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Today’s Catholic
January 13, 2013
Serving the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend

Sign up for the spring, Lenten session of ARISE begins soon

“ARISE is a life changer in my book!” That was the reaction of Jeff Krudop after attending the first session of ARISE last fall at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish in Fort Wayne.

Many parishes across the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend will sign members up for the upcoming Lenten series of ARISE Together In Christ in the mid-to-late weeks of January.

Cindy Casper, who was part of the parish team coordinating ARISE at her parish, St. Michael the Archangel in Plymouth, encourages new people to sign up for the spring session.

“(ARISE) has deepened my faith and love for my parish family,” Casper told Today’s Catholic. “As a parish team member, I was also blessed with lots of feedback of spiritual renewal and excitement in experiencing God in this special way from many of the small group leaders and participants.”

“From the feedback of others,” Casper added, “I really believe that there is a definite parish-wide longing for something more in their lives, and I think ARISE is helping souls along with a closer relationship with Our Lord.”

For Brigid O’Daniel, who just joined St. Michael Parish with her husband, she felt ARISE would offer an opportunity to meet fellow parishioners.

“I would definitely encourage others to join ARISE,” Casper said.

ARISE, PAGE 3

PALESTRINA CHOIR SINGS DURING ORDINATION

The Palestrina Choir from St. Mary’s Pro-Cathedral in Dublin sings during the ordination Mass for four new archbishops celebrated by Pope Benedict XVI in St. Peter’s Basilica at the Vatican Jan. 6.

Diocesan men’s conference to be held Feb. 9 in South Bend

SOUTH BEND — Matthew Kelly, Deacon Harold Burke-Sivers, and Franciscan Father David Mary Engo will highlight the third annual Diocesan Men’s Conference to be held this year at the Century Center in South Bend. Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades will celebrate Mass to close out the day.

The event, sponsored by Rekindle the Fire and the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, is scheduled Feb. 9. Registration is available now at www.rekindlethefire.net.

The nationally renowned speakers will focus on the theme, “Faith, Do I believe?”

The day will include prayer and blessing, Reconciliation, lunch and talks.

Franciscan Father David Mary Engo has a long, illustrious history of inspiring deepening or rediscovering faith in audiences across the country. His own powerful experience of rediscovering his faith as a senior in a New York high school led him to join the Franciscan order in 1986. Eleven years later he was ordained into the Franciscan priesthood.

Father Engo, who founded and is superior of the Franciscan Brothers Minor community under the authority of Bishop Rhoades, speaks highly of the diocesan-wide conference that is a ministerial outreach of Rekindle the Fire — and will offer preparation for Reconciliation and return for a keynote talk in the afternoon.

Matthew Kelly, a Catholic author and speaker, will offer morning and afternoon addresses.

Born in Sydney, Australia, he began speaking and writing in 1993. Since that time he has travelled to more than 50 countries and spoken to over 4 million people. He has written 12 books, which have appeared on the New York Times, Wall Street Journal and USA Today bestseller lists and been published in 25 languages.

His efforts help individuals become “the-
Vocations to the Priesthood and Consecrated Life

IN TRUTH AND CHARITY

BY BISHOP KEVIN C. RHoadES

This coming week, January 13-19, the Catholic Church in the United States celebrates National Vocation Awareness Week. This annual observance is a special time in which dioceses and parishes across our country focus on promotion of vocations to the priesthood and consecrated life through prayer and education.

We rejoice in our diocese that more young people are considering the possibility that God may be calling them to the priesthood or to religious life. When I ask many of our teenagers and young adults if they have ever considered such a vocation, most respond “yes.” This is good news that mirrors recent findings in a research study conducted by the Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate based at Georgetown University. The study found that over 600,000 Catholic youth and young adults in the United States have seriously considered a religious vocation.

We all share in the responsibility of supporting vocations to the priesthood and consecrated life, so necessary for the Church’s mission. I ask that you please remember this intention in your prayers. Ultimately, vocations are gifts of God’s grace, so it is important that we follow the counsel of Jesus to “pray the Lord of the harvest to send more laborers into His vineyard.”

Though the number of seminarians in our diocese continues to increase, we still have challenges with a priest shortage. I will only be ordaining one man to the priesthood this year and one man next year. Staffing of our parishes, at least in the short-term, continues to be a challenge. Please pray for me and our Priest Personnel Board as we meet in the coming months to address this challenge.

We also face the challenge of paying for the education of our seminarians. The monies raised in the Annual Bishop’s Appeal supports some of this cost. But this annual expenditure has grown significantly due to the increase in the number of our seminarians. That is why I instituted the annual Pentecost collection to support the education of our seminarians. We have also begun to address this need long-term by establishing the Blessed John Paul II Endowment Fund for Seminary Education. Please consider this Fund in your estate planning or in other financial plans. I truly appreciate your generosity.

Besides your prayers and financial support, I also ask for your support of promotion of vocations to the priesthood and consecrated life. I especially encourage parents to propose to their children the possibility that God may be calling them to serve as priests, sisters, or brothers. It is important that all of us teach our young people how beautiful it is to serve God and the Church and not to be afraid to say “yes” if this is their calling.

We are celebrating this Year of Faith 50 years since the beginning of the Second Vatican Council. At that time, Pope Paul VI spoke of how vocations to the priesthood and consecrated life are a “precise and inescapable indicator of the vitality of faith and love of individual parish and diocesan communities, and the evidence of the moral health of Christian families. Wherever numerous vocations to the priesthood and consecrated life are to be found, that is where people are living the Gospel with generosity.”

I think that Venerable Pope Paul VI was right on target in connecting vocations to the vitality of faith in families, parishes, and dioceses. Pope Benedict XVI has made a similar connection. He wrote: “Vocations to the priesthood and the consecrated life are born out of the experience of a personal encounter with Christ, out of sincere and confident dialogue with him, so as to enter into his will. It is necessary, therefore, to grow in the experience of faith, understood as a profound relationship with Jesus, as inner attentiveness to his voice which is heard deep within us. This process, which enables us to respond positively to God’s call, is possible in Christian communities where the faith is lived intensely, where generous witness is given of adherence to the Gospel, where there is a strong sense of mission which leads people to make the total gift of self for the Kingdom of God…”

The stronger the faith of the Christian community, and this includes the family, the “domestic Church,” the more we see a flourishing of vocations to the priesthood and the consecrated life. I also must mention the holy vocation of marriage. The stronger the faith of the Christian community, the more we also see a flourishing of marriage.

Young people today are presented with many options as they consider their future. We must make sure that they discern the Lord’s will in considering these options, that they recognize that God has a loving plan for each of them. I think we must help our young people, in this busy and often noisy culture, to make space for silence and prayer in their lives. It is through personal contact with God, listening to the voice of God in prayer, that one discovers His will. I know that many of our seminarians heard the call to the priesthood through prayer, particularly during adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. The more our parishes and families are “schools of prayer,” the more we see young people moved to that personal encounter with Christ from which vocations are born.

As we continue this Year of Faith together, I hope and pray that our relationship with the Lord Jesus will grow increasingly firm as we also grow in our appreciation of the truth and beauty of our Catholic faith. As the Holy Father reminds us, where the faith is lived intensely, there is also present the fertile soil for the growth of vocations to the priesthood and consecrated life.

May the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Mother of the Church, intercede for us and for our young people, helping them to hear and answer the call of her Divine Son!
Statement of Bishop John M. D'Arcy
January 1, 2013

Since retirement, I come home to Boston to celebrate Christmas Mass with my family and visit with them. Shortly after this Christmas, I began to feel unwell. After consulting my doctor’s office in Fort Wayne, on Sunday, Dec. 30, I went to Saint Elizabeth’s Hospital in Brighton, Mass., where I grew up and the place of my family home.

After extensive tests, they found cancer in the lung and the brain. They kept me overnight — my first night in a hospital since I was born in that same hospital 80 years ago; so, I am ahead of the game thanks to the Good Lord.

