Cathedral celebrates 150th anniversary of dedication

BY TIM JOHNSON

FORT WAYNE — The feast of the Immaculate Conception, the patroness of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend and to whom the cathedral in Fort Wayne is dedicated, marked a very special celebration on Dec. 8 — the sesquicentennial anniversary of the dedication of the cathedral.

Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades, celebrant of the Mass for the grand occasion, noted the historical significance of the cathedral:

“December 8, 1860, 150 years ago today, the first bishop of Fort Wayne, Bishop John Henry Luers, celebrated a Pontifical High Mass on this, the solemnity of the Immaculate Conception, and solemnly consecrated this beautiful cathedral.”

At the dedication, Bishop Rhoades said, “The cathedral was filled to overflowing. It was a glorious celebration for the Catholic community of Fort Wayne, for the diocese that was established just three years earlier, and indeed for the whole city of Fort Wayne.”

That tradition continued at the 150th anniversary Mass. The church was filled by the faithful. Eleven priests with association to the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception concelebrated with Bishop-emeritus John M. D’Arcy, Rector Msgr. Robert Schulte, parochial vicars Father Dale Bauman and Father Celso Gomes and Vice Chancellor Father Jason Freiburger.

Parishioner Phil Didier provided a brief history of the cathedral before the celebration of the Mass. And Bishop Rhoades also spoke of the history of the church.

A special tribute was given to Father Julian Benoit, “to whom, we are chiefly indebted for the speedy erection of the cathedral.”

Early history

Julian Benoit, who as a seminarian had been recruited by Bishop Simon Bruté, the bishop of Vincennes, to come to Indiana as a missionary, had arrived in the United States in 1836. He was ordained the next year at Mount Saint Mary’s Seminary in Emmitsburg, Md., where Bishop Bruté had served as a superior, and then set out to come here to Indiana.

Bishop Rhoades had also served as rector of the Mount Saint Mary’s Seminary from 1997-2004 before his appointment as bishop of Harrisburg, Pa. The whole state at that time was part of the Diocese of Vincennes, until 1857 when the Diocese of Fort Wayne was established to cover the northern half of Indiana. Father Benoit, 31 at the time, arrived in Fort Wayne in 1840. There was just a little frame

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Pope Benedict XVI greets children as he arrives to celebrate Mass at Rome Parish

Pope Benedict XVI greets children as he arrives to celebrate Mass at St. Maximilian Kolbe Parish in Rome Dec. 12. Changing the world for the better comes from the humble individuals who silently carry God’s light and love to everyone around them, the pope said.

TV Mass viewers

Christmas Midnight Mass from the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Fort Wayne will not be televised this year. An hour-long Christmas Morning Mass, however, with Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades presiding from the University of Saint Francis Chapel in Fort Wayne will air live from 10:30-11:30 a.m. on WISE TV, channel 33.

In South Bend, a prerecorded Christmas Morning Mass from the Sisters of St. Francis of Perpetual Adoration Provincialate Chapel in Mishawaka with Msgr. Michael Heinitz presiding can be seen on WNDU TV, channel 16, from 7-8 a.m. and again from noon to 1 p.m.

Beginning on Sunday, Jan. 2, the TV Mass in Fort Wayne will air on WFFT TV, Fox channel 55, at its regular time of 10:30 a.m. This is a permanent change. The TV Mass will no longer be seen on WISE TV, channel 33. For cable subscribers, the Fox station is on Frontier channel 5 and Comcast channel 12.

POPE GREETS CHILDREN AS HE ARRIVES TO CELEBRATE MASS AT ROME PARISH

Pope Benedict XVI greets children as he arrives to celebrate Mass at St. Maximilian Kolbe Parish in Rome Dec. 12. Changing the world for the better comes from the humble individuals who silently carry God’s light and love to everyone around them, the pope said.

This stained-glass window in the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception depicts the Nativity of the Lord. Christmas is on Saturday, Dec. 25. The 150th anniversary of the dedication of the cathedral was celebrated on Dec. 8 with Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades as the celebrant.
The mystery of Christmas

IN TRUTH AND CHARITY

BY BISHOP Kevin C. RHoades

I

n the history of humanity, it was never imagined that God would become man. It was beyond anyone’s dreams that God, who is supreme, all-powerful, and eternal would become a newborn baby. Yet, the heart of Christianity is precisely this: the Word became flesh and dwelt among us (John 1:14). When we contemplate this mystery, we are struck with wonder and awe. We become like the shepherds and the magi: all we can do is approach the mystery in adoration.

The event of the Incarnation surpasses all human knowledge. Saint Thomas Aquinas wrote: Of all the works of God, this surpasses reason more than any other, since one cannot conceive of God doing anything more wonderful than that true God, the Son of God, should be made true man.

Words:

In sending his Son, God has offered it for all the people of our diocese: Mary, Joseph and a choir of angels adore the infant Jesus in the painting “Nativity” by Philippe de Champaigne. The Christmas season begins with the Dec. 24 evening vigil commemorating the birth of Christ and ends with the feast of the Baptism of the Lord Jan. 9.

The greatest scholars of the Church bowed down at the mystery of the Incarnation. They realized that their insights, reflections and writings could not exhaust nor fully explain the awesome truth, the wonder and the drama, of the mystery of Christmas.

The mystery of our redemption began with the Incarnation. The wood of the manger pointed to the wood of the cross. Notice that in Christian art the crib is often shown in relation to the cross. In Byzantine icons of the Nativity, the swaddling clothes resemble the shroud in icons of the resurrection. In icons of the Nativity, the stable is a cave with a black interior that recalls the empty tomb and the jaws of hell. We keep in mind the intimate bond between the mystery of the Incarnation and the Paschal mystery. The famous hymn in Saint Paul’s letter to the Philippians speaks of both these mysteries in the context of humility, the humility of the Incarnation pointing to the humility of the death on the cross. He emptied Himself, taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form He humbled Himself and became obedient unto death, even death on a cross (Phil 2:5-8).

At Christmas, let us spend some time in prayerful meditation on the infinite magnitude of the gift that God our Father gives us in the Incarnation of His Son. Saint John wrote: For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life (John 3:16). In sending His Son, God has opened for us a share in His divine life! Saint Bonaventure wrote: In his generous love, the Father lavished upon us all He was, all He had, all He could.

The radical newness of the Incarnation, its uniqueness in world religions, is a testament to the truth of Christianity. The very idea that God would be conceived in a mother’s womb, that the true and perfect God would become true and perfect man, that God would take the road of infancy and childhood, even become an unborn baby, makes this truth even more astounding. After all, God could have come as an adult, like Adam. The first man was created by God as an adult, but the new man, the new Adam, came as an infant! He chose to be conceived in Mary’s womb and to be nine months inside her body. He came in weakness and in littleness. Pope Saint Leo the Great wrote that He disdained neither birth nor the earliest stages of infancy. He was a real baby. He cried when he was hungry. Though he did not cease being God, God the Son made his own infant littleness. He became like us in all things but sin.

The Son of God came into the world as an infant, as a little and lowly Messiah, born in poverty and obscurity. His cradle was a manger, a trough where animals ate. When Jesus was presented in the temple, his parents made the offering of the poor. Early on, he was a refugee, whom Mary and Joseph took to Egypt to escape the sword of Herod. One author writes that His material poverty is the outward sign of the metaphysical poverty of the assumed human nature.

There were a lot of legends that circulated through apocryphal gospels about miracles performed by the child Jesus. Saint Thomas Aquinas was very firm in rejecting these stories, insisting that Jesus’ first miracle was at the wedding feast in Cana. Saint Thomas said that if Jesus had worked miracles as a child, men would have thought that his Incarnation was a fantasy. But it was not. Christmas is more than a cute story; it is an awesome and mysterious Truth.

The Incarnation of the Son of God brings hope to our lives. The German philosopher Martin Heidegger described man as “a being towards death.” There is certainly some truth to that. But the Incarnation of the Son of God allows us to describe man as “a being towards eternity.” Heidegger wrote a lot about the existential anxiety (angst) of the human condition. Christ’s Incarnation allows us to overcome that anxiety and to live in hope. In becoming man, God brings eternity to us. He came that we might have eternal life.

Human destiny is changed. Our race is saved from despair. We can live in hope! I wish all of you a very blessed Christmas.

In his generous love, the Father lavished upon us all He was, all He had, all He could.

The Word became flesh and dwelt among us (John 1:14). When we contemplate this mystery, we are struck with wonder and awe.
CHAMPION, Wis. (CNS) — Bishop David L. Ricken of Green Bay has approved the Marian apparitions seen by Adele Brise in 1859, making the apparitions of Mary that occurred some 18 miles northeast of Green Bay the first in the United States to receive approval of a diocesan bishop.

Bishop Ricken made the announcement in Champion during Mass for Our Lady of Good Help Dec. 8, the feast of the Immaculate Conception.

More than 250 invited guests filled the shrine chapel to hear Bishop Ricken read the official decree on the authenticity of the apparitions. He also issued a second decree, formally approving the shrine as a diocesan shrine.

As he declared, “I do hereby approve these apparitions as worthy of belief,” the congregation burst into applause, with many in attendance moved to tears.

“This is now an official declaration and an explicit recognition of what has been going on in the development and expression of people’s faith in our Lord Jesus,” Bishop Ricken said in his homily. “Mary always leads us to Jesus. We hold Mary in such high regard because she is the mother of our savior Jesus Christ. So she is probably the greatest evangelist and catechist who ever lived. ... She has been sent out all these years since Christ’s death and resurrection to proclaim this good news.”

Bishop Ricken said the proclamation was a desire of many people. “So many of you have asked for this in one way or another,” he said. “It seems also as a simple declaration in that it already states what has been going on here so quietly for so many years.”

“I think today is a gift we give back to the Blessed Mother for all the prayers she has answered in this place. All the solace and comfort she has given to troubled souls,” said Bishop Ricken.

“In many ways it is also a thank-you gift to Adele Brise, that Belgian immigrant who came here to this country. ... We owe a great deal to her witness because she was simple, she was uneducated in our terms today. She was a humble soul, but she was obedient.”

Bishop Ricken added that the message Brise answered in teaching children the faith is the same message people are called to today.

“We need this message today as much as they needed it 150 years ago; the message is to guard the Gospel, each one of us, in our families and in our workplace. We need to have that same zeal for souls that Adele Brise had,” he said.

Catholics must provide children “adequate catechetical formation” so they understand the Gospel and “are able to defend and explain the teachings of the Church,” he added.

The bishop’s decree comes nearly two years after he opened a formal investigation into the apparitions. On Jan. 9, 2009, he appointed three theologians to study the case.

The theologians’ names were not released by the diocese. But Father John Doerrler, vicar general and chancellor, said all three had expertise in Marian theology and “general experience in examining apparitions,” adding that two are internationally recognized.

