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December 18, 2011

Serving the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend

50¢

Volume 85, No. 44
todayscatholicnews.org

TODAY'S CATHOLIC

Christians draw joy from knowing God is near, pope says

BY CINDY WOODEN

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — In the dry spiritual desert of modern society and the darkness of moral and economic confusion, Christians draw joy from knowing that Christ is near, Pope Benedict XVI said.

Celebrating a morning Mass at Rome's Our Lady of Grace parish and reciting the Angelus at the Vatican later Dec. 11, Gaudete (Rejoice) Sunday, Pope Benedict said true joy is not found in twinkling Christmas decorations or presents, but in God's gift of His Son.

During his homily at the parish Mass, the pope said the world today still needs a John the Baptist, "a voice in the desert, like today in the desert of the large cities of this world, the desert of the great absence of God."

"We need voices that simply proclaim to us: 'God exists, is always near, even when He seems absent,'" the pope said.

Pope Benedict told members of the parish, which consecrated its new church in 2010, that their Advent task is to share the Good News with their neighbors, bringing light and joy to situations often marked by sadness and struggle.

"In this world with so much darkness, we all are called to be witnesses of the light," he said. "We can do that only if we carry the light within us, if we are sure not only that the light exists, but if we have seen a bit of the light" in prayer, in the Mass and in the sacrament of Reconciliation.

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CNS PHOTO/PAUL HARING

Pope Benedict XVI arrives to visit the Church of Our Lady of Grace in Rome Dec. 11.

MEXICAN PRIESTS DANCE AT FEAST OF OUR LADY



CNS PHOTO/PAUL HARING

Priests from Mexico in traditional outfits dance after Pope Benedict XVI's celebration of Mass marking the feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe in St. Peter's Basilica at the Vatican Dec. 12. During the liturgy the pope confirmed he will travel to Mexico and Cuba in the spring.

Archbishop Dolan affirms dignity of person at ND

BY ANN CAREY

NOTRE DAME — Archbishop Timothy Dolan of New York spoke at the University of Notre Dame Dec. 6 to inaugurate the university's Project on Human Dignity. The project is a new program of Notre Dame's Institute for Church Life that will offer events to help define and defend the concept of human dignity.

Archbishop Dolan, who also serves as president of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, noted that when the faithful think of Catholic doctrines, they usually think of doctrines such as the Trinity, the Incarnation, the Redemption and the Eucharist.

"I wonder why we never include the Doctrine of the Dignity of the Human Person?" the archbishop asked. "It's pivotal; it's way up there; it's normative. As the Catechism of the Catholic Church teaches,

'Man alone is called to share, by knowledge and love, in God's own life. ... This is the fundamental reason for his dignity. Being in the image of God, the human individual possesses the dignity of a person, who is not just something, but someone.'"

He stressed that the doctrine of human dignity is a "central doctrine of our faith" and is so important that it should be taught children along with the Sign of the Cross and memorized the same way older generations memorized the "Baltimore Catechism."

The doctrine of human dignity is in fact so central, he said, that it "cleanly fits in with the other core dogmas of our religion." It mirrors the eternal love of the Trinity; it is shown in the Incarnation when God took on our nature; and it is proven by God's Son dying to redeem us.

Archbishop Dolan noted that the human

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TODAY'S CATHOLIC

Official newspaper of the
Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend
P.O. Box 11169
Fort Wayne, IN 46856

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Published weekly except the fourth Sunday in June, second and fourth weeks in July and August, the first week of September and last week in December by the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, 1103 S. Calhoun St., P.O. Box 390, Fort Wayne, IN 46801. Periodicals postage paid at Fort Wayne, IN, and additional mailing office.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to: Today's Catholic, P.O. Box 11169, Fort Wayne, IN 46856-1169 or email: kvoirol@diocesefwsb.org.

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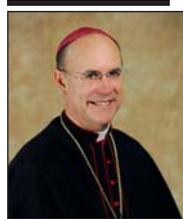
News deadline is the Monday morning before publication date. Advertising deadline is nine days before publication date.

LETTERS POLICY: Today's Catholic welcomes original, signed letters about issues affecting church life. Although we cannot publish every letter we receive, we strive to provide a balanced representation of expressed opinions and a variety of reflections on life in the church. We will choose letters for publication based on reader interest, timeliness and fairness. Readers may agree or disagree with the letter writers' opinions. Letters must not exceed 250 words. All letters must be signed and include a phone number and address for verification. We reserve the right to edit letters for legal and other concerns.

Mail letters to: Today's Catholic, P.O. Box 11169, Fort Wayne, IN 46856-1169; or email: editor@diocesefwsb.org

ISSN 0891-1533
USPS 403630

Parish visits and Catholic Charities

IN TRUTH
AND
CHARITY

BY BISHOP KEVIN C. RHOADES

Parish visits

One of my goals after my installation as Bishop of Fort Wayne-South Bend was to visit and celebrate Holy Mass at all the parishes of our diocese. I wanted to do so within two years. Happily, I will have accomplished this goal this Sunday, December 18th, when I celebrate Mass at Saint Catherine of Alexandria Parish in Nix Settlement. I still need to visit and celebrate Mass at Saint Paul Chapel in Clear Lake, a mission of Saint Anthony Parish in Angola, which I hope to do next year.

Visiting, celebrating the Eucharist, and preaching the Word of God in our parishes has been one of my greatest joys as bishop. I wish to thank all our parish priests and all the parishioners for the warm welcome I have received in every parish. It is inspiring to see the vitality of parish life in our diocese, amid the great diversity of parishes: urban, suburban and rural; large and small and mid-sized. I have enjoyed learning the history of our parishes as well.

The Church of Christ is concretely present in our parish communities where the faithful gather together in prayer, where the Word of God is preached and the sacraments are celebrated. God's wonderful gifts of grace are received and all are called to respond with faith, hope, and love to the call of the Gospel.

Blessed John Paul II once said that the parish is more than an association. He said that "it must be a home where the members of the Body of Christ gather together, open to meeting God the Father, full of love and Savior in his Son, incorporated into the Church by the Holy Spirit at the time of their Baptism, and ready to accept their brothers and sisters with fraternal love. ..."

In visiting our parishes, I have often spoken of the need for our parishes to be "evangelizing communities." By this I mean that a parish should never be closed in on itself, but always reaching out beyond the parish to welcome new members and to spread the Gospel to others by word and deed. The Church is missionary by its very nature. We are to heed the mandate of the Lord "to go and make disciples of all nations." There is a strong sense in our parishes of the essential relationship to the bishop and the diocesan Church as well as to our Holy Father and the universal Church.

As a diocese, we have embarked on the *Catholics Come Home* campaign which I wrote about in the last issue of *Today's Catholic*. This effort to welcome home our brothers and sisters who have not been active in the practice of the faith is an important expression of our commitment to the mission of the new evangelization. Of course, we are called to reach out to the unchurched with the saving message of the Gospel, yet I think it is important to give a certain priority to outreach to those who are already Catholic, yet are not coming to



LISA KOCHANOWSKI

Volunteer Ted Salwin packs a food basket from the pantry at Catholic Charities in South Bend that will be given to a family in need. Many individuals and families are assisted daily in the diocese by Catholic Charities. The needy receive assistance with basic needs, such as housing, utilities, food and clothing.

church. Let us pray fervently during this time for the return of inactive Catholics to the practice of the faith.

Catholic Charities

As we approach Christmas, the Solemnity of the Nativity of Our Lord, we are especially mindful of the needy in our midst. As we recall the poverty and humility of Our Savior's birth, we are called to recognize Jesus' presence in the poor and to extend His love to those who are in need.

It is appropriate that every Christmas in our diocese a special collection is taken up in our parishes for the support of Catholic Charities. As we plan our Christmas gifts, I invite you to be generous in this collection, a monetary gift in support of the work of Catholic Charities of our diocese.

So many individuals and families are assisted daily in our diocese by Catholic Charities. The needy receive assistance with basic needs, such as housing, utilities, food and clothing. I think, for example, of the Retired Seniors Volunteer Program, which has served over 4,000 families and over 15,000 individuals this past year. Through this and many other programs, the Church is reaching out in love to our neighbors in need. Catholic Charities of our diocese provides services to nearly 20,000 people each year.

Catholic Charities is in special need of our generosity this year. It has had to continue its work with fewer resources due to

less governmental funding. We need to try to make up for this by increasing income from donations.

I wish to thank all those who support the mission of Catholic Charities through their gifts. I also wish to thank the dedicated staff, employees, board members and volunteers of Catholic Charities.

In the second part of his beautiful encyclical *God Is Love*, our Holy Father, Pope Benedict XVI wrote about the charitable mission of the Church. He wrote: *The Church's deepest nature is expressed in her three-fold responsibility: of proclaiming the word of God, celebrating the sacraments, and exercising the ministry of charity. These duties presuppose each other and are inseparable. For the Church, charity is not a kind of welfare activity which could equally well be left to others, but is a part of her nature, an indispensable expression of her very being.*

As we prepare to celebrate our Savior's birth, let us focus our attention on "the infant wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger." And let us remember the later words of Jesus in the parable of the last judgment: "As you did it for one of the least of my brethren, you did it to me" (Matthew 25:40). In the words of Pope Benedict, *Love of God and love of neighbor have become one: in the least of the brethren we find Jesus himself, and in Jesus we find God.*

Diocese follows strict procedures in wake of abuse allegation

FORT WAYNE — A recent allegation of sexual abuse by a diocesan priest prompted diocesan authorities to follow strict local and national Church guidelines for handling such cases.

After an allegation of sexual abuse of a minor was made against Father Thomas Lombardi, pastor of St. Joseph-Hessen Cassel Parish in Fort Wayne, the diocese conducted the preliminary investigation mandated by the norms of the Church. After this investigation, in accord with the norms of the Church, Father Lombardi was withdrawn from exercising his ministry as pastor, pending the outcome of the canonical process required in such cases.

The diocese is following a process based on the "Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People," established by the U.S. bishops in 2002, as well as "Procedures of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend if a Priest or Deacon Should Be Accused of Sexual Abuse of a Minor." The text of the charter is available on the U.S. bishops' website (www.usccb.org). Diocesan procedures can be viewed on the website of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend (www.diocesefwsb.org).

The diocese received an allegation of abuse of a minor by Father Lombardi that was said to have taken place some years ago while he was serving at St. Louis Besancon Parish in New Haven.

In a letter read at all Masses at St. Joseph Parish on Dec. 3-4, Bishop Rhoades told parishioners that a "preliminary investigation was promptly and objectively conducted."

"In accord with the norms of the Church and diocesan policy, I have withdrawn Father Lombardi from

Report Sexual Abuse

If you or someone you know has allegations of sexual abuse by a member of the clergy we are here to help and listen.

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Phone: (260) 399-1458
mglowaski@diocesefwsb.org

Msgr. Robert Schulte,
Vicar General, Phone: (260) 422-4611
Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend
Attn: Msgr. Robert Schulte
P.O. Box 390 Fort Wayne, Indiana 46801

We pledge to listen, support, investigate and follow our policies and procedures outlined by the bishop.

exercising his ministry as pastor, pending the outcome of the canonical process required in these cases," Bishop Rhoades told parishioners in his letter.

"Our commitment to the safety of our children and young people requires this action," Bishop Rhoades wrote. "We are also committed to healing and reconciliation with victims/survivors of sexual abuse. Anyone who has been the victim of sexual abuse as a minor by anyone in Church service, whether the abuse was recent or occurred many years in the past, is encouraged to report this abuse to the diocese."

Published diocesan abuse reporting policies and procedures also provide local law enforcement and state agency contact information to report such abuse.

According to the U.S. Bishops' Charter, dioceses "will report an allegation of sexual abuse of a person who is a minor to the public authorities. They will cooperate in their investigation in accord with the law of the jurisdiction in question."

Dioceses "will cooperate with public authorities about reporting in cases when the person is no longer a minor."

