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January 8, 2012

Serving the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend

50¢
Volume 86, No. 1
todayscatholicnews.org

TODAY'S CATHOLIC

Pope says look to new year with hope, commitment to peace

BY CINDY WOODEN

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Christians should look toward the New Year with hope and a commitment to working for justice and peace, Pope Benedict XVI said.

"God is love, He is just and peaceable, and anyone wishing to honor Him must first of all act like a child following his father's example," the pope said Jan. 1 during a Mass marking the feast of Mary, Mother of God and World Peace Day.

The pope ended 2011 by celebrating an evening prayer service Dec. 31 in the basilica and offering God thanks for the past year. The next morning, he celebrated Mass in St. Peter's and recited the Angelus with visitors gathered in St. Peter's Square.

He told the crowd in the square that thanks to Mary's openness to God's will, "the true light that illuminates every human being appeared and the path to peace was reopened."

"I invite all of you to join me in praying earnestly for peace throughout the world, for reconciliation and forgiveness in areas of conflict, and for a more just and equitable distribution of the world's resources," he said.

Earlier, during his homily at Mass, the pope said Jesus' birth changed human history, filling it with hope and promise.

"He is the mercy and the peace that the world, of itself, cannot give, and which it needs at least as much as bread," the pope said.

For World Peace Day 2012, Pope Benedict focused on the theme of educating young people in justice and peace.

"In the face of the shadows that obscure the horizons of today's world, to assume responsibility for educating young people in knowledge of the truth, in fundamental values and virtues, is to look to the future with hope," the pope said.

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CNS PHOTO/PAUL HARING

Children dressed as the Three Kings bring forward the offertory gifts to Pope Benedict XVI during Mass on the feast of Mary, Mother of God, in St. Peter's Basilica at the Vatican Jan. 1.

Vocations to religious life

'Vocations are everybody's business'

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Bishop Rhoades celebrates Midnight Mass

BY TIM JOHNSON AND JOE ROMIE

FORT WAYNE — "We gather to honor and to worship the Infant wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger, the One announced by the angel as the Savior, who is Christ and Lord," Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades said in his homily as he celebrated Midnight Mass at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Fort Wayne.

"We worship Him who gives meaning to our lives, who offers us eternal life and salvation," Bishop Rhoades said. "In becoming man, He has brought eternity to us and so we live as a people of hope. This virtue of hope is truly a virtue of Christmas, a virtue that should distinguish our lives as followers of Jesus. In

the midst of so much anxiety and despair in our world, may we be witnesses of Christian hope!"

From up in the cathedral's choir loft, a prelude to the Mass included an organ concert featuring the works of Haydn. Then a collection of arias and choruses from Händel's "Messiah" followed, showcasing the Cathedral Choir and soloists Stephanie Johnson, Fernando Tarango and Mark Stachofsky.

Hundreds of people arrived before midnight to completely fill the cathedral's pews. The Mass was also broadcast and streamed live on Redeemer Radio — Catholic Radio 1450 AM, beginning at 11:30 p.m. Dr. Matthew Bunson and Father Jason Freiburger anchored the coverage.

At the opening of Mass, Bishop Rhoades

incensed and knelt to pray before the Christmas crèche, using incense imported from Bethlehem. The crèche is a custom that traces its roots to St. Francis of Assisi. The Baby Jesus figure had previously been installed in the crèche's manger at the 5 p.m. Christmas Eve Mass, which had been celebrated by Father Freiburger.

During the Gloria, two servers walked up and down the cathedral's aisles, ringing hand bells to add to the joyful praise. Msgr. Robert Schulte, rector of the cathedral, concelebrated the Mass, and Deacon Ben Muhlenkamp assisted, singing the Gospel reading.

In the homily, Bishop Rhoades contrasted the great emperor Caesar Augustus, the most

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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

PUBLISHER: Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades

EDITOR: Tim Johnson

NEWS EDITOR and STAFF WRITER: Kay Cozad

Editorial Department

PAGE DESIGNER: Francie Hogan

FREELANCE WRITERS: Lauren Caggiano,
Michelle Castleman, Karen Clifford,
Bonnie Elberson, Denise Fedorow,
Diane Freeby, May Lee Johnson, Sister
Margie Lavonis, CSC, Joe Kozinski and
Deb Wagner

Business Department

BUSINESS MANAGER: Kathy Denice

AD GRAPHICS DIRECTOR: Mark Weber

BOOKKEEPING/CIRCULATION: Kathy Voirol
kvoirol@diocesefwsb.org

Advertising Sales

Tess Steffen (Fort Wayne area)

(260) 456-2824

Jeanette Simon (South Bend area)

(574) 234-0687

Web site: www.todayscatholicnews.org

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.

MAIN OFFICE: 915 S. Clinton St., Fort Wayne, IN 46802. Telephone (260) 456-2824. Fax: (260) 744-1473.

BUREAU OFFICE: 1328 Dragoon Trail, Mishawaka, IN 46544. Telephone (574) 234-0687. Fax (574) 830-1042.

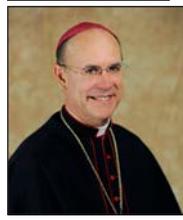
News deadline is the Monday morning before publication date. Advertising deadline is nine days before publication date.

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

The Epiphany of the Lord



IN TRUTH
AND
CHARITY

BY BISHOP KEVIN C. RHOADES

A blessed and happy New Year to all! During these days, the Church continues to celebrate the wonderful season of Christmas. The Christmas season officially ends on the Solemnity of the Baptism of the Lord, which is celebrated this year on Monday, January 9th.

This Sunday, we celebrate the Solemnity of the Epiphany, the manifestation of Jesus, the Messiah of Israel, the Son of God and Savior of the world, to the Gentiles. We read the story of the Magi who, following the star, came from the east to adore the newborn King of the Jews. The Magi represent all the people of the world and reveal that Jesus has come not only as the Messiah of the Jewish people, but as the Savior of the whole world. As Saint Paul wrote to the Ephesians: "the Gentiles are coheirs... and copartners in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel."

As the Magi came to Bethlehem to worship the child Jesus, it is good to reflect on our calling to be a people of adoration and worship of God. How grateful I am that so many of our Catholic brothers and sisters are returning to the worship of God at Sunday Mass, having been inspired by our on-going Catholics Come Home campaign. Let us continue to pray for this intention: for our non-practicing brothers and sisters to return to the practice of the faith in their spiritual home, the Catholic Church.

The Catechism of the Catholic Church teaches that the worship of God, adoration and honor given to God, is the first act of "the virtue of religion." We see in the visit of the Magi, this virtue put into practice, an example for all of us. In a gesture of profound humility and respect, the wise men prostrated themselves before the child Jesus in the arms of His mother. They honored him with the most precious gifts: gold, frankincense and myrrh.

The Magi are a striking example for us who are called to be a people of adoration



CNS PHOTO COURTESY CONCEPTION ABBEY

The Epiphany is depicted in a mural titled "Adoration of the Magi" in the Basilica of the Immaculate Conception at Conception Abbey in Conception, Mo. Painted by Benedictine monks in the late 1800s, the artwork is the first appearance of the German Beuronese style in a U.S. Church. The feast of the Epiphany is Jan. 8.

in our daily life. We are called to have the attitude of the wise men, humbling recognizing that we are creatures and would not even exist if it were not for God who, in His infinite and merciful love, has given us life. This awareness leads us to praise and exalt our Creator and to humble ourselves before Him. The Catechism teaches that "the worship of the one God sets man free from turning in on himself, from the slavery of sin and the idolatry of the world."

The Magi said to King Herod that they had come to Bethlehem to do homage to the newborn king of the Jews. "We have come to worship him," they declared. This is what we do every time we celebrate the sacred liturgy. We offer the Lord adoration, praise, and thanksgiving. In doing so, we are sanctified. The Lord blesses us with His

love and grace.

In a more secularized society, the duty to worship God is often ignored. Herod's pride created within him contempt for the Lord. He not only refused to worship Him; he actively sought to destroy him. We may not find this extreme attitude very often today, however, we do see a lot of indifference to God and lukewarmness in the practice of divine worship. Let us pray for a renewed commitment to Sunday Mass among Catholics in our diocese and throughout the world. I also wish to mention the beautiful tradition of adoration of Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament, a wonderful opportunity to worship the Lord outside of Mass.

Blessed John Paul II, not long before he died, spoke of the secularized culture in which we live as characterized by a forgetfulness of God and a vain pursuit of human self-sufficiency. Pope Benedict XVI has also spoken of this quite often. It is good to remember the words of the Second Vatican Council: "Without God the Creator, the creature would disappear."

At the beginning of this new year, let us be resolved to cultivate the attitude of the Magi. They were indeed wise men because they recognized their need for God. They had a profound respect for their Creator and humbly prostrated themselves before Him. We imitate the Magi by our own fidelity to Holy Mass, by our daily prayer, and by adoration of the most holy Eucharist. Thus we are able to say with the Magi: "We have come to worship Him." This is not only our duty to God; it is our joy and our peace. The worship of God sanctifies us and sets us free!

In this new year 2012, may God pour out His blessing upon you and upon our diocese!

National Vocations Awareness Week takes place Jan. 9-14

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The U.S. Catholic Church will celebrate National Vocation Awareness Week Jan. 9-14 to promote vocations to the priesthood, diaconate and consecrated life through prayer and education.

This distinctive week gives Catholics an opportunity to renew prayers and support for those who are considering one of these vocations.

"It is our responsibility to help children and young people develop a prayerful relationship with Jesus Christ so they will know their vocation," said St. Louis Archbishop Robert J. Carlson, chairman of the bishops' Committee on Clergy, Consecrated Life and Vocations.

"Through a culture of vocation in families, parishes, schools and dioceses, Catholics can nurture an environment of discipleship, commitment to daily prayer, spiritual conversion, growth in virtue, participation in the sacraments and service in community," the archbishop said. "Without this environment, promoting vocations becomes simply recruitment. We believe we have much more to offer our young people."

People can visit the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Facebook page www.facebook.com/usccb — during the week to see examples of clergy and religious. They also can view reflections under the vocation retreat tab where each day a Scripture passage, reflection and prayer will be posted.

Catholic trends in marriage mirror society's, but vision is different

BY NANCY FRAZIER O'BRIEN

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Like the number of marriages among Americans in general, the number of marriages performed in the Catholic Church has been in decline over the past few decades.

"Since 1972, the number of marriages celebrated in a Catholic church has fallen nearly 60 percent" in the U.S., said Sheila Garcia, associate director of the U.S. bishops' Secretariat for Laity, Marriage, Family Life and Youth, citing a study conducted for the secretariat by the Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate at Georgetown University and released in 2008.

In 1972, there were 8.6 marriages in the Church per 1,000 Catholics, but last year the figure was 2.6 Church marriages for every 1,000 Catholics, she said.

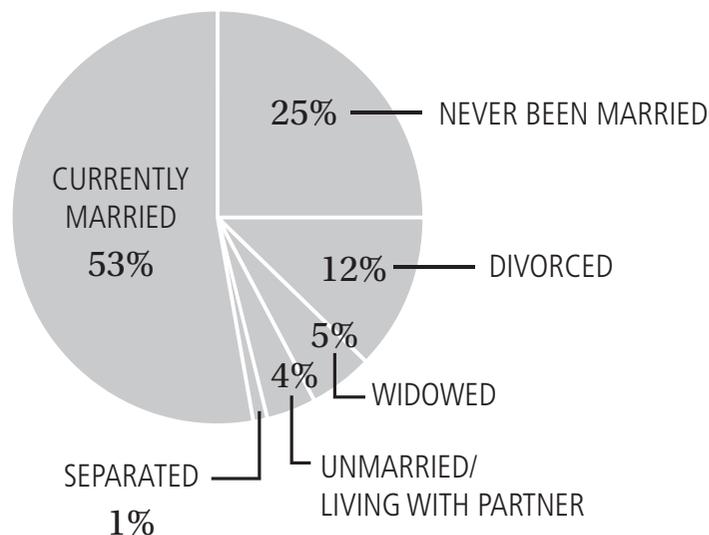
That trend is among the reasons that led the bishops to launch their National Pastoral Initiative for Marriage in 2004 and the related "For Your Marriage" website to help people better understand the Catholic viewpoint on marriage and to strengthen the bonds of couples, whether they are Catholic or not, married in the Church or not.

