VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope Benedict XVI celebrated Christmas with a call to peace and a plea on behalf of the world’s children.

In the face of violent conflicts, child exploitation and economic woes, the pope said, the birth of Jesus brings a light that “breaks through the gloom” and urges a mentality of solidarity with others.

In his Christmas message, the pope said a more generous and sharing attitude was essential to overcoming global problems, including terrorism, human rights violations and apprehension about “an increasingly uncertain future ... even in affluent nations.”

“If people look only to their own interests, our world will certainly fall apart,” he said.

The pope spoke from the central balcony of St. Peter’s Basilica, delivering a blessing “urbi et orbi” (to the city of Rome and the world) and pronouncing Christmas greetings in 64 languages. In English, he said: “May the birth of the Prince of Peace remind the world where its true happiness lies; and may your hearts be filled with hope and joy, for the Savior has been born for us.”

The 81-year-old pontiff looked fit and sounded good as he made his way rapidly through the multilingual salutations, which included Chinese, Arabic and Swahili. He had been up late, celebrating a midnight Mass in St. Peter’s Basilica that ended at 2 a.m.

In his Christmas message, the pope said it was important to remember that Jesus came with saving grace not for a few but “for all: Jews and Gentiles, rich and poor, those near and those far away, believers and nonbelievers.”

This grace is sorely needed today, he said, in places like the Holy Land, where “the horizon seems once again bleak for Israelis and Palestinians”; in Lebanon, Iraq and the rest of the Middle East; and in many other places where “the twisted logic of conflict” reigns.

The grace of Christ is sought by the people of Zimbabwe, “trapped for all too long in a political and social crisis which, sadly,
Bringing hope during the Christmas season and beyond

ST. JOSEPH, Garrett, is a wonderful parish. It has not been easy for them to keep a strong school going; but with the help of their principal Linda Speer and the hard work of the finance council and a generous gift, they are on the road to paying off their debt entirely. I am glad we have the Catholic Church, which is around them in all its vitality. It can be an instrument of bringing many back to the sacraments.

So, this will begin on Feb. 1, 2009. But how will we pay for it? The priests also helped us with this.

1. There has been a modest increase in the goal for the Annual Bishop’s Appeal. This will cover one-half of the cost.

2. An envelope will be placed in the newspaper twice a year, and contributions will be encouraged.

3. With the newspaper going into 58,000 homes rather than 15,000, we believe — or at least we hope — there will be an increase in advertising revenue.

Is it a risk? Yes, but it is the kind of risk that Pope John Paul II urged upon us in his message at the end of the celebration of the Great Jubilee of 2000, the following words:

“Set out into the deep and lower the net for a catch.”

So, our newspaper and the bishop will be visiting every Catholic home in the diocese that we know about beginning in early February. I ask God’s blessing on this new effort at evangelization.

A postcard campaign

The Catholic Church in this country always responds to significant threats to human life; and now, that noble cause is calling us again. The bishops of this country are united in opposing any bill with provisions contained in the Freedom of Choice Act or any similar measure. Shortly each parish will be supplied with postcards, so that individuals or families can mail them to their representatives and senators in late January or early February. If the measures which are already being prepared are passed, then many of the laws limiting abortion, such as waiting periods or parental permission, would be abolished.

Cardinal Justin Rigali of Philadelphia, chairman of our Pro-Life Committee, has written a letter to all bishops, which contains the following:

“The new Congress includes the largest number of pro-abortion members since 1993, so holding on to these pro-life provisions will be a great challenge.” He also writes, “We are concerned about this dismantling of current pro-life policies regardless how this effort is packaged.”

We will have more on this later, but I wanted you all to know about it. Keep it in your prayers.

I will be off to Boston for a week’s vacation visiting my dear sisters and their families, and getting some rest.

Our pro-life directors, Fred and Lisa Everett, have asked me to attend the pro-life march in Washington on Jan. 22. It is the anniversary of the painful Roe vs. Wade decision. Fred and Lisa believe that if I go, then young people will be encouraged to attend. So I will go. More on that later.

See you all next week.
POPE
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

keeps worsening,” he said, referring to the African country’s recent cholera outbreak and continuing political and economic unrest.

The pope highlighted what he called the “interminable sufferings” of people in the war-torn region of Darfur in Sudan and in Somalia, as well as the escalation of fighting in Congo. In a special way, children in these places need the light of Christ and the return of hope for their future, he said.

During midnight Mass the pope, dressed in white and gold vestments, accepted the offertory gifts from young children of different countries, blessing each of them as they made their way to the altar.

Bethlehem tourism is good, but some feel Christmas spirit is missing

BY JUDITH SUDILOVSKY

BETHLEHEM, West Bank (CNS) — Cold winds did not keep tourists and pilgrims away from Manger Square Christmas Eve, but for some the Christmas spirit was missing.

Restaurants and souvenir shops enjoyed a brisk business all day. On an outdoor stage, a Spanish pop singer in tight jeans and a T-shirt shimmied, tossing her long hair.

American Douglas Dicks, who had traveled from Jordan, wondered about the Christmas character of the celebrations.

“The music detracts from the prayerful mood,” said Dicks, who recently left Bethlehem for Amman after 12 years. “Christmas should be a time of carols and prayers and reflection — not rock music.”

“I was expecting more people and more of a carol and candlelight atmosphere,” said Australian Elana Peters. Still, she said, it was fantastic to be in Bethlehem.

Earlier in the afternoon, while awaiting the arrival of Latin Patriarch Fouad Twal of Jerusalem into the city, cousins Emad and Ibrahim Kheir, both 18 and from the neighboring village of Beit Sahour, stood by the Peace Center and lamented the lack of Christmas spirit.

“Last year was more beautiful,” said Emad Kheir, a Greek Orthodox. “I woke up this morning and looked outside and couldn’t feel like it was Christmas. Maybe last year it was warmer... maybe it is that in the world situation there is no peace; maybe it is the situation in Gaza or in Iraq.”

Maybe, added Ibrahim Kheir, U.S. President-elect Barack Obama will make a change.

The world will change for the better only when people accept Jesus and experience a change of heart, he said.

After the liturgy, the pope walked in procession down the main aisle of the basilica, smiling and blessing the faithful. At one point, the Vatican’s chief security agent tackled a woman who had moved past the wooden barriers and appeared to be rushing toward the pope. The Vatican later said there was no danger to the pontiff.

On Christmas Eve, the pope lit a candle at his apartment window after the Vatican’s larger-than-life Nativity scene was unveiled in St. Peter’s Square below. This year’s Nativity scene featured representations of domestic settings from the period, alongside Jesus’ manger in Bethlehem.

In his sermon, he said the arrival of the savior as a child should remind people everywhere of the suffering of children, including those denied the love of their parents and those who have been abused.

“Let us think of those street children who do not have the blessing of a family home, of those children who are brutally exploited as soldiers and made instruments of violence, instead of messengers of reconciliation and peace,” he said.

“Let us think of those children who are victims of the industry of pornography and every other appalling form of abuse and thus are traumatized in the depths of their soul,” he said.

He said the infant Jesus “summons us once again to do everything in our power to put an end to the suffering of these children.”

That was a grey afternoon in 1939. In 1940 during his first year of Harvard Law School, he was walking along the Charles River, a walk that I have taken countless times and which I still take during my summer vacation. But let us quote Father Dulles himself from his conversion memoir, “A Conversion to Grace” (1946):

“I was irresistibly prompted to go out into the open air... The slash of melting snow formed a deep mud along the banks of the River Charles, which I followed down toward Boston... As I waded aimlessly, something inspired me to look contemplatively at a young tree. On its fraile, apple boughs were long buds... while my eye rested on them, the thought came to me suddenly with all the strength and novelty of a revelation, that these little buds in their innocence and meekness followed a rule, a law of which I as yet know nothing... that night, for the first time in years, I prayed.”

Extraordinary conversion

He was a student at Harvard University. As a student at Harvard University, he was walking along the Charles River, a walk that I have taken countless times and which I still take during my summer vacation. But let us quote Father Dulles himself from his conversion memoir, “A Conversion to Grace” (1946):

“I was irresistibly prompted to go out into the open air... The slash of melting snow formed a deep mud along the banks of the River Charles, which I followed down toward Boston... As I waded aimlessly, something inspired me to look contemplatively at a young tree. On its fraile, apple boughs were long buds... while my eye rested on them, the thought came to me suddenly with all the strength and novelty of a revelation, that these little buds in their innocence and meekness followed a rule, a law of which I as yet know nothing... that night, for the first time in years, I prayed.”

That was a grey afternoon in 1939. In 1940 during his first year of Harvard Law School, he was received as a Catholic. After the bombing of Pearl Harbor, he joined the Navy. For his service, he received the Croix de Guerre from the French government. He came from a strong Presbyterian family who were startled that he became a Catholic and then a Jesuit. His father was John Foster Dulles, Secretary of the State under President Eisenhower, and his uncle was Allen Dulles, director of the CIA.

I knew Cardinal Dulles well, and considered him a friend. He received a copy of this newspaper every week, and often thanked me for it. I wrote an extensive article once on “Ex Corde Ecclesiae” and sent it to him for review and constructive criticism, which he graciously provided.

In the midst of the sex abuse crisis, there was much talk about ecclesial reform. I said to him, “Avery, why don’t you give one of the McGinley lectures on reform.” He was the kind of person that was humble enough to learn from anyone. “What a good idea,” he said; and he prepared an essay on reform, rooting much of it in a well-known article by Father Yves Conger, one of the great theologians of Vatican II, entitled “True and False Reform in the Church.” The McGinley lectures have been put into a book — a compilation of talks he gave on significant, theological topics at Fordham University in his declining years. Like all of his writings, they were clear, and sound, and faithful always to the magisterium of the church.

Of his many books, I was especially drawn to “The Craft of Theology.” It states clearly the nature of the theological enterprise.

A very humble, highly intelligent, strong man with a keen intellect and a conversion story filled with grace. A faithful servant of the truth and of the Catholic Church. He once spent a semester teaching at the University of Notre Dame. A Jesuit priest and a good friend. Let us pray for him. A friend of mine said, “He will surely be a saint one day.”

May angels receive him into paradise, and may the martyrs welcome him at his coming.
Father Bueter retires from Hispanic ministry

BY KAY COZAD

WARSAW — The new year brings the end of an era for the beloved pastor of Our Lady of Guadalupe in Warsaw, Father Paul R. Bueter, who will retire officially on Jan. 2. But there is nothing final about his continued ministry to God’s people. For nearly 50 years Father Bueter has been a mainstay for Hispanic Catholics both here in the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend and in Latin America as well.