I will return to the hospital for more tests and in a few days begin radiation, but I will be able to stay at my family home in Brighton where we all grew up with our dear parents. It is my hope in two to three weeks to return to the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend and the people I have loved and served for over one-fourth of a century. My doctors there will pick up on my medical care and probably some chemotherapy.

It is my hope to keep all the commitments I have made to the parish missions and Confirmations. Of course, that will depend on the advice of my doctors.

I would like to request the prayers of all the people of the diocese — priests, seminarians, religious and laity. I trust in the goodness of God and Mary my mother. As I have told so many people over the years, it is a time for trust in His goodness and love. And your prayers will help me to do that.

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Statement of Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades
January 1, 2013

This past Sunday, Bishop John M. D’Arcy called me from St. Elizabeth Hospital in Brighton, Mass., to share with me the news that doctors had found cancer in his lung and brain. Bishop D’Arcy, while home for Christmas, had experienced some symptoms that had necessitated his admission to the hospital for testing. Bishop D’Arcy informed me that he was feeling “pretty normal,” despite the discovery of cancer.

Our beloved Bishop D’Arcy shared with me his deep trust in the Lord as he embraces this cross in union with Jesus. I ask that Bishop D’Arcy be especially remembered in prayer at Masses throughout the diocese. I invite the faithful of our diocese to pray for Bishop D’Arcy as he undergoes treatment for the cancer.

I would also like to assure all who love Bishop D’Arcy of my prayers for you as we walk with him in his treatment.

May our Lord bestow his healing grace upon Bishop D’Arcy and grant him strength and inner peace.

+ Kevin C. Rhoades

Most Reverend Kevin C. Rhoades
Bishop of Fort Wayne–South Bend

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**MEN**

**CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1**

... best-version of themselves.”

Kelly convincingly communicates this message as God’s desire for each person. And he insists that it is the desire of parents for their children, husbands and wives for each other, CEOs for their companies and employees, pastors for their communities and members, and managers for those they lead and instruct.

“I am really looking forward to my visit,” Kelly told Today’s Catholic. “Men play a unique role in the society and the life of the Church. I will be speaking about what it takes to establish a vibrant and consistent spiritual life, and how that will impact our marriages, families, workplaces and health.”

The conference’s third speaker Deacon Harold Burke-Sivers is becoming one of the most sought-after Catholic speakers in the U.S. and across the globe. Residing in Portland, Ore., with his wife, Colleen, and their four children, Deacon Burke-Sivers’ message offers a passionate approach to evangelization and the truth of the Catholic faith. He will bring his role as husband and father to the talk at the conference.

Deacon Burke-Sivers is dedicated to teaching and promoting Catholic values in complete faithfulness to Holy Scripture, sacred Tradition and the Magisterium.

During this Year of Faith, Deacon Burke-Sivers told Today’s Catholic in a telephone interview from his Portland, Ore., home, he will talk with men, “to try to get them to think more deeply and spiritually about the connections between the faith that we learned in our head and the faith that we live in our hearts — to make a deeper connection between the head and the heart.”

He encourages men to make their faith “part of their every day lived experience: Who is God calling me to be as a man; what does that look like; and how do I engage the living God in every aspect of my life as a man?”

Being a man of prayer, being a man of God, is “exactly following the example of Jesus Christ,” Deacon Burke-Sivers said.

He plans to use a lot of Scripture, he said, so the men “will need to bring their Bibles for sure,” he encouraged.

“We are also going to make some deep connections with the holy sacrifice of the Mass. We’ll talk about the power of prayer and how men can use the rosary, the Chaplet of Divine Mercy and all the resources we have in the Catholic Church to really deepen that spiritual life as men.”

He also plans to talk about — as St. Paul writes — putting on the armor of God.

The deacon encourages men of the diocese to attend the conference. He will offer suggestions of “what kind of things can we do as concretely as men as we leave the conference, get into our families and everyday living experience to build connections in simple ways every single day. How can we support each other as men?” he added.

Bishop Kevin Rhoades will conclude the conference with the celebration of the Mass. The message of his homily at the Mass will be the example of Jesus Christ,” Deacon Burke-Sivers said.

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**Public Schedule of Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades**

- **Sunday, Jan. 13,** 11 a.m. — Mass, Saint Matthew Cathedral, South Bend
- **Monday, Jan. 14,** 7 p.m. — Leadership Meeting with Knights of Columbus, St. Andrew Church basement, Fort Wayne
- **Tuesday, Jan. 15,** 9 a.m. — Mass and Pastoral Visit, Bishop Dwenger High School, Fort Wayne
- **Wednesday, Jan. 16,** 10 a.m. — Meeting of Advisory Board of Our Sunday Visitor Institute, Detroit, Mich.
- **Friday, Jan. 18** through Sunday, Jan. 20 — Meeting of National Catholic Office for the Deaf, Phoenix, Ariz.

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**ARISE CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1**

O’Daniel said. “I know a lot of people have very busy lives, but the program is a doable commitment — especially if you just try one six-week session.”

Casper said, “I really believe we encounter Christ through others. From my experience and from talking to others, the program helped bring people in the parish together and overall strengthened the St. Michael’s community.”

ARISE groups typically have eight to 12 members. The groups meet for five sessions over three years. Each session consists of six meetings in which members study Scripture and discuss the reading within the group.

“Our group had 14 (seven couples),” Krudop noted. “One couple had just retired, two couples were new empty nesters, two couples had school-aged children, one couple had toddlers and one couple was newly wed. What a great mix.”

“There were about 11 people in our group,” O’Daniel said. “Even though not everyone was comfortable sharing, there were plenty of people in the group so our discussions were always lively.”

Parishes spent time promoting ARISE in bulletins and the parish bulletin and the faith-sharing process. Core team members were trained as facilitators, and “being part of the parish team was like a preliminary experience for all of the small groups,” Casper said. “The sharing of our faith experience as a parish team really inspired our excitement to share this with the whole parish.”

St. Michael Parish held Adoration before the Blessed Sacrament for the parish and all small group leaders.

“We were only guessing around 40-50 people would sign-up,” Casper said, “however, after sign-up Sunday we had over 150 people registered for a small group. We attribute this great blessing to Our Gracious Lord in the Blessed Sacrament.”

Now that the first session has been completed, participants have noted how the ARISE experience helped them grow in the faith.

“My prayer life and Scripture reading has increased,” O’Daniel said. “I had the opportunity to pray with (my wife) Beth and the other couples. We also, together — as a team — learned to help take care of one another and our St. Elizabeth community.”

O’Daniel said the program encouraged her to “feel unafraid and think about Scripture, and helped me build relationships with my fellow parishioners at St. Michael’s.”

“I would say that I have grown in my love for souls,” Casper said. “This was a journey with people that I knew on a friendly level, but not in a deep spiritual sense. When the men and women started to open up in our small group, we were able to see their love for God, their faith and love for others. One can not but draw closer to God through these shared experiences.”

Janice Watts, a parishioner of the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Fort Wayne, said, “At the moment of Baptism, Christ began His love story in each of us. How we each accept and respond to His love story is the best-version of the story. All our stories continue. This journey is hard and our faith takes a beating. This is where we help each other.”

“Don’t be afraid to join the ARISE Together in small groups,” Watts said. “It is a structured session that centers on the Gospels and guides us to reflect upon Christ.”

Terry Berg-Swagin of the cathedral added, “Not only did (ARISE) give me an opportunity to dig into the Bible, but also to really get to know the other parishioners in our small group. In a large parish like ours, it is hard to connect with people and the ARISE mission is a wonderful way to become acquainted with others and to deepen our faith. It’s not too late to get involved. ARISE will be offered again in Lent. I look forward to it!”

In the upcoming spring session, Krudop added he looks most forward to “growing in fellowship with our team!”

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**DIOSansom**

**Statement of Bishop John M. D’Arcy**

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**Diocesan Men’s Conference, visit [www.rekindlethefire.net](http://www.rekindlethefire.net)**
BY TIM JOHNSON

FORT WAYNE — “I am of the unambiguous opinion that each and every Catholic man needs to explicitly open his heart to the possibility of a priestly vocation,” says Deacon Christopher Lapp, who will be ordained to the Priesthood on June 1 this year.

