to this diocese by way of Boston in 1985. With a bitter-sweet sentiment, as the diocese moves into the future, we look back for a moment at the innovative and prayerful service our bishop has provided to the faithful of the area.

During Bishop D’Arcy’s tenure this diocese has seen much positive growth and movement in congregations across the diocese, but also for the example he has been for us as a man of strength and enduring faith, even in the face of adversity. He is a compassionate and an attentive leader. His accessibility to the faithful, both young and old, has been an inspiration to us. He is truly a bishop for the people.

In his remarks at a recent gathering Bishop D’Arcy related his future plans. "I am looking forward to providing spiritual retreats for priests and teaching and preaching as he assists where he is needed. He continues to encourage the people of the diocese to welcome Bishop Rhoades with love and to look forward to the future with hope.

We at Today’s Catholic join in the faithful of the diocese in bidding Bishop D’Arcy farewell. We remain grateful for his exemplary pastoral care of the diocese for more than two decades and wish him God’s grace in his well-deserved retirement.

Today’s Catholic editorial board is Kay Cozad, Fred and Lisa Everett, Father Mark Gurtner, Msgr. Michael Heintz, Tim Johnson and Vince LaBarbera.
THE VATICAN LETTER
JOHN THAYS

Semitism. One of the most remarkable documents of 2009, in fact, was the pope's subsequent letter to the world's bishops expressing his amazement that even some Catholics had misunderstood him and attacked him with open hostility.

The pope's visit to Africa in March was a weeklong experience of intense liturgies, discussions with bishops and moving encounters with youth, the disabled and even a group of Pygmies. But the media impact was overshadowed by the pope's remarks to reporters on the first day of the trip, when he spoke of the church's strategies against AIDS and said, "One cannot overcome the problem with the distribution of condoms. On the contrary, they increase the problem." The comments drew widespread criticism, although some experts agreed that over-reliance on condoms was a problem in African countries.

The papal trip for Priests in Africa in October brought the continent back into the Vatican spotlight. The pope pressed over the synod's assemblies and, at the conclusion, received 57 pastoral propositions to elaborate into a future document on the church in Africa. In May, Pope Benedict traveled to Jordan, Israel and Palestinian territories. The eight-day trip was a biblical pilgrimage, an interfaith mission and a political balancing act all rolled into one. The pontiff visited a mosque in the Jordanian capital, prayed at the Yad Vashem Holocaust memorial in Jerusalem, and blessed cornerstone stones for new Christian churches and facilities in the region.

In June, the pope closed the Year of St. Paul and opened the Year for Priests. In weekly talks and liturgical celebrations focusing on St. Paul, the pope sketched a detailed portrait of the man considered the model of Christian conversion and the archetypal missionary.

In launching the Year for Priests, the pope said the church must acknowledge that some priests have done great harm to others, but it also must thank God for the gifts the majority of priests have given to the church and the world.

In July, the pope issued his long-awaited encyclical on economic and social justice, "Charity in Truth." It called for reform of international economic institutions.

Gentiles. No one is beyond the range of divine love and mercy. St. Matthew's Gospel furnishes the last reading. Among the four Gospels, only Matthew and Luke refer to the conception, birth and very early life of Jesus. Matthew and Luke are silent on these subjects. Between Matthew and Luke, only Matthew has the story of the Magi. This story is one of the most profound and expressive revelations in the New Testament. Better to understand it requires recognizing the symbols and images contained in the passage.

First, the Gospel speaks of visitors "from the East." "From the East" is a translation. Some think that they were astrologers, in a time when the astrologers were more a part of the court than the church. Others think that they were either nobles, or kings. Another term is Magi, its meaning unclear.

How many were in their number? No one knows. Matthew does not tell us. Art and legend have seen them as three in number. Regardless, they were glitzy, learned and very sincere, earnestly seeking God.

Herod tried to remove any competition. Matthew tells of a newborn king might create. He discovers that according to the Scriptures, the Savior indeed will be born in Bethlehem.

