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TODAY'S CATHOLIC

The mission of feeding the hungry

Bishop Rhoades visits Community Harvest Food Bank

BY TIM JOHNSON

FORT WAYNE — "Jesus said, 'I was hungry and you gave me to eat,'" described Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades during a television interview after touring Fort Wayne's Community Harvest Food Bank on Dec. 6.

Community Harvest Food Bank Executive Director Jane Avery guided Bishop Rhoades through the facility, which offers hunger relief efforts in northeast Indiana. It quickly became apparent that the need is great and many are hungry in northeast Indiana. It's half-full warehouse shows how quickly food is distributed from the food bank on Fort Wayne's south side.

Food from the Community Harvest Food Bank is distributed by nearly 500 churches and human service agencies in its member agency network, serving 21,200 unduplicated clients per week throughout its nine northeast Indiana county service area. The Community Cupboard offers a grocery-type outlet for referrals to the food bank.

Agencies assisted by the food bank include food pantries — such as The Franciscan Center — soup kitchens — such as St. Mary's — homeless shelters, rehabilitation centers, and youth and senior citizen programs. The food bank provides 1,200 shut-in seniors with food every other week and relies on volunteers for distribution to homes and to stock the shelves at the warehouse. While Bishop Rhoades toured the facility, a Girl Scout troop from St. John the Baptist School in Fort Wayne came to the food bank to help stock shelves.

"This is part of our mission as a Church," Bishop Rhoades said. "The mission of charity is essential to following Christ."

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TIM JOHNSON

Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades is guided through the Community Harvest's Food Bank's Community Cupboard by Jane Avery, the executive director.

SCHOOL CHILDREN WALK TO ST. PETER'S SQUARE



CNS PHOTO/PAUL HARING

School children walk towards St. Peter's Square as the Vatican's Christmas tree is erected Dec. 3. The tree, from the northern Italian province of Bolzano, is more than 100 feet tall and grew for 94 years.

W. Keith Moore to urge Catholic men to 'dig,' 'be real'

Early Dec. 15 registration deadline approaches for Rekindle the Fire 2011 Diocesan Men's Conference

BY TIM JOHNSON

FORT WAYNE — When men gather Feb. 19 at the Allen County War Memorial Coliseum for the Rekindle the Fire 2011 Diocesan Men's Conference, they will be encouraged by singer-songwriter W. Keith Moore, a convert to Catholicism, to "dig" and "be real" in



W. KEITH MOORE

their faith.

Whether he's playing in concert halls, bars, churches or coffee houses, that's the message that comes through Moore's music, poetry, photography and the musings on his blog site www.wkeithmoore.com.

Tickets for the 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. men's conference are \$30 or four for \$100 until Dec. 15. Thereafter, tickets are \$30. Students and senior prices are \$20. Information is available at the diocesan Web site, www.diocesefwsb.org or register online at www.rekindlethefire.net or phone (260)

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Rejoice! The Lord is near!



IN TRUTH
AND
CHARITY

BY BISHOP KEVIN C. RHOADES

Gaudete Sunday

The Third Sunday of Advent has been regarded as a day of particular joy. This Sunday is a bit unique among the Sundays of Advent. The priest may wear rose, rather than purple, vestments. We light the rose colored candle on the Advent wreath. The Third Sunday of Advent is called "Gaudete" Sunday. "Gaudete" is a Latin word meaning "rejoice." This word is used for this Sunday because the Introit or Entrance Antiphon at Mass on the Third Sunday of Advent has the following words from the letter of Saint Paul to the Philippians: "Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice! The Lord is near" (4: 4-5).

In the Collect (the Opening Prayer) at Mass on Gaudete Sunday, we will pray: "Lord God, may we, your people, who look forward to the birthday of Christ experience the joy of salvation and celebrate that feast with love and thanksgiving" In the first reading, the prophet Isaiah writes that "the desert and the parched land will exult; the steppe will rejoice and bloom" The theme of joy and rejoicing pervades the liturgy on the Third Sunday of Advent.

Christian Joy

As we approach Christmas, let us reflect on the meaning of Christian joy. The Apostle Paul, who was in prison when he wrote the letter to the Philippians, was filled with joy even though he knew his death was probably imminent. He shared his joy with the Philippians and invited them to rejoice. Why? Because the Lord is near! That was the secret of his joy in adversity. We see that spirit of joy in many of the martyrs of the Church, even in suffering.

What does this teach us? How can we have that kind of joy, especially when we face difficult situations and suffering in our lives? The kind of joy that Saint Paul and the martyrs experienced is a fruit of the Holy Spirit. It comes from the profound realization that the Lord is near, is with us, beside us always. He is with us every moment of every day with His love and His gift of peace. The kind of profound joy that fills our souls with peace does not derive from the satisfaction of our physical or material needs. It comes from our friendship with the Lord Jesus. Then when troubles beset us, we are not disturbed within. When we face adversity, we are strong.

The Son of God who came to earth to save us is the source of our joy. In just two weeks, we will be singing: "Joy to the world. The Lord is come." It is His coming that gives joy to the soul. On the first Christmas, the angels announced to the shepherds glad tidings of great joy: a Savior has been born, Christ the Lord. That is the cause of our joy. We can rejoice not only because He came into the world as our Savior, but also because He is with us every



Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades poses for photos after a pastoral visit and Mass at St. Mary of the Presentation in Geneva on Saturday, Dec. 4. Oblates Father Joseph Bosco Perera, pastor, left, holds one of the many young parishioners of the rural Adams County parish.

NANCY SUBLER

moment of every day.

Even in a world in which we still experience evil and suffering, injustice and death, realities that seem to contradict the Good News of Christmas, we live in hope because of the birth of our Savior, because He has come to redeem the world. It is that hope that fills us with joy.

Joy also comes from leading a morally good life. When we practice charity, when we help someone in need, when we are generous to others, we experience joy in our hearts. We experience more joy in giving than in receiving. There is no greater joy than that experienced when we love. The joy that comes from loving God and our neighbor is a joy that we cannot get from this world and its pleasures. It is quite a paradox, but it is true to say that joy comes from carrying the cross, from giving of ourselves and sacrificing for the good of others.

Joy is one of the twelve fruits of the Holy Spirit. When we live by the Spirit and walk by the Spirit, we experience inner joy. When we are close to the Lord in prayer and receive the sacraments, we experience true joy. We receive a foretaste of the joy of heaven.

We see authentic Christian joy in the lives of the saints of the Church. One of the most joyful people I ever met was Mother Teresa and she lived radical poverty! How can one be so materially poor and still be full of joy? Or think of the joyful troubadour of the Lord, Saint Francis of Assisi and his poverty! How is it that nowadays when Christmas is celebrated with so much materialism and commercialism, with material excess, so many experience "the holiday blues?" There is a lesson here: we need to get back to the true meaning of

Christmas. This begins with a genuine observance of Advent: a time of prayer, a time of repentance (especially through the sacrament of Penance), and a time of charity (helping the needy in our midst). When we do, we are more joyful. Christmas then becomes more meaningful and not a superficial experience.

In these last two weeks of Advent, I invite you to enter more deeply into the true spirit of this holy season. Here are some concrete ideas. Go to confession if you have not already. Stop into a Catholic church to pray before the Blessed Sacrament. Attend a weekday Mass in these last days before Christmas. Pray the joyful mysteries of the rosary. Meditate on the daily Scripture readings. Buy a gift for someone who is poor or make a donation to a favorite charity. Joy is a fruit of prayer, a fruit of charitable actions, and a fruit of God's forgiveness of our sins.

If you suffer from anxiety or depression, it may be very difficult to experience the joy of Christmas. Yet, nothing is impossible with God. Persevere in hope, Saint Paul says. Even if you are in the midst of some very difficult trial, the Lord is with you, at your side. He loves you. Your friendship with Him can sustain you and give you also a taste of the joy of His kingdom. And know that the Church and your bishop prays for you.

Gaudete! Rejoice! Why? Because the Lord is near. God is not some unknown Being remote from us. He is close to us, so close that He became an infant and was born in a manger. Let us rejoice in these days as we look forward to Christmas, the feast of our salvation! Jesus comes to offer everyone the joy and peace that alone fills the yearning of the human soul.

Meaning of season lost by rushing Christmas celebration, bishop says

SALT LAKE CITY (CNS) — Salt Lake City Bishop John C. Wester has urged Catholics to hold off celebrating the Christmas season until it officially begins on the Church calendar Dec. 24.

In his first pastoral letter as Salt Lake City's bishop, he urged the state's Catholics to keep true to the spirit of Advent — a season of preparation which he said has been "neglected in many places" and often "overshadowed by the holiday season."

The bishop, who was installed in 2007 as shepherd of the statewide Catholic diocese, noted that in the rush and busyness of the Christmas season, many miss out on its true meaning. "By the time that the actual solemnity of Christmas arrives, many of us are burned out. We are already tired of all the 'Christmas hype.' Christmas has become anticlimactic," he wrote.

Issued Nov. 24, the letter is titled "Waiting in Joyful Hope." It was published in the diocesan newspaper, *Intermountain Catholic*, which is online at www.icatholic.org.

Some priests read the letter or referred to it in homilies during the weekend of Nov. 27-28, the first Sunday of Advent, which this year coincidentally fell between Black Friday and Cyber Monday — customary shopping starts of the Christmas season.

In the letter, Bishop Wester described the Christmas holiday season as one where many "rush from one thing to the next," stirring momentum "to get all the decorations up, celebrate the



CNS PHOTO/BOB ROLLER

In his first pastoral letter to Utah Catholics, Bishop John C. Wester of Salt Lake City urged them to hold off celebrating Christmas until the season officially begins Christmas Eve. Bishop Wester is pictured in a 2008 file photo.

event and quickly dismantle all the decorations" to move to the next event.

In contrast, he said, the Church's liturgical season of Advent enables people to "witness God's profound love and mercy to the world" and can refocus Catholics and remind them that "Christ has changed the world."

He described the season as a time of preparation for Christ's coming into the world and a time to reflect on Christ's second coming.

"It is thus a season of joyful and spiritual expectation," he said noting that it is "not a penitential season" but a time to "gather and quietly wait in hope for the coming of Christ."

Bishop Wester urged Catholics to tap into this liturgical season noting that they should "celebrate Advent differently" and be less consumed with decorating and shopping than with prayer. He said the spiritual preparation should also be an "example of patience, silence, and joy to our hurried and anxious society."

"I know it is an enormous challenge to remain faithful to the Advent season when we are surrounded by a society which, while claiming to be Christian, does not take the time to reflect and prepare as the Church calls us to do," he wrote.

The bishop offered some alternatives to typical decorations saying schools and parishes could decorate with just wreaths and greenery and families could highlight Advent wreaths and hold off on decorating Christmas trees.

Postponed Christmas celebrations need not be short-lived though. He said the season continues until Jan. 9, the feast of the Baptism of the Lord, and should be marked during that time with parish gatherings and events with family and friends.

"We should leave the decorations which are testimonies to our joy up for the entire season. There is plenty of time for us to celebrate our joy at Christ's birth and we should make the most of it," he added.



PUBLIC SCHEDULE OF BISHOP KEVIN C. RHOADES

- Sunday, Dec. 12, noon — Spanish Mass at St. Patrick Church, Fort Wayne, followed by fiesta in honor of Our Lady of Guadalupe
- Sunday, Dec. 12, 4 p.m. — Blessing of Garden of Our Lady of Guadalupe, Catholic Cemetery, Fort Wayne
- Monday, Dec. 13, 4:30 p.m. — Mass at Saint Joseph Regional Medical Center, Mishawaka
- Wednesday, Dec. 15, 9:15 a.m. — Mass and pastoral visit at Christ the King School, South Bend
- Friday, Dec. 17, 11 a.m. — Mass for diocesan employees at Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, Fort Wayne.
- Saturday, Dec. 18, 5 p.m. — Mass at Sacred Heart of Jesus Church, Warsaw
- Sunday, Dec. 19, 11:30 a.m. — Mass at St. Patrick Church, Walkerton

Illinois Catholic leaders call passage of civil unions bill regrettable

SPRINGFIELD, ILL. (CNS) — The Catholic Conference of Illinois, which represents the state's bishops on public policy matters, said it regretted passage of a bill legalizing civil unions for same-sex couples.

The legislation, approved by the House Nov. 30 and the Senate Dec. 1, provides spousal rights to same-sex partners in a civil union and grants them legal rights in surrogate decision-making for medical treatment, survivorship, adoptions and health insurance.

Gov. Pat Quinn, a supporter, has said he will sign it into law.

The Catholic conference said the measure will "explicitly grant these unions the same status as marriage in state law."

"Marriage is not just any relationship between human beings. Marriage has been established by our Creator in harmony with the nature of man and woman and with its own essential properties and purpose," the conference said in a statement. "The Church did not invent marriage and neither has any state.

"No ideology can erase from the human spirit," it continued, "the certainty that marriage exists solely between a man and a woman, who by personal gift, proper and exclusive to themselves, mutually commit to each other in order to cooperate with God in the procreation and upbringing of new human lives."

The conference said that besides essentially redefining marriage, the measure also "contains the potential for a serious conflict with religious liberty," and it urged policymakers to take such concerns seriously and work out "additional conscience protections" in the coming months.

While the bill states that nothing in its wording "should interfere with or regulate the religious

practice of any religious body," the conference said that its language "may offer little protection in the context of litigation religious institutions may soon encounter in relation to charitable services, adoption and foster care.

In an earlier statement, the conference said that without "explicit protections for religious liberties," it expected the General Assembly or the courts will soon:

- Require faith-based institutions that provide adoption or foster care services "to place adoptive or foster children with couples who have entered into a same-sex civil union."

- Compel Catholic parishes or agencies that provide social services (including retreats, religious camps, homeless shelters, senior care centers and community centers) to make those services available to individuals in same-sex civil unions.

- Refuse "to protect small employers who do not wish to extend family benefits to employees in a same-sex civil union."

During debate on the bill, State Sen. Heather Steans, a Chicago Democrat, told her fellow lawmakers that passing the measure "makes a statement about the justice for which we stand."

But an opponent of the measure, State Sen. Chris Lauzen, a Republican from Aurora, questioned why lawmakers were not spending their time addressing the state's high unemployment, home foreclosures, a big state debt and severe problems with its social services system.

The Chicago Tribune quoted Lauzen as saying: "We are the incompetent laughingstock of government mismanagement and misplaced priorities, and our one-party (Democratic) leadership spends our time on homosexual civil unions."

Pope Benedict calls for end to intolerance, violence, abduction of refugees

BY CAROL GLATZ

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope Benedict XVI appealed for an end to situations of violence and intolerance in the world, especially in Iraq and Egypt.

He also called for prayers and solidarity for victims of human trafficking, specifically the hundreds of African immigrants who are being held hostage by human traffickers in Egypt's Sinai Desert near the Israeli border.

"I invite all of you to pray for every situation of violence, intolerance and suffering that exists in the world," the pope said in his Sunday Angelus address in St. Peter's Square Dec. 5.

The pope said, "I am thinking about many difficult situations, like the continual attacks against Christians and Muslims in Iraq (and) the clashes in Egypt, in which people died and were



CNS PHOTO/PAUL HARING

A weathered statue of a saint is seen on the colonnade as Pope Benedict XVI arrives to lead the Angelus prayer from the window of this apartment overlooking St. Peter's Square at the Vatican Dec. 5

injured" when riots broke out after police halted the construction of a church. Authorities said the church was in violation of building permits. Police detained more than 150 Christians after the clashes in late November.

The pope also underlined the plight of "victims of traffickers and criminals," specifically mentioning the plight of hundreds of refugees, including nearly 80 Eritreans, who were being held hostage in the Sinai desert.

Italian news reports said the kidnapers were asking \$8,000 ransom for each of hostages, who reportedly already had paid the smugglers to take them to Israel.

