FORT WAYNE — “This Christmas, I would like to invite you to become a student of Catholicism, so that together we can answer the questions that hold people back from fully embracing the beauty of our faith,” wrote Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades in a note to recipients of Catholic author Matthew Kelly’s book, “Rediscover Catholicism.”

The book, which has sold over 1 million copies, was given to those who attended Christmas Masses across the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend.

Kelly is the founder of The Dynamic Catholic Institute, which believes that millions of ordinary Catholics want to be involved in a movement that provides a game-changing strategy for the Church today. The mission of the institute is to “develop dynamic resources that inspire people to rediscover Catholicism, live with passion and purpose and bring spiritual vitality to the Church.”

In June, The Dynamic Catholic Institute sent a letter to several households in the diocese with a letter from Bishop Rhoades inviting donors to support the book effort, “so that this Christmas we can carry out this unprecedented initiative in our diocese,” the bishop wrote. In Kelly’s letter to the households, he noted the cost of the book was $2 per copy.

“In seems that with every passing day, people have more and more questions about Catholicism — both Catholics and non-Catholics. This is a time in history when people need, and deserve, answers to their questions,” Bishop Rhoades said in the card inside the book.

He added: “With this in mind, I offer you this book. If we are to become students of the faith, continuous learners, I am convinced that we need to resurrect the great Catholic tradition of spiritual reading.”

BY TIM JOHNSON

Michelle Baker, St. John the Baptist, New Haven, business manager, in the back, and Lisa Castleman, secretary, front, open a box of Matthew Kelly’s book, “Rediscover Catholicism.” The book will be distributed at all parishes across the diocese over Christmas to encourage spiritual reading and as an evangelization means to welcome non-practicing Catholics and new members into the faith.

FORT WAYNE — The Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend will view 2010 as a year of changes — a new page in the diocese’s 153-year old history.

Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades was installed the ninth bishop of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend on Jan. 13. Archbishop Pietro Sambi, the apostolic nuncio who is the official representative of Pope Benedict XVI, with Archbishop Daniel M. Buechlein, metropolitan archbishop of Indianapolis, escorted Bishop Rhoades to the cathedra — the bishop’s chair — and handed the new bishop his crosier — a pastoral staff of gold — thus assuming the episcopacy of the diocese.

The day prior to the installation, a massive earthquake shook Haiti. Bishop Rhoades at his installation Mass asked that parishes of the diocese hold a collection for Haiti. This collection brought in $559,000, one of the largest collections in the diocese for disaster relief.

Masses of thanksgiving that honored retiring Bishop John M. D’Arcy who guided and ministered the diocese from 1985-2009 marked the early weeks of January. He has taken the role of bishop-emeritus and remains active in the work of the diocese assisting Bishop Rhoades where needed.

Both bishops participated in the National March for Life in Washington in late January. They were accompanied by high school and college students, and the faithful in their stand for life. Holy Cross Father John I. Jenkins, president of the University of Notre Dame, also joined the bishops, the diocesan representatives and students from the university in the march.

Bishop Rhoades quickly became familiar with the diocese beginning with visits to parishes, high schools and grade schools, colleges and universities, religious communities and Catholic institutions and organizations.

A look back at 2010 highlights

BY TIM JOHNSON

Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades assumes the episcopacy of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend on Jan. 13.
The Holy Family of Nazareth

BY BISHOP KEVIN C. RHoades

A s we approach the end of 2010, it is good to recall the blessings of the past year. It has been my first year as Bishop of Fort Wayne-South Bend and I have so many reasons to be thankful. This is a wonderful diocese. I have enjoyed visiting all over the diocese, celebrating liturgies, teaching and preaching, and meeting so many devout faithful. I have visited 49 of our parishes in the past 11 months and look forward to visiting the remaining 32 in the coming year. I have visited all of our Catholic colleges, universities, and high schools, as well as five of our 39 grade schools. These pastoral visits are my favorite activities as your bishop. Thank you for your kindness and hospitality on these visits! I especially thank our wonderful priests for their generous welcome.

On the last Sunday of the year, we celebrate the Feast of the Holy Family of Nazareth. On this beautiful feast of the Christmas season, we fix our gaze on Jesus, Mary, and Joseph. We adore God who chose to be born of a woman, the Blessed Virgin Mary, and to enter this world in a way like every one of us, as a baby. By so doing, he sanctified, made holy, the reality of the family. He filled the family with divine grace and revealed the vocation and mission of every family.

The Holy Family of Nazareth is the prototype of every Christian family, the true model of a Christian home. The Son of God came into the world surrounded by the love of Mary and Joseph. The Holy Family radiated with loving harmony and peace. Our families are called to imitate the example of the Holy Family.

Sadly, family life today is sometimes marred by disharmony and division. But even in situations of family discord, the Holy Family can give people hope. Invoking the protection of Mary and Joseph and the grace of our Lord Jesus, families can be strengthened and renewed. But this requires faith. It requires openness to God’s grace and cooperation with that grace. God must have a prominent place in the home of every truly Christian family and be the center of every home.

All human beings were created in the image and likeness of God, created for love. Complete human fulfillment only comes about when we love, when we make a sincere gift of ourselves to others. Where do we learn to do this? In the family! The family is the privileged setting where every person learns to give and receive love. When this does not happen, there is much suffering. This is why the Church is so constant in her insistence on the importance of good, healthy marriages and strong family life.

In God’s plan, the family is based primarily on a deep interpersonal relationship between husband and wife, sustained by mutual affection and understanding. Through the sacrament of marriage, husbands and wives receive abundant help from God. Marriage brings with it a true vocation to holiness. No human authority, no state, no government, no court has the right to redefine marriage. The family, founded on marriage, is a unique good for children, who are meant to be the fruit of the love of their parents, of their total and generous self-giving. The great Pope John Paul II tirelessly repeated that the good of the person and of society is closely connected to the healthy state of the family. Marriage and family are the indispensable foundation for society and culture.

We can find in the Holy Family of Nazareth the values and teachings which today are more indispensable than ever to give human society sound and stable foundations. The Son of God, Jesus, was born and grew up in a human family. This is how he encountered humanity. In his life spent at Nazareth, the child, and later adolescent and then young man, Jesus, honored his mother and father. He remained under their authority. He is an example for every child and young person of respect, obedience, and love for one’s parents.

Mary and Joseph are models for every parent. They taught Jesus by word and example. In them, Jesus came to know the full beauty of faith, of love for God and neighbor, as well as the demands of justice, which are totally fulfilled in love. From his parents, Jesus learned that it is necessary first of all to do God’s will. It is vitally important today that parents educate their children in obedience to God’s will. Parents have a great and holy responsibility: to hand down the faith to their children. Parents are indeed called to be the first heralds of the faith to their children. Parents have the duty to love and respect their children as sons and daughters of God. They have an irreplaceable task in the formation of their children in accord with the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

We read in the Gospel that in his home at Nazareth, “Jesus advanced in wisdom and age and favor before God and man.” Let us pray that families today may be places where children grow, not only physically, but also spiritually, in faith and love, in wisdom and grace.

May the Lord bless all Christian families and assist them in living their daily life in mutual love and in generosity to others, after the example of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph! May God bless all of you with peace and joy during this Christmas season and as we prepare to begin a New Year!
Lack of religious freedom harms security, pope says in peace message

BY CAROL GLATZ

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Infringements on the freedom of religion threaten peace and security worldwide as well as stifle authentic human growth and development, Pope Benedict XVI said.

“Religious freedom is an authentic weapon of peace,” which fosters the human qualities and potentials that “can change the world and make it better,” the pope said in his message for World Peace Day, Jan. 1, 2011.

Pope Benedict’s message, which was delivered to world leaders by Vatican ambassadors, was released at the Vatican Dec. 16. The message was translated into Arabic as well as several European languages, including Russian.


The pope said it is in the context of widespread violence, persecution, intolerance and discrimination against people of faith that he decided to dedicate the peace day message to the fundamental importance of freedom of religion as the basis for the well-being and growth of individuals and whole societies.

“At present, Christians are the religious group which suffers most from persecution on account of its faith,” citing specifically the Christian communities in Asia, Africa, the Middle East, and “especially in the Holy Land,” said the pope.

During a presentation of the message to the press, Msgr. Anthony Frontiero, an official at the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace, said that of all the people “who are targeted against their faith, 80 percent are Christians.” The statistic came from a spokesperson for the Pew Forum on Religion and Public Life during a conference hosted by the European Parliament in November.