"What we have said is that you need three things to support marriage — a vision, skills and a supportive community," Garcia told Catholic News Service. "The Church clearly offers a vision for marriage. We believe you can have a marriage that is faithful, permanent and open to children. We believe with God's grace that can be achieved."

Through practical articles on such topics as finance and communications, the website at <http://foryourmarriage.org> offers tools to help couples strengthen their marriages. A campaign involving television and radio spots, print ads and billboards works to communicate the message that "the Church cares about marriage as an institution and cares about your marriage," Garcia said. "You can turn to the Church for support."

The 2008 CARA report found

MARITAL STATUS of U.S. adult Catholics:



Source: Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate, 2008 ©2011 CNS

that 53 percent of adult Catholics in the U.S. were married, 25 percent had never married, 12 percent were divorced, 5 percent widowed, 4 percent living with a partner and 1 percent separated from their spouse.

A new report from the Pew Research Center analyzing Census Bureau data offered similar statistics. It found that only 51 percent of Americans 18 and over were married in 2010, 28 percent had never been married, 14 percent were divorced or separated and 6 percent widowed. The Pew report did not include a figure for those living with a partner.

But the Pew study also found that 39 percent of the respondents said marriage was becoming obsolete — an opinion that Brian R. Barcaro said the vast majority of the 300,000 users of CatholicMatch.com would dispute. Barcaro co-founded CatholicMatch.com with two others in June of 1999 and said there have been "thousands and thousands" of marriages resulting from the service since then.

"Overall our members would not be very similar" to the average single person surveyed by Pew,

Barcaro said. "Their attitudes would be much more positive toward marriage than in the Pew study."

He said "98, 99 percent" of CatholicMatch.com members "come with the idea that they want to meet someone that could be a future spouse." The remaining 1 or 2 percent just want a community experience that can provide "perspectives on living life as a single Catholic," he added.

But Barcaro said "one of the myths" about single people today is that they are all "college-age kids, 20somethings."

"We do have a number of members in that age group," he said, "but the majority are in their very late 20s or 30s or 40s." Many of them have found themselves 10 or 15 years out of college and discovered that "things did not happen the way I thought they would" in terms of finding a spouse, Barcaro said.

"If you don't meet the love of your life in college, then you get into a job and career, and that impacts your social circles," he added. "In college there are lots of natural social circles, but afterward it becomes much more difficult."

solid education of their consciences" is important.

Education begins in the family, which must help children "develop a personality that combines a profound sense of justice with respect for their neighbor, with a capacity to address conflicts without arrogance, with the inner strength to bear witness to good, even when it involves sacrifice, with forgiveness and reconciliation," Pope Benedict said.

Religious leaders must contribute to the process as well, he said, because "every pathway of authentic religious formation guides the person, from the most tender age, to know God, to love him and do his will."

At the evening prayer service New Year's Eve, the pope said most people look toward a new year "with

some trepidation," with desires and expectations. But the changing of the civic calendar so soon after Christmas helps Christians recognize the purpose of their lives and look with confidence to the future.

"From within the fabric of humanity, rent asunder by so much injustice, wickedness and violence, there bursts forth in an unforeseen way the joyful and liberating novelty of Christ our savior, who leads us to contemplate the goodness and tenderness of God," the pope said.

"There is no more room for anxiety in the face of time that passes, never to return," he said. "Now there is room for unlimited trust in God, by whom we know we are loved, for whom we live and to whom our life is directed."



PUBLIC SCHEDULE OF BISHOP KEVIN C. RHOADES

- Sunday, Jan. 8, 11 a.m. — Epiphany Mass, Saint Matthew Cathedral, South Bend
- Monday, Jan. 9, 9 a.m. — Mass and Pastoral Visit, Marian High School, Mishawaka
- Wednesday, Jan. 11, 8:15 a.m. — Mass and Pastoral Visit, Saint Jude School, Fort Wayne
- Thursday, Jan. 12, 10 a.m. — Meeting of Our Sunday Visitor Advisory Board, Detroit, Mich.
- Friday, Jan. 13, 5 p.m. — Opening Mass for National Catholic Office for the Deaf Pastoral Week, Boston, Mass.

Sean McBride named communications director of diocese

BY TIM JOHNSON

FORT WAYNE — Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades has announced that Sean McBride has been named the new communications director for the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend. He will begin his duties on Jan. 16. Vince LaBarbera will be retiring from the director's position in mid-January.

McBride is a familiar figure with the televised Mass in Fort Wayne, which is a live broadcast from the chapel at the University of Saint Francis on Sunday mornings and airs on WFFT-TV. He has served as the director of the Catholic televised Mass for 15 years. His father, Ed McBride, was instrumental in launching the Mass 25 years ago.

McBride, 42, recalled helping with the televised Mass as a junior at Bishop Dwenger High School in 1986. Later, when his father's health declined, McBride began assisting his father and took the director's role in 1996.

As the communications director, McBride will assume the coordination of the TV Mass in Fort Wayne and South Bend.

In the Fort Wayne area, McBride is also a familiar voice. On Redeemer Radio, Catholic Radio 1450 AM, McBride is the announcer and the director of football programming.

About accepting the new role as diocesan communications director, McBride said, "I am excited about it. I am excited about Bishop Rhoades' complete enthusiasm for *Today's Catholic* and all media. I look forward to a growing relationship with the secular media and spreading the message of the diocese in both content and brand."

McBride said that he plans to drive the social media expansion to reach younger Catholics, "to speak in the way that they will listen," he said.

McBride is a graduate of Bishop Dwenger High School. He has an associate's degree in electronics engineering from IIT and a bachelor's degree in business management from Trine University.

He and his wife of 21 years,



SEAN MCBRIDE



VINCE LABARBERA

Sheri, have six children ranging from kindergarten to college. The family attends St. Vincent de Paul Parish in Fort Wayne.

McBride has worked as the director of sales for the North American division of Afag Automation AG in Fort Wayne for five years.

Out-going director, Vince LaBarbera has served the diocese since 1996 and has been the communications director since 2004.

His years with the diocese followed a 30-year career with Indiana Michigan Power Company in Fort Wayne where he held a variety of communications, advertising, writing, editing and public relations responsibilities.

LaBarbera is a graduate of the University of Notre Dame and holds a master's degree in journalism and advertising from Northwestern University.

He currently serves on the board of directors for Vincent Village and the Fort Wayne Area Community Band. He is a member of Buglers Across America and the Band Alumni of Notre Dame. He and his wife Marty are active members of St. Therese Parish in Fort Wayne. They have four children, three grandchildren and one great grandchild.

"My 15-and-a-half years with the diocese have been a real privilege," LaBarbera said. "It's always nice to begin every meeting with a prayer."

He plans to be a freelance writer for *Today's Catholic*. He also has a number of projects at home and plans to help his wife with her antique business.

He enjoys photography, art, music and writing. He and Marty serve as foster parents as needed and also foster puppies from the local animal shelter.

PEACE

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

With the ease of communications, travel and globalization, he said, the world seems smaller in many ways and people come into contact more often with others from a different race, religion or culture.

"Now, more than ever, it is indispensable to learn the importance and the art of peaceful coexistence, mutual respect, dialogue and understanding," he said.

While young people naturally are open, the pope said they often are targets of manipulation by those who are intolerant and violent, so "a

Pope advances sainthood causes of Marianne Cope, Kateri Tekakwitha

BY CAROL GLATZ

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope Benedict XVI advanced the sainthood causes of Blessed Marianne Cope of Molokai and Blessed Kateri Tekakwitha.

He also formally recognized the martyrdom of 64 victims of the Spanish Civil War and advanced the causes of 18 other men and women.

During a meeting Dec. 19 with Cardinal Angelo Amato, prefect of the Congregation for Saints' Causes, the pope signed the decrees recognizing the miracles needed for the canonizations of Blesseds Marianne and Kateri.

Before a date is set for the canonization ceremonies, there must be an "ordinary public consistory," a formal ceremony opened and closed with prayer, during which cardinals present in Rome express their support for the pope's decision to create new saints.

Blessed 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 and was beatified in St. Peter's Basilica in 2005.

Blessed Kateri, known as the Lily of the Mohawks, was born to a Christian Algonquin mother and a Mohawk father in 1656 in upstate New York along the Hudson River. She was baptized by a Jesuit missionary in 1676 when she was 20, and she died in Canada four years later. In June

Kateri Tekakwitha

1656 Born in a village on the Mohawk River near Auriesville, N.Y. Her father was a Mohawk chief and her mother a Christian Algonquin.

1660 Orphaned at age 4 during smallpox epidemic.

1676 Baptized on Easter at the age of 20.

1677 Fled to Canada, taking refuge at St. Francis Xavier Mission in the Mohawk Nation at Caughnawaga. Reportedly made her first Communion on Christmas.

1680 Died at age 24, is buried at Caughnawaga.

Late 1800s American Indians began making appeals to the Catholic Church that she be recognized for her deep spirituality and devotion to the Blessed Sacrament.

1932 Documentation for her sainthood cause was sent to the Vatican.

1935 National Tekakwitha Conference started.

1980 Beatified by Pope John Paul II June 22.

2011 Pope Benedict XVI recognizes second miracle attributed to her intercession Dec. 19.



1980, she became the first Native American to be beatified.

Pope Benedict also recognized miracles attributed to the intercession of five other people, who now can be declared saints. They are:

- Blessed Giovanni Battista Piamarta, an Italian priest who founded the Congregation of the Holy Family of Nazareth for men and the Humble Servants of the Lord for women. He died in 1913.

- Blessed Jacques Berthieu, a French Jesuit priest who was martyred in Madagascar in 1896.

- Blessed Carmen Salles y Barangueras, the Spanish founder of the Sisters of the Immaculate Conception. She worked with disadvantaged girls and prostitutes and saw that early education was essential for helping young

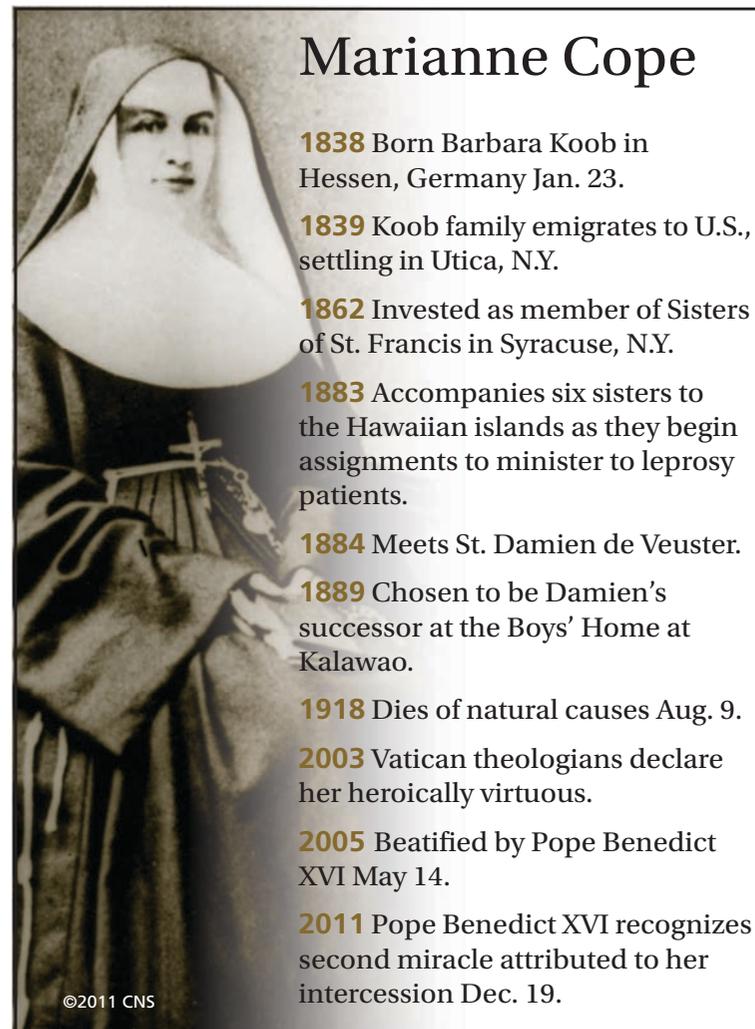
women. She died in 1911.

- Blessed Peter Calungsod, a lay Catholic from Cebu, Philippines, who accompanied Jesuit missionaries to Guam as a catechist and was martyred there in 1672 while he was in his late teens.