Deacon Lapp, corresponding via email with Today’s Catholic from Pontifical College Josephinum in Columbus, Ohio, says, “I have confidence that God is calling many more men to answer this call, so much does He love us and desire for us to have the Eucharist and other sacraments. We can and should pray that these men are courageous in the face of any number of oppositions that present themselves, especially the culture, friends, personal expectations and even at times, family.”

Msgr. Bernard Galic, the director of Vocations for the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, could not be more pleased with the 27 seminarians studying in Rome, Mount Saint Mary’s Seminary in Emmitsburg, Md., Pontifical College Josephinum and Immaculate Heart of Mary Seminary in Winona, Minn.

And Msgr. Galic notes that another four men have sent in papers to be placed into the process and another four or five men wish to speak with him at the beginning of this new year.

“God is blessing us with vocational interest,” Msgr. Galic says. The interest in studies for the priesthood is up across the country reports Msgr. Galic, who also serves as pastor of St. Aloysius Parish in Yoder. Pontifical College Josephinum may be filled near capacity next fall.

“There are definitely more young men coming forward to enter seminary and discern their possible call to the priesthood,” says seminarian Zachary Barry, a parishioner from Our Lady of Good Hope, Fort Wayne, who will be ordained to the diaconate this May. “This kind of increase in vocations comes from better catechesis, prayer as Jesus recommends in Matthew 9:38, fostering vocational discernment among Catholic youth, and from the witness of holy, faithful, joyful priests.”

He adds, “As seminarians, we recognize the need for greater evangelization and discipleship, which will draw us closer to the heart of Jesus Christ, the source of all true vocations.”

Both Deacon Lapp and Barry attended Bishop Dwenger High School.

Deacon Lapp, who grew up in and is a parishioner of St. Vincent de Paul Parish, Fort Wayne, credits Bishop Dwenger’s strong theology department as an influence. “I became truly interested in learning theology in high school and the theology classes kept me on my toes,” he says.

Barry, who grew up in St. Charles Borromeo Parish, Fort Wayne, adds that, “during high school my participation in Bishop Dwenger’s ‘A Chance To Serve’ ministry and in my parish youth group led me deeper in prayer and discernment.”

Both say family played a major role.

“My family helped me to grow up to be free to embrace whatever the Lord invited me to, and I received tremendous support when I entered seminary. This support has been a sturdy shelter throughout the ups and downs of the last several years,” says Deacon Lapp.

“My mom suggested that we could ride our bikes to Mass during the week in the summer, which drew me closer to Christ’s intimate sacrifice,” Barry adds about his family’s influence.

And parish life was important to both seminarians. Barry’s middle school religion teacher encouraged him to read the Bible every day.

“The priests at St. Vincent’s especially helped me consider a vocation to the priesthood — especially Msgr. Kuzmich, who has been my only pastor and a wonderful priestly example,” adds Deacon Lapp.

And the people in the pew have a responsibility too.

“Pray,” notes Deacon Lapp, “especially for more men to open their hearts to the possibility of a priestly vocation and for the courage to embrace it. Also, affirm young men in their striving to live lives of virtue.”

He adds, “And don’t be afraid to directly ask him to consider a vocation to the priesthood. Many here in the seminary will admit that those encounters stuck with them and, like a gnat, got them to take the Lord’s actual invitation seriously.”

Seminarian Barry says, “Pray. Pray for vocations, that the Lord will find a way into the hearts of our young people today, and that they will respond courageously to Christ’s call to witness to the faith out of love in whatever way He calls them to do so.”

Men interested in the seminary and discernment process should contact the Vocation Office at (574) 234-0687. Msgr. Bernard Galic is the director and his email is bigalic@earthlink.net. Father Matthew Coonan is the associate director and his email is father.m.coonan@gmail.com. Mary Szymczak is the Vocation Office associate. Her email is mszymczak@diocesefwsb.org.

Fathers Benjamin Muhlenkamp and Jacob Meyer receive an embrace of joy from Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades following their Ordination on Saturday, May 26, 2012 at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Fort Wayne.

CALLED TO SERVE

“Priestly vocations are the proof, and, at the same time, the condition of the vitality of the Church... Every vocation to the priestly ministry is an extraordinary gift of God’s love.”

-Pope John Paul II

God may be calling you to be a priest. Call us and we’ll talk.
Vocations model works for Holy Cross

BY STEPHANIE GATMAN

NOTRE DAME — With more than 50 men in formation, the vocations program of the Congregation of Holy Cross, United States Province of Priests and Brothers, is among the wealthiest for Catholic religious orders in the United States.

Personal attention and an engaging, interactive online social media presence have led to one of the largest seminary classes in recent years. The class comes from 15 different states, Canada, England and Ireland and from all walks of life, with diverse educational backgrounds, hobbies and interests. They all share common goals: to serve God with zeal and to become “Men With Hope to Bring” as they begin to live out the charism of Holy Cross during their formation.

The U.S. Province’s Office of Vocations uses social media to spread the word about upcoming events and to increase general awareness on the Internet. Young men considering a vocation to the priesthood and religious life are able to learn more through Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, Flickr and blogs. “It has become one more place where we can connect with those who are interested in considering a vocation to the religious life or priesthood,” said Vocations Director Holy Cross Father James T. Gallagher. “We use social media as a way to make ourselves known to those young men discerning a call to religious life. But the personal interaction still comes first. Our social media outlets are just tools we use to help make Holy Cross known, share discernment tips and help deepen a man’s prayer life.”

All men considering a life in Holy Cross get the personal attention of the vocations team. Throughout the year, they work with more than 100 young men who are discerning a call to the priesthood or religious life by way of vocation retreats, discernment groups on campus at Notre Dame and visits to the seminary.

Holy Cross Deacons Brian Christopher Ching, Mark Francis DeMott and Jarrod Michael Waugh will be ordained priests on April 6.

Deacon Ching said he first felt God might be calling him to religious life while he was attending high school, which was run by Holy Cross brothers. “There was just something different about their approach to teaching and to the students and you could tell that the difference had something to do with their life of praying and living in community,” said Ching, who is serving at St. Joseph Parish in South Bend.

Deacon DeMott previously served at Saint Joseph’s High School as director of Christian formation at St. Joseph Parish; and director of liturgy and music at Holy Cross and St. Stanislaus in South Bend. He first started to consider religious life after a Confirmation retreat at Notre Dame when he was 16.

“Discernment took time,” Deacon DeMott said. “I had studied for a career in medicine and had imagined that I would get married. Slowly, however, God’s invitation to religious life and priesthood became clear to me. I began to work with my pastor and those battling addiction. I studied theology. I sought out opportunities for ministry. Finally, as I finished my time as rector of Keough Hall at Notre Dame, I had a deep sense of peace about my future. Religious life and priesthood in Holy Cross had totally captivated my imagination.”

Deacon Waugh serves at Christ the King Parish in South Bend. He began discerning his call to the priesthood after meeting Holy Cross Religious at Notre Dame in 2004. “I thinking discerning your vocation is less about reaching a point of certainty than it is about falling in love,” he said. “For me, it was the gradual realization that my best gifts — those I always knew about and those I have discovered or had shown to me along the way — as well as my greatest weaknesses are most likely to be handled in productive ways as a brother in a community of prayer, good humor and fraternal concern.”

The U. S. Province is comprised of about 500 men, including priests, brothers and those in formation. The Province is 1,200 Congregation of Holy Cross Religious worldwide in 16 countries on five continents.

For more information visit holy-crossusa.org or contact Holy Cross Father Jim Gallagher in the Office of Vocations, at (574) 631-6385.

Bishops must stand firm in truth to lead people to Christ, pope says

BY CAROL GLATZ

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — In their task of leading people to the light of Christ, bishops must have the courage to face opposition and peacefully stand firm in the truth, Pope Benedict XVI said.

Meeting the approval of the wider public “is not the criterion to which we submit. Our criterion is the Lord Himself,” the pope said Jan. 6 as he celebrated the feast of the Epiphany of the Lord with a Mass in St. Peter’s Basilica.

