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TODAY'S CATHOLIC



JOE ROMIE

This stained-glass artwork from St. Michael the Archangel in Waterloo depicts the the Epiphany of the Lord, when the Magi from the east visited the Infant Jesus and offered Him gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. The solemnity of the Nativity of the Lord, Christmas, is Wednesday, Dec. 25.

TODAY'S CATHOLIC

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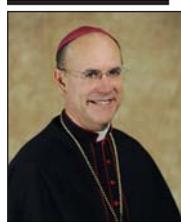
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“Good news of great joy”



IN TRUTH
AND
CHARITY

BY BISHOP KEVIN C. RHOADES

The angel said to the shepherds: “Do not be afraid; for behold, I proclaim to you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For today in the city of David a Savior has been born for you who is Christ the Lord.”

On this holy Feast of Christmas, I pray for all of you, all the people of our diocese, that the Lord may bless you with the serene and profound joy of His birth. I pray especially for those who are sick, those who are suffering or grieving, that they also may experience the joy of God’s love, that their faith and joy may endure as they embrace the cross of Jesus.

Pope Paul VI once wrote that “no one is excluded from the joy brought by the Lord.” Pope Francis has repeated these words, calling us and the whole Church to spread the joy of the Gospel, especially to those who are poor and needy. He calls us to experience anew the joy of the Gospel in our own hearts and lives, and then to go out to others as “missionary disciples,” as joyful witnesses to the saving love of God. He calls us to “go forth to offer everyone the life of Jesus Christ.”

I have been thinking these days before Christmas about the joyful witness of Saint Francis of Assisi as a great example for us. He loved Christmas. His biographer, Thomas of Celano, recounts that “Over and above all the other Solemnities, Francis celebrated with ineffable tenderness the Nativity of the Child Jesus.” He called Christmas “the Feast of Feasts.” Saint Francis’ devotion to the Nativity of Our Lord gave rise to the tradition of the Christmas crèche. This beautiful tradition of representing the Christmas crib with figures and the scene of Christ’s birth in Bethlehem helps us to experience the warmth, beauty, and message of the first Christmas. It leads us to love and worship the humanity of Christ.

Saint Francis was deeply moved by the knowledge that God became a tiny, defenseless infant, that God in His love has become so close to us. The mystery of the Incarnation fills us with the same wonder and awe. God truly became “Emmanuel,” God-with-us. Therefore, nothing can separate us from Him or His love.

We can think about the experience of the shepherds on that first Christmas. The Gospel tells us that they went to Bethlehem “in haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the infant lying in the manger.” They adored the Infant Jesus. Then “they made known the message that had been told them about this child” and “all who heard it were amazed.”

Notice how the shepherds did not keep the good news of Christ’s birth to themselves. They spread the message. People were amazed by what they said. We need this spirit of amazement today! Amazement at the good news of God’s mercy revealed in the Incarnation! Amazement that the all-



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Mary and the Christ child are depicted in the painting “Madonna of the Fir Tree” by Marianne Stokes. The feast of the Nativity of Christ, a holy day of obligation, is celebrated Dec. 25.

powerful Lord of the universe became flesh and dwelt among us! He did so out of love “for us and our salvation.”

The good news of great joy announced by the angel to the shepherds is for all people. Pope Francis says to us: “it is vitally important for the Church today to go forth and to preach the Gospel to all: to all

places, on all occasions, without hesitation, reluctance or fear. The joy of the Gospel is for all people: no one can be excluded.”

May you have a blessed and joyful Christmas! May the Holy Spirit move and inspire us to go forth from ourselves to extend the joy of Christmas, the joy of our faith, the joy of the Gospel, to all!

Our Lady of Hungary Parish celebrates feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe

BY ALLISON CIRAULO

SOUTH BEND — Several hundred parishioners crowded into Our Lady of Hungary Parish for the annual celebration of the feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe on Thursday, Dec. 12. Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades celebrated Mass in honor of the Marian feast that is commemorated with great devotion by Hispanics across Latin America and the United States.

The evening began with the recitation of the rosary, followed by a dramatic retelling of the *apariciones* (apparitions) of Our Lady of Guadalupe to Juan Diego. Actors from the parish presented the story of the humble peasant's encounters with the Virgin and the miraculous appearance of her image upon Juan Diego's cloak.

At the beginning of Mass, Bishop Rhoades offered a word of congratulations to the assembly, acknowledging the importance of the feast for the parish's Latino community. "¡Viva la Virgen! (Long live the Virgin!)," he exclaimed, and with great fervor the faithful responded, "¡Viva!"

In his homily, Bishop Rhoades highlighted the centrality of the Church's Marian doctrines to its evangelical mission. "The Virgin Mary reveals Jesus to us and carries us to Him. We cannot announce Jesus Christ, true God and true man, without speaking of His mother. We cannot confess faith in the Incarnation without proclaiming that the Son of God 'was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary,' as we say in the Creed."

The apparition of Our Lady of Guadalupe in 1531 on Tepeyac Hill, near present-day Mexico City, sparked a conversion of unprecedented proportions among the indigenous peoples of Mexico. The shrine erected in the Virgin's honor still contains the miraculous image imprinted on Juan Diego's cloak and is the most popular site of Catholic pilgrimage in the world.

"This is why we can call Mary the Star of Evangelization," Bishop Rhoades affirmed. "The encounters that took place between the Virgin Mary and Juan Diego helped the Mexican people to discover in Mary a Mother who loved them and recognized their dignity. From Tepeyac Hill, through Mary, the message of Jesus was proclaimed to all the Americas. The miracle and the message of the Virgin of Guadalupe became the gift from Mexico to the universal Church."

Just as Our Lady of Guadalupe was the cause of conversion and apostolic zeal in Juan Diego's time, Bishop Rhoades pointed to the effect that our love for Mary should have in our daily lives.



KEVIN HAGGENJOS

Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades incenses the statue of Our Lady of Guadalupe during the annual celebration of the feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe on Thursday, Dec. 12, at Our Lady of Hungary Parish in South Bend.

"Marian devotion helps us to live as faithful disciples of the Lord," he said, "in order to be for others 'salt of the earth and light of the world.'" He noted that devotion to Mary demands a sound rejection of popular cultural values in exchange for the standards of the Gospel.

At the close of Mass, Bishop Rhoades again expressed his gratitude to the community of Our Lady for Hungary for hosting the celebration.

"It gives me great joy to see so many of you this evening!" Bishop Rhoades said, recalling that only a few years ago the Latino community at the parish consisted of just a few dozen members. He thanked the parishioners for their hospitality and "testimony of faith," exhorting them to continue to grow and evangelize the community of South Bend.

Father Kevin Bauman, pastor of Our Lady of Hungary, was equally gratified by the turnout for the event — a sign of the parish's growing and fruitful ministry. The planning for the evening's festivities began eight months ago, he said, as new members of the parish brought fresh ideas.

"This year was the biggest celebration yet," Father Bauman

said.

Mass was followed by the performance of a traditional Mexican dance called the *danza de Matachines*. Based in Elkhart, the Matachines dance troupe travels to parishes around the diocese to perform for special occasions.

The roots of the Matachines can be traced back to Spain, but it was introduced to Mesoamerica during the Spanish conquest and has evolved into a distinctly Mexican folkloric dance in honor of the Virgin. The dancers, ranging from young children to adults, were dressed in brightly colored costumes and donned elaborate headdresses, dancing in various formations to the beat of large drums.

One parishioner was particularly moved by the Matachines dance. "It has been passed down through so many generations in Mexico, but it's not that common to see it here in the U.S.," said María de Jesús Belmares. She explained that she was the last of at least four generations in her family to participate in a Matachines dance group in her home province of Monterrey, Mexico. Belmares was impressed with the beauty and organization



PUBLIC SCHEDULE OF BISHOP KEVIN C. RHOADES

- Sunday, Dec 22, 10:30 a.m. — Televised Mass, Chapel of the University of Saint Francis, Fort Wayne
- Tuesday, Dec. 24, 4 p.m. — Christmas Vigil Mass, Saint Joseph Hessen-Cassel Church, Fort Wayne
- Wednesday, Dec. 25, 12 a.m. — Christmas Midnight Mass, Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, Fort Wayne



Priest appointment

Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades has appointed **Father Michael T. Belinsky, CSC**, as Parochial Vicar, Christ the King Parish, South Bend, effective December 22, 2013.



Deacon appointment

Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades has appointed **Deacon Maximino Montalvo** to the diaconal ministry at Our Lady of Hungary Parish, South Bend, effective December 3, 2013.

Pope Francis is third pope to win Time's Person of the Year honor

BY CAROL GLATZ

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope Francis is not seeking fame or accolades, but being named *Time* magazine's Person of the Year will make him happy if it helps attract people to the hope of the Gospel, said the Vatican spokesman.

"It's a positive sign that one of the most prestigious recognitions in the international press" goes to a person who "proclaims to the world spiritual, religious and moral values and speaks effectively in favor of peace and greater justice," said the spokesman, Jesuit Father Federico Lombardi.