A native of Fort Wayne, Father Bueter was born in 1933 to Raymond and Annette Bueter, the third of five children. He, with his parents and sisters, were parishioners of St. Jude Parish, where he attended elementary school. His family, he says, was strong in their faith, with rosary recitation and weekday Mass.

Father Bueter attended Marmion Military Academy in Illinois, a prep school, during his high school years and all the while had thoughts of the priesthood.

“I had thoughts of becoming a priest off and on... My parents saw my desire, but never pushed me one way or the other. I think they just quietly prayed,” he recalls, adding that it was natural to have priests as guests in his boyhood home as well as his association with the Benedictine priests who ran his high school.

Following high school graduation in 1951, the young Bueter decided to investigate the priesthood and enrolled in Our Lady of the Lake Minor Seminary in Syracuse for two years of undergraduate studies. By the fall of 1953 he found himself immersed in philosophy and theology at St. Mary Major Seminary in Baltimore. Of his calling Father Bueter says matter-of-factly, “I never really had any big doubts.”

On May 30, 1959, Paul Bueter was ordained into the holy priesthood in Latin America, where priests were in high demand. So in 1965, sponsored by the diocese with a verbal agreement, the young shepherd was on his way to Panama, where he would spend the next 16 years of his priesthood ministering to the people there.

Initially Father Bueter studied the Spanish language and culture for three months in Mexico, but soon found himself assigned to a small rural town as assistant to the pastor. After two years he became pastor and describes the parish community saying, “I was right in with the people...”

After eight years there, Father Bueter was reassigned to another peasant area and served as pastor at San Andres Church for the next eight years, until Bishop McManus called him back to the states to pastor at St. Bavo Parish in Mishawaka. He shepherded the “wonderful people” there from 1981 to 1987, when he requested that he might serve the Hispanic population in the diocese once again.

So in 1987 Father Bueter became pastor of Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish in Milford that met in a garage at that time and St. John the Evangelist in Goshen. By 1990, another pastor was appointed to St. John and Father Bueter focused on his Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish community.

Of the parish Father Bueter has seen many changes including the building of the Our Lady of Guadalupe Church and Diocesan Shrine in Warsaw.

“I am blessed to be able to work in Hispanic ministry. I thank the bishop and the Lord for that.”

FATHER PAUL BUETER

University of Dayton

AND REDEEMER RADIO’S THIRD BIRTHDAY!

Come celebrate with us the Epiphany of our Lord

Catholic Radio AM 1450

AND REDEEMER RADIO’S THIRD BIRTHDAY!

Tuesday, January 6 from 9-11 am

4705 Illinois Road, Fort Wayne 46804
R.S.V.P.: (260) 436-1450

Online at www.redeemerradio.com
Email: info@redeemerradio.com

Alumni Ben Lanka, Kim Back, Jeremy Reidy, Lauren Caggiano and MaryLou Hipshkind participated in a 45-year tradition of bringing the spirit of Christmas to the needy.
WASHINGTON (CNS) — With their Dec. 19 publication in the Federal Register, regulations that protect the conscience rights of health care providers are scheduled to become law two days after President-elect Barack Obama takes office.

The regulations are designed to ensure “that Department of Health and Human Services funds do not support coercive or discriminatory policies or practices in violation of federal law,” according to the title of the final rule.

Deirdre McQuade, assistant director for policy and communications in the Office of Pro-Life Activities at the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, praised the regulations in a Dec. 18 statement.

“Individuals and institutions committed to healing should not be required to take the very human life that they are dedicated to protecting,” she said. “The enforcement of federal laws to protect their freedom of conscience is long overdue.”

The regulations support three conscience provisions passed by Congress as long ago as the 1970s and as recently as 2004. They stipulate that no federal funds be given to health care institutions that require providers to participate in abortions or sterilizations or discriminate against those who decline to participate because of their religious or moral beliefs.

The final rule notes that “religious and faith-based organizations have a long tradition of providing medical care in the United States, and they continue to do so today.”

“A trend that isolates and excludes some among various religious, cultural and/or ethnic groups from participating in the delivery of health care is especially troublesome when considering current and anticipated shortages of health care professionals in many medical disciplines and regions of the country,” it added.

McQuade said that “Catholic health care providers will especially welcome this mark of respect for the excellent life-affirming care they provide to all in need.”

But she added that Catholics are not the only ones who oppose “the deliberate destruction of nascent human life.”

“All health care providers should be free to serve their patients without violating their most deeply held moral and religious convictions in support of life,” McQuade said.

The Planned Parenthood Federation of America is organizing opposition to the rule, saying it threatens patients’ rights and would restrict health care access.

“We look forward to working with President-elect Obama and leaders in Congress to repeal this disastrous rule and expand patients’ access to full health care information and services — not limit it,” said Cecile Richards, Planned Parenthood president, in a Dec. 18 statement.

Meanwhile, in another conscience-related decision, the Illinois Supreme Court ruled Dec. 18 that individual pharmacists and pharmacy owners have legal standing to challenge Gov. Rod Blagojevich’s 2005 emergency order requiring them to dispense the emergency contraceptive marketed as Plan B or leave the profession. Two lower courts had held that they did not have standing.

Charmaine Yoest, president and CEO of Americans United for Life, called the decision “a huge victory for the freedom of conscience of all health care providers.”

“Pharmacists now have proper recourse against a discriminatory law that would force them to check their constitutional rights at the workplace door,” she said in a statement.

Vatican hopes Obama will foster peace, concern for poor, cardinal says

ROME (CNS) — The Vatican is concerned about President-elect Barack Obama’s positions on the family and on the unborn, but it looks forward with hope to his presidency fostering more attention to the poor and easterners around the globe, said retired Cardinal Pio Laghi.

The cardinal, a former Vatican nuncio to the United States, spoke about the prospects for U.S.-Vatican relations under Obama during a Dec. 22 conference in Rome sponsored by Limes, an Italian political journal.

Although some pundits have said Obama’s support for legalized abortion and embryonic stem-cell research would poison the rapport the United States and the Vatican have developed under President George W. Bush despite the Vatican’s opposition to the war in Iraq — Cardinal Laghi said, “the Vatican does not fear the end of close cooperation.”

“One must wait to see how he acts with regard to the fundamental commitments — which for us are very important — to protect the family and the sacredness of human life from conception to the tomb,” the cardinal said.

But another very serious issue is “the defense of Christians, of Catholics, who are threatened in India, in Iraq where there has been an enormous exodus and in the Holy Land,” he said.

“This situation has worsened because of the war in Iraq. If the war had not been avoided, there would not have been this huge exodus, especially from Iraq, and this sense of persecution, of real persecution,” the cardinal said.

In 2003 Pope John Paul II sent Cardinal Laghi to the White House in a last-minute attempt to convince Bush not to invade Iraq. Ignoring the pope’s pleas and conducting a war that was much more complicated than foreseen, Bush’s action exacerbated anti-Christian feelings in many parts of the world, Cardinal Laghi said.

Because the United States is considered to be a Christian country, he said, “where American soldiers go, the countries they occupy consider Christians to be their occupiers.”

Cardinal Laghi said the Vatican is hopeful that under Obama’s leadership the United States will return to acting primarily as a force for peace, especially with regard to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. It also expects Obama to act on his promise to assist the middle class and the poor, particularly with health care, he said.

“But very important points, which could lead to contrast and difficulties on the part of the Holy See and of Catholics in the United States, are the family and the defense of life,” he said.

“Obama brings with him to the White House the first Catholic vice president, Joe Biden. And I read today that Obama has put him in charge of a task force on the family. This is a good sign, if the family will be defended as it should be,” Cardinal Laghi said.

The cardinal also said he hoped Obama would take his time and seek “good counsel” before acting on the proposed Freedom of Choice Act, which would protect abortion as a fundamental right throughout the United States, regardless of existing state laws to restrict it.

Beyond specific policy issues, Obama’s election was a sign of renewed hope in “a country of hope,” Cardinal Laghi said.

Obama’s election, he said, capped the United States’ “liberation from the horrendous original sin that for many years marred the face of America: slavery.”

“Obama’s campaign was inspired and motivated by a spirit of reconciliation,” he said, and Pope Benedict XVI, the U.S. bishops’ conference and the Vatican newspaper each welcomed his victory as an opportunity for a new beginning.
Pope prays for families, those in difficulty

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Christmas celebrations underscore the importance of those in one’s family, become more painful, Pope Benedict XVI said. Reciting the Angelus Dec. 28, the feast of the Holy Family, Pope Benedict prayed for families in difficulty and for family members who are sick or out of work. “Christmas is the family celebration par excellence,” the pope told visitors in St. Peter’s Square. “This is demonstrated by many traditions and social customs, especially gathering together as a family to share festive meals and exchange best wishes and gifts.” But, he said, it also is a time when “the discomfort and pain caused by certain family wounds are amplified.” The pope prayed that all Christian families would model their relationships on those of Jesus, Mary and Joseph, working together, trusting in God and taking care of one another.

In messages, Holy Land church leaders call for peace, reconciliation

JERUSALEM (CNS) — Latin Patriarch Fouad Twal’s first Christmas message as patriarch of Jerusalem was one of hope and encouragement, without ignoring the Holy Land’s difficulties. “Christmas has come and so we are full of hope. We are thankful for hopeful signs around us, such as recent international encounters at the highest levels among religious leaders and among other peacemakers,” Patriarch Twal said in his Dec. 23 message. He told journalists at a press conference that after his first six months as patriarch he felt “fine” in the “most beautiful and most complicated diocese in the world.” In a separate Christmas message Dec. 18, Franciscan Father Pierbattista Pizzaballa, head of the Franciscan Custody of the Holy Land, addressed the world financial crisis. “The torments that today most brutally afflict society are of an economic nature. Materialistic society discovers with dismay its deepest fragility. Being poor or becoming poor becomes a real possibility for everyone,” he said. “But this is only the outward sign of a deeper poverty that afflicts the soul. We too discover that we are shepherds in the night.”

Source: Israel, Vatican eager to finalize talks before papal visit

JERUSALEM (CNS) — Israeli and Vatican negotiators appear eager to finalize negotiations on fiscal and property matters prior to the pope’s Jan. 22 visit to Bethlehem, a source close to the negotiations said. “Both the state of Israel and the representatives of the Holy See are very interested to finalize this,” he said, adding that though he was unaware of any official policy, the pope’s visit, reportedly in May, might be acting as an impetus for both sides to finish up negotiations. In a statement following a plenary session at the Vatican Dec. 18, the negotiators said they have scheduled another plenary session for April 25 and four meetings of their working group, which will take place starting in January with “the intent on both sides of accelerating the process and reaching an agreement as soon as possible.” The statement called the December meeting “significant and useful.”