- Blessed Anna Schaffer, a lay German woman who wanted to be a missionary, but couldn't do so after a succession of physical accidents and disease. She accepted her infirmity as a way of sanctification. Her grave has been a pilgrimage site since her death in 1925.

Pope Benedict also signed decrees that pave the way for numerous beatifications:

- He recognized the martyrdom of 64 priests, religious and a layman, Jose Gorostazu Labayan, who were martyred between 1936



Marianne Cope

1838 Born Barbara Koob in Hessen, Germany Jan. 23.

1839 Koob family emigrates to U.S., settling in Utica, N.Y.

1862 Invested as member of Sisters of St. Francis in Syracuse, N.Y.

1883 Accompanies six sisters to the Hawaiian islands as they begin assignments to minister to leprosy patients.

1884 Meets St. Damien de Veuster.

1889 Chosen to be Damien's successor at the Boys' Home at Kalawao.

1918 Dies of natural causes Aug. 9.

2003 Vatican theologians declare her heroically virtuous.

2005 Beatified by Pope Benedict XVI May 14.

2011 Pope Benedict XVI recognizes second miracle attributed to her intercession Dec. 19.

and 1937 during the Spanish Civil War.

- He recognized the martyrdom of Father Nicolaus Rusca, a Swiss priest who was tortured and killed after being condemned by a Protestant court in 1618.

- He formally recognized the miracle needed for the beatification of Father Louis Brisson, the French founder of the Oblates of St. Francis de Sales.

- He formally recognized the miracle needed for the beatification of Italian Father Luigi Novarese, an official at the Vatican Secretariat of State and founder of the Silent Workers of

the Cross Association.

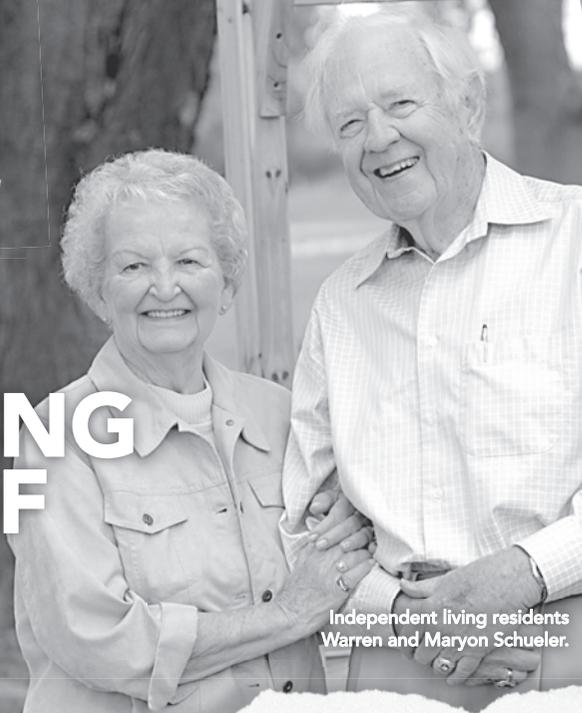
- He formally recognized the miracle needed for the beatification of Mother Maria Mole, the French founder of the Sisters of Charity of St. Louis.

- He formally recognized the miracles needed for the beatifications of two nuns, one from Argentina and one from Italy.

The pope approved seven other decrees recognizing that the men and women lived the Christian virtues in a heroic way and that they are venerable. Recognition of a miracle attributed to each candidate's intercession is needed for that person's beatification.



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Area Serra Clubs foster and pray for vocations across the diocese

BY KAY COZAD

The Serra Club of South Bend, led this year by President Stephen Elek, Jr., and the Serra Club of Fort Wayne, whose president is Dave Steffen, have been busy preparing some new initiatives for the new year that promise to strengthen and promulgate the clubs' mission to "foster and affirm vocations to the ordained priesthood and vowed religious life."

The South Bend chapter, which meets the first and third Friday of each month at the Saint Joseph Regional Medical Center, hosts close to 30 members for Mass, recitation of the rosary, lunch and interaction with informative speakers. And according to Elek, two new initiatives to foster vocations were announced recently in South Bend.

"We are having a membership drive that will cover all western parishes included in five counties. That's 38 to 40 parishes," says Elek.

The drive will communicate Serra Club membership information to area parishioners through bulletin blurbs and other avenues. In addition to fostering vocations the club also vows to "foster and affirm its members' common Catholic faith."

The second project involves the expansion of the College Connection for Catholics program, which has been successfully linking incoming college freshman with Catholic campus ministries for six years. The expansion will include not just Marian and Saint Joseph's high schools, but all Catholic seniors graduating from public high schools or home schools in the South Bend area as well.

Ray Vales, regional director for



KAY COZAD

Fort Wayne Serra Club President Dave Steffen stands in front of seminarian Zachary Barry at left, as South Bend Serra Club President Stephen Elek, Jr., right, and regional director Ray Vales, second right, speak with seminarians Jonathan Norton, Matthew Soberalski and Tommy Saul at the Dec. 22 holiday luncheon for seminarians and their families, held at the Archbishop Noll Catholic Center in Fort Wayne.

the Serra Club, reports that, with permission, names of graduating Catholic seniors will be gathered from the parishes and entered into a database, which will provide information to the campus ministries of colleges across the country in the fall. Each campus minister then contacts the students with an invitation to become involved in ministries around the campus.

Vales says that those students who initially are involved in faith ministries at college fare better in their religious practices.

"The key is to get them right away," he says.

Elek adds that statistics show that 85 percent of graduating college seniors retain their faith and become leaders in the Church when they are

involved in campus ministries.

This diocese is enjoying an increase in the number of new seminarians — more than it's seen since the 1970s. Vales remains confident that these new vocations are good men.

"These are quality guys. Even with the numbers going up, it's still a strict process and we're getting good men," he says.

Other services the South Bend Serra Club participates in include visiting or sending seminarians cards, inviting parents to the club and prayer. Vales says each South Bend club member prays for two seminarians.

"Our prayers are directed toward the seminarian that their vocation will work out," he reports.

Each year a holiday luncheon for seminarians is hosted alternately between South Bend and Fort Wayne. Parents and family members join their seminarians for an afternoon of Mass, lunch and presentations.

The 48-year-old Fort Wayne Serra Club boasts 50 members and along with the South Bend club is open to both men and woman of all ages. The club meets the first Friday of each month at St. Joseph Hospital for Mass and a luncheon. Guest speakers round out the meetings with vocational inspiration.

The club is involved in fostering vocations and their own spiritual growth by promoting a newly revised membership packet that includes the history of the development of the club as well as information on Blessed Juniper Serra, its patron saint. The Serra's mission and prayer for vocations complete the packet.

The club supports Andrew Dinners for young men interested in investigating the priesthood, an annual dinner for the congregations of sisters in the area, a seminarians' picnic, the spring presentation of the Christian Leadership award to a graduating high-school senior and the sponsoring of the Bishop's Trophy presented to the winner of the annual football rivalry between Bishop Luers and Bishop Dwenger high schools.

This year a progressive initiative in Fort Wayne involves distribution of refrigerator magnets highlighting the vocations prayer to grade school students in the area. Fort Wayne President Steffen says there is no age

For information on vocations contact:

Msgr. Bernard Galic, director of the diocesan Office of Vocations, at (260) 622-4491.

For membership information for the Fort Wayne Serra Club contact, Derek Pillie, membership chairman, at (260) 627-9402 and for the South Bend Serra Club, contact Karol Pasierbowicz, vice president of membership at (574) 277-4781.

limit on a vocation.

The Serra clubs of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend are independent clubs affiliated with Serra International, founded in 1935. Of the approximately 20,000 Serra Club members worldwide, 11,000 reside in the U.S. Regional director Vales concludes, "All 11,000 are praying for vocations and our mission to foster vocations."

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Pope, at audience, encourages parents to teach children to pray

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — If children do not learn to pray from their parents, it will be difficult for them to ever learn to communicate with God naturally, simply and deeply, Pope Benedict XVI said. “In the family, children from the tenderest age can learn to perceive the sense of God thanks to the teaching and example their parents give of living in the presence of God,” the pope said at his weekly general audience Dec. 28. Continuing a series of audience talks on prayer, Pope Benedict looked at the Holy Family as a model of family life marked by faith, work and regular moments of prayer together. “The Holy Family is the icon of the domestic church called to pray together. The family is the domestic church and must be the first school of prayer,” he said. While the Gospels do not give many details about Jesus’ childhood, he said, the Bible is clear that Mary and Joseph were observant Jews, which means they prayed at regular times throughout the day and before meals. They went to Jerusalem to present Jesus in the temple when he was 40 days old and journeyed to Jerusalem to celebrate the Passover. “An authentically Christian education cannot lack the experience of prayer,” the pope said. “If one does not learn to pray in the family, it will be difficult to fill this void, so I want to invite you to rediscover the beauty of praying together as a family in the school of the Holy Family of Nazareth and, in that way, to become truly one heart and one soul, a true family.”

Pope to visit Mexico March 23-26, spokesman confirms

MEXICO CITY (CNS) — A spokesman for the Mexican bishops’ conference confirmed details of Pope Benedict XVI’s upcoming visit to Mexico originally published by the newspaper *Reforma*, which reported the papal visit would occur March 23-26. The spokesman, Father Manuel Corral, stressed that details of the visit “are not official,” although he said the pope would only visit the state of Guanajuato and its environs in west-central Mexico. Father Corral said specific details of the visit would likely be made public before the end of the year. *Reforma*, citing comments from the president of the bishops’ conference, Archbishop Carlos Aguir Retes of Tlalampantla, reported that Pope Benedict would celebrate Mass March 25 at the Parque Guanajuato Bicentenario in Silao, near the city of Leon and 220 miles northwest of Mexico City. Pope Benedict also is expected to visit Cuba during his trip, the first to both countries since he was elected in 2005.

Pew study estimates Christian population at 2.18 billion globally

WASHINGTON (CNS) — According to a new study, there are

WORKERS CONSTRUCT A CATHOLIC CHURCH MADE OF SNOW IN A BAVARIAN VILLAGE



CNS PHOTO/PETR JOSEK, REUTERS

People work at the construction site of a Catholic church made of snow in the Bavarian village of Mitterfirmiansreut, near the German-Czech border, Dec. 27. The snow church was to be unveiled during a Dec. 28 ceremony and was likely to become a tourist attraction until the beginning of spring.

currently 2.18 billion Christians in more than 200 countries around the world, representing nearly a third of the estimated 6.9 billion 2010 global population. The study, conducted by the Pew Research Center’s Forum on Religion & Public Life, found Christians to be so geographically widespread that no single continent or region can indisputably claim to be the center of global Christianity. The Pew study, “Global Christianity: A Report on the Size and Distribution of the World’s Christian Population,” cites that 100 years ago, two-thirds of the world’s Christians lived in Europe but today only about a quarter of all Christians live there. More than one-third of Christians reside in the Americas; about a quarter live in sub-Saharan Africa and 13 percent live in Asia and the Pacific. The data indicates that during the past 100 years, the number of Christians around the world has more than tripled from historical estimates of approximately 600 million in 1910 to more than 2 billion today. But the world’s overall population has also risen rapidly, from an estimated 1.8 billion in 1910 to 6.9 billion in 2010. As a result, Christians make up about the same portion of the world’s population in 2010 (32 percent) as they did a century ago (35 percent). The study also reveals that

although Europe and the Americas are still home to a majority (63 percent) of the world’s Christians, that share is much lower than it was in 1910 when it was 93 percent. In the past 100 years, the number of Christians grew significantly in sub-Saharan Africa and the Asia-Pacific region. The study also breaks down where Catholics — numbering 1.1 billion worldwide and half of the global Christian population — reside. Brazil, with 134 million Catholics, has the world’s largest Catholic population, which totals more than the number of Catholics in Italy, France and Spain combined. Other countries with the highest percentages of Catholic populations include: Mexico, the Philippines and the United States. The 10 countries with the largest number of Catholics contain more than half of the world’s Catholics.