“The fear of God frees us from the fear of men,” he said. “They are the people who set the path of the eastern star.”

The four men swore their fidelity to the Gospel and to the Church and laid down their lives in an oath on the floor of St. Peter’s Basilica as the Litany of Saints was chanted. Then they knelt before Pope Benedict, who laid his hands on their heads and ordained them bishops.

In his homily at the Mass, the pope looked at the figure of the Three Kings, the wise men who set out from the East in search of Jesus; the pope drew comparisons between them and the mission to which the new bishops are called.

Like the Magi, he said, the bishop, too, must not be content with his position, but want to be “seized by God” and “gripped by God’s concern for men and women.”

Prayer, in fact, helps “detach us from our false sense of security, from our being enclosed within material and visible realities” and gives “us a responsiveness for God and thus an openness and concern for another.”

Like the wise men, who probably were scorned or ridiculed for following a star in search of the promised king, a bishop must know that seeking the truth is more important than “the tumult of the world, so apparently clever.”

“The humility of faith, of sharing the faith of the Church of every age, will constantly be in conflict with the prevailing wisdom of those who cling to what seems certain,” he said.

And a bishop, who must guide today’s men and women to the way of faith, hope and love, must have “the courage to contradict the prevailing mindset” of agnosticism, which is “extremely intolerant regarding anything that would question it and the criteria it employs."

Therefore, “this courage or forcefulness does not consist in striking out or in acting aggressively; rather in allowing oneself to be struck and to be steadfast before the principles of the way of thinking.”

“We are not provocative; on the contrary we invite all to enter into the joy of that truth which shows us the way,” the pope said.

By defending the Lord’s cause, the Church inevitably will stir up opposition, but it also will “constantly gain others to the way of the Gospel,” he said.

The other men the pope ordained were Italian Archbishop Angelo Zani, 62, the new secretary of the Congregation for Catholic Education; Nigerian Archbishop Fortunatus Nwachukwu, 52, nuncio to Nicaragua; and French Archbishop Nicolas Henry Thevenin, 54, nuncio to Guatemala. The nuncios serve as the Holy See’s ambassadors abroad and as liaisons with the local Catholic communities.

Provided by Congregation of Holy Cross, United States Province of Priests and Brothers

Holy Cross Father Thomas O’Hara, from left, provincial superior of the U. S. province, enjoys a laugh with seminarians Tim Mouton and Matt Riedle.

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Migration Week brings revived interest in letter, push for legislation

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The Catholic Church’s observance of National Migration Week Jan. 6-12 this year comes at a time when the outlook seems promising for improving migrants’ legal situations in the United States. The annual observance of Migration Week this year focuses on encouraging Congress to approve comprehensive immigration reform and marking the 10th anniversary of a joint pastoral letter by U.S. and Mexican bishops: “Strangers No Longer: Together on a Journey of Hope.” The January 2003 letter said migration policies had created a new underclass in the United States, and called for changes in law and policy in the U.S. and Mexico. The bishops promised to do more themselves to educate Catholics and political leaders about the social justice issues involved in migration and to do more to address migrants’ needs. The 50-page letter said the governments of both countries must change policies, including making it easier to legally immigrate to the United States, better protecting the civil rights of migrants in both countries and addressing the root causes of migration—poverty and lack of employment options in Mexico and Central America. It discussed the theological roots of the Church’s support for immigrants and laid out steps to be taken by Church and public authorities. It notes that “misconceptions and xenophobic and racist attitudes in both the United States and Mexico contribute to an atmosphere in which undocumented (people) are discriminated against and abused.” The letter urged both governments to “abandon the type of (low enforcement) strategies that give rise to smuggling operations and migrant deaths” and to restore due process rights.

Syrian refugee hangs carpet outside tent at refugee camp near Turkish border

A Syrian refugee hangs a carpet outside her tent in late December at a refugee camp near the Turkish town of Kilis. Bishop Gerald F. Kicanas of Tucson, Ariz., who traveled to the Turkish-Syrian border, said Catholic Relief Services programs are focusing on refugees living outside of the camps, because they do not benefit from the government services and are the most in need.

Cardinal George warns against Illinois same-sex marriage law

CHICAGO (CNS) — Cardinal Francis E. George told Chicago-area Catholics that the passage of a same-sex marriage law in the state would be “acting against the common good of society.” This proposed legislation will have long-term consequences because laws teach; they tell us what is socially acceptable and what is not, and most people conform to the dictates of their respective society, at least in the short run,” he wrote in a Jan. 1 letter. The letter, sent to all archdiocesan pastors to be distributed in parish bulletins, was also signed by Chicago’s six auxiliary bishops and posted online on the website of the Illinois Catholic Conference www.illcatholic.org. The letter was issued the day before a group of Illinois lawmakers introduced the Religious Freedom and Marriage Fairness Act, which would make all state laws that are “applicable to marriage apply equally to marriages of same-sex and different-sex couples and their children.” The cardinal said the bill’s title was deceptive and “ignores basic truths.” He said the Catholic Church is not “anti-gay” because it “welcomes everyone, respects each one personally and gives to each the spiritual means necessary to convert to God’s ways and maintain friendship with Christ.” He pointed out that “marriage comes to us from nature” and said it is “physically impossible for two men or two women to consummate a marriage, even when they share a deep friendship or love,” which indicates that “marriage is what nature tells us it is and that the state cannot change natural marriage.”

Vatican suspends credit card acceptance amid tension with regulator

VATICAN CITY — Vatican City State’s fiscal administrator, Cardinal Germano Gambin, last month suspended the credit and debit-card payments to the Holy See’s credit and debit-card transactions with the Vatican’s credit-card services. The suspension was lifted after the Vatican and the Holy See reached an agreement to resolve the dispute.

US high court justice denies HHS injunction; lower court grants one

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor denied two companies’ request for an injunction while they challenge part of the Department of Health and Human Services’ contraceptive mandate in court. In an order filed Dec. 26, Sotomayor ruled that the owners of the Hobby Lobby craft store and the Mardel Christian bookstore chains did not qualify for an injunction while they challenge requirements of the Affordable Care Act. The law took effect Jan. 1. On Dec. 30, a federal District Court judge in Michigan granted a temporary restraining order to Tom Monaghan, the founder of Domino’s Pizza, allowing him to decline to provide contraceptive coverage to his employees of his current business, Domino’s Farms Office Complex. It’s unclear how many people are employed by the complex, but the Vatican has said the ruling would likely have a “profound and long-lasting impact” on the World War I refugees who sought sanctuary in the United States.

For the World, an anti-hunger lobby launched a campaign to eradicate hunger by 2030, with a focus on the United States. The campaign aims to raise awareness about the issue and encourage action to end hunger in America. The campaign is supported by a coalition of faith-based organizations and other civil society groups. The campaign has been endorsed by Pope Francis, who has called for an end to hunger as a priority of the Catholic Church.

Vatican says 2.3 million people joined pope for Vatican events in 2012

VATICAN CITY — More than 2.3 million pilgrims and visitors joined Pope Benedict XVI for an audience, liturgy or prayer at the Vatican or Castel Gandolfo in 2012, the Vatican said. The Prefecture of the Papal Household, the Vatican office that coordinates the audience and liturgies, said its figures were calculated based on the number of tickets requested and estimates of crowd size. The total of 570 events included those attending the pope’s 43 weekly general audiences at the Vatican or at the papal summer villa in Castel Gandolfo; special audiences for particular groups; Masses and other liturgies; and a rough estimate of the size of the crowd at St. Peter’s Square or the courtyard of the papal villa for the pope’s recitation of the rosary or “Regina Coeli” prayer on Sundays and major feast days.

Budget deal defined as much by what’s left undone as by what it does

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The American Taxpayer Relief Act of 2012 — and 2013, considering when the House of Representatives passed it — will be known as much by what it doesn’t include as what it does include. The legislation, among other things, extends the farm bill by nine months, which prevents milk prices from doubling. But the extension also keeps intact other programs that will prevent major economic damage that would have affected hungry and poor people the most.

