Bishop Rhoades celebrates Midnight Mass

FORT WAYNE — Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades began his Midnight Mass homily with a reflection on the first Beatitude: “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.”

He said, “To truly enter into the mystery of love which is Christmas, to experience deeply the joy and peace of the Nativity of Our Lord, one must be poor in spirit.

“One who is poor in spirit is aware of his or her need for God’s mercy, of the need for a Savior,” Bishop Rhoades said. “Such a person has faith and humility, two virtues that enable one to receive the great light shining forth from the manger of Bethlehem. The poor in spirit are blessed indeed for they are prepared to receive the kingdom of heaven which has come to earth in the person of the infant Jesus.”

Bishop Rhoades, celebrating Mass at the filled-to-capacity Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Fort Wayne, said the first Beatitude was exemplified in those who welcomed Jesus that holy night in Bethlehem.

Music for the Midnight Mass was provided by the Cathedral Choir, the brass quartet and strings under the direction of Michael Dulac, music director. The choir and musical accompaniment included a 30-minute prelude.

Earlier in the evening, Bishop Rhoades celebrated the Christmas Vigil Mass at St. Matthew Cathedral in

National Vocation Awareness Week celebrated Jan. 9-15

A week to urge people to think of priesthood and religious life

WASHINGTON — The Catholic Church in the United States will celebrate National Vocation Awareness Week, Jan. 9-15.

The week begins on the Church’s celebration of the feast of the Baptism of the Lord, which falls on Jan. 9. The feast marks the beginning of Jesus’s public ministry.

Vocations’ week celebrates vocations to the priesthood, diaconate or consecrated life in particular. During these days families and the parish community are urged to nurture the faith of their children to prepare them to respond to whatever God’s call is for them.

“National Vocation Awareness Week gives parishes across the country a chance to promote vocations through prayer and education,” said Archbishop Robert Carlson of St. Louis, chairman of the Committee on Clergy, Consecrated Life and Vocations of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB). “It is our responsibility to encourage young people to be generous as they discern the possibility of a call to service in the Church. Parents, families and parish communities must be involved in this work, since vocations recruitment is everyone’s responsibility.

All need to foster a culture of vocations.”

Father Shawn McKnight, executive director of the USCCB Secretariat of Clergy, Consecrated Life, and Vocations (CCLV), noted the many voices that can communicate God’s call.

A woman touches a statue of the Christ Child on the Feast of Holy Innocents in El Salvador, Dec. 28. The day commemorates the slaughter of Hebrew boys by King Herod’s soldiers searching for the young Jesus.

WOMAN TOUCHES CHRIST CHILD STATUE ON FEAST DAY
At Christmas, pope’s thoughts turn to suffering and persecuted

B Y  J O H N  T H A V I S

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Celebrating Christmas at the Vatican, Pope Benedict XVI appealed for peace in global trouble spots and protection of persecuted Christian minorities in places like China.

At his Midnight Mass in St. Peter’s Basilica and in his Christmas Day blessing to the world, the pope called the birth of Christ the “culmination of creation” and an event that overcame the “infinite distance between God and man.”

The basilica was packed for the Mass, and an overflowing crowd braved intermittent rain and wind to watch the liturgy on giant screens in St. Peter’s Square. Thousands stood under umbrellas for the traditional papal blessing the next day.

Security was tight for both events, in the wake of two package bombings at two Rome embassies. In 2008 and 2009 a mentally disturbed woman sprawled on the pope inside the basilica and last year pulled him to the ground briefly, but this year there were no incidents.

The pope stood on the central balcony of the basilica to deliver his blessing “urbi et orbi,” to the city of Rome and to the world. He said Christmas had revealed a truth about the relationship between God and human history. But it is a truth that must be understood by faith, he said.

“If the truth were a mere mathematical formula, in some sense it would impose itself by its own power. But if truth is love, it calls for faith, for the ‘yes’ of our hearts,” he said.

The birth of Christ is a source of hope for everyone whose dignity is offended and violated, because Jesus came to “set every man and woman free from the source of all enslavement,” he said.

The pope prayed for peace in the land of Christ’s birth, urging Israelis and Palestinians to work for a just and peaceful coexistence. He expressed the hope that Christmas would ease the pain of the Christian communities in Iraq and elsewhere in the Middle East, and inspire world leaders to show them support.

“May the birth of the Savior strengthen the spirit of faith, patience and courage of the faithful of the Church in mainland China, that they may not lose heart through the limitations imposed on their freedom of religion and conscience but, persevering in fidelity to Christ and His Church, may keep alive the flame of hope,” he said.

The pope’s words reflected increasing Vatican concern over a deterioration of Church-state relations in China, where an illegitimate bishop was recently elected head of the bishops’ conference and where bishops loyal to the pope were forced to participate in a state-backed “official” conference of Catholic leaders.

The pope asked that the spirit of Christmas would “grant perseverance to all those Christian communities enduring discrimination and persecution, and inspire political and religious leaders to be committed to full respect for the religious freedom of all.”

He also prayed for relief of beleaguered populations in Latin America: in Haiti, which is still suffering from the devastating earthquake and recent cholera epidemic; and in Colombia, Venezuela, Guatemala and Costa Rica, where natural disasters have struck.

The pope urged continued efforts for peace and political stability in Somalia, Darfur, Ivory Coast and Madagascar; reconciliation between North and South Korea; security and respect for human rights in Afghanistan and Pakistan; and dialogue between Nicaragua and Costa Rica, which are engaged in a simmering border dispute.

Pope Benedict then offered Christmas greetings in 65 languages, including Chinese, Russian and Arabic. Speaking in English, he said: “May the birth of the Prince of Peace remind the world where its true happiness lies; and may your hearts be filled with hope and joy, for the Savior has been born for us.”

At his Mass the night before, which began at 10 p.m. and ended shortly after midnight, the pope said the birth of Christ ushered in a new kingdom on earth, one that contrasts with the “self asserting powers of this world.”

He said the event in Bethlehem brought “the grace of true brotherhood.” He offered this prayer to Jesus: “Help us to recognize Your face in others who need our assistance, in those who are suffering or forsaken, in all people, and help us to live together with You as brothers and sisters, so as to become one family, Your family.”

Christ came to bring people joy, the pope said, but also to give them strength to “overcome the tyranny of night.”

“This joy is also a prayer: Lord, make Your promise come fully true. Break the rods of the oppressors. Burn the trapping boots. Let the time of the garments rolled in blood come to an end. Fulfill the prophecy that ‘of peace there will be no end,’” he said.

Earlier in the evening, the pope lit a candle at his apartment window and looked down on St. Peter’s Square for the official unveiling of the Vatican’s Nativity scene. On the morning of Christmas Eve, a spiritual reflection prepared by the pope was featured on British radio. In the brief talk, aired on BBC’s “Thought for the Day,” the pope recalled his September trip to England and Scotland.

“I am glad to have the opportunity to greet you again, and indeed to greet listeners everywhere as we prepare to celebrate the birth of Christ,” he said.

“I pray for your families, for your children, for those who are sick, and for those who are going through any form of hardship at this time. I pray especially for the elderly and for those who are approaching the end of their days,” he said.
Report abuse

It remains important for our Church to protect children and young persons from the evils of abuse. To abuse a child is a sin. The Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend remains committed to upholding and following its guidelines, policies and procedures that were implemented for the Protection of Children and Young People. These can be reviewed on the diocese’s website, www.diocesefwsb.org under Safe Environment.

If you have reason to believe that a child may be a victim of child abuse or neglect, Indiana law requires that you report this to civil authorities. If you or someone you knew was abused as a child or young person by an adult, you are encouraged to notify appropriate civil authorities of that abuse. In addition, if the alleged abuser is or was priest or deacon of the Catholic Church, you are encouraged to contact Mary Glowaski, victim assistance coordinator, (260) 399-1458; e-mail: mglowaski@diocesefwsb.org, or Rev. Msgr. Robert Schulte, vicar general of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, at P.O. Box 390, Fort Wayne, Indiana, 46801, or at (260) 399-1419, correo electrónico: mrmsgr@fvw.diocese.fwsb.org. The diocese is committed to helping prevent the abuse or neglect of children and young people and to assist those who claim to have suffered harm as a result of such abuse.

Permanence importante para nuestra Iglesia proteger a los niños y jóvenes adultos de los actos maléficos del abuso. Abusar a un niño es pecado. La Diócesis de Fort Wayne-South Bend permanece comprometida en mantener y seguir sus directrices, políticas y procedimientos que fueron implementados para la Protección de Niños/as y Personas Jóvenes. Esto se puede observar en la página cibernética de la Diócesis, www.diocesefwsb.org bajo la sección de Ambiente Seguro “Safe Environment”.

Si usted tiene razón para creer que un niño puede sufrir abuso o negligencia, la ley de Indiana requiere que usted reporte esto a las autoridades civiles. Si usted o alguien que usted conoce fue abusado, ya sea niño o persona joven por un adulto, lo animamos a que notifique a Mary Glowaski, Coordinadora de Asistencia de Víctimas, (260)-399-1458, correo electrónico: mglowaski@diocesefwsb.org, o al Rev. Msgr. Robert Schulte, Vicario General de la Diócesis de Fort Wayne - South Bend, al P.O. Box 390, Fort Wayne, Indiana, 46801, o al (260) 399-1419, correo electrónico: mrmsgr@fvw.diocese.fwsb.org. La Diócesis se compromete en ayudar a prevenir el abuso o negligencia de niños y personas jóvenes y dar asistencia a aquellos quienes reclamen haber sufrido daño como resultado de tal abuso.