Brise was 28 when Mary appeared to her three times in October 1859. The first appearance took place while Brise was carrying a sack of wheat to a grind mill about four miles from Robinsonville, now known as Champion.

A few days later, on Oct. 9, as Brise walked to Sunday Mass in Bay Settlement, about 11 miles from her home, Mary appeared to her again. After Mass, Brise told the pastor what she had seen. He told her to “ask in God’s name what it was and what it desired of her,” according to a historical account found on the shrine’s Web site.

On the way home from Bay Settlement, Mary again appeared to Brise. When Brise asked who the woman was, Mary responded, “I am the Queen of Heaven, who prays for the conversion of sinners, and I wish you to do the same.” She told Brise to “gather the children in this wild country and teach them what they should know for salvation. Teach them their catechism, how to sign themselves with the sign of the cross and how to approach the sacraments.”

Brise devoted the rest of her life to teaching children. She began a community of secular Franciscans and built a school next to the shrine. Brise’s father, Lambert, built a small chapel near the spot of the apparitions. When a brick chapel was built in 1880, the trees where Mary appeared were cut down and the chapel’s altar was placed over the spot.

A school and convent were also built next to the chapel. The current chapel was dedicated in 1942 under the title of Our Lady of Good Help. Today, the shrine which sits on six acres of farmland, receives thousands of visitors each year.

Brise died July 5, 1896, and was buried in a small cemetery near the chapel. Although she was sometimes photographed in a habit, she never took vows as a religious.

Karen Tipp, who for 18 years has been a volunteer and caretaker of the shrine with her husband, Steve, said Bishop Ricken’s decree “is very rewarding. It is a confirmation that the work we do is important.”

Brise, who was 80 in 1859, was virtually unable to speak English. She was 28 when Mary first appeared to her, and Brise taught the Catholic faith to children and began a community of Third Order Franciscans.

Mary always leads us to Jesus. We hold Mary in such high regard because she is the mother of our Savior Jesus Christ. So she is probably the greatest evangelist and catechist who ever lived. ... She has been sent out all these years since Christ’s death and resurrection to proclaim this good news.”

BY SAM LUCERO

TODAY’S CATHOLIC
SOUTH BEND — About 100 people of all ages turned out for a special Polish dinner feast known as Mikolaj. After dinner, guests were treated to some traditional Polish carols (with English translations) and then a visit from St. Nicholas, otherwise known as Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades.

“Mikolaj has been celebrated in Polish homes for years,” said organizer and St. Casimir parishioner Ann Sommers. “On St. Nick’s eve, children put out their shoes or stockings and the next morning they will find an apple, orange or some candy. I usually got an apple and chocolate. I carried on the tradition with our children. They still get an ornament for St. Nicholas Day.”

According to Sommers, the late Father Joseph Fey began a parish-wide celebration in 1989. It only lasted a year or two, but when the church celebrated its centennial in 1997-98, the church committee brought the tradition back.

“That year, we sponsored an event a month for the entire centennial year and Mikolaj was December’s event,” noted Sommers. “Mikolaj started out as a parish function, but now more parishes that have heard about it, come and now come back year after year. One year we even had some teenagers that came to eat with us before they went to their high school winter formal! We average about 110-120 people.”

The evening begins with a prayer followed by a traditional Polish meal of pierogi, noodles, roast beef, herring and breads. “Last Saturday we worked from 7:30 a.m. till 1:30 p.m. making 270 pierogi,” said Sommers. “It’s a lot of work but just as much fun.”

After the meal, parishioner and organizer Christine Gerschopper played the piano and sang the “kolerady” or Polish Christmas carols.

When it came time for the children to get a visit from St. Nick they received a surprise with the role of St. Nick being played by Bishop Rhoades. He gave the visitors gifts of fruit and candy and all the children received a St. Nick prayer card.

Once the present distribution ended, Bishop Rhoades had the chance to tell the guests a story about an experience he had that has made St. Nicholas a special person in his life. While on travels overseas, Bishop Rhoades was riding on a train that took him by the place where St. Nicholas is buried. He felt an overwhelming need to visit the site and pray and asked his traveling companions to change their plans so they could go and pray at the site. The travelers agreed to the stop and the group went to pray at the site where St. Nick is laid to rest.

“When we got up the next day we read in the paper that the train we had been traveling on was bombed by terrorists and 80-some people died,” Bishop Rhoades said. “I’ve always said St. Nicholas saved my life.”

Bishop Rhoades also had the children read aloud the prayer card about St. Nicholas and discussed how St. Nicholas was a bishop, the purpose of his staff and how he is the patron saint of little children.

“Boys and girls remember, the original Santa Claus is a bishop,” laughed Bishop Rhoades. It was a memorable evening for everyone who attended and the community sent Bishop Rhoades home with a gift of a compact disc of Polish Christmas carols.

“The goal of the program is to start the holiday season and rekindle some of those memories of Bisk (grandfather) and Dzia (grandfather) house. It’s a very simple, very family-oriented event,” said Sommers, “I hope people leave with a happy heart and a full belly. This is definitely not commercial. It’s Polish customers, family and friends.”

Pictured is Bishop Kevin Rhoades with children and visitors to St. Casimir Church in South Bend at their annual Mikolaj or St. Nicholas celebration.
Priests to be beatified were joyful as they awaited execution by Nazis

BY GUNTER SIMMERMACHER

LUBECK, Germany (CNS) — As the Nazi executioner beheaded three Catholic priests and a Lutheran pastor, one after another in a matter of minutes, their blood flowed together, creating a powerful symbol for ecumenism in northern Germany.

On June 25, the three Catholic martyrs of Lubeck — Fathers Johannes Prassek, Eduard Muller and Hermann Lange — will be beatified in the historic city’s Sacred Heart Church, a stone’s throw away from the Lubeck Cathedral, the ministerial home of the Rev. Karl Friedrich Stellbrink, their Lutheran counterpart. Rev. Stellbrink will be honored in a special way that day as well.

The four were executed in Hamburg Nov. 10, 1943. All had been found guilty of disseminating anti-Nazi material — such as the homilies of Cardinal Clemens von Galen of Munster — and other “treasonous” activities.

Although they were just four of more than 1,600 victims of Nazi political executions that year, their case drew the particular attention of Adolf Hitler and propaganda minister Joseph Goebbels. Hitler reportedly intervened personally in the case of the four clerics, formulating the charges and instructing prosecutors on their strategy.

After the four were sentenced to death June 23, 1943, in a trial widely considered a farce, Goebbels wrote in his diary, “I urge that the death sentences will in fact be carried out.” An appeal for clemency by Catholic Bishop Hermann Borming of Osnabrueck was rejected.

Father Franz Mecklenfeld of Sacred Heart Church told Catholic News Service that news of the beatification was received with “immense joy” by his parishioners. It also is being followed “with great interest in the city of Lubeck,” traditionally a Lutheran stronghold. In September, the daily Luebecker Nachrichten published a series of articles on the lives of the four martyrs.

“The martyrs have a great significance for the city,” Father Mecklenfeld said. “They have become ‘shining towers’ in the city of Lubeck,” where the skyline is famous for its seven Gothic church spires.

The notion of beatifying the three Catholics when their Lutheran companion cannot be honored in the same way has given rise to some controversy. The Rev. Heinz Russmann, a Lutheran pastor in Lubeck, wrote that the beatification would represent a painful division that would be harmful to ecumenism.

Either all four should be beatified, or none, he wrote.

His view is shared by the conservative local politician Hans-Lothar Fauth, a Catholic, who has said that all four have long been publicly acclaimed as saints, regardless of denomination, and therefore require no official recognition.

Father Mecklenfeld said his parish always has been sensitive about maintaining the ties among all four martyrs.

Ecumenical relations in Lubeck are marked by the shared martyrdom. Pope Benedict XVI, a German, has recognized the significance of that spotlight.

In an address to the German ambassador to the Vatican Sept. 13, he said the friendship among the clerics while in jail “represents an impressive witness to ecumenical prayer and suffering which in many places flowered among Christians of different denominations during the dark days of national socialism. We may regard these witnesses as shining lights on our common ecumenical path.”

Father Lange’s writings bear out the pope’s sentiment. In a 1943 letter, he wrote: “The suffering borne in common over the last years has brought the two Christian churches closer to one another. The shared imprisonment of the Catholic and the evangelical (Lutheran) clergy is a symbol of this community of suffering, but also of reconciliation.”

Rev. Stellbrink, 49 when he died, has been described as a prickly character who initially was an eager supporter of the Nazi party. The World War I veteran soon became disillusioned with Nazism, especially its anti-clericalism, and began to criticize it. In 1937 for refusing to denounce his friendship with Jews.

In 1941, he met Father Prassek at a funeral and increasingly began speaking against the Nazis by building friendships with the younger priest, who had resolutely opposed Hitler’s regime.

Rev. Stellbrink was the first Protestant cleric to be executed in Germany. Unlike his Catholic friends, he received no support from his church, which rehabilitated him only 50 years later, noting its “pain and shame” at the disgraceful treatment of the heroic pastor.

Father Prassek, 32, regularly preached against Nazism and ministered illegally to forced laborers from Poland, even learning Polish for that purpose. Just before his arrest Father Prassek was honored for his courage in rescuing people during the carpet bomb attack on Lubeck — the first on any German city — on Palm Sunday 1942.

Like his companions, he expected to be executed after their arrest. On the day of the court’s judgment, he wrote: “God be praised, today I was sentenced to death.” Later, physically broken after more than a year of torture and hardship in jail, he looked forward to his execution.

“To be allowed to die fully conscious and quietly prepared is the most beautiful thing of all,” he wrote.

Father Muller, also 32 and a priest for just three years when he was executed, was a quiet man, popular among local youth.

Though regarded as mostly apolitical — he never preached publicly against Nazism — he acknowledged Hitler’s ideology as irrevocable with Christianity and refused to collaborate with the Hitler Youth, which had courted him.

Father Lange, 31, was parochial vicar at Sacred Heart Church and ministered to youth and men at the parish. A reform-minded Catholic, he was perhaps the most politically active of the four. He distributed pamphlets and secretly spread among Germany of war crimes. He even told a soldier that a true Christian could not fight on the German side in the war.

Father Lange’s residence was raided by the Gestapo a year before his arrest.

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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.

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WikiLeaks cables show Vatican as horrified by Irish clergy's sex abuse

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — A state of U.S. diplomatic cables released by WikiLeaks portray the Vatican as horrified over clerical sex abuse in Ireland but also deeply concerned that the procedures used by Irish investigators of the scandal were “an affront to Vatican sovereignty.”

The cables, released Dec. 10-12, touched on a wide range of issues, from the Vatican’s efforts to deal with leftist governments in Latin America to its recent moves to welcome disaffected Anglicans into the Catholic Church. One cable offered a highly critical assessment of the Vatican’s communications apparatus and said Pope Benedict XVI was surrounded by advisers who make sure dissenting voices are not heard. Another reviewed the Vatican’s efforts to position itself as an intermediary with Iran in case an international crisis erupts and stated that in 2007 the Vatican had helped secure the release of British sailors detained in Iranian waters.