"The respect of everyone's rights is the prerequisite for civil coexistence," Pope Benedict said. He asked that people's prayers and acts of solidarity "bring hope to those who are suffering."



You are cordially invited to the
Blessing and Dedication
by Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades
of the
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and the 8-foot bronze statue of
Our Lady of Guadalupe at the
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Please meet in the Resurrection
Mausoleum where the ceremony will begin.
This will be the largest section
(nearly 5,000 graves) dedicated since the
Catholic Cemetery opened in 1873.
Service will be held no matter the weather.

Grant will help repair church with Father Tolton connection

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. (CNS) — The Catholic Church Extension Society of America in Chicago announced Nov. 23 that it will award \$21,293 to the Diocese of Jefferson City to repair and maintain historical St. Peter Church in Brush Creek.

The church stands on the site where Father Augustine Tolton, a former slave who became the Catholic Church's first full-blooded African-American priest in the United States, was baptized 156 years ago.

The Catholic Extension grant will fund repairs necessary to preserve the church and its cemetery, now the site of frequent pilgrimages to honor the life and ministry of Father Tolton. The announcement comes on the heels of the groundbreaking for Father Augustine Tolton Regional Catholic High School in Columbia, which will open in fall 2011.

Earlier this year, Cardinal Francis E. George of Chicago announced the Chicago Archdiocese was beginning the process whereby Father Tolton's life and work will be examined for consideration of beatification and canonization. Formally starting the process gives the priest the title "servant of God."

Chicago Auxiliary Bishop Joseph N. Perry is organizing Father Tolton's cause for the archdiocese, poring through archival material to prepare a report about his life that will go to Cardinal George and then on to the Congregation for Saints' Causes at the Vatican.

"Father Augustine's story reminds us of the truth that is also at the heart of Catholic Extension's work: the greatest among us emerge from the least-expected places," said Joseph Boland, senior director of grants management for Catholic Extension.

The grant to St. Peter Church will enable the diocese "to preserve the rich legacy" of Father Tolton, so his story "can continue to be shared among Catholics and give hope to communities that face immense social and economic challenges today," added Boland in a statement.

Father Tolton was born into slavery in Brush Creek in 1854, according to "From Slave to Priest," a biography by Sister Caroline Hemesath, a member of the Congregation of the Sisters of the Holy Family.

Young Augustine, also known as Augustus, was baptized into the Catholic faith by his owners, the Elliott family, and attended church at St. Peter until he escaped to Illinois during the Civil War.

There, he began to discern his priestly vocation. Denied access to seminaries in the United States after repeated requests, he pursued his education at the Urban College of the Propagation of the Faith in Rome, now called Pontifical Urbanian University, to prepare to



CNS PHOTO/COURTESY OF ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO ARCHIVES AND RECORDS CENTER

Father Augustine Tolton, also known as Augustus, is pictured in a photo from an undated portrait card. Born into slavery in Missouri, he was ordained a priest April 24, 1886. He served as pastor at St. Joseph Church in Quincy, Ill., and later established St. Monica's Church in Chicago. The canonization cause of Father Tolton, the first U.S. diocesan priest of African descent, was opened in Chicago in March.

be a missionary priest in Africa.

After priestly ordination in 1886, he was sent back to the United States to be a missionary in his own country. He ministered first in Quincy, Ill., and then in Chicago. Despite rampant racism and discrimination, he became one of that city's most popular pastors, attracting members of both white and black Catholic communities.

By all accounts, Father Tolton worked tirelessly for his congregation in Chicago, even to the point of exhaustion. On July 9, 1897, he died of heat stroke while returning from a priests' retreat. He was 43. He is buried in Quincy.

The tiny St. Peter Church, which is located off a gravel road in Brush Creek, has received renewed attention since the Chicago Archdiocese began pursuing Father Tolton's sainthood cause. The Diocese of Jefferson City expects that increasing numbers of pilgrims will be drawn to this sacred place and its cemetery because of Father Tolton's affiliation.

The Catholic Extension grant will be used to repair the church's leaky roof, purchase new gutters, mend broken windowsills and refurbish the front door. In addition, funds will help purchase a stone sign to signify the section of the cemetery where more than 50 unmarked graves of African slaves lie.

Deacon Harold Burke-Sivers called Father Tolton "a wonderful example of the obedience of faith."

"Father Tolton shows us how to unite our sufferings to the teachings of Jesus," he said in a recent interview with *The Catholic Missourian*, the diocesan newspaper.

"Everything we do out of that relationship is really a call to witness the beauty and truth of our faith."

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Southern Sudan independence vote won't bring easy peace, bishop warns

BY PAUL JEFFREY

YAMBIO, Southern Sudan (CNS) — The people of Southern Sudan should not expect quick results from a January referendum on independence, said a Catholic bishop in the war-torn African country.

"People expect a lot. They think that independence means milk and honey, that all will be okay. And while ordinary people think that, the politicians are only thinking of having power and the riches it can bring," said Bishop Eduardo Hiiboro Kussala of Tombura-Yambio.

The Church should help people from both groups understand the new responsibilities that independence — the expected outcome of the referendum — will bring, the bishop told Catholic News Service.

"The Church must help people understand that we have to take upon ourselves the noble duty of building our own nation," Bishop Kussala said. "We are the privileged generation that is going to be voting and laying a strong foundation. We need to help instill pride in being a nation and help people understand that they have a God-given right to be free. They can only do that together with one another, not just within their own ethnic group. We are a multicultural, multireligious community, and we need to respect one another.

"For the politicians, it's the same," he continued. "There's a need to engage them and help them create a vision. No one is talking much these days about vision. Most politicians don't seem to see where we're going. We need a group thinking ahead of us, because we're not going to have the international community with us forever."

The January vote on independence was stipulated by the 2005 Comprehensive Peace Agreement that ended decades of civil war between Sudan's North and South. Southerners are expected to vote overwhelmingly for secession, and Bishop Kussala said creating a functional and effective government will not be easy.

"The people of Southern Sudan have never had a government. We've just practiced this for the last five years, and you can see the difficulties we've encountered. There's an absence of proper laws, little respect for law and the dignity of persons. Most government personnel came from the fighting forces, and they've just been converted into civil servants. With independence there could be new competition among them, a new struggle for power," he said.

The bishop warned that some of the dangerous practices of political leaders in northern Sudan, such as control of the media, limited free speech, corruption, nepotism and tribalism, have begun to



CNS PHOTO/PAUL JEFFREY

A woman smiles while carrying a cooking pot on her head in Riimenze, Southern Sudan, on the first day of registration for the country's January referendum on secession. The independence vote has widespread support throughout Southern Sudan, including among Catholics and other Christians.

emerge in the South.

"We don't want to see dictators replaced by other dictators, so we're designing our programs so we can keep talking to those who take power, as well as to the people of Southern Sudan, to help them see that they have to be the founding fathers of democracy, a people who will uphold the rule of law and show respect for each other," Bishop Kussala said.

The Catholic Church in Southern Sudan played a major role during the liberation struggle, said John Ashworth, an adviser to the Sudan Ecumenical Forum, which includes the Catholic Church. The Church was the only institution that stayed with the people during the long war.

"Everything else collapsed," Ashworth told CNS. "There was no government, no NGOs, no U.N., no civil society, and the traditional (tribal) leaders were seriously weakened and divided. The Church took on many of the roles of government, providing basic human services and aid, schools and clinics. We didn't have guns, but the presence of the Church provided a degree of protection and safety. It provided moral and political leadership."

Bishop Kussala said some in the government now want to forget that history and ignore the moral voice of the Church. To help prevent the entrenchment of power among a few leaders, the Church has designed pastoral work to include civic education so people understand their rights, identity and citizenship, he said.

The prelate also expressed concern that some government officials in Khartoum, the Sudanese

capital, will not respond well to Southern Sudan's independence and will seek to make trouble for the fledgling nation.

"For our neighbors in northern Sudan, separation is not going to be a cup of tea. They are not happy about it. Many officials have made strong statements that if the South breaks away, then southerners who live in the North are going to be denied their rights. Such behavior will pull us toward war and cause chaos in the South," he said.

"My mother was killed by northern government soldiers when I was just 2 months old," Bishop Kussala said. "I don't want to see another baby losing its mother in the same way. If I have any power to promote a culture of harmony and peace, I will do it."

Bishop Kussala also appealed to Catholics in the United States to become aware of the situation in Sudan.

"Especially at this moment, we need their solidarity. We need them to continue praying for us and being close to us," he said.

"We need them to raise their voices with the U.S. government. The CPA came about in part because of the American people. The pressure that the U.S. government brought to the conflict enabled the fighting to stop," he said.

"The Church from the U.S. and around the world has continued to accompany us for these last five years, and now we come to the most critical part of this process when we choose between unity or separation. We need their accompaniment now more than ever," he said.



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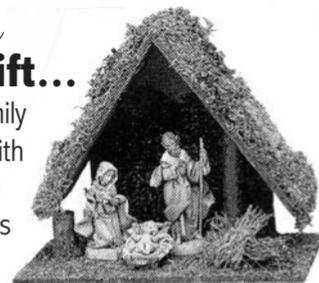
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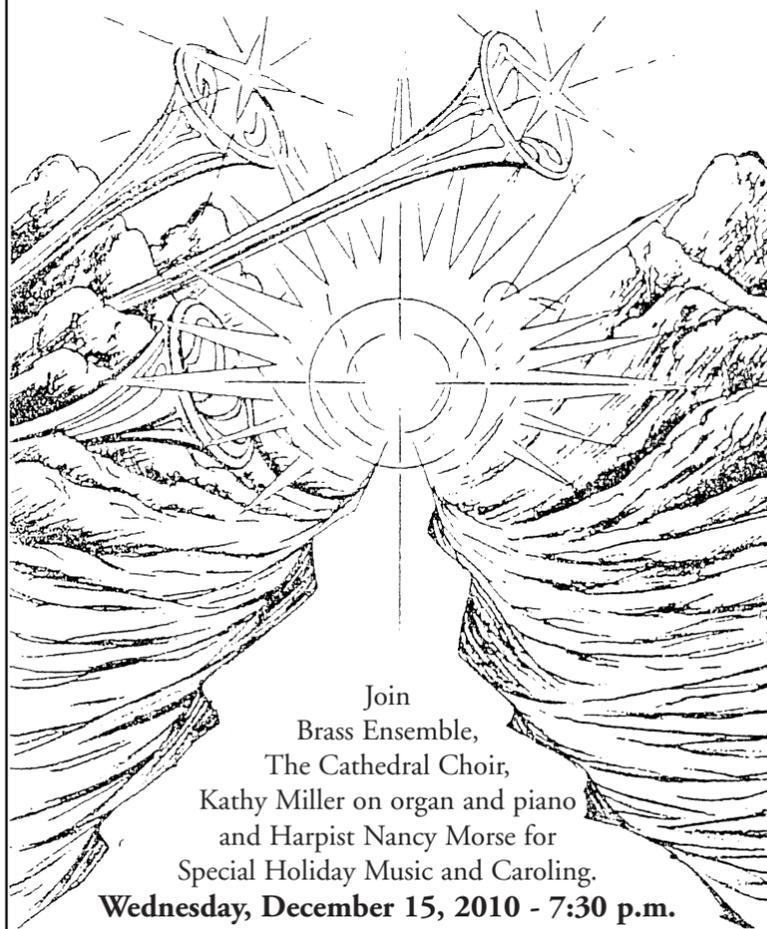
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Despite threats, Pakistani minister works for religious freedom

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Despite receiving death threats, Pakistan's minister for minorities, a Christian, said he will not give up his battle to guarantee religious freedom for all the country's people. "Threats and intimidation follow one after the other. I take them all seriously, however my life mission is to protect religious freedom, minority rights, justice and equality. I will continue to do so without hesitation," said Shabbaz Bhatti, the minister. In an interview Dec. 4 with Fides, the Vatican's missionary news agency, Bhatti said he believes the government also will continue to help religious minorities, despite pressure from extremist groups threatening violence. Specifically, he said he hoped for the abolishment of anti-blasphemy laws, which make insulting the Quran an offense punishable by life imprisonment or death. The minister said he trusts that the courts will prove the innocence of Asia Bibi, a 37-year-old Christian woman who faces the death penalty for blasphemy. In the interview with Fides, Bhatti commended Pakistani President Asif Ali Zardari for showing care and sensitivity toward minority issues and for forming a commission to reexamine the blasphemy law and possibly end it.

Theologian says papal comments on condoms reflected pastoral concern

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope Benedict XVI's recent comments about condoms represented a "normal and traditional" pastoral application of moral theology, according to a theologian who advises the Vatican on doctrinal matters. The pope's comments reflect the principle that there can be "intermediary steps toward moral awareness" that allow for some flexibility in how Church teachings are applied, Franciscan Father Maurizio Faggioni said Dec. 3. Father Faggioni, a moral theologian and a consultant to the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, spoke to Catholic News Service about the reaction to the pope's statement on condoms in the book, "Light of the World: The Pope, the Church and the Signs of the Times." In the book, the pope repeated his view that condom campaigns are not the way to stop the AIDS epidemic, but he allowed that in some specific cases — for example, a prostitute who tries to diminish the risk of spreading infection — use of a condom could be a first step toward taking moral responsibility for one's actions. Father Faggioni said the pope's comments should be seen in the light of traditional principles of moral theology, including gradualism, which understands moral decision-making as a path that involves a series of progres-

NEWS BRIEFS

INAUGURATION CEREMONY OF NEW YORK BASILICA



CNS PHOTO/GREGORY A. SHERMITZ

Archbishop Timothy M. Dolan of New York delivers his homily during inauguration ceremonies for the Basilica of St. Patrick's Old Cathedral in New York Dec. 5. Dedicated in 1815, the Gothic Revival-style church was the first seat of the then-Diocese of New York, which was established in 1808. Pope Benedict XVI designated St. Patrick's a minor basilica this year on March 17, the feast of its patron.

Arsenic-loving microbe expands definition of life, says Jesuit

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The discovery of the first known microorganism on Earth to thrive on the toxic chemical arsenic will help expand scientists' understanding of the definition of life, said the head of the Vatican Observatory. "It's clear that if we are searching for life forms in the universe, we have to at least know what to look for: that is, to define what a living being is," said Jesuit Father Jose Funes. The recent discovery of a life form based on a completely different chemistry "will surely contribute to expanding our conceptual horizons on the subject" of what could be life and living matter, he said in an article in the Vatican newspaper, *L'Osservatore Romano*, Dec. 4. A team of astrobiology researchers — funded by NASA — recently discovered a microbe strain, called GFAJ-1, in California's Mono Lake, which has unusually high levels of salinity, alkalinity and arsenic. "Carbon, hydrogen, nitrogen, oxygen, phosphorus and sulfur are the six basic building blocks of all known forms of life

on Earth," a NASA press release said Dec. 2. However, GFAJ-1 is able to thrive and reproduce using arsenic since it substitutes the toxic chemical for phosphorus in its cell components, the press release said. Father Funes wrote, "In short, it's a microbe that breathes arsenic."

Archbishop says Jesus' name always should be on lips of all Catholics

SEATTLE (CNS) — The name of Jesus should be on the lips of Catholics in all parts of their lives, said Archbishop J. Peter Sartain who was installed Dec. 1 as the fifth archbishop and ninth bishop of the Archdiocese of Seattle. A standing-room-only gathering of 2,200 people packed St. James Cathedral for the installation of the 58-year-old prelate, who was appointed to Seattle by Pope Benedict XVI Sept. 16. The congregation broke into prolonged applause when he accepted the pastoral staff from his predecessor, Archbishop Alex J. Brunett, 76, who retired after 13 years of leading western Washington's 972,000 Catholics. A native of Memphis, Tenn., he most recently

was bishop of the Diocese of Joliet, Ill., where he had served since 2006. He was bishop of the Diocese of Little Rock, Ark., from 2000 to 2006. Well-known for his prayerfulness, he kept baskets of prayer intentions from the faithful in his home chapel while in Little Rock and Joliet. At the reception following the installation Mass, he made prayer intention cards available for the people of the Archdiocese of Seattle. He said in his homily that a bishop's duty to his flock is to follow Jesus, and that the name of Jesus should be on people's lips everywhere, in every homily, parish, school mission statement and in individual daily life. "As we go through the day, we should pray His name silently to remind ourselves of his nearness and seek his protection," he said. Moments of transition, and times of confusion, anxiety, distraction and temptation are all opportunities for prayer, he said.