Formerly paralyzed priest sees miracle as he begins walking

EPHRATA, Pa. (CNS) — When Redemptorist Father John Murray bashed his head against a railing after tripping along a New Jersey boardwalk 15 months ago, the con-

sequences were devastating. The former pastor of St. Mary in Annapolis and St. Wenceslaus in Baltimore suffered a broken neck that left him instantly paralyzed from the chest down. Rushed to a hospital, he underwent emergency spinal cord surgery and later began rehabilitation at a prominent New Jersey institute. Doctors had little encouragement for the once-active priest who was known across the East Coast for his preaching abilities. The chances he would ever walk again were virtually zero. “When they said I’d never be able to move again, they took away all hope,” Father Murray told *The Catholic Review*, Baltimore archdiocesan newspaper. But on Nov. 28, 2010, Father Murray did something everyone said would be impossible. While living and undergoing rehabilitation at Stella Maris in Timonium, Md., he moved his left leg ever so slightly, gently lifting his foot off the ground. “I was ecstatic,” Father Murray recalled with a smile. “Here I was about six weeks after they told me in New Jersey I’d never move again and, lo and behold, I could move. Just the foot, but it kept going and going and going.” Today, Father Murray is completely mobile. Using a walker, he is able to walk on his own at his new residence at St. Clement

Mission House in Ephrata. Father Murray sees only one explanation for his renewed gift of independence: An encounter with the miraculous. When most people think of miracles, he said, they usually bring to mind instantaneous cures of a debilitating disease or terminal illness. “We think of it as any exceptions to the laws of nature,” the priest explained. “In biblical times, what was called a miracle was anything that showed the power of God. What happened to me wasn’t instantaneous, but it certainly was miraculous.”

US bishops awarded grant to study Latino vocations

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The Secretariat of Clergy, Consecrated Life and Vocations of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops has been awarded an \$85,000 grant from the Conrad N. Hilton Foundation to explore why Hispanics are under-represented in the U.S. clergy and religious. The survey aims to identify common and distinctive cultural traits that affect the openness and ability of Catholic youth to respond to a call to a vocation to the priesthood or religious life. The secretariat has commissioned the Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate at Georgetown University to conduct a national survey of never-married Catholics, ages 14 and older, to study their views about vocations and their own consideration of a vocation. The one-year grant from the Los Angeles-based group will also be used to fund a seminar on consecrated life for the U.S. bishops. Statistical data found in two reports commissioned by the secretariat, “The Class of 2011: Survey of Ordinands to the Priesthood” and “The Profession Class of 2010: Survey of Women Religious Professing Perpetual Vows,” indicate fewer than expected religious vocations among the Hispanic and Latino Catholic population in the United States. Father Shawn McKnight, executive director of the secretariat, said Hispanics/Latinos constituted 15 percent of the ordination class and 10 percent of the religious profession class, but they are 34 percent of the total adult Catholic population. “There is not enough objective data to explain the reasons for their underrepresentation,” Father McKnight said.

Pope condemns Christmas bombings in Nigeria

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope Benedict XVI appealed for an end to violence in Nigeria, condemning the Christmas church bombings that led to the deaths of at least 39 people. The celebration of Christmas leads people to pray in an even stronger way that God would “stop the hands of the violent who sow death and that justice and peace would reign in the world,” the pope said Dec. 26 as he recited the Angelus with visitors gathered in St. Peter’s Square. A group called Boko Haram, which has been promoting the adoption of Islamic law across Nigeria, claimed responsibility for the bombings.

John F. Gaughan Scholarship established at Bishop Luers

FORT WAYNE — The John F. Gaughan Scholarship is being established at Bishop Luers High School to honor the retired teacher and coach, and support Catholic education. The Bishop Luers Development Office is hosting a Winter Homecoming on Friday, Jan. 13, when the establishment of the scholarship will be announced. The office is currently accepting donations to set up an endowment for the scholarship. For more information or to donate contact the Development Office at (260) 456-1261.

Holy Cross College students donate to help area women battle cancer

NOTRE DAME — Pink hair extensions provided by Emblazon Salon of South Bend, pink bracelets, key chains and pins were sold during the Oct. 4 Pink-Out event, sponsored by the Holy Cross College Student Government Association, with all proceeds going to 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.

Molly White, a sophomore from Maryland and SGA Social Concerns president, and Chuck Ball, director for the Center for Discernment and Preparation at Holy Cross College, were on hand Dec. 2 at Saint Joseph's Regional Medical Center to present a check to the Secret Sisters Society.

Holy Cross College students raised \$364.65 during October's Pink Out, and combined with the money raised from the 2010 Pink Out, donated \$650 to the Secret Sisters Society.

St. Francis de Sales holds all-school reunion

INDIANAPOLIS — The alumni of St. Francis de Sales Grade School, which closed in 1977, will hold their first all-school reunion on Saturday, June 23, from noon to 5 p.m. at the Knights of Columbus Council 5290, located at 4332 N. German Church Rd., in Indianapolis. Reservations and donations of \$20 to defray costs can be mailed to St. Francis de Sales All School Reunion, P.O. Box 193, Fortville, Ind., 46040. For additional information call Jeff Henninger at (317) 446-5087 or visit St. Francis de Sales Catholic Church and Grade School Indianapolis on Facebook.

Interdisciplinary panel discussing Dr. King's views at USF

FORT WAYNE — Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s views on unions and labor will be explored during

AROUND THE DIOCESE

MARIAN HIGH SCHOOL QUIZ BOWL TEAM UNDEFEATED



PROVIDED BY MARIAN HIGH SCHOOL

The Marian High School varsity quiz bowl team is undefeated in the regular season of the St. Joseph Valley Quiz Bowl League with a record of 9-0. Pictured from left in front are Connor Burke, Katie Chustak, Rachel Hoffman, Stacie Skwarczan, Carly Gettinger, Katy Long and Angela Kirori. In back are Moderator Ken Andrzejewski, Stephen Hicks, Jesse Gettinger, Ian Bussan and Eddie Hunckler. Tournament play begins in January and the state tournament is scheduled for March.

BISHOP VISITS ST. CATHERINE



SHIRLEY SMITH

Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades made a pastoral visit to St. Catherine of Alexandra Parish, Nix Settlement, on Sunday, Dec. 18. Parish members welcomed him with a breakfast after Mass. Bishop Rhoades visited each table. Parishioners were pleased to know Bishop Rhoades had researched the parish history and learned that there were many Nix families that once lived in this area. The Nixes, along with some other families, played a major part in getting the parish established over 160 years ago. Pictured with the bishop are Genevieve Frazier and Max Hilligoss — the oldest members of St. Catherine who are still very active today.

“King and Labor: The Memphis Sanitation Workers’ Strike,” a discussion by an interdisciplinary panel, at the University of Saint Francis on Tuesday, Jan. 24 at 6:30 p.m. in the Brookside Ballroom.

Assistant Professor of Political Science Dr. Thomas Schneider, Assistant Professor of Philosophy Dr. Lewis Pearson and Assistant Professor of Economics Dr. D. Marshall Meador will guide the discussion, giving perspectives from their different disciplines.

The roundtable discussion, sponsored by the university's School of Arts and Sciences, will celebrate King's life and contributions as part of the university's annual “Acting on a Dream ... A Day On, Not a Day Off” Martin Luther King Jr. observance.

Sisters of Providence to host prayer service, bring attention to human trafficking issues

SAINT MARY-OF-THE-WOODS — The Sisters of Providence of Saint Mary-of-the-Woods will host a prayer service at 4:30 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 11, to focus on the international issue of human trafficking. Prayers will be offered in the Church of the Immaculate Conception. The prayer time is open to people of all faith traditions.

The Sisters of Providence are uniting with 10 other communities of Catholic women religious in Indiana and Michigan to work with state and local officials to reduce the amount of trafficking that tends to increase during major events such as the National Football League's Super Bowl in Indianapolis on Feb. 5.

ST. JOSEPH HOSPITAL REACHES OUT



PROVIDED BY ST. JOSEPH HOSPITAL

St. Joseph Hospital in Fort Wayne adopted 26 area families through the Salvation Army and Vincent Village. Pictured is Randy Bair, director of cardiopulmonary services at St. Joseph Hospital, as he hands gifts wrapped by hospital associates to Vincent Village caseworker Larry Geans. Also pictured from left are Sister Carole Langhauser, vice president of mission integration at St. Joe, Marty Kocks-Hamrick, Vincent Village development director, and Sister Julienne Smith from Saint Joseph.

Vocations are everybody's business

Seminarian numbers show an increase

BY TIM JOHNSON

YODER — “Vocations are everybody's business” is the slogan used by the Knights of Columbus, and Msgr. Bernard Galic, the director of the Vocation Office and pastor of St. Aloysius Church, Yoder, said that slogan “hits the nail on the head.”

“If everybody was living the faith, and if everybody was teaching the faith, then everybody would be comfortable in recommending people who show the signs of one who would be a good priest that he consider it,” Msgr. Galic told *Today's Catholic*. “If people would do that it may help plant the seeds of vocations.”

In a sense, those seeds are sprouting. The Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend is seeing an increase in the number of seminarians and an increase in the numbers of men inquiring about the priesthood. That follows a national trend as seminaries are seeing the largest numbers of men studying for the priesthood since the 1970s and 1980s.

“That includes two of the (seminaries) where our men are studying,” Msgr. Galic said.

“The Josephinum in Columbus, Ohio, and Mount Saint Mary's in Emmitsburg, Md., both of them have the largest enrollments they have had in 20 years.”

Currently there are men studying in five seminaries: Pontifical College Josephinum, Mount Saint Mary's, Immaculate Heart of Mary in Winona, Minn., Seminario Hispano de Santa Maria de Guadalupe in Mexico City and the North American College in Rome.

The local numbers have grown. Msgr. Galic said, “Last year there were nine new men that began seminary studies. This year there are eight new men. Right now I have seven sets of application papers out and it's still relatively early.”

The newest applicants tend to be college-age or college graduates. Msgr. Galic noted that last year, the largest numbers were younger men coming out of high school or just beginning college.

Although Msgr. Galic has some doubts that the Church will see the numbers of priests that it saw after World War II, “... I do think we are going to see seminarian numbers continue to grow,” he said.

“And that's partly because young parents today are taking a more serious interest in the Church and are raising their kids with spiritual values,” he said.



KAY COZAD

Msgr. Bernard Galic, director of the diocesan Office of Vocations, speaks with Dave Szymczak at the Dec. 22 holiday luncheon for seminarians and their families, sponsored by the Serra Club of South Bend and the Serra Club of Fort Wayne, held at the Archbishop Noll Catholic Center in Fort Wayne.

“Those kids are more likely to hear and respond to a call in Church ministry.”

Msgr. Galic also credits this increase in seminarians from the Blessed Pope John Paul II generation — young men who were profoundly influenced by the pope's ministry.

“I think a lot of young people's (men of college age) love for the Church grew out of

their experience of him,” he said. “They just had a great love for that man and his charism.”

Msgr. Galic told *Today's Catholic* that qualities that make a good priest include a welcoming personality, someone who deals easily with young and older people. Other qualities include someone who typifies a healthy young man — interest in sports and outdoor activities. Another

quality would be an interest in the faith, someone who regularly attends Mass, is involved with parish activities — a reader, choir member, a leader of the youth group.

Msgr. Galic said that when one of the faithful notices these qualities in a man, they may want to suggest to that person: “You know, did you ever think about being a priest?” or “You would make a good priest.”

“Sometimes, that's what gets people thinking,” Msgr. Galic said.

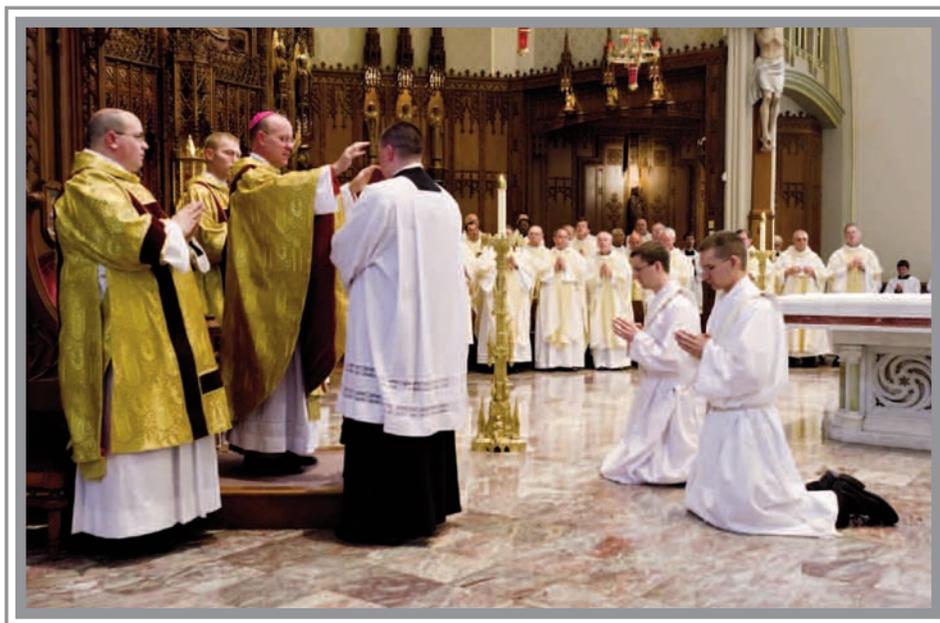
However, many seminarians have stated that they first gave the priesthood serious thought when a priest asked, “Have you ever thought about being a priest?”