The cables offered a rare glimpse at Vatican diplomacy in action, but through the lens of the U.S. policy experts who authored the reports. Most of the cables regarding the Vatican were written by officials of the U.S. Embassy to the Holy See, sometimes after personal meetings with Vatican diplomats. The Vatican issued a disclaimer Dec. 11, saying the reliability of the cables must be evaluated carefully with great prudence. “Naturally these reports reflect the perceptions and opinions of the people who wrote them and cannot be considered as expressions of the Holy See itself, nor as exact quotations of the words of its officials,” it said in a statement.

Syrian patriarch urges Iraqi government to ensure safety of citizens

BEIRUT (CNS) — Syrian Catholic Patriarch Ignatius Joseph III Younan called on the Iraqi government to ensure the safety of all Iraqi citizens, especially Christians, “who are defenseless, honest and peaceful people.” In his homily at a Dec. 10 memorial Mass that venerated the “46 new martyrs” of the Syrian Catholic Church in Baghdad, the patriarch said the presence of government officials at the liturgy “helped to inspire some trust and feelings of security among those present” and reminded those present of the terrorist targeting of the Syrian Catholic Church in Baghdad, the patriarch said in a statement from the passage of the DREAM Act. “Their only interest is in becoming a vital part of our great nation and to help improve our country over the coming years.”

New Vatican missionary museum opens in Rome

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — For almost 400 years, the Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples has sent missionaries around the world. Now, in the new Propaganda Fide Missionary Museum, the public can see many of the items they symbolically represent the kings of the pagan peoples, who are guided by a comet to their first encounter with Christ and come to faith,” said Francesco Buranelli, secretary of the Pontifical Commission for the Cultural Heritage of the Church and former director of the Vatican Museums.

Hundreds protest late-term abortion doctor’s arrival

Germantown, Md. (CNS) — About 300 people stood outside a Germantown abortion clinic in bitter cold weather for several hours Dec. 6 to protest the arrival of Dr. LeRoy Carhart, a doctor from Nebraska who performs late-term abortions, Carhart left Nebraska to come to Maryland after his state passed a law prohibiting abortion after the 20th week of pregnancy. The doctor also will perform abortions at a clinic in Iowa. The Washington Register reported that Carhart chose the Maryland location based on a number of factors, including the lack of anti-choice jurisdiction had the most favorable laws for abortion. The Rev. Patrick Mahoney, director of the Christian Defense Coalition and a lead organizer of the protest, said, “We don’t want Maryland to become the late-term abortion capital of America.” One of the first things the Presbyterian minister asked the crowd to do was kneel and pray, asking His forgiveness and His guidance on how to proceed. The crowd — consisting of many families with young children, young adults and some elderly people — knelt in prayer on the cold grass. “We will not be silenced by this evil,” Mahoney said. He also encouraged people to visit the Web site, http://kickoutcarhart.com, for updates and information on Carhart. Many of the pro-life protesters held signs and wore shirts with anti-abortion slogans. Only a handful of pro-choice supporters gathered outside of the abortion clinic that is part of a larger business park.

Court panel hears oral arguments in appeal on same-sex marriage ruling

SAN FRANCISCO (CNS) — A three-judge panel of the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in San Francisco Dec. 6 took up the question of the constitutionality of California’s voter-approved ban on same-sex marriage, a hearing that may well have been a prelude to a U.S. Supreme Court ruling on the initiative. A group of faith-based supporters of Proposition 8, including Catholics, along with Imperial County, is appealing an Aug. 4 ruling by U.S. District Court Judge Vaughn Walker that the initiative is unconstitutional because the process and equal protection clauses of the 14th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution. Proposition 8 — approved by more than 7 million voters in 2008 — provides that only a man and a woman is valid in California. In a separate ruling Aug. 12, Walker said same-sex marriages in California could resume unless a higher court were to issue a stay within six days. On Aug. 16, a three-judge panel of the 9th Circuit issued the stay, preventing such marriages while the case was being appealed. It was another three-judge panel that issued the appeal order that heard the oral arguments, but it may be several months before the judges issue a ruling, which could then be appealed to the full circuit court or directly to the Supreme Court. The judges could conclude, however, that the supporters and opponents lack legal standing to bring the appeal in the first place. The hearing was devoted first to the question of standing and then the constitutionality issue, and the judges sharply questioned whether the supporters of the initiative could demonstrate they have been harmed by it.
Poetry contest winners announced

FORT WAYNE — Bishop Dwenger High School students whose poems were selected as winners of the 2010 “Happy Sad Mad — Poems About Feelings” Poetry Contest sponsored by the Children’s Services and Young Adults’ Services departments of the Allen County Public Library, Nearly 1,000 students from 57 schools entered the contest. The winners read their poems at an 11 a.m. awards ceremony on Saturday, Dec. 4, in the Allen County Public Library theater downtown. The ceremony will be aired in January 2011 on Comcast Channel 55 and Frontier Channel 25.

Winners included the following:
• Grade 10 — Katelyn Smith, second place, “Promises You Mean”
• Grade 11 — Heather Lothamer, first place, “Table Shopping” and Emily Hentz, honorable mention, “Alarm Clock Animosity”

New members invested in Order of Malta

NEW YORK — St. Patrick’s Cathedral in New York City was the site of the Nov. 12 installation Mass where 110 new members were inducted into the Order of Malta, American Association. Archbishop Timothy M. Dolan of New York, and principal chaplain of the American association, was the celebrant of the Mass and presided at the installation ceremony. Joseph H. Millet, president of the association invested the members in the name of the Prince and Grand Master of the Order, Fra’ Matthew Festing.

Professor Frank K. Reilly of the Sacred Heart Parish, Notre Dame, and George A. Resnik of the St. Thomas School, Elkhart, in- vested as Knights of Magistral Order of Malta.

Providence Candidate-Associates make commitment

SAINT MARY-OF-THE-WOODS — Twenty people made their first commitments as Providence Associates during a Mass, Saturday, Nov. 13, at Saint Mary-of-the-Woods. Another 60 Providence Associates from across the United States renewed their commitments the same day.

Providence Associates enter into a relationship with the Sisters of Providence for the opportunity to participate in the life and mission of the Sisters of Providence. Some ways associates are able to participate are mutual and intentional prayer, appropriate community gatherings; reflection and prayer groups; Sisters of Providence retreats and spiritual enrichment programs; social justice activities, eco-justice projects and events; and congregation ministries.

Camille Snyder of Fort Wayne is among those who made their first commitment.

In four years since this relationship opportunity was introduced, more than 140 people have chosen to become a Providence Associate, in addition to 26 who are preparing to become associates after a year or more of candidacy. Three people in Taiwan are making a commitment as well.

Providence Associates are women and men (at least 18 years of age) of diverse faith traditions who seek a formal relationship with the Sisters of Providence. They may have known the sisters for a long time or have just recently heard about the sisters. Associates are drawn to this relationship with the Sisters of Providence for many reasons, but primarily, they wish to deepen their spiritual life and they see themselves as being called to respond to the Providence vision through their own particular way of life.

For information about Providence Associates, contact Sister Diane Mason, assistant director of Providence Associates, at either (708) 364-7917 or dmaison@spsmv.org or visit www.ProvidenceAssociates.org.

ST. THOMAS SEVENTH GRADERS TAKE PART IN ANNUAL ECONOMICS MALL

ELKHART — Seventh graders at St. Thomas School, Elkhart, in Dave Chamberlin’s social studies class participated in the free market system by choosing and making products to sell to the rest of the school community as part of the annual economics mall held Dec. 7. Many items carried a holiday theme such as ornaments, stockings and snow globes, while others served more practical purposes like pencil holders and tie racks.

Students got first-hand experience in starting a business. They had to decide on a product to make and the necessary materials, borrow money to purchase materials, pay or barter for any help they received, and price their products competitively for a fair profit margin.

It took three months of hard work but the students had a great time and learned a good deal about the free enterprise system.

Father Poorman appointed executive VP at the University of Portland

NOTRE DAME — Holy Cross Father Mark L. Poorman, associate professor of theology and former vice president for student affairs at the University of Notre Dame, has been appointed executive vice president and associate professor of theology at the University of Portland, effective July 1.

Father Poorman’s responsibilities in the newly structured position will include general oversight of the divisions of university operations, financial affairs, university relations and supervision of the student life division.

“Father Poorman is a gifted administrator, an accomplished faculty member and award-winning teacher, as well as a devoted priest in the Congregation of Holy Cross,” Portland’s president, Holy Cross Father E. William Beauchamp, said. “I am delighted he has accepted the invitation to join the University of Portland community to provide his distinguished leadership in this important role. “I am grateful, honored and excited to accept this wonderful opportunity from Father Beauchamp to serve the University of Portland,” Father Poorman said. “Having been a member of the University’s Board of Regents for the past seven years, I’ve been deeply impressed by the outstanding faculty, staff and students at UP, and I look forward to contributing to its promising future as an eminent institution of Catholic higher education.”

Notre Dame’s president, Holy Cross Father John I. Jenkins, added: “Father Poorman has proven himself a dedicated leader in his work as a Holy Cross priest, administrator and faculty member at Notre Dame, and all of us here are most appreciative of his wonderful service. The prayers of our community travel with him to Portland, where I am confident his talents and experience will be enormously beneficial to the students, faculty and leadership at another exceptional Holy Cross university.”

Notre Dame and Portland were founded by the Congregation of Holy Cross in 1842 and 1901, respectively.

USF Brookside earns ARCHIE award

FORT WAYNE — The restoration of Brookside, formerly the Bass mansion at the University of Saint Francis, earned an ARCHIE Award from Architecture and Community Heritage Improvement Challenge (ARCH) of Fort Wayne at a design and preservation awards celebration Wednesday, Nov. 17.

Brookside took the Outstanding Restoration Award in the institutional category for the $5.9 million restoration of the former home of industrialist John Henry Bass, which now serves as a historical resource for the community and as an administrative building for the university.

The mansion of hand-carved sandstone was the Bass family’s private residence from 1902-1944. The building and its more than 70 acres of surrounding park were purchased by the Order of the Sisters of Saint Francis of Perpetual Adoration as the new home for their college in 1944. Before the restoration, Brookside served for years as the university’s library.

ARCH has awarded outstanding restoration efforts annually since 1977 with the ARCHIE awards.