Central to the story is that in searching for the Lord, the Magi followed a star in the sky. God was guiding them.

EMPATHY calls us to God
THE SUNDAY GOSPEL
MSGR. OWEN F. CAMPION

Epiphany of the Lord
Mt 2:1-12

This weekend, the church celebrates the ancient feast of the Epiphany of the Lord, reflecting upon the visit of the Magi "from the East" to the crib side of the new-born Savior.

The first reading is from the third and last section of Isaiah. After four generations in captivity in Babylon, survivors or descendants of survivors, of the long past Babylonian conquest of the Holy Land finally were able to return to their homeland.

It was because Persia, in turn, had overtaken Babylonia. Persia's King Cyrus allowed the exiles to leave Babylon and to return to the Holy Land. However, homecoming was bittersweet. The land to which they returned so many years was desolate and unyielding.

The prophets insisted that, in spite of this desolation, times would change for the better, because God would not forget the Chosen People.

This reading rejoices in God's salvation. God will vindicate the people, delivering them from all their woes. So, the prophecy predicts a great new day!

In the second reading, from the Epistle to the Ephesians, is the frank and direct statement that God intends salvation not only for the Chosen People but also for the gentiles. No one is beyond the range of divine love and mercy.

THE HIRE HISTORY
FATHER RICHARD HIRE

A history of the new temple built by King Herod the Great

The history of the Temple Mount in Jerusalem, where King Herod's temple stood, goes back to Abraham, the father of the Jewish religion, in the 18th century B.C. On this mount where God ordered Abraham to sacrifice his son Isaac, God intervened and a ram was sacrificed instead. This event sanctioned, for all time, the steep path we must climb to the Temple Mount.

Eventually King David (1000-970 B.C.) captured Jerusalem and placed there the ark of the covenant, a portable chest on top of which the presence of God dwelt between two angels facing each other. Thus, a royal temple. David's son Solomon (970-930 B.C.) eventually built the first temple for the Israelites. This temple was destroyed by the Babylonians from southern Iraq in 587 B.C. Many Israelites were taken into exile in Babylonia. When the Persians from Iran conquered Babylonia in 538 B.C., they allowed the Israelites who wished to return to Jerusalem to rebuild the temple. The temple of Zerubbabel, a Judean prince who organized the rebuilding, was begun in 537 B.C. and dedicated in 516 B.C.

Father John McKenzie says the temple of Zerubbabel was of the same dimensions and structure as the temple of Solomon, but much inferior in the richness of its decorations.

Epiphany calls us to God

THE READING

Mt 2:1-12

Sunday: Is 60:1-6 Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-13 Eph 3:2-3a, 5:6 Mt 2:11-12
Monday: Jn 3:24-4:6 Is 2:7-8, 10-12a Mt 4:12-17, 23-25
Tuesday: Jn 4:7-10 Ps 72:1-4, 7-8 Mk 6:34-42
Wednesday: Jn 4:11-18 Ps 72:1-2, 10-13 Mt 6:45-52
Thursday: Jn 4:19-5:4 Ps 72:1-2, 14, 15bc Lk 4:14-22a
Friday: Jn 5:5-13 Ps 147:12-15, 19-20 Lk 5:12-16
Saturday: Jn 5:14-21 Ps 149:1-6a, 9b Jn 3:22-30
The many moral questions in healthcare reform

The Catholic Church in the United States has done a public service during the recent healthcare debate by keeping a crucial proposition in play: no reform should reverse the 32-year-old national consensus that keeps the federal government out of the business of funding abortions. Defending that proposition will not get any easier in the weeks ahead, but it must be done. The defense of the moral principle in play: right-to-life is not the only moral principle involved in the healthcare debate, however. There are several other such principles and social justice concerns at stake. Here are some of the most important:

• The principle of subsidiarity teaches us to cherish a sense of responsibility across generations. How is that principle honored in a reform of health care? Does that dramatically reduce the funding of Medicare for senior citizens, as bills in Congress now do?