Confirmation schedule for 2011

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>TIME</th>
<th>CITY</th>
<th>PARISH</th>
<th>BISHOP</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Feb. 13</td>
<td>11 a.m.</td>
<td>Fort Wayne</td>
<td>St. Therese</td>
<td>Bishop D’Arcy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb. 27</td>
<td>1:30 p.m.</td>
<td>South Bend</td>
<td>Holy Cross and St. Stanislaus at Holy Cross</td>
<td>Bishop Rhodes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 1</td>
<td>7 p.m.</td>
<td>South Bend</td>
<td>St. Adalbert and St. Casimir at St. Adalbert</td>
<td>Bishop Rhodes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 19</td>
<td>7 a.m.</td>
<td>Mishawaka</td>
<td>Queen of Peace</td>
<td>Bishop Rhodes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 25</td>
<td>7 p.m.</td>
<td>Columbia City</td>
<td>St. Paul of the Cross, St. Catherine of Alexandria (Nix Settlement), and St. Joseph (Roanoke) at St. Paul of the Cross</td>
<td>Bishop Rhodes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 26</td>
<td>10 a.m.</td>
<td>South Bend</td>
<td>St. Catherine of Siena Parish at St. Jude</td>
<td>Bishop Rhodes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 28</td>
<td>7 p.m.</td>
<td>Fort Wayne</td>
<td>St. John the Baptist</td>
<td>Bishop Rhodes</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 28</td>
<td>7 p.m.</td>
<td>Fort Wayne</td>
<td>St. Joseph</td>
<td>Bishop Rhodes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 30</td>
<td>7 p.m.</td>
<td>Fort Wayne</td>
<td>St. Elizabeth Ann Seton</td>
<td>Bishop Rhodes</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 30</td>
<td>7 p.m.</td>
<td>Huntington</td>
<td>St. Mary, St. Peter and Paul, St. Robert Bellarmine (North Manchester), and St. Bernard (Wabash) at St. Mary</td>
<td>Bishop D’Arcy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 31</td>
<td>7 p.m.</td>
<td>Fort Wayne</td>
<td>Queen of Angels</td>
<td>Bishop D’Arcy</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 3</td>
<td>10:30 a.m.</td>
<td>Ardens</td>
<td>St. Patrick</td>
<td>Bishop D’Arcy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 10</td>
<td>11:45 a.m.</td>
<td>Notre Dame</td>
<td>Campus Ministries: Notre Dame, St. Mary’s College and Holy Cross College at Notre Dame</td>
<td>Bishop D’Arcy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 12</td>
<td>7 p.m.</td>
<td>Mishawaka</td>
<td>St. Joseph</td>
<td>Bishop D’Arcy</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 13</td>
<td>7 p.m.</td>
<td>Kendallville</td>
<td>Immaculate Conception and St. Mary of the Assumption (Avilla) at Immaculate Conception</td>
<td>Bishop Rhodes</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 15</td>
<td>7 p.m.</td>
<td>Hessen Cassel</td>
<td>St. Joseph-Hessen Cassel and St. Aloysius (Toddy) at St. Joseph-Hessen Cassel</td>
<td>Bishop Rhodes</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 30</td>
<td>10 a.m.</td>
<td>Decatur</td>
<td>St. Mary of the Assumption, St. Joseph (Bluffton), and St. Mary of the Presentation (Geneva) at St. Mary/Assumption</td>
<td>Bishop Rhodes</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 27</td>
<td>7 p.m.</td>
<td>Warsaw</td>
<td>Our Lady of Guadalupe</td>
<td>Bishop Rhodes</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 28</td>
<td>7 p.m.</td>
<td>Auburn</td>
<td>Immaculate Conception, St. Joseph (Garrett), and St. Anthony of Padua (Angola) at Immaculate Conception</td>
<td>Bishop Rhodes</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 30</td>
<td>10 a.m.</td>
<td>Culver</td>
<td>St. Mary of the Lake</td>
<td>Bishop D’Arcy</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 30</td>
<td>5:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Granger</td>
<td>St. Paul X</td>
<td>Bishop Rhodes</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 1</td>
<td>12:15 p.m.</td>
<td>Greiner</td>
<td>St. Plus X</td>
<td>Bishop D’Arcy</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 2</td>
<td>7:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Fort Wayne</td>
<td>St. Matthew Cathedral, Little Flower, Our Lady of Hungary, St. Augustine, St. Hedwig and St. Patrick at St. Matthew</td>
<td>Bishop D’Arcy</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 3</td>
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<td>Bristol</td>
<td>St. Mary of the Annunciation</td>
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<td>Fort Wayne</td>
<td>St. Charles</td>
<td>Bishop D’Arcy</td>
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<td>May 6</td>
<td>7 p.m.</td>
<td>Fort Wayne</td>
<td>St. Jude</td>
<td>Bishop D’Arcy</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 8</td>
<td>2 p.m.</td>
<td>Fort Wayne</td>
<td>Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, Sacred Heart, St. Henry, St. Mary, St. Peter and St. Patrick at the Cathedral</td>
<td>Bishop D’Arcy</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 9</td>
<td>7 p.m.</td>
<td>Fort Wayne</td>
<td>St. Vincent de Paul</td>
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<td>May 10</td>
<td>7 p.m.</td>
<td>Elijah</td>
<td>St. Thomas the Apostle</td>
<td>Bishop D’Arcy</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 11</td>
<td>7 p.m.</td>
<td>Mishawaka</td>
<td>St. Monica and St. Bavo at St. Monica</td>
<td>Bishop D’Arcy</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 12</td>
<td>6:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Plymouth</td>
<td>St. Michael</td>
<td>Bishop D’Arcy</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 13</td>
<td>7 p.m.</td>
<td>South Bend</td>
<td>St. Joseph and Sacred Heart (Notre Dame) at St. Joseph</td>
<td>Bishop D’Arcy</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 15</td>
<td>11 a.m.</td>
<td>South Bend</td>
<td>St. Matthew — Adult Confirmations</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 15</td>
<td>1 p.m.</td>
<td>Fort Wayne</td>
<td>Our Lady of Good Hope</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 22</td>
<td>1:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Warsaw</td>
<td>Sacred Heart, St. Martin de Porres (Syracuse) and St. Francis Xavier (Pierceton) at Sacred Heart</td>
<td>Bishop D’Arcy</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 22</td>
<td>2 p.m.</td>
<td>South Bend</td>
<td>Holy Family and St. Stanislaus Kostka (New Carlisle) at Holy Family</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 23</td>
<td>6:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Goschen</td>
<td>St. John the Evangelist</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 24</td>
<td>7 p.m.</td>
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<td>Christ the King</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 27</td>
<td>7 p.m.</td>
<td>Elijah</td>
<td>St. Vincent de Paul</td>
<td>Bishop D’Arcy</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 28</td>
<td>10 a.m.</td>
<td>Churubusco</td>
<td>St. John Bosco (Churubusco) and Immaculate Conception (Ego) at St. John Bosco</td>
<td>Bishop D’Arcy</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 29</td>
<td>8:30 a.m.</td>
<td>Albion</td>
<td>Blessed Sacrament</td>
<td>Bishop D’Arcy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 3</td>
<td>7 p.m.</td>
<td>New Haven</td>
<td>St. John the Baptist, St. Louis (Besancon/New Haven) and St. Rose of Lima (Monroeville) at St. John the Baptist</td>
<td>Bishop D’Arcy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 4</td>
<td>2 p.m.</td>
<td>Ligonier</td>
<td>St. Patrick</td>
<td>Bishop D’Arcy</td>
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<tr>
<td>June 5</td>
<td>5 p.m.</td>
<td>Bremen</td>
<td>St. Dominic</td>
<td>Bishop D’Arcy</td>
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<tr>
<td>June 5</td>
<td>11:30 a.m.</td>
<td>Walkerton</td>
<td>St. Patrick</td>
<td>Bishop D’Arcy</td>
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<tr>
<td>June 12</td>
<td>11:30 a.m.</td>
<td>Fort Wayne</td>
<td>Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception — Adult Confirmations</td>
<td>Bishop D’Arcy</td>
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Pope begins new year with call for religious freedom, end to violence

BY CAROL GLATZ

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Opening 2011 with a strong call for religious liberty, Pope Benedict XVI condemned deadly attacks against Christians and announced a new interfaith meeting next fall in Assisi, Italy.

At a Mass Jan. 1 marking the World Day of Peace and a blessing the next day, the pope voiced his concern about fresh episodes of violence and discrimination against Christian minorities in the Middle East.

In particular, the pope condemned an attack Jan. 1 against Orthodox Christians in Egypt, calling it a “despicable gesture of death.” A bomb that exploded as parishioners were leaving a church in Alexandria, Egypt, left 25 people dead and dozens more injured.

The pope said the attack was part of a “strategy of violence that targets Christians,” and which has negative repercussions on the entire population. He offered prayers for the victims and their families.

The pope also denounced the recent practice of “planting bombs close to the homes of Christians in Iraq to force them to leave.” At least seven Christian homes in Baghdad were targeted, leaving at least 13 people wounded.

In 2010, the pope also deplored an attack in Alexandria, Egypt, on Christmas Eve that killed 25 people and injured dozens more.

In his homily during the morning Mass on the feast of Mary Mother of God in St. Peter’s Basilica at the Vatican Jan. 1, the pope spoke about the theme he chose for World Peace Day 2011: “Religious Freedom, the Path to Peace.”

He said religious freedom was challenged today by two extremes at work in the world: secularism that banishes religion to the private sphere and fundamentalism that seeks to forcibly impose religion on everyone.

He said religious freedom is the best path for building peace, because wherever religious freedom is guaranteed, human dignity is also respected.

Pope Benedict called on political leaders and all people of goodwill to not give up when faced with “the negative force of egoism and violence” and to not become jaded into thinking that conflict, which puts lives and the future at risk, is inevitable.

War, he said, reflects “the most horrendous and violent face of history.” He called on everyone to promote and build peace, reminding people that “words aren’t enough for this difficult task.”

He said “a concrete and constant commitment is needed by heads of nations, but above all what’s needed is that every person be inspired by an authentic spirit of peace,” which is fostered by prayer and lived out in one’s day-to-day activities.

Peace does not come because of “weapons, nor economic, political, cultural and media power,” he said. Peace is both a gift from God and the result of a change in the human conscience, which becomes open to truth and love, he said.

The pope presided over an evening prayer service with Eucharistic Adoration and the singing of a special hymn of thanksgiving to God Dec. 31 in St. Peter’s Basilica.

After the prayer service, the pope went by popemobile into St. Peter’s Square, where he visited the Vatican’s Nativity scene. While choristers sang, the pope entered the grotto housing the larger-than-life-size figures of the Holy Family and knelt in prayer.
INDIANA CATHOLIC CONFERENCE

By Brigid Curtis Ayer

assist families and children this year, we will be working with state lawmakers to create legislation to further reduce abortion, improve school choice opportunities for all Hoosier children and pass a same-sex marriage ban," said Tebbe. "There will be many issues on the table, and we will be taking part in the process to ensure that the voice of the Church and the least among us are heard."

Tebbe said, that as in years past, the success of the ICC’s legislative agenda this year will also be determined in part by: 1) the willingness of the leadership in the House and Senate to have these bills heard in committee; 2) a willingness of lawmakers to work in unison with the Church’s efforts; and 3) a willingness of Catholics in the political process.

“They will be working with leadership to forward the Church’s initiatives.” Committee chairs also may decide the fate of any given bill even if it meets with approval of the House and Senate leaders.

“Much of the legislative work done by Indiana Catholic Conference this year will be overshadowed by the budget making process,” said Tebbe. “The Church will be keeping a close eye on different aspects of the budget since its contents can significantly affect the well being of so many.”

resources
Legislative Action Center available via ICC webpage (www.indiana.cc)

Catholic lawmakers serving in the General Assembly


“These two men wield enormous influence given their leadership roles by serving as gatekeepers on legislation,” said Tebbe. “We will be working with leadership to forward the Church’s initiatives.” Committee chairs also may decide the fate of any given bill even if it meets with approval of the House and Senate leaders.

“Much of the legislative work done by Indiana Catholic Conference this year will be overshadowed by the budget making process,” said Tebbe. “The Church will be keeping a close eye on different aspects of the budget since its contents can significantly affect the well being of so many.”

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In the Tradition of Catholic Healthcare Excellence
Egyptian orthodox leader says Muslims expressed sympathy after bombing

BEIRUT (CNS) — An Egyptian orthodox leader said he had received many messages of support from Muslims after a Jan. 1 church bombing that left about 10 people dead. "We have to pray. We have to pray for peace," Coptic Orthodox Bishop Youhanes Zakaria of Luxor, Egypt, told Catholic News Service in a telephone interview. He said he has received many visits from Muslim ordinary individuals and officials, including the governor — expressing their sympathy and regret. "They said he would celebrate Christmas Mass, as the Coptic Orthodox do, Jan. 7, and the governor would also support the preserving of friendship and dialogue among religions and people. In Cairo, Jason Blevins, the country representative for the U.S. bishops' Catholic Relief Services, said police had put up barricades to prevent cars from parking next to major Christian churches and had cordoned off areas around them to control pedestrians in preparation for Orthodox Christmas celebrations. Blevens said the attack was the largest attack against Coptic Christians in the past 10 years, and he was concerned this could signal an increase of attacks not only against Christians in Egypt but against Christians in the entire Middle East. In November, about 10 houses belonging to Coptic Christians as well as several Christian-owned businesses in Upper Egypt were burned and ransacked.