Hymnal helps members of multilingual parishes worship side by side

PORTLAND, Ore. (CNS) — Spanish- and English-speaking worship communities in the

United States can celebrate their faith and culture side by side with a hymnal developed by OCP titled "One Faith, Una Voz." An announcement from the Portland publisher said it is the only Catholic hymnal featuring bilingual songs along with original language English and Spanish titles. It offers more than 800 multilingual songs designed to fit the needs of growing Latino-Anglo communities in the Catholic Church. "The very nature of this hymnal speaks to the profound way a community comes together to pray despite differences in language or origin," said Pedro Rubalcava, director of Hispanic ministries at OCP, a nonprofit publisher of liturgical music and worship resources. "It provides a means for culturally diverse assemblies to unite in celebration of each other's journeys of faith through song," he added in a statement. Greg Sandler, music director at St. John Neumann Church in Miami, said the new hymnal fits the parish's multicultural population and "ultimately welcomes all to Mass." Rubalcava said that multicultural English- and Spanish-speaking communities were looking for a way to honor their own traditions, while sharing in the common act of celebrating Mass, and "One Faith, Una Voz" answers that need.

Pope blesses Our Lady of Loreto statue for Rome airport

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope Benedict XVI blessed a statue of Our Lady of Loreto, which will be placed in Rome's Leonardo da Vinci Airport at Fiumicino to mark the 90th anniversary of the proclamation of Our Lady of Loreto as the patron saint of aviation. At the end of his weekly general audience Dec. 1, the pope blessed the modern bronze statue of Mary holding the baby Jesus and standing on globe with airplanes attached to it; he also received a foot-tall replica of the statue. Airport executives said the statue, which is just over 8 feet tall, would be placed in a "public and visible" location at the airport after a Mass there Dec. 10, the feast of Our Lady of Loreto. In 1920, Pope Benedict XV proclaimed Our Lady of Loreto the patroness of aviation; tradition holds that Mary's house was flown by angels from Nazareth to Loreto, Italy, in 1292. Today, millions of pilgrims flock to Loreto each year to venerate the tiny cottage in which the Holy Family is thought to have lived when Jesus was young. Placing the statue at Fiumicino is "associated with the cultural choice of the airport, which serves the capital city of Italy and the center of Christianity, with the intention to stress the historical truth of a Europe with Christian roots," said a press release from the company that runs the airport.

ND professor explores historic St. Nicholas

NOTRE DAME — Though most are familiar with the Christmas lore surrounding jolly old St. Nicholas — the snowy-bearded saint whose legendary generosity morphed into America's secular Santa Claus figure — few are familiar with the origins and details of his acts of kindness.

Holy Cross Father Nicholas Ayo, professor emeritus in the Program of Liberal Studies at the University of Notre Dame, is author of "St. Nicholas in America: Christmas Holy Day and Holiday," in which he takes a closer look at the saint whose feast the Catholic Church celebrates on Dec. 6.

Using ancient and medieval sources along with more modern and widely known poems and stories, Ayo describes St. Nicholas (who also was the 4th century Bishop of Myra) as a powerful leader whose acts of kindness far surpassed the modern practice of candy in a shoe: he rescued many young women from sexual slavery; interceded on behalf of condemned prisoners; saved sailors from storms; and provided dowries to young women in the form of stockings of gold thrown into their chimneys.

So how can these gratuitous acts of kindness and generosity be proven hundreds of years later?

"Legends are not provable either way," Ayo says. "But they tell you something about the human heart — they're a treasure trove of what the human heart is all about. People wanted someone who cared about their needs, not because they earned or deserved it, but just because someone cared."

All of St. Nicholas' acts of kindness, according to Ayo, were committed without expectation or conditions, the fundamental departure from the secular Santa Claus, who only brings gifts "to good little girls and boys."

"The conditional nature of gifts from Santa is all wrong," says Ayo. "The meaning of Christmas is a gift from nowhere — we get gifts simply because — much like the gift of a bag or stocking of gold thrown in the window or down a chimney."

USF team knows formula for business success

FORT WAYNE — A University of Saint Francis business team knows the formula for business success, and they picked up a \$7,000 first prize in the fourth annual Keith E. Busse School of Business and Entrepreneurial Leadership student business plan competition Tuesday to prove it.

IKnow, an interactive children's book for the iPad, was the brain-storm of sophomore Danny Dellinger and juniors Michael Scher and Bret Arthur, vaulting them to the win over 12 other USF business teams. The \$7,000 prize will pay for its development.

"We knew we wanted some kind of application for an iPad or iPod," Dellinger said. "We had seen some interactive Dr. Seuss books, but

AROUND THE DIOCESE

BISHOP RHOADES BLESSES MONUMENT IN DECATUR



PROVIDED BY ST. MARY OF THE ASSUMPTION, DECATUR

While making a pastoral visit and celebrating Mass at St. Mary of the Assumption Parish in Decatur on Nov. 27, Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades blessed a new monument of the Ten Commandments and the Beatitudes. The parish purchased the monument and the Knights of Columbus made the arrangements for the footer and placement of the monument.

they were not interactive to this degree."

Interactive applications can allow children to interact with a piano by playing, listening and recording, for example, or engage in finger-painting with stories. "We want a series of books with different learning subjects. This is completely customizable," Dellinger said.

The Entrepreneurship Advisory Committee, a group of 11 local business leaders and USF Entrepreneurial Leadership Center and assistant professor Al Grossnickle, judged presentations made by 13 business team finalists Monday.

The business acumen of the presenters impressed Dennis Tratnyek, a commercial banking officer for Star Financial and a judge for the competition. "I saw some business plans from the students that were as good as some I've seen in the market. They did the hard work to explain what the business was, how to get it out to the people and how to make it work," he said.

The local business community combined resources to provide \$10,000 in prizes for the competition. "One of the most impressive things is that last year's first prize launched a viable business," said committee president John Becker,

president for Advocate Financial.

"This gives students the tools and experience to leave here with a degree to create economic opportunities for themselves and the community. This school gets it," said committee member and Sorbashock president and CEO Sam Simonson.

"We're stoked," Arthur said of the win. "We thought we might be in the top five, but not first."

They appreciate the opportunity the business competition presents. "It's a learning experience you can't get without going out and doing it," Arthur said. "We had amazing support from the business community."

Second place and \$2,000 went to Taylor Vieck for Vieck's Choice Beef, while Catch Penny, created by Chelsea Childers, Paige Cole and Ryan Ulch, earned the third-place \$1,000 prize.

Saint Mary's accounting students place first in INCPAS contest

NOTRE DAME — A team of Saint Mary's College accounting students and their professor took first place in this year's Indiana Certified Public Accounting Society's (INCPAS) 2010 collegiate contest held

on Friday, Nov. 19 in Indianapolis. Professor Mary Ann Merryman, chair of the business administration and economics department, led the Saint Mary's team to victory. This year's case study required Indiana college teams throughout Indiana to research and write a paper to assess and write recommendations for a fictional struggling CPA firm.

For 10 days, Allison Courtney, Maggie DePaola, Betsy Reed and Maureen Temchuk researched a plan for dealing with such issues as clients asking for reduced fees and updating business and marketing strategies. "Our team submitted a paper of 50 written pages and 30 pages of appendices," said Merryman.

Their paper, chosen from 16 team entries, took them to Indianapolis where they made their oral presentation before four CPA judges. That evening, Saint Mary's first place award was announced "Academy Award-style" at a gala of more than 600 guests from the business community. Saint Mary's competed against finalist teams from Indiana University, Bloomington, IUPUI, Butler, University of Southern Indiana and Valparaiso University.

The Indiana CPA Society's Case Study Competition was created in 2000 as a program with the dual

benefit of having a positive impact on students entering the CPA profession and helping Indiana CPAs with their firm's or company's recruiting efforts.

Cathedral Choir performs sacred Christmas music

FORT WAYNE — The Immaculate Conception Cathedral Choir will present a concert of sacred Christmas music on Wednesday, Dec. 15, at 7:30 p.m. Under the direction of Michael Dulac, the singers will perform music of a number of different composers and styles.

The program will be accompanied both by Kathy Miller on organ and piano, and Nancy Morse on harp. Morse will also present several solo selections for the harp.

For the carol selections, both singers and audience will be joined by the Cathedral Brass Quartet. The cathedral is located on Calhoun Street in downtown Fort Wayne. There is ample free parking in the cathedral lots and the cathedral is handicapped accessible.

Weber recognized as true servant

FORT WAYNE — Father Cyril Fernandes, pastor of St. John the Baptist, Fort Wayne, recognized Donna Weber at Mass over the Thanksgiving weekend for being a true servant of the parish.



DONNA WEBER

Father Fernandes thanked all parishioners for their service, and singled out Weber for giving more than 25 years of service as bulletin editor, Helping Hands coordinator, washing the altar linens and teaching at the parish.

Ancilla students achieve high pass rate on exams

DONALDSON — Over 80 percent of Ancilla College nursing students are passing the National Council Licensure Examination (NCLEX) on the first try, according to statistics released Dec. 1 by the college.

According to the National Council of State Boards of Nursing (NCSBN), Ancilla's pass rate eclipsed the national rate of 76 percent amongst all prospective nurses seeking NCLEX-RN licensure.

All boards of nursing in states and territories of the United States require candidates to pass the NCLEX-RN in order to become a licensed registered nurse.

"Our nursing program gives students an opportunity to study nursing when they may not have had the opportunity to do so at other institutions, keeping with the mission of the college and the Poor Handmaids of Jesus Christ of serving the underserved," said Ann Fitzgerald, chair of the Division of Nursing and Health Science at Ancilla College.

Stephen Ministers offer compassionate ear

BY KAREN CLIFFORD

GRANGER — As Christians worldwide wait in joyful anticipation for the celebration of the Incarnation of the Lord, plans for friends and family gatherings during the 12-day Christmas season begin formation. But for individuals that have recently faced a loss or crisis, the upcoming festivities can be fraught with anxiety or depression.

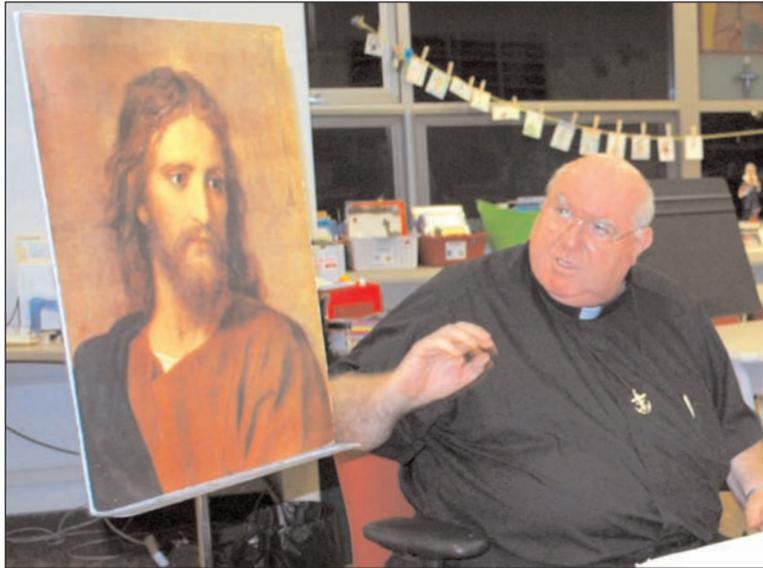
In the summer of 2008, St. Pius X parishioner Carol Swope approached Msgr. Bill Schooler and the parish council with the idea of establishing a Stephen Ministry at the church. Swope was commissioned a Certified Stephen Ministry Leader in a previous church and believed the program would be a good fit at St. Pius.

The concept of the ministry is for trained laity, called Stephen Ministers, to offer support to those in the congregation — referred to as care receivers — that need a compassionate ear to listen to their concerns.

According to the Stephen Ministry Web site, "lay caregivers (called Stephen Ministers) provide one-to-one Christian care to the bereaved, hospitalized, terminally ill, separated, divorced, unemployed, relocated and others facing a crisis or life challenge." The program is nondenominational and has over 10,000 Christian congregations across the country participating in this ministry.

Swope personally meets with those who are interested in becoming a Stephen Minister. "I usually sit and talk to each applicant for a good hour to learn more about their skills and their life experiences. Then I have to make a determination to see if this will be a good fit for them," she explains.

A minimum of 50 hours of classroom training is required before a person becomes a commissioned Stephen Minister. After they are commissioned, they con-



KAREN CLIFFORD

Father André Léveillé, speaks on "Forgiveness and Reconciliation" at the November Stephen Ministry supervision meeting. Father Léveillé reports that this is his favorite picture of Jesus because it depicts the complete love and forgiveness Christ shows for us.

tinue to meet once a month for supervisory classes to discuss skills that are working for them. Names are never mentioned in the classroom.

"Confidentiality is a huge component of this ministry," says Swope. "When someone is assigned to a caregiver, the only names that are exchanged are between me as the leader, the caregiver and the care receiver."

In January of 2011, St. Matthew Cathedral parishioners will join the next group of trainees at St. Pius so they can begin a Stephen Ministry at their parish. "Our goal is to incorporate a lot of the Catholic parishes in our community and we can be the training and supervision hub. It's a lot nicer when you can cross reference people across congregations because sometimes you get someone who is uncomfortable with someone that they see at church. But most people are just happy to have someone who will talk and listen to them."

Swope notes that the program

has had its share of successes and challenges. "The successes of the program are when people find wholeness and when they have spent time with their Stephen Minister who has helped them not only emotionally but spiritually.

"The challenge is sometimes getting the word out that it is okay to come and talk about your feelings. There are so many broken people and in one way or another we are all broken. It is through the healing grace of God that those broken pieces are healed," Swope emphasizes.

St. Pius parishioner Gwen DeLee finds many personal rewards as a Stephen Minister. "People come alive and regain their hope and energy for life when someone cares enough to listen to them without judging or trying to fix them. The compassion of Jesus is at the forefront, and the guidance of the Holy Spirit has often been almost palpable during our meetings."

She adds, "Many times I said prayers of thanksgiving after a session in which I had seen the Lord working powerfully in their life. The prayer time was also very important in the context of our meetings. It was received gratefully, and obviously bore much fruit for each of us."

Care receiver offers insights into program

The following is a question and answer between *Today's Catholic* and a Stephen Ministry care receiver. Due to confidentiality, the care receiver's name is omitted.

Today's Catholic: What led you to contact the Stephen Ministry?

Care receiver: I was a new parishioner and had recently moved to the area and was in need of talking to someone about the personal, many painful, challenges in my life that had recently occurred. I needed some strong spiritual support to deal with my day-to-day challenges and to move in a direction toward Christ and the Church.

I also wanted to become more focused on what really matters in my life, which was how to get closer to God — and now has become a life long journey that I have begun with the guidance of my Stephen Ministry Care Giver.

Today's Catholic: How did the Stephen Minister you worked with offer support?

Care receiver: I was offered support in many ways. At first having the opportunity to share my "story" and having someone with a compassionate ear just to sit back and listen. It was indeed a relief as I shared my thoughts and my concerns about what had taken place in my life thus far and how that had affected my perception of whom I was and where I was going.