People with jobs must be thankful, generous

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Those who have a job this Christmas should be thankful and should reach out to help their neighbors who are less fortunate, Pope Benedict XVI said. “With Christmas approaching, my thoughts naturally turn to the employment crisis that is worrying all humanity today,” the pope said Dec. 19 during a meeting with officials of the Vatican’s Central Labor Office. “Those who have the possibility of working should be thankful to God and open their hearts with generosity toward those who find themselves with employment and economic difficulties,” the pope said. Pope Benedict prayed that Jesus would watch over those suffering because of the global economic crisis and inspire new acts of solidarity among all people. Pope John Paul II established the Vatican labor office Jan. 1, 1989, to oversee the rights of Vatican employees and settle disputes between employees and supervisors. The Vatican, including the Roman Curia and Vatican City State, employs more than 4,500 people, the majority of whom are laity.

Vatican supports ending violence against homosexuals, not new rights

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The Vatican said it condemns all forms of violence against homosexuals, but does not support a proposed U.N. declaration recognizing “sexual orientation” and “gender identity” as new categories that need human rights protections. “Despite the declaration’s rightful condemnation of and protection from all forms of violence against homosexual persons, the document, when considered in its entirety, goes beyond this goal and instead gives rise to uncertainty in the law and challenges existing human rights norms,” a Vatican statement said. The statement, issued by the office of the Vatican’s apostolic nuncio to the United Nations, Archbishop Celestino Migliore, was submitted Dec. 18 during the U.N. General Assembly’s discussion of a proposed Declaration on Human Rights, Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity. The statement said the Vatican appreciates efforts in the declaration aimed at condemning all forms of violence against homosexuals and urging nations to put an end to all criminal penalties against them. However, the declaration’s wording and its introduction of new categories for human rights protections go “well beyond the above-mentioned and shared intent,” it said.

PRIEST CARRIES STATUE AT CHURCH IN BETHLEHEM

A priest carries a statue of baby Jesus at St. Catherine’s Church adjacent to the Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem, West Bank, Dec. 23.

Number of Catholics in Congress edging up; more are Democrats

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The number of Catholic members of Congress is slowly creeping higher, but the Catholic contingent, like the full Congress itself, has its work cut out for it. Congress is slowly creeping higher, said John Paul H. Endicott, executive director of the National Catholic Parliamentary Caucus.” With the number of Catholic members of Congress edging up; more are Democrats.

U.S. dioceses prepare for gloomy economic forecast

WASHINGTON (CNS) — U.S. Catholic dioceses in regions hardest hit by the economic meltdown haven’t had to resort to drastic furloughs, but officials are bracing themselves for the possibility. Officials from dioceses contacted by Catholic News Service Jan. 7 said their 2009 budgets are solvent, enabling them to operate without radical cuts until the end of June. However, they haven’t yet determined how the current economic climate will affect their budgets for the 2009 fiscal year, which begins July 1. In the meantime, they all have reported trimming expenses where they can and proceeding carefully into the new year. “I do think we’re impacted, but it’s not like we know by how much at this point,” said Sister Charlotte Davenport, a Sister of St. Joseph of Peace who is chancellor of the Archdiocese of Anchorage, Alaska. “We’re watching it day by day and keeping expenses at a minimum. We’re being very, very careful.” With most U.S. dioceses conducting their annual fundraising appeals in the spring, officials in Detroit, Anchorage, Richmond, Calif., and Los Angeles said they are praying Catholics will be generous this year, but are bracing themselves for the potential of smaller contributions.
Father Cox selected for Wabash Pastoral Leadership Program

CRAWFORDSVILLE — Holy Cross Father Christopher Cox has been selected to participate in the Wabash Pastoral Leadership Program. Father Cox is pastor at St. Adalbert-St. Casimir Parish in South Bend.

The program targets Indiana pastors with between five and 10 years of experience following their graduate seminary studies and invites them to participate in a two-year program of leadership development and pastoral reflection.

The focus of the Wabash Pastoral Leadership Program will engage pastors in explorations of critical economic, educational and political challenges facing Indiana communities and help them develop the knowledge and skills to become stronger leaders in their congregations and communities.

Father Cox earned his undergraduate degree and master’s of divinity degree from the University of Notre Dame.

“From a number of outstanding pastors who applied, we selected a representative group with very high potential for leadership from diverse churches throughout Indiana,” said the program director, Raymond Brady Williams. “They have rich academic backgrounds and life experiences, and we look forward to lively discussions of important issues and challenges that face communities and churches in Indiana.”

“Pastors play important roles in sustaining the vitality of local Indiana communities,” said Craig Dykstra, senior vice president for religion at the endowment. “We are delighted that Wabash will create a leadership program that recognizes and honors their work, helps them understand and develop critical challenges faced by Indiana, and prepares them to become increasingly effective leaders in congregations and communities.”

Pastors involved in the program will meet on the Wabash College campus 10 times over a two-year period to meet with civic, government, business and religious leaders to discuss issues that affect local Indiana communities. The pastors will learn about a range of topics, such as statewide efforts to strengthen public education, Indiana economic initiatives, government responses to property tax and other issues, the impact of immigration on local communities and advances in medical research and their impact on health care.

In addition, the pastors will participate in a study tour in North America during the first year and an international study tour in the second year of the program to learn about transnational contexts. One group of pastors will begin in January 2009 and the second in 2011.

Professor Snead praises Vatican bioethics document

NOTRE DAME — The 32-page document on bioethical issues issued Dec. 12 by the Vatican reemphasized the Catholic Church’s moral opposition to in-vitro fertilization, human cloning and embryonic stem-cell research.

The document, whose title, “Dignitas Personae,” is Latin for “the dignity of a person,” was issued by the Vatican Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith to respond to bioethical issues, which have arisen in the 21 years since its last such instruction.

According to O. Carter Snead, associate professor of law in the University of Notre Dame’s Law School, “the breadth of the instruction is striking; it covers a whole host of new technologies — assisted reproduction techniques (and adjuccts), embryo research, cloning, gene therapy and the like.”

Snead, having read the document closely, stressed the difficulty of commenting briefly on such an extensive teaching.

“The most noteworthy feature to me about the new instruction is that even though it makes very strong moral claims, the arguments set forth in support of these claims fully respect public reason,” Snead said. “That is, the arguments follow from premises that can be readily understood and accepted or rejected on their own merits by believers and nonbelievers alike.”

As an example Snead cited the injunction against embryo-destructive research.

“The church’s argument here is essentially based on two premises,” he said. “The first is that human embryos are radically equal and an axiom that should be quite familiar to all Americans; the same concept figures prominently in the principles of classical liberalism that undergird our own fundamental laws. The church’s argument about embryo-destructive research is thus well suited for public debate in a pluralistic society such as our own.”

K OF C GIFT COUNCIL MEMBERS

Knights of Columbus Council 451 of Fort Wayne are preparing to send boxes to members of their council serving in Iraq and Kuwait. This is the third set of boxes the council has sent since their departure. Pictured are Jim Alwine, financial secretary and John Murray, Grand Knight.

USF offers Saturday morning art classes for children

FORT WAYNE — The School of Creative Arts at the University of Saint Francis has announced spring art classes for children in grades 1-8 from 9 to 11 a.m. on Saturdays from Feb. 7 to April 25.

A variety of two and three-dimensional visual arts will be taught, including drawing, painting and sculpture. Art materials will be provided. Cost is $80 for one child and $75 for each additional child. The cost includes all materials and instructional fees. Registration is due by Feb. 4. Early registration is advised as enrollment is limited.

For more information or a registration form, please contact the School of Creative Arts at (260) 399-7700 ext. 8001. The School of Creative Arts (SOCA) is an accredited school by the National Association of Schools of Art and Design (NASAD).

Reedemer Radio celebrates three years

FORT WAYNE — Reedemer Radio, Catholic Radio AM 1450, will hold a celebration Jan. 6 from 9-11 a.m. to honor the station’s third anniversary on the air. The festivities will be held at Reedemer Radio, 4705 Illinois Rd., and will include several special announcements and presentations. Friends and supporters of Reedemer Radio are invited to attend.

The celebration on Jan. 6 will recognize the work of the past and look forward to a bright future. The occasion will also serve to announce some exciting changes for the station’s programming line-up. The anticipated new schedule will include: “The Son Rise Morning Show,” with host Brian Patrick, broadcasting live from Cincinnati, Ohio; Father Larry Richards; “Women of Grace” with Johnette Benkovic; Father John Corapi; “The Doctor Is In” with Dr. Ray Guarani, and Colleen Kelly Mast; and an additional hour of “Kresta in the Afternoon.” Long-range plans include a Spanish-language station in the Fort Wayne area and a live local daily program.

Other special events will include its third anniversary appreciation party for the founders of the station. Special thanks will be given to one of the founders, outgoing board chair Chris Langford, and new Reedemer Radio board chairperson, Mike Kelly will be introduced.

Father Mark Gurtner, pastor of Our Lady of Good Hope Parish, will speak on the true meaning of the feast of the Epiphany, one of the oldest Christian feasts commemorating the manifestations of the divinity of Christ.
NEW YEAR RESOLUTION

Mind, body and soul

BY KAREN CLIFFORD

GRANGER — “Movement is a medicine for creating change in a person’s physical, emotional, and mental states.” — Carol Welch

Whether bicycling up the Pyrenees, lifting weights or diving for a volleyball, three members of the St. Pius X community strongly testify to the benefits of a fitness program on the mind, body and soul. Pastor Father Bill Schooler, parishioner Susan Helms and St. Pius X School seventh-grader Alexis Kleva, share the fitness programs they participate in and the positive effects of regular exercise in their daily lives.

At 60 years of age, Father Schooler’s passion and dedication for bike riding impresses even the youngest bike enthusiast. Last year he led a pilgrimage on the Camino de Santiago in Spain, riding a bike for the first 600 miles of the journey. The excursion began in the Pyrenees Mountains. Father Schooler recalls, “The Pyrenees have very difficult grades with many rolling parts. We also crossed two other mountain ranges.” He adds, “When we went into Galicia, we encountered a great deal of hills, which were demanding.”