Chairman of committee praises US Senate for ratifying arms pact

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The chairman of the U.S. bishops' Committee on International Justice and Peace praised the Senate for ratifying a new arms control treaty with Russia Dec. 22, saying it was important that senators "joined across party lines" to support the New START treaty. "The Holy See and our bishops' conference have long supported efforts to promote nuclear disarmament and nonproliferation based on the Church's moral concern for indiscriminate and disproportionate weapons," said Bishop Howard J. Hubbard of Albany, N.Y. The Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty, or START, expired in 1991. The new treaty, which would reduce each country's nuclear arsenal to 1,550 warheads each, was signed by Presidents Obama and Russian President Dmitry Medvedev. The accord was ratified by the Senate in a 71-26 vote, and it still must be approved by the Russian lawmakers. It calls for both countries to reduce their strategic arsenals — weapons deployed on long-range missiles, bombers and submarines, "It calls for both countries to reduce the risk of infection might be a first step toward moral awakening, he was referring specifically to prostitution, which is already considered gravely immoral by the Church. In that situation, it said, use of a condom is not a "solution" because it does not address the mistaken behavior that is the root cause of the problem. However, it added, "it cannot be denied that anyone who uses a condom in order to diminish the risk posed to another person is intending to reduce the evil connected with his or her sexual behavior." The note was published following widespread discussion of Pope Benedict's comments in a book-length interview, “Light of the World: The Pope, the Church and the Signs of the Times.” The doctrinal congregation said the pope's words had in some cases been misunderstood, erroneously interpreted and manipulated to make it seem that his statement represented a break with the Church's teaching against contraception.

Egyptian Christian women protest Jan. 2 in Cairo during the visit of Sheik Ahmed al-Tayyeb, president of al-Azhar University in Cairo, to Coptic Orthodox Pope Shenouda III over a bomb blast that occurred New Year's Day at an Orthodox church in Alexandria. The bombing killed at least 21 people.

DREAM Act dies in Senate; immigrant advocates push onward

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The Senate's inability to overcome a threatened filibuster Dec. 18 scuttled the passage of the DREAM Act, prompting immigrant advocates to pledge to push forward on immigration reform next year with a new Congress and fight for what one immigrant leader termed the "respect we deserve." The bill would have given young people brought to the United States as children by undocumented parents a path to legal status under a strict set of requirements. Under the measure, an estimated 2.1 million young immigrants now living in the United States would be eligible to apply for "deferred action," providing them a guarantee that immigration officials would have an opportunity to go to college or join the military and legalize their status. The U.S. bishops had long been supporters of the Development, Relief and Education for Alien Minors Act, which passed the House Dec. 9. Four U.S. bishops, including Cardinal Roger M. Mahony of Los Angeles, took part in a Dec. 17 conference call with reporters to argue for passage in the Senate. "With the passage of the DREAM Act by the House of Representatives and with a majority of the U.S. Senate voting in favor, it is clear that a majority of Congress and of the American public support this common-sense humanitarian measure," said a White House spokesman. Archbishop Jose H. Gomez of Los Angeles, chairman of the U.S. bishops' Committee on Migration, said he was "confident that one day — sooner rather than later — the DREAM Act will become the law of the land," he said, adding the filibuster vote was "a setback, not a defeat."
St. Matthew's eighth-grade class helps SJRMC Health Center

SOUTH BEND — Over 1,000 personal care items for the families of Saint Joseph Regional Medical Center’s (SJRMC) Sister Maura Brannick, CSC, Health Center in South Bend were collected by the eighth-grade students of St. Matthew’s School in South Bend. The effort fulfilled the class’ Advent service project. The students distributed the boxes of supplies to the Health Center on Friday, Dec. 17.

“These items will be a blessing to our patients,” said Carla Bice, director of the Sister Maura Brannick, CSC, Health Center. “Not being able to obtain personal care items with food stamps makes these donations even more valuable to our patients. There have been times when patients have offered to give back one of their food items we annually provide in Christmas baskets to exchange for soap or toothpaste.”

The health center was founded by Sister Maura Brannick, CSC, in 1986, and is named after her. Operated by SJRMC, the facility provides health care to the uninsured and underserved of South Bend.

St. Matthew’s eighth-grade students Meghan Sink and Margaret Berta coordinated the project and worked within the St. Matthew School and Parish, as well as contacted local businesses for assistance.

Gino’s teams with Catholic schools

GRANGER — Gino’s East of Chicago, with locations in both Granger and northwest Indiana, announced the success of its first annual Helping Hands, Helping Hunger Food Drive.

St. Pius X School in Granger and Queen of Peace School in Mishawaka were invited to participate in a friendly competition to collect the most donations for their respective school’s food drives. For participating, each school received a “Pizza & Salad Day” lunch.

The participating schools collected 8,899 nonperishable goods within a 10-day period. The donated goods were distributed between the St. Vincent de Paul Society, St. Mary’s Food Pantry “God’s Groceries,” Catholic Charities in Gary and Queen of Peace’s Food Basket program.

USF Jesters to perform original work

FORT WAYNE — The University of Saint Francis (USF) Jesters will perform “Takin’ Time,” an original stage play, on Saturday, March 5, at 6 p.m. and Sunday, March 6, at 3 p.m. at the university’s North Campus Auditorium, 2702 Spring St.

Jesters is comprised of 36 special-needs people ages 12 to 47. The Jesters program was founded at USF in 1978, with the purpose of enhancing the quality of life for people with physical and/or developmental disabilities by engaging them in recreational opportunities to promote creative expression and positive social interaction.

“Takin’ Time” is a coming-of-age story revolving around the Renegades, as they venture forth from their village and travel through time to explore independence. This multimedia, family-oriented performance follows these characters as they are assisted by the Timekeepers (who maintain routine and order) and challenged by the Gremlins (who throw in chaos). The story is told through music, dance, theatre and visual art.

This year’s performance includes a range of percussion instruments and two stage-size chimes that were custom-designed and built for the Jesters. The script includes opportunities for individual Jesters to tell stories of their own lives and use improvisational structures and theater games learned through guest artist residencies hosted during the fall of 2010. The Jesters program and this year’s performance are supported by a grant from the AWS Foundation.

Tickets are $10. For tickets or information, or to attend a rehearsal or practice, call the School of Creative Arts at (260) 399-7700, ext. 8001.

USF student-athletes GPA continues to rise in fall semester

FORT WAYNE — University of Saint Francis student-athletes continued excellence in the classroom as well as on courts and fields during the recently-completed fall semester.

The combined grade-point-average (GPA) of all USF varsity student-athletes was 3.14 (on a 4.0 scale) with USF women’s soccer leading the charge at 3.53. Women’s track and field was a 3.48 and women’s tennis 3.45. Men’s soccer led with a 3.15, baseball was 3.12 and men’s cross country finished at 3.07. Football finished at 3.02.

“I am very pleased and proud of the academic accomplishments of our varsity student-athletes during the fall semester,” USF Athletic Director Mark Pope stated. “This is the highest GPA recorded to date and it is a credit to our emphasis on classroom as well as athletic success.

“I thank our coaches, faculty and staff, and, of course, our hard-working student-athletes for their remarkable achievement this year.”

USF had 15 fall student-athletes named to national NAIA Scholar-Athlete teams.

Nativity shows reason for season

The kindergarten class at St. John the Evangelist School in Goshen was busy creating a Nativity scene before the holiday break. The Nativity adorns the school hallway across from their class. Teacher Anita Laughlin said the class worked on it for over a month. Principal Amy Weidner called the Nativity scene “pure and angelic.” Weidner said the teacher cut out the large pieces and the students filled in the small pieces of colored tissue paper.

“They love it and the excitement and sparkle in their eyes when they add the next piece is something to see!”

The eighth-grade class from St. Matthew School in South Bend helped provide some Christmas cheer to those in need with their recent Advent service project.
St. Joseph Hospital holds Medicine Cabinet Drive for Franciscan Center

FORT WAYNE — St. Joseph Hospital associates loaded a truck from The Franciscan Center just before Christmas with boxed items collected during a hospitalwide drive to stock the center’s medicine cabinet for the disadvantaged. The Franciscan Center’s Medicine Cabinet program serves individuals with over-the-counter medications, toiletries and personal hygiene needs. These basic necessities are not covered by food stamps or offered by other area pantries. In just four hours each month, the Medicine Cabinet serves over 400 families. Sister Carole Langhauser, vice president of mission integration at St. Joseph Hospital, described the project to collect simple, yet essential items as a way of ensuring that every associate who wanted to give had the opportunity to do so. She also noted that there is always someone in greater need than we are and any gift, even if the contributor can only afford a single bottle of aspirin, makes a big difference. Hospital departments also adopted approximately 20 families this year through several other charitable organizations to help make their holidays a little brighter.

Holy Cross Boy Scouts aid those in need with ham raffle

SOUTH BEND — Boy Scout Pack 437 from Holy Cross School recently spent the last several weeks selling ham raffle tickets for 50 cents each after Masses, to family and friends, at the school and at the annual craft bazaar. The money raised supports the By Grace Orphanage in Africa and a refugee family from Iraq that the church is sponsoring this year. Dressed in uniform and using the laws of the pack, the boys and their families raised $380.

“The project stems from a desire to serve. I believe we started it about five years ago,” said organizer Cindy Zyniewicz. “Our initial sponsor was our parish play group moms and Market Day volunteers. It is one of those projects that has blossomed even more since the Cub Scouts took ownership last year and have incorporated it into part of their service project.”

Previously, the proceeds generated from the raffle purchased a Market Day Christmas meal and a spiral ham for a parish family in need. Pastor Holy Cross Father Michael Mathews would choose the family and make sure they got the gift.

According to Zyniewicz, about three years ago, they decided to also send some of the proceeds to By Grace Orphanage, a charity that the school and parish adopted after then fourth-grade teacher Jennifer Soanski volunteered there in Nairobi Kenya.

Frank and Caroline Pennino sell ham raffle tickets at the Holy Cross craft bazaar. Frank, a second-grader at Holy Cross Grade School, is a Wolf with Pack 437 and Caroline is a den leader.

“The goal of the project is to serve those in need in our parish community. And, even though the scouts now sponsor the raffle, really it is the parish community who supports this project by buying so many tickets or by simply making a cash donation. We even have anonymous donors who ask that the tickets be put in the name of a family in need. Our family in need this year is a parish-sponsored refugee family from Iraq who came to South Bend,” said Zyniewicz. “The refugee family recently arrived in our community and the Holy Cross and St. Stanislaus Parish ‘adopted’ them through the refugee committee that recently formed here (at the parish). The family from Iraq meets the definition of a ‘family in need’ and we felt they were perfect candidates to assist.”

The boys enjoyed having the chance to help others, which is part of the Boy Scouts’ promise and had the chance to work together after Masses selling tickets. It was a great bonding moment for the children of different ages.

“Hopefully our Scouts learn that children as well as adults can contribute to ongoing service projects within their parish and school communities, as well as outside of it. Anytime you can get children to grasp that the world is bigger that their immediate community, I think that’s a good thing,” said Zyniewicz.

St. John the Evangelist youth dance for Our Lady of Guadalupe

GOSHEN — The Hispanic youth group from St. John the Evangelist Church in Goshen demonstrated what they’ve been working hard for many months to learn — a type of dance called “Matlachines.” This dance was performed in costume honoring the feast day of Our Lady of Guadalupe on Dec. 12.

According to Sandra McMasters, Hispanic youth coordinator, a local adult group of dancers has been working with the youth for many months to learn the traditional native dance.

McMasters said the youth range in age from 10-18 years of age. She said they’ve been practicing for five months.

Co-coordinator Ieny Vela helped with the costumes for the youth and the women said the parents helped make the instruments.

The group performed to the traditional native dance. The Hispanic Youth Dancers were jubilant after their first performance of a dance called “Matlachines.”