Once the groundwork was laid, my Stephen Minister began to focus on where I wanted to go, what was important in my life and how I could reach my goals of getting ever closer to God and become more involved in the parish by helping others because

I too had the tools to listen, and make a difference in someone else's life.

The prospect of using my experiences was empowering. I was also supported with opportunities by my Stephen Minister to take advantage of meeting other parishioners and create a Catholic network of support that I still work on today.

My Stephen Minister challenged me to pray, something that was totally foreign to me even though I had been raised a Catholic my entire life. My minister prayed with me to help me talk to the Lord and ask Him for help and inner peace, something I have noticed was really missing in my life.

Today's Catholic: How important were regular meetings with your Stephen Minister in your situation?

Care receiver: Regular meetings are very important. These meetings provide the opportunity to continue moving ahead in a positive direction and again sharing the challenges of day to day life that may make life a struggle. That regular support was instrumental in maintaining an ongoing trust with the feeling that I could tell this person my deepest thoughts and they were willing to listen to my call for help.

It also kept me on the path to reach closer to my goal and focus on what really mattered. I longed for the routine meetings so I could share what was keeping me from my inner peace and gain it back again. So much happens as you continue your journey and it is essential that you are able to share your thoughts, your troubles and your successes.

Swope emphasizes that Stephen Ministers are not a substitute for those needing professional counseling or those seeking Reconciliation.

"Stephen Ministry is the perfect path to walk to the confessional. When you have had a chance to talk through the issue and open

yourself up to begin healing, then you can take it to the confessional and leave it there."

For further information on the ministry contact Swope at (574) 247-6980.

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Students at Saint Joseph's High embrace opportunities to put faith into practice

SOUTH BEND — The hearts and spirits of the Saint Joseph's High School student body are apparent throughout the year, but the month of November certainly affords the community two very special and traditional events to live their faith. The Work for Saint Joe (WFSJ) was held this year on Sunday, Nov. 21. The Annual h.o.p.e. Thanksgiving Food Drive kicked off Nov. 1 and culminated with the deliveries on Monday, Nov. 22.

On Sunday morning the workers gathered in the gym for Mass before heading out with rakes, crates filled with paper towels, work gloves, and all items necessary for fall clean-up. Over 400 WFSJ students, faculty and parents divided into teams and left Saint Joe to rake leaves and wash windows for many of the elderly and disabled in our community. Real Services provided the names. Enthusiastic workers provided the labor and left behind not only a winter-ready lawn and home but peace of mind and heart for the residents.

For the past seven years, Pam Mahlie has organized and directed the Work for Saint Joe, along with help from Saint Joseph's campus ministers, Lauren Walatka and Tami Goy.

The Annual h.o.p.e. Thanksgiving Food Drive, guided by Susan Lightcap, Tracy Gergely and former Saint Joseph's teacher Diane Fox, and supported by the entire Saint Joseph's family, raised



SUSAN LIGHTCAP

Saint Joseph's High School students in South Bend assist with the Annual h.o.p.e. Thanksgiving Food Drive. The drive, supported by the entire Saint Joseph's family, raised \$22,587.67 in just three short weeks.

\$22,587.67 in just three short weeks.

Crews of dedicated students, assembled boxes, unloaded the food truck, counted money, set up the gym and packed bags and boxes, and made deliveries to 225 families in the South Bend community. After the expenses are

paid from the food drive, the remainder of the money collected from the drive will be given to St. Vincent de Paul Society to help with food and gifts for the Christmas holiday and used by h.o.p.e. for several Christmas projects.



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St. Charles Borromeo is a steadfast

Bishop Rhoades visits St.

BY KAY

FORT WAYNE — St. Charles Borromeo School is one of the largest schools in the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend and under the leadership of Principal Robert Sordelet, who has administered the school for the past decade, and Assistant Principal Franciscan Sister of the Sacred Heart Sister Genevieve Raupp, has been providing an exemplary Catholic education for Fort Wayne area school children for 50 years.

Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades made a pastoral visit, his first to this dynamic school, on Dec. 3. He began the day by concelebrating Mass with St. Charles pastor Msgr. John Suelzer, parochial vicar Father Tony Steinacker and Benedictine Father James Kumbakkeel. Members of the student body reverently participated in the choir and as lectors, altar servers and gift bearers.

During his homily, Bishop Rhoades addressed each of the grade levels, traversing energetically across the sanctuary with an exchange of ideas on faith, hope and love. Bishop Rhoades spoke of Francis Xavier, whose feast day they celebrated, and the saint's missionary work in India and near China.

"He was the greatest missionary in the history of the Church next to St. Paul," said Bishop Rhoades, adding that we are all called to carry the Gospel to others. Bishop Rhoades appeared encouraged by the knowledge of St. Francis the students relayed, especially one young student who informed the bishop that there were alligators in Japan where St. Francis preached. Bishop Rhoades offered his gratitude to the students, staff and priests for the invitation to visit and a special bishop's blessing at the conclusion of the Mass.

Enthusiastic kindergarten stu-

dents waved to Bishop Rhoades as he walked with Msgr. Suelzer across the playground on his way to the school. His first stop after a light breakfast was to a seventh-grade classroom, where he engaged the attentive students in a discussion about their upcoming Confirmation. After quizzing the students on their knowledge of their faith, he opened the floor for questions. The responsive students inquired about the bishop's ring, hat and Catholic education.

Bishop Rhoades was afforded the opportunity to meet with several grades in the parish hall where he spoke with them about their religious training and answered questions from "Do you like being a bishop?" and "How did you know you wanted to be a priest?" to the more personal "Do you eat fast food?" and "Do you watch TV?" One bold student even asked, "Are you famous?"

Bishop Rhoades cheered one first-grade student who had recently been baptized and was delighted to sing and sign a Christmas song along with the kindergartners, conducted by their own music teacher, Kate Schipper.

A luncheon was served following the classroom visits where Bishop Rhoades dined with the devoted faculty and staff of St. Charles School.

St. Charles Borromeo School first opened its doors on Sept. 15, 1958, under the leadership of Msgr. Edward Hession. The Franciscan Sisters of the Sacred Heart taught nearly 250 students in six grades that first year. The school, located at 4910 Trier Rd. in Fort Wayne, now offers half- and full-day kindergarten and before and after-school care for the almost 750 students in kindergarten through eighth grade.

The school building itself has undergone several additions and



PHOTOS BY KAY COZAD

St. Charles principal Robert Sordelet, left, shakes hands with Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades during his visit to the school on Dec. 3. St. Charles Pastor Msgr. John Suelzer and Assistant Principal Sister Genevieve Raupp join them.

renovations over the years including the most recent newly constructed wing for the fast-growing kindergarten program. The wing was paid for in part by proceeds from the school's SCRIP program, one of the largest in the area.

With the dedicated faculty and staff of over 75, and an average class size of 28 students, St. Charles offers a well-rounded curriculum following the requirements of the State of Indiana, the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend and the National Catholic Education Association. In addition to the traditional subjects taught, an emphasis on math, computer training and science

better prepares the students there for success in the ever changing technological world. And additional communication and language skills are developed in the seventh and eighth grades where students study French or Spanish.

The fine arts enrichment program, including choir, band and hand chimes, the outdoor environmental education, the Lego robotics teams and a variety of athletic programs offer extracurricular activities that enrich the students spiritually, emotionally and physically.

Living out the mission of the school, "To teach, live, love and learn as Jesus did," St. Charles students participate in daily reli-



Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades catechizes the seventh-grade class during his visit to St. Charles.



Bishop Rhoades asks for a grade student who recently joined the Catholic faith.



Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades speaks to some students during his pastoral visit to St. Charles.

Best force in area Catholic education

Charles Borromeo School

COZAD



cheers for this first-
tly was baptized into the



St. Charles students gather around the Jesse tree in the main hall of the school.

gion classes and attend Mass twice each week. Strong prayer practices are a way of life for these students who begin and end each school day with prayer. And, said Principal Sordelet, the students have several opportunities to pray throughout the day. All classes recite a decade of the rosary each day, so by Friday they have completed the solemn prayer. And there is a team of upper classmen who regularly pray outside the area abortion clinic. "God," said Sordelet, "permeates everything we do."

Another strength of this dynamic school, said Sordelet, is the steadfast nature of the people involved. "It's stabilizing. We've only had two pastors in 52 years. And a very supportive parish, parents and kids. We have strong teachers and staff, too."

Service is an important part of the rich Catholic education found at St. Charles School. Each grade partners with a community charity or organization where the students provide service throughout the year. And the in-house buddy program that pairs an upper-grade

class with a lower-grade class offers all students the opportunity to foster working friendships of all kinds.

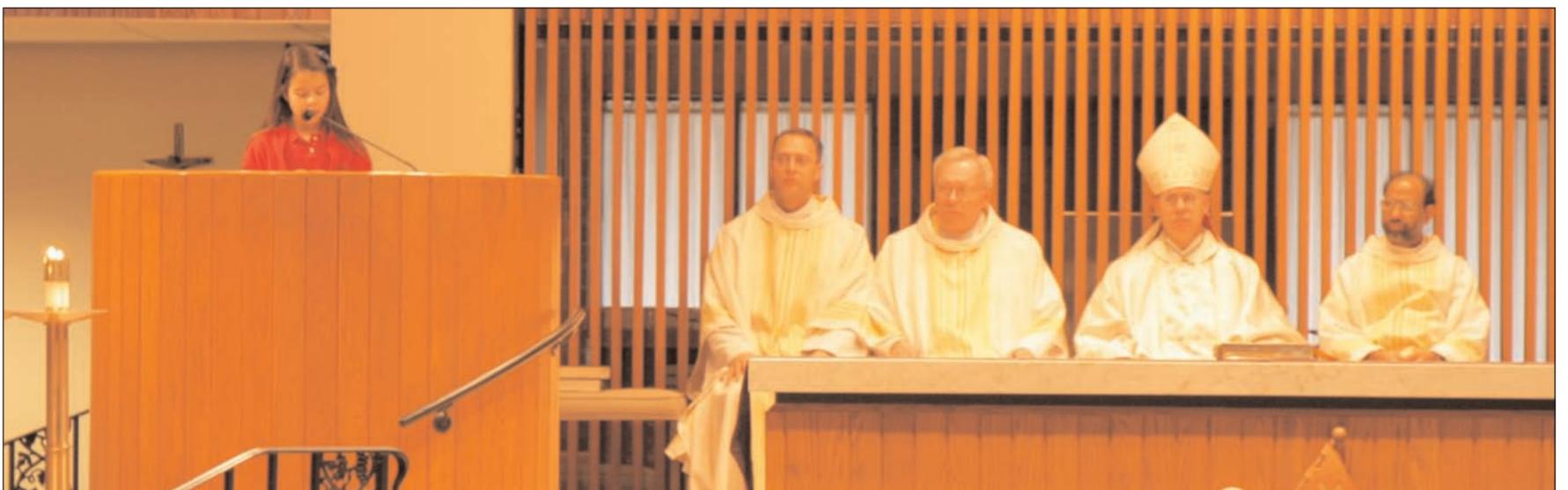
This Advent season the St. Charles student council has sponsored a Jesse tree, set in the entrance hall of the school where after each day's Jesse tree reflection reading a symbolic ornament is hung. It is a visible reminder to the students of the spiritual preparation required during this Advent season.

Mary Ann Steinau has been the school secretary at St. Charles for 19 years and said she enjoys the atmosphere at the school as well as the people involved there. Linda Nicholas, administrative secretary, agreed, saying, "It's a great place to work, great families and the kids are a riot!"

Eighth-grade religion and literature teacher Marcy Watts has been teaching at St. Charles for eight years and said, "I love teaching here. I can bring God into the classroom. The students are a blessing to me. It is like a family here. My students are my family away from home."



students in the parish hall



Parochial vicar Tony Steinacker, seated left, Msgr. John Suelzer, Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades and Father James Kumbakkeel listen as a St. Charles student reads Scripture at the Mass on Dec. 3.



St. Charles Borromeo School

4910 Trier Rd.,
Fort Wayne, IN 46815

Pastor: Msgr. John Suelzer
Principal: Robert Sordelet
Staff: 75
Enrollment: 750 students in kindergarten through eighth grade
School opened: 1958
Phone: (260) 484-3392
Web Site: www.stcfw.org

Resource and referral program is a lifeline in time of need

BY BONNIE ELBERSON

FORT WAYNE — Catholic Charities is a state-licensed, accredited agency which provides a comprehensive range of social services to families in the 14 counties of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend. Its major service divisions are pregnancy, adoption and foster care; community services; refugee resettlement and immigration services; and older adult services.

Within the broad range of the agency's services, the resource and referral program can be a lifeline in time of need for families struggling with short-term and often one-time situations that threaten to create a major disruption in their lives.

Lisa Young, director of the resource and referral program, says its goal is to provide financial and/or material assistance to those families who are in financial crisis. Help is available for utility payments, rent or mortgage payments,

food, clothing and basic needs. Agency workers also provide intervention and advocacy and work with clients to identify other resources available to them.

The program serves about 20 families each week, says Young, from young couples with children to elderly adults. But emergency crises span socio-economic groups, especially in the current economy. Just this week she worked with a middle-class couple who had both been laid off from their jobs and were going through bankruptcy. Though never needing help in the past, they asked for financial assistance to keep their power from being turned off. Another single woman with a master's degree was unemployed and asked for money to pay her utility bill.

Young explains that Catholic Charities partners with CANI by helping clients fill out the required applications to qualify for assistance with gas and electric payments through the Energy Assistance Program underwritten by NIPSCO. The utility subscribes



PHOTOS PROVIDED BY CATHOLIC CHARITIES

A client works with brief services at St. John the Evangelist in Goshen.

to a policy of never turning off power due to nonpayment during the winter months and the agency helps those who fall behind in their payments. This help with utilities is available to families at 150 percent of the federal poverty level and below. Catholic Charities also works to qualify applicants for the NIPSCO Care Hardship Program

which is available to families at 151-200 percent of the federal poverty level.

Emergency shelter funding comes from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for help with rent payments. Other vital funding for the resource and referral program comes from United Way of Allen

County.

Catholic Charities also provides basic necessities like soap, toiletries and clothing to walk-in clients at its Fort Wayne office and has two food pantries located in Auburn and South Bend.

Young's duties at the agency are wide-ranging. She serves as assistant to Catholic Charities director Debra Schmidt, while directly supervising the resource and referral program and the Hispanic health advocacy program. In addition, she oversees the directors of the immigration, refugee resettlement and senior aides program. She helps with grant writing and reporting and has sole responsibility for maintaining Council on Accreditation, Inc. (COA) standards.

The mission of Catholic Charities is straightforward. The agency "serves those in need as Christ would have us do." And Young finds that work very rewarding. "We're happy to have funds available to help the community," she says.

Catholic Charities' food pantries assist growing list of those in need of food

BY LISA KOCHANOWSKI

SOUTH BEND, AUBURN — As the winter snow arrives and the temperatures turn cold, families struggle to pay high heating bills and still find money for groceries.

There is help for families in need with the food banks of Catholic Charities. Through the generosity of monetary and food donations from the community along with United Way and FEMA funding, this special organization is able to provide several days worth of food to families who struggle to put meals on the table.

Residents of DeKalb County can visit the RSVP Community Center of Caring Food Pantry and residents in Michiana can visit the South Bend Food Pantry to get grocery items, paper items and toiletries.

"We make sure everyone in the county is served well and with respect," said Patti Shepherd of the Auburn food pantry, who said the volunteers understand how hard it is for clients to come into the office and ask for help. They want to make sure the experience is positive for the families. "We've had people come in with tears because they have never had to use something like this."