• The principle of solidarity teaches us to be wary of concentration of wealth and power — how that will redistribute Medicare for senior citizens, as the House and the Senate — real costs, as distinguished from the numbers being pulled out of hats on Capitol Hill. One experienced Catholic public-pension analyst estimated that the bill brought before the Senate will increase total federal spending by about $4.9 trillion (that’s $4 million multiplied over the next 20 years. There is no way to pay for this, even with spending reductions and tax increases. Does saddling our grandchildren with an Everest of debt satisfy the demands of cross-generational solidarity?

• The principle of subsidiarity teaches us to be wary of concentrating too much power in the national government. Yet the House bill that (barely) passed in November puts the federal government squarely on the hook for controlling healthcare costs, because it requires Americans to buy government-approved insurance. Voters will rightly turn to their representatives and insist that the government make that insurance affordable. Thus the sea change: the U.S. government will become responsible for containing all healthcare costs, which will inevitably involve both rationing and a decline in the quality of care.

Moreover, does anyone seriously propose that a federal government incapable of producing and distributing flu vaccines efficiently is capable of managing a national healthcare system well? Subsidiarity teaches us to be deeply skeptical about affirmative answers to that question. Common sense suggests that any government, given such power, will never give it up. If we make a mess of this now, we’re stuck; ask the British and the Canadians.

• The principle of the common good teaches us to avoid public policy that destroys jobs; that moral imperative becomes even more urgent under current circumstances. The taxes that proposed healthcare reforms will impose on all but the smallest employers who don’t offer health insurance, and the tax surcharge that will be laid on higher income persons who own small businesses, are both likely to discourage hiring and force layoffs. That bad public policy at any level of unemployment. It’s unconsionable when the unemployment rate hovers at around 10 percent.

• The politicization of medical decisions — which will inevitably follow the kind of healthcare system now being proposed — will put new pressures on the right-to-life principle, as well as on the principles of the common good, subsidiarity and solidarity. Decisions that should be made by patients and doctors will be made by regulators as governmental intrusion trumps moral and medical judgment.

How this builds a free and virtuous society, as Catholic social doctrine holds, is not clear. For all its virtues, today’s American medical system does not afford access to needed care for some, nor does it test set by Catholic social doctrine. We can meet those tests and fix the system’s gravest problems by working incrementally, testing results as we go: changing the liability laws that distort insurance costs, reforming the insurance industry to mandate portability and coverage of pre-existing conditions, lifting the ban on interstate competition in health insurance, and covering the uninsured by tax credits and small business reforms. That would be healthcare reform that satisfies Catholic principles across-the-board.

George Weigel is a senior fellow of the Ethics and Public Policy Center in Washington, D.C.
Faith an important part of life for Kentucky basketball coach

BY MARGARET GABRIEL

LEXINGTON, Ky. (CNS) — Although University of Kentucky basketball players now have a chapel service available to them before every game, at the request of new coach John Calipari, the team won’t see Calipari there.

The chapel services let players know that Calipari believes faith is an important element of their lives. His absence demonstrates, among other things, that he believes faith is a private affair, something that is between the player and God.

Seated in his large, sunny office in the Catholic church during the week. In Lexington, he has faith available to his team, he also said his attendance would give an impression he does not want to convey.

“I don’t want players to think that they have to go,” said Calipari, head coach at the University of Memphis until he came to Kentucky in the spring. He also coached at the University of Massachusetts and for the NBA’s New Jersey Nets.

“It’s important to me that people know I have a strong faith,” he said. “I couldn’t have handled the jobs I’ve had by myself.”

One of the ways Calipari feeds something — Calipari doesn’t remember exactly what — pushed him back toward the Catholic Church eight to 10 years ago and he began attending Holy Rosary Church in Memphis.