In this case, at Bishop Rhoades' direction, the Allen County Sheriff's Department was notified of the allegation, even though the person presenting the claim was not a minor, has requested confidentiality and had not filed a police report.

Following a preliminary investigation that resulted in Father Lombardi's withdrawal from pastoral ministry at this time, a further diocesan investigation will continue with the assistance of the diocesan Review Board. Bishop Rhoades has already consulted with the Review Board in this case and will continue to do so as the process continues. This board functions as a consultative body to the bishop as described in the "Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People," advising him in his assessment of allegations of sexual abuse and in his determination of a priest's suitability for ministry.

The diocesan procedures for such cases states: According to local diocesan guidelines for such cases, the diocese commits itself "to maintain compliance with the provisions of applicable law of the State of Indiana concerning the protection of children and young people" as well as to the U.S. Bishops' "Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People."



PUBLIC SCHEDULE OF BISHOP KEVIN C. RHOADES

- Saturday, Dec. 17, 5 p.m. — Mass at St. Joseph-Hessen Cassel, Fort Wayne
- Sunday, Dec. 18, 9:15 a.m. — Mass at St. Catherine of Alexandria, Nix Settlement
- Monday, Dec. 19, 10 a.m. — Meeting of Bishop's Cabinet, Archbishop Noll Center, Fort Wayne
- Tuesday, Dec. 20, 11 a.m. — Mass for Diocesan Employees, Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, Fort Wayne
- Wednesday, Dec. 21, 11 a.m. — Mass for Diocesan Employees, Motherhouse Chapel of Sisters of Saint Francis, Mishawaka
- Thursday, Dec. 22, 11 a.m. — Mass for Seminarians and Serra Club, Archbishop Noll Center, Fort Wayne



Priest assignments announced

The Most Reverend Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades has announced the following priest assignments:

- **Reverend Thomas Lombardi**, pastor of St. Joseph Parish-Hessen Cassel, Fort Wayne, to administrative leave of absence, effective Dec. 3, 2011.
- **Reverend Cornelius Ryan, CSC**, to temporary administrator of St. Joseph Parish-Hessen Cassel, Fort Wayne, effective Dec. 12, 2011.
- The previously announced change of pastor at St. Paul of the Cross Parish, Columbia City, will not occur in January, therefore, **Reverend Lawrence Kramer** will remain as pastor of St. Paul of the Cross Parish, Columbia City, until June 2012, and **Reverend Andrew Curry** will remain as parochial vicar of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish, Fort Wayne.

DOLAN

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

defense of women, babies, children, family, elders and slaves. The doctrine also gave rise to the greatest system of healthcare, education and charity the world has ever known.

"The Church, which has as a primary doctrine the Dignity of the Human Person, is not a shrill, crabby, nay-saying nag, but a warm, tender, gracious mother who invites, embraces and nurtures her children, calling forth from within the truth, beauty and goodness she knows is within them," the archbishop observed.

If we truly believe the doctrine of human dignity, it would make a difference in how we live our lives and treat others, and it would be "life-saving," he said.

"If we are 'divinized,' reflections of God, created in His image and likeness ... then we ought to treat ourselves and others only with respect, love, honor and care," Archbishop Dolan said, noting that the "others" include everyone: the unborn, the immigrant, the person

on death row, the homeless, the sinner.

However, he cautioned that this doctrine that gave rise to the "grand tradition of respect for human rights" also calls us to "duty and responsibility." He cited Blessed Pope John Paul II, who said "Genuine freedom is the ability to do what we ought, not the license to do whatever we want."

In the question-answer period following Archbishop Dolan's lecture, an audience member cited a letter from Holy Cross Father John Jenkins, Notre Dame president, to Kathleen Sebelius, Secretary of Health and Human Services. That Sept. 28, 2011, letter urged that the definition of religious employer in the rules for the new healthcare law be broadened to provide conscience protection. Father Jenkins noted that the current rules put Notre Dame in the "impossible position" of being required either to provide services and insurance coverage contrary to Catholic teaching, or to discontinue employee and student health care plans.

The questioner said that non-Catholics also attend and work for Notre Dame who believe that contraception and sterilization are moral. He asked how this "conflict between two consciences" could



Archbishop Timothy Dolan got reacquainted with Franciscan Sister Marie Morgan, of Marian High School. The two knew each other when Archbishop Dolan was rector of the North American College. At right is Mary Ilu Altman, director of student services at St. Elizabeth School of Nursing in Lafayette.

ANN CAREY

be resolved without offending the equal human dignity of either side.

Archbishop Dolan replied that he was "grateful" Father Jenkins had taken a "brave and courageous stand" on this issue.

"Our religion would require us to respect the rights of all and never to denigrate them," he said. "However, it would also obviously require us to obey our own consciences and follow the allegiances of our own faith."

With a "defined community" that stands for a given set of values, people expect that community to live out the demands of the faith it professes, Archbishop Dolan explained. So, it is not a judgment against people who do not share the faith, but rather an insistence on the rights of conscience and insistence that the government would never have the right to compel violation of conscience.

"That of course is not only a

Catholic principle," Archbishop Dolan said, but also a principle of our country. So, while Father Jenkins is making a religious claim, "He also is calling America back to its most cherished principles that never would we force someone or an institution to do something contrary to its conscience."

Another audience member asked Archbishop Dolan for concrete ways to affirm human dignity. The archbishop passed along advice he heard from Pope Paul VI when he was a seminarian in Rome: When you see people, smile.

"When we try our best to radiate in a very simple, practical way a smile, an openness, a nod of greeting, we do two things: First, We acknowledge the dignity in the other person, and secondly we say 'We as well have that and have something to give.'"

This acknowledgement is like the new response in Mass to "The Lord be with you," when we say "And with your spirit," he continued. "We are acknowledging in the other person that the spirit is there, the hint of God, the trace of God, the icon; and we look at that and smile, and that just speaks volumes."

Knights support life with sonogram machines

BY LAURIE KIEFABER

WABASH — The Knights of Columbus are hoping to start a pro-life revolution, one sonogram at a time.

A sonogram is a picture of a baby while it is still in the womb and created with ultrasound or high-frequency sound waves, according to the Web site www.americanpregnancy.org. The Wabash Knights of Columbus Council 2957 has raised funds for a sonogram machine to be placed at the Life Center in Wabash.

"You really can't even put a price on the good that will come out of that," said Jim Almeda, past grand knight of the Wabash Knights of Columbus. "... You can't even begin to imagine the amount of lives that it will save."

Almeda said it's estimated that 90 percent of women who see their baby through a sonogram or hear the heartbeat will carry their baby to term, according to officials at the Wabash Life Center, now called Life Choices Medical Clinic as of July. The name change was necessary due to the sonogram machine.

The Wabash Knights began raising funds for a sonogram machine in August 2009. The 115-member chapter at St. Bernard Church holds weekly bingo games, with much of the money going toward charity. Chapter members also held a tenderloin fry, which raised \$8,600, and solicited local churches and businesses through letters, raising an addi-

tional \$13,400. An anonymous donor in Florida who had read about the project gave \$30,000. The Lutheran Foundation also donated \$9,000 toward the project.

Another incentive for the Knights has been a matching fund program created by the Knights of Columbus Supreme Council, headquartered in New Haven, Conn. They provided an additional \$9,300 for the sonogram machine, bringing the total to \$70,300.

Life Choices Medical Clinic was the first in the state to receive a sonogram machine with the help of the national incentive program.

"It's wonderful," said Cheryl Meyer, executive director of the Wabash pregnancy help center. "Without the Knights of Columbus this would have been so much harder to accomplish."

Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades, also a Knight, was present on Mother's Day when Meyer received a check from the national Knights for sonogram machine funds at St. Bernard's Knights of Columbus hall.

Jeni Friedersdorf, client service manager and former executive director of Life Choices Medical Clinic, also is pleased.

"I'm thrilled it's actually coming through and I'm seeing it happen," she said.

"Hopefully more women will be drawn to it and it will attract more women who

need our services," Meyer added. Life Choices Medical Clinic provides counseling, diapers, prenatal vitamins, baby wipes,



Registered Nurse Julie Willmert points out details on a sonogram machine to Wabash mom Sarah Carrothers at the Wabash Life Choices Medical Clinic.

baby and maternity clothing, car seats, pregnancy tests and many other items free of charge to clients.

Julie Willmert, a registered nurse at Life Choices since February, spent about a week in Las Vegas, Nev. training on sonogram machines.

"You need a minimum of 50 to 75 supervised scans (to get certified)," she said.

Sarah Carrothers, 24, Wabash, agreed to have a sonogram at Life Choices and be interviewed for this story. The mother of two was 24 weeks into her pregnancy.

"It's always exciting to see what the baby looks like (through a sonogram)," she said. "It can help you visualize what the baby will look like at nine months."

"It's definitely a neat tool for the center," Carrothers said. "...

When (new mothers) see that picture, it might change their minds (if they're considering an alternative). I can't describe how I feel when I see my baby for the first time."

Willmert said through the sonogram, mothers are able to see the baby in black and white, take measurements and possibly see the heart beating. Certified nurses can even predict the due date within two to three days after looking at the sonogram.

While the Wabash Knights have already done a lot of work, they haven't stopped there.

"In July, we started working to place a sonogram at the Matrix Pregnancy Center in Lafayette," Almeda said. "They received their machine in October and are awaiting the matching funds from the Supreme Council."

The Wabash Knights are the

only Hoosier chapter to place two sonogram machines, he added.

In mid-October, Wabash began partnering with the Granger Knights of Columbus Council 4263 on a "Respect Life Blitz," Almeda said.

Dick Dornbos, past grand knight and advocate Respect Life coordinator on the Granger council, said the Knights of Columbus believe in respecting life from conception to final burial. This is why working toward the placement of sonogram machines fits in well with their goals.

"We sent 173 letters to the councils in Indiana," Dornbos said. The Knights also asked for support from community members and others.

"We received gifts from \$6 to \$2,000," he said. "... We started in January of this year and it's probably been an eight-month project."

The Granger council has been working on fundraising with councils in Notre Dame, downtown Mishawaka, Plymouth, Culver and three in South Bend — downtown, west and south, Dornbos said. The group also has put materials into the hands of bishops meeting at the Indiana Catholic Conference recently.

"We want to make an impact and change the attitude to pro-life in Indiana," Dornbos said. "There are two abortions per day in St. Joe County, which includes South Bend, Mishawaka and Granger."

The Women's Care Center in South Bend will be the fifth pregnancy center to receive a sonogram with help from the Knights.

"Today there are 176 (sonogram) units throughout the U.S. (placed with help by the Knights)," Dornbos said.

On Dec. 2, representatives from the Kolbe Center in Broad Ripple asked for help in getting a sonogram machine, Almeda said. The Wabash Knights are working on finding a local council to sponsor them.

"Our goal is to place 14 machines in the state," Almeda said. "Broad Ripple would make the sixth."

Dornbos said the payoff is well worth the work. "Ultrasounds have prevented (abortions)," he said. "People see that baby and say 'I'm gonna keep that baby.' Some say a child is not in their budget. When we (my wife Margie and I) had our third, fourth and fifth child, they were not in our budget. We're blessed."

Almeda and Dornbos said they and the Knights are willing to help anyone else in the state interested in bringing a sonogram machine to their local pregnancy help center. Almeda can be reached at (260) 571-5724, while Dornbos can be reached at (574) 271-7853.

'I'm thrilled it's actually coming through and I'm seeing it happen.'

JENI FRIEDERSDORF

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Board approves miracle needed for Blessed Marianne Cope's canonization

SYRACUSE, N.Y. (CNS) — The path to sainthood for Blessed Marianne Cope of Molokai has been cleared after a Vatican congregation Dec. 6 confirmed a second miracle attributed to her intercession.

The final step for her canonization is approval by Pope Benedict XVI.