According to Barbara Burlingham with the South Bend food pantry, they serve about 250 households a month which translates to approximately 900 indi-

RSVP Community Center of Caring Food Pantry

107 West 5th Street

Auburn, IN 46706

Phone: (260) 925-0917

Monday 4:30-6:30 p.m.,

Tuesday 9:30-11:30 a.m.,

Wednesday 1:30-3:30 p.m.

South Bend Food Pantry

1817 Miami Street

South Bend, IN 46613

Phone: (574) 234-3111

Tuesday 2-4 p.m., Wednesday 5-7 p.m.

viduals — most of those being children. The pantry is open twice a week hoping to add a third evening on the Thursday after the holidays.

Deb Schmidt, director of Catholic Charities in the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend stressed, "We are committed to continuing to provide food for those in need in the communities that we serve. Our South Bend food pantry is the only food pantry in St. Joe County that is open in the evening, and thus available to serve working families in need."

Last year the Auburn pantry served 442 new families (1,525 individuals) and 4,232 families (15,208 individuals) total. In the month of November they saw 55

new families (194 individuals) and a total of 436 families (1,608 individuals).

"If we don't have the extension of unemployment benefits we will really get hit," said Shepherd of how she thinks the needs will increase in the upcoming months. "We are very fortunate that Catholic Charities and the Church feel so strongly about helping others and that we have such great volunteers."

Shepherd said two years ago a couple who were expecting a baby came into the office before Christmas after both being laid off. They came on a day the pantry was closed but the staff put together an extra special package to get the family through the holidays and relieve the stress

and tension of the situation.

Items for the pantries come from donations from the community.

"One of the groups we would like to thank is the Walmart distribution plant in Auburn," said Shepherd, who noted that the distribution center will weekly donate items that might be unable to go to the store because it cannot be sold quick enough to meet the expiration date.

"We are able to get fresh food from them. This week we got spinach, salads and bananas, which is wonderful," Shepherd said.

According to Shepherd, sometimes farmers who have extra fresh vegetables will donate their excess to the pantry. They use

their cash donations to purchase goods from the Community Harvest Food Bank where they can stretch their funds with purchases like 19 cents a box for cereal.

"One of our donors was a 9-year-old girl who wanted to donate her allowance to the food bank," said Shepherd. The little girl was delighted to learn that the pantry was able to purchase significantly reduced priced items and use her donation to fill a large area of the pantry. Shepherd added that a high school student, who returns to volunteer on her breaks, set up an account with the community foundation called Becca's Bread Brigade that gives funds to the Auburn pantry to purchase bread.

Deb Schmidt is grateful for the area support and said, "We appreciate all the support of our donors. If you are interested in donating food to either our South Bend or Auburn food pantries, please contact Patti Shepherd at (260) 925-0917 in Auburn, or Barb Burlingham at (574) 234-3111 in South Bend."

Shepherd explained that the food pantry is one of the NAP (Neighborhood Assistance Program) agencies, which is a contribution incentive program offered by the Indiana Housing and Community Development Authority. Individuals and businesses who donate a minimum of \$100 to a NAP recipient organization are eligible to claim a deduction on their Indiana

Support for those in immigration process

BY DEB WAGNER

FORT WAYNE — Luz Ostrognai is the supervisor of immigration for Catholic Charities in the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend. She has worked for Catholic Charities for the past seven years and helps those coming to the United States become permanent legal residents or prepare for their citizenship examination. She is the only one in the diocese who is accredited by the Board of Immigration Appeals to file the paperwork necessary for citizens of other countries to become citizens of the United States of America if they so choose.

In her role, Ostrognai also helps the foreign priests that Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades and Msgr. Robert Schulte, vicar general of the diocese, bring to the diocese file paperwork to obtain their citizenship when desired. She says priests have frequently come from Kenya, India and Africa. The diocese is not limited to those countries, however.

Catholic Charities offers citizenship classes with Ostrognai, her two assistants and handful of volunteers every Tuesday. "Almost everyone that takes the classes, passes the citizenship exam," Ostrognai says.

The classes are offered to lay immigrants as well as the priests

from countries other than the United States. It usually takes from three to six months from the time the paperwork is submitted to the Board of Immigration Appeals for immigration officers to interview the candidates for citizenship.

The Fort Wayne area candidates are interviewed in Indianapolis and those closer to South Bend travel to Chicago for the interview.

Ostrognai helps coordinate the interviews for the candidates by following the paperwork trail through the system she knows quite well.

Once in either Indianapolis or Chicago, the immigrants are asked 100 questions about the United States government and United States history by immigration officers.

"How many justices are there in the Supreme Court?" and "Who is in charge of the executive branch?" might be questions posed to the candidate. The candidates also have to pass a written test and therefore need to know basic English. This is the most difficult part of the test for some according to Ostrognai, who says the people often return to the classes to practicing their oral and written English skills.

To their credit and commendation, the priests who are chosen to minister in the diocese are highly educated men who know



The immigration graduating class of 2010.

English well. Most priests from other countries acknowledge that their accent might make them difficult to understand at times. Ostrognai says that the priests report it is much easier for parishioners to understand them after they have been in the United

States for five or six years. The priests often come to the United States on a religious visa that is valid for a year. After five years, the priests can work with Ostrognai to become a permanent legal resident. They can return to the U.S. again in an additional

five years to file the paperwork to become citizens of the United States. Immigrants are not required to apply for U.S. citizenship, but the status of U.S. citizen would allow the immigrant priests to vote and use a U.S. passport among other benefits.

While the citizenship test might be mentally challenging, the cost to apply for citizenship might be financially difficult for some as well. United States citizenship candidates must pay \$675 to Homeland Security or be able to prove that they are unable to pay the fee.

Ostrognai says she can help a candidate file for a waiver of this fee with immigration officials if the person can demonstrate the inability to pay.

Ostrognai smiles as she says the best part of her job is the satisfaction gained by helping her clients become legal residents and eventually earning their United States citizenship.



A volunteer fills an order at the South Bend food pantry.

income taxes worth 50 percent of the donated amount. A donor can also use the deduction for federal taxes if they use the long form. "This is a great opportunity for a tax write-off while helping feed individuals," said Sheperd.

Generous donations are an important key to the success of food pantries, but the biggest asset to the Auburn pantry is the loyal volunteers. Forty to 70 volunteers help with cleaning the pantry, stocking the shelves and helping clients receive goods.

"People have no concept of the food coming in and out each year," said Sheperd, who noted that the pantry has 50 tons of food a year that is handled by volunteers at the Auburn pantry. "We are so fortunate to have such

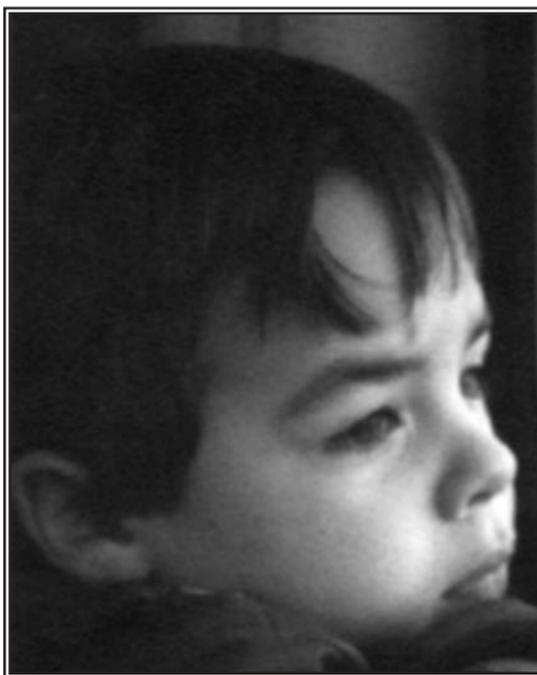
wonderful volunteers," she said.

Groceries such as canned and boxed non-perishables are in great demand for food pantries. Other items in demand are paper goods like toilet paper, paper towels, feminine-hygiene products, soap, shampoo and household cleaners. They also accept cash, check and credit-card donations.

South Bend donation drop-off times are 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday; 8 a.m. to noon on Friday.

Auburn donation drop-off times are 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday; 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday; 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Friday

It's Christmas! ...is his gift in your heart?



He doesn't need toys. He makes do with those he has. What he needs is comfort; the kind that comes from having a warm home, food and clothing and the feeling that things are going to be all right. You can be the one to provide that feeling by giving generously to Catholic Charities.



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 - Community Services
 - ECHO (Education Creates Hope & Opportunity)
 - Food Pantries
 - Foster/Adoptive/Kinship Care Training
- Immigration Services
 - Hispanic Health Advocate
 - Pregnancy Services
 - Refugee Employment Services
 - Refugee Services
- RSVP (Retire Senior Volunteer Program)
 - Senior AIDES Employment
 - Villa of the Woods... Senior Residential Living

GUEST COMMENTARY BY MSGR. MICHAEL HEINTZ

Greeting Christ as the One who comes:

Reflections on the liturgical season of Advent

This is part 2 of an Advent commentary provided by Msgr. Michael Heintz, rector of St. Matthew Cathedral in South Bend.

By the Fourth Sunday of Advent (or on Dec. 17, whichever comes first), the emphasis has clearly shifted. The “advent” we now hear about and pray for is the coming of the Incarnate Son of God at the Nativity, that particular moment in human history when Jesus was born of Mary. We hear in the readings at Mass the prophecies concerning His birth, and the prayers used at Mass reflect this, as well.

In fact, the Collects for Mass, particular to each weekday, offer a precis of our faith in Christ’s coming and themselves offer hints for the preacher. December 17-24 provides a particularly intense experience of this Advent focus. In the 7th century, what are now called the O Antiphons were composed for prayer in preparation for the solemn feast of the Nativity at Christmas, and are more popularly known today as the verses of the hymn “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel.”

If we rely on the Church’s liturgy (as we should) to provide us with some pointers about how we can live and pray the season of Advent in our own lives, we discover a number of profound themes: preparation, readiness, expectation, joyful hope, a spirit of penitence, reformation of life and the beauty of the Incarnation.

Two of the earliest reflections on the beauty of the Incarnation come from St. Athanasius (+ AD 373) and St. Augustine (+ AD 430).

St. Athanasius emphasized the implicit link between human sinfulness and the decay and corruption all created realities (most notably ourselves) experience in this fallen world. He was not so much concerned with the “mechanics” of salvation in Christ, but rather with its rationale: Why was it so fitting for God to become man in Christ? Repentance, he contended, while necessary, was insufficient to calm the swelling storm of decay and death, which marks human existence. “No,” he wrote, “repentance does not change (our) nature; repentance alone was not enough. What, or rather, Who was required for the grace of restoration? Who, except the Word of God Himself, who in the beginning created everything out of nothing? It was His role — and His alone — to restore incorruption to what had become corruptible — He alone was able to recreate all and was worthy to suffer for all and to become an ambassador for all with the Father. — “On the Incarnation of the Word,” 7. For Athanasius, the Incarnate Word does more than simply offer us a model of behavior — He transforms our fallen nature and makes life with God a real possibility again. The very Word which is the instrument of creation becomes — in the Incarnation — the instrument of recreation and renewal.

St. Augustine, in one of the most moving passages from his “Confessions,” one which through literary technique artfully relates the Incarnation to the creation of the first human from the earth, describes the ironic interplay between human pride and divine humility in the drama of the Incarnation. For Augustine, it is precisely the humility of God which should move our hearts to conversion. Imitation of this divine humility, this divine weakness, is the prerequisite for genuine conversion: “Your Word, the Eternal Truth, higher than any part of Your creation, lifts up to Himself those who are humble. He built for Himself here below a humble house of our clay. In this way, He breaks the bonds of those who are attached to themselves and makes those who are willing His own subjects, drawing them to Himself, healing their pulsing pride and at the same time nurturing their own capacity to love. No longer self-confident, they become weak. They see at their own feet God-become-weak through His share in our garments of skin. In their weakness, they fall prostrate before this divine weakness, which itself rises and lifts them up.” — “Confessions” No. 7.18. It is God’s remarkable humility in the face of human pride which offers us all hope.

The Advent season, marking the beginning of another liturgical year, is an excellent opportunity for spiritual renewal — personal and ecclesial — and is best accomplished by focusing on the fundamentals of the faith which the season itself reveals to us.

COMMENTARY

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

Catholic number down in Congress, but about equal in both major parties

WASHINGTON (CNS) — With more than three dozen Catholic Democrats voted out of office or choosing not to run in the November election, a decline in the number of Catholics in the 112th Congress would seem inevitable.

But the decrease is not nearly as steep as might be expected, because of the 33 new Catholic Republicans preparing to take office when the 112th Congress convenes Jan. 3.

With one House race still contested as of Dec. 3 — between Rep. Timothy Bishop, a New York Democrat who is Catholic, and Randy Altschuler, a Republican who is Jewish — the number of Catholics in the 112th Congress will be 149 or 150, compared to the 162 senators and representatives who identified themselves as Catholics as the 111th Congress began two years ago.

The latest number is more in line with the 155 Catholics at the start of the 110th Congress or the 109th’s 153 Catholics.

The change since the last Congress means that Catholics will now make up about 28 percent of the members of Congress, compared to 30 percent when the 111th Congress began. But both figures are higher than the percentage of Catholics in the U.S. population — 24 percent.

For the first time in recent memory, the number of Catholic Republicans in the House — 61 — nearly equals the number of Catholic Democratic House members, at 64 or 65. That marks a dramatic shift since the last Congress convened two years ago with a Catholic House contingent of 98 Democrats and 38 Republicans.

In contrast, the Catholic membership in the Senate has remained relatively stable. Among Republicans, four Catholics left and four new Catholic senators were elected, keeping the total at nine. The number of Catholic Democrats in the Senate went from 17 at the start of the 111th Congress to 15 now, but two of the 17 were now-Vice President Joe Biden, who resigned from the Senate shortly after the session began, and Sen. Ted Kennedy of Massachusetts, who died in August 2009.

The Congress that convenes in 2011 will be, incidentally, the first in 64 years that does not include a member of the Kennedy family. John F. Kennedy, who was elected the first Catholic president in 1960, first served in the House in 1947;

WASHINGTON LETTER

NANCY FRAZIER O'BRIEN

Ted’s son, Patrick Kennedy, who represented Rhode Island in the House since 1995, decided not to run for re-election in 2010.

Compiling numbers on the Catholics in Congress is not always easy, however.

Although several sources — including his own campaign Web site — list Republican Sen.-elect Marco Rubio of Florida as a Catholic, he and his family worship most frequently at Christ Fellowship in Palmetto Bay, Fla., a nondenominational Christian church.

Democratic Sen.-elect Chris Coons, on the other hand, is a Presbyterian who regularly attends St. Ann Catholic Church in Wilmington, Del. He and his wife, Annie, who is Catholic, are raising their three children in the Catholic faith.

For the purposes of this article, Catholic News Service counts Rubio but not Coons as Catholic.

At least one new Catholic member of Congress makes no bones about his faith.

Rep.-elect Bobby Schilling, a Republican from Illinois, runs St. Giuseppe’s Heavenly Pizza in East Moline, a restaurant that closes on Sundays so that the Schillings and their employees can spend time with their families.

“People warned them that this would doom their business to fail-

ure,” it says on Schilling’s campaign Web site. “With faith and persistence, the business has not only sustained itself, but has grown.”

Schilling also has strong union ties, having served as a shop steward for the International Paper Workers Union for four years and as treasurer for the United Food and Commercial Workers Union while working at Prudential Financial insurance company from 1987 to 1995.

He and his wife, Christie, have 10 children and one grandchild. The family attends St. Malachy’s Parish in Geneseo, Ill.

Although the House leadership will change from one party to another in January, a Catholic will remain as Speaker of the House. When Democratic Rep. Nancy Pelosi of California steps down, Republican Rep. John Boehner of Ohio will take the post. (He will not formally claim the post until Jan. 5, when he is expected to receive a majority of votes from the full House.)