“A conservative estimate of the number of Christians killed for their faith each year is somewhere around 150,000,” Msgr. Frontiero said quoting an article published Dec. 4 by the online news site of the Toronto Star daily newspaper.

“Virtually every human rights group and Western government agency that monitors the plight of Christians worldwide arrives at more or less the same conclusion: Between 200 million and 230 million of them face daily threats of murder, beating, imprisonment and torture,” Frontiero said. “According to a 200 million encounter discrimination in areas such as jobs and housing,” the monsignor quoted from the news article.

In his message, the pope said the fact that Christians must live in fear because of their faith “is unacceptable, since it represents an insult to God and to human dignity.”

“Furthermore, it is a threat to security and peace, and an obstacle to the achievement of authentic and integral human development,” he said.

The pope also warned against “more sophisticated forms of hostility to religion” which, in Western countries, is often expressed by a denial of its contribution to the formation of religious symbols, “which reflect the identity and the culture of the majority,” he said.

Such hostility is “inconsistent with a serene and balanced vision of pluralism and the secularity of institutions,” he said.

Governmental and social institutions are called to engage in respectful dialogue with religious groups, which can make important contributions toward the common good, he added.

Civil society must acknowledge and make room for the right of believers to have their voice heard in the public realm, he said.

“To eclipse the public role of religion is to create a society which is unjust, inasmuch as it fails to take account of the true nature of the human person; it is to stifle the growth of the authentic and lasting peace of the whole human family,” Pope Benedict said.

The pope urged religious leaders to strike a careful balance between the unjust extremes of religious fundamentalism on one hand and secularism, total exclusion of God on the other.

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Bishop Rhoades announces appointment

The Most Rev. Kevin C. Rhoades, Bishop of Fort Wayne-South Bend, has made the following appointment effective Dec. 16:

Father John Steele, CS, has been assigned to part-time pastoral ministry to the Hispanic community of Immaculate Conception Parish, Kendallville.

PUBLIC SCHEDULE OF BISHOP KEVIN C. RHoades

• Sunday, Dec. 19, 11:30 a.m. — Mass at St. Patrick Church, Walker, Ind.

• Tuesday, Dec. 21, 11 a.m. — Mass for diocesan employees at Marian High School Chapel, Mishawaka, Ind.

• Friday, Dec. 24, 4:30 p.m. — Christmas Eve Mass at St. Matthew Cathedral, South Bend

• Saturday, Dec. 25, 12 a.m. — Christmas Midnight Mass at Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, Fort Wayne

• Sunday, Dec. 25, 10:30 a.m. — Televvised Christmas Mass, University of Saint Francis, Fort Wayne

KELLY

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Bishop Rhoades said, “Imagine if every Catholic in our diocese read for just 15 minutes each day from a great Catholic book.” Imagine the new life this would breathe into our spirituality, into our marriages and families, into our parishes and schools, and imagine how many questions we would be able to answer about our faith for people who are hungry for answers.

Kelly, in an e-mail interview with Today’s Catholic, discussed the history of this evangelization project: “A couple of years ago I asked my staff to come up with their best ideas for engaging disengaged Catholics and increasing passion among practicing Catholics. They came up with this book program.

“The idea is that more people attend Christmas Mass than any other time of year,” Kelly said, “and 30 percent of those who attend Mass at Christmas only come once or twice a year. We wanted them to leave with something that reignites their faith life.”

Kelly said in 2008, parishes across the nation distributed 88,000 books. The following year parishes distributed 300,000.

“This year,” he said, “more than 700,000 copies of the book will be distributed.

“Almost 1,000 parishes have participated in the program so far,” Kelly said of the national drive, “but under the visionary leadership of Bishop Rhoades and driven by his deep desire to feed his people and reengage disengaged Catholics, the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend will be the first diocese to undertake the program. I am so excited to see how the books impact people’s lives, and the lives of parishes.”

When asked how he believes “Rediscover Catholicism” will help lead the lukewarm or non-practicing Catholics back to the Church, Kelly answered, “There are two things I believe are very deeply that speak to your question. The first is that people don’t do anything until they are inspired, I think this is a time when Catholics need to be inspired, and from the opening story the book seems to inspire.

“The second,” he said, “is that people deserve answers to their questions. Catholics and non-Catholics today have more questions about their faith than ever before, and they deserve answers to those questions. I hope the book answers many questions that people have about Catholicism, and thus removes some of the obstacles that prevent them from participating more fully in the life of the Church.”

Kelly said the book program has shown success. “It is very humbling. The book spent more than eight years continuously on the Catholic bestseller list before we began this program. So, it is always encouraging to know as an author that your work is resonating with people.”

Some parishes will inevitably run out of books, said Kelly. Anyone can request a free copy at www.DynamicCatholic.com, and just pay shipping costs.
An icon of St. Nicholas of Myra hangs in the Byzantine Catholic church bearing his name in Anchorage, Alaska. Although his generosity to children is legendary, it is probably his connection to sailors and the sea that makes him a popular figure in Alaskan churches.

The historical facts of the life of St. Nicholas are both scanty and disputed, but the many legends and folk tales associated with him are numerous. The most widely known story has the good saint dropping bags of gold through an open window to an impoverished family, leaving them a considerable fortune. Another legend tells of St. Nicholas restoring the lives of three children who had been butchered and pickled in brine during a famine.

Stories of the saint’s aid to children and the close proximity of his feast day (Dec. 6) to Christmas links the man to the tradition of gift-giving. In many countries, Dec. 6 is traditionally one of the days when the exchange of presents takes place. This custom was brought to the United States by Dutch Protestants of New Amsterdam who painted the saint as a Nordic magician — Sinter Klaas.

In the present day, Orthodox churches honor the feast of St. Nicholas with various celebrations, including traditional songs and a visit from St. Nicholas to the children.

In Catholic circles, John Michalski, cantor and longtime parishioner at St. Nicholas of Myra in Anchorage, dressed as the sainted bishop on the evening of Dec. 11 and received children and their gifts to honor the generosity of their patron. The gifts were then given to Clare House shelter for homeless mothers and children.

As Deacon Rohrbrucner said, the celebration of the life of St. Nicholas, whether on his feast day or in relation to Christmas, “is a real call to be advocates for those who are vulnerable.” He is a saint both the East and West share, “a saint from an undivided church whose feast comes early in Advent.”

World Youth Day Car Raffle, accepts the keys of a 2011 Hyundai i1 from Glenbrook Hyundai Business Manager, Gary Cramer. Ron Crook, chairman of the World Youth Day Car Raffle, accepts the keys of a 2011 Hyundai i1 from Glenbrook Hyundai Business Manager, Gary Cramer. Crook, in an act of friendship, then signed over the car title to someone who had already won a car.

Thank You
To Glenbrook Hyundai for your generous support to the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend for World Youth Day / Madrid 2011
The funds raised by our successful car raffle will assist many of our young pilgrims on an enriching spiritual experience.

Glenbrook

No photographers were allowed to take pictures of St. Nicholas draped in a white robe and pictured with a large group of his young pilgrims. The Bishop of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, Bishop James special to the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend for World Youth Day / Madrid 2011.

The text of the pope’s World Peace Day message is available online at: www.vatican.va
MISHAWAKA — “Today, each of us in our unique capacity accepts a new challenge — to lead Saint Joseph Regional Medical Center (SJRMC) into the future,” Bishop Rhoades said.

While these words from Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades were for all in attendance to emulate, they were the beginning of the opening prayer at a Mass for the commissioning of Al Gutierrez as the president and CEO of the hospital. The ceremony was held on Monday, Dec. 13, in SJRMC’s Our Lady of Fatima Chapel, and it included representation from member of The 4th Degree of the Knights of Columbus.

Bishop Rhoades continued: “We do not take this challenge lightly or without careful consideration. As we commission Mr. Albert Gutierrez as president and chief executive officer, we trust that he will meet the challenge with the vision and confidence of the strong leader he has proven himself to be in the past and promises to be in the future. I further trust that in every endeavor thrust upon him, he will find in himself ... and in each of us ... the strength to meet each challenge ahead with compassion, excellence, respect and stewardship.”

SJRMC announced the appointment of Gutierrez as the hospital’s president and CEO on Oct. 5. His first day at SJRMC was Nov. 15. Clearly the Dec. 13 commissioning was an event he’ll hold close to his heart for the remainder of his career.

“It has been an absolute delight to get started here in partnering with our associates, leadership and medical staff to serve our patients and their families in the Michiana communities,” Gutierrez said at a reception at SJRMC following the commissioning ceremony. “But to celebrate this historic occasion, it is only fitting that we welcome Al and his wife, Margaret, to our community. Their energy and enthusiasm parallels the fresh atmosphere here at this beautiful new hospital.”