The second part of the pilgrimage involved walking the final 60 miles with the St. Pius X youth group and adult sponsors. Father Schooler testifies to the consequences of not preparing for a strenuous exercise activity, “I had not trained for the walking portion of the trip and got some pretty severe blisters on my feet and toes,” he emphasizes. In addition to bike riding, Father Schooler also plays racquetball and works out in a gym as a part of his fitness routine.

St. Pius X parishioner Susan Helms has been exercising for the past 25 years and has been faithful to a scheduled fitness routine for the last 15 years. During this time Susan has participated in aerobics, step-bosu, yoga, Pilates, spinning and various other classes for cardiac and muscle conditioning. In addition, Susan has trained and rode a tandem bike on several century rides and taken part in charity walks and fundraisers.

She finds that scheduled exercise has a profound effect in her life. “It gives me the physical energy I need to keep up with the demands of a family of five.” By working her muscles, Susan has more energy for everyday tasks. Alexis Kleva, a seventh grader at St. Pius X is shown working out at a volleyball practice. She believes exercise gives her energy and a positive attitude for the day.

“I have the strength to rake leaves, mow, shovel, clean my house, or whatever activity that calls,” she adds.

Student Alexis Kleva is involved with several fitness activities in and out of school. She has participated in ballet, tap, jazz, gymnastics, softball, volleyball, basketball and track. Kleva also took part in the South Bend Parks and Recreation Kids Triathlon for three years and was a member of a competitive cheer leading team that won a national championship.

St. Pius X teachers reflect on the impact of Kleva’s physical well-being on her classes at school. Homeroom teacher Allison Krisch notes, “Alexis (Lexi) embodies the essence of the phrase student athlete. She is a team player when it comes to group projects and shows compassion to her fellow students.”

Physical fitness teacher Marc Green adds, “Lexi is currently part of the St. Pius X volleyball team and is a true leader in this sport as well. In this world where some athletes are poor role models, it is nice to see someone who exemplifies being a great teammate and a better young lady!”

Father Schooler, Helms and Kleva all agree that a good fitness routine affects their thinking and decision-making processes.

“Getting good physical exercise helps me deal with frustrations and provides time for thinking through problems, especially when I am working out or riding my bike alone,” Father Schooler remarks.

Helm adds, “Exercise is a great venue for emotional fatigue. My mind is sharper, clearer and more focused after I have worked up a sweat!”

And for Kleva, regular exercise has long lasting effects. “It helps me keep good energy throughout the day. When I feel better, I’m more positive and have a better attitude with others and towards doing my best in school.”

Relationships with God and other people are also improved by exercise. “When I see others less fortunate or struggling with a fragile body, I am humbled and so appreciative of the ‘temple’ that God has given to me. I remind myself that I am required to take care of myself as our bodies are a gift from him,” Helms reflects.

Father Schooler expresses that a bond develops when exercising with others. “There is a real camaraderie developed among the groups with which I bike. Even when I compete in racquetball, my opponent and I always spend time talking to one another.”

Kleva shares that teamwork is improved with a physical fitness program. “By working hard and together as a team, I feel I’m strengthening my ability to become a better steward and improving my relationship with God.”

So what does each recommend for getting started in a fitness program? Kleva emphasizes finding something to enjoy. “If you are going to start a new fitness program make it fun, exciting and interesting. You will continue a sport if you are having fun.”

Helm encourages everyone to make a plan and get started. “Look at your calendar and build time for you. Making the commitment to exercise will change your life forever.”

Father Schooler concludes with a reminder to begin a new exercise program gradually. “It takes time and a regular routine to build stamina, strength and endurance. Go slowly!”
Serving needs in and outside of the church

BY LAUREN CAGGIANO

FORT WAYNE — Instead of spending more time at the office this year, why not consider devoting more time to your church? St. Charles Borromeo's Father Tony Steinacker offers a few suggestions on how to become more active in the parish community, on an individual, couple and family basis.

One way to get involved on an individual basis is to become a lector or usher. Steinacker says this role can serve as a good example for children, as we are active in the Mass. Once at the proper age, children can become involved in the Mass as altar servers. The musically inclined might consider playing an instrument or singing in the choir, he says.

Group prayer is another means to enhance one’s spiritual life. Some parishioners find a prayer group is a great way to devote a few hours each week to God. If your parish lacks one, approach your pastor about starting one. The Vocation Cross Program is also a great way to become more involved as a family. A family, couple or individual takes home the cross and prays each day for one week as a witness to the parish.

“This is a beautiful way for families to pray together during busy times,” he says. “As Catholics, we should live our faith outside the confines of the church. Becoming active in civic and school organizations is a means to live an example of our Catholic faith and values. Parents can volunteer to be Boy or Girl Scout leaders, den mothers, youth leaders, coaches and school volunteers.

“These programs do help to form the attitude and disposition of a young person in the line of service,” Father Steinacker notes.

The success and future of these organizations depends on collaboration among all units of society.

“All of these things depend on the collaboration with school principals and the pastor,” he says. “Be aware of what’s going on in the community.”

Overall, Steinacker wishes to remind families that these acts of service are not limited to Christmas season appropriate.

“This time of year we’re overwhelmed,” he says. “But any day is a good day to do a charitable act and examine our lives.”

Yoga

Yoga literally means “yolk” and is a practice that encourages a union of the mind, body and spirit. This ancient art has been practiced for more than 5,000 years and it’s easy to see why close to 11 million Americans practice it.

Most Westernized yoga classes focus on learning physical poses, which are called asanas. They usually also include some form of breathing technique and possibly a meditation technique as well. Some yoga classes are designed purely for relaxation, but there are styles of yoga that teach you how to move your body in new ways. Choosing one of these styles offers the greatest health benefits by enabling you to develop your flexibility, strength and balance.

Yoga is offered, especially at health clubs, yoga studios, YMCA’s and even churches and schools. Some Catholic local churches have received authorization to teach yoga’s healing powers. For example, Christine Hill offers an all-ages beginning yoga class in Fort Wayne’s St. Jude Parish on Sunday from 6:30 to 8 p.m. Monday nights.

Hill, who has been practicing since 1997, said she felt a calling from God to teach yoga. She started a class at the church in June and the response was “overwhelming,” so she has continued the class.

Hill has discovered that yoga can be a spiritual practice, or “prayer in movement,” as she described it. The mother of two said practice helps her focus on the “here and now” and is a complement to her prayer life.

Hill said all are welcome to try out her class. Wear comfortable clothes and she will provide the rest. Call St. Jude Church at (260) 484-6609 for more information.

The Light Weigh Diet

Forget the Atkins Diet, South Beach Diet, etc., the Light Weigh Diet is unique because it’s rooted in prayer and self-control.

The diet is the result of founder Suzanne Fowler’s struggle with weight.

“I was trying to figure out how to free myself from being overweight,” she explained in an e-mail interview. “I used to weigh 100 pounds more than I do now and I felt like food controlled me. I had no peace with myself or food at that time.”

Fowler tried every diet known to man, but found no success. And starting a family did not help her cause and she fell further in despair.

But God works in mysterious ways.

“When I was pregnant with my sixth child, it occurred to me that God had to have the answer for me,” she recalled. “At that point I turned to God in desperation and asked him to help me and lead me.”

Fowler continued doing weight loss research supplement-
ed with research on the teachings of the saints who spent their lives learning to overcome temptation. The result of the fruits of her labor was the Light Weigh Diet. According to her Web site, Lightweigh.com, the diet is a 12-week video series Bible study in which participants learn a “new approach to eating and to prayer.”

Light weigh members learn to eat the foods they enjoy in moderation. The Light Weigh is international and is done throughout the United States, Canada, Ireland and Australia.

All Light Weigh groups use the same format. Meetings last about 90 minutes, once a week. Possibility if space only, Light Weigh groups can be started in small groups in your parish or in your home. The Light Weigh is Catholic, and so it is based on the truth of the faith found in our faith that Jesus himself founded personally and designed.

Fowler is not alone in her success. The Light Weigh has definitely changed my life and the lives of thousands of other people since I wrote it,” she said. “For me, I never thought it would be possible to lose my weight, keep it off and eat the foods I enjoy, but it is possible through Light Weigh.”

Fowler said she regularly receives testimonial stories from Weight Watchers who claim the diet has changed their lives, lowered their blood sugars, helped them lose weight and brought them closer to God. A young woman in St. Louis used Light Weigh to lose 150 pounds, she noted.

Fowler said her diet yields physical and spiritual results.

“When we approach physical health from the Light Weigh spiritual perspective we experience a transformation from the inside out,” she said.

Through using the tools provided by the diet, we are able to learn detachment from food and peace with food. Peace with food is when you still enjoy food, but you are no longer controlled by it and do not turn to food to satisfy emotional needs, she said.

The Honeymoon Habit

Lessons for Renewing Romance and Reconnecting with Your Spouse

by Tony Garascia

“...You dreamed of being lovers, partners, companions, and friends...always in love...yet you find your passion fading and wish for a new energy. The four images of lovers, partner, companion and friend can be re-dreamed and restored. They can sustain you when the going gets tough and your dreams are tested. They can propel you back into the future you once dreamed.” Tony Garascia is currently the Clinical Director of the Samaritan Counseling Center of South Bend. His areas of specialty include marriage and relationship issues. Tony is a member of the American Counseling Association. He also is EMDR, Level II Certified. To order your copy of The Honeymoon Habit (price $15.00) go to www.amazon.com or www.booksurge.com and key in “The Honeymoon Habit” in the search bar.
Oh what a year this has been

Elections, economic crisis top stories of 2008, pope top newsmaker

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The election of the first African-American president and controversy surrounding the role of Catholic voters in the U.S. campaign topped the religious news stories of 2008, and Pope Benedict XVI and President-elect Barack Obama were the top newsmakers, according to an annual poll conducted by Catholic News Service. The global economic crisis took second place among the 31 news stories on the ballot. Pope Benedict’s six-day visit to the United States in April came in third. Most first-place votes on the newsmakers list went to either Obama or Pope Benedict, with the pontiff edging out the president-elect by a small margin. Catholic voters were a distant third. The poll was the 47th annual survey conducted by CNS. This year’s ballots were distributed Dec. 5 and the deadline for returns was Dec. 11.