Correction

St. Joseph Parish, LaGrange, will host the Pastorela Saturday, Dec. 18, at 7 p.m. The Pastorela will not be held at St. Anthony of Padua in Angola.
First graders sponsor ‘Cookies for Christ’

FORT WAYNE — St. Joseph-St. Elizabeth School first graders, their teachers and parents have been busy baking cookies in preparation for this year’s “Cookies for Christ.” Each first grader was asked to bring in four dozen cookies, individually wrapped. The cookies were then sold to St. Joseph-St. Elizabeth School students, teachers and parents for 25 cents each from Dec. 6 to Dec. 8. All the money raised goes to the Sunshine Club, a joint Christmas giving program sponsored by both St. Joseph Parish and St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish. This year, a school family, Todd and Lisa Snyder, donated light blue T-shirts with the “Cookies for Christ” logo on the front for the first graders and teachers Julie Peters and Molly Slocum to wear.

“Cookies for Christ has been a long-standing tradition at St. Joseph-St. Elizabeth Ann Seton School,” said Lois Widner, principal of St. Joseph-St. Elizabeth School. “This is such an awesome way for our students to demonstrate the gift of stewardship at such a young age. The children truly understand that they are giving of themselves to help out other community. What a wonderful example of Christ!”

The Sunshine Club sets up Giving Trees at both parishes. Parish families take tags off the trees which instructs them to purchase specific items of clothing, toys and other gifts to return to the Giving Tree. Non-perishable food items are also collected through the religious education and school classrooms. All these items are collected, sorted and then given to needy families in the St. Joseph and St. Elizabeth Ann Seton parish boundaries in mid-December.

The money raised in the Cookies for Christ sale is given to the Sunshine Club, which can then purchase any needed additional items to give to the families. This year’s cookie sale made $721.

Cookies for Christ was started 13 years ago by retired first grade teacher Joanne Krudop. The tradition of cookie baking, selling and giving the money to the Sunshine Club is now an established holiday tradition for the first graders and their families.

MISHAWAKA — The Marian Art Club, under the leadership of Fine Arts Department Chairperson Kitty Gunty, sponsored their 15th annual Santa’s Workshop at the Center for the Homeless on Dec. 9.

For the past 14 years, the art club has put together a Santa’s Workshop for the residents at the Center for the Homeless. Ten crafting tables were set up in the center’s dining area so that the residents could create Christmas treasures for themselves and gifts for their loved ones. This year’s crafts included decorating Christmas stockings, hats, picture frames, mirrors, glass bulbs and gingerbread cookies; making salt and clay ornaments and a variety of jewelry; face painting; drawing and coloring pictures; and having photos taken with Santa.

The ten crafting tables were staffed by Marian students, teachers and administrators. A record number of 75 Marian students took the time to attend this annual event. The job of the volunteers was to set up the tables and help any participants who needed assistance. Marian students also watched and entertained the babies and small children while their parents created Christmas decorations and gifts. They interacted with the residents by participating in the activities and crafts themselves.

This year’s cookie sale made $721. Each first grader and teacher then came back with a table of items that was popular because it attracted those who are not quite adults who were definitely enjoying the fun. The little ones had to be reminded several times that it was time to go upstairs and go to bed.

Gunty noted, “The immense amount of time and energy that it takes to plan, purchase, package, set up and clean up is returned to the Marian community a hundredfold in the looks of satisfaction and delight on the faces of the guests as they complete their projects and choose their Christmas gifts for their families and loved ones. Mary Kate Kibbe remarked, “Many students contributed to Santa’s Workshop and it ended up being a great night. Our simple arts and crafts made the guests very happy and they loved the opportunity to be creative.”
University of Saint Francis announces receipt of $1.5 million grant

FORT WAYNE — University of Saint Francis (USF) officials held a media conference on the campus Dec. 8 to announce USF’s receipt of $1.5 million in Title III funding.

USF is the only Indiana college or university to receive the five-year grant. The funds combine with the university’s $1.2 million TRiO grant received in August, for a total $2.7 million to target low-income and first-generation students and provide specialized resources leading to their graduation.

Federal Title III programs provide institutions of higher education funds to improve and expand their capacity to serve low-income students. “This grant will provide another avenue for the university to offer services to first generation and low-income students to help them achieve their goal of graduation,” said USF President M. Elise Kriss, a Sister of St. Francis of Perpetual Adoration.

USF Provost Dr. Rolf Daniel commented upon the receipt of the grant and the university’s plan for specialized student support services. “The university will use this grant to strengthen how students are advised when they choose courses and majors. USF always has served a significant number of first-generation and lower income students, most of them from the greater Fort Wayne area,” he said. “The addition of these specialized, grant-driven advising resources is expected to increase the academic success of these students and help more of them to graduate.”

Specifically, the funds will be used to hire three new full-time advisers; train faculty advisers to engage students on and off campus to increase their success; establish a new Advising Center; provide education for advisers; and establish a recognition system for advising excellence. The funds will also provide resources to record and assess data related to the grant, which will inform with the aim of improving institutional decision-making.

“We expect these services to positively affect graduation rates for Title III grant students, because the data will track success and risk factors for them. The two additional personnel will be particularly important in the retrieval of data as we build an expanded data bank, where information needed across a number of departments can be retrieved easily,” Daniel said.

Sister Kriss introduced Tellis Young, who directs the university’s TRiO program, funded by the $1.2 million August grant. The federal TRiO Programs are outreach and student services programs designed to identify and provide services for individuals from disadvantaged backgrounds.

“We have begun the process of weaving the TRiO program into the fabric of our internal processes to put specialized academic advising, financial aid assistance and personal counseling services in place for our students,” Young said. “The program will touch every aspect of their college experience in some capacity.”

“With the Title III grant and the TRiO grant, the university has received $2.7 million for the support of low-income and first-generation college students,” President Sister Kriss said in closing. “The Fort Wayne area receives an additional benefit in the creation of a total of seven new jobs to implement these plans.”

She searches for hope and trust... and the comfort that comes from a warm home, regular meals and clean clothes.

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At Catholic Charities in South Bend, Fort Wayne and the area, we have the resources and trained personnel to bring the gift you give to the one in need. Thank you for thinking of others!
WARSAW — On the eve of her feast day, Our Lady of Guadalupe gained a new caretaker for her shrine. Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades installed Father Constantino Rocha as the pastor of Our Lady of Guadalupe Church and Diocesan Shrine in Warsaw on Saturday, Dec. 11. Father Paul Bueter, Father Fernando Jimenez and Father Rocha concelebrated the 3 p.m. Spanish-language Mass.

Father Rocha told the worshipers that Our Lady of Guadalupe’s feast day has coincided with other milestones in his life, but that this was the first time his installation as a “párroco” fell so close to the date.

Immediately following his ordination in Mexico City a number of years ago, Father Rocha celebrated his very first Mass in her basilica during her feast. In 2000 he accepted an invitation from Bishop John M. D’Arcy to come to the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, and arrived at his assigned parish, St. John the Evangelist in Goshen, just a few days before numerous activities in honor of her feast day were to be celebrated.

“I see it as a son before his mother,” Father Rocha said.

“During important moments, there she is. There has to be something to that.”

A traditional Mexican mariachi band accompanied a “pianito,” or small platform, which several men carried on their shoulders as they walked from State Road 15 up Gilliam Drive and into the shrine to initiate the Mass. The platform supported a statue of Our Lady of Guadalupe and vases full of red and yellow roses. The men who carry it are called “Guadalupanos” and spend much of the year planning the celebration.

Although Our Lady of Guadalupe was declared to be the patron saint of all of the Americas by Pope John Paul II in 1999, she is particularly and widely adored by Mexicans. She appeared to an indigenous Mexican’s meeting with the Virgin Mary, Hernández, in a play depicting the Lady of Guadalupe, played by wife Pilar Dominguez, reverently listens to Our Lady of Guadalupe in 1531.

With Bishop Rhoades reminding the congregation of the message of welcome and comfort she gave to the indigenous Mexican population that had been recently conquered.

“Mary says to us, ‘Am I not here, who is your mother? Aren’t you under my protection? Are you not within my fold?’”

Mary is truly our mother, the mother of us all, Bishop Rhoades said.

“We’re here today to express our love for our mother Mary, Our Lady of Guadalupe and to praise and worship God together with her in this Holy Mass.

“You can’t proclaim Jesus Christ as true God and true man without talking about the Virgin Mary, His mother. You can’t confess faith in the Incarnation without proclaiming that the Son of God was conceived by the work of the Holy Spirit and that He was born of the holy Virgin Mary, like we say in the Creed,” he added. “Below her shadow, we follow Christ. Below her shadow, we experience His love.”

Bishop Rhoades was ordained a bishop on Dec. 9, the day recognized as her first of the four appearances to Juan Diego. He said that her words have always given him peace and strength at the beginning of each day.

Sister Joan Hasteit, parish assistant, noted that this is the first time that the shrine has had a pastor of the same nationality as the Our Lady of Guadalupe appearance.

Before Father Rocha’s arrival, Father Paul Bueter served the Our Lady of Guadalupe community for 22 years. Following Father Bueter’s retirement, Father J. Steele, Father Eloy Jimenez Zuniga, Father Fernando Jimenez and Father Phil DeVolder ministered to the community of about 220 families.

Many of the worshippers said they had come from Goshen to support Father Rocha in his new assignment.

“We came to accompany him,” said Fernando Vela and his wife, Jenny. “Actually, it’s really to deliver him, in a way. Being that he’s a Mexican, it’s great to have him in her shrine. His service to the diocese will continue,” said Vela.

Elsewhere in the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend another colorful celebration took place as well. At St. Patrick Parish in Fort Wayne Bishop Rhoades concelebrated a Spanish Mass for a standing room only Hispanic congregation along with St. Patrick Pastor Andrew Thu Pham, and parochial vicars Fathers Chau Pham and Thomas Ascheman, all priests of the Society of the Divine Word, on Sunday Dec. 12.

A group of flag-bearing parishioners and a special young adult dance troop, adorned in rich native costumes, performed a lively dance procession that followed the celebrants to the altar. The performance was accompanied by the parish’s spirited band and choir.

The congregation, young and old alike, listened attentively as Bishop Rhoades celebrated the Mass, including his homily, in Spanish.

A second dance performance and a solemn play depicting Juan Diego’s meeting with Our Lady of Guadalupe in 1531 brought the celebration Mass to a close with cheers and shouts of praise. A grand fiesta, featuring authentic Mexican fare, was held at the parish hall following Mass.

Above, Mariachi musicians play the traditional song called “mananitas” to the Virgin at the beginning of the Mass at Our Lady of guadalupe Church and Diocesan Shrine in Warsaw on Dec. 11.

At left, Juan Diego, played by Antonio Dominguez, reverently listens to Our Lady of Guadalupe, played by wife Pilar Hernandez, in a play depicting the Mexican’s meeting with the Virgin Mary in 1531, that closed the Spanish Mass celebrating the feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe at St. Patrick Parish on Dec. 12.
Bishop Rhoades blesses new grave site at Catholic Cemetery on Dec. 12

BY VINCE LABARBERA


The dedication and blessing ceremony began in the Resurrection Mausoleum then proceeded to Section Q, south of the pole barn on the east side of the cemetery.