Regina Coeli prayer

The pope’s recitation of the Angelus or “Regina Coeli” prayer on Sundays and major feast days.
Brother George Klawitter has NOTRE DAME — Holy Cross brother tells of life as college professor, volunteer to the elderly, member of an active religious community

BY BROTHE RCHARLES MCBRIDE, CSC

NOTRE DAME — Holy Cross Brother George Klawitter has returned to the Midwest. After living in Austin, Texas, where he taught at St. Edward’s University for 18 years, he has relocated to Texas had been a good home living in Austin, Texas, where he taught 30 years ago saying, “but I know there are five classrooms: “Now I can’t count the number of classrooms,” he says, “but I know there are five residence halls with students from all over the world. On our men’s soccer team we have students from Ireland, Canada, Brazil, Croatia, Ecuador, England, Germany and Tajikistan. One of my literature students comes from South Africa and speaks four languages.”

In the fall, Brother George taught a section of freshmen in their “Introduction to Liberal Studies” class, a class designed to acclimate new students to the college and their intended major. One of their tasks early in the semester was to isolate three experiences they would use to enrich their minds, their bodies and their spirits. The freshmen insisted that Brother George also have mind, body and spirit experiences for the semester. So he dutifully chose his experiences and gave a PowerPoint report on them to his freshmen. His “mind” took him to extra lectures at Notre Dame and Saint Mary’s, and his “body” took him on healthy walks around the Notre Dame lakes.

But he had to change his “spirit” experience mid-semester. He says, “I had originally planned to investigate a new kind of meditation this semester, but one of my former students, a young man 23 years old, told me he was diagnosed with cancer, so my interaction with him became my ‘spirit’ experience.”

When asked to reflect on his vocation, Brother George recalls, old math teacher Brother Vincent, and the energetic band director Brother Gerald. “Gerald made me drum major in my senior year so I had to lead the band during football season and in Mardi Gras parades,” Brother George says. All of his growing-up experiences have helped to shape Brother George’s vocation: his early grade school formation by Brother George also have mind, body and spirit experiences for the semester. So he dutifully chose his experiences and gave a PowerPoint report on them to his freshmen. His “mind” took him to extra lectures at Notre Dame and Saint Mary’s, and his “body” took him on healthy walks around the Notre Dame lakes.

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When asked to reflect on his vocation, Brother George recalls,
God is calling
Are you listening?

Finding the time to slow down, listen for, and consider God’s call can be difficult but what could be more important? The Congregation of Holy Cross has multiple retreat programs for high school, college, and post graduate men designed to guide you along the way as you seek to hear and answer God’s call. Contact our office to find out more, 574.631.6385 or email at vocation@holycrossusa.org.

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Bro. Bob Overland, FS
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Community

Poor Handmaids of Jesus Christ

Sister Margaret Mary “Margie” Lavonis of the Sisters of the Holy Cross agreed that example remains a powerful witness and encouragement for vocations.

Sister Lavonis is encouraged by steady interest in Sisters of the Holy Cross religious vocations. Presently, the order has 54 sisters in the stages of initial formation. Good websites have helped to spark interest among young women because so many young people are into technology.

“Many times it opens a door. However, personal contact is best. A problem is that sisters in many communities are doing ministries where there are not a lot of religious women,” she said. Because many young women in the U.S. are familiar with sisters only through caricatures on television, the movies or on a funny calendar, Sister Lavonis suspects that personally knowing a sister might encourage more and sincere interest in discerning a vocation.

Her congregation currently has one sister who hails from the U.S.
Religious communities have presence in diocese

BY KAY COZAD

The Order of Friars Minor
Conventuals committed to serve

MISHAWAKA — The Order of Friars Minor, commonly known as Conventual Franciscans, was founded by St. Francis of Assisi in 1209 and is comprised of over 4,000 dedicated priests and brothers worldwide. These priests and brothers, called friars, wear black or gray habits with a simple three-knotted cord representing their vows of poverty, chastity and obedience, and live together in friaries.

The American Novitiate located in Mishawaka currently houses 13 friars, nine of whom are novices, though worldwide there are approximately 500 friars in formation. These men come from many different backgrounds and experiences. During their formation in Mishawaka the novices spend a full year discerning if profession of vows is for them.

According to Conventual Franciscan Brother Paschal Kolodziej, associate novice director, the novices receive a well-rounded education. “We provide guidance, spiritual direction, classes and a secluded lifestyle for this purpose. The novices take classes on the Franciscan order, constitutions, vows, Church documents of the consecrated life and its history, prayer forms, Scripture, communication, Mariology and the Secular Franciscan Order,” he reports.

The call to be a friar has increased in recent years and Brother Kolodziej says, “Our order has always had a great emphasis on community and prayer. Many young people are attracted to this call to be a friar minor. Our call is to be a ‘lesser brother’ to all those we minister to. That can take many forms and ministries.”

It is that sense of community and commitment to serve that is meaningful to its members. “The fraternal aspect attracts young people who are looking for a sense of belonging,” says Brother Kolodziej, adding, “We have always been of service to the Church in many different ways. Obedience to the Church has always been one of our hallmarks.”

For more information visit www.franciscans.org or the website www.franciscansdiscipleship.org.

Poor Sisters of St. Clare serve as contemplatives

FORT WAYNE — The Poor Sisters of St. Clare, formerly known as the Franciscan Sisters Minor, are thriving in enclosed life as cloistered nuns in Fort Wayne and continue to grow as a community. Six professed sisters in temporary vows, three postulants and three novices, who joined the community after the decision to transition to cloister, make up the holy fraternity that has lived and prayed behind closed doors since August. Poor Sister of St. Clare Sister Karolyn Grace says of the religious group, “We have a deep contemplative life that has its home and source in our simple, joyful and loving Franciscan fraternity.”

The increase in vocations for the cloistered life comes, Sister Karolyn says, from the charism of “the Gospel lived in joy.” The sisters follow the Form of Life of St. Clare of Assisi, which was approved by Pope Innocent IV in the year 1253. “We are thriving and our growth in vocations must have to do with us providing our ‘niches,’” says Sister Karolyn. A day in the life of an enclosed religious consists of much sacrifice and prayer. Opportunities for prayer include two holy hours, daily Mass, seven hours of Divine Office prayer and time for personal prayer that not only enrich the spiritual life of each sister but the hidden relationship she has with the outside world. “…We know our love, prayers and sacrifices for souls from our enclosure are making us more effective evangelizers than ever,” says Sister Karolyn.

In addition to the contemplative hours the sisters of the community spend in prayer is the time for classes and study, spiritual readings, sewing projects and recreation. “One of our favorite pastimes is Ultimate Frisbee,” says Sister Karolyn. Though admittedly joining a cloistered community is a leap of faith, the sisters encourage women to investigate the call. “The call to consecrated life is not to love less but to love more. … One question those discerning their vocation could ask is, ‘Where will I be able to give love and receive love the most?’” encourages Sister Karolyn.

For more information write to: Vocation Directress, Poor Sisters of St. Clare, Our Lady of the Angels Monastery, 2610 New Haven Ave., Fort Wayne, IN 46803.

Franciscan Brothers Minor community flourishing

FORT WAYNE — The Franciscan Brothers Minor community has recently celebrated its third anniversary as a religious community in Fort Wayne. What began with eight men faithfully following their vows of poverty, chastity and obedience in imitation of St. Francis, now numbers 25 — and is growing.

Eleven of the 25 are new vocations, says Franciscan Father David Mary Engo, minister general of the friars. Fifteen friars live the austereness of life and prayer. They are in Fort Wayne and with the growth in vocations a new house has been opened in Columbus, Ohio, where 10 friars reside.

Four of the 10 in Ohio are seminarians studying at the Pontifical College Josephinum seminary, while the other six serve the local area in their various ministries. Father Engo says the vocation growth hopes to eventually open a third house.

When asked what he thought attracted new vocations to the Franciscan Brothers Minor community Father Engo did not hesitate, “Firstly it’s our devotion to Our Lady and Our Lady, and then it’s the fidelity to the expression of the Franciscan way of life.” The community’s charism of fraternal love is emphasized in formation and Father Engo says, “We live the charity as faithfully as we can. … Poverty and prayer is authentically experienced here. Young people are looking for that authenticity.”