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FORT WAYNE — The Office of Family Life will be hosting a day-long Diocesan Marriage Conference in Fort Wayne on March 12. The conference will begin with a 9 a.m. Mass celebrated by Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades and include four sessions with Greg and Julie Alexander of EWTN and the Alexander House Apostolate. It will conclude with a panel discussion featuring the Alexanders and Lisa Everett of the Office of Family Life. The conference will end at 4 p.m.

The Alexanders will be presenting their Enjoy Marriage Seminar on the north campus of the University of Saint Francis in Fort Wayne. This seminar has proved to be an effective catalyst for inspiring couples across the country to initiate positive change in their marriages.

According to Greg Alexander, this seminar is for any couple: “Whether you are engaged, have a long trouble in your marriage, you will leave with a renewed sense of hope and encouragement.’’

Greg and Julie Alexander are co-founders of the Alexander House Apostolate — a Catholic, lay apostolate dedicated to pro-claiming the beauty, goodness and truth of marriage. The Alexanders have presented numerous workshops, seminars and talks to thousands of participants across the country. They have appeared on various productions aired on EWTN, including as guests on “Life on the Rock” and as co-hosts of their own show, “Marriage Works in Christ.”

The Alexanders are frequent guests on talk radio programs including Relevant Radio and various Catholic radio stations. Their break through work in marriage and their story has been profiled in Patrick Madrid’s “Surprised by Truth 3.” One More Soul’s — “Sterilization Reversal Book — A Generous Act of Love,” Envey Magazine and the Family Research Council. They have been married for 23 years, have seven children and are currently writing their first book for Servant publications.

Seminar sessions will include topics such as:

• Why it makes sense to turn to God, the Author of marriage, to rediscover His plan for a joy-filled, lifelong marriage.
• The importance of forgiveness in marriage and learning a practical exercise to let go of past hurts and pains.
• Understanding your top emotional needs in a relationship and learning practical steps for meeting the needs of your spouse.
• Learning how to communicate effectively and avoiding those areas which cause additional strife in a marriage.
• The beauty and goodness of God’s plan for sex.

For more information or to register, go to Office of Family Life at www.dioscesefwsb.org or call (574) 234-0687. The early registration fee (postmarked up to Feb. 21) is $25 per person, after which it will be $30. The registration deadline is March 7. The conference fee includes all materials, continental breakfast and a boxed lunch.

EWTN’s Greg and Julie Alexander to address Diocesan Marriage Conference in Fort Wayne

BY FRED EVERETT

FATHER JOHN F. HARVEY, OMI

ELKTON, Md. (CNS) — Oblate Father John F. Harvey, who founded Courage, a spiritual support group for homosexual men and women, in 1987, died Dec. 27 at University Hospital in Elkton. He was 92.

His funeral Mass was scheduled for Dec. 31 at St. Anthony of Padua Church in Wilmington, Del., followed by interment in the Oblate Cemetery in Elkton.

An Oblate of St. Francis de Sales for 73 years, Father Harvey founded Courage, a spiritual support group for homosexual men and women, in 1987, at the request of Cardinal Terence Cooke of New York and served as its national director until his death.

Today, Courage has chapters in the United States, Canada, England, Ireland, Poland, Mexico, Slovakia, Singapore, Hong Kong, Australia, Philippines and New Zealand.

“Father Harvey’s commitment to pastoral care in the church was tireless,” said Oblate Father James J. Greenfield, provincial of the Oblates’ Wilmington-Philadelphia province in a statement. “Even in his later years, his travel would take him all over the country and world to offer a voice of compassion.”

Father Harvey was instrumental in the founding of the De Sales Hall School of Theology in Washington, where he taught moral theology from 1949 to 1987 and was president from 1963 to 1977. The school closed in 1996.

“His work in helping to found both the DeSales School of Theology and Courage were examples of his commitment to the Church that he loved so much,” Father Greenfield added.

Born in Philadelphia in 1918, Father Harvey entered the Oblate novitiate after high school and made his first profession of vows on Sept. 8, 1937. He was ordained to the priesthood on June 3, 1944, at the Cathedral of St. Peter and Paul in Philadelphia by Auxiliary Bishop Hugh Lamb of Philadelphia.

After earning his bachelor’s degree in philosophy in 1941 from The Catholic University of America in Washington, Father Harvey continued his studies, earning graduate degrees in psychology and theology, and completing a doctorate in moral theology there 10 years later.

He also taught moral theology at Dunbarton College of the Holy Cross in Washington, 1948-73, and was a professor of medical and sexual ethics at De Sales University in Center Valley, Pa., 1987-2009. He retired to Annecy Hall in Childs, Md., in January 2010.

Father Harvey had written more than 45 articles in professional theological and psychological journals on questions of human sexuality and counseling. In addition to the members of his religious community, Father Harvey is survived by his sister, Margaret Smith, and many nieces and nephews and grandnieces and grandnephews.
The Vocation Office of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend can only feel encouraged by the 23 seminarians studying for the priesthood. Msgr. Bernard Galic, along with associate Father Jacob Runyon and Mary Szymczak, coordinate the busy office as more inquiries about seminary increase.

Msgr. Galic, who is the pastor of St. Aloysius, Yoder, has served as director of the Vocation Office for almost 18 years. He is excited about the eight new applicants for next year.

He credits last year’s Year for Priests for the increased interest. “I think it stirred up an interest in the priesthood, a concern about the need of priests,” Msgr. Galic said. “I think it sensitized a lot of young men to the fact that they ought to be listening closer to the Holy Spirit.”

Listening is the key. Father Runyon, who is associate director of the Vocation Office and parochial vicar at St. Matthew Cathedral in South Bend, said that in a world of distraction with Twitter, e-mail, text messages, etc., “it is hard for us to spend quiet time listening to the call of God.”

He encouraged families and parishes to create a culture of vocations. He encouraged parents to pray that their children will know their vocation. His mother said a daily prayer: “God grant that one of my sons becomes a priest.”

Father Runyon suggested that at a young age, parents begin planting a seed and mention to a son, “God may be calling you to be a priest,” or to a daughter, “God may be calling you to be a sister.”

But he added, “Pray that God would guide their children into whatever vocation He has for them...”

Both Msgr. Galic and Father Runyon said God is the One who sends vocations.

**Pray for vocations, seminarians**

When asked what readers of Today’s Catholic can do to encourage vocations, Msgr. Galic said, “Pray. And talk to young people who they think would make good priests or to tell them that.”

He said, “I think people have a far greater potential for influencing vocations than they are aware of.”

He also encouraged individuals to “pray for vocations and pray for the seminarians who are in formation. They are in a challenging program and the support of the people’s prayers would mean a lot to them.”

Msgr. Galic said, “and to be encouraging to young people. I think we are seeing in the Church a generation of young adults who are taking ownership of the faith in a way perhaps we haven’t seen for a couple of generations. I believe that is going to result in more young people being raised in homes with solid vocations. I think in another generation so we’re going to see a rather dramatic increase in the number of vocations.”

Msgr. Galic, when speaking of the quality of the diocesan seminarians, said, “My impression of the men who apply for the seminary is that they have a genuine love for the Church — that’s part of what’s moving them toward wanting to be priests. They have a solid spiritual sense of values. Secondly, the quality of the education they are getting in the seminary is outstanding.”

Father Runyon added that those he speaks with have a devotion to the Eucharist. “The guys I’ve been seeing are just real solid people,” Father Runyon said. “The way that God is moving in their hearts is different for every guy, but there is this sort of central theme, which is — is God is calling them. It’s good to see some of the enthusiasm.”

Parishes are encouraged to pray for vocations in their weekly petitions and to pray the rosary for vocations. Some parishes adopt seminarians and include prayer and care-packages.

At St. Matthew Cathedral, Father Runyon said he and rector Msgr. Michael Heintz encourage the Mass servers — already interested in serving the Church — to think also of religious life.

**Programs**

The Vocation Office visits the four Catholic high schools every year with a team of priests, sisters and brothers. “There we talk about vocations to Church ministry,” Msgr. Galic said. They are joined by priests, brothers and sisters of religious communities that serve in the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend. They visit the classrooms of the freshmen and juniors, talk about their vocation journeys and open the floor to questions.

In the beginning of the visitation, 16 or 17 years ago, “getting questions was like pulling teeth,” Msgr. Galic commented. “Now we don’t have enough time to answer all the questions. The interest is there.”

The Vocation Office also visits the grade schools and speaks to the fifth- and eighth-grade students. “We send a priest and a sister to every school who will invite us,” Msgr. Galic said.

The Vocation Office also sponsors Andrew Dinners, where the bishop hosts dinner and talks about the priesthood. Pastors are invited to bring young men who they think would make good seminarian candidates to the dinner. They have dinner with the priests, seminarians and the bishop. After some talks by the bishop and seminarians, questions are taken from those attending the dinner.

The Vocation Office also coordinates a retreat for college-age men and is planning a retreat for high school-age young men.

**Interest in priesthood**

If a man looks like a good candidate after speaking with Msgr. Galic or Father Runyon, an application process begins. He completes the application form and provides the office with references of people who know him well and will make a good recommendation including priests and religious. Then a battery of psychological tests and interviews are done. A psychologist assists in the screening of candidates.

Msgr. Galic said, “And then if everything looks good, he will sit through an interview with the bishop. If the bishop believes he is a good candidate, he’ll accept him as a student through the sponsorship of our diocese.” The candidate next applies to the institution where they will be studying and does so through the Vocation Office.

This year, nine of the diocesan seminarians began their studies at Mount St. Mary’s Seminary in Emmitsburg, Md., the second oldest seminary in the nation and the largest seminary — as far as numbers of seminarians go — in the country. Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades was on the faculty at Mount St. Mary’s and served as its rector from 1997-2004.
African, Indian priests find welcome homes in United States

BY MARY KINDER

FORT WAYNE — Throughout many Catholic churches today there is great concern about declining numbers of priests. It seems this problem has affected churches throughout the United States and much of the Western world. However, a recent visitor to Fort Wayne is having quite the opposite problem — finding the money to train all of the men who have been called to become priests.

Father Joseph Israel is superior general of the ALCP, the Apostolic Life Community of Priests, a missionary organization dedicated to educating priests throughout Africa and India for placement in communities throughout the world. In Africa and India, Father Israel explains, the Church is young, vibrant and growing. They don’t have a problem with vocations. In fact, his congregation in Tanzania currently has 60 seminarians and 155 ordained priests and deacons. And, there are even more young women studying to become nuns.

Once seminarians receive their ordinations, they are placed throughout the world, including the United States, Italy, Germany, Kenya, India and Tanzania. As the superior general, Father Israel travels to visit these priests, including a local priest, Father Gabriel Msuya of St. Mary Parish in Decatur.

Father Israel says Father Msuya is adapting well to life in Indiana, although he does struggle a bit with the drastic change in weather from his native Tanzania. He goes on to say that the congregation is happy to have him, which is typically true for ALCP priests. Father Israel explains, “Once they come here (to the United States) they usually stay. The bishops enjoy their enthusiasm and hard work. Our priests are young, active, strong in faith. They convert to their new communities very well.”

While the ALCP doesn’t have a problem attracting candidates for religious life, they do struggle to find the necessary funds, even though the education in Africa and India costs much less compared to western countries. On average, the education of a priest from the ALCP community is only $3,100, while in the U.S., the education of a priest can costs as much as $40,000 annually. One local organization, Worldwide Seminarian Support (WSS), is helping raise funds for the ALCP. WSS began after John and Patty Becker heard a vocation homily presented by Father Nicolas Milema from the ALCP. Father Milema was visiting Portland, Ore., to raise awareness of the need for funding for priests. The Beckers were moved to not only make a family donation, but to begin what would become the Worldwide Seminarian Support.