Gutierrez has been with Shore Memorial Health System in Somers Point, N.J., since 1985, and served as its president and CEO since 2002.

“I am personally delighted that Al sought this position and agreed to join us at SJRMC,” said Mike Hammes, chairman of SJRMC’s board of trustees who emceed the reception. “He has done a phenomenal job leading Shore Memorial and in him we have a leader who will be able to take our hospitals forward to a new level. He brings the kind of thoughtful and decisive leadership this position demands.”

A Catholic, Gutierrez says Saint Joseph’s connection to a Catholic health-care system, Trinity Health, as well as its strong ties to the diocese, the University of Notre Dame, Saint Mary’s College and the Congregation of the Sisters of the Holy Cross, were key elements in drawing him to the Midwest.

“Absolutely, the faith-based agenda really starts to fill in the blanks when it comes to health care. I believe that it is a strong element of healing,” said Gutierrez. “Some of the things that have to do with healing are common to everyone and it does require a belief that there are things that are bigger than us in the universe.”

Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades officiated the commissioning ceremony of Al Gutierrez as president and CEO of Saint Joseph Regional Medical Center on Dec. 13 at the hospital’s Our Lady of Fatima Chapel, which included representation from The 4th Degree of the Knights of Columbus. From left are Richard D. Wasoski, Stephen Elek, Jr., Al Gutierrez, Margaret Gutierrez, Bishop Rhoades, David D. Towner and Michael J. Lindsell.

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Youth ministers told they have difficult job, but God is boss

NEW ORLEANS (CNS) — With such New Orleans traditions as a second-line parade and a Carnival float, participants in the National Conference on Catholic Youth Ministry joined in the convention’s opening night Dec. 9 at the city’s Convention Center. As a brass band played and emcees Ansel Augustine and Mike Patin led the crowd in ice-breakers, Archbishop Gregory M. Aymond appeared atop a Carnival float throwing beads with youths and young adult leaders of the New Orleans Archdiocese. “I hope these days in New Orleans will be good to you,” Archbishop Aymond told the crowd, after proclaiming — with a big smile on his face — that he was king of Carnival. “I’ve buttoned everyone in the room for being good leaders of the young Church of today.” The four-day convention drew 2,500 people. It is the largest gathering in the country of youths and young adult leaders, campus ministers, religious education leaders, clergy and religious who minister to young people. Breakout sessions and workshops on topics such as “Building Pathways to Ministry and Leadership,” “Living Young Strengths,” and technology and ministry were interspersed with a resource exposition showcasing the latest in available tools to help youth ministers succeed and Masses to strengthen Catholic youth leaders in their task.

Pope praises Italian mystic nun who identified with Christ

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope Benedict XVI praised a 17th-century Italian nun whose total identification with Christ resulted in her being identified with Christ as he.addressed a meeting on topics such as “Building Pathways to Ministry and Leadership,” “Living Young Strengths,” and technology and ministry were interspersed with a resource exposition showcasing the latest in available tools to help youth ministers succeed and Masses to strengthen Catholic youth leaders in their task.

POPE BENEDICT XVI VISITS VATICAN LIBRARY

Pope Benedict XVI visits the Vatican Library at the Vatican Dec. 18. The library was reopened in September after being closed three years for major renovations.

“WE feel extremely safe here: the police outside are doing their job well.” But the lines in the week before Christmas were modest compared to those of late November, the high season for tourists. Pilgrims waited up to two hours in a line that wound outside the historic church, said street vendor Khaled Omar, 47, who has been working in the tourist business for 33 years. “Thank God, it has been a good year,” Omar said with a broad smile as he arranged embroidered tote bags and colorfully beaded necklaces along a wall next to the church.

Boost in tourism to Bethlehem in 2010 pleases businesses

BETHELHEM, West Bank (CNS) — With five new hotels in the works, a handful of new souvenir shops opening recently and nearly 40 restaurants able to serve crowds from 100 to 1,000, the Bethlehem economy is showing signs of recovery following the difficult intifada years. For the first time in years, shop owners and tourist industry workers in the birthplace of Christ are optimistic and have confidence in the economy. For most, 2010 was the best year for business in a decade. Outside the Church of the Nativity in mid-December, Nigerian pilgrims snapped pictures of each other as Russian pilgrims made their way into the ancient church through a small entranceway. Inside, groups waited patiently at the stairway leading into the grotto where tradition holds that Jesus was born. “Coming to Bethlehem is always an exceptionally emotional experience,” said Father Filiberto Barrera, who led a group of Californian and Mexican pilgrims as they left the grotto to make room for another group.

Violence continues to cause exodus of Mideast Christians

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Violence continued to feed the flight of Christians leaving the Middle East, with Church leaders generally agreeing that only peace would solve the problem. A shocking coda to the violent year was the attack on a Syrian Catholic church in the Iraqi capital of Baghdad Oct. 31. As police moved in to rescue Catholics held hostage by Islamic militants with ties to al-Qaida, 58 people, including two priests, were killed. At a Dec. 10 memorial Mass in Baghdad for the victims, Syrian Catholic Patriarch Ignatius Joseph III Younan referred to the cover-up of “the terror targeting Iraqi Christians. It is the responsibility of the Iraqi government to carry out proper and thorough investigations to uncover the terrorist groups who did plan and finance the carnage, of whatever religious or political allegiance they may be, and to bring them publicly to justice,” he said in his homily. Some reports indicated that more than half of Iraq’s Christian community, estimated to number 800,000 to 1.4 million before the American-led invasion in 2003, have already left the country. The October incident led to a new wave of flight. Iraqi officials pledged to protect the Christians, but their pledges were met with skepticism. The British branch of Aid to the Church in Need reported that Iraqi officials were erecting concrete barriers around Christian churches, and police were scanning people as they entered the churches for services.

Pope to make four foreign trips in 2011

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope Benedict XVI plans to make four foreign trips in 2011, including one to his German homeland and a three-day visit to the African country of Benin. Jesuit Father Federico Lombardi, the Vatican spokesman, told reporters Dec. 14 that the pope would also make four trips to Italian cities. In all, the pope will spend 18 days on the road next year. The pope will visit Croatia June 4-5 and travel to Spain Aug. 18-21 to preside over World Youth Day Celebrations. He will visit Germany Sept. 22-25, the third trip to his native Germany. German bishops have said the pope is likely to visit the capital city of Berlin, as well as Freiburg and Erfurt. The pope’s trip to Benin Nov. 18-20 will be his second trip to Africa. In Benin, a small country in West Africa, Catholics make up almost 10 percent of the population, and Muslims about 25 percent. Pope Benedict, who will turn 84 in April, has to date made 18 trips abroad, 12 of them in Europe.

Archbishop Beltran retires, Bishop Coakley named in Oklahoma City

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Pope Benedict XVI has accepted the resignation of Archbishop Eusebius J. Beltran of Oklahoma City and named Bishop Paul S. Coakley of Tulsa, Kan., to succeed him. Archbishop Beltran, 76, had submitted his resignation at age 75, as required by canon law. He has been a bishop since 1978 and headed the Oklahoma City Archdiocese since 1992. Archbishop Coakley, 55, is a priest of the Diocese of Wichita, Kan., and had been head of the Salina Diocese since 2004. The resignation and appointment were announced in Washington Dec. 16 by Archbishop Pietro Sambi, apostolic nuncio to the United States. Archbishop Coakley was expected to be installed Feb. 11 as the 10th bishop and fourth archbishop of Oklahoma City.

Bishop Gilmore of Dodge City resigns; Wichita priest to succeed him

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Pope Benedict XVI has accepted the resignation of Bishop Ronald M. Gilmore of Dodge City, Kan., and named a priest of the Diocese of Wichita, Kan., to succeed him. Bishop Gilmore, who at 68 is seven years younger than the usual retirement age for bishops, said in a statement that he had always found being a bishop “a burden” and felt that the diocese needed “fresh eyes, fresh hands and a fresh heart.” Succeeding him will be Father John B. Brungardt, 52, chancellor of the Wichita Diocese and pastor of St. Mark Church in St. Mark, Kan. He will be ordained a bishop Feb. 2 at the Cathedral of Our Lady of Guadalupe in Dodge City. The resignation and appointment were announced Dec. 15 in Washington by Archbishop Pietro Sambi, apostolic nuncio to the United States. Bishop Gilmore said he had requested early retirement nearly a year ago and Pope Benedict had agreed but asked him to stay on until a successor could be appointed. “I have done all I know how to do, all my strength permitted me to do, all my weakness allowed me to do,” he said. “The good priests and good people of the diocese deserve better from their bishop than what I was giving them.”
Knights coordinate food drive in Elkhart County

ELKHART — The Knights of Columbus Council 1043 delivered 550 food baskets to the needy in Elkhart County on Dec. 10. Elkhart County has been especially hit hard by recession. The Knights noted more need than ever. They increased the food drive and less families this year and foresee perhaps 600 families next year.