For more information visit www.franciscanbrothersminor.org

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Holy Cross novices profess vows

BY SISTER MARGIE LAVONIS, CSC

Two novices of the Sisters of the Holy Cross, Sisters Tina Moury Ritchil and Kripa Maria Baroi, professed their initial vows at a joyful Mass on Saturday, Dec. 1, at the Church of Our Lady of Loretto, Saint Mary’s, Notre Dame. The church was filled with members of the congregation, who were there to witness and attest to the readiness of these young women to make their profession. The celebrant for the Mass was Holy Cross Father Edward Malloy.

The liturgy prepared by the two young sisters reflected the cultural diversity and internationality of the Holy Cross congregation. After the reflection by Holy Cross Sister Mary Ellen Vaughan, Sisters Tina and Kripa, both from Bangladesh, professed their vows in their native language. Holy Cross Sister Joan Marie Steadman, president of the Sisters of the Holy Cross, accepted their vows in the name of the Church and congregation. She spoke this acceptance in both Bangla and English.

Novices from Bangladesh, Ghana, India, Mexico and Uganda did a traditional Garo tribe liturgical dance at the offertory while the choir sang a hymn in the Garo language. The prayer of the faithful was read in different languages and an “aroti,” which is an incensing and floral ritual from Asia, was offered during the final acclamation of the Eucharistic prayer.

All the novices sang in the choir. A novice from the United States played the clarinet and directed the Gloria, which she and another choir member composed.

During the entire celebration the joy of the occasion was evident in song, dancing, applause and blessing.

Each sister reflected on her formation experience.

Sister Tina declared, “I am very grateful to God for helping me recognize my vocation as a religious in Holy Cross. God showed me how much God loves me, and God’s plan is the best for me. I feel by taking this step I will become a more responsible and courageous woman in doing God’s work.”

Sister Kripa said, “My vocation is to love and serve God’s people. Seven years of being in formation is precious time for me to make a decision about my life. I feel I am ready and open for anything that comes along my way.”

Shortly after their profession they returned to Bangladesh to their new ministries. It was hard to say goodbye, but at the same time they were excited to be going to their own country after nearly three years in the International Novitiate at Saint Mary’s.
Dealing with January blues …  

Jesus serves the plan of God  

THE SUNDAY GOSPEL  
MSGR. OWEN F. CAMPBELL  

**Luke 3:15-16, 21-22**  
*The Feast of the Baptism of the Lord is very important to the Church and very essential to bringing us to Christ. It reveals both the identity of the Lord and the Gospel revelation of the Lord’s work of salvation.*  

Jesus was baptized in the Jordan River by John the Baptist. The three Synoptic Gospels—Matthew, Mark, and Luke—report this event. It is not recorded in John, although John’s Gospel eludes to John the Baptist’s baptisms in the Jordan, and in John’s Gospel John the Baptist gives Jesus the title, “Lamb of God.”  

The first reading is one of the four Suffering Servant Songs of Isaiah. These very poetic passages are prominent in the liturgies of Lent, and remind us of Good Friday. There is an ominous tone. Who was this Suffering Servant? Was it the future Messiah? Was it Jesus? Is this God’s plan of salvation?  

The reading is important. Peter speaks in behalf of all the Apostles. He speaks to Cornelius, a Roman officer, a foreigner and pagan. Peter proclaims Jesus, declaring that the saving ministry of Jesus began with the Lord’s Baptism. Peter’s own identity is revealed. He is a new creature. His message is the continuation of the Lord’s message.  

**Reflection**  
In Advent, the Church in its liturgies called us to renew ourselves in holiness and grace. If we responded, then Christmas was much more than a commemoration of the Lord’s birth. It was a personal event in which Christ was admitted into faithful hearts and souls, to restore, to heal, and to eliminate dying. With unbounded joy, the Church told us more about Jesus. The son of Mary and therefore human, the Lord also is God. The Magi recognized this fact.  

Next, on this feast, the Church instructs us further about Jesus. He is the instrument of God’s love for us. Doomed by our sins, we find another chance in Jesus. He is our savior. It was, and is, God’s will that we be one with God. We achieve this unity with God in and through Jesus. We must bond, completely, with Christ. He is God. God is love. God forgives us and restores us to eternal life.  

The Lord now comes to us through Peter and the Apostles, the Lord’s students, commissioned by Jesus to further God’s plan of salvation.  

**READINGS**  

- Monday: Heb 1:1-14; Ps 69:15-20, 26, 27  
- Tuesday: Ps 78:3-7, 12-15; Ps 105:1-7, 10-14  
- Wednesday: Ps 105:1-7; Ps 119:94-96  
- Thursday: Ps 119:97-102; Ps 119:95  
- Friday: Ps 119:95-100; Ps 119:94-96; Ps 119:121-24  
- Saturday: Ps 119:97-100; Ps 119:121-24  

*What can we even say about the massacre at Newtown, Conn.?*  

**Theresa A. Thomas**  

**THOMAS, PAGE 12**  

What can we even say about December’s massacre in Newtown, Conn.? Adam Lanza murdered his mother, forced his way into a school, and killed 20 children and six adults before killing himself. The slaughter was especially frightening and sad because it involved so many little children and the adults protecting them.  

There was a depressing familiarity to it. In less than two years we have seen a lot of similar incidents:  
- One L. Goh shot seven people at Oikos University in Oakland, Calif.  
- James Holmes killed 12 people in a movie theater in Aurora, Colo.  
- Wade Michael Page killed six people at a Sikh temple near Milwaukee.  
- Jacob Tyler Roberts killed two people at a mall in Portland, Ore.  

These recent massacres call to mind earlier killings at Virginia Tech, Columbine High School and a dozen other recent events. The frequency of the crimes almost suggests a kind of Werther effect—the name we give to suicide contagion caused by public attention to the phenomenon.  

We were still praying for the children and their parents when the media began airing the debate about how to keep this from happening again. This too has a familiar air about it. We always turn to the government and the psychiatric profession for solutions.  

Some say the government should ban handguns or semi-automatic weapons. I’d be in favor of that. And it might make a dent in the killings. But it wouldn’t make a big difference. Federal law forbids people Lanza’s age (20) from buying handguns from dealers. (He used his mother’s guns.) Federal law also forbids people within 1,000 feet of a school. To make shootings impossible — not just illegal! — we would need a system of controls that would surpass the most dystopian regulatory fantasy.  

Some say we should do a better job at identifying and treating mental illness. We should. The shooters almost always are young men and often mentally ill. More often than not they kill themselves at the end of their rampage. But there is a lot of sullen, withdrawn and awkward young men out there.  

For our psychiatric safety net to catch the potential shooters, it would have to scoop up thousands of ordinary guys who are just struggling to get through adolescence or the trials of young adulthood. And what would we do with them once we rounded them up?  

I’m not saying we shouldn’t pursue those ideas. But I think we won’t make real headway with the problem unless we change the culture, and that is a job for us, not for the government or the psychiatric profession.  

The culture that young men grow up in is one where violence is not just present but glamorized. At the national and corporate levels we see unjust wars and the arms trade. At the state level, capital punishment. At the individual level we give constitutional protection to abortion, to video games that simulate assault and murder, and in some places to assisted suicide.  

We teach our children that they are autonomous moral actors, responsible for defining their values. This produces a culture where the strong decide the fate of the weak. Then when something like this happens we want the government to protect us from the natural consequences of our own folly.  

When Cain killed Abel, he tried to deflect the Lord’s inquiry by suggesting that we are each in charge of our own affairs: “Am I my brother’s keeper?” We have to relearn Cain’s lesson. Yes, I am my brother’s keeper. All life is sacred. We must teach our children habits of virtue, not leave them to chart their own course through the moral life. The Werther effect can work both ways.  