Today, WSS is headquartered in Fort Wayne, where the Beckers now live. Over the past 17 years, the organization has raised more than $800,000, which has led directly to the education of 45 priests. The money also helped build a seminary, a well, a medical dispensary and a high school in Tanzania.

One of the most important goals of WSS is to raise awareness and to give faithful Catholics in the United States an opportunity to help build the Church worldwide. According to Ben Becker, administrative officer of WWS, “There is an abundance of men who have received the call for vocation throughout Africa and India. Americans can fund help to bring these men fully into the priesthood.”

Those interested in helping the ALCP through the WSS may visit the website at www.seminarian-support.org. There one can find out more about its mission and make a safe, convenient donation online.

Father Israel has high hopes for the future. He plans on expanding Catholic education throughout Africa and India with more high schools. He also hopes to establish more seminaries so priests from the ALCP can continue its mission of providing dedicated, hard-working, holy priests to communities where they are needed most around the world.

Next steps proposed to attract new generations to religious life

BY NANCY IFRAZIER O’BRIEN

WASHINGTON (CNS) — At what one participant called a “critical juncture in consecrated life,” dozens of religious and Catholic lay leaders gathered in Chicago last year to hash out the next steps needed to attract young people to religious life today.

“Together we are seeking to discover a truth of how we may effectively promote religious life to a new generation in a new century,” said Holy Cross Brother Paul Bednarczyk, executive director of the National Religious Vocation Conference, as he opened the invitation-only symposium titled “Moving Forward in Hope.”

The gathering, funded by a foundation that wished to remain anonymous, featured a combination of talks and small-group discussions designed to result in a action plan for promoting vocations in the United States. Brother Bednarczyk said a final report on the symposium and the proposed plans would be presented to the foundation by the end of 2010, and made public after a board meeting of the vocation conference in February.

Participants in the symposium included vocations directors, Catholic educators, major superiors, diocesan personnel, parents, young adult and campus ministers, younger religious, media and communications experts, and Church researchers and statisticians.

The gathering was a follow-up to a study of recent vocations to religious life conducted by the Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate for the vacation conference. The study, released in August 2009, found that although the numbers in religious orders may be decreasing, new members are passionate about religious life and religious communities following more traditional practices have better success attracting younger members today.

Brother Bednarczyk said young people today no longer have the opportunity that past generations had to interact with members of religious communities.

“Just recall the impact that men and women religious have had in your own life,” he said. “While they taught you how to multiply numbers and how to diagram a sentence properly, through their example they also taught you how to treat others justly and fairly and to show a special sensitivity to the needs of the poor and less fortunate. Maybe during a time of personal crisis, illness or grief, they taught you the importance of a caring presence.”

Other speakers raised similar issues, citing a need to recognize the differing worldviews of today’s young Catholics in order to discover what might attract them to religious life.

For them, “Vatican II is something else’s history,” said Brother Sean D. Sammon, a former superior general of the Marist Brothers and former president of the Conference of Major Superiors of Men.

“Today a new generation, many of whose members lack a strong Catholic identity as defined by the practices of the past, is looking at religious life and mission through eyes shaped by a world that is foreign to many of us over the age of 50,” he said.

“Theirs does not include John F. Kennedy or the Cold War. Nor is it a world that has cause to remember Woodstock, the sexual revolution, Dag Hammarskjöld, a war in Vietnam, Watergate, the early days of the women’s movement,” Brother Sammon added.

“IFG General Motors or IBM faced the personnel crisis that we have had on our hands for the last few decades, they would have long ago had their best people in the work of recruiting men and women for a career with their corporation,” he said. “At the same time, each of us must learn to take some responsibility for this work.”

Another crucial factor is visibility, he said.

“If we are truly interested in improving the witness value of our way of life,” he said, “a number of us will need to find some new and more effective ways to be more visible.”
EMMITSBURG, Md. — Mount St. Mary’s University’s Seminary is the largest and second-oldest seminary in the United States. Established in 1808 by French immigrant priest Father John Dubois, it is located in historic Emmitsburg, Md., with the mission to form men for the Roman Catholic diocesan priesthood in the service of the Kingdom of God. Mount St. Mary’s University’s Seminary aims to build a foundation in each seminarian for a lifetime of priestly ministry within the Catholic Church.

In its third century of service, Mount St. Mary’s University’s Seminary is rich in tradition and has played a major role in the formation of Catholic education in America. In 1809, Mother Elizabeth Ann Seton called the Mount home and it is in nearby Emmitsburg that she first established her school and sisterhood. Several Mount graduates established Catholic colleges throughout the country: In 1840, Cardinal John McCloskey opened St. John’s College in New York, now Fordham University, and in 1870, the Most Rev. John D. Loughlin created St. John’s University in Brooklyn.

The Mount has also earned the distinction of “Cradle of Bishops.” By its centennial year, the entire institution could boast of some 28 episcopal alumni, including the Most Rev. John Hughes (seminary class of 1826), who succeeded Bishop DuBois and became the first Archbishop of New York, and his Eminence John Cardinal McCloskey (seminary class of 1831), and Archbishop of New York and first native-born American cardinal.


“The Mount is a holy place where men have come for over 200 years to find the answers to two basic questions: What does God want me to do with my life and how does He want me to do it?” says Rector Msgr. Steven Friend. “We are responsible for offering men a challenging, nurturing and academically rigorous experience here at the Mount.”

Presently, the Mount Seminary offers degree programs in theology including the master of divinity and the master of arts with concentrations in systematic, moral, sacred Scripture, Church history and pastoral theology. The S.T.B. program is offered in conjunction with the Pontifical Faculty of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, and invites students to focus their program on the study of Thomistic theology. Imbedded in the two-year pre-theology program is the option of earning a master of arts in philosophical studies. The Mount also offers a certificate in Hispanic ministry and a summer language program in Mexico.

The Seminary is part of Mount St. Mary’s University campus, which houses the undergraduate, graduate schools and the National Shrine Grotto Our Lady of Lourdes. With almost 200 seminarians, 1,600 undergraduates and more than 30,000 annual visitors to the grotto, the campus is quite active.

Seminarians are required to complete courses in pastoral field studies including parish work, experiences with the hungry, the homeless, the sick and the marginalized and other opportunities for service and evangelization. They also serve as chaplains for the Mount’s 19 NCAA Division 1 sports teams.

At present, Mount seminary alumni total more than 2,000, with approximately half of whom are alive and active in priestly ministry.

The Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend supports nine seminarians currently at the Mount Seminary, including Zachary Barry, Craig Borchard, Robert Garrow, Stephen Jagla, David Nedvidek, Cristian Reyes, Thomas Scheibelhut, David Violi and Matthew Soberalski.

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Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades imposes the cross and miraculous medal for the initiation of the postulancy on Zachary Doyle and Eduardo Villegas following the Midnight Mass at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Fort Wayne on Dec. 25. Massachusetts native Doyle and Villegas from St. Patrick Parish in Fort Wayne join Patrick Hamore of Rhode Island and Donald Schenk of Ohio in forming the newest class of postulants in the Franciscan Brothers Minor community, increasing their number to 16 friars.

“I have vivid memories of great happiness and major challenges during the eight years of my ministry at St. John the Baptist (1961–1969). Teaching bright and energetic third graders would gladden the heart of any teacher. The challenge? I was appointed principal. Life was never quite the same! However, ‘as Providence would have it,’ an excellent faculty and supportive families with strong family values were my salvation.”

–Sister Adele Beacham (formerly Sister Joseph Therese)
Franciscan Sisters Minor live life of prayer and service

BY KAY COZAD

FORT WAYNE — A light shines every morning at 4:20 a.m. in Providence House behind St. John the Baptist Church in Fort Wayne. That’s when the nine members of the Franciscan Sisters Minor, who live in the austerely furnished Our Lady of the Angels Convent, rise to begin their day of prayer and service.

The Franciscan Sisters Minor is a community of religious women, ranging in age from 20 to 70-ish who are in various stages of religious formation. Each member professes vows to live a life of poverty, chastity and obedience.

The sisters live a spartan lifestyle, according to the 1536 Capuchin Constitution, known as the primitive observances of St. Francis, with no modern conveniences such as phones, computers, refrigerators or cars. They rely, says Boston native Sister Mary Clement Turcotte, the foundress and mother superior of the decade-old community, on Divine Providence.

The community was formed in 2000 by Sister Mary Clement, who after 38 years of serving as a sister of the Daughters of St. Paul in Rhode Island, has been a Franciscan Sister for 10 years and is vicar within the community. After 32 years of marriage, during which she raised six children, and seven years of widowhood, Sister Mary Clare felt a powerful call to religious life. In her search for her vocation, she met Sister Mary Clement, who had recently received permission to form the new community. The Franciscan Sisters Minor seemed a perfect fit and in January of 2001 Sister Mary Clare joined as one of the foundational members.

Her children are happy that she has found fulfillment in Christ. Her youngest daughter said though she was concerned she would not be nearby for her grandchildren, “She needed the witness of my life,” says Sister Mary Clare. “They can all see the grace of a vocation.”

Of the lifestyle she says, “Poverty is very freeing. I feel I’ve been a servant all my life. Marriage and parenthood have prepared me for this life.”

The sisters dress in simple handmade woolen habits tied at the waist with a cord. They veil their heads and typically walk in bare feet unless the weather calls for sandals or boots. Laundry is all done by hand. Referring to their attire, Sister Mary Clare says, “This is a penitential life. We come here to do penance for ourselves and for the world.”

Massachusetts native Sister Stella Francis Belonger entered the community three days after her high school graduation, six years ago. She is considered a junior after three and a half years of temporary profession and is the director of the apostolate under the direction of Sister Mary Clement.

“It is a beautiful life. We get in touch with our spiritual motherhood. People open their hearts to us and talk about the most important things to them. It’s such a gift to us — and the people,” she says of the door-to-door evangelization she directs.

Others in the community include Sister Tina Audrey Bloomer, laundress, Sister Celeste Marie Carey, vocations director and cook, Sister Margaret Rose Cronin, sacristan and business manager, Sister Karolyn Grace Wernert, housekeeper, Sister Marie Veronica Goins, assistant laundress, and Sister John Marie Flood, sacristan.

Sister Stella says, “We’re family. There’s a lot of love in this house because there’s a lot of forgiveness.”

The sisters do not run any programs but are open to assisting anyone that requests their help, particularly those at St. John the Baptist Parish.

“We can’t do it for people, but we can do everything we can do,” says Sister Mary Clement. The sisters have been known to cook a meal for a hungry visitor, fold 3,000 brochures for a church event and assist the parish in their religious education program, as altar server trainers, cleaning church linens and anything else that is needed.

The Franciscan Sisters Minor community acquires new members by word of mouth. “We don’t recruit,” says Sister Mary Clement, adding that they assist each interested woman in discerning where best to serve God. After a woman visits, the sisters leave a return visit as her choice. Anyone may visit and spend the day shadowing the sisters at any time.

“This is a miracle of God’s mercy,” says Sister Mary Clare, adding, “There’s nothing more exciting than religious life. It’s definitely not boring!”

Final words for anyone interested in religious life: “Come for a visit,” says Sister Mary Clement, who adds, “It’s a beautiful life and freeing! It’s rewarding to know you are doing the will of God.”

For more information on the Franciscan Sisters Minor contact St. John the Baptist Parish at (260) 744-4393.

Franciscan Sisters Minor Sister Stella Francis, Sister Mary Clare and Sister Tina Audrey pray before the Blessed Sacrament in the Our Lady of the Angels Convent chapel at Providence House in Fort Wayne. The nine-member community serves the St. John the Baptist community through door-to-door evangelization and volunteer service where needed.