According to Tom Alter, director of cemeteries for the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend and superintendent of Catholic Cemetery, the Garden of Our Lady of Guadalupe will contain 4,941 graves, the largest section dedicated since the cemetery opened in 1873. The site covers 5,365 acres. The new section will be divided into seven blocks by Roman numerals and Block V, in front of a statue of Our Lady of Guadalupe, will be reserved for the future burial of diocesan priests.

The survey work for the new section was completed by Donovan Engineering, Inc. and the roads were installed by Wayne Asphalt. The design work was done by Alter. The lot markers were set by several seminarians who work during the summer at the cemetery and by cemetery employees, Alter said.

Catholic Cemetery is located at 3500 Lake Avenue, Fort Wayne.

St. Therese students welcome Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades for blessing

BY MARK WEBER

FORT WAYNE — Surrounded by the purity of a fresh snowfall, the student body of St. Therese School in Fort Wayne gave a warm and loving welcome to Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades as he stepped into their midst to bless a new statue of Our Lady of Guadalupe near the front door of their school.

After prayers and hymns in Spanish and English, Bishop Rhoades reminded the students that just as Mary is so close to her Son, she, in the presence of this statue is now very close to them and suggested that, in appreciation of her blessings, students pause on their way in or out of school to say a Hail Mary when they pass her statue.

St. Therese pastor, Father David Ruppert, assisted in the ceremony, as did Society of the Divine Word Father Thomas Aschemean of St. Patrick Parish, Fort Wayne, leading prayers in Spanish.

Dr. Mark Myers, superintendent of Catholic Schools, and Marsha Jordan, assistant superintendent, were also present.

On her feast day, Our Lady of Guadalupe was venerated and asked for intercession for the living and the dead, as Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades blessed a statue of her likeness in the Catholic Cemetery of Fort Wayne. Bishop Rhoades also consecrated a new section of the cemetery which will be dominated by this monument to the Queen of the Americas.

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Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades, surrounded by students of St. Therese School, Fort Wayne, dedicated a statue of Our Lady of Guadalupe near the front door of their school. The statue was installed recently as a way of asking Our Lady’s intercession for St. Therese School and students as well as remembering our Blessed Mother’s love for our whole continent and all of the Americas.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

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Christmas TV Mass Specials

FORT WAYNE
Christmas Morning 10:30 - 11:30 am
WANE-TV 15
Live from the University of Saint Francis Chapel
Celebrant: Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades

SOUTH BEND
Christmas Day 7:00 - 8:00 a.m. and Noon - 1:00 p.m.
WNDU-TV 16
Mass taped from the Sisters of St. Francis of Perpetual Adoration Chapel
Celebrant: Monsignor Michael Heints

Holy Cross and St. Stanislaus Parish
Holiday Schedule
Christmas Eve - December 24
4:00 pm - Holy Cross Church (Family Mass)
5:30 pm - St. Stanislaus Church
Midnight Mass 12:00 am - Holy Cross Church

Christmas Day - December 25
9:30 am - St. Stanislaus 11:00 am - Holy Cross
(No Vigil for Sunday, December 20)

Mary, Mother of God - January 1, 2011
9:30 am - St. Stanislaus Church

This realistic scene created by Father David Ruppert is enhanced by
sounds of train whistles and track noises, taking viewers on imaginary
trips anywhere, depending on the individual. As a child, Ruppert began his
train collection in his seminary days. It continues to give him enjoyment,
and his nieces and nephews are thrilled when they visit Uncle Dave and share
the magic made by toy trains.

FORT WAYNE — It was the perfect gift for Junior. It might
bruise the budget a little, but as dad explained to mom, “we can
give light on his birthday...” and don’t worry about the girls. We
can give them clothes for the
dolls they got last year. Let’s get
it for him, honey. A boy can
enjoy a Lionel train for years...
and I can help him set it up!”
It made Dad feel so good that
he told the guys at work about it,
describing each car, including the
caboose, in detail. “I’m starting
out with a freight and maybe a
Pennsy passenger for his
birthday. We can run them side by
side.”

In the early 1900s, Joshua
Lionel Cowen built the first
electric train, not as a toy, but as a
display prop to call attention to
other merchandise in a New York
toy shop window. Resembling a
box on wheels, the first Lionel
chugged around amidst other
toys, hearing the words “Electric
Express,” and became a hit item; one that dreams are made of.
Lionel electric trains reached
their highest popularity in the late
1930s when advertised in the
Sunday comics. A unique item
was a handcar operated by
Mickey and Minnie Mouse. In 1957, a pink and blue pastel
model for girls derailed some-
where in the desert and was never
seen again.

Airplanes, racing cars, various
dolls and television reduced the interest in electric trains, but
unlike planes or space capsules,
tains have a mystique perpetuat-
ed by the whistle in the night or the wanderlust itch felt when
watching passenger cars roll by.
Father David Ruppert, pastor of St. Therese Parish, Fort
Wayne, is in rhythm with the
clickity clack of train tracks. His
mother tells him that as an infant,
if he was fretful in the back seat
of the family car, and if the care
was waiting for a train to pass by,
he would clump down.

Trains continue to soothe
Father Ruppert, because he is at
the throttle, so to speak, control-
lng two trains of his own. They
roll side by side or back off to a

Wishing you and yours a blessed Christmas

Join us for Mass
Christmas Eve, Thursday, December 24
4pm, 5pm, 12am
Christmas Day, Saturday, December 25
8am, 10am, 1pm
New Year’s Day, Sunday, January 1
8:00am
Emphasis: Sunday, January 2
Saturday Vigil, 5pm
Sunday 8am, 10am, 5pm
St. Joseph Catholic Church
225 N. Hill Street
South Bend, IN 46617
574-234-3134
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DECEMBER 19, 2010
TODAY’S CATHOLIC

Father Dave Ruppert and the magic of toy trains

BY MARK WEBER

BY MARK WEBER
Prison Fellowship Angel Tree needs more sponsors

BY TIM JOHNSON

YODER — “The need is so huge!” remarks Mark Michuda, a member of the Knights of Columbus of St. Aloysius Parish, Yoder, who coordinates the Prison Fellowship Angel Tree program. Seven other Knights’ councils in the Fort Wayne area assist with the program by sponsoring children and providing a luncheon. “Angel Tree, a program of Prison Fellowship, seeks to reconcile prisoners and their families to God and to each other through the delivery of Christmas gifts and the Gospel message,” reports the Web site, www.angeltree.org. The program helps “deliver love” to children of prisoners at Christmas.

The St. Aloysius Knights and parishioners have embraced the program for three years. Names with gift requests are offered for parishioners to take off a tree, purchase a gift for the child and return it to the church. The St. Aloysius list began with 150 names, but after contacting possible candidate families — weeding out the names who were not eligible or the families that did not wish to participate — nearly 193 children of prisoners at Christmas. Those names were quickly taken from the tree at St. Aloysius over the first weekend of Advent. By Dec. 5, gifts filled the corners of the church.

To express the great need for additional Catholic communities and organizations to get involved with the Prison Fellowship Angel Tree program, Michuda was told that nearly 193 children of prisoners in just Allen County were not provided an opportunity to participate. And these names were not submitted in time to be included in the St. Aloysius program. This is an opportunity.

Michuda says, for the Catholic community to make a real difference. Other Knights of Columbus councils or church organizations are encouraged to embrace the program, which involves evangelization, is spiritually based and plants a seed by sharing the story of Christ’s birth with the children and their families.

There is an option to deliver gifts to the individual family or to host a party for all of the children. On Dec. 11, the Knights sponsored a Christmas party at St. Henry Church in Fort Wayne. The day included a prayer service with Msgr. Bernard Galic, pastor of St. Aloysius, music, a luncheon with the children and gift distribution. Children and family members were given an opportunity at the event to write a note and send a photo to the parent who is in jail.

The children attend with family and foster families. The program reaches out to the inmates through the card mailing, to the caretakers and to the children themselves.

Additional information about the program is available at www.angeltree.org or by calling (800) 55-ANGEL.
Higher expectations at Advent

Responding to editors’ requests for a regular sampling of current commentary from around the Catholic press, here is an editorial, titled “Higher expectations at Advent,” which appears in the Dec. 12 issue of Our Sunday Visitor, a national Catholic newspa-
er based in Huntington, Ind. It was written by the OSV editorial board.

This time every year, along with the Muzak carols and the proliferation of advertising supplements in the local newspaper, one can always count on a Catholic newspaper editorializing on the orgy of consumerism that unfortunately now typifies the Christmas season. Even this newspaper has been known to indulge in a Catholic “bah, humbug.”

Of course, our families feel all the same pressures and guilt and greed, but we put ourselves on the back that at least we’re not the ones trampling people at Walmart to get a steal on a television, or maxing our credit cards to outdo friends and family with expensive gifts, or rushing with the herd to buy whatever it is that he has proclaimed the latest “must have.”

Alas, self-congratulation is no better a Christmas spirit than consumerist excess (as Scrooge and the Grinch have already told us).

This year, however, maybe everyone is feeling a bit grinchy. Consumerism seems a whole lot less exuberant, with the national mood subdued by high rates of joblessness, a stagnant economy and all the uncertainty that brings.

It is also overshadowed by somber talk in Washington about what the Government Accountability Office is describing as our nation’s fiscally “unsustainable” path. The national debt (which according to the U.S. Treasury stood at the end of last month at $13,794,243,004,364.85) is projected to continue to balloon on its current course. Entitlement benefits — primarily health care and Social Security payments — alone are calculated to exceed government income by more than $40 trillion over the next 75 years. Of course, relatively speaking, what the United States is facing is nothing nearly as cataclysmic as the debt crisis threatening country after country in the European Union.

So Americans have not taken to the streets, and many of us are ducking the mind-numbing details of the national debt and federal deficit. It might just be that lack of urgency that will convince the U.S. Congress to do nothing serious now to address our long-term structural problems — because any solution will mean choking off a politically toxic cocktail of spending cuts and raised taxes, like the recent recommendations of the White House’s bipartisan National Commission on Fiscal Responsibility and Reform.

Given all this, some may be tempted to cheer on those unbridled Christmas consumers as a sort of new national patriotism, doing their duty to hopefully spur our economy past our debt.

But that’s precisely the problem. The same spirit that permits a person to elbow aside another to grab a consumer electronic device is the same one that got our country in this profligate mess — and, more ominously for the future, is one that could mean indifference to the suffering of society’s weakest members as we try to claw our way out of it.

What it boils down to is putting things before people — the precise opposite of the Christmas message. This season is a call to be generous, opening our eyes to truly see and value others.

It’s a call to be thankful for what we have, and of our society’s approach to the challenges. “Man can be recognized by his expectations,” Pope Benedict XVI said a few weeks ago in an Advent reflection. “Our moral and spiritual ‘stature’ may be measured by what our hopes are.”