**INTELLECT AND VIRTUE**  

**John Garvey**  

John Garvey is the president of The Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C.
**A Benedict XVI epiphany**

The solemnity of the Epiphany typically gets short shrift in Latin-rite Catholicism, for which Western Christianity lifts up the Epiphany as the apex of the Christmas season. Epiphany in the western Church tends to get overwhelmed by the tsunami of Christmas, both liturgically and (especially) culturally. And when the Epiphany fell in the middle of the week and was a holy day of obligation, its importance as the commemoration of the “manifestation” of the Messiah was under-scored; transferred to a Sunday, it tends to become one-Sunday among others. The pre-1970 liturgical calendar recognized the significance of the Epiphany by designating “Sundays after Epiphany” between the conclusion of the Christmas season and the begin-ning of pre-Lent, thus stretching out the Church’s meditation on the Epiphany over several weeks. Now, Epiphany is quickly succeeded by the feast of the Lord’s Baptism, after which the liturgy (pre-1970) is known by that dreadful neologism, “Ordinary Time,” begins.

While we wait in joyful hope (as we no longer say) for the restoration of some sanity to the liturgical calendar, we can be grateful for the insights into the Epiphany — and especially into those emblematic characters in the story, the Magi and especially into those emblematic characters among-others. The pre-1970 scored; transferred to a Sunday, the commemoration of the “mani-festation” of the Messiah may have been seen as the apogee of the Christmas season and the begin-ning of the “Ordinary Time,” begins.

**The Magi — the Wise Men, the Three Kings — are crucial figures in salvation history for they were the first gentiles to acknowledge Jesus as the Messiah promised to the people of Israel, through whom all the nations of the world will be blessed. That’s not a new insight, of course; what is striking in Benedict’s interpretation of the story is his expansion of the meaning of the Magi’s journey to see the “Wise Men from the east,” he writes, “mark a new beginning.” In them, we find the “journeying of humanity toward Christ.” Thus these Three Kings “initiate a procession that continues throughout history.” Moreover, they represent more than those who have actually found the Lord: “they represent the inner aspiration of the human spirit, the dynamism of religions and human reason” toward Christ. The Magi embody the truth of which Paul wrote in one of his great Christological hymns: “all things were created through Him and for Him” (Col 1:16).

Then there is the star. After noting that this extraordinary phe-nomenon might have been the conjunction of Jupiter and Saturn in the constellation of Pisces in 6-7 B.C. (that is, just about the time of the birth of Christ), the pope gets down to the real point, which is not astronomy but theology. The star, Benedict recalls, were once thought to be divine powers that controlled the fates of men and women: thus the phrase, “it is in the stars,” and thus the pseudo-“science” of astrology. The Epiphany and the Magi story reverse all of this.

For “it is not the star that deter-mines the child’s destiny,” the pope writes; “it is the child that directs the star.” Astrology is out; humanity, so to speak, is in. And so, Benedict continues, “we may speak here of a kind of anthropological revolution: human nature assumed by God — as revealed in God’s only-begotten Son — is greater than all the powers of the material world, greater than the entire universe.”

The star, perceived with the eyes of faith and understood of the tools of theology, tells a brilliant, if not fully comprehended, story. If the Wise Men were led by a star to find the newborn king of the Jews who is in truth the universal savior, Benedict tells us, “this implies that the entire cosmos speaks of Christ, even though its language is not yet fully intelligible to man in its present state.” The “language of creation” points us toward the truth about the Creator, which is that God who creates is also God who redeems.

Thus the Epiphany points us toward the Christmas (anticipated in the Magi’s gift of myrrh, which is also used at Jesus’ burial) and, ultimately, to the Resurrection.

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

**George Weigel**

**THE CATHOLIC DIFFERENCE**

The oxygen mask over themselves first before attempting to help oth-ers. Why does she do that? The rea-son is pretty clear. You can’t help others unless you can breathe. Put another way, you can’t serve a cup of water to others if you’re thirsty yourself.

The point is — we have to take care of ourselves. We have to meet our own basic needs before we can really be helpful to others. At first glance this statement might seem antithetical to being a faithful Catholic. Putting oneself first seems to contradict the teachings of being selfless. We definitely live in a selfish society that rarely puts others first. Being cognizant of the needs of one’s neighbor and being willing to sacrifice for them is good and what we absolutely must do as Christians. But there is also a very real danger for serious Christians that they not respect and take care of their own legitimate needs, such as the need for sleep, exercise and good nutrition, as well as for spiritual direction. That is, there is a danger in giving before being ready to give. This is particu-larly true of mothers, who are used to putting their children’s needs ahead of their own, 24 hours a day, getting up with infants at night to nurse or waiting up for teens to come home. Some parents harshly label themselves as “selfish” if they choose to head to bed at 10 p.m. instead of doing one more load of laundry or picking up one more room.

Think about it. I was reading a book about Mother Teresa a few years back and discovered that she and some other sisters in her Sisters of Charity order, took short daily naps. These missionaries for Christ napsted! Here these sisters were out daily, serving the poorest of the poor, doing God’s work, and yet valued themselves and their bodies enough to take care of themselves . . . and even napped. That was a revelation for me.

Sometimes, as a mother, I am all too ready to give and give and give and until I am totally depleted. Then I risk not only harm to myself but to others as well. I am more likely to snap in anger or get sick, and inter-e stingly and ironically not be as productive as I could be otherwise. I also notice when this happens I am generally not feeling too happy. This January, to combat the blues, consider whether you are meeting your own basic needs of rest, relaxation and rejuvenation. Are you staying spiritually, physically and mentally fit? If not, take actions to move positively in that direction. Then, well cared for, you can donate your time and your self to the people who matter most to you, and others too.

A letdown after an important event like Christmas is normal and natural. Sometimes, even when it is the result of a tragedy or unex-pected disappointment, the letdown can’t be avoided. However, we can all handle the stress and “down” time of post-holiday season better by recognizing our legitimate needs and our dignity as human persons.

We meet the challenge with exer-cise, frequencting the sacraments, nourishing our bodies with healthy food, and our emotions with healthy relationships. This too shall pass and by following these tips, we may even enjoy the time it takes until it does.

**Theresa Thomas** is the wife of David and mother of nine chil-dren. Watch for her newest book “Big Hearted Families” (Scepter) and read more on her blog: http://thereathomas.wordpress.com/
FORT WAYNE — Catholic Youth Organization (CYO) teams performed well at the 2012 Hoopsfest held over the Christmas break. Coordinator Denny Jamison was pleased with the tournament’s success although the winter weather delayed the start of the annual event by one night.

In the eighth-grade girls’ bracket, St. Joseph, Decatur, line-up on the basketball court strongly resembled their winning volleyball team last fall. The Commodores had an impressive runner-up finish working their way out of the loser’s bracket to take the potential championship against the undefeated ladies from St. Jude.

After a three-point victory in the quarterfinals, St. Jude lost to Decatur, 21-13, forcing another matchup to determine the champs. But in the final contest, it was St. Jude who came out on top, once again by a mere three-point margin, 34-31.

The young seventh-grade squad from St. John, New Haven, went 2-2 for a third-place finish in the eight-team contest.

The boys’ competition was won in both divisions by St. Vincent. The eighth-grade battle came down to St. Vincent and St. Joseph-St. Elizabeth. St. Vincent kept their perfect record in the championship, 28-20 and 26-23 — for the net cutting honors.

The two teams faced each other three times in 24 hours and each match up provided fans their money’s worth.

A talented group from Queen of Angels finished strong with a third place showing. In the boys’ brackets, St. Joe/St. Elizabeth (SJSE) dominated the seven-team field beating the host team from Most Precious Blood in their opener. Next they got by the fifth graders from St. John the Baptist, New Haven, who finished in third place.

In the championship showdown, SJSE downed the sixth graders from Queen of Angels. In the win, the Panthers were led by the balanced scoring attack from Keenan Baldus (10 points), Mark Sturm (10) and Sam Garretson (9). After the four victories at the tournament, SJSE will carry a 9-3 record into 2013.