Pelosi was elected Nov. 17 to be minority leader.

No Catholics will be serving in either party’s other top leadership spots in the next Congress. Reps. Eric Cantor of Virginia, who is Jewish, and Kevin McCarthy of California, a Baptist, will be majority leader and majority whip, respectively, in the new Republican-led Congress.

Reps. Steny Hoyer of Maryland, a Baptist, and James Clyburn of South Carolina, a member of the African Methodist Episcopal Church, held the majority posts in the 111th Congress but will serve beginning next year as minority whip and assistant leader, respectively.



Odilia
died c. 720
December 13

This patroness of Alsace, according to legend, was the daughter of Frankish nobleman Adalric, who hated her for being born blind and banished her. They later reconciled, when her sight was miraculously restored. She was baptized Odilia, or “daughter of light,” but had to flee her home to avoid marrying. She returned only when Adalric promised her his castle at Hohenburg, in the Vosges Mountains, for a monastery. Her shrine at Mont-Sainte-Odile became a famous pilgrimage site; Charlemagne and other emperors were among the pilgrims.

Snapshots of grace: Capturing the sacred in daily life

Funny how a single picture can change everything.

In the tiny town of Bovey, Minn., four years into World War I, an old man peddling foot scrapers knocked on Eric Enstrom's door.

Eric was 43, a Swedish immigrant who had bought land, opened a photography studio and raised his kids to speak perfect English. He fed the peddler and studied him. There was something striking about the man, a gentle strength in his deep wrinkles and straggly beard.

Sitting before a loaf of bread and a bowl of porridge, the peddler closed his eyes and dropped his head into his folded hands. Eric flashed his bulb and pressed his accordion-like Bellows camera.

Poof!

"Grace" was born, the picture

that has been hung in kitchens and living rooms across the world, a call to gratitude, a symbol of faith that is both sturdy and hushed.

Eric had long embraced its meaning, leading his family in grace before every meal. His third born, Warren, tagged along on fishing trips and photo shoots of Minnesota's Scenic State Park. Warren watched his dad shoot panoramas, turning a slow circle that seemed to sweep in every detail.

When Warren departed for England to serve in World War II, he packed a 116 camera. "I took quite a few," he said, "but not as many as I should have."

The photographer's son can still see the bus he rode when the Nazis captured him and the machine gun fire that granted him an exit three days later.



TWENTY SOMETHING

CHRISTINA CAPECCHI

His favorite wartime snapshot — a black and white that is missing from his album but vivid in his mind — shows a uniformed Warren sitting by the entry of a small Austrian church right after the war ended. "I look pretty happy," he said. "Oh, God, the war was over."

Warren went on to work as a construction superintendent, and throughout his life, "Grace" was

CAPECCHI, PAGE 16

Prepare for the Lord



THE SUNDAY GOSPEL

MSGR. OWEN F. CAMPION

3rd Sunday of Advent Mt 11:2-11

Historically, this weekend was called "Gaudete Sunday," taking its name from the first word in the Latin Introit, or Entrance Antiphon. "Gaudete" meant "to rejoice." The Church calls us to rejoice, not that the penitential season is closing soon, but that the coming of Jesus at Christmas is near.

To symbolize this joyful expectation, the old rubrics required celebrants at Mass to wear vestments of rose color. It was not a diluted violet, or purple. Rather, it was the somber violet lifted by the brilliant gold of the distant sunrise of Christ's coming.

Few biblical readings could be more joyful and excited than this passage from the Book of Isaiah. The reading is a proclamation of vindication and of salvation. God's majesty and goodness are triumphant, vindicating not only the fidelity of the truly loyal believers but also the constant mercy of God.

The reading is a celebration of salvation. God's people, long at risk and indeed downtrodden, are saved by God's almighty power.

Surely contributing to the eloquence of this passage is its splendid imagery of geography in the Middle East, particularly in the Holy Land, and in its references to

human difficulties overcome by the loving power of God.

For its second reading, the Church this weekend presents a selection from the Epistle of James.

This reading recalls a mood very prevalent in the early Church. Problems beset Christians, not the least of them hostilities springing from the materialistic, pagan Roman imperial culture. Of course, eventually these hostilities would lead to political acts. Christians would be persecuted.

Understandably, Christians yearned to see Jesus return in splendor and victory to earth. After all, this had been promised.

The reading from James reassures Christians, calling them to await the Lord's coming in virtue and in patience. But, the reading insists, the Lord indeed will come again!

St. Matthew's Gospel furnishes the last reading. Again, as last weekend, John the Baptist is the central figure. Imprisoned, John hears of Jesus. He wonders if Jesus of whom he hears stories is truly the promised messiah of Israel, or is Jesus someone else? So, John sends emissaries to Jesus to discover the Lord's identity.

Responding, Jesus describes a situation that clearly informed John. The lame walk. The blind see. The poor hear the Good News of hope and salvation.

By contrast, Jesus knows who John is. Jesus sees John as a prophet and holy man who speaks the word of God.

Reflection

Advent is the season in which the Church bids us to prepare for the coming of Christ. Of course, it looks ahead to the liturgical event of Christmas that recalls the actual birth of Jesus as a human. Son of

God, Jesus truly was the human son of Mary. He was born in Bethlehem.

With James, the Church anticipates the future, final coming of Jesus. All will be made right. Jesus truly will be victorious.

These readings excitedly look forward to both Christmas and to the Second Coming.

More directly, the readings summon us to make the coming of Christ a personal event by transforming ourselves through prayer, penance and with a determination to be worthy dwelling places for the living Christ. Thus, the Church in these weeks of Advent asks us to prepare ourselves for the Lord. If we have paused after these first three weeks, the Church calls us to renew our determination to be ready for Christmas and for our personal reception of Jesus.

The Gospel focuses upon Jesus. The Lord alone can guide us to God. Jesus knows the answer to every question. He knows every person's true identity. No human, however good, can be as trustworthy and sure a guide. He knows all. He is God, coming to us. He is our salvation.

READINGS

Sunday: Is 35:1-6a, 10 Ps 146:6-10 Jas 5:7-10 Mt 11:2-11

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

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

Wednesday: Is 45:6b-8, 18, 21b-25 Ps 85:9-14 Lk 7:18b-23

Thursday: Is 54:1-10 Ps 30:2, 4-6, 11-13 Lk 7:24-30

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

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

The new translation of the Holy Mass:

The Confiteor

Last week, we began looking at the Introductory Rites in the Order of Mass by focusing on the change in the greeting from "And also with you" to "And with your spirit."

Now, we will turn to the Penitential Act, which immediately follows the greeting dialogue. The major changes occur in the first form of the Penitential Act, which is the commonly used formula called the Confiteor. "Confiteor" is Latin for "I confess," and comes from the first line of the prayer. Here is the full text of the newly translated Confiteor:

**I confess to almighty God
and to you, my brothers
and sisters,
that I have greatly sinned
in my thoughts and in my words,
in what I have done
and in what I have failed to do,
through my fault,
through my fault,
through my most grievous fault;
therefore I ask blessed Mary
ever-Virgin,
all the Angels and Saints,
and you, my brothers and sisters,
to pray for me to the Lord our God.**

Most of this text remains the same as the version we presently use. However, the two key modifications are highlighted in bold. The first replaces our current wording of "I have sinned through my own fault" with "I have greatly sinned." This is another instance of the new text reflecting the Latin wording, which includes the adverb "nimis," meaning "very much."

The second set of changes occurs about halfway through the Confiteor, and is more significant. The words removed from the first section, "through my own fault," are being returned to their proper place here, but with the expression's full content. "Through my fault, through my fault, through my most grievous fault" is a direct translation of the Latin phrase "mea culpa, mea culpa, mea maxima culpa." As a well-known line from the old Latin Mass, "mea culpa" has even become a familiar part of our secular parlance, by which one admits having made a mistake.

Some might wonder, why this seemingly heavier emphasis on sin in the revised English Confiteor? Looking beyond simple fidelity to the Latin, language that calls to mind our fallen human nature is actually very important in the sacred liturgy. It is good to acknowledge our sinfulness at particular times, just as we should do at sacramental Confession. This Penitential Act is akin to the Act of Contrition, whereby an individual pledges remorse for not loving God and neighbor as he or she ought.

Unlike Reconciliation, we are not sacramentally absolved of our

THE NEW MISSAL



BY BRIAN MACMICHAEL

sins at this point during the holy Mass. Nevertheless, it is an appropriate way to "prepare ourselves to celebrate the sacred mysteries," as the priest says at the beginning of the Penitential Act. We must strive to approach the altar of God with humble dispositions, and should receive the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ free from grave sin, and in a worthy fashion, as St. Paul exhorts us in 1 Cor. 11:23-29.

There is an element of the Confiteor that is often neglected, and that is the fact that the faithful are supposed to "strike their breast" while saying, "through my fault, through my fault, through my most grievous fault." This prescribed "striking" is a symbolic tapping of the chest with a clenched fist over one's heart, signifying remorse. This is part of the beauty of our Catholic liturgy — sacramental words are complemented by sacramental actions.

The striking of the breast is supposed to be done even now, within the current translation of the Confiteor. Hopefully, it will become more natural with the new translation, especially since a threefold striking was the universal practice during the "mea culpa ..." of the old Latin Mass, and remains ingrained in the memories of many.

The Confiteor ends with the individual asking for the prayers of the saints and the rest of the congregation, led by the Blessed Virgin Mary, whose sinlessness by the grace of God is the perfect model for our own Christian lives.

The conclusion of the entire Act of Penitence remains the same, with the Confiteor always being followed by the invocation, "Lord, have mercy ... Christ, have mercy ... Lord, have mercy." This supplication may also be said in the original tongue: "Kyrie, eleison ... Christe, eleison ... Kyrie, eleison." The Kyrie is actually not Latin, but Greek, which is a still more ancient liturgical language.

Please consider saving the new English text of the Confiteor from this article, for use as a regular prayer of contrition with your family (perhaps after a traditional nightly personal examination of conscience), so that we will be ready to enter into it wholeheartedly at Mass next Advent.

Brian MacMichael is the director of the Office of Worship for the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend.

What your wife really wants for Christmas

Christmas is coming. You're spiritually ready. You took the kids to Confession and went too. You have been lighting the Advent candles and doing just a bit of spiritual reading (not as much as you originally planned or hoped, but you're doing okay). You've given food to the poor, and are keeping the season Christ-centered for the family. The Nativity set went up last week. And the lights are up outside too. Okay, they're not up but they're on their way up as the box in which they are stored has been pulled out and is sitting near the front door. Overall, things have been going pretty well. You even have had the foresight to purchase a few gifts, but now it's time to think of your spouse.

What can you get her? What does she really want?

First, let's be frank and get some "don'ts" out of the way: I know you are a helpful guy and want to assist your wife in her job at home, but please do not get her a vacuum cleaner for Christmas. I

repeat, do not get her a vacuum for Christmas, nor pots and pans, nor other common household items that plug in and you think might be useful for her "work." Exceptions to this are items that demonstrate your care and concern for her personal likes and interests — a gourmet coffee machine (if she is a coffee-drinker), a bread or pasta maker (if she has mentioned she wants one). The slight distinction between these electrical appliances is critical. She will see the former as tools for her work (which they are) and the latter as your attention to her comfort and likes (which it is). You will be perceived as thoughtful and sensitive with the latter choices. With the former, she will politely

say "Thank you." And look off into the distance.

Still confused? Here's an example: A set of practical sturdy white dinner plates is ill-advised. A set of four delicate prettily decorated tea plates (which don't have to cost much, by the way — I know how you think) is a better idea. Choose a lovely design that is the same color of her eyes (and don't forget to tell her this). This gift will garner gratitude and excitement reminiscent of the memories of your early dating. Remember, it's all nuance. You know. Like the difference between a basic Verizon cell phone and Apple 32GB iPhone4 or an iPod Touch, without the cost concern.

Also, please don't even glance at the display of "As Seen on TV" merchandise. She does not want a Snuggie from you. Not even a pink one. And never, ever entertain the thought of purchasing for her any type of elasticized clothing, even if she just had a baby — especially if she has

just had a baby — even if a salesperson guarantees that she will be thrilled with stretchy-waist, "mom" jeans in a designer style and color. No, no, no! Those will not be tears of joy you see on Christmas morning.

Other things to avoid: gift certificates to car washes, the grocery store (this should be obvious), and some place that YOU want to go but she may not (ex: pro-football game, unless she is a huge fan.) Candy is fine, but not the kind from the check-out lane in the grocery store. She loves you and wants to know she is important enough to you that you took some time in selecting a gift for her. She's with you on this — it's the thought, not cost that counts.



Theresa A. Thomas

EVERYDAY CATHOLIC

Now let's look at what your wife really wants for Christmas:

1. She wants everyone to get along. Really. She wants no bickering among siblings, no arguing when she reminds children of their kitchen duties. She wants a Christmas full of happy memories. Much of a mother's identity comes from her family. She wants calm, harmony. Peace. Call a little family meeting. Try to lead this peace in the family. It's really a gift for everyone.

2. She wants to be thought of. She wants to know she is special. Think back to the days you dated. I'm sure you'll think of something.

3. She wants you to be a strong, loving spiritual leader. In a tumultuous world, this is a year-round gift.

4. She wants help. Pitch in. Chances are pretty good that if there are children in the house, then she is sleep-deprived. Offer her a Saturday morning to sleep through the night or sleep in (don't worry, "sleep in" for moms probably means she will wake up at a leisurely 8:01 a.m. But that's heaven to her. Trust me.)

Were you looking for a more physical gift suggestion? Well, I don't have one. The truth is she simply wants you — your time and your devotion. Any token of your love and any action that is family-building is sure to be a winner. You know what to do. Now go be Santa.

Theresa Thomas can be reached at TheresaThomasEverydayCatholic@gmail.com. Her book "Stories for the Homeschool Heart" can be ordered on Amazon.com

old oak that had been made new. Friends exercised the same impulse, blogging in their pajamas. Deep down we understood what Pope John Paul II wrote to artists, that beauty is "an invitation to savor life and to dream of the future."

The holidays can be dizzying, but we have the ability to press pause, to wade through scattered wrapping paper, grab a camera and process the world through its grateful lens.

Christina Capecchi is a freelance writer from Inver Grove Heights, Minn. She can be reached at www.ReadChristina.com.

Much of a mother's identity comes from her family. She wants calm, harmony. Peace.

CAPECCHI

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 15

never far from him. He was once given more than 200 pictures and he framed every one before sharing them with friends. His wife embroidered the image. "She won first prize in that category at the Texas State Fair," he boasted.

Decades later, when she passed away and Warren began receiving food from Meals On Wheels, a volunteer noticed the picture in his room and was inspired to feature it in a promotional postcard.

Today Warren is 95, one of five or six residents at Juliette

Fowler Homes in Dallas who hung a "Grace" portrait in his apartment to make it feel like home. He's given talks about the photograph and hands out a "Grace" brochure to everyone who will accept it.

Promoting the picture gives him purpose. "I think that's the most pleasant thing I've done," he said, "except my wife and I went to Hawaii once."

Isn't that how grace works? It comes as a flicker, a sprinkle of the sacred. But at any moment, any one of us can capture a shot of it, creating a permanent record, a legacy that inspires generations.

Last weekend brought our first snow of the season. I woke and grabbed my camera, shooting the

SCRIPTURE SEARCH

Gospel for December 12, 2010

Matthew 11:2-11

Following is a word search based on the Gospel reading for the Third Sunday of Advent, Cycle A: when Jesus speaks about John the Baptist. The words can be found in all directions in the puzzle.