Alas, the expectation that we should have of ourselves, and of our society’s approach to the challenges. “Man can be recognized by his expectations,” Pope Benedict XVI said a few weeks ago in an Advent reflection. “Our moral and spiritual ‘stature’ may be measured by what our hopes are.”

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VATICAN CITY (CNS) — While snowfall is a rarity and Santa Claus is unusual, Christmas at the Vatican is truly unique. 

Cranes erect an enormous ever-green alongside the granite obelisk in St. Peter’s Square and workers nestled in cherry picker buckets adorn the tree with lights, ornaments and tinsel.

This year’s tree is decorated with 3,000 gold and silver balls, and 1,000 white and 300 LED lights, which have lower energy consumption and greater durability. The tree will be topped with a flashing star.

Construction of the larger-than-life Nativity scene takes weeks and yards of thick burlap keep curious onlookers at bay. A 30-meter-high flashing star covers the entire 6,000 square meters of the square and a 15-meter-high star overhead.

The symbol of the Advent season of waiting, the tree was Ahaz’s young bride or a virgin, and since she alone was the mother of the Messiah, she was a servant of God and drew the lot of the 8th century before Christ.

The Nativity scene is a faithful recreation of the birth in Bethlehem as described in the Bible. In the manger St. Joseph and Mary are portrayed as they were described in the Gospels, and in the stable they were truly loyal to God. The Annunciation, the Incarnation and the Birth of Jesus are represented in front of the facade of St. Mary Major.

The scene of Advent is the careful and focused period preceding Christmas. It is a time for preparation, but it is more than a time to prepare for a festive day. More fully, Advent calls us joyfully, and with thanksgiving, to remember the Lord’s birth, as a human, the child of Mary, in Bethlehem. It also serves to express the character of the particular liturgical celebration.

The season of Advent is the time to prepare for a festive day. Introducing himself, Paul firmly established that he is an Apostle, called by the Lord to proclaim the Gospel. Above and beyond everything, Paul saw himself as God’s servant, obediently following Jesus, the Lord and Savior.

For its last reading, the Church presents a section from the Gospel of Matthew recalling the conception of Jesus. Only two of the four Gospels, both of them Synoptics, Matthew and Luke, recount the birth of Jesus.

This weekend’s reading is very clear, as in Luke. Jesus had no earthly father, but Jesus truly was born of the Son of Mary, a human being, however, and since she alone was the earthly parent, Jesus received human nature itself from her.

In this story, Joseph is concerned, to say the least. He understood that Mary was pregnant, and he had to decide what to do about it. He was a righteous man, and he did not want to disgrace her. Yet, he understood that the baby was Mary’s, and he had his doubts. He chose not to have her stoned to death after she was struck by a car. A close friend of the pope still reads this text for the Christmas vigil.

The new translation of the Holy Mass:

The Fourth Sunday of Advent

We are already nearing the end of Advent, and as the number of pence offerings and special con- 

ditions related to the time of the Christmas season reminds us, it is important to make good use of the remainder of this season to prepare ourselves spiritually for Christmas. We like- 

wise continue our study and prepa- 

ration for the new English transla- 

tion of the Holy Mass, which we 

will begin using next Advent.

Over the last couple of weeks, we have been examining texts from the Order of Mass — the prayers that are constant from week to week, this week, as we 

did for the First Sunday of Advent, we will instead examine a prayer from the Proper of the Mass, 

which includes all the prayers that change depending on the liturgical day or season (such as the Proper of Saints).

The Opening Prayer of the Mass, traditionally called the Collect Prayer, would be consid- 
ered part of the introduction of the Mass called the Collect because it “collects” all the people’s prayers from the Introductory Rites of the Mass into a single prayer said by the priest. It is also useful to express the char- 

ter of the particular liturgical celebration.

Let us look at the current Collect for the Fourth Sunday of Advent (there are two that can be used, but this is the primary option given):

Lord,
fill our hearts with your love,
and as you revealed to us by an angel the coming of your Son as man, 
so lead us through his suffering and death to the glory of his Resurrection.

We can see that the current translation is a descriptive, elo- 

quent prayer that contains signifi- 
cant content about the Annunciation, the Incarnation and the Paschal Mystery — all in just a few lines. However, there is something interesting about the new translation of this same prayer, which will look like this:

Pour forth, we beseech you, O Lord, your grace into our hearts, 
that we, to whom the Incarnation of Christ your Son 
was made known by the message of an Angel, 
may by his Passion and Cross 
be brought to the glory of the Resurrection. 

Not only does the new transla- 

tion carry an even more detailed version of the same rich content, but it also does so while preserving the beautiful wording of a tradi- 
tional Catholic prayer that many readers may recognize — the Angelus.

The Angelus is a devotional prayer, said at particular times during the day, which focuses 

on the salvific mystery of Our Lord’s Incarnation through the lens of the Archangel Gabriel’s 
appearance to the Blessed Virgin Mary at the Annunciation.

Many Catholics who are very familiar with the Angelus may never have realized, from our cur- 
rent translation, that this Collect is the same prayer said at the conclu- 
sion of the Angelus. And it truly is the exact same prayer, for the Latin texts of the Angelus and of this Collect are identical. How wonderful it will be when this translation will enable this connection to shine through more clearly, espe-
cially given the appropriateness of this prayer so close to Christmas!

This Collect also illustrates another point — that the recovery of traditional devotional language, such as the language of the Angelus, can be helpful for prayer. Many will recall how hand missals and prayer books decades ago all contained this sort of grand, for- mal style. This approach was 

largely abandoned because the time that the current Mass translation was completed, but has since seen a resurgence. Perhaps precisely because there is a certain timeless-ness to this manner of speech, we may discover the use of words like “thy” and “thou” as archaic and odd in conversational English, but they remain fervently prayed and easily memorized in the Our Father, Hail Mary, 10 Commandments and even such hymns as the Notre Dame Alma Mater. There is a timeless appeal to the wording and content of these prayers. Similar things might also be said by Protestants about the King James Version of the Bible. Examples can even be found in the biblical world: The Declaration of Independence, the National Anthem or the Gettysburg Address. There is a universal sense that these impor- 
tant texts are properly preserved in a more majestic style of speech, to show how they are important and distinct from the commonplace. May we seek this inspiring heritage in Christ and His sacred liturgy as we ready to welcome Christmas at Home!
Paint-by-numbers journalism

Press coverage of New York Archbishop Timothy M. Dolan has been consistent: he is the conservative president of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops exemplified what my colleague Meghan C. Dyce calls “paint-by-numbers” reporting. Like the paint-by-numbers kits that were a fad in my family’s youth, paint-by-numbers journalism produces something rather childish and not very pretty. Both unhappily attribut- ed fully on display as the herd of independent minds tried to cope with the Dolan story, scrambling (and failing) to grapple with its dynamics and meaning.

The first paint-by-numbers color in this particularly childish picture was the color “surprise”; it was hard to find a story that didn’t peg Archbishop Dolan’s election that was not the surprise sentence. And while there was some truth to this — the bishops overturned a long custom of election as president of the outgoing conference vice-president — the real story was that a quiet, extensive, and ultimately successful campaign was mounted, often by younger bishops, to change The Catholic Herald. Paint-by-numbers sourcing also intersected with paint-by-numbers cliché-promot- ing, as most of the stories I read balanced a known quantity “lib- eral” commentator with a known quantity “conservative,” usually in such a way as to signal the reader that the latter was the bad guy.

In the immediate, post-election scramble, I tried to get reporters inter- ested in the true significance of this year’s USCCB election, which was that it marked the end of an era. That era was defined by the late Cardinal Joseph Bernardin of Chicago, who left a deep impress on the bishops’ conference he served as its general secretary, then its president, then its behind-the-scenes eminence grise. So comprehen- sive was Bernardin’s influence in defining the culture and the modulus operandi of the conference that the Bernardin Era lasted for 14 years after the cardinal died on Nov. 14, 1996, after a gallant and edifying battle with cancer. But it is now over, because of a gener- al change in the center-of-gravity of the American episcopate. That generational change is a matter of Catholic sensibility as well as of age. Like the man they chose to lead them, the bishops who elected Archbishop Dolan combine a sense of excitement about the Catholic possibility in 21st-century America with serious reservations about the national drift into a utilitarianism in which “Will it work?” is the only ques- tion of moral consequence. The bishops in the Dolan coalition are also willing to challenge the sexual revolution with the tools John Paul II gave the Church in his Theology of the Body; many bishops of the Bernardin Era were deeply shaken by the post-Human Vitae chaos in the Church and simply wished (and, in some cases, wish) that the choices of churchmen engaged by Catholicism’s ethic of love would disappear.

The tectonic plates within U.S. Catholicism’s ordained leadership have shifted. You can’t depict that shift with paint-by-numbers.

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

LETTER

Continued from page 15

The pope’s favorite restaurant, Franziskaner: special mustard; and sweets from the Zentis food com- pany, which specializes in marzi- pan and jams.

The papal goodie bag also includes cakes and cookies that cloistered nuns baked specifically for their guests. Kaufehl said in a Dec. 8 interview.

He will load his car with five Bavarian Christmas trees for the pope and will personally deliver the gifts and have dinner with the pope, he said.

On Christmas Day itself, no special guests are expected and the main meal, lunch, is made up of “Italian food,” said Jesuit Father Federico Lombardi, spokesman.

The pope’s brother, Msgr. Georg Ratzinger, will arrive at the Vatican Dec. 28 to spend a few weeks with the pope. Father Lombard said Dec. 28 is the date then-Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger always would leave Rome for Germany to spend the holidays with his brother, so they have kept the same date of reunion.

All of the trees adorning the various Vatican halls and hall- ways, including the pope’s, are decorated by the technical services department of the Vatican City governor’s office, said Pietro Carlo Cuscianna, department director.

Father Lombardi said the pope has three different Nativity scenes in the papal apartment: a large one in the hallway set up by the Vatican workmen; one under the Christmas tree in the living room, where the pope puts the baby Jesus just before celebrating Midnight Mass in St. Peter’s Basilica; and one in the dining room, which has belonged to the pope for the past 45 years.

The large Nativity scene in St. Peter’s Square is unveiled Dec. 24, and while the pope can see it from his apartment, he doesn’t visit it until after his New Year’s Eve thanksgiving prayer service.

Another Nativity scene is on display inside St. Peter’s Basilica. That creche is constructed by the basilica’s workmen, known as “sunputermi,” who compete with the workers in the square in trying to build the more spectacular rep- resentation of Jesus’ birth. Carlo Stella, one of the work- men in the basilica, said they try to introduce new elements into the scene each year, and the 2010 addition is a mechanical kneeling shepherd who lifts his hat before the Christ child.

The wooden statues were carved by a German sculptor, but the Vatican workmen fire and paint the clay chicken, ducks and sheep figures themselves, Vatican Radio reported.