The Vatican decision was announced Dec. 6 by the sister's religious community, the Sisters of St. Francis of the Neumann Communities in Syracuse, N.Y., and by Honolulu Bishop Larry Silva.

Mother Marianne, who worked as a teacher and hospital administrator in New York, spent the last 30 years of her life ministering on the Hawaiian island of Molokai to those with leprosy. She died on the island in 1918 at age 80.

The Dec. 6 ruling by the Vatican Congregation for Saints' Causes confirmed recent decisions by a medical board and a group of theologians declaring that a second miracle could be attributed to Mother Marianne's intercession.

The first miracle required for her beatification was the medically unexplainable recovery of a New York girl who recovered from near death from multiple organ failure after prayers were said to Mother Marianne. The miracle was approved in 2004 by a medical board and a group of theologians. At the end of the

year, Pope John Paul II affirmed the case. She was beatified in St. Peter's Basilica at the Vatican May 14, 2005.

The only known detail about the second miracle is that a woman's healing was declared inexplicable since doctors had expected her to die and were amazed at her survival. The Sisters of St. Francis will not disclose details of the second miracle until after the pope's proclamation of Mother Marianne's sainthood.

The announcement confirming the second miracle could be attributed to Mother Marianne's intercession was "too good to be true," said Sister Patricia Burkard, general minister of the Sisters of St. Francis of the Neumann Communities.

She told Catholic News Service Dec. 7 that in the 24 hours since receiving the news, she not only rejoiced with fellow sisters but gave countless interviews about Mother Marianne.

For the religious community, the news also was bittersweet because Sister of St. Francis Mary Laurence Hanley, director of Mother Marianne's cause, died Dec. 2 at age 86 at the sisters' regional house in Syracuse.

The funeral for Sister Laurence was scheduled for the evening of Dec. 7. Sister Patricia called it a "wonderful coincidence" so near to the announcement of Mother Marianne because Sister Laurence's "life's work was fulfilled."

Advent is a reminder to Christians "to live in expectation of Jesus, to never stop awaiting His coming" and to maintain an attitude of openness to a deeper relationship with Him, the pope said.

"The environment around us proposes its usual commercial message, even if it is toned down because of the economic crisis," he said.

But Christians "are called to live Advent without being distracted by the lights," he said. "If we persevere in being vigilant in prayer and exultant in praise, our eyes will be able to recognize Him as the true light of the world, who comes to brighten our darkness," the pope said.

Cardinal Foley dies; Mideast advocate, Vatican communications chief

DARBY, Pa. (CNS) — U.S. Cardinal John P. Foley, who spent more than two decades leading the Church's social communications council and later worked for the Church in the Middle East, died Dec. 11 after a battle with leukemia. The cardinal, who had been residing at Villa St. Joseph, the home for retired Philadelphia archdiocesan priests, was 76.

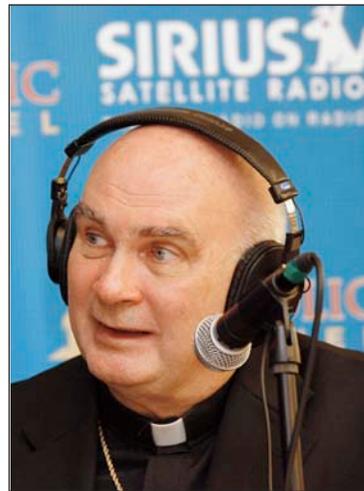
Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades said of the cardinal, "Cardinal Foley was a wonderful professor of mine when I was a college seminarian at St. Charles Seminary in Philadelphia. I will always remember his graciousness and good humor, and especially his love for the Church and the priesthood. We stayed in touch through the years. I was deeply grateful that he attended my ordination as a priest and as a bishop. He was an example to all of the joy of following Christ and serving Him in His Church. He was truly a holy priest and bishop. May he rest in peace!"

Cardinal Foley's media-friendly style and quick sense of humor shone in person and throughout the numerous speeches and homilies he delivered around the world. He often spoke of the joys of working for the Church, telling his audiences that while the pay often is not great "the benefits are out of this world."

Last February he retired from his post as grand master of the Knights of the Holy Sepulcher, a chivalric organization dedicated to supporting the Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem and to responding to the needs of Catholics in the Holy Land.

Addressing the 2010 Synod of Bishops on the Middle East, he said he was convinced that "the continued tension between the Israelis and the Palestinians has contributed greatly to the turmoil in all of the Middle East and also to the growth of Islamic fundamentalism."

"While many, including the Holy See, have suggested a two-state solution to the Israeli-Palestinian crisis, the more time passes, the more difficult such a solution becomes, as the building of Israeli settlements and Israeli-controlled infrastructure in East Jerusalem and in other parts of the West Bank make increasingly difficult the development of a viable and integral Palestinian state," the cardinal said.



CNS PHOTO/NANCY PHELAN WIECHEC

U.S. Cardinal John P. Foley, a dean of the Catholic press in the United States, died Dec. 11 in Darby, Pa., after a battle with leukemia. He was 76. He is pictured on air with Sirius Satellite Radio during the 2007 Catholic Media Convention in New York.

He told participants in a U.S.-based conference on the Holy Land in 2009, "The most tragic thing I have seen is the miles-long wall that separates Jerusalem from Bethlehem and separates families and keeps farmers from the land that has been in their families for generations. It is humiliating and distressing."

The cardinal said he understood Israel's need for security but added, "many of these measures raise serious human rights issues that they refuse to acknowledge and address."

To many, the cardinal was the voice they heard giving commentary during the pope's Christmas midnight Mass. For 25 years, beginning in 1984, his voice was heard not only in North America, but also Asia, Africa, Europe and, for many years, Australia.

The longtime journalist told Catholic News Service in 2007 that he always tried to take "a positive approach toward the means of com-

munication and toward the people who run them." For decades he helped media gain access to cover or rebroadcast Vatican events.

As head of the Pontifical Council for Social Communications from 1984 to 2007, the cardinal took the lead in articulating Catholic policy with regard to the media. Under his leadership, the council issued separate documents on ethical standards in advertising, communications and the Internet. It also produced a document denouncing pornography.

His time at the council coincided with the unfolding of the clergy sex abuse scandal — first in North America, then in other parts of the world. He said the sexual abuse of children by priests was only "the tip of an iceberg" of the wider scope of abuse perpetrated against the world's children.

"A much wider and even more tragic story of child abuse that takes place, first of all, in the family and then, in many ways, throughout society," he said.

However, the cardinal also said Church officials must be honest about the situation. In dealing with the sex abuse scandal, he said, the Church's reaction must be "to exercise virtue and, in the absence of virtue, exercise candor, which is a virtue itself. We have to be honest. We cannot deny what happened."

He said Catholic journalists sometimes have "encountered the situation of those who did not want others to learn about what they did ... because it was bad news."

"We know, as journalists, that the more some people try to cover up bad news, the more likely it is to be known," he said.

Born in the Philadelphia suburb of Darby on Nov. 11, 1935, he was ordained a priest in Philadelphia when he was 26.

Cardinal Foley has received numerous honorary degrees and awards, including the Catholic Press Association's highest prize, the St. Francis de Sales Award.

ADVENT

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

The pope returned to the Vatican for the midday recitation of the Angelus and to bless the statues of Baby Jesus that children bring and then place in their Nativity scene at home or at school.

The pope asked the children to remember him when they pray in front of their Nativity scenes and he promised to remember them in his prayers.

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Pope taps tablet, lights world's largest Christmas 'tree'

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope Benedict XVI tapped a tablet computer and successfully lit the world's largest electronic Christmas "tree" located in the Italian town of Gubbio. Before turning on the tree with a tap on the Sony S Tablet, the pope addressed the citizens of Gubbio via a video link from his apartment in Vatican City Dec. 7, calling on Christians to serve as a light in the lives of others. In his talk, the pope said that just as the tree design in Gubbio was made up of tiny individual lights, each person needs to bring light to the people and places in their lives, to their family, workplace, neighborhood, town or city. "Every small act of kindness is like a light in this big tree: together with the other lights it can bring light to even the darkest of nights," the pope said. Located on the face of Mount Ignio, the electronic tree extends more than 2,000 feet and contains more than 900 lights, illuminating the side of the mountain.

HHS secretary says girls under 17 must consult doctors to get Plan B

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The U.S. bishops' pro-life spokeswoman said she was relieved that the Obama administration has decided not to allow the Plan B One-Step "morning-after pill" to be sold without a prescription to those under 17. "Luckily, things did not go from bad to even worse," Deirdre McQuade, assistant director for policy and communications at the USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities, told Catholic News Service Dec. 8. "We're pleased that they did not expand access to this very powerful drug." McQuade said Plan B One-Step, known generically as levonorgestrel, "is 40 times more potent than comparable progestin-only birth control pills for which a prescription is required" even for adult women. Announcing the decision Dec. 7, Kathleen Sebelius, secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services, said the drug manufacturer, Teva Women's Health, had not proven that those under 17 were sufficiently mature to use Plan B One-Step properly. "There are significant cognitive and behavioral differences between older adolescent girls and the youngest girls of reproductive age," who could be as young as 11, Sebelius said. Although "science has confirmed the drug to be safe and effective with appropriate use," she said, "the switch from prescription to over-the-counter for this product requires that we have enough evidence to show that those who use this medicine can understand the label and use the product appropriately. "I do not believe that Teva's application met that standard," Sebelius said. "The label comprehension

NEWS BRIEFS

CARDINAL MARTINO GREETES PEOPLE AT ANNIVERSARY MASS



CNS PHOTO/SOE ZEYA TUN, REUTERS

People greet Cardinal Renato Martino, special Vatican envoy to Myanmar, following a Mass to mark the 100th anniversary of the founding of the St. Mary's Cathedral in Yangon Dec. 8, the feast of the Immaculate Conception. Cardinal Martino presided over the centennial Mass at the cathedral, which was dedicated in 1911.

and actual use studies did not contain data for all ages for which this product would be available for use."

Virginia Tech Catholic students support one another after shooting

WASHINGTON (CNS) — A group of students had been hanging out at the Catholic campus ministry center at Virginia Tech in Blacksburg, Va., when an alert was issued midday Dec. 8 warning all students and faculty members to stay indoors. For the next few hours, the students stayed put, knowing a shooting had taken place on campus and initially that the shooter was on the loose, but not much more. After a campus police officer had been shot and killed that afternoon in his parked cruiser, police and SWAT teams searched the university for the gunman, calling to mind images of the 2007 shooting on campus that left 32 students and faculty, as well as the gunman, dead. The unidentified shooter Dec. 8, who was not a student, fled on foot, changed clothes in a campus greenhouse and was spotted by police in a campus parking lot before fatally shooting himself, The Associated Press reported. Not long after the university was finally given the all-clear signal, students packed the Catholic stu-

dent center chapel for a Mass for the feast of the Immaculate Conception. The Mass had been postponed for a half hour because of the day's lockdown. "Mass was a great contrast to the day's events," said Father John Grace, a Richmond diocesan priest who is director of Virginia Tech's Catholic campus ministry. He said it reminded students of how to live their faith in the context of real world. After Mass, some students were talking about the day but he primarily sensed "a strong feeling of support and community." The priest, who spoke to Catholic News Service by phone Dec. 9, said that kind of support isn't "something you can create at a moment of crisis. You cultivate it year after year. It is really what the Catholic community stands for."