Looking back in the diocese

Parish anniversaries

St. Robert Bellarmine, North Manchester — 50 years
Immaculate Conception Church, Auburn (church building) — 50 years
Christ the King, South Bend — 75 years
St. Mary of the Presentation, Geneva — 125 years
St. Patrick Parish, South Bend — 150 years

Rest in peace

Father William G. Hodde, 81, Jan. 17
Father Robert J. Hoevel, 92, March 5
Msgr. William M. Faber, 99, July 7
Father Elden J. Miller, 80, July 26
Deacon Louis “Mac” McDougall, 90, July 26
Deacon Fred J. Larson, 92, Sept. 23

Building projects

• Holy Cross School addition blessed in January
• St. Thomas broke ground for $3.1 million addition in June
• Bishop John M. D’Arcy blessed Educational Center at St. Pius X, Granger in August
• St. Vincent de Paul School, Fort Wayne, dedicated its kindergarten wing in September
• St. Jude, Fort Wayne, broke ground for an addition
• St. Charles broke ground for a kindergarten expansion in November

Parishes

• Father George Gabet, a priest of the Priestly Fraternity of St. Peter, assigned to Mother Theodore Guérin Community in March. The community celebrates Mass in the Tridentine Rite. The community consists of parishioners from Sacred Heart in Fort Wayne and St. John the Baptist in South Bend.

Diocesan

• Mary Glowaski became the director of the Campus and Young Adult Ministry department in the summer
• Young people from Warsaw and the South Bend area participated in World Youth Day activities in Sydney, Australia
• Eleven men partook in permanent diaconate candidacy blessing in August
• Day of Grace for Women, with speaker Johnnette Benkovic, welcomed over 300 guests at Grace College at Winona Lake on Sept. 27
• Red Mass celebrated at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Fort Wayne, Oct. 5
• Bishop John M. D’Arcy ordained Father Kevin Bauman and Father Andrew “Drew” Curty to the priesthood in October
• Bishop John M. D’Arcy met with Catholic Burmese refugees on All Saints Day
• Catechetical Institute Day celebrated at Syracuse in November
• Hispanic lay ministry catechetical day celebrated in Warsaw in December

Milestones

• Bishop Luers High School netted a state basketball IHSAA Class 2-A state championship March 22; and a third “state crown” championship in baseball in June
• Bishop John M. D’Arcy announced in October the creation of St. Catherine of Siena Parish, which involves the merging of St. Jude, South Bend, and Sacred Heart, Lakeville
• Msgr. Julian Benoit Academy merged with St. John the Baptist School, Fort Wayne, in the 2008-2009 school year
• St. Patrick School, Walkerton, merged with St. Michael the Archangel School in Plymouth in the 2008-2009 school year

Top Newsmakers

1. POPE BENEDICT XVI
   Makes first U.S. visit as pope, travels to France and Australia, opens year of St. Paul’s Offices
   2. PRESIDENT-ELECT BARACK OBAMA
   3. CATHOLIC VOTERS
   4. ST. PAUL
   5. IRAQI CHRISTIANS

2008

Top Stories

1. ELECTIONS
2. ECONOMIC CRISIS
3. Papal visit
4. Abortion
5. Global Tensions

Pope Benedict XVI’s activities as the head of the Catholic Church made him the top newsmaker of 2008.

Bishop John M. D’Arcy ordains Fathers Kevin Bauman and Andrew Curry to the priesthood in October.
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: editor@fwdiocese@sbcglobal.org

TODAY'S CATHOLIC welcomes letters from readers. All letters must be signed and include a phone number and address for verification.

Today's Catholic events

Ephesians has long held a tradition of announcing the events to come in the following year. We'll start with some exciting news about Today's Catholic. The newspaper has been subscription based; however, beginning Feb. 1, Bishop John M. D'Arcy has generously offered to distribute the paper weekly to all registered Catholics in our diocese 47 times per year.

Throughout the month of January, we hope to answer all your questions on how this will work in blocks ads in Today's Catholic. As always, we continue to offer Today’s Catholic Podcast, a 15-minute newscast that can be found on our diocesan Web site, www.diocesefw.org, or downloaded for free on iTunes. Listen to it whenever you wish on your MP3 player. We are also on the airwaves on Redeemer Radio — Catholic Radio 1450 AM — every Sunday afternoon.

Also, for those who wish to receive our Catholic news each week electronically, we can e-mail Today's Catholic as a PDF or you may access the most current issue on our diocesan Web site beginning in February.

You may notice a few “tweaks” to the design of the paper this week. This is to accommodate some labeling changes instituted by our Postal Service.

Here are some additional dates to note

Catholic Schools Week is celebrated nationally and in the diocese the last full week of January. This includes the popular All-School Mass at the Allen County War Memorial Coliseum on Friday, Jan. 30, and then again in South Bend at the Joyce Athletic Center on Feb. 4.

Lent begins Wednesday, Feb. 25. Good Friday is April 10. Catholics are encouraged to Lent as a time of prayer, fasting, almsgiving and repentance. Please check your parish bulletin for opportunities to partake in the sacrament of reconciliation.

Easter is April 12. Ascension is celebrated Sunday, May 24, and May 31 is Pentecost Sunday.

In August, the feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary falls on a Saturday and is therefore not a holy day of obligation this year.

All Saints falls on Sunday, Nov. 1. The feast of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary falls on Tuesday, Dec. 8. It is a holy day of obligation.

And Christmas falls on Sunday, Dec. 25.

This year, with prayers and the grace of God, three men will be ordained to the priesthood. They include Gabriel Hernandez and Fernando Jimenez and Jacob Runyon. Please keep our seminarians in your prayers.

TODAY'S CATHOLIC welcomes letters from readers. All letters must be signed and include a phone number and address for verification.

Today’s Catholic reserves the right to edit for clarity and length. Address letters to: Today’s Catholic • P.O. Box 11169 • Fort Wayne, IN • 46856-1169 or e-mail: editor@fwdiocese@sbcglobal.org

Christ bids us to come and go

BY SISTER MARGLIE LAVONIS, CSC

I have a ritual practice on New Year’s Eve or day, depending on what is going on in my life, I take some quiet time to review how God has worked in my life over the past year.

Last year I recalled a journal entry that summarized a talk I still remember. It was given during a day of prayer. The presenter, a wonderful Holy Cross priest, made a simple but profound statement. He said that Christian discipleship can be summed up by two words — “come” and “go.”

Jesus first invites his disciples to come, to come and be loved and not dismissed by him. “Come to me all you who are heavily burdened and I will give you rest (or whatever else you need).”

Disciples are centered in their master. As faithful disciples of Christ we must come to him frequently to deepen our relationship. Disciples must sit at the feet of the master and learn all they can about him. To know, in the biblical sense of the word, means to have an intimate relationship, a special friendship.

True disciples must also be steeped in the master’s values. Jesus says, “Come,” and we respond in prayer, reading Scripture and, by just being in God’s presence, allowing God to love and nurture us.

Christian discipleship, however, does not stop there. Jesus has a follow-up command. He tells us to “Go!” It is a blessing to experience God’s love and care and to bask in the knowledge that we are special, but that is not enough. Jesus calls his disciples to go and bring this experience of God’s love to others. Like Jesus, we too are sent to reveal God’s love to the world. This was the focus of Jesus’ ministry and is also of all who call themselves Christians.

We are called to be a concrete reality in our daily lives.

It is not enough to have love as an ideal.

We must make love a concrete reality in our daily lives.

We can show love by a simple smile at people who cross our paths. A kind smile from another person can make someone’s day. It is a way to recognize and tell someone they matter.

Inviting someone who rarely gets out to a game or show to work to offer the weekend for a fellow employee so she can attend a family reunion is also ways of showing God’s love.

Every day presents us with multiple ways to show love but often we do not put them in the category of actions of a disciple, but they are. Every act of kindness we perform carries out the good news of Jesus and the mission he gives us.

There is more than one way to preach the good news. Actions often speak louder than words. As I have said many times before, for some people we may be the only Bible they are ever exposed to.

So let us answer the Lord’s invitation to come and be loved by him, so we can go and show God’s love to others every day.

Not just during the Christmas season!
Paul and the Eucharist: Food for life

When Paul describes the Lord’s Supper in 1 Corinthians, he is giving them a reminder. He had already given them the Lord’s Supper when he founded the church at Corinth. In this letter back to them, he is reminding them of how the Eucharist is to function in their lives.

This letter is written only between 15 and 20 years after Jesus’ death. In this early period, it seems the Eucharist was celebrated within the context of an evening meal. It had not yet become customary to celebrate it Sunday morning.

Look at the problem that Paul sees there. “When you meet in one place, then, it is not to eat the Lord’s supper, for partaking of one another’s table will be a reminder. He had already given them the Lord’s Supper and wine, as Jesus had taught. This is what Paul had handed on for their practice.

But at the meal some were eating before all the others arrived. And the rich people were not sharing their more sumptuous food with the poor. And some were apparently drinking too much, as they might at other banquets.

So Paul is quite stern. “Do you not have houses in which you can eat and drink? Or do you show contempt for the church of God and make those who have nothing feel ashamed? What can I say to you? Shall I praise you? In this matter I do not praise you.” (v 22)

The Eucharist does not open Christians up to each other, in charity and compassion, then the Lord’s Supper has failed. Paul seems to say, The Eucharist is food for life. And the life we live is Christ’s life. And Christ is love. There is a social dimension to it.

### The Year of St. Paul

**Sunday:** Lk 5:12-16

**Monday:** Eph 3:2-3A, 5-6

**Tuesday:** Mt 2:1-12

**Wednesday:** 8 Mk 6:34-44

**Thursday:** 10-13 Mk 6:45-52

**Friday:** 1 Jn 5:14-21 Ps 147:12-15, 19-20 Lk 5:12-16

### Hope for all who seek the Christ child

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

So, many must have been very disappointed, to say the least. Nevertheless, this prophet literally sings his promise that Jerusalem, the ancient heart of Jewish life, will rise again in majesty and prosperity.

The Epistle to the Ephesians furnishes the second reading. This reading reveals the circumstances that prevailed in the first decades of Christianity. Jesus was Jewish, as were all the apostles. The first followers of Christ were Jewish. The Lord’s message rested very much on the revelation of Moses and the prophets.

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

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

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

Regardless, they were learned, as learning was measured at the time. They came from a place far away. They longed to know God. They found God in the infant in Bethlehem.

Their discovery was not accidental. God led them to Bethlehem by showing them a great star in the sky and by protecting them from the treachery of Herod.

### Reflection

This Epiphany of the Lord recalls one of the most expressive, and best known, stories of the infancy of Jesus. However, it has a message for us today.

The lesson is that we are incomplete unless God is in our lives. If we realize our need for God, and earnestly seek God, God will guide us.