Msgr. Galic noted, “God would not have given us a sacramental Church if He didn't intend to provide us with priests to administer the sacraments, especially the Eucharist.”

He said, “I don't believe there is a shortage of call, a shortage of vocations. I think there is a critical failure of those who are being called to respond positively to the call.”

Msgr. Bernard Galic has directed the Office of Vocations since February, 1994.

CALLED TO SERVE



Fathers Terrance Coonan and Matthew Coonan kneel before Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades during the Prayer of Ordination on Saturday, June 11, 2011 at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Fort Wayne.

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-Pope John Paul II

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Seminary enrollment up, but numbers seen as only part of story

BY NANCY FRAZIER O'BRIEN

WASHINGTON (CNS) — In his first months as rector of Theological College in Washington, Father Phillip J. Brown has been confronting a problem that the national diocesan seminary for the U.S. Catholic Church “has not had for a long time” — it is bursting at the seams.

Enrollment is maxed out for the 2011-12 academic year at 90 seminarians. Five of those seminarians are back in their dioceses this year gaining pastoral experience, but a Sulpician seminarian and five priests from other countries also live there, bringing the total number of residents to 91 plus faculty members.

“If I had to start with a problem, that’s the problem I’d like to have,” Father Brown told Catholic News Service. “It’s a very healthy sign, a positive sign for Theological College and for the U.S. priesthood.”

The trend of rising seminary enrollment is being duplicated around the country:

- At the Pontifical College Josephinum in Columbus, Ohio, 40 new seminarians arrived this year, bringing total enrollment to 186, the highest level since the 1970s.

- St. Paul Seminary School of Divinity at the University of St. Thomas in St. Paul, Minn., welcomed 30 new graduate-level seminarians, making its class of 100 seminarians the largest since 1980. The influx forced 24 seminarians and two priests off campus into leased space at a former convent.

- In the Diocese of Scranton, Pa., where the St. Pius X diocesan seminary closed in 2004 because of declining enrollment, the number of seminarians has more than doubled from eight to 17 in the past two years.

Most of the Scranton seminarians are studying at St. Charles Borromeo Seminary in Wynnewood, Pa., where communications specialist Dan Skalski said enrollment has remained steady over the past five years, or at the



CNS PHOTO/BOB ROLLER

Seminarians pray during morning Mass at Theological College in Washington Nov. 29. Enrollment at the college is maxed out for the 2011-12 academic year at 90 seminarians.

Pontifical North American College in Rome, where a class of 76 “new men” brought enrollment this fall to a full house of 250 seminarians.

In an April report, the Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate at Georgetown University said enrollment was up for those studying for the priesthood, diaconate and lay ecclesial ministry during the 2010-11 academic year — the latest for which statistics were available.

In all, there were 3,608 post-baccalaureate U.S. seminarians last year, a net increase of 125 seminarians, or 4 percent, over the previous year and the highest number since the early 1990s. More than three-quarters of them were studying for the diocesan priesthood, while 24 percent intend to be ordained for religious orders.

The trend goes beyond Catholic schools to all seminaries, according to figures from the Association of Theological Schools in the U.S. and Canada from 2010-11.

The organization that accredits theological schools said 75,431 people were studying for the ministry at 261 institutions during the last academic year, an increase of .6 percent from the year before.

But Theological College’s Father Brown said a rise in enrollment is only part of the story.

“It’s not just the numbers but the quality and spirit of the men who are coming,” he told CNS.

“I’m tremendously impressed with the quality of the candidates, their zeal,” he added. “We’re seeing a real renewal of the priesthood.”

Father Brown said the full house has led to “a nice and interesting atmosphere” at Theological College because of the racial and ethnic diversity of the seminarians, who come from “a wide diversity of backgrounds and from a wide diversity of parts of the U.S.”

Having more applicants than Theological College can accept also benefits some of the seminarians, who might be referred to a school “better suited to the candidate’s academic achievements and aptitudes,” he said.

Because its seminarians participate in “an exacting and demanding program” at The Catholic University of America, Father Brown said, Theological College accepts those candidates considered most likely to succeed in a rigorous academic environment.

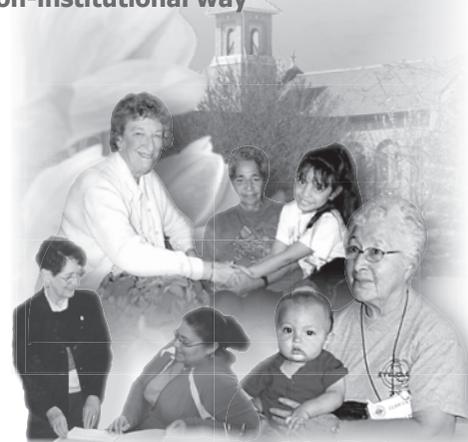
“As the numbers seem to be increasing for all major seminaries, it’s easier to have a more cooperative relationship” among the schools, so that seminarians end up at the seminary that will benefit them the most, he added.

But he said those at Theological College never lose sight of the fact that “our goal is not to produce academicians or intellectuals but to provide good pastors for parishes.”

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The Felician Sisters serve with joy in South Bend

BY KAREN CLIFFORD

SOUTH BEND — Coworkers and associates of a small group of women who live in South Bend use many adjectives to describe this unique unit. Humble, hard working, loving, faithful, kind, strong, organized, humorous and the Italian word “felice” (happy) are among the many attributes these ladies bring to others on a daily basis.

The Felician Sisters, who are officially known as the Congregation of Sisters of St. Felix of Cantalice Third Order Regular of St. Francis of Assisi (CSSF), have four of their joyful community residing in South Bend. Sister Joan Marie Shillinger and Sister Mary Annelie Krych are associated with Holy Family Parish, with Sister Mary Anthony Kubat and Sister Catherine Ryzewicz at St. Adalbert.

Ministries within the order have evolved since its inception and include care of the aged, child care, diocesan work, domestic service, education, evangelization, foreign missions, health care, renewal programs, retreats, social services and youth ministry. There are nearly 1,800 Felician Sisters worldwide, according to Valerie Oltmanns, executive director of Strategic Communications of the Felician Sisters of North America.

Sister Anthony, a pastoral



KAREN CLIFFORD

Sister Annelie of Holy Family School tutors first-grade students, from left, Taeshon Hunt and Nathan Hyduk.

minister at St. Adalbert, recalls her initial reason for joining the Felician community. “I joined the order late in life after both of my parents had passed away. I fell in love with Mother Angela, our foundress, and her commitment to working with the poor, orphans, older women and displaced people.”

As an administrative assistant at St. Adalbert School, Sister Catherine comes into contact with many people. Being around Felician Sisters as a child at school was part of her decision to choose a religious vocation.

“They were fun friends for me. I saw a lot of joy in what they were doing and thought that is the kind of life I want, not truly realizing the inspiration was Christ Himself. My desire to be a sister

comes from trying to strengthen that relationship,” Sister Catherine emphasized.

As in every vocation, challenges occur along a person’s life journey. Sister Joan Marie has been the principal of Holy Family School since 1993 and has seen many changes in the makeup of the family unit.

“Society has changed and it makes teaching much more challenging,” noted Sister Joan.

Because she was older when she made her final vow of profession, Sister Anthony recalled that the vow of obedience was challenging since she had led an independent life prior to joining the order. “But now I know that you just give in to the Holy Spirit and let that guide you,” she said.

Sister Annelie has been with

Holy Family School for the past 27 years. She currently tutors students and recalls the joys of hearing from past school alumni.

“There was a little girl I used to call carrot top that I taught in first grade a long time ago and she called me up recently. That is a very satisfying part of my vocation,” reflected Sister Annelie.

With the consolidation of North America’s eight Felician provinces into one in 2009, there are opportunities for interaction with the extended Felician community at province gatherings. “When we all get together for big assemblies of 400-500 people, it’s amazing to find that we all have the same problems and the same joys,” said Sister Joan Marie.

In addition to sharing their faith with others in their daily work, the sisters try to incorporate the occasional social activity in their busy schedules. Sister Catherine noted that sometimes she and Sister Anthony are invited to the theater or symphony and all four sisters share a weekly meal with their parish priest.

Sister Annelie is a huge football fan. Her favorite college team is the University of Notre Dame, with the Detroit Lions her preferred professional team.

“Last year they (Lions) played like pussycats, but this year they’ve played well,” she beamed.

Bob Budzinski, assistant principal at Holy Family, stressed Sister

Joan Marie and Sister Annelie’s vocations have been a source of pride for students and staff at the school.

“We have gotten a few vocations from Holy Family School. Father Drew Curry and Father Andrew Budzinski (Bob’s brother) are both Holy Family graduates. I think the sisters played a key role in the development of their formation by their Catholic identity,” said Budzinski.

Mary Ann Bachman, principal of St. Adalbert, noted the importance of Sister Catherine’s business background and her good nature.

“She also has a wonderful sense of humor which is vital in a school. She anticipates needs, which is fabulous, and we go straight to her if we have a religious question,” emphasized Bachman.

Sister Anthony’s devotion to the home bound and those in nursing homes and hospitals is greatly appreciated by the St. Adalbert community, according to the parish’s office manager Linda Shaw. “And she’s a great cook!” Shaw added.

For more information on the Felician Sisters of North America contact Sister Mary Beth Brommer, vocations director for the Felician Sisters of North America, at (815) 200-2399.

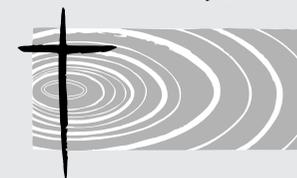
The Poor Handmaids of Jesus Christ is an international congregation of apostolic women religious within the Roman Catholic Church. We minister with the poor, the sick and children in the United States, Mexico, Germany, England, the Netherlands, India, Brazil, Kenya and Nigeria.

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

For information, contact Sister Kathy Haas, PHJC at khaas@poorhandmaids.org.



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Inviting people back to the Church

An invitation from family members and friends *can be* a key element in someone's decision to return to the Church. If you know someone who might be thinking about coming back to the Catholic Church, here are some things you can say that might serve as a trigger:

For people who have been away for a long time: "Have you ever thought about coming back to the Catholic Church? If you're interested, I'd like to invite you to come with me to my parish."

For people who drifted away: "I'd love to have you come with me for Mass or some parish event. I'd like for you to see what kinds of things my parish is doing and meet some of the great people."

For people who are divorced:

"Some people think that divorced people are excommunicated from the Catholic Church, but that's not true. If you'd like to come back to Church, you can come with me."

For people who need an annulment: "There are a lot of misconceptions about the annulment process. Most people find that seeking an annulment gives them closure and helps them to feel spiritually healed. I can help you get more information if you're interested."

For people who are angry at the Church: "I know you had a bad experience with the Church. But my parish is wonderful and I thought you might want to take another look. You could come to Mass with me. Or I could introduce you to someone at the parish that you could talk with."

INVITING CATHOLICS HOME

LORENE HANLEY DUQUIN

For people who are angry at God: "It might sound strange, but it's okay to be angry at God. The best way to deal with anger is to talk to someone about it. I can set up a meeting with someone from my parish if you're interested."

For people who think the Catholic Church doesn't want them: "I know you feel as if the

INVITE, PAGE 12

God will guide us to Himself



THE SUNDAY GOSPEL

a frank and direct statement that God intends salvation also for the Gentiles, not only for the chosen people.

St. Matthew's Gospel furnishes the last reading. Among the four Gospels, only Matthew and Luke refer to the conception, birth and very early life of Jesus. Mark and John are silent on these subjects.