“Something — Calipari doesn’t believe things happen for a reason,” he said. “When we got married, my wife was a Methodist. I was a Catholic,” Calipari said. He met his wife, Ellen, while he was working as an assistant coach at the University of Kansas.

In coming to the high-profile Kentucky program, Calipari became the highest paid college basketball coach in the country. Heading into a Dec. 5 game against North Carolina, his Wildcats had a 7-0 record for the 2009-2010 regular season.

Calipari credits God’s plan for his life and the life of his family. “I believe that things happen for a reason,” he said.

As in Memphis, Catholics in Lexington are a minority. Like many families in the diocese, the Calipari family is interdenominational.

“Something — Calipari doesn’t believe things happen for a reason,” he said. “When we got married, my wife was a Methodist. I was a Catholic,” Calipari said. He met his wife, Ellen, while he was working as an assistant coach at the University of Kansas.

Something — Calipari doesn’t remember exactly what — pushed him back toward the Catholic Church eight to 10 years ago and he began attending Holy Rosary Church in Memphis.

“They called me a ‘Metholic,’” Calipari said. “I would go to the Methodist church with my family on Sundays and to the Catholic church during the week.”

St. Nick 6K run and 3K walk a success

SOUTH BEND — St. Joseph Parish in South Bend recently held its first-ever St. Nick 6K Run and 3K Walk, a fundraiser to support St. Joseph Grade School. St. Joseph pastor Holy Cross Father John DeRiso, associate pastor Holy Cross Father John Patrick Riley and Holy Cross Deacon Kevin Grove all participated in the race, which was inspired by their own interest in competitive running.

Over 170 registrants participated in the 6K run, while over 60 others registered for the 3K walk. With the combined efforts of many volunteers, the race was a great success its first year, and the parish is planning to host the December event annually.

Overall winners:

First place: Ryan Greutman (19:11)
Second place: Justin Kowalski (19:23)
Third place: Matthew Manning (19:25)

Fourth place: Craig Sauers (20:39)
Eighth place and first female to cross the finish line: Madison Woods (23:46)

Winners in each age group:

Female

Male

BAREFOOT BASKETBALL GAME IN FORT WAYNE HELPS SAMARITAN’S FEET

Bishop Dwenger Coach Matt Kostoff and Wayne Coach John Leitz will coach their basketball games barefoot Jan. 15 to bring awareness to Samaritan’s Feet, an organization that sends shoes worldwide to help impoverished children.

Donations of money and new athletic shoes will be taken. The reserve game starts at 6:15 p.m. with varsity to follow. Cost for game tickets is $5. For more information, contact Melissa Wheeler at (260) 496-4700, or e-mail m wheeler@bishopdwenger.com.

Hall’s

Thank You
Bishop D’Arcy

for 24 years of faithful service as our Shepherd
MAY GOD BLESS
AND REWARD YOU!

The Parishes of Sacred Heart and St. Henry

St. Therese boys hope for a successful season

BY MICHELLE CASTLEMAN

FORT WAYNE — In his 34th season coaching a game he loves, Coach Mike Palmer spent his first 12 years at Bishop Luers, but has been with St. Therese ever since. This year’s bunch is off to a 2-3 start, but Palmer is hopeful to move forward with a full roster and have a good shot at this year’s championship.

“Of our goals is the same as it has been for several seasons — to beat Hessen Cassel. They have had strong teams and ruled the league for the past several years,” explained Palmer. The two teams have already met in the pre-season at the Queen of Angels Invitational over Thanksgiving weekend.

Hessen Cassel won by a bucket, 28-26. The Crusaders will face the Squires once again when CYO regular season play resumes on Jan. 9. Palmer recalls winning the championship in 1979, then a few more times after the leagues were divided by size, but not once in the last decade. “It would be great to have a shot at the title this season,” concluded Palmer.
Vatican Observatory findings told in ‘The Heavens Proclaim’

REVIEWS BY YORK YOUNG

Have you ever just looked at the night sky and marveled at what you see, wondering how it all fits together? Stars, the Earth’s moon, other planets, sometimes even unusual streaks of light, combine for an astonishing visual feast that can lead us to wonder how it all came to be.