The choice of Pope Francis "is not surprising, given the wide appeal and huge attention" to his pontificate so far, Father Lombardi said in a written statement Dec. 11, shortly after *Time* announced it had named the pope for the annual feature.

"Rarely has a new player on the world stage captured so much attention so quickly — young and old, faithful and cynical — as has Pope Francis," *Time* said on its website. "With a focus on compassion, the leader of the Catholic Church has become a new voice of conscience."

Blessed John Paul II was named Person of the Year in 1994 and Blessed John XXIII in 1962.

Other past honorees include several U.S. presidents, Mahatma Gandhi, Adolf Hitler, Josef Stalin and Mark Zuckerberg, founder



CNS PHOTO/TIME INC., HANDOUT VIA REUTERS

The cover of Time magazine's Person of the Year issue, featuring Pope Francis, is pictured in this Dec. 11 handout photo.

of Facebook. The magazine says the title goes to the person or idea that "for better or worse ... has done the most to influence events of the year."

The pope "does not seek fame and success, because he serves to proclaim the Gospel and God's love for everyone," Father Lombardi said. But if the recognition "attracts women and men and gives them hope, the pope is happy."

The spokesman added that Pope Francis would also be pleased if the magazine's decision "means that many have understood, at least implicitly, this message" of hope.

Christians can't be gloomy because Jesus always brings joy, pope says

BY CAROL GLATZ

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Sadness is a sign of being far from Christ because Jesus offers everyone the strength to persevere with hope and joy, Pope Francis said.

"God is the one who came to save us and offer help, especially to hearts gone astray," he said before praying the Angelus Dec. 15, Gaudete (Rejoice) Sunday.

"The Church is not a refuge for sad people, the Church is a house of joy" because the Christian message is "Good News" — "a proclamation of joy for all people," he said.

Despite the rain, tens of thousands of pilgrims turned out in St. Peter's Square for the weekly prayer and to have the pope bless the figurines of Baby Jesus that children bring and then place in their Nativity scene at home or at school.

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

Before the Angelus, the pope said that no matter how big people's sins and limits, Christians are not allowed "to be weak and waver before difficulties and our own flaws."

"On the contrary, we are invited to toughen our hands, steady our knees and have courage and not be afraid because



Children in St. Peter's Square hold up figurines of the baby Jesus as Pope Francis leads the Angelus at the Vatican Dec. 15. Children observed an annual tradition by bringing their Nativity figurines for the pope to bless.

God always shows the greatness of His mercy."

Perhaps people may think their sins are so great that it is impossible to start over, he said. "You're wrong. You can. Why? Because God is waiting for you, He loves you," is merciful and will give the strength needed for a fresh start and to overcome all pain and

sorrow, the pope said.

"This true joy even remains during times of trial, suffering, too, because it is not superficial, but lies deep in the person who trusts in God and confides in Him."

Christian joy and hope are grounded in God's fidelity, "in the certainty that He always keeps His promises," he said, adding that this joy flows from knowing you are welcomed and loved by God.

Christian joy is found in Jesus Christ's faithful and boundless love, he said, that is why "when a Christian becomes sad, it means he has strayed from Jesus."

"However, it's necessary then to not leave him alone! We must pray for him and make him feel the warmth of the community," he said.

Before the pope appeared at the window of the apostolic palace, people in the square sang "Happy Birthday" ahead of his Dec. 17 birthday when he will turn 77.

The day before, children and parents he met in the Vatican's Paul VI audience hall gave him a surprise birthday party marked with singing and a real cake with candles. The children and families use the Vatican's St. Martha Dispensary, a maternal and pediatric clinic.

The pope first visited the dispensary, which is staffed by volunteers and serves mainly immigrant families, before he met in the audience hall with the families who have been receiving care.

In the hall, a group of children piled large blocks on top of each other to reveal the pope's picture and the Italian word "Auguri," meaning "Happy Birthday."

Another group of kids wearing white T-shirts with a yellow letter printed on each one, assembled themselves to spell out "Happy Birthday, Pope Francis" in Italian.

When presented with the cake, the pope blew out the candles. He joked, "I'll tell you later if it's good or not." He thanked the children for their joy and gifts, which included a sweater.

Rather than giving a talk, the pope spent the audience greeting, holding and blessing the children there. One small boy the pope was holding plucked the pope's skullcap off his head. The pope laughed and managed to put the cap back.

Also, the Vatican announced Dec. 14 that the director of papal charities was going to distribute phone cards and public transportation passes to the city's poor.

On behalf of the pope, Archbishop Konrad Krajewski was overseeing the distribution of 2,000 envelopes containing the passes and cards as well as a small Christmas card with the pope's signature. Each envelope also had a Vatican stamp affixed to it so it could be used in mailing a greeting to friends or loved ones, the Vatican said.

CNS PHOTO/TONY GENTILE, REUTERS



CNS PHOTO/L'OSSERVATORE ROMANO VIA REUTERS

Children watch as Pope Francis blows out candles on a birthday cake presented to him during an audience in Paul VI hall at the Vatican Dec. 14. The pope turned 77 on Dec. 17. The audience was for families assisted by the St. Martha Dispensary, a maternal and pediatric clinic located at the Vatican.

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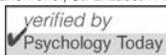
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Ministry teaches Blessed John Paul II's theology of the body to teens

BY TIM JOHNSON

FORT WAYNE — Brian Butler has taken the teachings of Blessed John Paul II's theology of the body, first as a student and now has a national presenter through Dumb Ox Ministries and Ascension Press, to spread the message to help teens and adults come to a greater understanding of who God is calling them to be.

Butler, who presented leadership-training workshops sponsored by the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend Office of Youth, Young Adult and Campus Ministry in Fort Wayne Dec. 5-6 for those working with middle school and high school teens, defined theology of the body as "the study of God as revealed through the body. It is the study of God and the study of who we are."

"The more we learn about God, the more we learn about who we are, but the converse is also true: the more we learn about how God made us as male and female, the more we learn about God and His plan for us," Butler said. "This is an exploration as revealed through the human body, specifically masculinity and femininity with the two being created for the other to become one flesh and to understand what that means."

Sexuality, Butler said, is a part of theology of the body that "helps us to understand what does it mean to be a human person in my sexual identity as a man, or in my sexual identity as a woman."

And it is a duty of parents to pass that identity on to their children. Once children reach middle school, parents are obliged to have conversations with their children — hopefully with confidence and with sacredness that helps children understand the beautiful gift of sexuality, why a man and woman are invited to share this gift inside of marriage, the gift of children that comes forth from that.

Those parents backed with an understanding of theology of the body will be able to approach those "first conversations" and subsequent conversations without fear, confusion and nervousness.

"But if I grow as a parent in my own understanding of who I am as a man or a woman, and what my own marriage is about, it's going to be much more natural to be able to share that whole vision with my kids," he said.

When Butler began his studies of theology of the body, first as a student in a master's program, he found that his own marriage grew stronger. Also, as a high school theology teacher and retreat coordinator in New Orleans, as he shared these "little nuggets" from the teaching, "I just started seeing a light bulb go off, faster than any other way that I had presented the Gospel," he said. "So it was working in my own life as well as those that I was touching. It just grew from there."



TIM JOHNSON

Brian Butler speaks with Franciscan Sister Gianna Marie at the Fort Wayne workshop for teaching theology of the body to middle school students on Dec. 5 in the Archbishop Noll Catholic Center.

Butler worked for the Archdiocese of New Orleans in catechesis and then in 2006 went full time with Dumb Ox Ministries, a nonprofit he cofounded in the New Orleans area, to help educate others about the teachings of theology of the body.

Theology of the body, which is based on a series of 129 talks that Blessed Pope John Paul II gave from 1979 to 1984, "is a great gift we now have in the Church to help us grow ourselves and help our children grow too," Butler said.

For teens, there are a lot of confusing messages out there about sexuality. The Internet, books, TV and music videos offer a massive range of responses that often lead to a lifestyle of selfishness and often-times leads people into a space of sadness, of hurt, and not of fulfillment, freedom and authentic love that one desires.

"So what I hope that teens can see is that God had a plan from the very beginning, and it was good and it was beautiful," Butler said.

"Is it challenging to live a life of chastity, to make choices with our sexuality that call for self control, that call for sacrifice? Absolutely," he added. "What's on the other side of that? Everything we want — life, love, freedom, joy, peace, security. All those things are there on the other side of growing in the light of who God made us to be as men and women called to live in purity."

Theology of the body may provide a lot of light and impacts teens' lives right now.

The vision of theology of the body is a "positive, holistic, attractive vision of how to live as God designed us to live that brings us authentic freedom and authentic love," Butler said.

"That's attractive to anybody on the planet that's honest with themselves," he said. "We all want love, we all want freedom, we all want to have relationships that fulfill us."