Prayer, not activism, is key to evangelization, preacher tells pope

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The Catholic Church's project of "new evangelization" faces two dangers: people thinking others will do the work and people so fired up to preach the Gospel, they forget to pray, said the preacher of the papal household. Capuchin Father Raniero Cantalamessa, who preaches to the pope and top Vatican officials on the Fridays of Advent and Lent, dedicated his

December 2011 series to lessons the Church can learn from its own history of evangelization efforts. Focusing Dec. 9 on the contribution of monastic orders beginning in the 5th century, Father Cantalamessa said their example is a reminder of "the importance of the contemplative life in view of evangelization." The first of the dangers facing today's efforts to re-proclaim the Gospel is "inertia, laziness, not doing anything and letting others do everything," he said. "The other is launching oneself in a feverish — and empty — human activism, which results in losing contact little by little with the source of the word and its effectiveness," he said. Father Cantalamessa said people sometimes tell him it's hard to stay still and silent and pray when the world so obviously needs ministers and missionaries. "It's true. But imagine what would happen if a squad of firefighters runs so fast at the sound of an alarm to put out a fire, but once on the scene realizes that they have no tanks, not even a drop of water with them," he said.

Soldiers feel it's time to give Iraq chance to 'function independently'

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Over the past nine years in Iraq, the sacrifice of the U.S. military "and

our nation as a whole has been tremendous," Army chaplain Father Joel Panzer said, and soldiers in general feel "it's time for us to leave" to give the nation the impetus "to function independently." As the troops prepare to leave and turn bases over to Iraqi forces by Dec. 31, he said, "morale is quite high" among members of his own Army unit, the 25th Infantry Division Headquarters, which is ending a 13-month deployment. "Tremendous progress has been made" in Iraq, he told Catholic News Service in a Dec. 6 interview conducted via email and phone from the southern part of the country, where he has been stationed for his final two months. "Regardless of the outcome here, soldiers are proud of their faithful service, and the selfless sacrifice of nearly 4,500 U.S. service members. Nothing will ever change that," said Father Panzer, 43, a priest of the Diocese of Lincoln, Neb. An Army captain, he is finishing his second tour of duty in Iraq and is the last Catholic priest serving in support of Operation New Dawn, the post-combat phase of the U.S. mission in Iraq. Currently, less than 10,000 soldiers remain in Iraq at five bases. At one point, in 2007, U.S. troops numbered 170,000 and were spread out over more than 500 bases. As military units inspect equipment and pack it up, chaplains have related responsibilities, such as ensuring "all religious literature and sacred materials are properly packaged" for shipment home, according to Father Panzer. "We remove all Christian and Jewish items from the buildings we have utilized as chapels simply out of a desire not to offend the people of Iraq, a predominantly Muslim nation," he continued. "As a priest, I've been responsible for closing several chapels where the Blessed Sacrament was reserved, including the removal of chalices and other sacred vessels."

To follow Gospel is to follow Christ, not some ethical code, pope says

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Following the Gospel is not adhering to a doctrine or code of ethics but entails truly following the person of Christ in one's life, Pope Benedict XVI said. Through Jesus Christ, in the Holy Spirit, "we can turn with trust to God our Father, confident that, in doing His will, we shall find true freedom and peace," he said during his weekly general audience Dec. 7. In his audience talk to about 3,000 people in Paul VI hall, Pope Benedict continued a series of talks on Christian prayer. Divine revelation doesn't follow earthly rules in which the powerful hold the keys to knowledge, he said. God takes a completely different approach, choosing instead to share with "the little ones" true knowledge of the divine, he said. Only those who are pure of heart and are open to God's will can see the face of God in Jesus, he said.

Archbishop Louis Kébreau of Haiti to receive Notre Dame Prize for Public Service

NOTRE DAME — Archbishop of Cap-Haitien Louis Kébreau was awarded the 2011 Notre Dame Prize for Distinguished Public Service in Latin America at a ceremony in Cap-Haitien on Dec. 8.

Presented annually since 2000 by the University of Notre Dame with support from the Coca-Cola Foundation, the Notre Dame Prize recognizes the efforts of visionary leaders to enhance the region's welfare by strengthening democracy and improving life for its citizens.

In his more than 35 years in service to the Catholic Church and the people of Haiti, Msgr. Kébreau has distinguished himself by his dedication to public service and social justice and his focus on education, even in the face of physical threats.

The Notre Dame Prize for Distinguished Public Service in Latin America is administered by the Kellogg Institute for International Studies at Notre Dame with funding from the Coca-Cola Foundation. The award carries a \$15,000 cash prize, with a matching amount donated to a charitable organization recommended by the laureate.

Upon the recommendation of Msgr. Kébreau, the matching prize will be donated to the educational efforts of Action et Solidarité contre la Pauvreté (Action and Solidarity against Poverty, or ASAP), which gives scholarships to university students in Cap-Haitien who cannot pay their educational expenses.

St. Joseph-St. Elizabeth School students to explore traveling map

FORT WAYNE — St. Joseph-St. Elizabeth sixth through eighth graders will soon be exploring North America in a big way, with one of the world's largest maps of the continent. The map measures 35 feet by 26 feet and provides students with an interactive way to enliven their study of geography.

The map is on loan to the St. Joseph campus of St. Joseph-St. Elizabeth School from Dec. 12 through Jan. 6 by the National Geographic Giant Traveling Maps organized by National Geographic Live, a division of the National Geographic Society. This is part of a campaign by National Geographic to improve the geographic literacy of students.

The brightly colored, smooth vinyl map accurately illustrates North America's oceans, seas, rivers, mountains, countries and capitals.

The map comes with a trunk full of accessories, including interactive games, geography adventures, atlases and books that teach students about the physical characteristics of North America. One of the activities included is "A Tale of Twenty Cities" in which

AROUND THE DIOCESE

DECATUR GRAD RECEIVES CARSON SCHOLARSHIP



PROVIDED BY ST. JOSEPH SCHOOL, DECATUR

Vince Faurete, a 2011 graduate of St. Joseph School, Decatur, recently attended the Carson Scholar Awards Banquet in Indianapolis to receive a \$1,000 Carson College Scholarship. Faurete, who received this award as an eighth grader at St. Joseph School, is pictured with Candy Carson, wife of surgeon Ben Carson, who founded the Carson program. Faurete is the son of Christopher and Jessica Faurete.

students explore the physical and economic reasons behind the locations of North American cities.

"This is the first year we have experienced the National Geographic Giant Map of North America," said St. Joseph-St. Elizabeth Principal Lois Widner. "We are looking forward to this wonderful hands-on opportunity for our students to learn about geography in an exciting way."

"Experiencing a map of this size can really awaken a student to the power of maps and the limitless depth of geography," said Dan Beaupre, National Geographic's director of education partnerships for National Geographic Live. "Whether they are using the map to learn place names or to compare state-to-state carbon emissions, students are physically involved in a hands- and feet-on way that makes geography into an event."

USF business team takes top prize in fifth annual competition

FORT WAYNE — University of Saint Francis students Grace Geha and Drew Sery of Fort Wayne took the top cash prize as they out-performed five other student teams to vault their business project, Gracey's Cookies, to the top spot in the fifth annual Keith Busse School of Business and Entrepreneurial Leadership (KBSOBEL) Business Plan Competition Nov. 29 at the uni-

versity's North Campus.

HCC students are Santa's helpers

NOTRE DAME — Each year Holy Cross College students play Santa's helpers by raising money to buy toys for the U.S Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots Program. The fundraising activities culminate with a toy shopping spree at Meijer's on Grape Road, Mishawaka, and a "toy parade" from Holy Cross College to the toy collection point across the street from the college at the WNDU TV studios.

The fruits of this year's efforts again paid off as Holy Cross students, headed by event organizer Katelyn Pelton, raised nearly \$1,000 for the purchase of toys and Christmas gifts, which were then donated to Toys for Tots.

Money was collected from college faculty and staff, friends and students, but the culmination of fundraising each year is the Toys for Tots Auction of donated gifts and services.

All toys and gifts donated by Holy Cross College will be provided to children in the Michiana community.

Saint Joseph's High School students earn academic honors

SOUTH BEND — Saint Joseph's High School freshman Sarah

Nguyen, daughter of Todd and Stephanie Mead and graduate of Holy Cross Grade School, was awarded first place from the local chapter of the International Readers Association, in the high school division of the contest "Doodle Your Heart Out." for her story titled, "The Dreams of an Orphan." Dorish Nguyen, daughter of Dang and Nga Nguyen and a graduate of St. Anthony de Padua, received an honorable mention for her story, "What You Cannot See Can Save You." Amy O'Brien is their teacher.

Junior Nick Wawrykow received a perfect score on the November Mathematics League Contest. Wawrykow is the son of Joseph Wawrykow and Dianne Phillips.

Anonymous donor awards \$5,000 matching grant for refugee assistance to Catherine Kasper Place

FORT WAYNE — A donor has offered a \$5,000 matching gift to Catherine Kasper Place in Fort Wayne. The gift is a dollar-for-dollar match for individual and corporate gifts received by Dec. 31, 2011.

The donor wants to ensure that Catherine Kasper Place can sustain its services to its clients during the holiday season. Catherine Kasper Place works with refugees and immigrants to help them discover community resources that help them integrate into the com-

munity. Services include skills training and job placement, a community liaison program, and the Fresh Food Initiative, which provide classes and community garden space for growing familiar ethnic crops in Indiana's clay soil.

"We are so thankful for this generous holiday gift to our organization," said Catherine Kasper Place Director Holly Chaille. "During this holiday season, our clients remind us to be thankful for the freedom to move from place to place, to laugh with friends, to enjoy the sunshine, to be paid for the work we perform and to envision a future filled with possibilities. Our clients enjoy these simple pleasures because they have found a home in our Fort Wayne community."

This year Catherine Kasper Place has worked with more than 1,000 refugees in Fort Wayne. With the support of the community, they provide an inviting place where new and established neighbors support one another.

Redeemer Radio to broadcast Midnight Mass

FORT WAYNE — Redeemer Radio will broadcast Christmas Eve Midnight Mass live from the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Fort Wayne. The broadcast will be anchored by Dr. Matthew Bunson. Father Jason Freiburger, vice-chancellor, will join Dr. Bunson as co-host to provide commentary. For more information or to listen live, visit www.redeemerradio.com.

Holy Cross students raise funds for cancer screenings

NOTRE DAME — The Oct. 4 "Pink-Out" event, sponsored by the Holy Cross College Student Government Association, raised money for the Secret Sisters Society, an initiative of the Women's Task Force of Saint Joseph's Regional Medical Center. The Secret Sisters Society provides help for underserved women to receive a screening mammogram and cervical cancer screening. While these women qualify for the existing Breast and Cervical Cancer Program (BCCP) due to income, they wouldn't receive a screening until they reach age 50. Because early detection is the key to surviving cancer, the Secret Sisters Society believes women helps women ages 40-49 have access to cancer screenings.

Correction

The photo of the Franciscan Brothers Minor profession of vows that was featured on page 7 of the Dec. 11 issue of *Today's Catholic*, should have identified the order of those in the photo as the following: from left, Franciscan Father David Engo, Brother Pio, Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades and Brother Crispin were shown in the photo.

Catholic Charities Food Pantry helps feed the hungry

BY LISA KOCHANOWSKI

SOUTH BEND — Some come wearing work clothes visiting the pantry before or after work. Others join the line with children in tow. The line is quiet, some making small talk, while many just wait wondering how life turned out this way. Many keep their heads down with occasional glances and short smiles.

The place is Catholic Charities and Wednesday is food pantry day. People all around Michiana come to the organization looking for a way to provide food for their family.

The process for new clients can take up to 20 minutes to receive services due to the paperwork process. Returning clients can usually have their packages ready in five to 10 minutes.

Fire code laws allow only 10 people at a time in the lobby and the staff at Catholic Charities works hard to make the process go as quickly as possible.

“Our intake and service process is as user friendly as we can make it because we know that it can be difficult to ask for help, especially for those who have never visited a food pantry before now,” said Claire Coleman, West Region administrator. “We want to make sure that people are not overwhelmed by the process. We also try to have a volunteer or a staff person in the lobby to answer questions, help with paperwork if needed and to chat with the clients as well so they feel more comfortable.”