May you hear God’s call and courageously respond!

We are pleased to assist the Diocese of Ft. Wayne-South Bend in preparing current seminarians. Dan Davis, Nathan Maskal, Jonathan Norton, C. Valentín Reyes, Christopher Sindlar, and Thomas Zehr for the priesthood.

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IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY SEMINARY

AWARY CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

“Just as Jesus needed to hear with His human ears the voice of the Father, so our young people need to hear words of encouragement from parents, other family members, friends and the parish. God’s call comes through the Church in this way.”

To support efforts during vocations’ week, a special prayer card and suggested prayers of the faithful are available from the USCCB vocations website: ForYourVocation.com or PortVocacion.com.

“One reason some young people do not consider a call to the priesthood or consecrated life is the fact that they were never asked,” said Sister Mary Joanna Ruhlhand, a sister of the Diocesan Sisters of Mercy and associate director of CCLV. “There are many ways to help young people see the beauty and joy of these vocations. Catechists are in a key position to do so. Materials to assist them can also be found on the USCCB website.”

The observance of National Vocation Awareness Week (NVAW) began in 1976 when the National Conference of Catholic Bishops designated the 28th Sunday of the year as the beginning of NVAW. In 1997, this celebration was moved to coincide with the feast of the Baptism of the Lord.
Permanent deacons: Ordained servants of the Church

B Y G I N N Y K O R H M A N

I t is the will of God and the Church, on May 21, 11 men will be ordained into the permanent diaconate in the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend. For the last five years these men have been preparing, studying and discerning this call to Holy Orders. The significance of the deacon in the Church’s ministry can be traced to the earliest writings of St. Paul, particularly in Philippians 1:1 where he greets “all of the holy ones at Philippi, with their bishops and deacons in Jesus Christ.”

In the Acts of the Apostles, the Twelve discern that they need assistance with the growing number of Christians and the issues that arose due to the spreading of the Gospel. So they selected “seven reputable men, filled with the Spirit and wisdom” and the Apostles “prayed and laid hands on them” ordaining them deacons of the Church.

Stephen, the first deacon known through Scripture, was martyred for preaching about Jesus Christ to the gentiles. Stephen, the first deacon known through Scripture, was martyred for preaching about Jesus Christ to the gentiles. The deacons of the early Church helped the bishops in the ministry of Christ by writing letters, assisting in the ministry of the Word and serving as an official liaison for the bishop to the various churches. The deacon was a servant of the whole Church and a servant of the people. Over time the role of the deacon in the growing Church changed due to the development of the Liturgy of the Eucharist and the priesthood.

By the 3rd and 4th centuries, the emphasis on the role of the deacon had shifted to that of a priest serving the people, as well as the bishops during the Eucharist. Deacons were used less for the ministry of the Word or for charitable works. In the 5th century, the value of the transitional deacon, those men on the way to the priesthood, became more emphasized and the importance of the permanent deacon less utilized. The Western Church sustained this attitude until the Second Vatican Council.

The council fathers felt that the renewal of the permanent diaconate would restore the threefold hierarchy of Holy Orders which includes the episcopate, presbyterate and diaconate. — Dietwig, page 95.

Since the close of the council, the Church has been working to reestablish the permanent diaconate throughout the world. In its May 2010 report, the Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate (CARA) stated that there are currently over 17,000 ordained permanent deacons in the United States alone. Yet the role of the deacon remains obscure to many.

A deacon is ordained as a sacramental sign to the Church and to the world that Jesus Christ came “to serve and not to be served.” The Church magisterium recognizes two degrees of ministerial participation in the priesthood of Christ: the episcopacy (bishops) and the presbyterate (priests). The deacon’s role is to serve them.

The Catechism of the Catholic Church, referencing “Lumen Gentium” states, “At a lower level of the hierarchy are to be found deacons, who receive the imposition of hands, not unto the priestly, but unto the ministry.” — 1570. Deacons, through the sacrament of Holy Orders are marked with an imprint “which cannot be removed and which configures them to Christ, who make himself the ‘deacon’ or servant of all.” — 1570. There is no difference in the sacramental sign or the functions of a “transitional deacon” (on the way to priesthood) and the permanent deacon.

All ordained deacons, priests and deacons are called to the functions of Word, sacrament and charity however each exercises these works in various ways or degrees.

Deacons, as ministers of the Word, can proclaim the Gospel and preach.

As ministers of the sacraments, deacons assist the bishop and priests in the celebration of the Eucharist, distribute holy Communion, witness marriages, baptize and conduct wake and funeral services.

Deacons as ministers of charity are called to lead, inspire and model servant leadership to other members of this contemporary Church. Through the grace of Holy Orders, the permanent deacon helps to “bridge” the connection between faith and everyday life. He is in a prime position to evaluate the needs of others and to assist in the distribution of the Church’s resources. The deacon can assist in eliminating those injustices that lead to imprisonment and poverty. By his sacramental identity, the deacon makes real “Christ the servant of all.”

In a series of upcoming articles, you will come to know the 11 deacon candidates who are anticipating their May ordination. You will meet their wives and families and become more aware of their call to the diocese, their spiritual lives and charisms. Together we pray for these men and their families and for our diocese that will be blessed with their leadership and many gifts.

All ordained bishops, priests and deacons are called to the functions of Word, sacrament and charity...
Is God calling you? Do you know?

We heard the call and gave over our life in service to the Church and the world in a more explicit way. And our life has not been the same since. We have found purpose, joy, and fulfillment. Christ invited and we answered.

Is God calling you to join us? Come and see.
The Poor Handmaids of Jesus Christ is an international congregation of apostolic women religious within the Roman Catholic Church. We minister with the poor, the sick and children in the United States, Mexico, Germany, England, the Netherlands, India, Brazil, Kenya and Nigeria.

Ministering in rural, urban and inner city settings mostly in the American Midwest, we focus on partnering in the work of the Spirit. We invite others to join us in various facets of education, pastoral and social work, neighborhood-based health ministries, spiritual guidance and care for the environment.

For information, contact Sister Kathy Haas, PHJC at khaas@poorhandmaids.org.
Who has a vocation?

During January most dioceses in the United States celebrate National Vocation Awareness Week. This is a good time to think about vocations and who has one. Who do you think has a vocation? If you answered that everyone has a vocation, you get an A.

So often we hear people limiting the term “vocation” to the priest-hood and religious life. I hear many people, especially parents with children in Catholic schools, complain that we just don’t have enough vocations, but in truth we each receive a vocation when we were baptized. All followers of Christ are called to build God’s kingdom and spread His love. This commission is not simply for the ordained and the consecrated religious in our communities. Some are called to both religious life and ordination, such as priests who belong to religious congregations.

Many who read this article have already chosen the way they believe God has called them to live out the Christian call to love. Others are still searching and have yet to discover their path.

Discovering how we are called to live out the promises we (or our godparents for us) made at our Baptism is a serious task and should not be taken lightly. Prayer and discernment are required to choose which religious congregation to enter, or to determine which person is the right one to marry or even if we are called to marriage and parenthood at all. When we talk about discerning a vocation we mean all vocations, not just priesthood and religious life. No one should go into a marriage lightly or make a decision when in the infatuation stage of courtship. Each person should have at least considered the other ways of life in order for marriage to be a real choice and not just something expected by others. When we truly discern and reflect in God’s presence we may discover another lifestyle for the majority of men and women. Even so, each person has the responsibility to prayerfully discern how we can best live this call in our lives.

The Church recognizes four basic lifestyles or ways for Christians to live our baptismal call. Most people are called to live the Gospel in the sacrament of Marriage. Some are called to do so as dedicated single persons. Others are called to dedicate their lives to build God’s kingdom of love and justice as ordained ministers or as members of religious communities. Some are called to both religious life and ordination, such as priests who belong to religious congregations.

Many who read this article have already chosen the way they believe God has called them to live out the Christian call to love. Others are still searching and have yet to discover their path.

Each lifestyle is a valid way to follow Christ. It is up to each of us to explore and find out how we can best live out the Gospel. We need to be open to all the options in order to discover the right way for us. Most are attracted to the beautiful sacrament of Marriage. This is the lifestyle for the majority of men and women. Even so, each person has the responsibility to prayerfully discern how we can best live this call in our lives.

The poster for this year’s collection features Cardinal Sean O’Malley, OFM. Cap. from our sub-committee. While visiting Haiti shortly after the earthquake, the cardinal met a young seminarian, Norbert. Norbert did not perish in the earthquake along with all his classmates because he was having a brain scan that day. His health remains precarious but the sub-committee is helping him and other Haitian seminarians continue their formation for the priesthood. He is a sign of hope in a very difficult situation.

Our next collection is scheduled in most dioceses during the week-end of Jan. 22-23, 2011 and I ask you to do all you can to publicize and support the collection.

Collection assists Church in Latin America

On behalf of the Subcommittee for Latin America, I’d like to express my heartfelt thanks to you and your faithful for your contributions of $50,458.69 to the 2010 Collection for the Church in Latin America.

2010 was a particularly trying time for the Church in the hemisphere, torn by two major earthquakes in quick succession. However, we were able to award $7.3 million to 468 different projects. These projects included the training of catechists, formation of seminarians, the promotion of youth ministry as well as support for the many thousands of priests, sisters and lay persons who preach the Gospel in some of the remotest areas of our hemisphere.

A bout a month ago our choir started practicing a new hymn for Christmas entitled, “From the Cradle to the Cross.” To the words expresses the real meaning of the feast of the Incarnation or Christmas as we call it.

So often during this season we focus on a sweet, helpless baby and often forget His great mission. One reason He became a human being. This little Child in swaddling clothes changed the world forever. The Word (of God) became flesh and dwelt among us. He came to bring justice and love to the world and commissioned us to do likewise. We don’t merely celebrate a child. We celebrate a Savior who fed the hungry, healed the sick, set captives free, and so on. This is the true meaning of Christmas.

When the parties are over, cards sent, gifts given and Santa goes back to the North Pole, we continue to celebrate “Emmanuel, God with us.” The Babe in the cradle began His journey to the cross and in doing so showed us how much God loves us. He rose from the dead and calls us to reveal this love to all. In a sense we are called to give birth to Jesus in the world, to “incarnate” Him. As we celebrate this mystery of the Incarnation, we take some quality time to reflect on how we have or have not given birth to our God, who is love, during this past year.

One of our great saints, Teresa of Avila, was to have said that Christ has no hands and feet but ours, etc. Jesus tells us over and over that He came to reveal His Father’s love. During His earthly life He commissioned His followers to do the same. It is the central theme of His ministry.

During this season of Christmas, and remember it does not end after Dec. 25, daily Scripture readings from the letters of St. John remind us that God is love. He tells us that it is only when we abide in love that we abide in God! When we love others, God loves. He goes on to say that if we claim to love God but hate our neighbor, we are liars. These are strong words to ponder, especially in light of all the war and violence we see and experience around us. Note that He did not say to love only the neighbors we like or who are easy to be around. This love must extend to all.

God’s word challenges us. Incarnating God in the world must become a habit for we who call ourselves Christian. It is not reserved for special times of the year. The poor always need food and clothes. Homeless centers always need people to help with meals. Nursing homes are filled with people who appreciate visits, not just at Christmas. Friends like to hear from us at other times of the year too. The spirit of kindness and generosity must flow from our baptismal call to love.

God wants every day to be given birth in our world. We are God’s body. God becomes flesh in us and in our daily actions.