Separating us from God is our own sin or indifference. Serious sin distances us from God, but it also dulls our realization that we need God. Without God, we cannot have eternal life.

All is not lost, however. We can bridge the distance between us and God by admitting that we have sins, and by asking God’s forgiveness for sinning.

If we repent, then the light of hope will shine in our hearts, just as the star guided the magi to the Lord. The shadow of death will drop away.

### READINGS

**Sunday:** Lk 5:12-16 Ps 72:2, 7-8, 10-13 Ep 3:2-3A, 5-6 Mt 2:1-12

**Monday:** Eph 3:2-3A, 5-6 Mk 13:12-23

**Tuesday:** Mt 2:1-12

**Wednesday:** 8 Mk 6:34-44

**Thursday:** 10-13 Mk 6:45-52

**Friday:** 1 Jn 5:14-21 Ps 147:12-15, 19-20 Lk 5:12-16

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

### THE CATEQUIZ'EM

By Dominic Calabro

Although the economy has soured, some folks may still hope for fancy gifts at Christmas, such as the subject of this week’s quiz — pearls.

1. One thing that Leviticus 11 makes clear is that the Jews could never do this with an oyster, as it belongs to the class of “water creature that lacks fins or scales:…”:
   - a. Eat it or touch a dead one
   - b. Mention its name
   - c. Use words that rhymed with its name, which is why they never had a loyster

2. But as Matthew 13 makes clear, an oyster’s pearl held a different value to the actual shellfish. Jesus refers to it in the parable of the Pearl:
   - a. Of India
   - b. Of Great Price
   - c. Of the King of Kings

3. Also the value ascribed to pearls is clear when we learn:
   - a. A pearl jam is better than butter.
   - b. Truly good people have pearly white teeth and skin.
   - c. When one finds a worthy wife, her value is far beyond pearls.

4. In Esther 1 we learn that King Ahasuerus decorated his pavement with:
   - a. Mother-of-pearl
   - b. Gilded clam shells
   - c. Pearly dust (ground oyster shells)

5. According to Job 28, what surpasses pearls in value?
   - a. Amber
   - b. Gold
   - c. Wisdom

6. I Timothy 2 specifically cites pearls as being something that women should:
   - a. Wear to show the success of the faith community.
   - b. Not adorn themselves with.
   - c. Offer as a sacrifice by dissolving them in wine then drinking it.

7. The 20th century Catholic convert and writer Pearl Mary Teresa Craigie has an unusual name, but this, her penname was stranger:
   - a. John Oliver Hobbes
   - b. Pearl the Girl
   - c. Friar Muck

8. Where, allegedly, are the pearly gates?
   - a. In St. Peter’s in Rome
   - b. At the entrance to hell
   - c. At the entrance to heaven

9. Where did this idea come from?
   - a. From the pearl industry
   - b. From the Book of Revelation, which says new Jerusalem’s 12 gates, “were 12 pearls”
   - c. It was a personal revelation to the sixth pope (Sixtus)

10. According to legend, who guards the pearly gates?
    - a. Satan
    - b. St. Peter
    - c. The Supernatural Guard

11. According to Revelation, why will the possession of pearls not make the merchants happy?
    - a. Because the beast will establish the Euro as the only currency.
    - b. Because only silver and gold will have value.
    - c. Because there will be no markets for these and other valuables.

12. The “Pearl of Great Price” is also the name of a test held sacred by these folks:
    - a. The Orthodox
    - b. The Muslims
    - c. The Mormons

13. According to Psalm 112, people will gnash these; know colloquially as “pearly white teeth”:
    - a. Teeth
    - b. Sea shells
    - c. Pieces of manna

14. No longer worn, these headdresses included one from Kaiser Wilhelm, which had:
    - a. Mother-of-pearl
    - b. Truly good people have pearly white teeth and skin.
    - c. A cloister

ANSWERS:

1. a, b, 2, c, 3, a, 4, c, 5, 6b, 7a, 8c, 9b, 10b, 11c, 12c, 13a, 14b, 15b
Herod’s passions were wild, unguided, led to brutality

What was King Herod really like?

Herod the Great, the king of Judea in southern Israel from 39-4 B.C., was the son of Antipater from Idumaea or Edom, south of Israel. Idumea was conquered by the Hasmonean ruler John Hyrcanus (135-105 B.C.), who forced the Idumeans to accept the Jewish religion. Eventually two of John Hyrcanus’s grandsons, Aristobulus II and John Hyrcanus, battled for the throne and then the Roman general Pompey stepped into the fray in 63 B.C. Aristobulus II and John Hyrcanus (135-105 B.C.), who were active in Judea in southern Israel from 39-4 B.C., were able to elude the casual tourist to the poor.

Herod ditched his Idumean wife Doris and married the Hasmonean princess Mariamme, granddaughter of both John Hyrcanus II and Aristobulus II. Mariamme’s brother Aristobulus III was murdered by Herod in 35 B.C. on suspicion of conspiracy. J. Pritchard says this tie to the Hasmonaeans line, along with the patronage of Rome, helped secure Herod’s power.

Father John McKenzie describes Herod as a man of unusual powers: physical vigor, extreme astuteness, masterful political maneuver, boundless energy and ambition. But his passions were wild and unguided. In later years Herod became tyrannical and brutal.

King Herod is called “the Great” because of his political astuteness and his achievements in building. His building efforts included the new Temple at Jerusalem, the temple of Samaria (renamed Sebaste), the port city of Caesarea where Pontius Pilate was headquartered, the town of Aphek on the Yarkon River that flows into the Mediterranean Sea which was renamed Antipatris after his father. To keep the peace, Herod built the temple of the Messiah, and also reared the temple of God, at Emmaus, which was built on the “House of the Wise.” Herod did kill many members of his own family. Father McKenzie says the envious slander of his wife, the only woman who could fit in. He is a Manichean; he is an atheist. He is the pope of every man; he is the pope of every woman — among them, a chessman, a fracturer, a miller, a man harvesting grapes, a piper, an inkkeeper, a fisherman, a butcher, a hunter, a soldier, and a blind man, plus the usual array of shepherds. Two people are sleeping and one family is eating, for another newborn child. The animal kingdom is represented by five cows, one calf, two donkeys, a ram, a dog, two goats, an E. sheep, in addition to lambs, doves, birds in their nests, and hens with newly-hatched chicks.

II Monumentale Presepio

Edificio Il Monumentale Presepio

New York’s Fifth Avenue, however. Its composition makes an important, if subtle, theological point, in that the cave of the Nativity is not the center of the scene. The point? This is not a Redeemer who comes as we might expect a Redeemer to come, with trumpets blaring and everything pointing to the expected Messiah. No, this Redeemer comes into the world in the midst of everyday life, the life he will transform by the witness and sacrifice of his own life.

Pope St. Leo the Great, in a teaching prescribed for the Liturgy of the Hours on Dec. 17, made the same point, a millennium before Neapolitan artists created the Cosmas-and-Damian crèche: “The divine nature and the nature of a servant were to be united in one man. If Joseph was the Creator of time might be born in time, and he through whom all things were made might be brought forth in time. For unless the new man, being made in the likeness of sinful humanity, had taken on himself the nature of our first parent unless he had stood to be one in substance with his mother while sharing the Father’s substance and, being alone free from sin, united in nature to his, the whole human race would still be held captive under the domain of Satan. The Conqueror’s victory would have profited nothing if the battle had been fought outside our human condition. But through this wonderful blending the mystery of the birth shone upon us, so that through the same Spirit by whom Christ was conceived and brought forth, we, too, might be born again in a spiritual birth; and in consequence, the evangelist declares the faithful to have been born not of blood, nor of the desire of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.”

The Redeemer comes, not to fetch us out of ourselves but to unite our humanity to his divinity so that we might be called children of God. This Christmas, the church in America anticipates at least four years of grave challenge in its living of the gospel of life. The best response to that challenge is for each of us to become the saints our baptism calls us to be. The Neapolitan crèche at Ss. Cosmas and Damian is a reminder that, for most of us, that sanctity will be achieved amidst the quotidian realities of daily life — which just happens to be where the Redeemer of the world was born.

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

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12

the Eucharist. The Catechism of the Catholic Church says this very plainly in paragraph 1397: “The Eucharist commits us to the poor. To receive in truth the body and blood of Christ given up for us, we must recognize Christ in the poorest of his brethren.”

People have the idea that they must choose between liturgy or social justice, as if we must make a choice between contemplation or action. On the campus at Notre Dame, for example, some students are more active in ministry retreats, and others are more active in service projects. It is a false choice. It is a choice that needn’t be made — that must not be made.

Paul is saying that the gift of grace we receive in the Eucharist opens our heart so that our neighbor’s concerns can fit in. He is saying that the life we receive in the Eucharist strengthens us for service. He is saying that service is an outcome of the Eucharist. We do not ask our children to choose between eating dinner at the family table or being active in school. The home, and its meals, give us energy for our activities. So also, the Lord’s body and blood give us his energy for doing his work in the world.

Bishop D’Arcy is very clear on this any time he speaks about Paul. He always couples the sacrifice of the Mass, Communion and the Eucharistic adoration with outreach — St. Vincent de Paul and service to the poor.

In so doing, we are following Paul’s understanding of the Eucharist as our food of life.
New Haven holiday tourney helps fans, teams find warmth

BY MICHELLE CASTLEMAN

FORT WAYNE — Despite the horrible weather conditions for their holiday tournament, St. John the Baptist, New Haven, the athletic director, Kelly Mouch, reported a successful four days.

"On that Friday evening of the ice storm, many fans were happy to have a place to go with heat and electricity," said Mouch. The competition, which sported three overtime performances, was divided into boys and girls, seventh and eighth grade round-robins with each of the four school groups playing each other once. The two teams with the best record advanced to the championship game.

For the seventh vs. eighth boys, the final game came down to St. Joseph-St. Elizabeth vs. Central Lutheran with St. Joseph-St. Elizabeth winning 39-25. The coaches for St. Joseph-St. Elizabeth were Brian Cook, Dave Schultheis, Craig Baker and Shaheed Koury.

A pleased Cook summarized, "The tournament was a lot of fun. We had a balanced attack and everyone made the score book. I believe it was our best team effort so far this season." The Panthers are now 7-4 overall after moving on to play in the Saint Francis/Queen of Angels holiday tournament where they finished a strong fourth place.

In eighth-grade boys' action, the host team finished on top pulling ahead of New Haven Middle School in the end 24-20. Steve Pepe's Raiders saw intense competition against three non-CYO teams.