Catholic Charities serves residents of St. Joseph County on a walk-in, first come, first serve basis during food pantry hours from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. and 5-7 p.m. They hope to expand service hours in the future to serve more families, who can receive services once every four weeks. Some clients visit sporadically throughout the year when

they need help and others come every month.

“The objective of the food pantry is to provide short-term assistance to families who are food insecure. In this action, we honor the tradition of corporal works of mercy — in particular, to feed the hungry. Helping families put food on the table when they are in need is the right thing to do, and I am thankful that we have been provided the resources to help as many people as we can,” said Coleman.

Each time a client visits the pantry, they receive a package of food that contains four meals made up of 10-15 items. They provide an identical menu for each week for each family, based upon family size. Each week is a different menu based upon the foods the pantry has available. Typically, each package will include a mix of dried and canned goods. They also try to provide one frozen or canned meat item. When available, they provide cheese and yogurt, eggs, fresh fruits, fresh vegetables and condiments. Personal care items are also distributed periodically.

“Clients of the food pantry are usually self-referred, which means they take the initiative to walk in or call to see if they qualify to receive food assistance. Some people are referred to us through United Way 2-1-1, their parish or a community agency. In order to qualify for assistance, client’s income should not exceed 165 percent of the federal poverty level,” said Coleman.

“There is a need for food assistance throughout the year: in the summer months, children are not having meals at school so families need help with groceries. In the winter months, families struggle with heating bills and may need food assistance. Between January and October 2011, we served 2,398 households. Our expectation is that we will serve about 3,000 families this year representing over 10,000 individuals in the community.”

During one week in October,



PHOTOS BY LISA KOCHANOWSKI

This is an example of a food basket that will be packed and given to a family in need from the food pantry at Catholic Charities.

they had a record setting day serving 87 families in four hours.

“Typically, the end of the month is when we see the most need,” Coleman said. “Seniors in the ‘doughnut hole’ have to choose whether to pay for their medicine or buy food. If they get the medications they need, then they will come to us for food.”

“It is not uncommon to hear a senior say they have gone several days without any food before deciding to come to the Food Pantry,” Coleman added. “We are seeing many lower wage working families coming to the Food Pantry because they run out of food at the end of the month.”

“Lately quite a few families

need food assistance due to unemployment or a reduction in work hours,” noted Coleman.

In recent months, one third of the people who visit the Food Pantry have been new to the service and many of the returning clients have not received assistance for more than three years. But a change in circumstances has made it necessary to find help.

There are many ways that people can help Catholic Charities Food Pantry and the people in their community. Monetary donations to support the pantry along with individual donations of food or personal care items are appreciated.

“We would be happy to be the beneficiary of any school, parish



Volunteers Albert Adeigbo and Ted Salwin pack a food basket from the pantry at Catholic Charities in South Bend that will be given to a family in need.

or community group sponsoring a food drive for the Catholic Charities Food Pantry. Catholic Schools Week and Easter are just around the corner and a food drive would be a great service project. When we have food donated, it not only goes directly to a local family in need, it also helps us make the most of the financial contributions we receive so we are able to serve even more families,” said Coleman.

Food Pantry donations may be taken to Catholic Charities West Region Office at 1817 Miami St., South Bend. For more information contact Coleman at (574) 234-3111.



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Villa of the Woods is 'just like home' to its many residents

BY BONNIE ELBERSON

FORT WAYNE — Villa of the Woods at 5610 Noll Ave. on Fort Wayne's south side has been a welcoming and comfortable place to call home for decades. In fact, some residents have lived there for more than 20 years.

"We're lifers," says Nancy Bartlett of her 24 years there and adds, "I love it." Of his two decades in residence Dale Foltz comments, "It doesn't seem like it." Fellow 25-year resident Jeanette McArdle and 22-year resident Phil Armstrong would agree that the years have somehow slipped by unnoticed.

Villa of the Woods, a licensed residential living facility run by Catholic Charities, is equipped to provide housing, meals, housekeeping and personal services to as many as 29 permanent residents. Though



JOE ROMIE

In the photo, from left, are Villa of the Woods residents Dale Foltz, Jeanette McArdle, Nancy Bartlett and Phil Armstrong.

VILLA, PAGE 12



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Hispanic health advocate translates to angel of mercy

BY KAY COZAD

FORT WAYNE — As the Hispanic Catholic population continues to grow in Fort Wayne and surrounding area, Catholic Charities is doing its part to mitigate the challenges created by the pervasive language barrier. Corina Hurtado, Hispanic health advocate at Catholic Charities for the past five years, is a veritable one-woman show, handling everything from interpreting to advocating for seriously ill Hispanic patients.

Hurtado, a native of El Paso, Texas, has lived in Fort Wayne with her husband for close to two decades. They are parishioners of St. Mary Parish. She was raised in a bilingual home, but admits that she has taken language classes along the way for "proper grammar" that have helped her become more fluent in Spanish.

Her workweek at Catholic Charities begins with a multitude of tasks. As the only Hispanic health advocate in the area, time management and organizational skills are critical for Hurtado with her on-call status. Her schedule includes a day or two at the office to perform intake interviews for qualifying clients, returning calls, faxes, emails and, of course, the required paper work.

But the heart of her work takes her on the road to a variety of area service providers, including several medical, ophthalmology and dental offices, Park Center, hospice, League of the Blind, Neighborhood Health Clinic, Turnstone and more. It is within these institutions that she meets with Hispanic children and adults to support them during the process of seeking and receiving health care.

"You are there for them in any way they need help," says Hurtado of the case management that she is so attune to. She serves 16 to 20 clients on average each week.

The initial step in receiving services for each qualifying client is the intake interview that Hurtado holds either in her office or the medical office where an appointment has been scheduled. This is when she and her clients get to know each other and discuss their needs.

"Some families don't have a lot of support. It's good for them to have someone who will listen to what they have to say," says Hurtado, adding, "They have lots of questions. I'm here to help them get the information they miss."

The majority of clients Hurtado supports are Hispanic and in need of prenatal care. Referrals come from medical offices and family members to have her interpret for the mothers during their prenatal appointments and assist them with neces-



CORINA HURTADO

sary paperwork and scheduling as well.

But other clients require assistance filing social security paperwork, or ordering medications. Additional duties include scheduling payments for medical bills, interpreting letters requesting physicals for children and referring clients to the medical office that would best meet their needs.

Still others simply need support as they receive a medical diagnosis. One Hispanic gentleman would have been alone when given the diagnosis of his terminal illness had it not been for Hurtado's service. "I was thankful I was given the chance to be there. For me to be the only one there for the individual made me feel it was meant for me to take part in that moment. It's not about me — it's about the person you're with and the support you give," she says gently.

Her desire to serve others, coupled with her educational background in sociology, makes her a perfect advocate for the sometimes confused and weary clients. "Some families are timid. I build a rapport and they begin to open up and talk," she says. Listening skills, she adds, are paramount in her position within this community of need. "I'm not a doctor or a counselor, but I am a good ear," she says.

Her faith has sustained her in the sometimes difficult task of helping others. "It (faith) helps me in my work," she says confidently. "That's what makes me get the satisfaction I get."

It is apparent as Hurtado speaks that she is fully committed to her job. "I always wanted to work with people. ... I love my job. I love the feeling you get when you help someone. It's the knowing that we're doing good," she says.

The only challenge she sees in it all: "Coordinating is challenging. I wish I had more of me," she says smiling.

For more information on the Hispanic health advocacy service at Catholic Charities call (260) 422-5625 ext. 266.

Peripheral vision

I have been honored over the years to have witnessed the stories of men and women who have lost their spouses, parents whose precious children are gone and children who miss their deceased siblings or parents. As their journeys unfolded and they learned to navigate the wilderness of their grief, an interesting phenomenon seemed to occur. As the heart work of grief was undertaken and the pain and loneliness were faced and responded to, the bereaved began to step forward slowly and engage in life more fully again.

That doesn't mean they had forgotten their deceased loved one or that they were in denial. No, they have walked with grief and had learned from it. Their stories resonate within my heart.

Following my husband Trent's death I found myself confronted by grief at every turn. The decisions I was required to make for my little family, now without

the support and wisdom of my life mate, were all colored by the intense emotions of grief — disbelief, fear, confusion, insecurity ... so many emotions that vied for my attention.

In those early years of my grief I struggled with daily living that had become for me a slow plodding through what seemed like a robotic existence as I attempted to create a "new normal" for my two young daughters who desperately missed their daddy. Grief was ever present and mourning soon became a way of life for us as I lost sight of our future.

But as time marched on, as it has a tendency to do, our lives did begin to change despite and perhaps even because of the pain. We worked hard at mourning our loss and remembering the good man who had helped shape this precious family into what it is today. And as we did our remem-



KAY COZAD

HOPE IN THE MOURNING

bering, even sometimes against the well-meaning advice to "get over it" offered by family and friends, we began to create that "new normal" for ourselves.

Our lives began to take on a different shape that was ours alone. Our grief taught us that though Trent is no longer with us in the physical sense, our hearts still hold an open space for our memories of this man we loved so much.

Many years have come and

HOPE, PAGE 11

God's love saves us



THE SUNDAY GOSPEL

MSGR. OWEN F. CAMPION

4th Sunday in Advent Lk 1:26-38

The first reading for this weekend is from the Second Book of Samuel. Once the two Books of Samuel were a single volume. Translations and editions over the centuries divided this one volume into two.

David is the principal figure in these books. The ancient Hebrews looked upon David much more than as a king. Beyond all else, he was God's chosen representative, given the kingship so that laws and circumstances might provide an atmosphere in which the people more fervently would follow God and be loyal to the Covenant.

For this weekend's second reading, the Church offers us a reading from St. Paul's Epistle to the Romans.

Scholars unanimously say that Paul of Tarsus indeed authored this epistle, and that this epistle was his masterpiece. For this reason, it appears first in sequence among the 14 epistles attributed to Paul, placed in Bibles immediately following the Acts of the Apostles.

As indicated by its title, Paul sent this epistle, or letter, to the Christian population of Rome. In the first century, Rome was the center of the Mediterranean

world in every respect, political, economic and cultural. It also was the largest city in the Roman Empire. Not surprisingly, Rome, the great imperial capital, had within its borders a great array of ideas and religions, Christianity among them.

In this weekend's reading, as often elsewhere, Paul asserts his own vocation as an apostle. His vocation from God came so that "all the Gentiles" might believe in, and obey, God, "who alone is wise."

For the final reading this weekend, the Church proclaims a beautiful part of St. Luke's Gospel, of Luke's Infancy Narrative. It is the story of the Annunciation, the event when Gabriel, the angel, came into the presence of Mary, a young Jewish woman, in Nazareth in Galilee, to inform her that she would be the mother of the long-awaited Redeemer.

The reading abounds with meaning. Luke makes clear that Mary was a virgin, and that the conception of the Redeemer would not be the result of any human relationship. Behind this fact is the reality that God, as Creator and the provider of order to the universe, can do anything. He is almighty. The Redeemer will be the Son of God. He will be David's successor.

The Redeemer's coming will fulfill God's promises, spoken by the prophets all through the ages, to bring life and salvation to the people. The birth of this Redeemer will be the ultimate satisfaction of the ancient Covenant.

Vital to the message of the story is Mary's response. "I am the maidservant of the Lord. Let it be done to me as you say."

Reflection

In each of these readings, speaking through the Scriptures, the Church makes a very important point. God reaches out to us. This outreach is not vague, pointed to a few, or impossible to see. It came in the persons of individuals with whom we can relate, David, Paul and Jesus.

This outreach occurs as response to our own inadequacy and limitations. God is almighty, but God's supreme power over all creation is not the most consoling point here. Rather, the most reassuring factor is that God's great love for us prompts the dispatch of messengers such as David, Paul and Jesus, to guide us to union with God and therefore to peace in our hearts and life in eternity.

The Church approaches Christmas strongly convinced of the fact of God's love. God's love saves us. He does not leave us helpless in our own powerlessness. He reaches to us to draw us to the divine presence itself.