If you open yourself to the possibilities, it’s almost as if “The Heavens Proclaim,” the title of a new book on astronomy written by several different scientists for the Vatican, may be asking what the Vatican is doing putting together a book on astronomy, but it’s a natural fit. The Vatican has had astronomical observatories in operation for more than 100 years now.

The Catholic Church, despite stereotypes and misinformation presented by those who find it offensive, is instrumental in showing how the Vatican, and the Catholic Church, is by turns, irreverent, revolting and hypocritical. Pervasive negative portrayal of Catholicism, brieonongraphy, sexual activity, recurrent adultery theme, partial upper female and rear nudity, a couple of uses of profanity, a few crass terms. The USCCB Office for Film & Broadcasting classification is O — morally offensive. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG — parental guidance suggested. Some material may not be suitable for children under 13.

NEW YORK (CNS) — Followings are capsule reviews of movies issued by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops’ Office for Film and Broadcasting.

“Alvin and the Chipmunks: The Squeakquel” (Fox)

Harmless but mostly routine comedy with music, mixing animation and live action, in which the familiar trio of harmonizing rodents (voices of Justin Long, Matthew Gray Gubler and Jesse McCartney) have a series of slapstick misadventures, eventually winding up in the inept care of a gadget-obsessed slacker (Zachary Levi), becoming school students, and entering a singing competition that pits them against a group of chipmunk divas (voices of Amy Poehler, Anna Faris and Christina Applegate). A bit of gently rude humor aside, director Betty Thomas’ extension of the 30-year-old franchise, which includes hit recordings, a pair of TV cartoon series and this feature’s 2007 predecessor, “Alvin and the Chipmunks,” is unobjectionable, though its positive lessons about choosing loyalty and selflessness come wrapped in an entertainment package that feels somewhat shopworn. The USCCB Office for Film & Broadcasting classification is A-I — general patronage. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG — parental guidance suggested. Some material may not be suitable for children...
**What’s Happening?**

**MISC. HAPPENINGS**

- **Young adult retreat**
  Mishawaka — A young adult (18-35 years) mini-retreat will be held Sunday, Jan. 17, from 1-6 p.m. at the convent of Sisters of St. Francis of Perpetual Adoration, 1515 W. Dragoon Trail. An afternoon of prayer, inspiration and quiet is planned. “Faith and Reason in Today’s World and How do we bring Christ to it?” will be presented by Father Glenn Kohrman, pastor of St. Vincent de Paul, Elkhart. Sunday Mass at 5 p.m.
  Cost $5.

- **Bishop Luers alumni: Winter homecoming**
  Fort Wayne — A winter homecoming party will be Saturday, Jan. 16. Boys basketball game Bishop Luers vs. Blackhawk at St. John the Baptist hall Saturday, Jan. 2, 2010. Mass at 8 a.m. Confession and meditation starting Wednesday, Jan. 20, at 9 p.m. in the Foyer, room 139. Cash will be paid for gold and Bishop Luers earns an additional 10 percent of the total of all pay-outs.

- **Pro-life bus trip**
  Fort Wayne — The University of Saint Francis pro-life group will have a bus trip to the March for Life in Washington, D.C., leaving Wednesday, Jan. 20, at 9 p.m. to attend the Vigil Mass at the Basilica on Jan. 21, and the Youth Rally before the March on Jan. 22. Return trip Saturday, Jan. 23, around 5 a.m. Cost is $90, or for Saint Francis, IPFW and Ball State students, $75. Bring a sleeping bag or arrange for a hotel on your own for Jan. 21. Contact (260) 399-8066 or gdodd@sf.edu by Jan. 5.