During this beautiful season, let us reflect on how we will continue to give birth to the God of peace and love throughout the New Year. The only New Year’s resolution a Christian needs to make is to be a more loving and hope-filled person in a world that is in need of much healing. Try to make every day a little Christmas.
Jesus is our hope and our life

THE SUNDAY GOSPEL

MSGR. OWEN F. CAMPION

A ‘routine’ year: Pope’s 2011 calendar holds full slate of events

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — For Pope Benedict XVI, the 2011 calendar already holds a full slate of meetings, liturgies and foreign trips.

What’s not on the calendar — at least so far — is a special “year of” or “a year for.” In 2008-2009, the pope declared a Year of St. Paul. He designated 2009-2010 the Year for Priests.

Perhaps 2011 will mark the Year of Business as Usual for the German pontiff, who turns 84 in April.

Unlike the past three years, there’s no Synod of Bishops on the horizon in 2011. Most people are not expecting a consistency this year, either, and there is no sign that the pope plans to convene the world’s cardinals at the Vatican for other reasons.

What many people don’t appreciate is that the papacy is not just about commemorative years and cardinal summits. “Business as usual” for the pope means a steady series of events that began with a New Year’s Mass to mark World Peace Day and ends with a “te Deum” prayer of thanksgiving Dec. 31.

In between are hundreds of papal encounters with individuals and groups, ranging from heads of state to schoolchildren.

The first half of January is typical. After the New Year’s Mass, the pope presided over a liturgy to mark the feast of the Epiphany Jan. 6. Then he celebrates the feast of the Baptism of the Lord Jan. 9 in the Sistine Chapel, personally baptizing more than 10 infants.

The next day, the pope shifts gears and delivers his annual “state of the world” address to the diplomatic corps at the Vatican. He’s expected to underline his concern over recent acts of violence and discrimination against Christian minorities around the world, which was a main theme of the World Peace Day message this year.

And with that, Pope Benedict will be off and running.

In 2010, the pope presided over more than 50 major liturgies. Similar celebrations are already penned into the 2011 calendar, at home and abroad. They range from one-hour prayer services to three-hour ordination Masses and papal audience talks.

The reading, from the Acts of the Apostles, reveals what life was in the first generation of Christians. It verifies the structure of the Church even as this structure exists today.

Peter is central. He appears before Philippi’s jailer, who indicates Roman origins, and Peter preaches in the very name of Christ, discharging his responsibility as an apostle, a responsibility given him by the Lord.

The reading also reveals that Peter offered salva-

tion not just to Jews, whose heri-
tage Peter shared, but also to pagans, indigenous to the brutal Roman military conquest and occupation of the Holy Land that resulted in much misery, death and despair among Jews.

Peter’s preaching leads to one conclusion. Salvation is in Jesus alone.

Jesus came as God’s represen-
tative. In God’s love, Jesus went about “doing good works” and healing the sick.

St. Matthew’s Gospel offers the last reading, revealing not only the event of the story of the Lord’s Baptism in the Jordan by John the Baptist, but the import of the event for us and for all believers.

Ritual washings, or baptisms, were popular in certain Jewish circles in the 1st century. So homes had ceremonial bathtubs.

Archaeologists who excavated the ruins of Masada, the great Jewish fortress high on a mountaintop overlooking the Dead Sea, dis-
covered such baths there.

Being baptized, or bathing in these special pools, symbolizes the yearning of a person to be rid of sin. It was as if sin stained not just the soul but also the body.

John the Baptist salutes Jesus as God’s anointed. Then, mar-

velously, miraculously, God appears and identifies Jesus as the Son of God. God could be seen and heard. To clarify the mystery, the word of God, God speaks, and gestures, in ancient Old Testament words and symbols that no Jew would have misun-

derstood.

Reflection

This feast of the Baptism of the Lord reveals to us the Lord’s identity as the Son of God, with all the force and mystery contained in this reality.

He is the Savior, rescuing us from death and giving life. He is the mediator, uniting us with God.

The Church makes the words of Peter to Cornelius its own, calling us to the Lord as our Savior.

Finally, the Church calls us to admit that we are sinners. We need Jesus to reconcile us with God. He is our hope and our life.

For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, the glory of God the Father, Amen.

Much of the text of the Gloria comes from Scripture; previ-

ously noted are the first lines are derived from the angels heralding the glad tidings of Christ’s birth in Luke 2:14 — “Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace to those who love good will.”

Turning to the second sentence of the new Gloria, we notice something striking — the new translation recovers entire phrases that were left out of the current translation. Right now, we sing, “we worship you, we give you thanks, you free us for your great glory.” However, the Latin text of the hymn offers five successive ways in which we should pay homage to God: “We praise you, we bless you, we glorify you, we give thanks for your great glory.” In a general sense, it is true that these all con-

vey the same idea of worshiping God. But liturgical prayer is enhanced by poetic repetition, and these five descriptions of worship do hold distinct connotations if examined closely. Together, they combine to express the extent to which it is our Christian duty to give praise to God.

Next time, we shall examine the second half of the Gloria, as well as some implications that the new text carries for sacred music.

Gloria text reproduced with permission of the International Commission on English in the Liturgy.

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

THE NEW MISSAL

BY BRIAN MACMICHAEL

There are clearly substantial differences between this new text and the Gloria translation that we have been using. The current text reads, “peace to His people on earth,” which the new liturgical text expands to “on earth peace to people of good will.” It helps to know that certain translations of the Bible left out of the current translation — on earth peace, good will toward men” or “... peace among those in whom He is well pleased.”

The new translation of the Gloria is a richer reference to the fact that the Messiah’s coming brings the world a higher order of divine peace that only the incarnation of Son of God can bestow. Those who live in accordance with God’s will and receive His grace shall experience the fullness of this peace.

Turning to the second sentence of the new Gloria, we notice something striking — the new translation recovers entire phrases that were left out of the current translation. Right now, we sing, “we worship you, we give you thanks, you free us for your great glory.” However, the Latin text of the hymn offers five successive ways in which we should pay homage to God: “We praise you, we bless you, we glorify you, we give thanks for your great glory.” In a general sense, it is true that these all convey the same idea of worshiping God. But liturgical prayer is enhanced by poetic repetition, and these five descriptions of worship do hold distinct connotations if examined closely. Together, they combine to express the extent to which it is our Christian duty to give praise to God.

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

As I type this, my two oldest sons (one a recent college graduate who works in Chicago and lives in California, and the other a college senior who is considering both law school and a job opportunity in Washington, D.C., but plans to fly to Atlanta next month) are at the gas station with their dad, filling up the car and getting some “recuperation.” Earlier this morning, they spent 90 minutes, along with my 18-year-old son, doing the final PROWX workout DVD, so talking to them about to have a Christmas present. I’m trying not to think about the two oldest leaving for Chicago shortly, to spend the weekend with friends, before the oldest flies back to his new “home.” It’s a rare thing these days to have everyone together. And I’ve been soaking up as much as possible, “treasuring it in my heart.”

It’s been a good break really, and we’ve had fun together. One of my children called me “giggly” on our way to church as I set the large Amish-made, sturdy table with Christmas plates and glasses on Christmas morning for breakfast. Truth be told, I felt my heart would burst. I loved spending every spare minute in the kitchen preparing food, talking with my kids. Yes, even cleaning up wasn’t so bad. I lingered at the table, talking, as I set the large Amish-made, sturdy table with Christmas plates and glasses on Christmas morning for breakfast. Truth be told, I felt my heart would burst. I loved spending every spare minute in the kitchen preparing food, talking with my kids. Yes, even cleaning up wasn’t so bad. I lingered at the table, talking, as I set the large Amish-made, sturdy table with Christmas plates and glasses on Christmas morning for breakfast.

At first, I thought my heart would break as I left my family was the day after our oldest son’s college graduation, when he flew out to the coast to begin his new career and life in his own rented home. But our family didn’t break. In fact, in some ways we grew closer. My oldest son shared the joys and challenges of starting out on his own, of buying (very limited) furniture, purging a closet, facing new career opportunities, finding roommates, choosing a parish, a work wardrobe, a style. And when he came home he had stories to tell — boy did he have stories to tell. And he did too.

The first few days home with everyone is a lot like a plane coming in for a landing. There’s a bit of bumpy turbulence as everyone “lands,” and adjusts to being back with the family to which they will always belong, despite not living amid day-to-day. We’ve been excited for their return for weeks, sometimes months. Some people’s emotions are running high (okay, I top the list here), and expectations can’t help but develop. The travelers themselves are tired. After a couple days, the turbulence settles and a happy rhythm is found. It’s a breath of fresh air. It’s a vacation. I accidentally ran into my 80-year-old and my 90-year-old sister in Target. He was buying her a gift because he’s her godfather. He told me from her window was taking her to Dairy Queen for a milkshake. Her eyes were shining with excitement. They no longer live together but they’ll always love each other. Thank you, God.

I looked down the pew at Mass last Sunday morning at every child and felt proud and happy and sad all at the same time. This Sunday, the pew won’t be quite as full. It’s a new normal. It’s a transition. I’m not quite used to it, but it’s good, I think, and we’re going to all right.

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

WHERE IS DERBE WHERE ST. PAUL MADE MANY DISCIPLES?

After St. Paul left the town of Lystra where some people tried to kill him, he fled to the town of Derbe in central Turkey. Here he preached the Gospel and made numerous disciples. Then St. Paul started to head for home, namely, the great city of Antioch in Syria. So he retraced his steps to dangerous Antioch, Iconium and Antioch in Pisidia.

In these three towns, St. Paul encouraged his new disciples to persevere in the faith and to endure the sufferings that may occur. In each town St. Paul established priests to say Mass and celebrate the sacraments. The New American Bible says these communities received priests only after a period of testing. St. Paul and St. Barnabas then went back to Perge to preach the Gospel and then continued to the seaport of Attalia (modern Antalya) on the Mediterranean coast and sailed back to Antioch in Syria. This ended St. Paul’s first missionary journey.

Scholars are not sure of the exact location of the town of Derbe in central Turkey. A. Edmonds mentions four possibilities:

1) Kerti Hoyuk where an altar inscription of the names of Derbe and Bishop Michael carved on it. But this does not definitively establish the original site, because such stones are often moved. This particular site is now in the museum at Konya in Turkey.

2) Lystra Malatya (ancient burial mound) near Karaman, may be the actual site of Derbe. Karaman is a green oasis on a plateau. Here there is a Seljuk citadel, a former monastery of dervishes and a mosque. Many Turkish-speaking Orthodox Greeks lived here.

4) Degil near Binbir Kilise and Madeniser may also be the site of Derbe. D. Dehke says Barthol Kulshe is a region of a “thousand and one churches,” an important monastic center from the 9th-11th centuries A.D. Near the hamlet of Degil (or Degler) is the most impressive group of ruined Christian Byzantine churches and monasteries.
ANCILLA ATHLETES VOLUNTEER FOR ST. MICHAEL’S FAMILY NIGHT

Volleyball and softball team members of Ancilla College in Donaldson assisted with various crafts and sports activities at the St. Michael’s Family Night at St. Michael’s Catholic School in Plymouth. Student-athletes helped decorate and paint ornaments and assisted children in making Advent wreaths and beaded bracelets, throwing footballs into a target, and showing them how to play various games. “We love the new bond we have made between St. Michael’s Catholic School and Ancilla College and look forward to many more events with them,” said Jennifer Houin, Oliver Ford vice president.

St. Jude Lady Eagles fire up for tournaments

BY MICHELLE CASTLEMAN

FORT WAYNE — The St. Jude Lady Eagles were full of activity over the Christmas break playing a total of eight games in two different tournaments. Jason Kindler’s team finished runner up at the St. John New Haven tournament and were crowned champions at the University of Saint Francis. Kindler, who is in his third season coaching this same group, lists just seven on his roster — Haley Henline, Cassie Kindler, Hannah Berghoff, Maddie Obergfell, Madeline Stewart, Alex Schroeder and Audrey Sanfrey — and is assisted by Pat Henline and Jane Wolff.