Knight Benny Wierczech began the food drive 24 years ago for 20 families, and the need for the food drive continues to grow to this day.

This service project started as a one-man operation and has grown to over 100 Knights, community volunteers and several businesses and organizations volunteering their services and food products.

The Knights have collected food and cash donations from throughout the county. Council 1043 began with a phone-a-thon to their members and supporters of the Knights. The effort netted over $2,000. It grew as businesses, individuals and retail stores all assisted the council.

Knight Jim Gallagher, who oversaw the drive, said, “If you have a job and you see someone that doesn’t have one and needs food... the point is it will help.”

The money was used to buy hams and other food items. The Knights also purchased food boxes from the Northern Indiana Food bank to add to the family’s baskets. A bakery donated a loaf of bread for each basket and another market provided fresh fruit.

The Knights hope the food provides each family for more than just one meal.

Redeemer Radio ‘gives thanks’ for Fall Sharathon

FORT WAYNE — Redeemer Radio, Catholic Radio AM 1450, is reporting the success of its 10th Sharathon (Fall 2010) and rejoicing in the participation of 23 priests, 13 Franciscan friars, four monsignors, two bishops, two women religious and one Protestant pastor. These “Stars of Sharathon,” aided by more than 250 volunteers and the 1,006 supporters who pledged, succeeded in raising more than $153,000 during the 36-hour-three day Fall Sharathon conducted November 17-19.

“We are thrilled by the response from our listeners, touched by the beautiful spirit of cooperation on the part of everyone who rolled up their sleeves to help, and by the generosity of all,” said Father John Haught, “and with a pledge,” said Sharathon Chair Couple Mike and Dee Dee Dahm.

Fall Sharathon was broadcast from Redeemer Radio’s new location where two studios provided a forum for surprise “walk-in” interviews and a bottom-of-the-hour halftime shows. “Studio B,” as it came to be called, had several guest hosts, including Father Daryl Rybicki, former Dwenger, principal Fred Tone, and Redeemer Radio’s “Historia Nostra” commentator Tom Castaldi.

National acclaimed Catholic Radio celebrity Jerry Usher hosted the three-day showcase that highlighted Catholic parishes, personal stories and programs in the listening area as it raises operating funds.

Midday anchors included author and “Faithworks” host Dr. Matt Bunson, diocesan Director of Catechesis Jim Tighe, and Redeemer Radio Sports Director Sean McBride. During the Franciscan hour on Thursday afternoon, Father David Mary was the in-studio guest and the phone bank was manned entirely by Friars taking pledges and prayer requests.

Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades was called in via cell phone following the conclusion of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops meeting in Baltimore, Md. Featured for the first time on Sharathon were the priests and parishioners of St. Patrick Parish in Fort Wayne; University of Saint Francis Board Chair Bill Niezer, accompanied by two USF Cougars For Life students; Sister Mary Clement of the Franciscan Sisters Minor, and a performer from the popular Catholic Music duo, Poppel.

Bishop Dwenger escapes to the tropics for second annual Reverse Raffle

FORT WAYNE — Bishop Dwenger High School Music Boosters will host the second annual Reverse Raffle on Saturday, Jan. 22, 2011, with dinner at 5:30 p.m. and the raffle at 6:30 p.m.

Tickets for the tropically-themed evening event are $40 per person or $300 for a table of eight. Cost includes dinner and a chance to win. Beer and wine are available for $1; other beverages are free. Every 25th ticket drawn wins, and Heads or Tails will be played throughout the evening.

The final ticket drawn will win the $2,000 grand prize. Tickets and additional information is available by contacting Chris Fairchild at (260) 485-3211 or dcrmfair@yahoo.com. Participants must be 21 or older. Winners need not be present to win. Prize amounts may vary based on number of tickets sold.

Lampen Lecture Series explores ‘Where is God?’

DONALDSON — Sister Kathleen Dolphin, a Sister of the Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary and director of the Center for Spirituality at Saint Mary’s College in Notre Dame, was on hand as presenter for Ancilla College’s third Lampen Lecture of the academic year, exploring the topic of “Where is God?: Reflections on Creationism, Intelligent Design and Evolution.”

According to John Haught, Ph.D., Sister Dolphin’s mentor, Charles Darwin promoted two “dangerous” ideas in “The Origin of Species.” All creation is connected and natural selection has allowed species to survive and prosper.

“Sister Kathleen showed us with new and logical thinking that science and God are not opposed to one another,” said Sister Carleen Williams. “Just as Fall Sharathon and the Poor Handmaids of Jesus Christ are co-creators of the universe, how can true science that studies creation be opposed to God? Sister Kathleen showed very clearly that God plays a compassionate role in all of creation.”
Bishop Rhoades makes pastoral visit to Christ the King School

SOUTH BEND — In the midst of snow and cold temperatures, it was a bouquet that warmed the heart of a special shepherd.

Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades was presented a spiritual bouquet of 1,294 rosaries prayed in his honor by students, families and the parish community at Christ the King School during the bishop’s first official visit on Dec. 15.

Middle school social studies teacher Matthew Kirsch described the outpouring of excitement in preparing this bouquet for the bishop: “The students felt as though this was their gift to give, not just an idea imposed on them. When we prayed these rosaries as a class or school, the spirit of their voices filled the church and really reflected their desire to give a fitting gift.”

Christ the King students Claire and Kathryn Kloska shared their enthusiasm of participating in the spiritual bouquet. “I think praying the rosary for the bishop is important because he is new and it’s a way to welcome him to our school,” said Claire.

Kathryn added, “Our class prayed the rosary at school in addition to my family praying the rosary at home.”

During Bishop Rhoades’ homily at the all-school Mass, he spoke of the Book of the Prophet Isaiah, which looks for a King to come and save the Jewish people from captivity in Babylon. He also referred to the Gospel of Luke when John the Baptist sent two of his disciples to Jesus and asked “Are you the one who is to come, or should we look for another?”

Prophets in the Old Testament pointed to six signs or miracles that the Savior would bring to the Jewish people. When Bishop Rhoades asked seventh graders what these signs were, they responded with sight to the blind, the mute speaking and the deaf hearing, the lame walking, the poor being taught about the kingdom of God, the lepers being cleansed and the dead being raised. Jesus told John’s disciples to go back to John and tell him what they had seen and heard to show he was the Messiah.

“The prophesies of Isaiah are fulfilled. The just one from the earth, a Savior, has been born,” Bishop Rhoades
As Christians prepare for exchanging gifts at Christmas, Bishop Rhoades declared, “The greatest gift is the gift of the Savior!”

Following the Eucharist, a year-long school tradition of classrooms exchanging an olive chalice continued. Holy Cross Father Neil Wack, pastor of Christ the King Parish, explained that the chalice travels from class to class at the end of every all-school Mass to encourage students to pray for vocations.

“It’s a great reminder for children to pray for their own vocations and it’s also a chance for parents and faculty to renew their own vocation,” he explained.

In addition to the presentation of the spiritual bouquet, an icon of Christ the King and a sculpture of the Blessed Mother were given to Bishop Rhoades by the school and parish at the conclusion of the Mass.

As Bishop Rhoades toured the school, he learned of their Advent project for Corpus Christi — Jalchatra, the school’s sister parish located in a remote village in Bangladesh. On Dec. 8, students from Christ the King School participated in a one-day change drive for Corpus Christi. Each class collected spare change to purchase items according to a cost-chart provided by their sister parish. The class then received ornaments to hang on a tree in the school lobby representing what was purchased.

The entire school raised $1,287 in change; enough to purchase one year’s worth of tuition, books and food for three students, one year’s worth of personal hygiene items for 17 boarding students and one year’s worth of uniforms for 10 students.

“The kids were willing to reach in their pockets and share,” said Father Wack. “There is a whole world out there that needs our help and God’s help. Even with small bits of change, we can make a big difference.”

In the bishop’s visit with third graders, the question was asked why Good Friday is called “Good” Friday. Bishop Rhoades acknowledged it was an excellent question and responded, “Even though such a terrible thing happened and Jesus was made to suffer, it was something that was very good for us. Because of His death on the cross, we are saved.”