Butler also addressed the prevalence of pornography and said theology of the body brings an anecdote to the scourge of pornography, which is showing up in soft core

versions in television programs, commercials and all kinds of things "that we're becoming desensitized to it," he said.

"(Theology of the body) is a beautiful way to pull back the veil on it and to show the problem is not sexuality or the beauty of the body because those things are good that God made," he said, "and the sexual desire is actually a good that God calls us to come together."

"But it's when we rip our sexual desire apart from love, and we make it into something that's about us — we make it something that is about taking from someone — that lust becomes the opponent of love, the opposite of love, it actually drives a wedge between people."

The anecdote that theology of the body offers "is to show what is good, what is the answer, what was I created for, what's the good that I am created for," Butler said. "Don't just tell me what I'm not supposed to do. Show me the fullness of how I am called to live and that's what the theology of the body offers," he added.

Butler recommends the following resources to learn more about theology of the body:

- Ascension Press has published the resources that Butler and a team of co-authors have created: the "Theology of the Body for Teens: Middle School Edition," the "Theology of the Body for Teens: High School Edition," and its ancillary resources found at TOBforTeens.com, which offers video clips and free downloadable resources for those programs.

- A source for adult studies is TheologyoftheBody.com.

- DumbOxMinistries.com

Butler recommends studying theology of the body in a communal study and discussing it to learn about relationships.

For information on Theology of the Body resources or speakers contact Cindy Black at cblack@diocesefwsb.org or (260) 399-1436.



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with

Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades

Christmas Eve

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NEWS BRIEFS

Pope at audience: Americas, open your arms to poor, immigrants, unborn

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope Francis prayed that Catholics throughout the Americas would open their arms to the poor, to immigrants, to the unborn and to the aged just as Mary opens her arms to all. Anticipating the Dec. 12 feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe, patroness of the Americas, Pope Francis said, "I ask all the people of the Americas to open wide their arms, like the Virgin, with love and tenderness." Speaking in Spanish during his general audience Dec. 11, the first pope from the Americas explained that "when Our Lady appeared to St. Juan Diego, her face was that of a woman of mixed blood, a 'mestiza,' and her garments bore many symbols of the native culture. When the image of the Virgin appeared on the tilma (cloak) of Juan Diego," the pope said, "it was the prophecy of an embrace: Mary's embrace of all the peoples of the vast expanses of America — the peoples who already lived there, and those who were yet to come."

Archbishop says shooting shows 'battle between good, evil continues'

CENTENNIAL, Colo. (CNS) — Arapahoe High School students tearfully reunited with parents the afternoon of Dec. 13 after a lone gunman with an apparent grudge

fired shots and injured two at the school before killing himself. One 15-year-old girl remained in critical condition, one was released from the hospital and three students were treated for anxiety as crisis counselors arrived on scene after the tragedy, according to officials. The shooter, identified as Karl Halverson Pierson, 18, was a student at the school. Denver Archbishop Samuel J. Aquila responded to the school shooting saying, "the battle between good and evil continues. Unfortunately for all of us ... we are once again confronted with the effects of a culture that has little respect for life and is desperately in need of God's merciful healing," he said in a Dec. 13 statement. "As we prepare our hearts for the celebration of the birth of Christ, let's keep our youth in our prayers."

Vatican official says not to expect papal encyclical on poverty

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — An official at the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace said that, despite widespread news reports and the statement of an Italian bishop, he does not expect Pope Francis to write an encyclical on the subject of poverty. "If you asked (the pope) he would probably say to you, 'Why do we need an encyclical? What is the encyclical supposed to tell us that we don't already know?'" said Jesuit Father Michael Czerny.

POPE FRANCIS LOOKS AT PICTURES DURING A VISIT TO ST. MARTHA DISPENSARY



CNS PHOTO/L'OSSERVATORE ROMANO VIA REUTERS

Pope Francis looks at pictures of himself during a visit to the St. Martha Dispensary at the Vatican Dec. 14. The maternal and pediatric clinic serves mainly immigrants.

GUADALUPE

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

of the evening's events, and especially pleased to see the church "so full of people."

Another parishioner, Jacinta Delgado, shared Belmares' sentiments. "Everything was beautiful," she said, "But for me, the most important part is the Mass." Delgado and her husband had been anticipating the feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe since the end of October, when they began saying a daily rosary in preparation for the occasion.

"It's a very special day, because we are honoring our Queen," Delgado explained. "She is the Mother of us all, but because she specifically chose to come to Mexico we love her and venerate her even more."

The evening concluded with a reception in the school gymnasium adjacent to the church, where the parish provided an assortment of food and beverages customarily prepared for the feast day, including Mexican sweet bread, hot chocolate and tamales.



PHOTOS BY KEVIN HAGGENJOS

Actors from Our Lady of Hungary Parish present the story of Juan Diego's encounter with Our Lady of Guadalupe before a special Mass on the feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe on Thursday, Dec. 12.



A special band and colorfully clad dancers perform at the annual celebration of the feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe at Our Lady of Hungary Parish on Dec. 12, where Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades celebrated a special Mass.



Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades speaks to the packed congregation on the feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe at Our Lady of Hungary Parish on Dec. 12. He told them, "The miracle and the message of the Virgin of Guadalupe became the gift from Mexico to the universal Church."

IGNITE retreat for teens slated Feb. 7-9 at Bishop Dwenger

FORT WAYNE — The second annual IGNITED, Acts 2:3, a retreat specifically for high school teens, will be held Feb. 7-9 at Bishop Dwenger High School in Fort Wayne. Sponsored by the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, diocesan high schools and various parishes, this retreat is designed to bring hundreds of high school teens together before the Eucharist for conversion through music, talks, sharing and prayer.

Teens are encouraged to attend and help promote the retreat. Last year's retreat was a huge success with over 130 teens, and the hope is that even more will attend the 2014 retreat.

For retreat information, registration and to watch the highlight video from last year's retreat, visit www.ignitedretreat.com.

For registration, teens and parents may visit www.ignitedretreat.com. Adult volunteers may also use that link.

Marian Art Club sponsors Santa's Workshop for homeless

MISHAWAKA — The Art Club sponsored its 16th annual Santa's Workshop at the Center for the Homeless in South Bend on Dec. 12. The Art Club members under the direction of Kitty Gunty set up craft tables for the guests to make Christmas decorations and gifts. This is one of the center's favorite Christmas events because there is something for resi-

AROUND THE DIOCESE

ST. NICK VISITS CATHEDRAL BOOKSTORE



CATHEDRAL BOOKSTORE

St. Nicholas makes a visit to Cathedral Books and Gifts on Saturday, Dec. 7, and visits with the small children while parents shop and enjoy hot wassail and cookies.

dents of all ages. The entire Marian community is invited to participate with the residents at the center. This year there are over 80 Marian students in attendance, as well as 20 Marian teachers and staff.

Wabash student's artwork chosen for Missionary Childhood Association contest

NORTH MANCHESTER — Grace Bryant, daughter of Mark and Terrie Bryant of North Manchester, was one of 24 national winners in the Missionary Childhood Association (MCA) Christmas Artwork Contest.

Winners were honored at a special ceremony and Mass at the Basilica of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D.C., on Dec. 6. Winning entries were chosen from approximately 10,000 entries from children in grades K-8 and are displayed throughout the Advent and Christmas season at the basilica.

They are also featured as e-greetings at www.MCAKids.org.

Bryant is a fifth grader at St. Bernard School in Wabash and a parishioner at St. Robert Bellarmine Parish in North Manchester.



PHOTO PROVIDED BY MARK AND TERRIE BRYANT
Grace Bryant is pictured with Father Andrew Small, national director of the Pontifical Mission Societies in the United States.

Solidarity with the poor emphasis at Our Lady of the Road

BY ALLISON CIRAULO

SOUTH BEND — Ten years ago, on the evening of Dec. 12, 2003, the St. Peter Claver Catholic Worker House in South Bend welcomed its very first guests. A family, looking for shelter from the bitter December cold came to the door and were the first of hundreds of guests since to be received as Christ himself, in need of a place to stay.

The small staff of Catholic Workers drew their inspiration from Dorothy Day and Peter Maurin, founders of the first Catholic Worker house in 1933 in New York. Armed with only the works of mercy and trust in God's providence, the fledgling staff opened their home and their hearts to South Bend's poor.

A decade later the Catholic Worker continues to welcome guests as Christ in disguise, both in their residential houses of hospitality for men and women as well as at Our Lady of the Road, a weekend drop-in center for the homeless, which opened its doors in December 2006. The community depends entirely upon volunteer labor and financial donations from its benefactors.

Every month the Catholic



ALLISON CIRAULO

Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades celebrates Mass, Dec. 13, at Our Lady of the Road in South Bend, a weekend drop-in center for the homeless, and a ministry of Peter Claver Catholic Worker community. Every month the Catholic Worker community also holds a "First Friday" Mass, potluck and discussion for the clarification of thought in the dining room at Our Lady of the Road.

Worker community also holds a "First Friday" Mass, potluck and discussion for the clarification of thought in the dining room at Our Lady of the Road.

Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades, who first visited the Catholic Worker houses this past August, celebrated Mass for the gathering on Friday, Dec. 13. This month's Mass was

moved from the first to the second Friday in order to accommodate the bishop's schedule.

In his homily, Bishop Rhoades reflected on how, like the people in Jesus' time, we are often tempted to complain. Instead of keeping our focus on God and living as Christ's disciples, he said, we allow ourselves to fall into a "spiritual sick-

ness" of criticism and grumbling.

"That's why it's so good that we have places like the Catholic Worker in our diocese, where the focus is on charity," the bishop said. "Pope Francis is also calling us to have this focus, on charity and on serving the poor."

Aimee Shelide Mayer, a long-time volunteer at the Catholic Worker and First Friday regular, felt that the bishop's presence at Our Lady of the Road was an inspiring sign of solidarity. "It's compelling to see our local bishop respond to this call from Pope Francis to be close to the poor," she said. "It should lead us to do the same."

Solidarity with the poor is central to the mission of the Catholic Worker. First Friday attendees always include a mix of volunteers, students, and families, as well as guests of the Catholic Worker houses and folks from the streets.

"This place brings everyone together," said Joe Coman, age 13. His family of 10 lives close to the Catholic Worker houses and is regularly involved in the activities at Our Lady of the Road.

Earlier in the day on Friday, Coman and his siblings had spent several hours at Our Lady of the Road serving breakfast. A hot breakfast is served there on Friday,

Saturday and Sunday mornings, and guests are offered access to shower and laundry facilities as well.

Volunteers like the Coman family bring coffee and food to guests at their tables and stop to visit with people as they make the rounds.

Coman values the openness he senses around the Catholic Worker community as well as the emphasis put on relationships, "both with God and with other people."

In his remarks at the end of Mass, Bishop Rhoades expressed his appreciation for the St. Peter Claver Catholic Worker community and for all those whose generosity supports the works of mercy at Our Lady of the Road. The bishop added that he would like to see a Catholic Worker house in Fort Wayne someday too.

As the gathering coincided with the memorial of St. Lucy, Bishop Rhoades related the story of the virgin martyr, blinded for her faith, to the season of Advent, in which we anticipate the coming of the light of Christ. "In her courage we see that the light of faith cannot be extinguished by any visible darkness. May St. Lucy intercede for all of you here at Our Lady of the Road and all who come here, and may her faith encourage and inspire us in our pilgrimage of faith."

How I made God laugh

BY MARK WEBER

I got married. That made people laugh. God's chuckles came later.

Way back in another century when I did marry, it amazed many who thought I was going to laugh my way through life as a happy bachelor, but before the wedding bells stopped ringing, I was a happy husband.

Actually, I was kind of a sappy husband ... positively giddy in my new lifestyle. Overnight, everything changed. I was now half of a partnership living in a new apartment, in a new city, attending a new parish and looking at life in a new way. My beloved and I found excitement in shopping for kitchen tools in the five-and-dime and being identified at "Mr." and "Mrs."

Now here's the part that made God laugh; my new persona as Mr. hunter gatherer somehow made me think that the sacrament of Matrimony bestowed upon me an all-seeing power to observe future events and I said to my wife in all seriousness, "We'll have four boys and call them Matthew, Mark, Luke and John." (that's when God probably thought — this twerp Mark is so mixed up, he's entertaining). You see, I was right about the number but wrong on the gender to the maximum degree. In time we were blessed with Helen, Elizabeth, Louise and Tess.

Did I say blessed? That doesn't begin to cover the joy of being a dad with four daughters. We prayed, played, fished, cooked, sang, danced, wrote songs, learned to drive and continue to have a wonderful life together, which even gets better with grandchildren.

Without a doubt, I treasure this time together because my dad died when I was 10 years old, making both of us losers, not having a life to share.

Recalling a Christmas spent overseas and the one time in my life when I did not get to Mass on Christmas day enriches Christmas at home. I was a sailor on the U.S.S. Patoka. Our quarters were warm and comfortable and we had turkey with all the trimmings, and heard Bing singing "White Christmas" ... but it was a different scene on shore in Kobe, Japan, where a trip to the docks in a liberty launch zig-zagged between masts of sunken ships and the city itself bombed to ruins.

Christmas for anyone is a birthday cake that adds a candle each year — flaming reminders that the days between Christmases are our real gifts and how they are used is a personal responsibility. Let us hope that with time, the candles' increased heat and light will lead the beholders to prudent use of these irreplaceable gifts.

What Christmas means to me

BY DOMINIC MAMMOLENTI

My name is Dominic Mammolenti. I am nine years old and in fourth grade at Mishawaka Catholic School. I want to tell you what Christmas means to me in 2013.

The Christmas season began Dec. 1 with Advent. I help my mom, dad and sister decorate the Christmas tree. As I decorate, I remember all of the Christmases I got to celebrate with my Grandpa John before he died. I think about how much I miss him but know he gets to celebrate Jesus's birthday in heaven with all the angels and saints and that makes me happy.

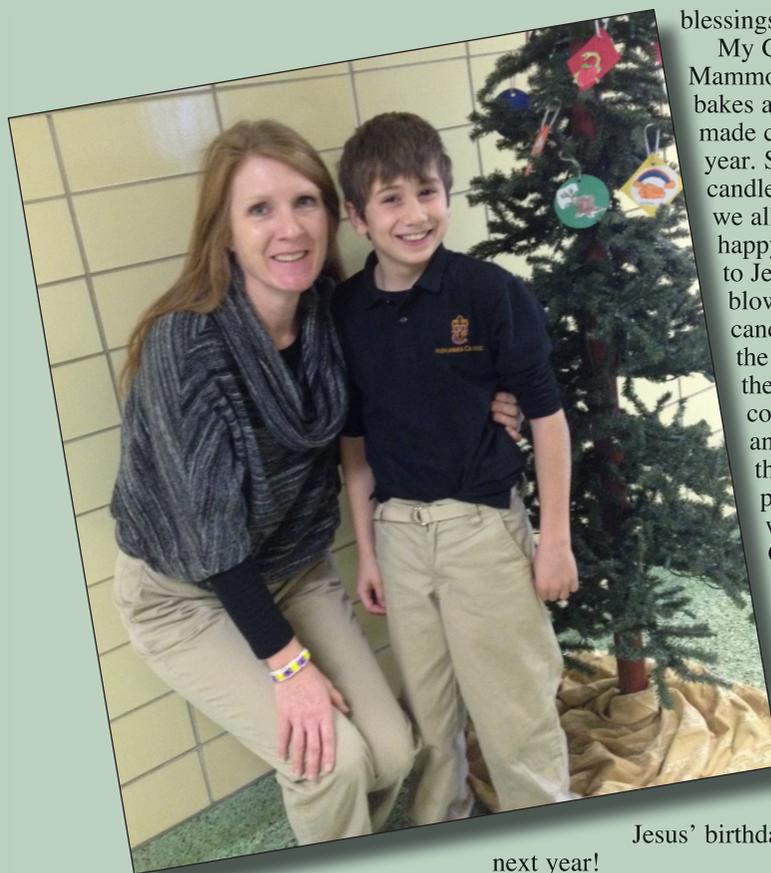
I look forward to volunteering at the Homeless Shelter with the Marian High School Art Department. I get to decorate ornaments, stockings and cookies to give to other children. I pray that they all get homes that they can put their decorations in. I invite them to Mass and hope they will come.

I look forward to the Mishawaka Winter Festival. I get to visit with Mayor Dave Wood, ice skate, watch outdoor movies and get warm by the bonfire.

My mom has a daycare for teachers' children. I love doing crafts with all the kids. I like to dress up as Santa and give them candy canes.

I look forward to Mass on Christmas Eve and after Mass, my dad makes really great homemade pizzas.

On Christmas, my sister and I get



Jesus' birthday again next year!

up really early to open our presents and check our stockings. My mom and dad make us wait until 8 a.m. We have brunch with my Grandma Diana and my Aunt Jenny. Then we get to go to my Grandma and Grandpa Mammolenti's house for spaghetti and meatballs. I get to celebrate Christmas with my aunts, uncles and cousins. We thank God for all our

blessings.

My Grandma Mammolenti bakes a home-made cake every year. She puts candles on and we all sing happy birthday to Jesus and blow out the candles. At the end of the day, we come home and we light the fireplace and watch a Christmas movie. I don't want the day to end and I can't wait to celebrate

Young adult views stresses, joys of Christmas season

BY DANIELLE VOIROL

December is busy. I stress out over Christmas gifts. I attend parties, showing up late because I underestimate how long it takes to cook whatever food I've decided to bring. I stay late at the office, trying to cram extra work into my days so I can take some vacation time the week of Christmas. I watch the radar for ice and snow.