It now is up to us to respond. Do we accept God? Or, do we turn God away? It is that simple.

READINGS

Sunday: Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16 Ps 89:2-5, 27, 29 Rom 16:25-27 Lk 1:26-38

Monday: Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a Ps 71:3-6, 16-17 Lk 1:5-25

Tuesday: Is 7:10-14 Ps 24:1-6 Lk 1:26-38

Wednesday: Sg 2:8-14 Ps 33:2-3, 11-12, 20-21 Lk 1:39-45

Thursday: 1 Sm 1:24-28 (Ps) 1 Sm 2:1, 4-7, 8abcd Lk 1:46-56

Friday: Mal 3:1-4, 23-24 Ps 25:4bc-5ab, 8-10, 14 Lk 1:57-66

Saturday: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16 Ps 89:2-5, 27, 29 Lk 1:67-79

Muslim students at The Catholic University of America

A law professor at a local university recently filed a complaint with the District of Columbia's Office of Human Rights, claiming that The Catholic University of America discriminated against Muslim students.

This came as something of a surprise to us.

Last year, *The Washington Post* reported that the Muslim population at Catholic University had grown from 41 to 91 students in three years, and that the students had a positive experience. That story was picked up on National Public Radio and elsewhere. Since then, our Muslim population has increased to 122.

No matter. The law professor complained that Muslim students "must perform their prayers surrounded by symbols of Catholicism — e.g., a wooden crucifix, paintings of Jesus, pictures of priests and theologians, etc. — which many Muslim students find inappropriate."

Worse, some "must do their meditation in (or near) ... 'the cathedral that looms over the entire campus — the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception,' — hardly a place where (Muslim) students ... are likely to feel very comfortable."

There is some truth in these observations.

Our undergraduate population is 81 percent Catholic. Though we have chapels in a number of places on campus, and Masses frequently during the day, we do not set aside worship space for other faiths. We do not (as some Catholic universities do) hire chaplains of other faiths. Nor do we have on the undergraduate level officially sponsored and supported non-Catholic religious organizations.

We make no bones — in our marketing and in our life on campus — that we are The Catholic University of America.

But it is entirely consistent with all this that we welcome Muslim students and students of all other faiths to our university. Our Catholic teaching instructs us to embrace our fellow human beings of all faith traditions. They enrich us with their presence and help to promote interreligious dialogue and intercultural understanding.

Here is the interesting part. As last year's *Post* story noted, we have an atmosphere that appeals to our Muslim students, particularly those who are religiously observant.

At public universities, the First Amendment requires that we take no account of religion. At most private universities, it is treated as a private matter and something that is slightly uncomfortable to talk about.

But at Catholic University, there is nothing strange about fasting during Ramadan or praying five times a day or covering your head. Our students fast during Lent and pray daily; nuns who study here cover their heads. Our single-sex residence halls are appealing to more traditionally reli-



JOHN GARVEY

INTELLECT AND VIRTUE

gious parents and students.

Muslim and Catholic students are able to talk about these things and to form friendships that embrace their shared religious commitments — and their differences.

The law professor who filed the proceeding against us had to confess that none of our students had joined in his complaint.

One of them, speaking to the student newspaper, said, "I'm not sure where he got" the idea that "Muslims can't pray in a room that displays Catholic symbols. ... It is not true."

All this says something important about the state of religious liberty in modern American society. There is a danger in trying to translate religious ideas into secular values.

The local law in Washington, D.C., allows almost anyone to file a complaint with the Office of Human Rights — even someone who doesn't understand the religion of the group that he is trying to protect.

The human rights office focuses much of its attention on the right to equality and the evil of discrimination. Those are very important concerns. But we could treat Muslims equally with Catholics by withdrawing support from both.

There is an aphorism in liberal political theory that says "the right is prior to the good." The idea is that, in a modern society, people cannot agree on questions of value (good and bad, right and wrong). Therefore, the organizing principle should be to give people as much freedom (the right) as possible.

The problem with this ideology is that it can't explain why the Constitution of the United States elevates some freedoms above others.

We celebrate religious freedom (and not, say, the freedom to go trout fishing or practice ophthalmology) because the people who wrote the Constitution thought that it was important to know, love and serve God, and that the government shouldn't interfere with efforts to do this.

We should listen to religious people (and not their self-appointed defenders) in deciding what accommodations are necessary.

In today's struggles to protect religious liberty, this little vignette is a reminder that people of all faiths are on the same side.

John Garvey is the president of The Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C.

Coercing consciences

During his homily at the Mass pro eligendo Romano Pontifice (for the election of the Roman Pontiff) on April 18, 2005, Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger cautioned his fellow-cardinals that John Paul II's successor would have to deal with an emerging "dictatorship of relativism" throughout the Western world: the use of coercive state power to impose an agenda of dramatic moral deconstruction on all of society.

Some Catholic commentators charged that Ratzinger's warning was so over-the-top that he could never be elected pope. Others thought the formula "dictatorship of relativism" a neat summary of a grave threat to freedom and believed that a man with the courage to call things by their true names would make a fine pontiff.

Recent events throughout the Western world have fully vindicated the latter.

In Canada, evangelical pastors have been assessed heavy monetary fines for preaching the Gospel truth about the ethics of love and marriage. In Poland, the priest-editor of a major Catholic magazine was convicted of violating a complainant's human rights and assessed a heavy fine because he described abortion for what it is: the willful taking of an innocent human life. In the United States, health-care providers and others involved in the health-care system (including employers and insurers) are threatened by the dictatorship of relativism in the guise of the Obama administration's Department of Health and Human Services, as the bishops of the United States have warned.

And then there is Australia, which I recently visited on a 10-day lecture tour.

A summary of opinion polling published in the Australian edition of *The Week* suggests that Aussies are, well, distinctive. More Australians believe in "human-induced climate change" than believe in God; yet 20 percent more of the folks living Down Under believe in angels than believe in evolution. Go figure.

Amidst the post-modern confusions, however, Australia is like the rest of the West in that the proponents of "marriage equality" are at the forefront of efforts to impose the dictatorship of relativism, in this instance from Perth to Sydney and at all points in between. Moreover, their rhetoric has become brazenly Orwellian. Thus when Prime Minister Julia Gillard (an avowed atheist who makes Nancy Pelosi seem like Margaret Thatcher) nonetheless announced that a "gay marriage" proposal would get a "conscience vote" in the federal parliament, she was accused by her left-than-left opponents of being ...

undemocratic. For those unfamiliar with Westminster systems, most parliamentary votes are, as the British say, subject to the party whip: that is, members are expected to vote with the party leadership and are subject to severe retribution (such as being "de-certified" as a party-supported candidate at the next election) if they resist the whip. By contrast, a "conscience vote" is one in which parliamentarians may vote as they like (for reasons of conscience, or what they deem political expedience, or both).

move on. Though I have full confidence in the fulfilling life I lead today, I know I will always miss Trent. But grief no longer pervades my days. The pain does soften as the grief work is done. Life does become livable again as we create that "new normal" where the memory of our loved one and the grief we feel finds its rightful place.

A wise and gentle-hearted man whose teenaged son died a few years ago in a tragic accident explained it this way, "At first my grief was in my face. I couldn't see anything else. Then as time went on and I worked through my grief, I began to realize it is a



THE CATHOLIC DIFFERENCE

GEORGE WEIGEL

But according to Senator Gavin Marshall, chairman of the "Left federal parliamentary Labor Party caucus," writing in *The Age*, Gillard's decision to allow a "conscience vote" on "gay marriage" is "not democratic," because it "exposes individual parliamentarians to powerful conservative lobby groups" and the retrograde opinions of those "stubbornly opposed to all social reforms."

Imagine that: defenseless "individual parliamentarians" having to contend with deeply held (and often religiously informed) moral convictions. What will those nasty, unscrupulous opponents of "social reform" think of next?

George Orwell — our great pathologist of debauched political speech — would have gagged at Senator Marshall's op-ed piece. A coerced whip-line vote that imposes a radical and philosophically incoherent agenda on a country not at all sure it wants to go down that road is "democratic," whereas a free vote on whether the state can re-define a basic human institution at its whim is undemocratic? Please.

If Senator Marshall is right, then the word "democratic" means nothing but willfulness manifest through legislation. That the willfulness in question is based on a deeply confused relativism about right and wrong, and that it chooses to impose itself through coercive state power, only underscores the point Joseph Ratzinger was making in 2005.

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

life-long thing. This wasn't going to go away. So I made it my friend. And it began to walk with me. Now, after four years, it's not in my face anymore, but rather in my peripheral vision. It's always there. I'll always miss him, but it's not in my face anymore and I can enjoy life again. And that's a good thing."

Kay Cozad is a certified grief educator and news editor of *Today's Catholic* newspaper. She is the author of "Prayer Book for Widows," Our Sunday Visitor, 2004, and can be reached at kcozad@todayscatholicnews.org.

SCRIPTURE SEARCH

Gospel for December 18, 2011

Luke 1:26-38

Following is a word search based on the Gospel reading for the Fourth Sunday of Advent, Cycle B: how the birth of Jesus came to be. The words can be found in all directions in the puzzle.

- | | | |
|---------|------------|------------|
| GABRIEL | GALILEE | VIRGIN |
| JOSEPH | HOUSE | DAVID |
| MARY | PONDERED | BEAR A SON |
| JESUS | MOST HIGH | JACOB |
| KINGDOM | OVERSHADOW | CHILD |
| BORN | HOLY | BARREN |
| NOTHING | IMPOSSIBLE | DEPARTED |

ANGEL WORDS

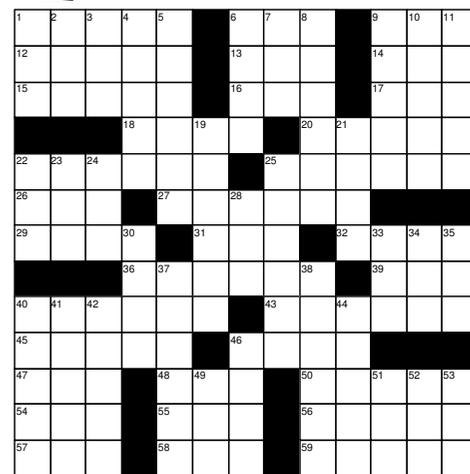
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E D E R E D N O P K D O
G A B R I E L S U S E J
A O J O R D D R L L P O
L K V R G I M G B R A S
I E A E V A O I G V R E
L B E A R A S O N I T P
E O D Y J S T N A R E H
E C F N O T H I N G D O
D A H P L E I A A I G U
O J M I L A G H D N B S
P I G Y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

December 18 and 25, 2011



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Based on these Scripture Readings: 2 Sam 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16; Lk 1:28-38 and Is 52:7-10; Heb 1:1-6; Jn 1:18 (Christmas Day)

ACROSS

- 1 Gives up food
- 6 American Sign Language
- 9 Ten Commandments
- 12 100 make a shekel in Israel
- 13 Downwind
- 14 Past
- 15 Heavy cloth
- 16 Tasmania (Abbr.)
- 17 Title of respect
- 18 Cab
- 20 Inhale the odor
- 22 David was of Israel's army

- 25 Got closer
- 26 Sin
- 27 Prayer of praises
- 29 "___ this and eat"
- 31 Bacon-lettuce-tomato sandwich
- 32 Double-reed instrument
- 36 Nativity scene
- 39 Assumption month
- 40 Repeated sounds
- 43 Musical term
- 45 Call
- 46 Made me in my mother's womb
- 47 Note of debt
- 48 National police

- 50 Occupied
- 54 Cycles per second
- 55 Long time
- 56 Oil from Bible
- 57 South southeast
- 58 Beggar cloth
- 59 Grant an extension

DOWN

- 1 Passing pop item
- 2 Maturity
- 3 Mary's boy child
- 4 Threesome
- 5 Israel's first prophet
- 6 Second highest singer
- 7 Galilee's lake
- 8 Abate
- 9 Cutting beam
- 10 Quick
- 11 Light came into
- 19 12 groups of Israel
- 21 Bread spread
- 22 Allow
- 23 Epoch
- 24 Covenant vessel
- 25 David's prophet
- 28 What a nurse gives
- 30 Economics abbr.
- 33 Pouch
- 34 French "yes"
- 35 Freudian term
- 37 Thick naval coat
- 38 Oversees writers
- 40 Tales
- 41 Pork cuts
- 42 Temple
- 44 Dickens' "___ of Two Cities" (2 wds)
- 46 David's title
- 49 Constrictor snake
- 51 Cousin
- 52 Adam's wife
- 53 Not Old Testament

Answer Key can be found on page 15

HOPE

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 10

gone since my beloved died, but I must admit that there are times when some memory or circumstance causes me to touch that place deep inside where my grief still lies. Through these experiences I have learned that grief is a life-long journey that requires my attention.