- **The Little Flower Holy Hour**
  Fort Wayne — The Little Flower Holy Hour will resume in 2010. Please note that the time has changed from 7:15 to 7 p.m. Father Fernando Jimenez will celebrate the Little Flower Holy Hour at St. Mother Theodore Guerin Chapel on Tuesday, Jan. 5, at 7 p.m. to pray for priests and vocations. Father Fernando is the associate pastor at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception.

- **Spaghetti dinner planned**
  South Bend — The Knights of Columbus Council #570, 520 Linden Ave., will have a spaghetti dinner, Thursday, Jan. 14, from 4-6 p.m. Adults $7, children ages 5 to 12 $2.50. Dinner includes spaghetti, salad, bread, beverages and dessert.

- **Knights plan fish fry**
  Fort Wayne — The Knights of Columbus Council #451, 601 Reed Rd., will have a fish fry on Friday, Jan. 8, from 5 to 7:30 p.m. The cost is $7 for adults, $3 for children 12 and under. Fish, two sides and beverage are included.

- **St. Pius X senior group**
  Granger — The St. Pius X senior group (55+) meets the second Tuesday of the month at noon starting with Mass. On Jan. 12, Diane Schlatterbeck will speak on the topic “Look How Far We Have Come.” For information call (574) 272-0732 or 271-7853.

- **Knights plan Sunday breakfast**
  Granger — The Knights Council #4263 will have a breakfast Sunday, Jan. 10 after the 8:45 and 10:30 a.m. Masses at St. Pius X in the gymnasium.

- **Free throw contest announced**
  Granger — The Knights of Columbus Council #4263 will have a free-throw contest Saturday, Jan. 9 at the St. Pius X School gymnasium. Registration for boys and girls begins at noon with the contest beginning at 1 p.m.

- **Square dances being planned**
  New Haven — St. Louis Besancon will host a square dance on Saturday, Jan. 9, and Feb. 13 in the hall. Music by Bill Werling and Breakaway. Tickets are $10 and include one beer and snacks. Doors open at 7:30 p.m. with dancing from 8-11 p.m. All proceeds benefit the St. Louis Academy Home and School Association.

**Cash for gold**

Fort Wayne — Raise cash for yourself and funds for Bishop Luers High School Tuesday, Jan. 12, from 9 a.m. until 6:30 p.m. in the Foyer, room 139. Cash will be paid for gold and Bishop Luers earns an additional 10 percent of the total of all pay-outs.

**Rest in Peace**

- **Bishop Luers**
  Bishop Luers earns an additional 10 percent of the total of all pay-outs.

- **Epiphany Vespers**
  Mishawaka — Father Daniel Scheidt will lead sung Vespers (the church’s official evening prayer) on Sunday, Jan. 3, at 5 p.m. at Queen of Peace Church.

- **Epiphany Concert**
  Mishawaka — Queen of Peace children’s and adult choirs and school students will present an Epiphany choral concert on Thursday, Jan. 7, at 7 p.m. in the church. Music performed will include Christmas pieces from around the world and assembly sung carols.

**Donations**

- **Blood donations needed**
  Fort Wayne — The American Red Cross is in need of blood donations. To make an appointment call 1-800-GIVELIFE or 1-800-448-3543.
Pope’s Christmas marked by calls for charity, security incident

BY JOHN THAVIS

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope Benedict XVI celebrated Christmas with a call for unselfish charity and solidarity with the suffering, and underlined the message two days later by lunching with the poor at a Rome soup kitchen.

The pope’s Christmas was marred by a security scare on Christmas Eve, when a mentally unbalanced woman rushed the 82-year-old pontiff and knocked him to the marble floor of St. Peter’s Basilica. The pope was unharmed but French Cardinal Roger Etchegaray suffered a broken hip when he fell in the confusion.

The incident occurred as the pope processed into the basilica at the start of the 10 p.m. Mass. Amateur videos posted on YouTube showed a woman wearing a red sweatshirt leaping over the pope’s vestments, as Vatican security guards swarmed above them.