Between Matthew and Luke, only Matthew has the story of the Magi. This story is one of the most profound, and expressive, revelations in the New Testament. To better understand it requires recognizing the symbols and images contained in the passage.

First, the Gospel speaks of visitors "from the East." "From the East" was a phrase referring to much more than a direction of the compass. It meant a distant and unknown place. It was a term of mystery. What was the origin of these visitors? All that is known is that they were "from the East."

Who, and what, were they? Scholars cannot agree, and have not agreed, on a translation. Some think that they were astrologers, in a time when astrology was heavily associated with theology and philosophy. Others think they were nobles, or kings. Another term is Magi, its meaning unclear.

Whatever the answer, they were gifted, learned and very sincere people from someplace far away, strangers earnestly seeking the true God. Art and legend have seen them over the centuries as three in number.

Herod tried to frustrate their search hoping to remove any threat to his corrupt control over the people, fearful as to what a "newborn king" might do. Looking for clues, he discovers that according to the Scriptures, the Savior indeed will be born in Bethlehem.

Overall, the message is powerful. The Magi, only humans, yearn for God but cannot find God on their own. God assists them, with a star in the sky, and even through the evil Herod.

Reflection

This wondrous feast teaches a vital lesson. First, we must recognize that we are limited humans, even sinners. We are helpless in the last analysis.

Accepting our limitation is one message. We also should examine what we regard as rewarding. Too often we allow ourselves to slip into the role of Herod. We look for security in earthly terms. We make judgments based on earthly instincts. Fear overtakes us.

The divinity found by the Magi in Bethlehem hardly met earthly expectations. God was a newborn Child, innocent, indeed helpless, with Mary.

Finally, God alone supplies the answers — and reward — in life. The wonder is that if we are sincere, God will guide us to Himself, living in Christ.

READINGS

Sunday: Is 60:1-6 Ps 72:2, 7-8, 10-13 Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6 Mt 2:1-12

Monday: Is 42:1-4, 6-7 Ps 29:1a, 2, 3ac-4, 3b, 9b-10 Mk 1:7-11

Tuesday: 1 Sm 1:9-20 (Ps) 1 Sm 2:1, 4-8 Mk 1:21-28

Wednesday: 1 Sm 3:1-10, 19-20 Ps 40:2-5, 7-10 Mk 1:29-39

Thursday: 1 Sm 4:1-11 Ps 44:10-11, 14-15, 25-26 Mk 1:40-45

Friday: 1 Sm 8:4-7, 10-22a Ps 89:16-19 Mk 2:1-12

Saturday: 1 Sm 9:1-4, 17-19; 10:1a Ps 19:8-10, 15 Mk 2:13-17

Opening gifts

Christina's hand rested on her belly. Just an hour before, it had been full with baby Ethan.

Now Ethan lay sleeping peacefully on the hospital bed beside her, swaddled in a light cotton receiving blanket. His shallow breaths caused an up-and-down movement of his perfect little chest, and his ruddy face seemed peaceful and full of promise.

Christina bent down to Ethan's face. She closed her eyes, cheek to cheek with her son, and lost herself in thoughts of her new boy's future. She dreamed of what every mother does — the best for her child, today, tomorrow and for the rest of his life. While she knew this child was a gift, she also thought of what gifts this child might possess himself — gifts that could be used for goodness and humanity, and ultimately, for the glory of God.

Someone once likened discovering a child's unique gifts and talents to opening presents. This is a good analogy I think. The packaging of a present sometimes gives a clue as to what is inside — but not always.

Gifts are surprises. Sometimes they come in pieces that must be put together. Always they come with excitement and hope. Sometimes once they are unwrapped they are disappointing when one is expecting something else. Gifts are tokens of love and given freely. They demonstrate an appreciation and selflessness of the giver.

Likewise, a child's particular gifts and talents are not always readily discerned. Sure, a language whiz may be reading at age 3 and a parent has a clue that communication might be a skill of hers. However, often an aptitude is not discovered immediately, but only after years of exposure to different activities in an unrushed, positive and supportive environment.

A little artist *might* be doing amazing sketches in the preschool years, but just as often it is not until much older that his talent becomes apparent, especially if he has been busy learning many other things.

Talents and aptitudes of our children can be surprises. If we and our spouses aren't musically inclined we may be tickled, but amazed, to see when our offspring has an aptitude for melody and rhythm. If the family is full of hot-tempered, impetuous people and then junior exhibits signs of deep pondering, calm and a naturally caring and nurturing demeanor, it can be very pleasant but shocking at the same time.

Sometimes the gifts of our children are like puzzles that must be put together. Only after years of exposure to a number of things do we see how the gift fits together.

For example, only in retrospect we may note the ingenuity of a child who spontaneously assembles a home-made burglar alarm by himself and later tells his parents it's time for them to find him an audition for the theater, and link that with an aptitude for being a self-starter and creative thinker. It may



EVERYDAY CATHOLIC

THERESA A. THOMAS

only be after the "quilt has been sewn" that we see the pattern that has been quite evident all along on the other side.

Once in awhile, we are handed a gift and when we open it dare to think, "No thank you." We know that the giver means well, but we just are not sure what we can do with such a gift. Likewise, sometimes we notice a propensity in our child that we do not like or do not understand. In these cases we need to be patient and seek to discover the value of the gift. God is the giver, and He does not make mistakes. It might take a long time to discover the value of a particular gift given to our child, but if we are faithful and continue trying, we will find that value.

During the time of struggling to accept a particular "gift," it is helpful to remember that one's weaknesses are often the inverses of one's strengths. For example, a child with a sharp tongue often has a gift of language. Is he a budding writer perhaps? Properly channeled this gift can have positive profound influence.

Is the gift we do not want a handicap of some sort? Below-average intelligence or athletic aptitude? A learning disability? A disease? How can the Giver be so cruel as to bestow this on our little one? We ask.

But look again more closely. What often comes with these particular "gifts?" A challenge — an invitation to love is also in the package. And a soft and kind and gentle heart often accompanies a child whose gift is this.

And so, the first task of every parent is to quite literally *open the gifts*. Take the time — moments, weeks, months, years — to unwrap them with an open heart. Simply discover what it is that God has entrusted you with, and pray for His guidance to show you how you can help your child make the talents multiply and the gift to blossom into something that is pleasing to Him. God has entrusted you with these gifts, with this child, or these children. He will help you make the most of them. Notice what they are, ask for help, and be guided.

"There are different kinds of spiritual gifts but the same Spirit; there are different forms of service but the same Lord; there are different workings but the same God who produces all of them in everyone." — 1 Cor 12:4-6.

Theresa Thomas can be reached at TheresaThomasEverydayCatholic@gmail.com.

Feast of the Epiphany of the Lord Mt 2:1-12

This weekend the Church celebrates the ancient feast of the Epiphany of the Lord, commemorating, and reflecting upon, the visit of Magi "from the East" to the crib side of the newborn Savior.

For the first reading, the Church presents a passage from the third and last section of Isaiah. After four generations of exile in Babylon, survivors, or descendants of survivors, of the long past Babylonian conquest of the Holy Land finally were able to return to their homeland.

When Persia in turn overtook Babylonia, Persia's King Cyrus allowed the exiles to leave Babylon and to return to the Holy Land. Homecoming was bittersweet. The land to which they returned after so many years was desolate and unyielding.

The prophets insisted that, in spite of this desolation, times would change for the better, because God would not forget the chosen people.

Thus, this reading rejoices in God's salvation, not the bad fortune. He will vindicate the people. In justice and mercy, God will come. So, the prophecy predicts a great new day!

For the second reading the Church offers us a selection from the Epistle to the Ephesians. It is

The weakness of tyranny

Blessed John Paul II loved the Christmas season. Guests in the papal apartment during his pontificate found the seasonal decorations up early in Advent; and, following Polish custom, they stayed up until Feb. 2, the feast of the Presentation of the Lord. The Christmas meal was traditionally Polish. Every year, John Paul would call his lay friends in Cracow, all assembled in one apartment, and they would sing Polish carols together for hours, over the phone.

Thirty years ago, however, the season took on a more somber tone. For on the night of Dec. 12-13, 1981, the Polish state, through the Polish army, invaded Polish society and imposed martial law throughout the country. There was no provision for martial law in Poland's communist legal code, so what the Jaruzelski regime declared was, technically, a "state of war." It was a fitting phrase, if unintentionally ironic.

On Christmas Eve, John Paul II placed a lighted candle in the window of the papal apartment, a gesture of solidarity with an international initiative begun in Switzerland by two clergymen, to protest the communist attempt to crush the Solidarity movement. The papal World Day of Peace Message for Jan. 1, 1982, condemned "the false peace of totalitarian regimes" and at the Angelus that day, the Pope asked everyone to pray for Poland, for what was at stake there was of great importance, "not only for a single country, but for the history of

man." With the benefit of 30 years of hindsight, it now seems clear that the imposition of martial law in Poland in December 1981 was not an act of strength but one of weakness, by a regime so incapable of commanding the allegiance of those in whose name it claimed to rule that it could only compel obedience by violence. It took some time for this to become clear in Poland, a country frequently burdened by crushed hopes; John Paul's second pastoral pilgrimage to his homeland in June 1983, did a lot to raise the spirits of his countrymen — who rallied their energies such that, by 1987, the pope could spend his third pilgrimage home laying the cultural and moral foundations for a post-communist Poland, which

was born two years later in the Revolution of 1989.

Two days after the imposition of the "state of war," President Ronald Reagan hosted a lunch at the White House for the Vatican secretary of state, Cardinal Agostino Casaroli. As I report in "The End and the Beginning," it was Cardinal Casaroli who, over the course of a 90-minute discussion, took the Realpolitik view: however

unfortunate martial law might be, there were likely reasons of state that compelled General Wojciech Jaruzelski, concerned about a possible Soviet invasion to crush Solidarity beneath Red Army tank treads, to behave as he did. And it was Ronald Reagan who, speaking in the tones of John Paul II, was the voice of moral outrage over this latest

With the benefit of 30 years of hindsight, it now seems clear that the imposition of martial law in Poland in December 1981 was not an act of strength but one of weakness ...



THE CATHOLIC DIFFERENCE

GEORGE WEIGEL

usurpation of Polish liberties. As the historical record now makes clear, John Paul and Reagan had it right, and the veteran Vatican diplomat had it wrong: there was no invasion threat in December 1981 (although there had been one in December 1980); the Jaruzelski regime was a hollow, if brutal, shell; the power of moral conviction, aroused, could be an effective antidote to communist tyranny, forging hitherto unimagined and effective tools of resistance; there was nothing permanent about the post-Yalta division of Europe.

The lessons 30 years later? Solidarity's triumph ought not be universalized as a one-size-fits-all model for coping with tyrants. Still, John Paul II's instinct for reading history through cultural lenses has much to commend it. Politics and economics are important. What drives history over the long haul, however, is culture: what men and women cherish, honor and worship; what men and women are willing to stake their lives, and their children's lives, on.

The truest realism, therefore, is one shaped by truths and ideals, not only by calculations of power. If you doubt that, ask General Jaruzelski.

George Weigel is Distinguished Senior Fellow of the Ethics and Public Policy Center in Washington, D.C.

INVITE

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11

Church rejected you, but it might be a good idea to talk with someone who can help you to unravel some of the issues that make you feel separated from the Church."

Tips for inviting family members and friends

Focus on your own faith experience. Do you constantly criticize the Church? Or do you project a sense of joy, peace, love and enthusiasm?

Love the other person uncon-

ditionally. When the rich young man walked away, Jesus looked at him with love.

Invite them — not just to come to Mass — but to parish workshops, lectures, concerts, social events, Scripture study and even service projects.

Don't nag. It never works. Make sure you have correct information when talking to someone who is away from the Church.

Help people who are thinking about returning to the Church find a parish where they feel comfortable. Sometimes, people who have been involved with Pentecostals do best in a Charismatic parish. People who have been in fundamentalist churches may want a parish with

Scripture study. Some like the anonymity of a large, suburban parish. Some seek the intimacy of a small parish. Some look for traditional liturgies or devotions. Others look for ways to work toward social justice.

Pray for the person

Allow the Holy Spirit to work through you. Before long, you'll begin to see that people will be attracted to the Church because they want the faith, the love and the peace you possess.

Lorene Hanley Duquin is an author and speaker on Catholics who return to the practice of the faith.