The host school also was victorious at the seventh-grade girls' level with St. John, New Haven downing Central Lutheran 12-3 in the championship game. Jeff Lickey and Karen Fox are coaching the Raiders this season.

Finally, in the eighth-grade girls' four-team round robin, St. John the Baptist, Fort Wayne, beat Central Lutheran by a narrow margin of 19-18, St. John, Fort Wayne, head coach Tony Georgi has coached four years with the girls after three years coaching boys. He has a combined team of seven players with two seventh graders and five eighth graders on his roster. Tanya Syr is the assistant coach this season for the 6-2 Lady Eagles. Georgi's girls are a "good unit and get along well together." The Lady Eagle leader also states that his team plays solid defense for the eighth-grade level.

In the tournament, Kathleen Welging led her team in overall scoring with 16 points in the 40-29 victory over St. John, New Haven, with 15 in the loss to Central Lutheran and with 10 against New Haven Middle School. In the championship game, Welging was held to five points, but had the game-winning free throw with two seconds on the clock. Mason Whitman and Schrae Hammock also scored double figures for their team in the holiday event.

Georgi feels his team has a good shot at winning the 2009 CYO tournament, "We come close every year, but maybe this year we can do it," said a hopeful Georgi. The Lady Eagles are 1-1 in conference play with a loss to St. Vincent. Georgi lists St. Jude, St. Charles and St. Catholic as other stiff competition to get by. St. John, Fort Wayne, will face off against defending champions, St. Jude, when CYO league play resumes on Jan. 10.

High scoring Lady of Hungary wins Dec. 21 game

SOUTH BEND — After a week off, Inter-City Catholic League (ICCL) basketball will resume Jan. 4, but that didn't inhibit the challenge of spirited games on Dec. 21.

In varsity boys basketball, Our Lady of Hungary defeated St. John the Baptist 65-32 in a game that included double-digit barges by Tyron Ottridge with 17 points, Jeremiah Johnson with 12 points, Carlton Crockett and Dominique Sanders, both with 10 points, for Our Lady's team. St. John's Jesse Horvath had 17 points, and Justin Crawford dropped in another 10 points.

Holy Cross edged Christ the King, 46-43. Holy Cross led with Anthony Douglas, Mike Maddeneda and Pat Connors, all contributing 14 points each. Connor Edmonds had 13 points for Christ the King.


St. Anthony defeated St. Matthew, 29-21, with St. Anthony's A.J. Smith tossing in 13 points for the win.

In other games St. Jude beat St. Michael, Plymouth, 24-20; St. Joseph, South Bend, beat St. Thomas, Elkhart, 28-19; and Holy Family defeated Corpus Christi, 33-29. Dylan Hensley of Holy Family tossed in 14 points.


In other games, St. Thomas Maroon beat Christ the King White, 27-25; St. Joseph, Mishawaka, Green defeated Christ the King Gold, 33-13; St. Joseph, South Bend, Blue beat St. Monica Purple, 30-19; and St. Pius X Green defeated St. Pius X Gold, 26-17.
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, PO. Box 11169, Fort Wayne 46856; or e-mail: thogan@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.

MISC. HAPPENINGS

The Poetry of Prayerful People series begins Jan. 6 at Victory Noll Center Huntington — The 12-part series begins Jan. 6 and runs through June 16. Programs will be held the first and third Tuesdays of each month with two sessions from which to choose. One session meets from 10-10:30 a.m., with a second session from 6:30-8 p.m. The cost for the series is $120 and payment plans are available. Handouts and materials are included in cost. The schedule of the poets to be explored are: Jan. 6, Psalms of David; Jan. 20, Prophet Isaiah; Feb. 3, John the Evangelist; Feb. 17, Hildegard of Bingen; March 3, Francis of Assisi; March 17 Mechtild of Magdeburg; April 7, Thomas Aquinas; April 21 Julian of Norwich; May 5, Teresa of Avila; June 16, St. Therese of Lisieux; June 16 Thomas Merton

Family New Year’s Eve celebration
Elkhart — The Knights of Columbus 1043 and the St. Thomas Altar and Rosary Society will have a family celebration Wednesday, Dec. 31, from 7 p.m. until 2009 at the Knights of Columbus Hall, 112 E. Lexington Ave. Cost is $10 per person or $35 per family and includes pizza, snacks, desserts and pop. The bar will be open for those who wish to purchase alcohol. Tables will be set up for card and board games. There will be music and a child care area with activities and videos. Prizes to be awarded for best decorated table. Tickets available after Masses or by contacting Mark or Julie Malenda at (574) 522-2132 or themalendas@me.com. Tickets must be purchased by Dec. 28.

Fish fry
Warsaw — The Knights of Columbus Council No. 4511 will have a fish fry on Friday, Jan. 9, from 4:30-7 p.m. at the Knights Hall on Bell Drive. The cost is $8 for adults and $4 for children ages 6-12. Fish, baked beans, green beans, cole slaw, applesauce and beverage are included.

Knights plan fish fry
South Bend — The Knights of Columbus Council 5521, 61533 S. Ironwood Dr., will have a fish fry on Friday, Jan. 2, from 5 to 7 p.m. Adults $7.50, children (5-12) $3. Chicken strips for $7.50 and shrimp for $8.50 will be available.

Little Flower Holy Hour
Fort Wayne — Father James Seculoff will celebrate the holy hour Tuesday, Jan. 6 at 7:15 p.m. at St. Jude. Father Jim is pastor of St. John the Baptist in New Haven.

Scripture study on Paul
South Bend — A Scripture study on the letters of Paul by Father Eugene Hensell, OSB, will be Monday, Jan. 12, through Thursday, Jan. 15 from 7-9 p.m. in the Keller Room of St. Catherine of Sienna at St. Jude Church. Cost is $20 per person or $30 per couple. RSVP to the parish office at (574) 291-0570.

Knights plan fish fry
South Bend — The Knights of Columbus Council 5521, 61533 S. Ironwood Dr., will have a fish fry on Friday, Jan. 2, from 5 to 7 p.m. Adults $7.50, children (5-12) $3. Chicken strips for $7.50 and shrimp for $8.50 will be available.

Little Flower Holy Hour
Fort Wayne — Father James Seculoff will celebrate the holy hour Tuesday, Jan. 6 at 7:15 p.m. at St. Jude. Father Jim is pastor of St. John the Baptist in New Haven.

Scripture study on Paul
South Bend — A Scripture study on the letters of Paul by Father Eugene Hensell, OSB, will be Monday, Jan. 12, through Thursday, Jan. 15 from 7-9 p.m. in the Keller Room of St. Catherine of Sienna at St. Jude Church. Cost is $20 per person or $30 per couple. RSVP to the parish office at (574) 291-0570.

Knights plan fish fry
South Bend — The Knights of Columbus Council 5521, 61533 S. Ironwood Dr., will have a fish fry on Friday, Jan. 2, from 5 to 7 p.m. Adults $7.50, children (5-12) $3. Chicken strips for $7.50 and shrimp for $8.50 will be available.

SOUTH BEND — The Knights of Columbus Hall, 112 E. Lexington Ave. Cost is $10 per person or $35 per family and includes pizza, snacks, desserts and pop. The bar will be open for those who wish to purchase alcohol. Tables will be set up for card and board games. There will be music and a child care area with activities and videos. Prizes to be awarded for best decorated table. Tickets available after Masses or by contacting Mark or Julie Malenda at (574) 522-2132 or themalendas@me.com. Tickets must be purchased by Dec. 28.

Fish fry
Warsaw — The Knights of Columbus Council No. 4511 will have a fish fry on Friday, Jan. 9, from 4:30-7 p.m. at the Knights Hall on Bell Drive. The cost is $8 for adults and $4 for children ages 6-12. Fish, baked beans, green beans, cole slaw, applesauce and beverage are included.

Knights plan fish fry
South Bend — The Knights of Columbus Council 5521, 61533 S. Ironwood Dr., will have a fish fry on Friday, Jan. 2, from 5 to 7 p.m. Adults $7.50, children (5-12) $3. Chicken strips for $7.50 and shrimp for $8.50 will be available.

Little Flower Holy Hour
Fort Wayne — Father James Seculoff will celebrate the holy hour Tuesday, Jan. 6 at 7:15 p.m. at St. Jude. Father Jim is pastor of St. John the Baptist in New Haven.

Scripture study on Paul
South Bend — A Scripture study on the letters of Paul by Father Eugene Hensell, OSB, will be Monday, Jan. 12, through Thursday, Jan. 15 from 7-9 p.m. in the Keller Room of St. Catherine of Sienna at St. Jude Church. Cost is $20 per person or $30 per couple. RSVP to the parish office at (574) 291-0570.

Knights plan fish fry
South Bend — The Knights of Columbus Council 5521, 61533 S. Ironwood Dr., will have a fish fry on Friday, Jan. 2, from 5 to 7 p.m. Adults $7.50, children (5-12) $3. Chicken strips for $7.50 and shrimp for $8.50 will be available.

Little Flower Holy Hour
Fort Wayne — Father James Seculoff will celebrate the holy hour Tuesday, Jan. 6 at 7:15 p.m. at St. Jude. Father Jim is pastor of St. John the Baptist in New Haven.

Scripture study on Paul
South Bend — A Scripture study on the letters of Paul by Father Eugene Hensell, OSB, will be Monday, Jan. 12, through Thursday, Jan. 15 from 7-9 p.m. in the Keller Room of St. Catherine of Sienna at St. Jude Church. Cost is $20 per person or $30 per couple. RSVP to the parish office at (574) 291-0570.

Knights plan fish fry
South Bend — The Knights of Columbus Council 5521, 61533 S. Ironwood Dr., will have a fish fry on Friday, Jan. 2, from 5 to 7 p.m. Adults $7.50, children (5-12) $3. Chicken strips for $7.50 and shrimp for $8.50 will be available.

Little Flower Holy Hour
Fort Wayne — Father James Seculoff will celebrate the holy hour Tuesday, Jan. 6 at 7:15 p.m. at St. Jude. Father Jim is pastor of St. John the Baptist in New Haven.

Scripture study on Paul
South Bend — A Scripture study on the letters of Paul by Father Eugene Hensell, OSB, will be Monday, Jan. 12, through Thursday, Jan. 15 from 7-9 p.m. in the Keller Room of St. Catherine of Sienna at St. Jude Church. Cost is $20 per person or $30 per couple. RSVP to the parish office at (574) 291-0570.