**CYO teams impressive at 2012 Hoopsfest**

**Most Precious Blood hosts holiday tournament for CYO**

**To see your CYO scores and highlights, contact Michelle Castleman at (260) 623-2180 or mmcastleman@aol.com.**

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**Basketball picks up action after two-week break**

**BY MICHELLE CASTLEMAN**

FORT WAYNE — Catholic Youth Organization (CYO) action picked up on Jan. 5-6 after a two-week break from the league schedule with 18 games being played at six different gyms.

Despite a sound beating by powerhouse St. Vincent to open the new year, St. John the Baptist, New Haven, (SJNH) Coach Scott Ferguson is very pleased with his eighth-grade boys’ basketball team this season.

“This group has seen great improvement since the fifth grade,” he explained.

Facing much larger schools in the CYO Gold League, the Raiders have just seven listed on their roster — Adam Yagodenski, Jacob Birch, Jayden Peffley, Harry Smith, Austin Fancher, Zach Vachon and Sean Ferguson.

“It is what it is,” admitted Ferguson. “Our guys really work hard and are good team workers.”

The assistant coaches for the blue and gold are Mike Snyder and John Peffley.

SJNH has participated in two different tournaments to date and had a runner-up finish at both the Queen of Angels Invitational over the Thanksgiving break and their own hosted tournament during Christmas vacation.

They have posted a 13-8 overall record so far and according to Ferguson, “do best when they are able to set up at half court and run their plays.”

The Raiders have decent rebounding and are led offensively by Vachon, Fancher and Ferguson.

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**Notre Dame’s commitment to service part of celebration**

During the BCS National Championship Game weekend, about 200 Notre Dame volunteers and another 100 from Alabama joined forces Jan. 6 to help develop part of the Overtown neighborhood west of downtown Miami. In partnership with Roots in the City, an organization based in Overtown that aims to promote community development and beautification in inner-city areas, the Irish and 'Bama contingents built an urban garden, transforming a vacant city lot into rows of raised garden beds. Produce will be planted later, and then cultivated and sold to raise funds for the residents of the area and to donate to homeless centers.

**Notre Dame’s commitment to service part of celebration**

**BY MICHELLE CASTLEMAN**

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**ICCL Spartans, Kings spar with a mighty roar**

**BY JOE KOZINSKI**

MISHAWAKA — The Interstate Catholic League started the new year off with a mighty roar as two of the top teams matched up in a contest that would weigh heavily on the conference race.

The Spartans of St. Thomas the Apostle, Elkhart, came into the contest with an unblemished mark and were looking to keep the upstart South Bend Christ the King squad and their 4-1 record from the top of the pile.

Both teams boasted big men. Christ the King had Michael Manion, who has had quite a first half of the season, and the Spartans countered with Gunnar Sadawey, who had been averaging just over 17 points per game.

The showdown started off with St. Thomas’ defense wreaking havoc on the Kings and creating fast break points jumping out to an early lead, 10-4. But an elbow jumper by Manion and a big three pointer by Hunter West closed the gap to three points after one.

**LaViolette’s Tommy LaViolette knocked down a three to start the second tying the hotly-contested affair until Sadawey connected on a three-point play the hard way pushing the Spartan once again into the cherished lead.**

**LaViolette caught fire and racked up two buckets in a row knotting up the game at 19; but with a fast break basket by St. Thomas’ Daniel Schafer as time ran out the Spartans were given an uncomfortable halftime lead, 21-19.**

The third quarter would be a sparring match between the two big men — Manion and Sadawey — as they both exchanged baskets and lead changes throughout the stanza with the Kings holding the now two-point margin after three.

Spartan Sadawey put the team on his back and willed them into the even and then propelled St. Thomas into the lead. Then Manion and friends pushed the envelope scoring six in a row, the basket seemed to have an airtight lid on it for the Elkhart County squad.

**Christ the King’s Kyle LaViolette caught fire and racked up two buckets in a row knotting up the game at 19; but with a fast break basket by St. Thomas’ Daniel Schafer as time ran out the Spartans were given an uncomfortable halftime lead, 21-19.**

The ICCL will continue play on Sunday at both Saint Joseph and Marian high schools. The complete list of scores, standings and schedules can be found on their website www.icclsports.org.
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 Luers plans winter homecoming: Four events in one Knight

Fort Wayne — Welcome back Father Fred Link, OFM, on Friday, Feb. 1, with Mass at 4:30 p.m. in the Media Center, Casa Knight Dinner at 5:30 p.m. in the cafe — reservations required and the “vesicles” and boys’ basketball game vs. Snider beginning at 6 p.m. During half time of the boys’ game (approx. 8 p.m. Father Fred Link, other Franciscan Friars and alumni from 1970-1984 will be recognized. Adult reception in the cafe following the games. For more information, contact Sarah Shank at sshank@bishopluers.org or (260) 456-1261 ext. 3039.

Trivia night for January 12

Fort Wayne — Bishop Luers will have a trivia night Saturday, Jan. 12, at the Lerner Theater, 410 S. Main St., at 7 p.m. and conclude by 11 p.m. During half time of the boys’ game (approx. 8 p.m.) there will be a table decorating contest with prizes. Trivia rounds begin at 7 p.m. and conclude by 11 p.m. Reservations are required to Trish Scheible at (260) 625-5605 or (260) 496-4706.

Bishop Dwenger holds Trivia Night

Fort Wayne — The Bishop Dwenger Trivia Night will be held on Saturday, Jan. 19. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. and games begin at 7 p.m. in the SAC. Tickets are $10 per person. Bring your own appetizers and desserts. Adult beverages will be provided for a nominal fee. No outside beverages will be allowed. Pop and water are required. Must be 21 years of age or older to play. Reserve a table now. For information contact the Development and Alumni Office at kbruns@bishopdwenger.com or (260) 496-4706.

Meet and greet planned

Fort Wayne — A Catholic Business Meet and Greet sponsored by Today’s Catholic Newspaper will be Friday, Jan. 18, from 12:30-1:30 p.m. at the Archbishop Noll Catholic Center, 915 S. Clinton St. $5 at the door, includes dessert and bottled water. Bring a brown bag lunch, business cards, and a friend. Free parking available in parking garage. Contact Tess Steffen (260) 399-1457 for information.

TV Mass Schedule for January

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The Crossword

January 6 and 12, 2013

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Ere Gasa Etna

Thru Christ does our comfort abound.

Since 1913 Mangovan & Son has always had the time.

2114 S. Calhoun St.
Fort Wayne, IN 46802
(260) 744-2114

Crossword Answers

SUNDAY BRUNCH!

Family-Friendly Public House
fiddlershearth.com

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FLOYD BECOMES ‘SOLDIER FOR CHRIST’

Father Tom Shoemaker, right, pastor of St. Jude Parish in Fort Wayne, confirms Sam Floyd with Chrism oil, on Dec. 27. Floyd, an 18-year-old with Down syndrome and lifelong member of St. Jude, received months of Confirmation instruction from seminarian Tom Scheibelhut of Mishawaka, who adapted the typical curriculum to accommodate Floyd’s needs. Members of the Bishop Dwenger choir sang during the Mass, which was attended by Floyd’s family and close friends. Kevin Okleshen, Floyd’s Confirmation sponsor, is pictured at left and Floyd’s father Bob is in the back. Floyd said he was looking forward to being “a soldier for Christ.”

TODAY’S CATHOLIC

January 13, 2013

TODAY’S CATHOLIC

January 13, 2013

From Career to Calling: The Vocation of the Christian Business Leader

You are cordially invited to attend the University of Saint Francis Servus Omnium lecture:

Hear Dr. Michael Naughton, director of the John A. Ryan Institute for Catholic Social Thought at the University of St. Thomas in St. Paul, Minn. discuss the spiritual aspect of Christian business leadership.

SCHEDULE
Blessing and opening prayer, 7 a.m.
Mardi Gras breakfast buffet, 7:10 a.m.
Speaker, Q&A, 7:45-8:45 a.m.
Tickets $10 in advance at servusomnium.eventbrite.com or $15 at the door.
Tables of eight reserved for $80.
Parking across Berry Street.
For information, contact Dr. Lance Richey, lrichey@sf.edu or 260-399-8112.