I've kept my Christmas decorations simple. I live in an apartment, and I'm 31 and single, so the decorations I've put up are just for me. My Christmas tree is 14 inches tall, made of rosemary and decorated with popcorn and cranberries. Besides paper snowflakes, my only other decoration is a wooden Nativity scene. The Magi are conferring on a bookshelf, and the camels lie nearby. Mary and Joseph have their own bookshelf across the room. Baby Jesus isn't out yet, but when he does come, he'll fit in Mary's arms. That's my favorite part of my Nativity set, because as much as I love the imagery of Jesus in the manger, I'm sad to leave him there. (After spending time with my six-month-old nephew, I'm pretty sure

babies are supposed to be held.)

I look forward to volunteering around Christmas, partly because it reminds me of the fun I could be having the rest of the year.

The Saturday before the solemnity of the Immaculate Conception, I joined other University of Dayton alumni in hosting a winter festival for kids from low-income families. Al (class of '70) and I helped the kids decorate cookies. I passed out cookies and wiped plastic knives clean so the red and green frosting wouldn't contaminate the white. Al showed me how much better it was to let the colors mix, giving the kids various shades of pink and brown and mint green.

At alumni events, people talk about their careers, and for the past eight years, I've told people that I work as an editor in book publishing. This year, I had something new to add: I'll be out of a job at the end of April due to company restructuring.

I'm sad to see many of my coworkers losing their jobs, too, but I feel something like hope. Maybe losing my job is a gift: a reason to move on, to try something new. I have time to reflect on what I want to do with my life and, more importantly, time to ask what God

wants of me.

For Christmas, I'll visit my family — mom and dad, grandma, aunts, uncles and cousins (and a little later, my sister and her family, too). This year, I'll leave my grandma's house on Christmas Eve to drive an hour and a half so I can sing with my church choir. We have a small music group — usually four singers, an organist and a guitarist or two — and three of our singers may be unavailable. Even with other people filling in, I'll have to step up this year. I like singing, and I have a pretty enough voice, but I don't know much about leading music. Still, God seems to have a thing for choosing people who seem underqualified, so I think I'll fit right in. If I show up and sing, the congregation will do the rest.

After Mass, I'll put Jesus in my Nativity set. Then I'll drive back to rejoin my family. We'll share food, open gifts, listen to my cousin and uncle play guitar, sing a little off-key and enjoy each other's company. Maybe I'll show off my new frosting-mixing skills. I'll thank God for what He's given me, and I'll offer some gifts for the birthday boy, too: my voice, my company and the year ahead.

Dominic Mammolenti is a student in Gina Lehmann's fourth-grade class at Mishawaka Catholic School and a member of St. Monica Parish.

New mom relates to mysteries of Christmas



Megan and Josh Swaim are shown with their daughter Lucy.

PHOTO PROVIDED BY MEGAN AND JOSH SWAIM

BY MEGAN SWAIM

Preparing for Emmanuel is different this year at the Swaim house. I'd like to say that we have been unwrapping a book for every day of preparation, or creating our own Jesse tree ornaments, or even faithfully lighting the Advent wreath each night to prepare for Christmas.

But the truth is that in the first week of Advent the candle was lit a grand total of one time. And I don't see any successful Pinterest projects in our future.

Our life with a newborn is too messy right now. But in spite of the lack of outward preparation, I am still hopeful that this Advent and Christmas can be incredibly fruitful spiritually, because it is my first as a mom. And being a mom has changed everything.

The reality of waiting and preparing a place have never been so real to me as they were this year through the nine months of pregnancy — longing to hold my child in my arms, and anticipat-

ing our new life as a family.

And the incredible, MIND BLOWING reality of the Incarnation has never been more real to me than it is now that she's here. I find myself walking with Mary and the Baby Jesus throughout each day, wondering and marveling about their life and relationship, the intimacy they shared as mother and Son.

When I am sitting in the early morning hours nursing Lucy, I can just see Mary doing the very same thing with the Baby Jesus — counting His fingers and toes, running her finger along His cheek, marveling at His tiny lips and long eye lashes.

I wonder did she have any trouble nursing? Did she miss the feeling of Him moving and kicking inside of her?

As I change diapers and try to calm Lucy when she fusses I think of Mary and how she might have soothed a crying Jesus. What songs did she sing to Him?

And as I struggle to keep all the "things" together I wonder what it must have been like for both of them to be so vulnerable

and far away from home?

As a new mom, the mysteries of Christmas — the reality of God-made-man — are all wound up in the gritty details of life with a new baby, and I marvel at the humble, perfect love of God. What wondrous love, indeed, for my Creator and Redeemer to come to me as helpless as this baby. And I find myself so grateful for Mary's perfect motherhood. He deserved a mom who was perfect, one who didn't have to shove sin and selfishness out of the way to make room for Him.

So my prayer during this messy, un-Pinteresty, post-partum season is that I can make room for the Child Jesus through my own child, and through my motherhood — imperfect though it may be — enthrone Him.

Megan Swaim is director of Youth Minister at St. Pius X Parish in Granger.org.

A wonderful life

A little girl sits at an old piano, thumping out the notes of the carol, "Hark, the herald angels sing/Glory to the newborn King." Men, women and children, all laughing and crying, surround a table stacked high with bills and coins. Then they break into song: "For auld lang syne, my dear, for auld lang syne/We'll take a cup of kindness yet for auld lang syne."

Whenever I hear "Hark, the Herald Angels Sing," I see that in my mind's eye — the last scene in the classic Frank Capra movie "It's a Wonderful Life." If you haven't seen the film, drop this newspaper and go watch it. Now!

"It's a Wonderful Life" is a film whose plot is driven by sacrificial acts of mercy and kindness, both small and large. It begins with a sacrifice, in fact:



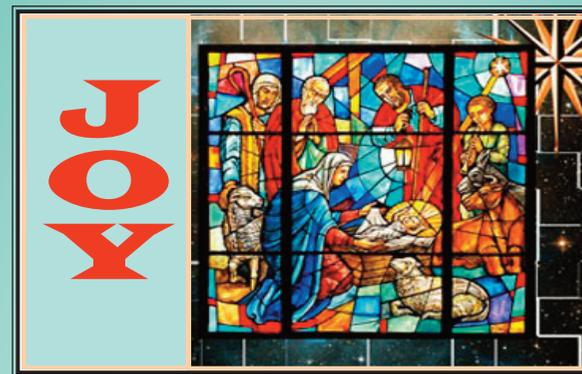
TEEN
TABLET

CAROLINE PETERSON

in the second scene the young George Bailey jumps into the icy pond to pull out his brother Harry. That is, we later learn, an act that ends up saving more than one life, because in the future Harry rescues a ship of soldiers from certain death.

As a young man, George, at a dance, lightheartedly gives up a few moments of his time when a friend urges him, "Dance

TEEN, PAGE 10



WISHING YOU

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Christmas Season*



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"And you will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth." Luke 1:14



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Christmas TV Mass Specials



FORT WAYNE
Christmas Morning
10:30 - 11:00 a.m.

WFFT-TV 55
Live from the
University of Saint Francis Chapel
Celebrant: Rev. Edward Erpelding
Chaplain, Parkview Medical Center

SOUTH BEND
Christmas Morning 10:30 - 11:00 a.m.
WNDU-TV 16
Broadcast live from Fort Wayne

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Holy Cross and St. Stanislaus Parish



1050 Wilber St.
South Bend

Holiday Schedule

Christmas Eve - December 24

4:00 pm - Holy Cross Church

5:30 pm - St. Stanislaus Church

Midnight Mass 12:00 am - St. Stanislaus Church

(Prelude music to precede Midnight Mass)

Christmas Day - December 25

10:00 am - Holy Cross

Mary, Mother of God - January 1, 2014

Vigil: 5:30 pm, December 31 - St. Stanislaus

8:30 and 10:30 am - Holy Cross

St. Monica Parish

222 West Mishawaka Avenue - Mishawaka
Christmas Mass Schedule

Tuesday, December 24

4:30 pm and 10:00 pm

Sign language interpreter at 4:30 pm

(Choir will be caroling beginning at 9:30 pm)