So when those times arise, I allow myself time to remember, cry, tell stories, or whatever soothes my heart. And then I

VILLA

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9

there is no provision for nursing care, 24-hour non-medical staffing is provided.

Administrator Cheryl Smith says the villa is unique in that it allows

“aging in place.” While residents remain very independent, coming and going at will, the villa offers comfortable living arrangements. “We want it to be very homelike,” she says.

To illustrate her point, resident Foltz stays busy as a long-time volunteer at St. Joseph Hospital, while Bartlett says she remains active in her church. Armstrong enjoys activities at the villa and leads the exercise program there. All agree that bingo is

one of the more popular attractions. Armstrong notes that the food is “one of the highlights,” while Bartlett adds with a chuckle, “That’s why I’m overweight.”

Another feature that residents appreciate is the longevity of staff. Smith points out that three full-time staff members have also been there more than 20 years. “These employees are more like family,” says Bartlett.

Indeed, the villa began life much differently when it first opened more than five decades ago. Known as Our Lady of Lourdes convent, it was then home to the Sisters of St. Francis of Perpetual Adoration. The sisters were teachers at nearby Bishop Luers High School, which, along with the convent, was blessed and dedicated in 1959.

The facility boasted 10 furnished bedrooms, second floor lavatory,

bath and shower rooms. The first floor had a parlor, a combined recreation room and refectory, a laundry, kitchen, trunk room and chapel. It wasn’t until 1979 that the building was converted to provide residential accommodations for senior citizens. Later, a total remodeling project undertaken in 2001 through a generous bequest to the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend added eight bedrooms, private baths for all rooms, a new dining room and a lounge. At the same time it was refurbished for a cheerful and welcoming appearance.

Vestiges of the former convent remain throughout the building today, however. A lovely old dining set with heavy table and chairs and antique china cabinet grace an area off the main entrance. A crèche set said to have been left behind by the sisters adorns the matching sideboard. The lobby features a large fireplace with a wood mantel draped with garland and a gigantic fir tree has been decorated for the Christmas season.

The facility is abuzz with plans for a special holiday party for residents and their families, complete with Christmas bingo and music. The event is expected to draw a large crowd, says Smith.

Residents seem to be pleased with what the villa has to offer year-round and the friendships they have forged there. Foltz, Bartlett, Armstrong and McArdle are clearly happy to call Villa of the Woods home. Foltz calls the group “the old standbys” of the place.

Smith says openings are currently available to others wanting to make the villa their home as well. Those interested in a tour of the facility may call her at (260) 745-7039 to schedule an appointment.

Advent Penance Service

St. Mary of the Assumption Parish
414 Madison Street • Decatur, Indiana



**Tuesday,
December 20, 2011
at 7:00 p.m.
18 PRIESTS
AVAILABLE**

All are welcome!

Christmas TV Mass Specials



FORT WAYNE

Christmas Morning

10:30 - 11:30 a.m.

WFFT-TV 55

Live from the

University of Saint Francis Chapel

Celebrant: Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades

SOUTH BEND

Christmas Day

8:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.

WNDU-TV 16

Celebrant: Father Jim Kendzierski, OFM
of St. Francis Friary

Wishing you and yours
a blessed

Christmas

Join us for Mass

Christmas Eve, Saturday, December 24
4pm, 8pm, 12am

CHRISTMAS DAY, SUNDAY, DECEMBER 25
10:00am

FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY, DECEMBER 26
8am, 10am, 5pm

NEW YEAR'S DAY, SUNDAY, JANUARY 1
8:00am

EPIPHANY, SUNDAY, JANUARY 3
Saturday Vigil, 5pm
Sunday 8am, 10am, 5pm



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Sacred Heart Parish Notre Dame, Indiana

CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE IN CRYPT

Saturday, December 24, Christmas Eve:
4:00 pm Family Mass

Sunday, December 25, Christmas Day
6:30, 9:00 & 11:00 am Masses

Sunday, January 1, Mary, Mother of God
6:30, 9:00 & 11:00 am Masses

Sunday, January 8, 2012,
Epiphany of the Lord
6:30 am Crypt Mass
(This is the Only Crypt Mass this day!)

11:30 am Parish Mass in the Basilica
with the Three Kings



Holy Cross and St. Stanislaus Parish Holiday Schedule

Christmas Eve - December 24

4:00 pm - Holy Cross Church (Family Mass)

5:30 pm - St. Stanislaus Church

Midnight Mass 12:00 am - St. Stanislaus Church

Christmas Day - December 25

9:30 am - St. Stanislaus 11:00 am - Holy Cross

Mary, Mother of God - January 1, 2012

Vigil: 4:30 pm, December 31 - St. Stanislaus

8:00 am Holy Cross

9:30 am - St. Stanislaus Church

11:00 am Holy Cross



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all parishes

Sports

MARIAN HONORS FOOTBALL TEAM Five Marian seniors were named as captains for the season. Quarterback Robert Mischler, linebacker Michael McNamara, flanker Anthony Rice, cornerback Eric Plude and fullback Vince Campiti were all recognized for their leadership. McNamara also received the Coaches' Award. Middle linebacker Robert Deering was honored for his work in the weight room as the Lifter of the Year. Glon was recognized as Coach of the Year in the Northern Indiana Conference. Three of his players, Rice, tight end Zach Zehender and defensive lineman Tommy Stachowiak were accorded all-conference honors. — *Chuck Freeby*

Corpus Christi finishes as ICCL volleyball champs

BY CHUCK FREEBY

MISHAWAKA — In tennis, many players use a strong serve and then put the ball away at the net.

Corpus Christi used the same philosophy in volleyball this season.

Coach Bridget Jankowski's Cougars went through the regular season undefeated and then blitzed the tournament field without losing a single game, finishing as Inter-City Catholic League champions. Corpus Christi clinched the crown with a 25-12, 25-9 victory over St. Jude Sunday at Saint Joseph's gym.

"The very first time we met, I told them 'I'm coaching you this year and I am the luckiest coach,' because I didn't teach them most of what they know," admitted Jankowski. "I told them all they were born this way."

A roster full of hard servers proved to be too much for the Falcons in the championship match. Kristina Urban used two strong serves to give Corpus Christi the lead, before St. Jude's Allison



DIANE FREEBY

The Inter-City Catholic League's Corpus Christi Cougars volleyball champions include front row, from left, Monica Barany, Makenna Kaniewski, Jeanie Freeby and Samantha Jankowski; back row, Assistant Coach Lindsey Bauer, Sam Kambol, Ava Renbarger, Rachel Pipp, Mallorie Kendzicky, Kristina Urban and Head Coach Bridget Jankowski.

Freitag made a nice tip to narrow the gap to 8-6.

Two aces from Mallorie Kendzicky and three straight from Monica Barany broke the game open. A Kendzicky kill put the finishing touches on the first game.

In game two, Kendzicky continued the serving onslaught, as the six-footer used her powerful jump serve to record three straight aces. Freitag came up with a kill of her own for St. Jude, bringing the Falcons within three at 9-6.

Kendzicky and teammate Sam Kambol proved to be a formidable

duo at the net. Kendzicky boomed home seven kills on the day, while the high-jumping Kambol recorded five ... one of which sparked a 10-1 Cougar run. Samantha Jankowski had three aces in that stretch.

Two more Kendzicky aces helped push towards the end of the match, before setter Rachel Pipp fed Kambol for one last kill to earn the Cougars the championship.

"We're just proud to be here in the championship game," said St. Jude coach Katy Burnham of her

ICCL, PAGE 14

Eager Eagles' CYO team improving basketball IQ

BY MICHELLE CASTLEMAN

FORT WAYNE — With over a decade of hoops seasons under his belt, St. John, Fort Wayne Coach Tom Starks is ready for another year of Catholic Youth League (CYO) basketball.

He lists nine young men on his roster for 2011-2012 and has a main goal of improving each one's basketball IQ. Many of these eighth graders have little basketball experience, but an eager Starks explains, "This may be the most coach-able team I have ever had. They are very hungry for knowledge."

Plus the Eagles are playing "catch up" because of the school's success on the football

field and a late start to the season. "We are working hard to implement what we are trying to teach them by cramming a lot of information in a small amount of practice time," Starks adds.



St. John, Fort Wayne (1-1) started off with a tough loss to St. Therese, and then beat St. John the Baptist, New Haven, by a score of 13-11 on Saturday, Dec. 10. The Eagles

were up, 12-2, at half-time but scored just a single point in the second half with the Raiders in control nearly winning with a last second shot. "It was a defensive battle," detailed Starks.

CYO Coaches can email mmcastleman@aol.com to see their team's scores and highlights here.

ST. CHARLES FIFTH-GRADE CYO VOLLEYBALL CHAMPIONS



PROVIDED BY SUSIE BLACK

St. Charles fifth-grade volleyball champs include, row 1, Sierra Shupe, Mary Horine, Bridgette Black, Anna Burkhart, Emma Witte and Jayda Smith; row 2, Haley Harkenrider, Natalie Onion, Sarah Malone, Olivia Rorick, Maddy Niswonger and Hailie Markiton; row 3: Mikayla Pialur, Sarah McTague and Gabby Vetter; and row 4, Coach Amanda, Coach Stephanie, Krystka Bugajski, Samantha Stefanek, Kathleen Robertson, Olivia Trimbur, Avery Pifer, Coach Stephanie and Coach Angie.

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St. Joseph Eagles thwart St. Matthew's attempt for first win

BY MATT SOBIERALSKI

MISHAWAKA — The second week of the Inter-City Catholic League schedule tipped off action this past weekend at Mishawaka Marian High School pitting a St. Matthew Blazer squad, hungry for their first victory of the season against a St. Joseph, South Bend, team looking to improve on their own 1-0 record.

The opening tip was controlled by the orange-and-black clad of St. Matthew and their starting guard Jack Tiller. Tiller used a high screen from his post player Dillon Heimann to slash through the left side of the lane and score the game's first bucket.

Unfortunately for the Blazers, that would be the only thing to get excited about in the first quarter as the Eagles of St. Joseph went on a 9-0 run led by

Reece Happ's second chance points to close out the first quarter.

St. Matthew started out the second quarter in a 1-3-1 zone that frenzied the Eagle back court. The Blazers, however, were unable to take advantage of multiple St. Joe turnovers. The gold and blue of St. Joseph, South Bend, used the offensive rebounding of Connor Wong and Happ to drift out to a 21-7 first half lead.

Both teams would come out of the half-time break trading baskets until St. Matthew went back to their 1-3-1 zone and again caused chaos to the St. Joseph back court.

A time out by Eagles' coach Mike Sullivan proved to be the answer as the valiant Eagles stopped turning the ball over and continued pounding the glass with Happ and Wong, who finished with eight and six rebounds respectively.