Knights plan fish fry
South Bend — The Knights of Columbus Council 5521, 61533 S. Ironwood Dr., will have a fish fry on Friday, Jan. 2, from 5 to 7 p.m. Adults $7.50, children (5-12) $3. Chicken strips for $7.50 and shrimp for $8.50 will be available.

Little Flower Holy Hour
Fort Wayne — Father James Seculoff will celebrate the holy hour Tuesday, Jan. 6 at 7:15 p.m. at St. Jude. Father Jim is pastor of St. John the Baptist in New Haven.

Scripture study on Paul
South Bend — A Scripture study on the letters of Paul by Father Eugene Hensell, OSB, will be Monday, Jan. 12, through Thursday, Jan. 15 from 7-9 p.m. in the Keller Room of St. Catherine of Sienna at St. Jude Church. Cost is $20 per person or $30 per couple. RSVP to the parish office at (574) 291-0570.

Knights plan fish fry
South Bend — The Knights of Columbus Council 5521, 61533 S. Ironwood Dr., will have a fish fry on Friday, Jan. 2, from 5 to 7 p.m. Adults $7.50, children (5-12) $3. Chicken strips for $7.50 and shrimp for $8.50 will be available.

Little Flower Holy Hour
Fort Wayne — Father James Seculoff will celebrate the holy hour Tuesday, Jan. 6 at 7:15 p.m. at St. Jude. Father Jim is pastor of St. John the Baptist in New Haven.

Scripture study on Paul
South Bend — A Scripture study on the letters of Paul by Father Eugene Hensell, OSB, will be Monday, Jan. 12, through Thursday, Jan. 15 from 7-9 p.m. in the Keller Room of St. Catherine of Sienna at St. Jude Church. Cost is $20 per person or $30 per couple. RSVP to the parish office at (574) 291-0570.

Knights plan fish fry
South Bend — The Knights of Columbus Council 5521, 61533 S. Ironwood Dr., will have a fish fry on Friday, Jan. 2, from 5 to 7 p.m. Adults $7.50, children (5-12) $3. Chicken strips for $7.50 and shrimp for $8.50 will be available.
munion with each human heart.” He continued. “And so pro-
found was it that it drove her to the streets and alley ways and gutters of Calcutta — that most painful city where there was so much poverty and people dying un-
tended, to pick them up, so that to them, many never baptized, that they might know how God loved them.”

“And so this is the great mean-
ing of Christmas — the hunger of God. A bishop of the church who has been named a cardinal 
was a bishop of the church who has been named a cardinal 
and that the face of God. ...”

“Jesus took that stance to show us 
elegant ones — professors and the 
washing the feet of his disciples. 
would be a picture of humility — 
as a baby, and that all his life 
embrace, a visit — “this is the ges-
friend,” Bishop D’Arcy said.

Gestures of friendship are 
expressed in phone calls, cards, an 
embrace, a visit — “this is the ges-
ture of God, the infinite one, per-
fect in wisdom, that he would come to us in a very humble way, as a baby, and that all his life would be a picture of humility — washing the feet of his disciples.

“Slaves washed the feet of the 
elegant ones — professors and the 
learned,” Bishop D’Arcy said.

“Jesus took that stance to show us the face of God. ...”

That is what happened to 
Mother Teresa of Calcutta, and that is what has happened to the saints throughout the ages. And this is what we are all called to, Bishop D’Arcy said. “A communion with the Divine One — who is perfect, in every way God, in every way a man except with sin — desires entrance to every heart. For this is the first moment of Christmas. We would miss its meaning if we left this beautiful midnight Mass with-
out welcoming him, making of our heart a Bethlehem, a crib, a place for the Eternal One, who gave himself on the cross for our salvation.”

The other great theme or moment for Christmas is light.

“So many of you like myself these days have homes in dark-
ness,” he said, referring to the ice storm Dec. 19 that caused power outages leaving many homes in the dark in the Fort Wayne area. “But I went into my home a couple of times during this period. And it wasn’t so much a lack of warmth that was difficult. The house was dark, and the neighborhood was dark, and there were no Christmas lights and it was lacking in some-
thing warm and beautiful — light.”

Bishop D’Arcy spoke of hope as expressed in Pope Benedict XVI’s second encyclical “Spe Salvi” (“on Christian hope”).

The pope “speaks about the hope that is within us,” Bishop D’Arcy said, “the hope to see Jesus Christ in the end, the hope of eternal life; the hope of leading a good life. And how often we hope for other things and get them and they are fine, but insufficient.”

Bishop D’Arcy spoke of Sister Josephine Bakhita who was a 19th century African slave in Sudan and mentioned in the “Spe Salvi.” She was sold to a rich man in Italy and went to Venice poor and suffering.

“She was transformed from darkness to light,” Bishop D’Arcy said. “The darkness within her was transformed by the presence of God.”

He added, “But God always waits for our freedom to say ‘yes.’ This was what was meant in the first reading (Is 9: 1-6) that ‘the people in darkness who walked in 
darkness have seen a great light — the light is Jesus Christ. The beauty tonight is that light is with-
in us, giving us hope, giving us forgiveness, giving us love. The call for us is to welcome him. And if we welcome him and accept him, we welcome everybody because he died for everyone.

“That’s the internal darkness turning into light.” Bishop D’Arcy said, “by prayer, by love, by forgiveness — it’s our vocation.”

The best example of this,

Bishop D’Arcy said, is the Blessed 
Mother and her Magnificat. The 
source for her joy was “she lis-
tened for God and she said, ‘yes.’ And she accepted her vocation of holiness and goodness and to be the mother of the Redeemer.”

Bishop D’Arcy said, “So we hear tonight the word of God. Let us say ‘yes’ to it. You are the 
Savior of the world. You are the 
eternal God. I welcome you into my heart. I will do your will with my spouse, my children and my grandchildren, my neighbor and the poor. ... Thus we make of our heart a Bethlehem and his life and his peace.”

“Christmas becomes not just something we observe, but it trans-
forms us,” Bishop D’Arcy said.

“To observe Christmas without it being transformative is not to observe Christmas at all.”

Review of “The Secret Cardinal” by Tom Grace

Grace has written three previous novels, and this one picks up with a recurring character, Nolan Kelkenny, who is working through the recent loss of his wife and child, yet trying to keep the faith.

But our focal point is the cardinal, in pectore, which made us look, as a lot, not very open-minded. In 

The book fiction market seems to take this to an 

extreme. You will almost always find several mystery 
books in the top 20 list. The books that are not necessarily of that genre will be familiar because of the author’s name — King, Crichton, Grisham. We buy what we like, and we like what we buy. Therefore, it is very difficult for fiction outside of that circle to get noticed.

This all preface to encouraging you to pick up “The Secret Cardinal” by Tom Grace ($24.95). Oh, there are some flaws in this novel, but it seemed superfi-

A

mericans’ consumption of entertainment media makes us look, as a lot, not very open-minded. In our movie choices (action, lowball comedy) and music selection (rap, country), a couple of genres dominate the landscape. The book fiction market seems to take this to an extreme. You will almost always find several mystery books in the top 20 list. The books that are not necessarily of that genre will be familiar because of the author’s name — King, Crichton, Grisham. We buy what we like, and we like what we buy. Therefore, it is very difficult for fiction outside of that circle to get noticed.

This all preface to encouraging you to pick up “The Secret Cardinal,” by Tom Grace ($24.95). Oh, there are some flaws in this novel, but it seemed superfi-

A

mericans’ consumption of entertainment media makes us look, as a lot, not very open-minded. In our movie choices (action, lowball comedy) and music selection (rap, country), a couple of genres dominate the landscape. The book fiction market seems to take this to an extreme. You will almost always find several mystery books in the top 20 list. The books that are not necessarily of that genre will be familiar because of the author’s name — King, Crichton, Grisham. We buy what we like, and we like what we buy. Therefore, it is very difficult for fiction outside of that circle to get noticed.

This all preface to encouraging you to pick up “The Secret Cardinal,” by Tom Grace ($24.95). Oh, there are some flaws in this novel, but it seemed superfi-

A

mericans’ consumption of entertainment media makes us look, as a lot, not very open-minded. In our movie choices (action, lowball comedy) and music selection (rap, country), a couple of genres dominate the landscape. The book fiction market seems to take this to an extreme. You will almost always find several mystery books in the top 20 list. The books that are not necessarily of that genre will be familiar because of the author’s name — King, Crichton, Grisham. We buy what we like, and we like what we buy. Therefore, it is very difficult for fiction outside of that circle to get noticed.

This all preface to encouraging you to pick up “The Secret Cardinal,” by Tom Grace ($24.95). Oh, there are some flaws in this novel, but it seemed superfi-

A

mericans’ consumption of entertainment media makes us look, as a lot, not very open-minded. In our movie choices (action, lowball comedy) and music selection (rap, country), a couple of genres dominate the landscape. The book fiction market seems to take this to an extreme. You will almost always find several mystery books in the top 20 list. The books that are not necessarily of that genre will be familiar because of the author’s name — King, Crichton, Grisham. We buy what we like, and we like what we buy. Therefore, it is very difficult for fiction outside of that circle to get noticed.

This all preface to encouraging you to pick up “The Secret Cardinal,” by Tom Grace ($24.95). Oh, there are some flaws in this novel, but it seemed superfi-

A

mericans’ consumption of entertainment media makes us look, as a lot, not very open-minded. In our movie choices (action, lowball comedy) and music selection (rap, country), a couple of genres dominate the landscape. The book fiction market seems to take this to an extreme. You will almost always find several mystery books in the top 20 list. The books that are not necessarily of that genre will be familiar because of the author’s name — King, Crichton, Grisham. We buy what we like, and we like what we buy. Therefore, it is very difficult for fiction outside of that circle to get noticed.

This all preface to encouraging you to pick up “The Secret Cardinal,” by Tom Grace ($24.95). Oh, there are some flaws in this novel, but it seemed superfi-

A

mericans’ consumption of entertainment media makes us look, as a lot, not very open-minded. In our movie choices (action, lowball comedy) and music selection (rap, country), a couple of genres dominate the landscape. The book fiction market seems to take this to an extreme. You will almost always find several mystery books in the top 20 list. The books that are not necessarily of that genre will be familiar because of the author’s name — King, Crichton, Grisham. We buy what we like, and we like what we buy. Therefore, it is very difficult for fiction outside of that circle to get noticed.

This all preface to encouraging you to pick up “The Secret Cardinal,” by Tom Grace ($24.95). Oh, there are some flaws in this novel, but it seemed superfi-