The alarmed congregation inside the basilica broke into applause when the pope quickly rose to his feet and continued the procession down the main aisle, looking somewhat shaken. The liturgy proceeded without further incident.

Vatican sources confirmed that the woman was the same person who attempted to rush the pope at midnight Mass last year but was tackled by guards before she could reach the pontiff. The woman, 25-year-old Susanna Maiolo, an Italian and Swiss citizen, was taken into custody for psychiatric evaluations.

In his Christmas Eve homily, the pope said conflict in the world stems from the fact that “we are locked into our own interests and our desires.” He said many people have become “religiously tone-deaf” and unable to perceive God, absorbed by worldly affairs and professional occupations.

“For most people, the things of God are not given priority. ... And so the great majority of us tend to postpone them. First we do what seems urgent here and now. In the list of priorities God is often more or less at the end. We can always deal with that later, we tend to think,” he said.

Despite this mentality, he said, a path for discovering and appreciating God exists for everyone. It is a path marked with signs, he said, and at Christmas God’s sign is that “he makes himself small; he becomes a child; he lets us touch him and he asks for our love.”

On Christmas Day, the pope delivered his message and blessing — “urbi et orbi” — to the city of Rome and to the world — from the central balcony of St. Peter’s Basilica. He prayed for peace in world trouble spots like the Holy Land, Iraq, Sri Lanka and the Democratic Republic of Congo.

The pope then offered Christmas greetings in 65 languages, saying in English: “May the birth of the Prince of Peace remind the world where its true happiness lies; and may your hearts be filled with hope and joy, for the savior has been born for us.”

The pope’s Christmas message included a call for “an attitude of acceptance and welcome” for the millions of people who migrate from their homelands, driven by hunger, intolerance or environmental degradation.

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BOOK OF THE MONTH CLUB

This month’s featured selection:

“Miracle on the Hudson” By William Prochnau and Laura Parker

Reviewed by Kay Cozad

This month’s featured selection: “Miracle on the Hudson” by William Prochnau and Laura Parker

The chronicle leads the reader in detail through the harrowing three minutes the passengers endured after the collision with the geese. Accounts of both diversity and commonality in perception, faith and attitude, fill the pages. One passenger uses her cell phone as a lifeline to her husband, while others refuse to call their loved ones, hoping to spare them the anguish of witnessing their demise.

But the truly inspiring part of the tale emerges after the plane has crashed into the water. Each of the 155 passengers and all crew members had miraculously survived and began to discover what they were truly made of. The dialogue from the various passengers provides a sense of each survivor’s experience. Some blindly push forward in survival mode, while others remain calm and find ways to assist those in need.

Virtual strangers reached out to lift spirits, encourage and save the lives of those around them. A young mother found assistance with her infant son through the most unlikely passengers. Panic among the passengers was curtailed by those who shared their calm. One man even remained behind to dislodge the seat cushions to pass out to frightened survivors.

And, of course, the story would not be complete without the description of New York’s well-known first responders, who were on site in a matter of minutes after the crash occurred. Though the frigid air and river currents were challenging, the first responders would not be deterred until all the passengers were accounted for safely back on shore.

The book closes with an account of the current status of each passenger interviewed. Reading the different perspectives of the same event illustrates the diversity of human nature in crisis. Yet an innate survival instinct was present in all, as a great many of the passengers met their worst fears that day.

“Miracle on the Hudson,” is an easy, interesting read about one winter day when 155 strangers learned a little bit about themselves and their fellow man as they faced the crisis of their lives.

Questions for reflection:

• Many of the passengers on Flight 1549 reconciled their emotions and turned to prayer when they thought they might be dying in the crash. How do you think you would face your own death? What part would your faith play in facing similar circumstances?
• Some of the passengers jumped into the river because others in front of them did. Have you ever followed someone without knowing if your actions were right? Why? What were the consequences? What did you learn?
• Many believe it was miraculous that all 155 passengers and crew members on Flight 549 survived. Do you believe in miracles? Explain.