Principal Stephen Hoffman described the enthusiasm of the students and staff during the bishop’s visit. “When it was announced that Bishop Rhoades was coming to Christ the King, it was huge for the students. During the bishop’s visit, you could just see and feel the energy and love that the bishop has for the students and that they feel for him.”

Father Wack noted the school places equal importance on faith and education for students. “We try to emulate (the Congregation of Holy Cross founder Blessed Father Basil Moreau by educating the hearts and minds of our children and to never educate the mind at the expense of the heart.”

Lee Jolly’s fourth-grade class collected $24.69 in change; more than enough to purchase a month’s worth of tuition and books for one student and a month’s worth of food for a boarding student as a part of the school’s change drive.
Remyond Wright are shown in the photo.

For 33 years, Martin Luther King Montessori children have come to spend time with Bishop Dwenger High School seniors in celebration of Christmastime. Approximately 100 preschoolers spent the morning playing board games and enjoying refreshments thanks to the generosity of the Bishop Dwenger Student Council. Wilson Ganga and Remond Wright are shown in the photo.

**Mishawaka Catholic schools help St. Vincent de Paul Society**

**BY ANN CAREY**

**MISHAWAKA** — Seventh graders from the three Mishawaka Catholic grade schools that will become one school in 2011 showed their unity by working together to assist the St. Vincent de Paul Society of St. Joseph County at its busiest time of the year.

Those seventh graders from St. Joseph, St. Monica and St. Bavo Parishes will become the first eighth-grade class for Mishawaka Catholic Academy when the new school opens in fall, 2011 in each of the existing grade school buildings. Pre-K through second-grade classes will be at St. Bavo, third through fifth grade at St. Joseph and sixth through eighth grade at St. Monica.

St. Monica seventh-grade teacher Kelly Ramesh told Today’s Catholic that the three current seventh-grade teachers wanted to find something for the three seventh-grade classes to do together in preparation for coming together next fall. Many of the students already know each other, as the three schools already have combined sports teams, but the teachers were looking for something more. Ramesh contacted several agencies about the students volunteering together, but most agencies did not have enough work and/or space for a large number of students. Then Ramesh talked to Dale Seely, volunteer coordinator and pantry manager at the St. Vincent de Paul Society of St. Joseph County.

Seely told Today’s Catholic that he was expecting the largest delivery of food donations that the pantry gets all year to arrive on Dec. 14, so he was eager to have the students come on Dec. 15 to sort and pack the food. And in keeping with the Mishawaka theme, it so happens that the pantry’s largest donation of food each year is from Mishawaka Marian High School, the school many of the seventh graders will attend after graduating from Mishawaka Catholic Academy in 2012.

“Marian has been collecting for St. Vincent de Paul for many years, more than 17 years,” said Erin Pierce, a theology teacher at Marian. “We usually collect 20,000 to 25,000 food items, as well as a money collection, which is usually somewhere between $1,100 and $2,000.”

“The Marian students really show their generosity and compassion for others in this food drive,” Pierce said.

Seely said that it took three trucks to carry all the donated food from Marian to the food pantry, which supplies parish food pantries all year long and accommodates walk-in clients two days a week.

“Thank heaven the food drives were productive,” Seely said. “We’ve been able to keep up on demand, with a few exceptions — for the most part able to keep up with staples.”

When the seventh graders arrived, three truckloads of food were waiting to be sorted, packed into boxes and carried to pallets. In all, 43 seventh graders worked for two hours on what Seely said was a productive assembly line that far exceeded his expectations.

“They packed 285 boxes,” Seely said. “They got more done than I anticipated, and I think they had a good time.”

Ramesh agreed, saying that the students worked very well together, enjoyed being together, and really “bonded.”

The students also have a new project to think about working on together. Charles Thompson, executive director of the St. Vincent de Paul Society of St. Joseph County, greeted the students when they arrived and led them in a prayer before they began their work. Then he suggested to the students that they start a Young Vincentians chapter at the new Mishawaka Catholic Academy next year.

With the enthusiasm of these seventh graders, that will probably be one of many fine accomplishments they will undertake together at their new school.

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GUEST COMMENTARY BY SUSAN E. WILLS

Thoughts on the Incarnation

I never tire of hearing Christmas carols — even if they’re being piped into stores and malls just to encourage shopping excesses. But hearing Christmas tunes recently got me thinking: the decorating frenzy of Christmas trees, lights, garlands, poinsettia plants and Santa Claus statuary often seems devoid of Christian meaning. What exactly is being celebrated with all the music, décor and festivity of the season?

The answer, I think, is that many people are celebrating Christmas traditions and trappings rather than the stupendous event of Christ’s coming to Earth. The content is forgotten, but the glow of Christmas past remains.

The chasm between show and substance came home to me from comparing our cheery secular carols to Alfred Reed’s magnificent “Russian Christmas Music” (my gift to you, available on YouTube). In the finale of the closing movement, when the Son of God breaks through eternity into time, leaving His throne in heaven to assume our mortal flesh, and the angelic host fill the sky proclaiming the miracle of Christ’s birth, the music swells to a glorious crescendo of pealing bells, thundering percussion and brass. This is the kind of music that captures the awesome wonder of Christ’s Incarnation and birth.

Words always fall short of conveying the meaning of this unfathomable mystery. But at the beginning of The Gospel of Life, Pope John Paul II summarized the essential points: “...By His incarnation the Son of God has united Himself in some fashion with every human being. ‘... This saving event reveals to humanity not only the boundless love of God who ‘so loved the world that He gave His only Son’ — John 3:16, but also the incomparable value of every human person” — No. 2.

By taking on our flesh — becoming human in all things but sin — Jesus ennoble all human life. Our dignity derives from the truth that God created us in His image, and loves us to the point of becoming man, suffering and dying to win our redemption, and thus allowing the Holy Spirit to dwell in us.

This understanding of human dignity is undermined today by a materialist and dualistic view of the human person. Many people think of the human body as something we inhabit, having no inherent value. Our bodies and others can be used for our pleasure. Should a body become burdensome or cause suffering, we can dispose of it.

How one understands the human person — as an insignificant bit player in the drama of one’s life or as a creature loved by God, a unity of body and soul who will live eternally — affects one’s behavior toward others. We can be dismissive of those who don’t contribute to our immediate happiness or we can see them through God’s eyes.

As C.S. Lewis explained in “The Weight of Glory”: “The dullest and most uninteresting person you can talk to may one day be a creature which, if you saw it now, you would be strongly tempted to worship. There are no ordinary people. Next to the Blessed Sacrament itself, your neighbour is the holiest object presented to your senses. If he is your Christian neighbour, he is holy in almost the same way, for in him also Christ... is truly hidden.”

At Christmas gatherings, in long checkout lines and in overcrowded parking lots, let’s remember that Christ lives in the people around us. Let’s celebrate Christmas with profound gratitude that through his Incarnation and birth, Jesus showed us the meaning of love and the priceless value of every human life.

Humans in ‘frozen orphanges’

A key argument in the embryonic stem-cell debate is widely invoked by scientists, patient advocacy groups, and politicians — involves the fate of frozen embryos. Barack Obama put it this way in 2008: “If we are going to discard those embryos, and we know there is potential research that could lead to curing debilitating diseases... Alzheimer’s, Lou Gehrig’s disease — if that possibility presents itself, then I think that we should, in a careful way, go ahead and pursue that research.”

The head of the National Institutes of Health, Dr. Francis Collins, embraced this same line of reasoning by asking a rhetorical question during a recent CNN interview: “Ethically, isn’t it more justifiable, if those embryos have been created, to use them for a purpose that might help somebody with a disease as opposed to simply discarding them?”

This argument sounds reasonable on first hearing. We prefer to recycle aluminum cans, rather than uselessly tossing them into landfills. It seems as if we should handle surplus frozen embryos in a similar way, getting some benefit out of them rather than discarding them.

Yet this argument has a deceptive, even seductive character because of the way it sets up a false dichotomy: Either one discards the embryos or one destroys them in the laboratory to obtain miraculous cures for diseases. An important third option is often not even mentioned: namely, that we continue to store the embryos in their current, frozen state as part of our moral duty to care for our own offspring. They could be cryopreserved until a morally acceptable option for rescuing them presents itself (if such an option, in fact, exists), or until they eventually die of their own accord in the deep freezing.