“We started out slow, but now we’re firing on all cylinders,” explained a pleased Kindler. Heading into the new year, the Eagles claim a 7-3 record and are 14-4 in the fifth, sixth and seventh grades.

“The girls have a good understanding of how it works and execute it well. We keep teams out of the paint and force them to beat us from the outside,” outlined Kindler.

Kindler is very proud of the fact that all seven of his players have a job to do and all seven contribute when they are on the court. For the 2010-2011 season, the Eagles have set a goal to win the CYO league outright and win the CYO tournament, just as they have in the fifth, sixth and seventh grades.

“If it will be tough with everyone gunning for us, but our goal as coaches is to help the girls reach their goal,” summarized Kindler.

Other scores from the Saint Francis tournament include:

• B — St. Vincent 7 over Zion Lutheran, Decatur, 35-30
• G — St. Jude 7 over Queen of Angels, 29-25
• B — Memorial Park over St. Jude, 8, 36-30

CYO coaches, send scores and highlights to mmcastleman@aol.com

ICCL teams compete in Christmas tournament

BY JOE KOZINSKI

SOUTH BEND — The floor, which the Lady Irish played on to win their national championship, hosted its second title game on Dec. 30 in the form of the Inter-City Catholic League (ICCL) Christmas Tournament. The finals were held at Holy Cross Grade School.

The tournament had the dubious distinction of hosting all 16 varsity teams as they went head to head for holiday bragging rights.

The tournament took place over four nights and enjoyed the hospitality of St. Thomas of Hungary and St. Joseph (South Bend).

In the East bracket, undefeated St. Bavo triumphed over St. Pius X, St. Joseph (Mishawaka) and St. Anthony to reach the finals against host Holy Cross who ousted St. Jude, Our Lady of Hungary and St. Joseph (South Bend).

The game, played in front of a standing room only crowd, had both early excitement and drama as the upstart St. Bavo Panthers held with the athletic squad of the Crusaders.

The athleticism and the overwhelming press was too much as Holy Cross cruised to the title, 34-14, complimented by a well-balanced attack that saw seven players score led by Wes Short’s 13.

In the third-place game, St. Joseph (South Bend) held on to a late game charge from St. Anthony, 46-43. Camden Bohn and John Byzszewski scored 18 and 15 respectively for the Eagles and Oliver Page netted 21 in a losing effort.

The teams of the ICCL had little time to recover as they started their 2011 campaign just three days later with cross divisional play.

In St. John Bosco play, St. Anthony beat Holy Family, 43-19, with the help of Greg Kanouse’s 11 points.

Kevin Weinberg chipped in 12 in the loss.

Holy Cross continued their run by doubling up the Blazers from St. Matthew, 50-25. The Crusaders were paced by Connor Futa’s 10 points while T. Greci of the Blazers had 12.

Christ the King nipped St. Pius X, 34-32. Brendan Connolly was the high scorer with 18, while Jacob Mauch added 10 for the Lions.

St. Joseph (South Bend) exploded for 57 as they triumped over a pesky St. Thomas squad by 15. Five players scored in double figures — Camden Bohn, John Byzszewski and Brennon Koehler for the Eagles, and Ryan Schauer and J.P. Kavanaugh for the Spartans.

In the St. Martin DePorres Division, St. Bavo remained undefeated for the regular season by handling Corpus Christi, 37-30. Michael Voor and Joe Molnar both eclipsed the double figure mark for the Panthers.

The Wildcats of St. Joseph (Mishawaka) kept pace with the help of Will Whitten’s 10, by outscoring St. John the Baptist, 36-25.

St. Jude started the New Year with a win over Queen of Peace, 30-16. Bobby Hawkins tossed in 17 for the Falcons as Schuyler Crall had 10 for the Pumas.

Big time scoring was the theme for the match up between Our Lady of Hungary and St. Monica. The Bulldogs, behind Mikal Henderson’s 25, Bonface Muguro’s 15 and Austin Stura’s 10, outlasted the efforts of Patrick Couther’s 22 and Alex Ganser’s 18 with the final tally being 58-52.

Play resumes this weekend with games being played both Saturday and Sunday at Marian and Saint Joseph’s high schools. For the updated schedule and standings go to icclsports.org.
Biloxi priest returns to childhood hobby with new comic strip

BY TERRY DICKSON

Biloxi, Miss. (CNS) — Father Dominick Fullam was drawn to cartooning at an early age, but a higher calling erased any aspirations he had of becoming a full-time cartoonist.

Recently, however, the St. Martin native, who is vicar general for the Diocese of Biloxi and pastor of St. Mary Parish in Woolmarket, was at the Atlanta airport when something happened that rekindled his interest in cartooning.

“I was... drawing a cartoon character on an iPad, and a lady seated next to me asked if I drew cartoons for a living,” Fullam said. “I was just passing time, but I said that I used to do a not-so-great cartoon strip.”

“Never say never, though,” Father Fullam added. “Right now, I’d enjoy having to crank these out plans to submit his cartoon for syndication.

“I have my share of responsibilities right now, and while I enjoy the creative process, I don’t think I’d enjoy having to crank these out regularly,” he said.

“Never say never, though,” Father Fullam added. “Right now, I’m just trying to create an opportunity for a laugh or a chuckle for whoever wants to join in.”

The briskly entertaining, unpretentious and prescient 1982 cult classic has been loudly updated and turned into a bloated, stupefying 3-D bore by director Joseph Kosinski, with the proceedings barely propped up by some still-enjoyable gadgetry. As the son (Garrett Hedlund) of a computer programming genius (Jeff Bridges, reprising his role in the original), searches for his mysteriously vanished father, the trail leads into the electronic alternate universe Dad created in the first outing. Scenes of intense action and some images of seved limbs. The Catholic News Service classification is A-II — adults and adolescents. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG.
What’s Happening?

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

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

Knights plan fish fry
South Bend — The Knights of Columbus Council 5521, 61535 S. Ironwood Dr., will have a fish fry on Friday, Jan. 7, from 5-7 p.m. Adults $8, children (5-12) $3. Chicken strips for $8 and shrimp for $8.50 will be available.

Spaghetti dinner planned
South Bend — The Knights of Columbus Council 5870, 5202 Linden Ave., will have a spaghetti dinner, Thursday, Jan. 13, from 4-6 p.m. Adults $7, children 5-12 $2.50.

Victory Noll Center offers retreat for military family members
Huntington — Victory Noll Center will have a free retreat for members of military families on Saturday, Jan. 8, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. to help find positive ways to work with those stresses. During this day-long program, military family members will be provided with various tools and methods to help find positive and enriching ways of dealing with these particular experiences. There is no cost for the retreat and a continental breakfast and lunch will be provided. Registration begins at 8:30 a.m. For more information, call (260) 356-0628, ext. 174.

Saint Joseph placement test
South Bend — Any incoming freshman that missed the December placement test at Saint Joseph’s High School will have another opportunity on Thursday, Jan. 13, at 8 a.m. Reservations are required. Call (574) 233-6137 for information.

Saint Joseph’s school musical planned
South Bend — The Saint Joseph’s High School Saint Joe Players will perform “Bye Bye Birdie” Thursday, Jan. 20, and Friday, Jan. 21 at 7 p.m. The Saturday, Jan. 22, show will begin at 2 p.m. Tickets will be available at the door. All performances will be at the O’Laughlin Auditorium on the Saint Mary’s College campus.

Pro-Life group walks the talk
South Bend — The Knights of Columbus will “Walk the Talk” at 2 p.m. on Sunday, Jan. 16, at Council 553 at Hill and Washington Streets. The group will walk to St. Joseph Church for a prayer service and return to the Council for a talk by Karen DeLucency, executive director of Hannah’s House. For information call Bill Schnautz at (574) 232-6777.

Trivia Knight
Fort Wayne — Bishop Luers High School will have a Trivia Knight Saturday, Jan. 22, from 7-11 p.m. in the gym. Tickets are $100 per table of 10. Call Pat Landon at (260) 747-6110 for information or to register.

Living Healthier series sponsored by St. Vincent de Paul
University of Saint Francis South Bend — The Living Healthier series sponsored by St. Vincent de Paul will have its first presentation of the semester on Tuesday, Jan. 18, from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the Multipurpose Room of the North Campus. Topic for the day is “Relieving Others of Those Difficult Decisions.” We invite you to consider your burial needs thoughtfully and without pressure now, before the need arises, providing with various tools and methods to help find positive and enriching ways of dealing with these particular experiences. There is no cost for the retreat and a continental breakfast and lunch will be provided. Registration begins at 8:30 a.m. For more information, call (260) 356-0628, ext. 174.

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Living Healthier series sponsored by University of Saint Francis
Fort Wayne — The Living Healthier series will continue Monday, Jan. 24, with “Women’s Health,” from noon to 1 p.m. at the North Campus, 2702 Spring St. Non-perishable food item donations accepted.

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South Bend. He celebrated the TV Mass for shut-ins on Christmas morning on WISE-TV in Fort Wayne.

In the Midnight Mass homily, Bishop Rhoades first contemplated the Virgin Mary, “who believed with all her heart the word of the Lord spoken to her by the angel. Mary was the first to bend low over the manger to adore the fruit of her womb. She is Our Lady of Humility. No human being who ever lived was more poor in spirit than the Virgin who gave birth to the Son of God.”

Bishop Rhoades reflected on St. Joseph, who was also poor in spirit. “We have no recorded words in any of the Gospels spoken by the Son of God: ‘Let your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.’ We have no recorded words in any of the Gospels spoken by the Son of God. ‘We have no recorded words in any of the Gospels spoken by the Son of God.’

Bishop Rhoades said. “We contemplate the mystery of Christmas. We welcome the Savior of the world. We can only do so authentically if we are poor in spirit, that is, with faith in God, with humility, and with love. Christ cannot enter our lives if we do not open our minds and hearts to Him and to the salvation He offers us.”

He said, “We recognize and profess that the child born of the Blessed Virgin Mary 2,000 years ago is the Son of God and the Savior of the world. His divine glory was hidden in that holy manger of Bethlehem. But humbly we believe and we adore because in that manger we have discovered the Truth that sets us and all humanity free. And we continue to discover in the infant Jesus the Love that transforms our lives.”

Bishop Rhoades spoke of the writings of St. Peter: “Should anyone ask us as Christ’s disciples the reason for our hope, we should be ever ready to reply. But what is the reason for our hope as Christ’s disciples, as Catholic Christians? The reason is not a what — it’s a who! Our faith is not so much about a book or a list of teachings or an ethical system. It is about a person!”

“Catholic is the great feast of hope, for today the Savior of humanity is born,” Bishop Rhoades said. “The joyful news of our Savior’s birth resonates throughout the world on this holy night. The Son of God came into the world, and He still comes, to give us hope in the midst of doubt, uncertainty, suffering and even in the face of death. If Jesus were not born on earth, we could not be born unto heaven. But because Christ was born, we can be reborn.”

Bishop Rhoades encouraged, “Let us live this (first) Beatitude as we contemplate with the eyes of faith and with humility the holy birth of Jesus. With Mary, Joseph and the shepherds, we celebrate the great mystery of love which never ceases to amaze us: God became the Son of Man so that we might become sons and daughters of God! On this holy night, we rejoice in the birth of our Savior, Venite, adorernis! O come, let us adore Him!”

**Midnight Mass Homily**

**Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades, shown during the homily, celebrates Midnight Mass at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception.**