SCRIPTURE SEARCH

Gospel for January 8, 2012

Matthew 2:1-12

Following is a word search based on the Gospel reading for Epiphany Sunday, Cycle B, the visit of the Magi to Herod and Bethlehem. The words can be found in all directions in the puzzle.

WAS BORN	BETHLEHEM	JUDEA
KING	HEROD	ALL JERUSALEM
PROPHET	JUDAH	SHEPHERD
CALLED	SECRETLY	CHILD
OVERJOYED	MARY	TREASURES
GIFTS	GOLD	FRANK(INCENSE)
MYRRH	WARNED	DREAM

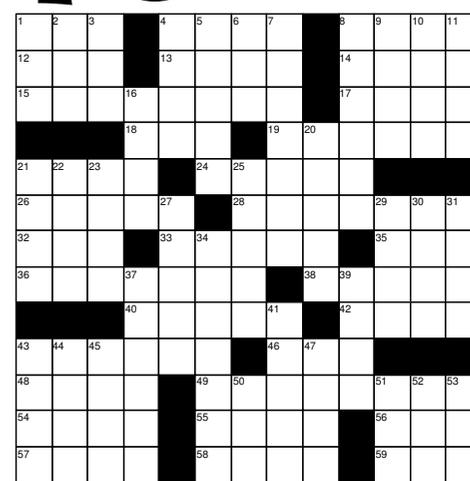
RULING IN JUDAH

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

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The CrossWord

January 1 and 8, 2012



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Based on these Scripture Readings: Num 6:22-27; Gal 4:4-7 and Lk 2:16-21 and Is 60:1-8; Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6 and Mt 2:1-12

ACROSS

- 1 Riotous crowd
- 4 Move through the water
- 8 Father
- 12 Calcium oxide
- 13 Helen of ___
- 14 "___ and very soon"
- 15 May the Lord be to you
- 17 Cosine's partner
- 18 Pot
- 19 "Ransom those under ___"
- 21 Speak indistinctly
- 24 Extraordinary
- 26 The shepherds went in

- 28 Moving upward
- 32 Street abbr.
- 33 Plastic
- 35 New Jersey's neighbor
- 36 Puffing
- 38 Jesus walked along the ___
- 40 Stomach sore
- 42 Healing plant
- 43 Scanty
- 46 Kimono sash
- 48 Restaurant
- 49 W. African from Lagos
- 54 Opaque gem
- 55 Low storm cloud
- 56 Psalm

- 57 Careful
- 58 Raise these and look about
- 59 Present

DOWN

- 1 Metric weight unit
- 2 Paddle
- 3 Constrictor
- 4 Mix
- 5 Treat unjustly
- 6 Note of debt
- 7 "Made known to me"
- 8 Things of value
- 9 Simmer
- 10 ___ fide
- 11 Fresh
- 16 Brusque
- 20 Greetings to Mary
- 21 Thick carpet
- 22 Rock
- 23 Usages
- 25 Roam
- 27 Ills
- 29 False god's graven image
- 30 Roman emperor
- 31 Merriment
- 34 Frank ___
- 37 My motives are ___ innocent.
- 39 Samson's strength
- 41 Villain
- 43 Large flat-bottomed boat
- 44 Italian for "pope"
- 45 "Your sons come from ___"
- 47 Berths
- 50 Gelid
- 51 Charged particle
- 52 Hubhub
- 53 Second Testament

Answer Key can be found on page 15

Sports

BAREFOOT FOR BARE FEET GAME Head girls' basketball coaches Dave Scudder of Bishop Dwenger High School and Mark Redding of Wayne will be coaching the girls' varsity game barefoot as advocates for Samaritan's Feet. Founded by Manny Ohonme, Samaritan's Feet has a mission of alleviating human suffering by providing shoes to children and the poor around the world. Its goal is to give 10 million impoverished people 10 million pairs of new athletic shoes over 10 years. Every day, 300 million children go shoeless. Bishop Dwenger has made a commitment to raise at least \$1,000 for the organization.

CYO teams compete in holiday tournament

BY MICHELLE CASTLEMAN

FORT WAYNE — The St. Charles Lady Cardinals won the holiday tournament over the Christmas break when several Catholic Youth League (CYO) teams participated in the annual event.

Games were held at both the University of Saint Francis and Canterbury School gyms throughout the four-day showcase.

The Cardinals opened with a win over St. Joseph-St. Elizabeth in the eight-team field on Monday, Dec. 26, and then had to win three in a row on Thursday, Dec. 29, to bring home the championship.

In the boys' brackets, St. Vincent was victorious in both the seventh-grade and eighth-grade divisions.

Jeff Graham and D.J. Wagner coach the eighth-grade

Panthers who had an exciting tournament. They beat St. Joseph-Hessen Cassel in the first round. Later they downed neighboring foe, Maple Creek, sending them to the consolation bracket. However, Maple Creek turned around and beat the Panthers

soundly, 24-41, in the final round forcing a rematch just 10 minutes later in the double elimination contest.

In the third showdown, the Panthers regrouped and came up with a big 40-26 win.

"The boys had a great tournament and played impressive defense in our final game," marveled Graham.

St. Vincent held Maple Creek scoreless in the second quarter and allowed their opponents just three free throws in the third. The Panthers' 12-man roster was led by Noah Freimuth, Austin Burns, James Wagner and Jake Graham during the hoop fest.



ICCL Mishawaka Saints claim their first holiday tournament title

BY MATT SOBIERALSKI

ELKHART, SOUTH BEND — The Christmas holiday season was coming to a close but for the Inter-City Catholic League there was still one very coveted present left unopened underneath the Christmas tree. That present would be for the annual Inter-City Catholic League Holiday Tournament that took place last week at St. Thomas Gym in Elkhart and Holy Cross in South Bend.

The holiday tournament gives the winning team an early look at the path they might have to take in order to capture the coveted league championship in the end of the year tournament.

Action tipped off from Holy Cross gym with the Holy Family Trojans edging out the Pumas from Queen of Peace in order for a right to play a bye-rested St. Joseph, South Bend, squad. While the other game saw Holy Cross' Crusaders knock out the Christ the King Kings to earn the chance to take on the St. Pius X Lions.

In games slated at the St. Thomas gym in Elkhart, the maroon-and-gold clad St. Anthony Panthers found them triumphing over the Blazers of St. Matthew earning them a date with a rested Corpus Christi Cougar team.

In the other first-round game at Holy Cross, the Saints of Mishawaka Catholic got past the St. Thomas Spartans setting up a

match up with the Our Lady of Hungary Bulldogs in the quarter-finals.

In the quarterfinals at St. Thomas, the fighting blue and gold of St. Joseph, South Bend, surged past the Holy Family Trojans and the Holy Cross Crusaders charged past the St. Pius X Lions. This would set up a semifinal match-up between two regular season undefeated teams from the John Bosco Division.

The Holy Cross Crusaders and the Eagles of St. Joseph, South Bend, would not disappoint either. In a game where scoring was at a premium and defense would prove to be the edge for victory, the Crusaders ground out a victory over the Eagles, 13-12, to advance to the championship game.

The Eagles waited for their opponent from the Martin De Porres Division as quarterfinal action tipped off at St. Thomas gym. The red and blue of Corpus Christi edged out the Panthers of St. Anthony to advance to the semifinals where they would face the purple-and-yellow clad Saints of Mishawaka Catholic, who coasted to a victory over the Our Lady of Hungary Bulldogs.

Mishawaka Catholic used a balanced scoring attack to eventually wear down a charge from the Corpus Christi Cougars, 48-22, as the Saints would earn a chance to play for the title against the Holy Cross Crusaders.

In the championship game played in Elkhart, the Crusaders

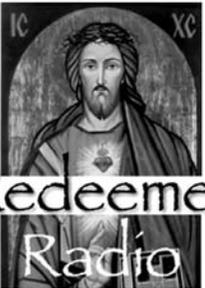
of Holy Cross kept it close in the early goings of the first half by halting the Mishawaka Catholic attack. However, the depth and speed of the Saints was just too much for the blue-and-white clad team from the John Bosco Division as the Saints would eventually pull away from Holy Cross with a 45-32 victory to earn the first holiday tournament championship for the Saints.

In the third-place game also played in Elkhart, St. Joseph, South Bend, used Reese Happ's nine points to surge past the Cougars of Corpus Christi. The Eagles' Carlos Matovina and John Byzewski also chipped in eight and seven points, respectively, while the Cougars were led by Dominick Ferro and Jack Cole, who scored seven points each.

In the consolation bracket St. Pius X squeezed past the Kings of Christ the King, 29-26, in the semifinals, while in the other semifinal game the orange-and-black clad St. Matthew Blazers fell short against the St. Anthony Panthers, 31-23. The Panthers of St. Anthony ended up winning the consolation game by way of forfeit.

The ICCL regular season resumes next weekend with a full slate of action from Mishawaka Marian High School and Saint Joseph's High School including a pivotal nondivision game between the undefeated St. Pius X Lions and the holiday tournament champion Mishawaka Catholic Saints.

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HOLY FAMILY COLORS VOLLEYBALL TEAM CHAMPIONS



PHOTO PROVIDED BY KELLY HEYING

The Holy Family volleyball team of South Bend was the Inter-City Catholic League tournament and division champions. The team, coached by Doreen Riba, consists of the following, front row, from left, Sarah Zielinski, Megan Riba, Sydney Swartz and Marissa Macias; center row, Olivia Wilson, Claire Fewell, Mackenzie Hester, Ana Miramontes and Maddie Heying, and back row, coaches Kelly Heying, Doreen Riba and Chris Fewell.

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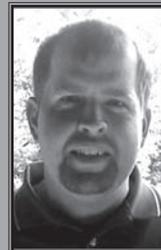


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WHAT'S HAPPENING?

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.

Bishop Dwenger offers Reverse Raffle

Fort Wayne — The Bishop Dwenger Music Boosters will offer a "Margaritaville" Reverse Raffle, where it pays to be picked last. Dinner and raffle begin at 6 p.m. on Jan. 7, in the Bishop Dwenger gym. Grand prize is \$2,000 cash and every 25th ticket is a winner. Winners need not be present to win. Only 400 tickets will be sold for this event. For more information or to purchase tickets contact the BD Music Boosters at (260) 485-7695 or bbvp@mindspring.com. Participants must be 21 or older.

Epiphany concert at St. Pius X

Granger — St. Pius X, under the direction of Jeremy Hoy, Carol Flora and Melissa Butner, will present a Christmas concert on Sunday, Jan. 8, at 2:30 p.m. in the church, 52553 Fir Rd. Featured choirs include: children's choir, Sunday morning and evening adult choirs, adult and youth handbell choirs and instrumentalists. The concert is free.

Knights plan fish fry

Fort Wayne — The Knights of Columbus Council 451, 601 Reed Rd., will have a fish fry on Friday, Jan. 6, from 5-7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$7 for adults and \$3 for children 12 and under.

Knights plan fish fry

South Bend — The Knights of Columbus Council 5521, 61533 S. Ironwood Dr., will have a fish fry on Friday, Jan. 6, from 5-7 p.m. Adults \$8, children (5-12) \$3. Chicken strips for \$8 and shrimp for \$8.50 will be available.

Mystery dinner theater

Fort Wayne — St. Joseph-Hessen Cassel School will have a mystery dinner theater Saturday, Jan. 28, beginning with hors d'oeuvres at 6 p.m., dinner at 7 p.m. and show at 8 p.m. in the parish hall. All-inclusive tickets are \$25. Call (260) 639-6520 for information.

Knights plan spaghetti dinner

Fort Wayne — The Knights of Columbus Council 451, 601

Reed Rd., will have a spaghetti dinner on Wednesday, Jan. 25, from 5-6:30 p.m. All proceeds will benefit the Jesters of the University of Saint Francis.

Breakfast benefits drama club

South Bend — Knights of Columbus Council 5570 will have a breakfast for the benefit of the Holy Family School Drama Club Sunday, Jan. 15, from 7:30-11 a.m. in the Holy Family Parish Center. Tickets are \$5 for adults and \$3 for children ages 6-12.

Fish fry in Warsaw

Warsaw — The Knights of Columbus Council 4511 will have a fish fry on Friday, Jan. 13, from 4:30-7 p.m. at the council hall. Cost is \$8.50 for adults and \$4 for children ages 6-12.