Discarding an embryo, it is important to be clear, means ending the life of a young human being, the tiny life that each of us once was at an earlier time. The embryos to be discarded are usually first thawed, and many do not survive this first step; those that do are summarily discarded as medical waste. A few years ago, Cardinal Sean O’Malley described the reality of what happens in the fertility clinic this way: “In discarding these embryos, the medical staff become their unwilling executioners, but executioners nonetheless.”

Perhaps an analogy can help us better visualize why we should not discard embryos or sacrifice them for research. Imagine a typical fertility clinic with a large room where several tanks filled with liquid nitrogen were holding a few hundred cryo-preserved human embryos, a kind of “frozen orphanage,” as these tanks are sometimes called.

In the building next door there happens to be a real orphanage filled with toddlers between the ages of 1 and 3 years old who are awaiting adoption. Suppose that the owner of the orphanage happens to be a shady character who has recently decided to take some of the “unadoptable” infants and clandestinely discard them into the dumpster behind the orphanage where they eventually die. Suppose also that when the local mayor learned about the children being put into the dumpster, he had the gall to suggest that since they were going to be thrown out anyway, we should start sacrificing them for scientific research and harvesting their organs for transplantation into sick patients.

Our first instinct would be to recoil with abhorrence at the proposal. We might prosecute the orphanage owner (and drum the mayor out of office as well). We would insist that each infant in the orphanage deserves full protection. Our children in frozen orphanages deserve the same protection and care.

Most of us, upon reflection, have a practical awareness that embryos ought not be discarded. A few years ago, the New York Times ran a piece entitled, “The Job Nobody at the Fertility Clinic Wants.” That job was the destruction of spare embryos. Medical staff members, when interviewed, said they dreaded being picked to carry out the freezing of embryos when patients requested it. A clinic director in Chicago described how often he had to destroy the embryos himself because his staff found the task so distasteful. The staff understood and had seen firsthand how these same embryos, when implanted, would yield beautiful, bubbly babies who brought joy and happiness to their parents. They seemed to appreciate instinctively, as each of us should, how living human embryos, even in the deep freeze, should never be discarded down the chute into the biohazard disposal or used as “raw material” for possible medical advances.

FATHER TADEUSZ PADOCZYK, Ph.D. is a member of the Order of the Crosiers of St. Augustine and the director of education at The National Catholic Bioethics Center in Philadelphia.

Holy Family

First century

December 29

This feast celebrates the life of Jesus, Mary and Joseph in Nazareth as the model for families and all who live in community as family. It honors the humility of God’s son in submitting to human parents; the unselfish virtue of Mary and Joseph in providing for their family; and the obedience of all three to God’s plan of salvation. Devotions to the Holy Family were strong in the 17th century. The feast was extended to the whole church in 1921. It is usually celebrated on the Sunday after Christmas.
New beginnings

The holiday season, with all its rich tradition and merriment, sometimes brings with it a need to reflect on things gone by. Gathering with family and friends magnifies the remembrance of old—a noble endeavor—but when you are mourning the loss of a loved one the emotional sway of grief can change the story of the past year consider-
ably.

In the first year of grief, we generally focus on the empty space at the holiday table or the events that occurred just a short time ago when our loved one was present with us. There is perhaps a deep longing to remember our loved one and share our grief with those with whom we gather.

Many of us have found that inviting others into our grief through ceremony works especially well during the holidays. It creates a sacred environment where all are welcome to speak of those who have gone before us, mingling unexpected laughter and necessary tears.

My husband Trent died in September, so the holidays seemed to rush upon me with determined ferocity that first year. Though I felt I was moving in a daze, volleys between the deep heart wrenching reality of Trent’s death and mind-numbing shock, I needed to speak of him and bear his name. I recall that first Christmas, now 20 years past, when I asked to read a tender prayer I had writ-
ten before Christmas dinner that included my gratitude for the members of my family and the ways Trent had enriched my life. I worried a bit about how it would be received, but it was met and com-
pelled to offer my thoughts.

I was delighted to note the collective sigh of relief my loved ones expressed as we sat down to family feast following the prayer. Antidotal stories were pressed along with the honey ham and sweet potato pie quite natu-
ral then and the banter warmed my broken heart. The prayer had given them the permission they needed to speak of Trent.

After quiet reflection during the new translation of the Holy Mass:

**THE NEW MISSAL**

**BY BRIAN MACMICHEN**

which this year we are hearing for the final time:

Lord God, who wonderfully created the dignity of human nature and still more wonderfully restored it, grant us now that we may partake in the divinity of him who humbled himself to share in our humanity.

Once again, in fully conveying the rich content of the original Latin prayer, the new translation achieves both beauty and elo-
quence, while also expressing the great mystery of the Incarnation more clearly—Christ “humbled Himself (Phil. 2:8) to share in our humanity” so that we might share in the divine nature (2 Pt. 1:4) in heaven.

Certain texts from the Order of Mass also have a special connec-
tion to the Nativity, The Gloria, which returns at Christmas after being omitted during the Advent season, recalls the angels’ chorus of praise before the shepherds on the night of Christ’s birth: “Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace to those on whom His favor rests.” —Lk. 2:14.

Moreover, at Christmas and on the solemnity of the Annunciation (March 25), we genuflect during the Creed at the words that refer-
ence the Incarnation, because these two feasts are the primary liturgical celebrations of Christ’s coming as man, with Christ’s birth observed exactly nine months after the Annunciation. By touching a knee to the ground, we reverence the fact that the Son of God hum-
bled Himself to dwell on earth.

In the weeks to come, we will examine both the Gloria and the Creed in more detail. For now, let us welcome the holy Infant Jesus into the hearts and homes, and ask the incarnate Word to help us read-
ly receive the words of His sacred liturgy with joy.

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

The new translation of the Holy Mass:

**Christmas**

Christus natus est nobis! Christ is born unto us! After our Advent time of preparation, we rejoice in Jesus Christ’s coming at Christmas. The celebration of Christmas is so sacred (it ranks second in the liturgical year after the Easter Triduum), that what is observed with an Octave — that is, eight days, symbolizing a heav-
enny perfection that transcends our earthly reckoning of a seven-day week. The Octave of Christmas culminates in the solemnity of Mary, Mother of God on Jan. 1.

Although Advent of 2010 is now complete, our preparation must continue for next Advent, when we will begin using the new English translation of the holy Mass. The liturgical observance of Christmas actually begins on Christmas Eve, observing the feast of the Nativity of Christ with Masses of the Vigil in the evening of Dec. 24. The Midnight Mass, the Mass at Dawn on Dec. 25, and Mass during the Day on Dec. 25. Let us examine a couple of the anticipated translations of the prayer for Christmas Masses. The following is the current Prayer over the Offerings for the Christmas Mass at Dawn, said by the celebrant after the gifts of bread and wine are brought forward before the Eucharistic Prayer:

Father, may we follow the example of your Son, who became man and lived among us. May we receive the gift of divine life through these offerings here on earth.

The new translation of this same prayer will look like this:

May these gifts, O Lord, we pray, offered on this feast of our Savior’s birth, be worthy of the mystery we celebrate: just as he who was born a man shone forth also as God, so may these earthly gifts bring us gifts divine.

The new translation makes explicit reference to the day of Christ’s birth where prayer flows much more poetically. In addition, it maintains the imagery of light that characterizes the prayers of the Christmas Mass at Dawn. Light not only corresponds to the hour of daybreak at which this Mass is celebrated, but also is a revered symbol for Christ. When the prayer says Christ “shone forth also as God,” it especially calls to mind the passage of the Gospel of John, wherein the Word who “was God” became man “and made His dwelling among us” as the light that “shines in the darkness.”

Another example is the Collect for Christmas Mass during the Day. This is the current translation,
In 2010, pope faced tough challenges inside and outside the Church

BY JOHN THAVIS

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope Benedict XVI will look back on 2010 as a challenging year for the priesthood and a time of trial for Christian minorities.

Those two issues stood out among the many papal concerns and activities over the past 12 months, which saw the 83-year-old pontiff make five foreign trips, write six books on the Bible and new evangelization, and speak out on a wide range of topics in a book-length interview.

The revelations of clerical sex abuse, particularly in Ireland, Belgium and Germany, weighed on the pope most of the year. In a letter to the Irish faithful in March, he personally apologized to victims of such abuse and announced new steps to heal the wounds of the scandal, including a Vatican investigation and a year of personal reflection.

Later in the year, the pope met with victims of abuse in Malta and Colombia, and spoke repeatedly about the need to treat the problem with more transparency. He codified stronger Vatican measures to deal with abusive priests, some of which he had instigated years earlier as a cardinal.