About a dozen carpenters, bricklayers, plumbers and electricians work two to three weeks straight to get it ready in time for Christmas Eve when Pope Benedict will use it to place the baby Jesus in the manger at the end of Mass Dec. 24.

Almost every Vatican office has its own Nativity scene, some made from unusual materials.

The Swiss Guards, for example, use eight German sculptures to grace the scene’s base and an empty munitions box for the grotto to symbolize that the only weapon a Christian needs is Christ.

WHERE IS THE CITY OF TYRE WHERE ST. PAUL PRAYED?

St. Paul prayed with Christians in Tyre

Where is the city of Tyre where St. Paul prayed on the beach?

St. Paul was in Patura, an important city in southern ancient Asia Minor (modern Turkey) on his way to Jerusalem. At Patara he found a ship bound for Phoenicia (modern Lebanon). He boarded the ship and it stopped at Tyre, an important city of Phoenicia, where the ship had to unload cargo. Paul stayed with the Christian disciples in Tyre for a week. The Tyrians did not want Paul to go to Jerusalem, but Paul went anyway. Everybody came out of the city to see Paul’s depar- ture. They knelt down on the beach of the Mediterranean Sea and prayed and said goodbye and Paul boarded the ship.

Tyre is mentioned in the Old Testament. Hiram, the king of Tyre, allied himself with Solomon, the king of Jerusalem in Israel. In Phoenicia were the famous cedar of Lebanon, wood used for building ships and temples. S. Jenkins says later on Tyre became one of the first Lebanon towns to adopt Christianity and was the seat of an archbishopric with 14 bishops under its control. By the 4th centu- ry A.D., Tyre was built on the site of the former Temple of Melkart. In the 12th century A.D., the Catholic Crusaders captured the city of Tyre and the surround- ing fertile land. Tyre remained in Crusader hands for 167 years. A. Jousiffe mentions some of the sites of Tyre. There is the ancient marketplace, a colonnaded road, marble Roman pavement, a rectangular arena with five rows of tiered seating cut into limestone and an extensive Roman bath- house. Nearby are the ruins of the Crusader Cathedral. Foundations and granule columns are all that remain. The king of Jerusalem was once crowned within the walls of this cathedral. The remains of the German king Frederick Barbarossa are reputed to be buried here.

Further away is a Roman cem- etery with decorated marble and stone tombs. In this area is a huge triumphal arch, an aqueduct, the largest and best preserved Roman stadium in the world, seating 20,000 spectators. It was used for chariot races.

St. Paul prayed with Christians in Tyre

Matthew 1:18-24

Following is a word search based on the Gospel reading for Fourth Sunday of Advent. Cycle A: Matthew’s prologue to Jesus’ birth. The words can be found in all directions in the puzzle.

God is with us

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

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Father Richard Hire

HIRE HISTORY

FATHER RICHARD HIRE

to Jesus’ birth. The words can be found in all directions in the puzzle.

God is with us

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

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Father Richard Hire

HIRE HISTORY

FATHER RICHARD HIRE
Catholic Charities promotes Catholic identity

A discussion on Catholic identity was led by Kathy Brown, the senior director of mission integration, Catholic Charities USA, for the staff and board members of Catholic Charities. Pictured are Nyein Chan, Theresa Teders, Kelsie Cline and Nick Kojones.

Children’s books for Christmas gift-giving

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The following children’s books are suitable for Christmas giving.

• “The Story of Gumbo Yab-Yab, the Blue Alligator and the Big Storm” by Christopher Eck, Blue Gator Books (Roswell, Ga., 2010), 32 pp., $20. In this very quality world, quality read-aloud books are becoming more scarce, yet here is a winner. The cadence, phrasing and good old-fashioned story-telling are refreshing — from the litany of alligator brothers to the alligator parents’ dialogue. All of this is especially good, because life is complex and the illustrations are somewhat rudimentary. This is a tale of a misfit alligator caught in Hurricane Katrina and how he learns to think beyond himself to help with the recovery and give people hope. A bonus: Proceeds are being used to help four charitable agencies that continue to help with hurricane recovery.

• “The Illustrated Gospel for Children” by Jean-Francois Kieffer and Christine Ponsard, translated by Janet Ahern (Ann Arbor, Mich., 2010). 32 pp., $19.95. Part science fiction, part environmental drama, part story of families, this novel is sure to keep middle-grade readers turning pages. This is the tale of 11-year-old Seb Daniels, whose hometown landscape has been totally changed by mining — but mining for what? In this nuanced tale full of twists, the bad guys turn out to have some redeeming social value, because life is complex and the world is not black and white. Excellent reading. Ages 9-12.

• “Today I Made My First Communion” by Dianne Abren, illus. by Bill Shurffit. Aunt Dee’s Artic (Ann Arbor, Mich., 2010). 68 pp., $19.95. The title is prosaic, but the book is not. It might more appropriately have been titled “Maria and Riley Discover the Mystery of the Eucharist.” Ahern has cleverly woven a story of discovery as she follows a first Communion class throughout its preparatory sessions. In this revised edition, multicultural illustrations help bring the story to life. Fill-in pages in the back of the book can make it a keepsake for first Communion day. This is aimed at younger children, but they will need help reading it. Ages 6-8.

USF SENIOR IS WOMEN’S SOCCER ALL-AMERICAN SELECTION FOR 2010 University of Saint Francis senior Katie Christian has been named to the 2010 NAIA Women’s Soccer All-American Team. Christian, who played defender and midfielder for USF in 2010, was a top 14 selection on the All-MCC team making her eligible for consideration for the NAIA All-American team. Christian, a Bishop Luers High School graduate, was a two-year team captain who “led by example” according to USF head coach Christy Young. Christian was named the Mid-Central College Conference 2009 Defender of the Year by opposing coaches. Katie is a nursing major and has a 3.65 GPA.

CYO Panthers off to a great start

FORT WAYNE — After winning just five games a year ago, the eighth-grade boys from St. Joseph-St. Elizabeth are off to a great start. The Panthers have a record of 5-2 this far in the 2010-2011 season.

Under the direction of Coach Tim Rooney, the team has already tied their total wins from a year ago when they had a goal of rebuilding their team. The school won the Catholic Youth Organization (CYO) tournament as sixth graders, but lost two of their leading scorers from that team forcing other players to step up and develop their skills. As seventh graders the team lost their first eight games and finished 5-12.

“It is encouraging to see some of these players gain confidence in their skills and get better every week,” explained Rooney; a 1976 graduate of St. Jude and former CYO player. There are 10 on the roster, including two newcomers to the sport. “Our goal is to continue to improve and give 100 percent in every game,” Rooney added.

Although it does not count toward their tournament placement, St. Joseph-St. Elizabeth downed St. Vincent, 37-36, on Dec. 4. Up 28-13 in the third quarter, leading scorer Tom Filitus fouled out with 17 points. St. Vincent staged a huge comeback and went ahead, 36-34, in the final seconds before St. Joe-St. E’s Travis Eckert scored a trey at the buzzer for the win.

A financial planner by day, Rooney explained, “In the past we would have buckled after Filitus fouled out, but the team stayed in the game.”

USF SENIOR IS WOMEN’S SOCCER ALL-AMERICAN SELECTION FOR 2010 University of Saint Francis senior Katie Christian has been named to the 2010 NAIA Women’s Soccer All-American Team. Christian, who played defender and midfielder for USF in 2010, was a top 14 selection on the All-MCC team making her eligible for consideration for the NAIA All-American team. Christian, a Bishop Luers High School graduate, was a two-year team captain who “led by example” according to USF head coach Christy Young. Christian was named the Mid-Central College Conference 2009 Defender of the Year by opposing coaches. Katie is a nursing major and has a 3.65 GPA.

BY MICHELLE CASTLEMAN

Holy Cross continues ICCL basketball winning crusade

BY MATT SOBIERALSKI

SOUTH BEND/MISHAWAKA — The Inter-City Catholic League continued its boys’ basketball season Sunday afternoon with another slate of divisional matchups.

In the John Bosco Division, Holy Cross improved to 2-0 with a win over St. Joseph (South Bend), 33-32. The Crusaders were led by Conner Futa with 13 points. Futa also hit the go-ahead basket with 6.8 seconds remaining. Drew Jankowski poured in 10 for the now 1-1 Eagles.

St. Thomas of Elkhart held off St. Matthew, 41-31, with Ryan Schaefer’s 15 points and J.F. Kavanaugh’s 10 for the Spartans, while the Blazers were paced by Nathan Bonk who finished with 15 points.

Christ the King triumphed over Holy Family, 50-13, behind Schafer’s 15 points and J.P. St. Matthew, 41-31, with Ryan Rooney’s 20. The Cougars were lead by Conner Futa with 13 points. Futa also hit the go-ahead basket with 6.8 seconds remaining. Drew Jankowski poured in 10 for the now 1-1 Eagles.

The ICCL schedule will continue on Sundays at Marian and St. Joseph’s high schools starting at 1 p.m.
BOOKS
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 17

tories, this was by far the best. Ages 4-up.

Using simple language and rhyme, DeStefano has captured the essence of a child’s prayer, with thoughts such as: “And when I act a little bad/not like I know I should/forgive me, God. Please don’t be mad/and help me to be good.” In Elliott’s double-page illustrations, the eyes have it, capturing real-life emotions that reflect humor, fear and wonder. This one is a keeper! Ages 3-6.


From the typeface to the humorous illustrations to the rhyming, fast-paced couplets, Long and Wondrak have created illustrations to the rhyming, fast-paced couplets, Long and Wondrak have created an appealing book that follows a young boy frustrated when everything seems to go wrong in his day. He looks many places to answer the question, “Why are you doing this to me, God?” and finds God where he least expects him. Younger readers will enjoy this as a read-aloud book. Ages 6-9.

• “Ben and the Emancipation Proclamation” by Pat Sherman, illustrated by Floyd Cooper. Eerdmans Books for Young Readers (Grand Rapids, Mich., 2010), 32 pp., $16.99.

This beautifully illustrated book is a moving tale based on the true story of Benjamin C. Holmes, a slave from South Carolina who taught himself to read. He ends up in a slave prison, and it is there he is able to read to his fellow captives the famous proclamation by Abraham Lincoln. Cooper, who has won several Coretta Scott King Illustrator Awards, adds to the wonders of this book, bringing scenes to life with his oil paintings. Ages 8-12.


This little cardboard book, ideal for toddlers, is filled with charming, simple prayers. Colorful, multicultural illustrations help complete its appeal. This is part of the First Prayers series; it is definitely more age-appropriate than “My First Prayers for Christmas.” Ages 2-4.