Wednesday, December 25

10:00 am



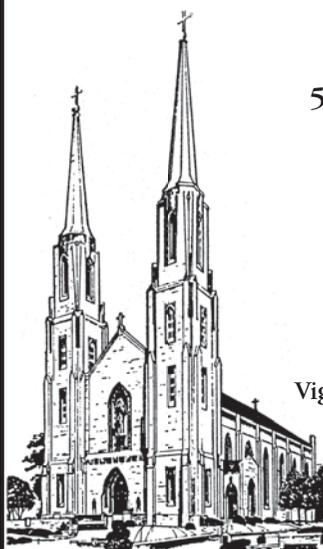
Solemnity of Mary

Tuesday, December 31 - 6:30 pm

Wednesday, January 1 - 10:00 am

Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception

1100 South Calhoun Street - Fort Wayne



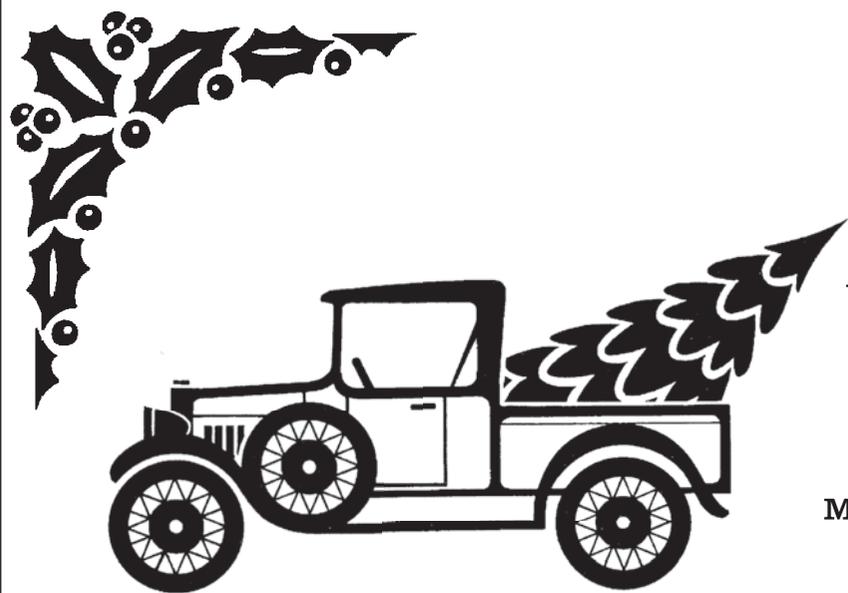
Visit the Cathedral during this Season of Grace 2013

Christmas Eve Masses:
5:00 PM (Children's Mass)
Midnight Mass
(Music begins at 11:30 PM)

Christmas Day Masses
9:00 & 11:00 AM

New Year's Masses
Vigil Mass December 31 - 5:00 PM
January 1
9:00 & 11:00 AM

Merry Christmas from TODAY'S CATHOLIC



Regardless of the weather or the food served at a holiday feast, or whether you are alone or in the midst of many, Christmas is always a look at the past.

At the Catholic Cemetery of Fort Wayne, we deal with time in a unique blend of the past, the present and the future for all whom we are called to serve.

May the Blessings of the season be yours.

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CATHOLIC CEMETERY
ASSOCIATION, INC.

TEEN

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9

with (my sister Mary), will you? ... Aw, come on. Be a sport. Just dance with her one time and you'll give her the thrill of her life."

It ends up one of the most important decisions in George's life: Mary becomes his wife.

The list goes on: George gives up his chance to go to college so that Harry can. He and Mary give up their honeymoon money to prevent a run on the bank. He takes over the Savings and Loan in the small town of Bedford Falls to prevent the evil banker Mr. Potter from controlling his hometown. Then on Christmas Eve Mr. Potter launches his final assault on the Savings and Loan, and on the commonplace heroism of George Bailey. And on that night, George begins to wonder whether it is worth it to endure what seems to him to be a useless life.

His Christmas battle centers around the question: "Is the struggle of life worth it?" Is it worth it if his life has been but one series of mundane events, meaningful to no one (so he supposes) but him and his family, a life of fighting bleak ordinary fights and sacrificing himself for love?

The answer, he learns when he is given the chance to see what the world would have been like without him, is emphatically — yes! "Every man on that transport died. Harry wasn't there to save them because you weren't there to save Harry," the angel Clarence, the answer to the prayers of George's friends and family, tells him. "Strange, isn't it? Each man's life touches so many other lives, and when he isn't around he leaves an awful hole, doesn't he?"

Great things come in small packages, as the cliché goes, and the most wonderful of lives and events often happen below the surface of our notice. Thanks be to Frank Capra for telling us what a wonderful life you had, George Bailey.

Modern film critics trumpet your story as "inspirational" — a lukewarm, vapid word. No, your story is more than inspirational. It is a story that in its bracing truth points to the true meaning of Christmas — the Son of God, lying in a manger, unable to raise his own head. Merry Christmas, George Bailey, Mr. Potter, Bedford Falls — because love can save the world.

Caroline Peterson is a teen writer from St. Pius X Parish, Granger.

Respecting the journey

Mourning the loss of a loved one can be a dizzying process in its own rite. Then add to the mix the demands of the holiday season and you may have a recipe for heart-wrenching sorrow. Support during our most difficult times is essential to the healing process of grief. But many of us have found that the holidays, or any special anniversary day, can be daunting even with the best of support.

Consolation comes in many forms. Some find it with a close friend or coworker. Others join a grief support group or church group. Still others find solace speaking with a counselor or member of the clergy. Most of us, I think, expect to find support in the midst of family. Many of us are blessed with family members who will stay the course with us as we navigate the stormy waters of grief. Many times though, rather than feeling supported by family, we may feel misunderstood, admonished or even abandoned by

those closest to us.

I have learned that family members of a deceased loved one sometimes find it difficult to support one another in their grief. It's not that they don't want to be gentle and compassionate with each other, but their own feelings of confusion and pain typically render them more introspective than helpful.

You see, each family member enjoys a unique relationship with their loved one complete with all the joy and foibles that come with that personal kinship. Each member has a need to mourn the loss of their particular relationship and a heightened need to be understood in their grief. But at the same time their understanding toward others' pain is sometimes diminished.

Understanding others in their pain means recognizing and accepting the unique circumstances and style set forth by each individual as they walk their path of grief. Grief over losing a spouse is different than



KAY COZAD

HOPE IN THE MOURNING

grieving the loss of a child or parent. What works for the healing of one may not be the best advice for another. Mourning styles between genders is especially notable, but that's for another column.

This past spring a friend of mine died after a very short and painful battle with cancer. Hers is a close-knit family that gathers religiously every week for Sunday dinner. Her family supports the work of each other, vacations together and shares much of life's journey together.

HOPE, PAGE 12

Stewardship — Christmas: Giving or greed

Christmas seems to heighten our awareness of the needs of others, and a Christian steward tries to maintain this disposition throughout his or her entire life. Perhaps the start of this disposition is the awareness of our own poverty.

This awareness is an interior attitude of being "poor in spirit" — spiritually detached from our possessions. We cannot be poor in spirit if we are striving after riches and wealth, but only if our spirits are seeking God, and if we use our riches as a means to give God glory — then our spirits are attached to God, not riches. Our hearts should be set on God, who is much greater than anything we could possibly possess.

We must guard against greed because there is always the possibility of self-deception, rationalization and justification about how we are living our lives. Have you ever heard anyone declare that they were greedy? Rarely, if ever in our contemporary society, do we hear anyone give such a declaration (as Zacchaeus did in Luke's Gospel, Chapter 19).

Greed is something that is deceptive, easy to rationalize and easy to justify. Seldom do we recognize that we have enough, not to mention too much. We can easily become captive to the insecurity of not having enough. This self-deceptive view of our possessions also seems to continue to expand as we go through life — looking for more. What is the point in that pursuit if we have what we need?

Throughout the Christmas season, and as we approach the new year, take inventory of how God has blessed you, and consider how you might share those blessings with others. This application of generosity really



A WAY OF LIFE

HARRY VERHILEY

will make us the people God intends us to be. Think about it — people do not form golden calves and bow before them today. No, the strange gods of our day come wrapped on Christmas morning, and include anything that takes the place of God and demands our devotion before God.

God should have the first place in our hearts; our relationship with Him should influence every decision we make in life, everything we think, say, do, purchase, give away or receive. If we love anything — anything, more than the Lord — it is a false idol. We should have a burning desire within us to be faithful stewards of all that we possess and this requires us to take inventory and discern God's will.

Draw closer to our Lord this Christmas. Only with His help can we look beyond our own needs and desires, and truly love God and our neighbor, as we should. If we are good stewards of God's gifts, we are then acting in faith, and acting on God's will. Then we will be using His gifts as He designed us to use them, not only for our own enjoyment but for the glory of God.

Harry Verhiley is the director of Development for the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend.

Unite with the Lord this Advent



THE SUNDAY GOSPEL

MSGR. OWEN F. CAMPION

4th Sunday of Advent Mt 1:18-24

This weekend the Church celebrates the fourth and last Sunday of Advent 2013.

For its first reading, this weekend's liturgy offers a reading from the first section of the Book of Isaiah. This reading refers to King Ahaz of the southern Hebrew kingdom of Judah. The reference allows scholars to date this prophecy.

Ahaz reigned in the last third of the eighth century before Christ. To be kind, he is not regarded as having been a remarkably successful king. It is easy to understand why Isaiah prodded him more than once.

Prompting Isaiah's interest in Ahaz, or in any king, was not necessarily the monarch's obvious power and prestige, but rather the fact that the king first and foremost was the servant of God. The rulers were God's assigned and anointed agents. This religious fact overtook all other considerations. The final judgment of how well kings performed was whether or not they were truly loyal to God.

Urged to be loyal and devoted, Ahaz was promised a sign of God's favor. It was the birth of a son, whose mother was Ahaz's young bride or a virgin who was his concubine.