Closing the Year for Priests in June, the pope said the abuse revelations were a “summons to purification” of the priesthood. Yet he insisted on the Church’s continued need for ordained priests, saying their ministry was irreplaceable, and strongly defended priestly celibacy as the norm.

Throughout the year, Pope Benedict devoted increasing attention to the fate of Christian minorities in the Middle East and Asia. He convened a two-week Synod of Bishops for the Middle East and Asia last October, and made a trip to Cyprus in June to underline his concern for Church communities in the region.

Attacks on Church targets in Iraq brought papal appeals to the international community and to the Iraqi government, in particular after a bomb attack on a Baghdad church in September killed more than 50 people dead.

The pope and his aides also spoke frequently on the need to defend Christian minorities from discrimination and physical attacks in places such as India, Pakistan and Indonesia. He elaborated on the theme of religious freedom in his 2011 World Peace Day message, released Dec. 1, saying that in today’s world, Christians suffer more from persecution than any other religious group.

In addition to Cyprus, the pope’s travels in 2010 took him to Portugal, Spain, Malta and Great Britain. In Britain, where the pope beatified Cardinal John Henry Newman, the 19th century theologian and convert from Anglicanism, his visit generated interest and reflection, along with some protests.

A common theme in all the papal visits was that the Church needs to help people rediscover God’s presence in their own lives and the life of society. He warned that people in the West continued to drift away from Christianity and from belief in general.

To help counter that trend, he established in June the Pontifical Council for Promoting New Evangelization, with the task of re-evangelizing in traditionally Christian countries. He announced that “new evangelization” would be the next theme of the world Synod of Bishops in 2012.

In November, the pope issued his follow-up document to the 2008 Synod on the Bible. Titled “Verbum Domini” (“The Word of the Lord”), it encouraged better use of the Bible at every level of the Church.

Pope Benedict also used Scripture as a bridge in dialogue with the Jews, quoting from the Psalms and other Old Testament books during a visit in January to Rome’s main synagogue.

The pope presided over more than 50 major liturgies in 2010, including a Mass in October to proclaim six new saints. One of those canonized was St. Mary Mackillop, who educated poor children in the Australian outback in the late 19th century; she became Australia’s first saint.

The pope also named 24 new cardinals and handed them red hats during a consistory at the Vatican in November. Among them were two Americans: Cardinal Donald W. Wuerl of Washington and Cardinal Raymond L. Burke, prefect of the Vatican’s supreme court.

One of the most difficult inter- national issues for the pope’s 2010 agenda was reform of the Legations of Christ in the wake of revelations that the order’s founder, the late Mexican Father Marcial Maciel Degollado, had fathered children and sexually abused seminarians. After a Vatican investigation, the pope named a delegate to run the order, who predicted the reform may take several years to complete.

In November, the Vatican published a book-length interview with Pope Benedict titled, “Light of the World: The Pope, the Church and the Signs of the Times.” It was an instant best-seller, in part because the pope fielded every question thrown at him by German journalist Peter Seewald, and spoke in unusually direct language.

The pope’s comments on condoms made headlines around the world. While continuing to insist that condoms were not the answer to the AIDS pandemic, he allowed that in particular circumstances, for example, a prostitute seeking to reduce the risk of infection, using a condom might represent a step toward moral awareness.

In the book, the pope said the Church’s main mission in a broken world was to awaken consciences and bridge any encounter with Christ, so humanity can respond to global problems that could otherwise lead to economic, environmental, biological and moral catastrophe.

Kay Gazard is a certified grief educator and the news editor/writer of Today’s Catholic newspaper.

HOPE

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12

the end of year festivities, there naturally follows the hopeful anticipation of things yet to be. Many of us rally to start afresh with new year resolutions.

We hear from loved ones, “Let it go, it’s a new year.” But how do we find a new beginning when grief has a strong hold that rem- ders us ill equipped to look to the future?

I have learned that finding a new beginning is not necessarily about immediate change. I’ve tried imposing those customary resolutions on what I thought I needed to achieve on my grief journey each year — cleaning out my husband’s cherished belonging, removing my wedding rings, crying only once a week. These goals gave me direction, but as the weeks and months of my early grief progressed, they were rendered flat and unmis- spired.

There is a time to move for- ward and a time to be still. Each step we take on our journey of grief is a new beginning. Each step is part of an evolution toward healing and living fully again.

Experiencing my grief in all its fury and solitude, and allow- ing myself to follow my heart as to the changes that would occur naturally or by choice created the healing that I worked toward. Looking back was, for me, part of the healing. And so too was waiting for the right time to accomplish my grief work.

In the end it’s not really so much about letting go, but more a “moving along” with the need to reconcile the loss into our lives. Each new year does bring the promise of some new beginning. And for those in mourning that can be the healing of a heart.

KAY Gazard is a certified grief educator and the news editor/writer of Today’s Catholic newspaper.

SCriPTURE SEARCH

Gospel for December 26, 2010

Matthew 2:13-15; 19-23

Following is a word search based on the Gospel reading for Holy Family Sunday. In Cycle A, when Joseph took his family to safety, and then home. The words can be found in all directions in the puzzle.

AN ANGEL RISE FLEE BY NIGHT MY SON HEARD AFRAID

THE LORD CHILD HEROD DEATH CHILD’S LIFE ARCHELAUS DWELT

A DREAM HIS MOTHER SEARCH OUT OF EGYPT DEATH FATHER NAZARETH

FLIGHT

C C H I L D S L I F E T H H E E S I R E D E A T H O E N A N E H C H P E G

S L R A A H M E Y T T I

U F C R Z T A G R L I N

A E H C R A E S E O J Y

L L I H O F R W L K D B

E M L U O C D E A D R F

H Y D T G Y A P T A Y

C S U H I S M O T H E R

R O B H O D R O L E H T

A N A N G E L H B P R X

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ACROSS

1 Scy maurer prophet

2 155

3 2014's movie

4 Duet

5 Excel

6 Flurry

7 Coinage computer

8 Feast

9 Thrown

10 Klutz

11 Jazz

12 Baby dog

13 Movie 2001's talking computer

14 Movie

15 Fred

16 Flurry

17 Weather

18 Klutz

19 Baby dog

20 Safe keeping

21 Poison

22 Pen

23 Movie

24 Bridesmaid

25 "Seat of Peter"

26 Diocese

27 Pope did it after looking Jesus

28 The baby, good Jesus

30 Copy

31 Joseph did not want to bring

32 Holy

33 Jesus of Nazareth

34 Father

35 Brief witty speech

36 Island

37 German "Mr."

38 Jack ___ terrier

39 Flour's cousin, plural

40 Cardinal's color

41 Terminal abbr.

42 Place

43 Track

44 Help

45 Help

46 Help

47 Help

50 Cardinal's color

Answer Key can be found on page 15

DOWN

1 Abdominal muscles

2 Kneel

3 Kimono sash

4 Fled alone

5 Go green agency

6 Unrefined

7 Jesus witness

8 Bake unshelled eggs

9 Moses’ brother

10 Ball of yam

12 Scheme

13 Sheer, triangular scarf

15 What a cow chews

16 Wing

20 "Rest in peace"

21 Love

22 Diocese

23 "Let's be Peter"

24 Saffron with color

25 Mary

26 South southeast

27 God is ___ knowing

28 Tierra ___ Fuego

29 M Francis

30 G.O.T. prophet

32 "Blind"

33 Self-esteem

34 Duet

35 Hart

36 Hart

37 Hart

38 Hart

39 Hart

40 Hart

41 Hart

42 Hart

43 Hart

44 Hart

45 Hart

46 Hart

47 Hart

48 Hart

49 Hart

50 Hart

51 Short-term memory

52 Compass point

53 Estimate

54 Scriptural “your”

55 The woman

56 Robin ___
MISHAWAKA — Four years of effort by the St. Thomas volleyball team has resulted in an ICCL Championship. The Spartans finished a 14-0 season with a hard-fought 25-24, 25-23 win over St. Matthew Dec. 17 at St. Monica School in Mishawaka.

“We knew they were special back in the fifth grade,” said head coach Pam Mills as her team clung to the championship trophy. “Even though we had to split them into two teams back then, they all practiced together and we’ve reached them.”

It didn’t come easily as Pat Gring’s Blazers gave the Elkhart squad everything they wanted in Game 1, before St. Thomas used a Tori Mills spike to tie the game 22. Knotted at 24, the Spartans’ Annie Jondle delivered the game-winning kill.