Bishop Dwenger holds Trivia Night

Fort Wayne — Bishop Dwenger High School will host Trivia Night on Saturday, Jan. 21, at 7 p.m. in the SAC. Tickets are \$10. Adult beverages will be provided at

REST IN PEACE

Auburn Karon C. Ernest, 64, Immaculate Conception	Bonnie F. Dolan, 93, St. Charles Borromeo	Leona Holewinski, 94, St. Anthony de Padua
Avilla James T. Remke, 87, St. Mary/Assumption	Granger Nella Evanovich, 86, St. Pius X	Rose Ann Tobolski, 73, St. Jude
Columbia City Robert L. von Holdt, 84, St. Paul of the Cross	Mishawaka Mary Jo Bauters, 59, St. Monica	Dorothy A. Granfield, 90, Corpus Christi
Churubusco Dorothy I. Brockhaus, 87, St. John Bosco	Irvin Eugene Rutkowski, 90, St. Joseph	William Szilagyi, 99, Holy Cross
Elkhart Margaret A. Chilcott, 87, St. Vincent de Paul	Marlene Kestermeier, 78, St. Joseph	Barbara Anna Rzeszutek, 46, Corpus Christi
Fort Wayne Russell V. Choka, 88, Cathedral/Immaculate Conception	Marvin Freel, 87, St. Monica	Edmund A. Gapinski, 94, St. Casimir
Marie A. Koch, 79, Our Lady of Good Hope	George Blasko, 77, St. Monica	Richard L. Hendricks, 80, Little Flower
Mildred K. McAfee, 94, Most Precious Blood	New Haven Raymond J. Vachon, 56, St. John the Baptist	Alfred E. Kosinski, 90, St. Stanislaus Kostka
Mary Ann Agenbroad, 94, St. Jude	Notre Dame Brother John Charles Dobrogowski, CSC, 86, Our Lady of Holy Cross	Donald R. Wieczorkowski Sr., 71, Christ the King
Gilbert Laguna, 61, St. Patrick	Father William Bailey Simmons, CSC, 84, Basilica/Sacred Heart	Augusta C. Ertel, 83, St. Anthony de Padua
Bernice C. Van Osdale, St. Vincent de Paul	Brother Thomas More Beere, CSC, 87, Our Lady of Holy Cross	John J. Maternowski, 93, St. Casimir
Angeline M. Jackson, 106, Queen of Angels	Frances Macdonough Van Fleit, 82, Basilica of the Sacred Heart	Frances Jean Dragoun, 87, St. Joseph
Margaret C. Powers, 87, St. Jude	Plymouth Fred Hammes, 83, St. Michael	Margaret Marie Letcher, 95, Corpus Christi
William Michael J. Harrington, 66, St. Jude	Rome City Bonnie Eileen Gnau, 94, St. Gaspar	Helen T. Sobczyk, 86, St. Hedwig
Leland E. Richardson, 87, St. Vincent de Paul	South Bend James E. Stanley, 84, Sacred Heart of Jesus	Warsaw Margeurite Moore, 92, Sacred Heart
Helen R. Coomes, 86, Sacred Heart	Rose H. Szymanski, 96, St. Casimir	Cecil Latta, 81, Sacred Heart
Louise L. Reinhart, 88, St. John the Baptist	Kenneth L. Breen, 55, Sacred Heart of Jesus	Father John Francis Minnich , 85, St. Mary Church, Lanesville, Ind. Father served at St. Peter in Fort Wayne and St. Matthew Cathedral in South Bend.
Gertrude M. Kerns, 92, St. Jude	Virginia Hogie, 81, St. John the Baptist	
Theresa Wyatt, 81, St. Patrick		
Mary L. Maniotes, 79, St. Vincent de Paul		

Director of Communications CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF EVANSVILLE

The Diocese of Evansville seeks a dynamic and motivated person to fulfill the duties of Diocesan Director of Communications. The candidate will be responsible for internal and external communications for the diocese; advise the bishop and diocesan staff; serve as primary media contact and diocesan spokesperson; manage and supervise the staff of the Office of Communications; manage the production of the diocesan newspaper, *The Message*, and the online edition of *The Message*; and maintain and further develop communication processes through the use of social media.

The successful candidate will be a practicing Roman Catholic with an undergraduate degree in communications, journalism or a related field and a minimum of five years of experience in one or combination of the following: newspaper operation, broadcast news, public or community relations or related activities; have editorial and supervisory experience, and be knowledgeable and skilled in web and computer applications. Advanced degree is a plus.

Preferred skills: Spanish language facility. Please send letter of interest, resume, three references, and salary history to comsearch@evdio.org.

A complete position description can be found in the Employment Opportunities tab on the diocese's website www.evansville-diocese.org.

About the employer. The Catholic Diocese of Evansville is a portion of the People of God in 12 counties of southwestern Indiana. Diocesan offices are located in the see city of Evansville, under the leadership of Bishop Charles C. Thompson. The Catholic population of 85,000 is approximately 17 percent of the total population. The communications mission of the diocese is to communicate the good news of Jesus Christ to the people of Southwestern Indiana, supporting the pastoral ministry of the bishop. The diocesan newspaper, *The Message*, was established in 1970 and is published weekly. The newspaper is a member in good standing of the Catholic Press Association of the United States and Canada. The Evansville, IN-KY Metropolitan Statistical Area is the 142nd largest Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) in the United States. Portion of the Diocese of Evansville are served by broadcast media in Louisville, Indianapolis and Terre Haute in Indiana.

minimal cost and pop and water are free. Bring your own appetizers and desserts. All participants must be 21 years of age or older. Reserve your table by contacting the Development and Alumni Office at events@bishopdwenger.com or call (260) 496-4855.

Polish dinner buffet

South Bend — St. Hedwig Rosary and Holy Name Societies will have a Polish-style dinner buffet Sunday, Jan. 29, from noon to 2 p.m. Tickets are \$10 per person. Children 12 and under free. RSVP by Jan. 23 to (574) 287-4821 or (574) 287-8932.

The CrossWord

Jan. 1 and 8, 2012

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MIDNIGHT

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

powerful man of that age and ruler of the vast Roman Empire, with Mary and Joseph, a couple from the obscure village of Nazareth in Galilee. In the eyes of the world, the unknown couple would seem trivial compared to the great Roman emperor.

"Mary and Joseph obeyed the imperial command and set out to enroll in the tax registers of Joseph's hometown of Bethlehem. They were quite insignificant — not only was there no imperial palace at their disposal; there was not even room for them in the local inn. They had to make due with a stable for Mary to give birth."

"But notice," he said, "tonight, all over the world, people gather like we do here in Immaculate Conception Cathedral, not to celebrate the emperor Augustus Caesar. We gather to celebrate that birth of an infant in a manger in the little town of Bethlehem."

Bishop Rhoades noted, "The names of the Roman emperors, like those of other great men of this world, have long passed away and are little remembered. Yet, everywhere on earth, the birth of this child is remembered with joy."

In contemplating Christmas, Bishop Rhoades said, "... The mystery of Christmas, that God so loved the world that He sent His only Son to redeem it, that He who was in the form of God emptied Himself and took the form of a slave, that the eternal Word who was with God, who was God, became flesh and

dwelt among us, we cannot help but be filled with wonder and awe. We become like the shepherds and the Magi: all we can do is approach the mystery in adoration."

Bishop Rhoades spoke of St. Thomas when he wrote, "Of all the works of God, this surpasses reason more than any other, since one cannot conceive of God doing anything more wonderful than that (the) true God, the Son of God, should be made true man."

"Do we not express our reverence for this great mystery every time we recite the Nicene Creed?" asked Bishop Rhoades, referring to the lines, "by the power of the Holy Spirit, He was born of the Virgin Mary and became man."

"By becoming man," Bishop Rhoades explained, "God has in a certain way united Himself with every human person. He has revealed to us the truth about who He is — He is Love. He has revealed to us also that every human being has dignity, including the unborn child, the poor, the outcast, the suffering and the dying."

He added, "By becoming man, God came to earth to deliver us from sin and death. He came to make all things new — to bring about the new creation. He took on our human nature so that we might become partakers of His divine nature, that we become sharers in the life of the Blessed Trinity."

Bishop Rhoades spoke of how St. Francis of Assisi was so moved by the mystery of Christmas that he began the custom of the Christmas crèche with live figures.

The bishop said, "His love for poverty led him to this special appreciation for the wonder of that first Christmas."

Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades kneels before the Christmas crèche at the start of the Midnight Mass at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception.



PHOTOS BY JOE ROMIE

The Cathedral Choir directed by Michael Dulac, sings a chorus from Handel's "Messiah" before Christmas Midnight Mass.



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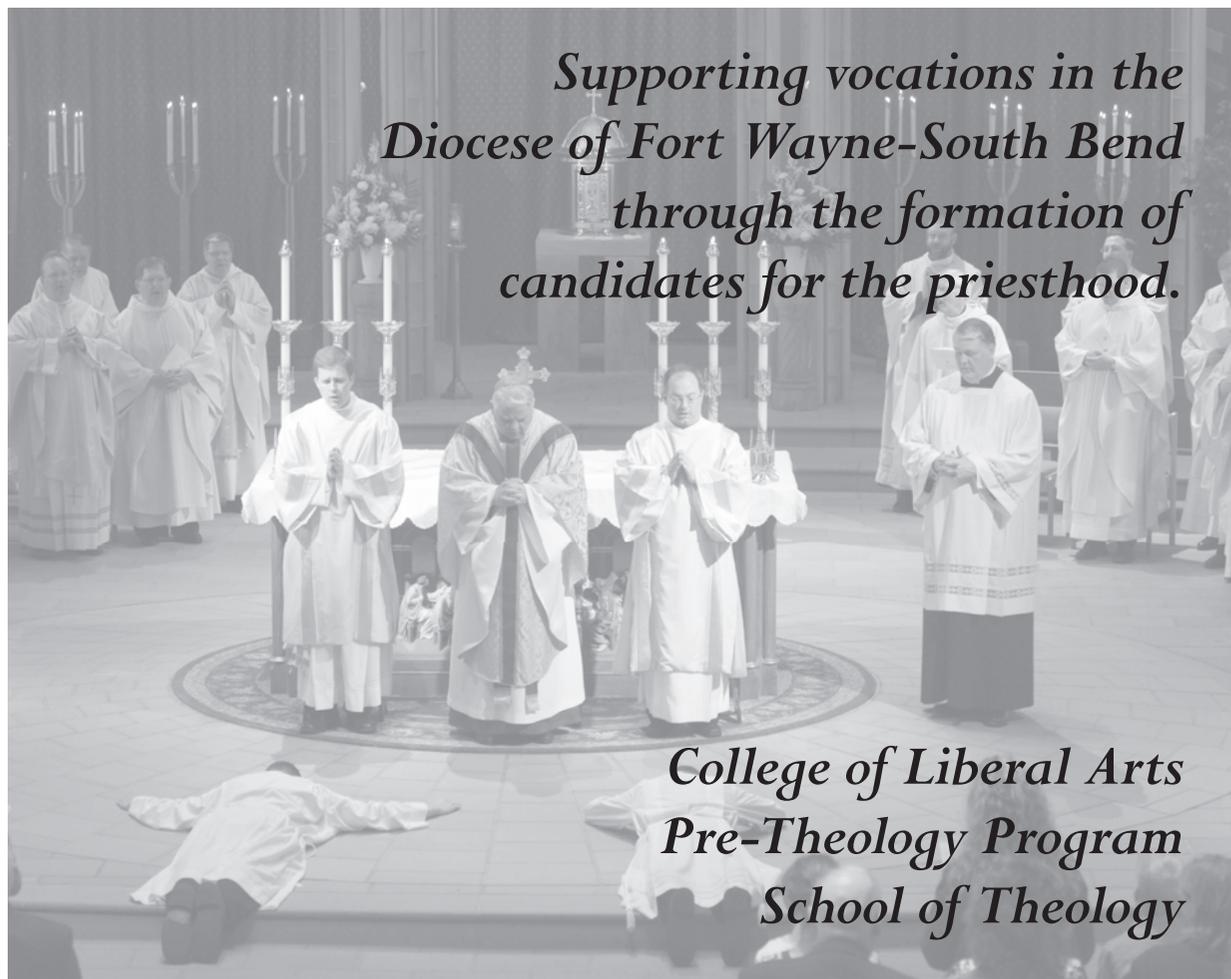
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