THE CHRIST LAME THE DEAF CROWDS GO OUT BORN LEAST	DISCIPLES LEPERS BLESSED A REED BEHOLD WOMEN KINGDOM	BLIND CLEANSED NO OFFENSE BY THE WIND MY MESSENGER THE BAPTIST HEAVEN
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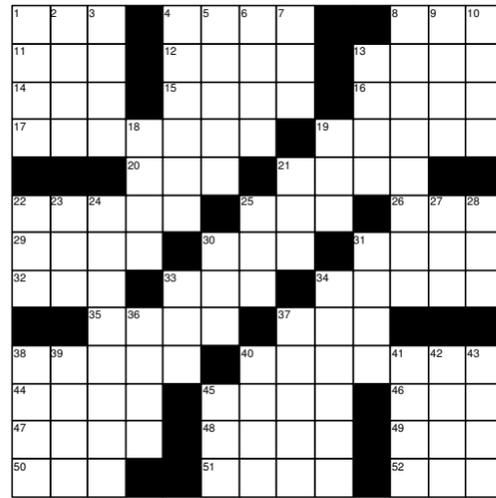
YOU CAME TO SEE

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

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The CrossWord

December 5 & 12, 2010



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Based on these Scripture readings: **Is 11:1-10; Rm 15:4-9; Mt 3:1-12 and Is 35:1-6a, 10; Jam 5:7-10; Mt 11:2-11**

ACROSS

- 1 Not amateur
- 4 Top of the head
- 8 Resort hotel
- 11 Cause of sickness
- 12 Big hairdo
- 13 Goes _____ (without a date)
- 14 Employ
- 15 Cat
- 16 Goad
- 17 Spotted cat
- 19 Leg joints
- 20 Genius
- 21 Billboard

- 22 Fruit
- 25 Pole
- 26 Choke
- 29 Blaze
- 30 Bewitch
- 31 Bunsen burner
- 32 Cry softly
- 33 Tree gum
- 34 Type of alcohol
- 35 Shake
- 37 African antelope
- 38 Romany
- 40 Please
- 44 Not ins
- 45 Asian dress
- 46 Downwind

- 47 Bottoms
- 48 Limbs
- 49 Moray
- 50 Possessive pronoun
- 51 Compass point
- 52 Building addition

DOWN

- 1 N.T. prophet
- 2 Stand up
- 3 Fake butter
- 4 Royalty's residence
- 5 Ablaze
- 6 Walked
- 7 Billion years
- 8 Might
- 9 Messenger
- 10 Gets older
- 13 Made music vocally
- 18 Lacking in color
- 19 Banter
- 21 Boston Red _____
- 22 College football conference (abbr.)
- 23 St. Padre _____
- 24 Reminder
- 25 Representative
- 27 Some
- 28 Miss
- 30 Cap
- 31 Fancy needle case
- 33 Artful
- 34 Join
- 36 Association (abbr.)
- 37 Cooties
- 38 Artist Van _____
- 39 Christmas
- 40 Challenge
- 41 Satisfaction
- 42 End of a loaf
- 43 Narrate
- 45 Cutting tool

Answer Key can be found on page 19

Sports

Basketball scoreboards ready for ICCL action

BY JOE KOZINSKI

SOUTH BEND — The Inter-City Catholic League kicked off its boys' basketball season Sunday with traditional division matchups.

In the St. John Bosco Division, St. Thomas the Apostle of Elkhart started the season with a victory against St. Pius X, Granger, 39-31. Ryan Shafer and JP Kavanagh scored 17 and 10 points respectively for the Spartans as Anthony Praff netted 17 for the upstart Lions.

St. Joseph (South Bend) held back Christ the King, 37-23, with both John Byszewski and Camden Bohn scoring 13 a piece for the Eagles while Brendan Connelly kicked in 12 for the Kings.

The other two division games had the St. Anthony Panthers handle the St. Matthew Blazers, 46-23, and the Holy Cross Crusaders triumph over the Holy Family Trojans, 33-7.

In the St. Martin DePorres Division, traditional power St.

Joseph (Mishawaka) succumbed to St. Bavo, 28-26, with Michael Voor tallying 16 for the Panthers as Will Whitten dropped in 21 points in the loss.

Also in the East, the Comets of St. Monica outdueled the Queen of Peace Pumas, 40-18. Patrick Coulter and Alex Ganser netted 15 and 10 respectively in the win as the Pumas were paced by Schuyler Crull's 14.

Our Lady of Hungary again looked like the team to beat in the West as Boniface Mugaro and Mikal Henderson led the Bulldogs with 14 and 11 in the victory over the Falcons of St. Jude, 43-20.

The final contest of the day saw a St. John the Baptist squad hang on to upend Corpus Christi, 29-26. St. John was led by Max Harrison's 10 points.

The ICCL schedule will continue on Sundays at Marian and Saint Joseph's high schools starting at 1 p.m. The complete schedules, standings and scores can be found on the Web at www.icclsports.org.

SAINTS' BASKETBALL CAMP Bishop Dwenger High School varsity basketball coaches Matt Kostoff and Dave Scudder will be hosting a basketball camp for boys and girls in grades K-8 to teach the fundamentals of basketball with an emphasis on fair play and sportsmanship. The camp will take place Jan. 8, 15, 22, and Feb. 5. Two sessions will be offered: Session 1 for grades K-3 from 9-10:15 a.m.; and Session 2 for grades 4-8 from 10:30 a.m. to 12 p.m. The camp will take place in Dwenger's main gym, and costs \$40 (T-shirt included). For information or to register, visit the Athletics/Athletic Camps tab of their Web site at www.bishopdwenger.com, or call (260) 496-4700.

Precious Blood team has good chemistry

BY MICHELLE CASTLEMAN

FORT WAYNE — The 75th running of Catholic Youth League (CYO) league play kicked off Saturday, Dec. 4. Host sites each weekend through Feb. 12, 2011, include St. Aloysius, St. Vincent, St. Joe/St. Elizabeth, Hessen Cassel, Queen of Angels, St. Joe Decatur and New Haven. Between the boys and girls, there are 24 different diocesan teams represented among the three leagues. Teams in the Gold League are made up of eighth graders from "large schools" while the White League features seventh graders. Schools with smaller enrollment typically combine their seventh and eighth graders to battle in the Blue League.

Playing both days of the opening weekend, the boys' team from Most Precious Blood (PB) got off to a 1-1 start in the Blue League with a 29-26 win over the Twins from St. Rose-St. Louis on Saturday and a tough 41-20 loss to St. Joseph-Hessen Cassel on Sunday.

Off and on for the past eight years, Chad Kahlenbeck is back to coach PB. There are 16 players listed on his roster, including four seventh graders.

"We have good numbers. This eighth-grade class has always been a big group of boys," Kahlenbeck explained. He feels his teams' strengths are point-guard shooting and decent height in the middle for the 2010-2011 season.

"We have good team chemistry and hard workers,"



MICHELLE CASTLEMAN

Most Precious Blood coach Chad Kahlenbeck instructs his team in a pre-game briefing.

Kahlenbeck added. Over the Thanksgiving holiday, the Reds finished 2-2 in the preseason invitational losing both games to the eventual champs, the St. Jude eighth graders.

In their league opener against the Twins, Taylor Burke led the scoring with 11 points. "It was a hard-fought battle by both teams," explained Kahlenbeck. In the loss, Jake Castleman led all scorers with 16.

When PB faced conference foe, Hessen Cassel, Cameron Kahlenbeck led the scoring attack for PB with 11. "We need to work on being more aggressive, rebounding better and going after loose balls," the coach summarized. In the win for the Squires (4-2, 1-0), Bradley Scott also chipped in 11.

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Sarah Hart nominated for 2011 'Best Gospel Song'

PORTLAND, Ore. (Christian Newswire) — Spiritandsong.com artist and songwriter Sarah Hart has been nominated for a 2011 Grammy Award. "Better Than a Hallelujah," co-written by Sarah Hart and Chapin Hartford and performed by Amy Grant, is among four others to receive this prestigious nomination in the "Best Gospel Song" category.

"Chapin and I talked about the things in our lives that have driven us to our knees; to desperation; to heartsickness; to tears," said Hart. "We wanted to express how much knowing God loved us meant in all that brokenness."

Featuring lyrics like, "We pour out our miseries/ God just hears a melody/Beautiful the mess we are/ The honest cries of breaking hearts/ Are better than a Hallelujah." The song touches on the universal human need for redemption and love in times of darkness.

"As soon as Chapin told me her idea my heart said 'amen.' I knew it was something I believed, something real; and something I knew about intimately," said Hart.

"Better Than a Hallelujah" in its original recording is available on Sarah Hart's latest album, "The Give and Keep" available at spiri-

tandsong.com.

Known for her lively blend of folk and pop that delights listeners of all ages and backgrounds, Hart writes music that explores the transforming power of faith. Sarah is a staff songwriter for spiritandsong.com, the contemporary music division of OCP. She currently lives in Nashville, Tenn. with her husband and two daughters.

The Grammy Awards will be handed out at the Staples Center in Los Angeles on Feb. 13, 2011. Tune in to the 53rd Annual Grammy Awards telecast, which airs that night on CBS at 8 p.m.

Neeson: Narnia's Aslan represents all great spiritual leaders

BY SIMON CALDWELL

LONDON (CNS) — Catholic actor Liam Neeson said he thinks the magical lion of C.S. Lewis' "The Chronicles of Narnia" series not only represents Christ but also symbolizes other great spiritual leaders.

Neeson is the voice of Aslan the lion in "The Voyage of the Dawn Treader," a 20th-Century Fox film premiered for journalists in London Nov. 30. It will open in U.S. theaters Dec. 10.

At a Dec. 2 news conference, Neeson explained what the character meant to him.

"As we know, C.S. Lewis, who wrote the books, was a famous atheist who then became a famous convert to Christianity. I have read quite a lot of his books other than "The Chronicles of Narnia."

"Yes, Aslan symbolizes a Christ-like figure, but he also symbolizes for me Mohammed, Buddha and all the great spiritual leaders and prophets over the centuries," he said.

"That's who Aslan stands for as well as a mentor figure for kids — that's what he means for me," he added.

Walter Hooper, C.S. Lewis' former secretary and a trustee of his estate, disagreed with Neeson's assessment.



Georgie Henley is pictured with a lion named Aslan, voiced by Catholic actor Liam Neeson, in the movie "The Chronicles of Narnia: The Voyage of the Dawn Treader." Neeson said he thinks the magical lion of C.S. Lewis' film not only represents Christ but also symbolizes other great spiritual leaders.

"Lewis would have simply denied that," said Hooper, an American Catholic who lives in Oxford, England.

"He (Lewis) wrote that the 'whole Narnian story is about Christ,'" he told Catholic News Service in a Dec. 2 telephone interview. "It is nothing whatever to do with Islam. Lewis could not have been clearer."

Hooper said that Lewis, an Anglican, had offered Aslan "as an answer to the question: What would Christ, the Son of God, be like if he had been born in the land of Narnia instead of being born in Bethlehem?"

He attributed Neeson's remarks to "political correctness" and a desire to be "very multicultural," adding: "I don't know

Liam Neeson or what he is thinking about ... but it was not Lewis' intention."

But Georgie Henley, 16, who has played the character of Lucy Pevensie in the "Narnia" movies, defended her co-star.

She said Neeson had not discussed his interpretation of Aslan with any of the cast, but they were "very excited" to hear his remarks during the news conference.

"I can see where he is coming from," said Henley.

"Aslan represents more than Jesus or God for a wide range of people," she told CNS in a Dec. 2 telephone interview.

"He can be the epitome of wisdom or the epitome of courage, for instance, and it is very important that people can have their own interpretation of what he represents rather than have something forced upon them," she said.

Clive Staples Lewis, a native of Belfast, Northern Ireland, wrote the seven books of "The Chronicles of Narnia" between 1949 and 1954 and the books have since sold millions of copies around the world.

The series is infused with Lewis' thinly veiled Christian beliefs: The climax of "The Lion the Witch and the Wardrobe," first of the books, sees Aslan sacrificing his life to save Narnia from the grip of the evil white witch before rising triumphantly from the dead.

The themes of "The Voyage of the Dawn Treader," the third of the books to be made into a film, involve the Christian themes of temptation, sin and redemption.

The story follows the adventures of Edmund and Lucy Pevensie and their obnoxious cousin, Eustace Scrubbs, as they sail to the end of the world in search of seven missing Narnian lords.

Throughout their journey, the mysterious presence of Aslan guides the children, helping them to avoid evil and to do good, and heals them on the occasions when they succumb to temptation.

Neeson, who comes from Ballymena in County Antrim, Northern Ireland, also gave his voice to Aslan in the earlier two Narnia movies: "The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe" in 2005 and "Prince Caspian" in 2008.

He has spoken publicly of his admiration for "The Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius of Loyola," written by the founder of the Jesuits.

Neeson also has starred in the roles of such historically significant Catholics as the Irish revolutionary leader Michael Collins, the Scottish rebel Rob Roy MacGregor, and Oskar Schindler, the German entrepreneur who save scores of Jewish lives from the Holocaust.

Deadline approaches for film contest on Catholic faith

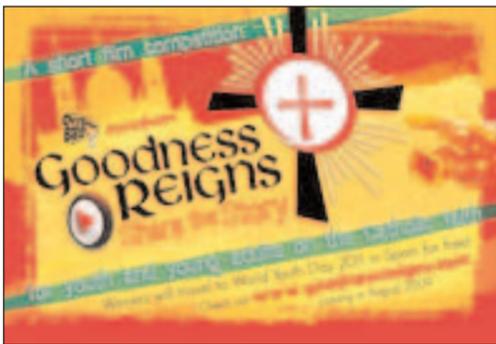
Goodness Reigns will send winners to World Youth Day 2011 in Madrid, Spain

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — Filmmakers, from beginners to experts ages 14 on up, have just weeks left before the Jan. 10 deadline when their videos on the Catholic faith are due for the Goodness Reigns: Share the Story short film contest.

Contest winners will choose either substantial computer/video equipment packages or all-inclusive travel packages to World Youth Day 2011 to be held in Madrid, Spain, Aug. 16-21.

Geared specifically to reach youth and young adults, the competition presents an opportunity for the young church to grow in and share the Catholic faith through their own videos, which will become available to the public online at www.GoodnessReigns.com once contest winners are announced in April 2011.

It's not too late to enter. Films should be no more than seven minutes in length and pertain to



one of four categories:

- Church history (including Bible stories and lives of the saints)
- Sacraments of the Church
- Church teachings
- Present-day missionary spirit of an individual or ministry of the Church

The global contest offers awards in three divisions.

• Individual category awards (Open to anyone age 14 and up)— One winner will be selected from each of the above categories. The winner and one guest/parent will receive free travel packages to World Youth Day 2011; or winners unable to travel may choose to receive video equipment packages each valued at \$4,000.

• The High School Class or Youth Group Award — One group of teens and chaperones (up to 10 people) will be selected from all entrants to receive free travel packages to WYD 2011; or the group may select a video equipment package worth up to \$15,000.

• Young Adult Group Award (Ages 18-30) — One group of four young adults will be selected from all entrants to receive free travel packages to WYD 2011; or they may select a video equipment package worth up to \$8,000.

Registration for the contest is free and will provide participants with contest updates. To register and to find out about submission details, visit www.goodnessreigns.com. A downloadable guide to filmmaking is also available at www.goodnessreigns.com/contest-tips.php.

Goodness Reigns Executive Director, Suzanne Haugh, was a guest on EWTN's "Life on the Rock" on Dec. 2.

Late Nite Catechism

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Late Nite Catechism is an uproariously funny play featuring the irrepressible Sister teaching a roomful of "students" (the audience!) Throughout the interactive show, audience members may find themselves being rewarded with nifty prizes... or possibly punished on stage in a corner!



Fri. March 18
3 pm & 7:30 pm
\$12, \$18, \$25

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Chicago Reader

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New York Times

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WHAT'S HAPPENING?