Justin DeClark, Nathan Marino, and Heimann would try desperately to cut into the Eagles' lead. DeClark and Marino pushed the ball for St. Matt's. DeClark would finish with seven points, Marino with six points, and Heimann hit the boards hard himself finishing with seven points and nine rebounds.

However, the gold-and-blue clad and the connection of Happ and Wong proved to be too much for the Blazers. Happ finished the contest with 11 points while Wong ended up with eight points.

The hungry Blazers will have to wait another week to capture their first victory of the season as the Eagles thwarted any attempt at a late come back with a 6-0 run that ended the game with a final tally of 41-24.

Other games at Marian High School included the Lions of St. Pius

X triumphing over the Our Lady of Hungary Bulldogs, 37-17. Patrick Sandor led all scorers by netting 12 points.

The Holy Cross Crusaders charged on passed the St. Anthony Panthers with a final score of 40-16. Holy Cross's Peter Wiegand scorched the nets with 16 points.

At Saint Joseph's High School, the Mishawaka Catholic Saints coasted passed the Corpus Christi Cougars 52-29. Patrick Cousten's 18 points led the way for the Saints.

Gunnar Sadaway's 11 points for

the St. Thomas Spartans helped edge them passed a balanced scoring attack from the Holy Family Trojans, 26-19.

Behind a balanced scoring attack, the Kings of Christ the King surged passed the upstart Queen of Peace Puma's, 40-6.

The action from the Inter-City Catholic League intensifies next week with its final slate of regular season games before the Christmas holiday break with all teams continuing play at both Marian and Saint Joseph's high schools.

ICCL

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 13

team's runner-up finish. "Nobody expected us to be here. We had to get in the girls' heads. We worked with them and tried to make them understand they were a good team. We just got beat by a great team."

Indeed, there were few flaws in the Cougars, including team chemistry.

"To me, these girls are like family," said Coach Jankowski as her team celebrated. "They are intelligent and hard working. They have the best work ethic. It was a team effort every time we took the court."

Christ the King needed three games to down St. Pius X in the third-place match.

Other divisions

Doreen Riba's Holy Family Blue squad defeated Christ the King-Gold No. 2 to capture the Colors Division championship. The Trojans also won the division during the regular season.

Corpus Christi could get some help for its varsity next season from a talented squad that won the sixth-grade championship. Cindy Mroszinski's Cougars, who only lost to Holy Family during the regular season, downed Christ the King No. 1 for the title.

Mishawaka Catholic's No. 2 fifth graders topped Christ the King No. 1 in the final match. Coach Shannon Eversole's Saints ran the table for a perfect season and tournament.

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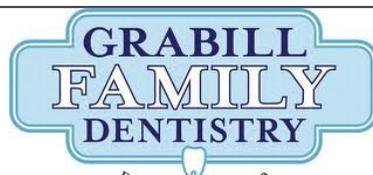


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WHAT'S HAPPENING?

WHAT'S HAPPENING carries announcements about upcoming events in the diocese. Send in your announcement at least two weeks prior to the event. Mail to: Today's Catholic, P.O. Box 11169, Fort Wayne 46856; or email: fhogan@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.

Candy, bake sale and Santa breakfast
Fort Wayne — The Rosary Society of Most Precious Blood Church, 1515 Barthold St., will have a Christmas candy and bake sale Saturday, Dec. 17, from 4-6:30 p.m. and Sunday, Dec. 18, from 8 a.m. to noon in the school gym. The Knights of Columbus will have a pancake breakfast Sunday at the same time. Santa will be present on Sunday. Wheelchair accessible.

Advent Lessons and Carols
Fort Wayne — The members of St. Joseph Parish music department will present Advent Lessons and Carols on Tuesday, Dec. 20, at 7 p.m. in the sanctuary. St. Joseph's is located on the corner of Brooklyn and Hale Avenues, 2213 Brooklyn Ave. The event is free.

Christmas concert at Precious Blood
Fort Wayne — Most Precious Blood Church, with Jim Didier, choir director and Kathy Schall,

bell choir director, will present a Christmas Concert Monday, Dec. 26, at 7 p.m. in the church. Admission is free.

DCCW booth at the Christ Child Festival
Fort Wayne — The Deanery Council of Catholic Women group will have a booth at The Christ Child Festival at the War Memorial Coliseum, on Friday, Dec. 16, from 6-9 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 17, from noon to 8 p.m., and Sunday, Dec. 18, from noon to 6 p.m.

Day of Reflection
Mishawaka — A day of reflection will be held at St. Francis Convent (across from Marian High School) Wednesday, Dec. 21, from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. The theme for the day is "The Beauty of Forgiveness." Bring a Bible. The cost of the day is \$20 and includes lunch. Register by Dec. 16 to Sister Barbara Anne Hallman at (574) 259-5427.

NaProTECHNOLOGY
Fort Wayne — A revolutionary approach to network women's procreative health with their general health called NaProTECHNOLOGY will be presented Saturday, Dec. 17, from 9:30-10:30 a.m. in the St. Jude Parish office. RSVPs are required. Call Theresa at (260) 494-6444, e-mail chartdaily365@frontier.com or visit <http://sites.google.com/site/creightonhealth>

Knights plan spaghetti dinner
South Bend — The Knights of Columbus Council 5521, 61533 S. Ironwood Dr., will have a spaghetti dinner on Friday, Dec. 16, from 5-7 p.m. Adults \$7, children (5-12) \$3. Carry-out available.

Bus trip planned to Washington D.C.
Fort Wayne — The St. Vincent de Paul Society of Fort Wayne is sponsoring a bus trip to Washington, D.C., April 26 to May 1. Cost is \$525 per person for double occupancy. Contact Darrel Dodane at (260) 749-2740 for more information.

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Elkhart Margaret Mary Torok, 92, St. Thomas the Apostle	Anna Ross, 65, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton	Gail B. Hinkle, 67, Christ the King
	South Bend Kathleen Ann Sullivan, 90, Holy Cross	Rose Clara Pischalko, 100, Christ the King

Las Posadas celebration set for Dec. 18 at Victory Noll

HUNTINGTON — One of the most important Christmas traditions in Mexico and Latin America is Las Posadas, which is a re-enactment of the journey of Mary and Joseph seeking shelter along the way from Nazareth to Bethlehem.

Our Lady of Victory Missionary Sisters will host the event "Las Posadas: Who is Knocking at the Door?" at 7 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 18, in the Archbishop Noll Memorial Chapel on the Victory Noll campus, 1900 W. Park Dr.

Spanish for "The Inns," the Las Posadas celebration divides those attending into two groups, with one half "outside" begging for shelter from the other half of "insiders." Present-day re-enactments reflect that refugees, immigrants and the homeless live the reality of seeking shelter. Las Posadas closes with a festival

atmosphere complete with food, drink and a piñata.

There is no cost for the celebration. For more information on this program, contact Our Lady of Victory Missionary Sisters at (260) 356-0628.

The CrossWord

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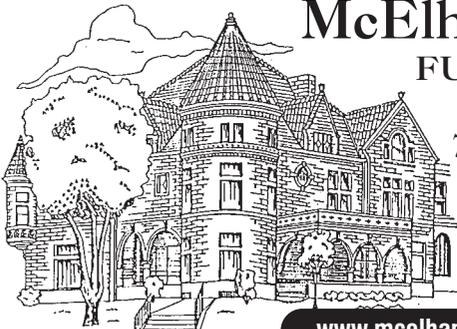
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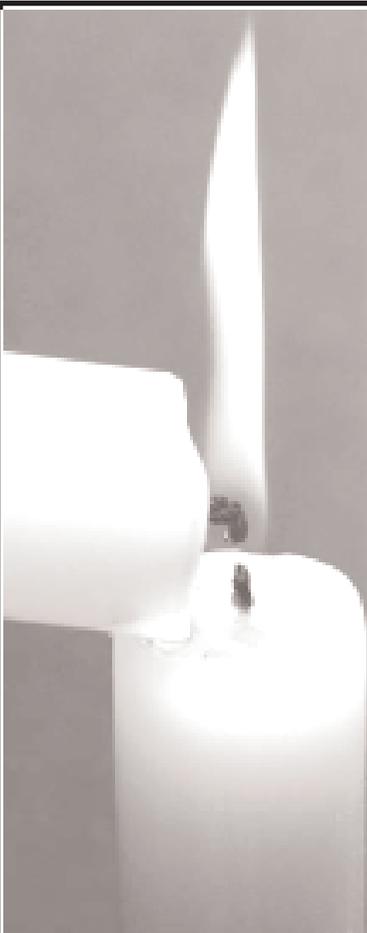


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Christ Child Festival puts Jesus back in Christmas

BY MICHELLE CASTLEMAN

FORT WAYNE — The first person you will see while attending this year's Christ Child Festival is Carolyn Offerle, chairperson at the welcome table. And 2011 marks the 60th year of the festival that originated in Fort Wayne when a group of area businessmen came up with the idea in an attempt to remind the community of the true meaning of Christmas.

"The group felt Christmas was becoming too commercialized and wanted people to keep the focus on Jesus' birth," Offerle explained.

The festival has run every year since 1951 and made its original home at the South Side market before changing to a larger venue — the Allen County War Memorial Coliseum.

The beautiful tradition quickly spread across the United States, but has since faded out, everywhere but Fort Wayne, Offerle believes.

She added, "This is something Fort Wayne can be very proud of."

During her senior year of high school, Offerle's aunt enlisted her and other students at Central Catholic to be part of the first live Nativity. Offerle has attended the festival most every year since as a spectator and in recent years has served to greet people upon their



MICHELLE CASTLEMAN

The Christ Child Festival, one of the oldest festivals of its kind in the country, is scheduled Dec. 16-18 at the Allen County War Memorial Coliseum in Fort Wayne.

arrival.

The St. Charles Borromeo parishioner is very knowledgeable of the founding members and countless volunteer hours so many have put in over the years to keep the celebration up and running.

Offerle lovingly referenced the first chairperson, Sylvia Miller, whose hard work and dedication were crucial to the event's early beginnings. She recalled names like charter member Wally Borchelt, who served as chair for a good part

of the past 60 years and other faithful stewards from Alex Bojrab to Dale Gerber, this year's chairman.

This year's theme is "Guide Us to Thy Perfect Light" and the event will take place Dec. 16-18. On Friday the doors will be open from 6-9 p.m. Saturday hours will be noon to 8 p.m., and Sunday the festival will run from noon to 6 p.m.

Offerle encourages ethnic groups and Christian churches of all denominations to attend, while families can bring their children to enjoy the many activities, including face painting, clowns, games and crafts.

The festival continues to oppose commercialism by offering the completely free venue (except for Coliseum parking), which features displays, booths, fellowship and refreshments without selling or solicitation.

Offerle detailed many of the exciting attractions that include various displays of Christmas around the world and a unique booth with hundreds of different kinds of cribs.

This year's live Nativity will include an all-new line up of hand-made costumes and live animals, including a special type of donkey with the cross of Christ on its back.

Those attending are only asked to bring a "gift" for baby Jesus in the form of a non-perishable food item for the Associated Churches Food Bank or a baby item to be

donated to local crisis pregnancy centers. A veteran's tree will also provide an opportunity to remember service men and women from the community this Holy season.

The event will feature a wide variety of musical performances including national gospel recording artist Peder Eide.

"I am looking so forward to hearing him for the first time. I understand it will be very stirring," Offerle explained. A concert by world champion gold medal winner Voices of Unity Choir will also perform along with brass instrumental soloists, high school jazz bands and many other inspirational presentations.

For a complete schedule visit Christ Child Festival Inc. on Facebook or contact Dale Gerber at (260) 740-9008.

The festival is funded by free-will donations during the celebration and throughout the year. Many area churches and numerous businesses also support this meaningful cause. The group meets periodically to plan and strategize how to attract more attendees. They also continuously sponsor various bake sales and events to fundraise.

Offerle summed up the mission of the festival by quoting Borchelt: "If just one person comes to Christ through the festival, it is well worth it."



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