BISHOP DWENGER HIGH SCHOOL PEP RALLY HONORS FALL COMPETITORS

Bishop Dwenger High School had plenty to cheer about at their pep session on Dec. 1. Honored were the Spell Bowl team who placed third in state out of over 200 competing teams; Bertram Najev, Dwenger’s No. 1 singles freshman tennis player who competed as one of eight players in the state finals this year; the cross country team who won semi-state and 12th in the state finals; the football team who came in second in the state; and Dwenger’s three cheerleading teams who swept the state finals placing first in freshmen, junior varsity and varsity competition — a first in state history. Cheer coach Amy Gonzagowski, above, talks about the three teams sweeping the State Championships.

Prayers for Christmas.” Ages 2-4.
WHAT’S HAPPENING?

WHAT’S HAPPENING carries announcements about upcoming events in the diocese. Send in your announcement at least two weeks prior to the event. Mail to: Today’s Catholic, PO. Box 11169, Fort Wayne 46856; or e-mail: fhogan@fw.diocecesfwbo.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.

DEVOTIONS

Vespers
Fort Wayne — Most Precious Blood Parish 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 but a can of fruit or vegetable for our local food pantry would be accepted.

MISC. HAPPENINGS

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 5-7 p.m. Adults $7, children (5-12) $3. Carry-out available.

Looking for alums
Mishawaka — Saint Joseph’s High School alumni 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 gypigone@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 but a can of fruit or vegetable for our local food pantry would be accepted.

Gaberet Knight
Fort Wayne — An evening of fundraising with food, family and friends will be Friday, Jan. 14, in the Bishop Laurs gymnasium.

St. Pius X senior group
Granger — St. Pius X has a senior group (50+) that meets the second Tuesday of the month at noon starting with Mass. On Jan. 11, the topic will be “Our Comprehensive Religious Education Program” with speaker Linda Jensen. For information call (574) 237-522.

Sunday breakfast at St. Pius X
Granger — The Knights of Columbus Council 4263 will have a breakfast Sunday, Jan. 9, from 8 a.m. to noon at St. Pius X. Adults $5, children 6-12 $2.50.

Square dancing in January
New Haven — St. Louis Besancon will have a square dance Saturday, Jan. 8, from 8-11 p.m. in the hall. Music will be by Bill Welting and Breakaway.

Square dancing in January
New Haven — St. Louis Besancon will have a square dance Saturday, Jan. 8, from 8-11 p.m. in the hall. Music will be by Bill Welting and Breakaway. Tickets are $10 and include one beer and snacks. All proceeds benefit the St. Louis Academy.

Seeking Maintenance Director

Bishop Dwenger High School is currently seeking a qualified person who is eager to serve the Saints family as the Maintenance Director of Building and Grounds. If you feel you meet the qualifications and desire to be a part of the best school community in the area, please contact Principal Jason Schiffli by sending your resume in confidence to jschiffli@bishopdwenger.com, or send by mail to Bishop Dwenger High School, Attention Jason Schiffli, 1300 E. Washington Center Road, Fort Wayne, IN 46825.

Key Requirements:
• U.S. Citizenship is required
• Security Clearance/Background Investigation is required
• General building and grounds maintenance and repair experience
• One year of supervisory experience or any equivalent combination of experience and/or education from which comparable knowledge, skills, and abilities have been achieved.
• Strong leadership skills with solid communication skills (both written & verbal)
• Technologically literate
• Essential physical ability: kneeling, bending, squatting, climbing ladders, lifting heavy objects
• Enthusiastic; good attitude; trustworthy; dependable; personal integrity and honesty
• Strong organization and time management skills
• Ability to prioritize work with excellent organizational skills and initiative to improve processes
• Ability to multi-task and work under pressure
• Exceptional problem solving ability, to identify and resolve problems in a timely manner, to gather and analyze information skillfully
• Ability to work and interact with people throughout the organization.

Major Duties:
The Maintenance Supervisor is responsible for all building and grounds crews. Manages and/or assists general maintenance and repair/replacement of property, fixtures, or equipment which includes mechanical, plumbing, electrical, carpentry, and painting repair.

Responsibilities:
• Provide supervision for day and evening crews
• Analyze and inspect facilities for safety improvements
• Manage contract maintenance on an as-needed basis
• Interpret instructions and write reports
• Operation of heavy machines (fork lift, front loader, tractor, skid-steer)
• Ability to use, maintain, and inventory tools
• Analyze labor, equipment and supplies for budgeting and purchasing
• Knowledge of general electrical and plumbing maintenance
• Knowledge of general lawn maintenance

Probationary Period:
If you are selected for this position, you will be required to serve a one year supervised probationary period.

www.bishopdwenger.com   •   (260) 496-4700
The Miami tribe. The Miamis
and their beloved pastor. Today,
Benoit maintained a close rela-
throughout his life, Father
dren of the forest’ and after arriv-
They even refused to leave
asked that Father Benoit accom-
to the west by the federal govern-
Baptiste de Richardville.”
Indians, most of mixed ancestry,
in Fort Wayne when Father
Benoit arrived were Miami
in Fort Wayne in 1860. The majority
of the Catholics living
Miami Indians,” Bishop Rhoades
said. “Among the Catholics living
in 1885.”
Bishop Rhoades, in prepara-
tion for his homily, did some
reading about Catholic life in
Fort Wayne in 1860. The majority
of parishioners at the cathedral,
related, were either French or
Irish immigrants. The German
Catholic immigrants had already
left St. Augustine Church and
built St. Mary’s Church just a few
blocks away in the year 1849.
“We also remember the origi-
nal inhabitants of this area, the
Miami Indians,” Bishop Rhoades
said. “Among the Catholics living
in Fort Wayne when Father
Benoit arrived were Miami
Indians, most of mixed ancestry,
like their leader, Chief Jean
Baptiste de Richardville.”
When most of the Miamis
were expelled and forced to move
to the west by the federal govern-
ment in 1848, the Miami Indians
asked that Father Benoit accom-
pany them to the Kansas territory.
“They even refused to leave
unless Father Benoit was allowed
to accompany them,” Bishop
Rhoades said. “He left with them,
whom he called his ‘beloved chil-
dren of the forest’ and after arriv-
ing in Kansas, stayed with them
for two weeks before returning to
Fort Wayne.”
Bishop Rhoades added,
“Throughout his life, Father
Benoit maintained a close rela-
tionship with the local members
of the Miami tribe. The Miamis
considered him their protector
and their beloved pastor. Today,
as we celebrate this 150th
anniversary, we remember not
only the immigrant Catholics
from Europe, but also the native
American Catholics, all pioneers
of the Catholic faith here in our
dioceese.”

The times
In 1860, the diocese was only
three years old. Fort Wayne was
a small city of 9,000 people.
The diocese, which encompassed 42
northern Indiana counties, only
had 11 diocesan priests when it
was established and between
18,000 and 25,000 Catholics.
President Abraham Lincoln was
elected president just one month
before this cathedral was conse-
crated and the nation was on the
brink of the Civil War.
“Catholics here were mostly
immigrants and poor,” Bishop
Rhoades said. “Life was not easy
for the Catholic immigrants,
many of whom had arrived in the
1850s and faced many hardships
and challenges.” These included
devastating choleran epidemics
that struck Fort Wayne and, on a
national level, a lot of anti-
Catholic and anti-immigrant sen-
timent in the United States.
“There was some anti-
Catholicism in Fort Wayne.”
Bishop Rhoades said, “but not
open hostility like in other areas
of the country. I think some of
this was because of Father
Benoit’s good relationship with
many Protestant pastors and con-
gregations — they had great
respect for Father Benoit.”
In this diocese in 1860, Notre
Dame was already 19 years old.
The Congregation of Holy Cross
was growing in strength and
numbers in the South Bend area.
The Holy Cross Brothers had sent
a brother here to Fort Wayne in
1843 so that Father Benoit could
open St. Augustine’s Institute, the
first Catholic School in Fort
Wayne. It was a co-ed school
until the Sisters of Providence
arrived in 1846 to staff a girl’s
school, St. Augustine Academy.
The Holy Cross Brothers then
staffed the boys’ school.
Indiana’s saint came here in
1846. Mother Theodore Guérin,
the foundress of the Sisters of
Providence, came to Fort Wayne
to teach at St. Augustine Academy.
“Thanks to the Brothers of Holy
Cross and the Sisters of
Providence, Catholic education
was already established here in
Fort Wayne even before this
cathedral was built,” Bishop
Rhoades remarked.
“At this Mass, we remember
our rich history,” he said. “We are
inspired by our ancestors in the
faith, by the pioneers who sacri-
ficed so much, not only to build
our beautiful cathedral, but to
build the Catholic community
here. We are heirs to a rich legacy
of faith, a faith that we are called
to embrace with renewed vigor
and devotion.”

Immaculate Conception
Bishop Rhoades spoke of the
pioneer Catholics’ deep devotion
to the Blessed Virgin Mary,
“They surely rejoiced back in
1854 when Blessed Pope Pius IX
proclaimed the dogma of the
Immaculate Conception. That
devotion is manifest by the fact
that this cathedral was dedicated
to the Immaculate Conception of
the Blessed Virgin Mary.
Bishop Rhoades said, “In view
of the merits of His Son, God
kept Mary free from every stain
of original sin from the moment
of her conception. Thus, God pre-
pared to give us the gift of His
Son as our Redeemer.”
Bishop Rhoades said, “Pope
Benedict XVI has said that
Mary’s most beautiful name is
Mary as the Immaculate Concep-
tion through the archangel Gabriel
at the Annunciation: ‘full of grace.’
Mary was fashioned by grace and
formed as a new creature in her
mother’s womb. She was ‘full of
grace,’ entirely holy and free
from all stain of sin. She
remained so throughout her life.”
The bishop noted, “On this,
Mary’s feast, look to her as the
perfect model of holiness, just
like the faithful who built this
cathedral did. Like Mary, we are
deeply loved by God, who, as St.
Paul says, ‘has blessed us in
Christ with every spiritual bless-
ing in the heavens, as He chose
us in Him… to be holy and
without blemish before him.’”
Mary teaches us the path of hol-
liness, to say ‘yes’ to God’s grace
and to God’s will, to say ‘no’ to
selfishness and sin. In contem-
plating her Immaculate
Conception, we discover our
vocation to become, with Christ’s
grace, ‘holy and without blemish
before Him.’
“We rejoice today at Mary’s
feast,” Bishop Rhoades said, “We
rejoice in the 150th anniversary
of our beautiful cathedral of
the Immaculate Conception.
May Mary, our patroness, our mother,
help us to grow in holiness to
live our faith each day with her
spirit, the spirit that animated
these first Catholics of Fort
Wayne. It is the faith-filled spirit
expressed in Mary’s response to
the angel: ‘Behold, I am the
handmaid of the Lord. May it be
declared to me according to your
word.’ I entrust you and all the
good people of our diocese to the
motherly protection of the
Immaculate Virgin Mary!”

Reception
After Mass, a reception fol-
lowed in the parish center. A his-
torical display and timelines were
featured.