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

FUNDRAISERS

Fish fry
Warsaw — The Knights of Columbus Council No. 4511 will have a fish fry on Friday, Dec. 10, from 4:30-7 p.m. at the council hall. Tickets are \$8 for adults and \$4 for children 6-12.

Cookie walk announced
Plymouth — St. Michael's Altar Rosary Society will have a cookie walk Saturday, Dec. 11, from 8 a.m. to noon at St. Michael School. Cookies may be purchased for \$4 per pound. Contact Kathy at (574) 936-4935.

Breakfast with Santa
Fort Wayne — Knights of Columbus Council 12417 of Our Lady of Good Hope Parish will have a pancake and sausage breakfast with Santa Sunday Dec. 19, from 8 a.m. to noon in the church hall. Cost is \$5 for adults, \$4 for children 11 to 6 years old and children under 6 free. Santa will be handing out bags of treats to all children.

Knights plan spaghetti dinner
South Bend — The Knights of Columbus Council 5521, 61533 S. Ironwood Dr., will have a spaghetti dinner on Friday, Dec. 17, from 5 to 7 p.m. Adults \$7, children (5-12) \$3. Carry-out available.

Sunday breakfast at St. Pius X
Granger — The Knights of Columbus Council 4263 will have a breakfast Sunday, Dec. 12, from 8 a.m. to noon at St. Pius X. Adults \$5, children 6-12 \$2.50.

Cookie candy sale
Monroeville — The St. Rose Ladies' Guild will have a Christmas cookie and candy sale Saturday, Dec. 11, from noon to 3 p.m. in the school basement. Items will be sold by the pound.

Rosary Society plans cookie walk
Mishawaka — The St. Monica Rosary Society will have a cookie walk Saturday, Dec. 11, from 9 a.m. to noon in the lower level of the church, 222 W. Mishawaka Ave. Cost is \$5 per pound for cookies of your choice.

Breakfast with Santa
Fort Wayne — The St. Vincent Scouts will have breakfast or

lunch with Santa Saturday, Dec. 11, at 9 a.m. or noon at the Scout Lodge. Doors open 15 minutes before event. Cost is \$5 per person by Dec. 6. For more information or to register call or email: svboyscouts@svboyscouts.org (260) 489-1763.

Pancake breakfast
Fort Wayne — The St. Joseph Hessen-Cassel Knights will have a pancake, egg and sausage breakfast Sunday, Dec. 12, from 8 a.m. to noon in the hall. Proceeds will benefit the Women's Care Center. Free will donations accepted.

MISC. HAPPENINGS
Looking for alums
Mishawaka — Saint Joseph's High School alums from the class of 1973 will have an informal gathering Sunday, Dec. 26, at 6:30 p.m. at the Hacienda restaurant on Grape Road. Contact Eileen (Frederick) Guyton at guytone@yahoo.com for information.

Choir to perform cantata
Fort Wayne — The Christmas cantata, "Rejoice in His Coming," will be presented by Our Lady of Good Hope, 7215 St. Joe Rd., on Sunday, Dec. 19, at 6:30 p.m. The choir performance will be accompanied by a string ensemble and feature music by the children's choir and handbell choir. The free event will be followed by refreshments and a visit from St. Nick.

Las Posadas planned
Huntington — Our Lady of Victory Missionary Sisters will host the event "Las Posadas: Who is Knocking at the Door?" at 7 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 19, in the

Archbishop Noll Memorial Chapel on the Victory Noll campus, 1900 W. Park Dr. There is no cost or registration required.

Christmas concert
Fort Wayne — Most Precious Blood Parish, 1515 Barthold St., will present "A Christmas Concert" Sunday, Dec. 26, at 7 p.m. in the church. Presented by Jim Didier, choir director, and Kathy Schall, bell choir director. Admission is free.

St. Pius X announces senior group
Granger — St. Pius X has a senior group (55+) that meets the second Tuesday of the month at noon starting with Mass. On Dec. 14, the topic will be "Advent Preparation" with entertainment by the Bells of St. Paul's. For information call (574) 271-7853.

Mass and A Meal for young adults
Fort Wayne — Office of Campus and Young Adult Ministry invite young adults 18-39 to Mass and A Meal Sunday, Dec. 12, at the St. Mother Theodore Guérin

REST IN PEACE

Angola
Joseph Foley, 88, St. Anthony of Padua

Donaldson
Sister Loretta Volk, PHJC, 88 Catherine Kasper Home Chapel

Elkhart
Carmeline R. Fortino, 89, St. Vincent de Paul
Sharon L. Baldwin, 67, St. Vincent de Paul

Fort Wayne
John M. DeWald, 77, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton

Mary E. Becker, 84, St. John the Baptist

Betty H. McNamara, 84, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton

Neva M. Maraldo, 80, St. Charles Borromeo

Michael John Skordos, 56, St. John the Baptist

Garrett
Anna M. Lilienthal, 96, St. Joseph

Goshen
Roberto Avila, Sr., 61, St. John the Evangelist

Granger
Teddy Weaver, 68, St. Pius X
Irene B. Williams, 81, St. Pius X

Mishawaka
Frank I. Nagy, 95, St. Bavo

Rodney A. Sowala, 49, Queen of Peace

New Carlisle
Irene H. Sipotz, 91, St. Stanislaus Kostka

Notre Dame
Ruth Delores Sweeney, 85, Sacred Heart Parish

Sister M. Daniel Frailey, CSC, 99, Our Lady of Loretto

South Bend
Ronald A. Simmons, 44, Corpus Christi

Paul J. Wisniewski, 58, St. Adalbert

Mercedes Gassensmith, 83, St. Anthony de Padua

Donna M. Hellinga, 79, St. Jude

Alice Ann Raab, 70, Christ the King

Richard J. Bidlack, 78, St. Anthony de Padua

David Peter Koehler, 84, Holy Family

Helen Georgina Voll, 83, St. Patrick

Lillian M. Baloun, 80, St. Anthony de Padua

Isabelle Beatty, 96, Christ the King

Maria D. Sandoval, 82, St. Casimir

Chapel. Advent Reflection at 4 p.m. by Msgr. Robert Schulte with Mass at 5 p.m. in the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception. Meal to follow at Hall's Gas House, 305 E. Superior St. For information visit www.diocesefwsb.org/CYAM or call Mike or Allison at (260) 422-4611 ext. 3384.

Living Nativity at St. Therese, Fort Wayne — St. Therese Parish will have a Living Nativity Saturday, Dec. 11, at 6:15 p.m. Small groups will enjoy a shepherd-guided tour through the first Christmas after a simple dinner of chili, hot dogs and drinks by the Knights of Columbus with a free will donation accepted. Call (260) 747-9139.

Dedication Special

Considering your burial needs now will save your loved ones from making those difficult decisions.

The Garden of Our Lady of Guadalupe (Section Q) and the 8-foot bronze statue of Our Lady of Guadalupe are scheduled for dedication in December 2010. For a limited time the Catholic Cemetery is offering a **Dedication Special: All grave spaces in the new Section Q are 15% off regular price.**

We invite you to consider your burial needs thoughtfully and without pressure now, before the need arises, relieving others of those difficult decisions.

Call Larry Fisher at 260.426.2044 for an appointment or visit the Cemetery Office at 3500 Lake Avenue from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.



www.catholic-cemetery.org

Promotion ends January 31, 2011



Our Lady of Guadalupe

The CrossWord

December 5 & 12, 2010



Vincentians gather; award good works

BY MARK WEBER

FORT WAYNE — Telling 400 members of the St. Vincent de Paul Society that their work mirrors the example of Jesus Christ and that as Vincentians they are distributors of hope and that Christ is their source of hope, Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades launched these friends of the poor and downtrodden on another year of their ceaseless mission.

St. Mary Church, Fort Wayne, where the soup kitchen is an embodiment of Vincentian work, was the site of the Saturday morning Mass and annual District Council meeting and breakfast.

Vincentian President Cheryl Mowan assisted Bishop Rhoades in presenting four Top Hat awards recognizing the ideals and the required practical approach of the society's mission in delivering friendship as well as food, clothing and other forms of assistance.

Paul Helmcamp, St. Vincent de Paul Parish, was recognized for his personal leadership in construction of an 8 by 12 foot addition to the parish food pantry and the follow-up work in supply and maintenance required.

Jerry and Sheila Johns, of St. Peter Parish were also recognized for their endeavors in the food pantry work, with emphasis on



MARK WEBER

Receiving Top Hat Awards from Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades at the annual St. Vincent de Paul District Council meeting at St. Mary Church, Fort Wayne, were, from left, Sue Rockstroh, Jerry and Sheila Johns, and Ron Wurst (accepting for Paul Helmcamp) Cheryl Mowan, society president, assisted Bishop Rhoades in the presentation.

the personal shopping required for lowest food pricing. Sheila received special thanks for taking the time to send greeting cards to the sick and families of the deceased.

At St. Therese Parish, Sue Rockstroh's management of the food pantry includes paperwork, scheduling volunteers and stocking the shelves. Through her efforts, the St. Therese pantry has received federal commodities and has grown from serving 25 households a month to 125 a month.

Donna Brooke, immediate past president of the Fort Wayne area District Council received a Top Hat award for past administrative assistance as well as her continued work at St. Patrick Parish involving many home visits.

Concluding his remarks, Bishop Rhoades reminded members that by word and deed, they proclaim that Christ is our hope and sent them forth with Jesus' words that "without cost you have received; without cost you are to give."

REKINDLE

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

452-6875.

In an interview from Nashville, Tenn., Moore told *Today's Catholic*, "I think one of the most important messages right now, is honesty, truth, regarding one's own journey."

By "digging," Moore is referring to the need for Catholic men to dig deeper and deeper and say to the Lord, "Look Lord, here I am. Mother (Mary), please pray for me today. St. Joseph pray for me in my work."

And Moore encouraged men to pray to one's patron saint throughout the day, "that I can continue to dig, that my heart will be restless because a restless heart won't rest until it rests in Him."

Men, Moore said, get caught up in their lives with the responsibilities of taking care of their families, their own everyday wants and desires, temptations, "and we forget to dig."

Moore recommended praying the rosary or the Liturgy of the Hours — "that's just two things that men can do that will literally break and till the soil of complacency in our faith."

Moore said he also struggles with this complacency. "I don't come to this retreat and say, 'Hey, I got this all figured out let me tell you what to do.' I'm a stumbler and a bumbler just like anybody else."

"But the greatest message I hear in my own soul and my own heart is 'Don't stop digging,'" Moore continued. "If you're not restless, find out why you are not. There is a reason. Sometimes you'll find out because there is sin in your heart that you're not confessing, or you find out that there

You're up to something, aren't you? Let me in on it. Let me be that light today for somebody. Let me be honest in this journey. Let me be real with people."

The other message Moore will share at the men's conference is to be real. So much in the culture, in the world, so much of Christianity, Moore said, is fake, people putting on a front.

Moore said, that as Catholic men, "The voice we hear from God comes through the Liturgy of the Word and the Liturgy of the Eucharist. And the word He

always says to us is apostolic. ... There's so much of the Church that we don't even tap into that would give us purpose, that would give us meaning every day, that will give us hope.

Musical roots

Moore's love of music goes back to growing up in Mississippi. His grandfather was a Hank Williams, Sr., and Johnny Cash fan. At the age of 12, Moore's parents divorced, but his mother's boyfriend at the time taught him to play the "House of the Rising Sun" on the guitar. At the age of 14, Moore wrote his first song, which his mother insisted had to be recorded in a studio. "You'll never hear that song. It was horrible," Moore quipped.

By the age of 15, he had a band

FOOD BANK

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Bishop Rhoades said he sees his role as that of promotion of the good work and to heighten awareness of the food bank with the Catholic community, as well as prayers.

Community Harvest Food Bank is the largest hunger relief organization in northeast Indiana, annually distributing nearly 10 million pounds of food. Community Harvest collects wholesome surplus food and grocery products donated by the food industry — products that might otherwise go to a landfill — and other donors, and utilizes it for hunger relief.

Avery added that farmers and gardeners are encouraged to donate sweet corn, tomatoes, green beans and other fresh produce during the harvest season. This can be frozen and distributed throughout the year to those in need.

The best way Catholic parishes can assist the food bank to feed the hungry, Avery said, is "believe it, don't judge it, and see what you can do that makes sense."

Avery noted the phrase, "The sooner you believe it, the sooner we can end it — meaning hunger. And that's to open your eyes. Hunger is invisible. You cannot

look at someone who is skinny and say, 'Oh, they must be hungry, but this obese person isn't.' We all know that's incorrect thinking, because usually it's the person with the weight problem that's eating all the wrong foods, but (the food is) cheap."

The second thing, Avery said, is "to judge not. ... All I know is if someone is in here and they need food help, it's hard to ask for that."

In some communities such as Garrett, Avery said churches of multiple denominations are combining resources to feed the hungry.

"I know the ministry portion of feeding the hungry is huge," Avery said, "but let's take it a step further," she recommended, "especially when we're in the type of economy and situation we are in now."

At the holiday season, many folks are charitable and offer donations, but hunger continues beyond the holidays, especially during these difficult economic times in northeast Indiana: "Just because you donated a turkey at Thanksgiving, two days after and that turkey's gone, those people are hungry," Avery noted.

Community Harvest Food Bank is a member of Feeding America and Feeding Indiana's Hungry (FIH).

Additional information about the Community Harvest Food Bank is available at www.chfb.org.

He tells his conversion story

to the faith in a series of

You Tube videos under

W. Keith Moore,

"The Journey Home"

are things that you are overlooking that you don't need to overlook."

This restlessness is a hunger, a desire to go deeper with God, "and we do it through the sacraments," Moore said. "The sacraments are ... that grace, that keeps us fighting, keeps us asking, 'Lord, what are you doing with me today?'"

that played a lot of high school parties. "Immediately I saw that music got me in doors that nothing else could," he said.

Moore's band played mostly the rock music of Lynyrd Skynyrd, REO Speedwagon and other popular bands of the time. He knew the choruses of the songs, but often made up the verses to the songs he played. That helped him journey into songwriting.

Journey to Catholicism

Moore said his teen years were rebellious years after his parents' divorce. But he had a "Damascus Road" conversion at the age of 15, and was asked to attend a Bible study the very next day by a friend. There, Moore met his future wife Renee, the daughter of a prominent Mississippi Methodist minister. They have been married 25 years.

Moore's music writing led him to writing country and Americana or folk music in Nashville. His music, he said, is secular but has always been influenced by his faith. Although he never wrote Christian music — calling his music more dimensional than Christian music — he said, "I want anybody to listen to (my) music and find what they need in the song."

Moore became good friends with Christian music performer Phil Keaggy and produced an album in which Moore's poetry was set to music.

Keaggy invited Moore to be on

EWTN's "Life on the Rock," and introduced him to Jeff Cavins, the show's host at the time, and the two became close friends.

Moore's interest in the early Church Fathers soon led him on a journey to Catholicism. He tells his conversion story to the faith in a series of You Tube videos under W. Keith Moore, "The Journey Home" parts 1-6.

As Moore attended Mass at St. Aloysius Parish on Gonzaga University campus in Spokane, Wash., where he and his wife and son lived for two years while Moore worked on an album with a friend, he felt drawn to Catholicism. "When we walked in (the church), the Holy Spirit said, 'This is where I work.'" The Moores became involved in homeless ministries with the parish in Spokane. "God just kept drawing me (to the Catholic faith)," he said.

When the Moore's returned to his native Oxford, Miss., in 2003, they attended the Methodist church. But Moore said, "It was the most depressed I had ever been, because my heart had already been in the Catholic Church. I knew Jesus was there in the Eucharist."

In 2004, he began attending Mass at the Catholic parish in Oxford. Soon he was asked to be the parish music leader, for six months as a non-Catholic and after his conversion, six months as a Catholic. In 2006, the Moore family converted to the Catholic faith.