St. Paul's Epistle to the Romans provides the second reading. Introducing himself, Paul firmly

states that he is an Apostle, called by the Lord to proclaim the Gospel. Above and beyond everything, he was God's servant, obediently following Jesus. Of course, the Apostle devoutly believed that Jesus was Lord and Savior.

For its last reading, the Church presents a section from the Gospel of Matthew. Only two of the four Gospels, both of them Synoptics, recount the birth of Jesus. Matthew is one of these Gospels. Luke is the other.

This weekend's reading recalls the conception of Jesus. It is very clear, as in Luke, that Jesus had no earthly father. He was the son of Mary, a human being, and since she alone was the earthly parent, Jesus received human nature itself from her.

In this story, Joseph is concerned, to say the least. He first understandably wonders if his betrothed has been unfaithful to him. How else could Mary have become pregnant? An angel, Gabriel, one of God's messengers, relieves Joseph's mind by revealing that the unborn child is in fact the Son of God.

It is more than simply a chronicle of the conception and birth of Jesus, divine though these events may have been. The coming of the Messiah is a sign, perfect and penultimate, of God's everlasting love for humankind. God never fails, is never absent from people.

Reflection

This weekend the Church calls us to observe the last Sunday of Advent. The season of Advent is the careful and focused period preceding Christmas. It is more than a time to prepare for a festive day of good food and good cheer. Of course, it looks to the

occasion of remembering the Lord's birth. The Church sees another purpose, and it provides Advent to assist us in this purpose, in our effort personally to unite with the Lord.

Our union with God, so intimate that we can possess even God's eternal life, occurred because of our unity first with Jesus in a common humanity. This union, established by creation, was completed in the Lord's own humanity.

We ratify and reinforce our own personal unions with God by individually choosing holiness. Thus, Advent is at our disposal. The question is if we shall respond.

Growth in faith and in discipleship has never been easy. Advent liturgies often centered on John the Baptist, killed because of his fidelity to God.

Facing our own temptations, the Church reassures us. "Be strong," it advises. God will strengthen and enlighten us. He has never failed in love, mercy and guidance, given in and through Jesus.

READINGS

Sunday: Is 7:10-14 Ps 24:1-6 Rom 1:1-7 Mt 1:18-24

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

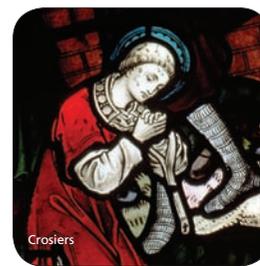
Tuesday: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a 16 Ps 89:2-5, 27, 29 Lk 1:67-79

Wednesday: Christmas Day Is 52:7-10 Ps 98:1-6 Heb 1:1-6 Jn 1:1-5, 9-14

Thursday: Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59 Ps 31:3cd-4, 6, 8ab, 16bc-17 Mt 10:17-22

Friday: 1 Jn 1:1-4 Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 11-12 Jn 20:1a, 2-8

Saturday: 1 Jn 1:5-2:2 Ps 124:2-5, 7c-8 Mt 2:13-18



Saint of the Week

Stephen

first century
December 26

Christianity's first martyr was probably a Greek Jew. Stephen's story is recounted in the Acts of the Apostles. He was among the first seven deacons chosen to serve the Hellenist Christian community in Jerusalem. But the wonders he worked rattled local Jewish leaders. Witnesses at his trial before the Sanhedrin gave false testimony, and Stephen defended himself with a stirring speech recalling the long history of Israel's relationship with God and calling the Jews "stiff-necked people" who "always oppose the Holy Spirit." As he was stoned to death outside the city, he cried out, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." He is the patron of bricklayers, stonemasons and numerous individual Christian churches.

CNS Saints

Ethical directives and the care of pregnant women in Catholic hospitals

At the beginning of December, the American Civil Liberties Union filed a sweeping federal lawsuit against the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops over its Ethical and Religious Directives for Catholic hospitals, alleging that the directives, with their prohibition against direct abortion, resulted in negligent care of a pregnant woman named Tamesha Means. Ms. Means' water broke at 18 weeks, leading to infection of the amniotic membranes, followed by spontaneous labor and delivery of her child. The child lived only a few hours.

During the course of these events, Ms. Means went a Catholic hospital in Michigan several times, and, according to the lawsuit, was sent home even as contractions were starting. The lawsuit not only suggests that she should have been given a drug to induce labor early on, but claims this wasn't possible precisely because the hospital was Catholic and bound by the directives. It further asserts that Catholic hospitals are not able to terminate a woman's pregnancy by inducing premature labor "even if necessary for her health," because to do so would be "prohibited" by the directives.

In point of fact, however, the directives would not prevent the early induction of labor for these cases. Not infrequently, labor is induced in Catholic hospitals in complete conformity with the directives. Directive No. 47 (never mentioned in the lawsuit) is very clear: "Operations, treatments and medications that have as their direct purpose the cure of a proportionately serious pathological condition of a pregnant woman are permitted when they cannot be safely postponed until the unborn child is viable, even if they will result in the death of the unborn child."

Deciding about whether to induce labor involves the recognition that there are two patients involved, the mother and her in utero child, and

that the interests of the two can sometimes be in conflict. In certain situations — for example, when the child is very close to the point of viability and the pregnancy is at risk — it may be recommended to delay early induction of labor in the hope that the child can grow further and the pregnancy can be safely shuttled to a point beyond viability, allowing both mother and child to be saved. Sometimes expectant management of this kind is not possible. Each case will require its own assessment of the risks, benefits and likely outcomes before deciding whether it would be appropriate to induce labor.

When a woman's water breaks many weeks prior to viability and infection arises, long-term expectant management of a pregnancy is often not possible. In such cases, induction of labor becomes medically indicated in order to expel the infected membranes, and prevent the infection from spreading and causing maternal death. Early induction in these cases is carried out with the foreseen but unintended consequence that the child will die following delivery, due to his or her extreme prematurity.

Such early induction of labor would be allowable because the act itself, i.e. the action of inducing labor, is a good act (expelling the infected amniotic membranes), and is not directed towards harming the body-person of the child, as it would be in the case of a direct abortion, when the child is targeted for saline injection or dismemberment. The medical intervention, in other words, is directed towards the body-person of the mother, using a drug to induce contractions in her uterus. One reluctantly tolerates the unintended loss of life that occurs secondary to the primary action of treating her life-threatening infection.

On the other hand, direct killing of a human being through abortion, even if it were to provide benefit for the mother, cannot be construed as valid health care, but rather as a



MAKING SENSE OF BIOETHICS

FATHER TAD PACHOLCZYK

betrayal of the healing purposes of medicine at its most fundamental level. Such an action invariably fails to respect both the human dignity of the unborn patient and his or her human rights. It also gravely violates a mother's innate desire and duty to protect her unborn baby. If she finds herself in the unfortunate situation of having a severe uterine infection during pregnancy, she, too, would appreciate the physician's efforts to treat her without desiring to kill her child, even if the child may end up dying as an unintended consequence of treating the pathology.

The application of Catholic moral teaching to this issue is therefore directed toward two important and specific ends: first, the complete avoidance of directly killing the child, and, second, the preservation of the lives of both mother and child to the extent possible under the circumstances.

Based upon these ends, the Ethical and Religious Directives of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops provide important ethical parameters for framing the appropriate treatment of both mother and unborn child in high-risk pregnancies, while simultaneously safeguarding the fundamental integrity of medical practice in these complex obstetrical situations.

Father Tadeusz Pacholczyk, Ph.D. is a priest of the Diocese of Fall River, Mass., and serves as the director of education at The National Catholic Bioethics Center in Philadelphia.

HOPE

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11

When she died they were collectively bereft.

As the months have moved on however, individually these good people have come to witness the differences in each of their grief journeys. They each mourn in their own way. One daughter has found a healing venue in journaling, penning her deepest thoughts and feelings as a way of acknowledging her grief. Another finds comfort in sharing her grief verbally, but is frustrated with family members who sometimes cannot be present to her in her pain. Their father discovered his renewed need for companionship and is dating, much to the surprise and discomfort of his offspring.

The frustration these family members feel with each other is not

uncommon. And though they wish to be united in their grief over the loss of their loved one, they must walk their own path. I believe an important part of that path is learning to respect not only our own journey and all that it entails, but also the road others take in their search for healing.

Walking our own path sounds a bit lonely I admit. We each are responsible for working through our own grief in our own time and with our own style. No one else can heal our hearts for us. However, that is where the solitude ends. None of us is ever truly alone in our grief. God offers His divine consolation through His grace in the very people around us.

Finding a safe person or group in which to seek support is paramount on our sojourn of grief. It is with those safe others that we process our thoughts and feelings and come to a resolution about them. It is with them that we can feel safe to try on

new life from the ashes of our loss. And that is healing!