Hot serving by the Spartans’ Jamie Broderick and Grace File led St. Thomas to a 10-3 lead in Game 2, but Lizzie Asdell led the Blazers back. The towering Asdell was a force both with her serve and at the net, where she thumbed a kill to tie the game at 23. St. Thomas’ Taylor Grose blocked an Asdell spike to give the Spartans the lead, before a lift violation clinched the title. “Our girls don’t panic,” said Mills of her team’s performance. “We tell them ‘play the game, focus and stay positive.’ We really emphasized being a family and supporting each other.”

“Both team played phenomenal,” said Gring, who also serves as the league’s director. “We came from behind, and even when we had people throw up on the floor, we stayed determined. We were up against a great team and just made too many net violations.”

In the third-place game, Kevin Shaw’s Corpus Christi Cougars knocked off Christ the King, coached by Andy Kostieley, 25-20, 25-12.

Colors
St. Thomas wasn’t the only undefeated champion. Christ the King (CTK) Gold won the ICCL Colors Division with a 15-0 record after downing Corpus Christi Blue, 25-18, 25-22, in the championship match. “The stronger girls and weaker ones learned to work together to make each other better,” said CTK gold coach Meghann Rose of her team’s season. “They learned how to encourage each other. They played with heart and they knew their roles.”

In both games, Christ the King had to rally from early deficits. In the first game, two kills and an ace by Abby Kagel helped stave off Corpus Christi to an 11-6 lead. The Kings’ responded, thanks to a kill and three straight aces by Gabby Douglas. Elissa Yaw closed out the game with three of Christ the King’s last five points, including the clinching kill.

The serving and spiking of Monica Barany led the Cougars ahead 14-9 in the second game, but again Douglas came up with big plays. Her kill followed by back-to-back aces gave the Kings a lead they would not relinquish.

“The length of the season helped us,” said Corpus coach John Barany of his team, which went 4-5 during the regular season before a remarkable tourney run. “They gelled and came together at the right time. I’m just proud of the way we played.”

“It’s a game of mistakes,” said Christ the King coach Rose. “We didn’t dwell on the mistakes we made. We just looked forward to the next point.”

In the third place match, St. Anthony Maroon downed St. Joseph (SB) Blue, 25-11, 11-25, 15-5.

Junior varsity
It was a battle of unbeaten teams for the sixth-grade ICCL title, but Plymouth’s St. Michael’s team downed St. Bavo’s, 16-25, 25-18, 15-6.

Coach Becky Bookman’s squad wrapped up the season, 13-0, champions of the St. John Bosco West Division. St. Bavo, coached by Bethany Pointer, closes at 12-1, champions of the St. Martin de Porres Division.

St. Joseph (Mishawaka) needed three games to down Christ the King for third-place honors.

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**Bishop Dwenger High School**
Best of luck to all of our winter teams. Our prayers are with you for a safe and successful season!

Heavenly Father, grant all athletes, coaches, umpires, and fans strength and purpose this season and every day, for your glory. Amen.

Visit our website to view our schedules and rosters: www.bishopdwenger.com

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**St. Thomas wins ICCL volleyball championship**

**ICCL basketball teams remain close in divisional races**

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WHAT’S HAPPENING?

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

Attention 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 Heintz presiding can be seen on WNDU TV, channel 16, from 7-8 a.m. and again from noon to 1 p.m.

Save the date
South Bend — Mark your calendar and save the date for the Saint Joseph’s High School Spring Benefit and Auction coming Saturday, March 26, 2011. The event will take place in the gymnasium and tickets will go on sale in February.

Mystery Dinner Theatre
Fort Wayne — St. John the Baptist Parish, 4500 Fairfield Ave., will have a Mystery Dinner Theater, “Dead in the Water,” Saturday, Jan. 29, at 6 p.m. Tickets are $25 per couple, $15 per person. Call (260) 456-3321 for information.

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

TV MASS SCHEDULE FOR JANUARY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2011</th>
<th>Feast Day</th>
<th>Fort Wayne 10:30 a.m.</th>
<th>South Bend 10:30 a.m.</th>
<th>REST IN PEACE</th>
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| Jan.2 | The Epiphany of The Lord | Msgr. John Suelzer St. Charles Fort Wayne | Father Dom Carboneau Holy Family South Bend | Arolo Alice V. Auld, 81, St. Patrick 
Decatur Sarah J. Hake, 69, St. Mary of the Assumption |
| Jan.9 | The Baptism of The Lord | Msgr. Bernard Galic St. Aloysius Yoder | Father Jim Kendzierski, OFM St. Francis Friary Mishawaka | Mishawaka Hildegarde F. Heisler, 88, Queen of Peace |
| Jan.16 | Second Sunday in Ordinary Time | Father Andrew Curry St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Fort Wayne | Father Charles Herman St. John the Baptist South Bend | Fort Wayne Joseph Carl Derheimer, 95, St. Jude 
Thomas M. Richards, 66, St. Mary 
Vera Situm, 84, St. Jude |
| Jan.23 | Third Sunday in Ordinary Time | Father John Stecher University of St. Francis Fort Wayne | Father William Kummer St. Michael Plymouth | New Carlisle Evelyn L. Kulwicki, 84, St. Stanislaus Kostka |
Gerald S. Soleta, 85, Sacred Heart |

Christmas concert
Fort Wayne — Most Precious Blood Parish, 1515 Barbold 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.

Christmas Midnight Mass
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Little Flower Holy Hour
Fort Wayne — Msgr. Owen Campion will celebrate the Little Flower Holy Hour at St. Mother Theodore Guérin Chapel on Tuesday, Jan. 4, at 7 p.m. to pray for priests and vocations. Msgr. Campion is from Our Sunday Visitor in Huntington.

The Nativity Story by St. Augustine
South Bend — The gospel choir of St. Augustine Parish, 1501 W. Washington St, will kick off their Mass of the Nativity Story with a pre-Mass concert presenting the Nativity Story according to St. Augustine’s Gospel.“Call and response spirituals like “Mary Had a Baby”, a dramatic reading of Langston Hughes’ poem: “The Carole of the Brown King”; and a stirring rendition of “O Holy Night” plus Scripture readings. For information call (574) 234-7082.

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In March, Bishop Rhoades spoke about the vocation of marriage at the Diocesan Marriage and Family Conference, coordinated by the Office of Family Life and held at the University of Notre Dame.

Two seminarian brothers, Matthew and Terrence Coonan were ordained to the transitional diaconate by Bishop-emeritus John D’Arcy on April 25 at St. Turibius Chapel at Pontifical College Josephinum in Columbus, Ohio. Bishop Rhoades united South Bend’s Latino communities on June 6 with a large Corpus Christi procession.

Later that month, on June 26, Bishop Rhoades ordained Father Andrew Budzinski into the priesthood. He was appointed as the parochial vicar at St. Vincent de Paul Parish, Fort Wayne.


A celebration Mass marked the 150th anniversary of the dedication of the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception on Dec. 8.

In October, Catholic media personality Teresa Tomeo was the host speaker of the Arise Catholic Women’s Conference at the University of Saint Francis in Fort Wayne.

On Oct. 17, the Congregations of Holy Cross and the diocese celebrated the canonization of Brother André Bessette. Bishop Rhoades and many members of the congregation attended the canonization in Rome. St. André is the first member of the Congregation of Holy Cross to be canonized. The diocese bid farewell to two revered priests. Msgr. J. William Lester, an iconic priest in the diocese, died Feb. 20. Msgr. Lester served as co-rector of the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception and co-chancellor of the diocese with Msgr. James Wolf, who died Aug. 31 after a long illness.

In staff changes, Natalie Kohn was named the director of the Office of Spiritual Development in early January. John Gaughan retired from the Catholic Schools Office. He had worked in Catholic education for 57 years. Sister Jane Carew retired from the Office of Catechesis after directing that office for 23 years.

Jason Schiffli was named the principal of Bishop Dwenger High School effective July 1. Marsha Jordan was named the associate superintendent of Catholic schools on June 14. Father Jason Freiburger was named vice- chancellor of the diocese.

It was announced in June that Oct. 3 was inscribed as the feast of St. Mother Theodore Guérin into the Proper Liturgical Calendar of the diocese.

Bishop Rhoades welcomed 10 Franciscan Sisters Minor to St. John the Baptist Parish in Fort Wayne and to the diocese on Oct. 2. The Franciscan Brothers Minor were embraced by the diocese and welcomed to the former St. Andrew Parish rectory. They are in the process of renovating the church.

In January, a large contingency from the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend rallied at the national March for Life in Washington, D.C.