So if our family members are immersed in their own grieving and unable to support us, it may benefit all if we seek our safe place to grieve outside our immediate family. Join a support group of folks with a similar loss. Or seek out a trusted friend or counselor to share the burden of grief. As we learn to respect our journey and the journey of others' as well, along the way we may discover that our own understanding and compassion is deepened and that support may come packaged in people we would not have expected.

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

SCRIPTURE SEARCH

Gospel for December 22, 2013

Matthew 1:18-24

Following is a word search based on the Gospel reading for the Fourth Sunday of Advent, Cycle A: the confusion, and relief, of Joseph. The words can be found in all directions in the puzzle.

MOTHER MARY	BETROTHED	JOSEPH
BEFORE	HER HUSBAND	MAN
SHAME	DIVORCE	BEHOLD
ANGEL	IN A DREAM	SON OF DAVID
CONCEIVED	BEAR A SON	NAME
SAVE	PEOPLE	FULFILL
PROPHET	VIRGIN	AWOKE

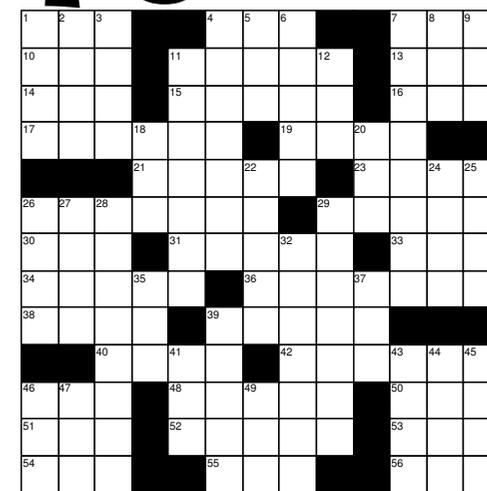
DREAM MESSAGE

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

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The CrossWord

December 22 and 29, 2013



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Based on these Scripture Readings: Is 7:10-14; Rom 1:1-7; Mt 1:18-24 and Mt 2:13-15, 19-23

ACROSS

- 1 Prisoner of war
- 4 Animal doc
- 7 Have
- 10 Also known as (abbr.)
- 11 Sought Holy Child's life
- 13 Ram's mate
- 14 Cremins vase
- 15 Iranian's neighbor
- 16 Compass point
- 17 Final
- 19 Piece
- 21 Marsh bird
- 23 Tiny spider
- 26 ___ point

- 29 Spread out
- 30 Expression of surprise
- 31 ___ Cassino
- 33 Bard's before
- 34 Roomy
- 36 Takes in custody
- 38 Jewish scribe
- 39 "Paul, a ___ of Christ"
- 40 Oil producers
- 42 "___ to be an apostle"
- 46 Not Old Testament
- 48 Bible language
- 50 The Holly and the ___
- 51 "Blessed ___ you"
- 52 Main side of building

- 53 Toll
- 54 One ___ customer
- 55 Madagascar franc (abbr.)
- 56 Sin

DOWN

- 1 Author of Romans
- 2 Edible seed pods
- 3 "There is nothing I shall ___"
- 4 Dizziness
- 5 Time period
- 6 Worn by chefs
- 7 Non-Jews
- 8 Good shepherd knows his ___
- 9 Ball holder
- 11 "For the sake of ___"
- 12 Obnoxious noises
- 18 Eastern Time
- 20 Devilish one
- 22 Related to prison
- 24 Lemony
- 25 "I lift my ___ unto the hills."
- 26 Dell
- 27 Father of Hezekiah
- 28 "Enter through the ___ gate."
- 29 Elisha to Elijah
- 32 Copy drawing
- 35 Space
- 37 Moray
- 39 A stole is a type of
- 41 Santa helper
- 43 Eternal ___
- 44 "Forever and ____, Amen."
- 45 Colorer
- 46 Jesus did in boat
- 47 Swiss village
- 49 Thomas abbr.

Answer Key can be found on page 15

Sports

ICCL BASKETBALL STANDOUTS NAMED TO SKYLAR DIGGINS TRAVEL TEAM The eighth-grade SkyDigg/Nike girls' basketball team will be well represented by three members of the Inter-City Catholic League. Gretta Meixel of Mishawaka Catholic School, point guard; Megan Urbanski of St. Matthew, South Bend, point guard; and Keegan Sullivan, power forward from St. Anthony, South Bend, have all been chosen to play for the newly-formed travel team. Over 25 girls from Fort Wayne, Indianapolis, Valparaiso and Elkhart participated in a two-day tryout at the Martin Luther King Center in South Bend. The invitation-only tryout consisted of some of the best eighth-grade girls in Indiana.

ICCL crowns volleyball champs

BY JOE KOZINSKI

MISHAWAKA — A blanket of snow firmly covered the area roads, but the inconvenience didn't stop wall-to-wall, shoulder-to-shoulder spectators to converge in St. Monica's gymnasium as the Inter-City Catholic League crowned its volleyball champions.

The matchup of the year would pit undefeated Mishawaka Catholic against their northern neighbor, the Lions of St. Pius X.

The Saints of Mishawaka Catholic had dispatched all of their opponents in short order throughout the season with the exception of the Lions, when St. Pius lost their match in mid-November, but put the only blemish on the perfect season by winning a hotly contested game, 25-23.

The match started off with two extremely confident squads that had both chewed up their opponents on their way to the finals and the talent coupled with each team's passion would be on full display.

The match started off with St. Pius X's bantam setter Rachel Hickey startling the flatfooted Saints by reeling off five straight points on her serve followed by the overhand smashes of her teammate Grace Quinn.

With the score 9-2, Saints' Coach Shannon Eversole called a much needed timeout for his squad to refocus and reenergize itself.

The move paid dividends as the Saints' passing and defense, coupled with Megan Christianson's sets to MacKenzie Griman and Emma Eversole, cut the lead to 21-17, with the momentum definitely on the Mishawaka Catholic side of the floor.

That would be as close as the Saints would come as the powerful overhand by the Lions' Quinn sealed the first game, 25-19.

Mishawaka Catholic would not let the first game determine their fate and jumped out to a 5-2 lead and pushed it to 9-5 with teamwork and solid serves.

The Lions of St. Pius X fought back with a vengeance again behind the sets of Hickey, slams from Quinn and Hannah Golichowski and some defensive gems from libero Grace Gillis, tying the score, 10-10.

A big play by the Saints' Kelsey Ketchum, finding a spot unoccupied by the Lions' defense stopped the bleeding and righted

the ship for Mishawaka Catholic.

The score would be tied at 12s, 14s, 15s and 21s as the squads battled impressively back and forth, not one player giving in, not a single girl feeling the pressure of the championship match.

With the score a one-point margin for the Lions, again the smallest player on the court, Hickey, had the ball in her hand and the serve.

The side winding overhand serves found their marks and with the championship on the line, St. Pius X closed the door on the match and Mishawaka Catholic's perfect season, 25-21.

"We just happened to gel as a team at the right time," explained Lions' skipper Lou Hickey. "We worked on our consistency of serves and having all of the girls bond together as one team, they really made us proud of their progress today."

"As for Rachel Hickey, well, she's my daughter and plays with a lot of confidence and has an internal will to win," remarked Hickey when asked about her play. "I'm just so happy for the

win, Mishawaka Catholic has been the team to beat all season long."

"It just wasn't our day. St. Pius X outplayed us and never let us get going," commented Eversole. "Our girls put together a good season and with only two eighth graders, we hope to be in the mix again next year."

Pat Whiteman-Gring the director of volleyball for the ICCL

summed up the play as it was orchestrated on the floor, "Area high school coaches will be honored to have any of these talented girls playing for them in the years to come."

In other action, the ICCL Colors Championship went to Christ the King Blue as they outduelled Holy Family Blue, 25-19, 25-23.

The sixth-grade division was a chess match between the two St. Pius X teams with 6-1 outlasting 6-2 by the final of 25-19, 13-25 and the tiebreaker, 15-4.

St. Thomas held up the fifth-grade championship plaque by beating the Panthers of St. Anthony, 25-10, 25-18.



ICCL basketball heats up in Week 2

BY JOE KOZINSKI

SOUTH BEND, MISHAWAKA — The second week of Inter-City Catholic League boys' basketball heated up as the outside weather took an opposite turn, ensuring that local rivals shovel driveways out before lacing up their shoes.

In an early matchup, Durell Dorgor and his 18 points helped Christ the King dispatch the Blazers of St. Matthew, 56-31.

St. Joseph remained atop the St. Martin De Porres Division behind the consistent scoring of Josh De St. Jean (17) to outduel the Mishawaka Catholic Saints, 32-21, despite Brock Van Nevel's 10.

Corpus Christi, with the help of

Alex Francoeur's 17-point outburst, dispensed with the Crusaders of Holy Cross, 44-25.

St. Thomas relied on double digit scoring from Tommy Gropp and Jacob Maxwell, but came up three points shy of beating the powerful Lions of St. Pius X.

The Panthers of St. Anthony almost doubled the output of Queen of Peace, 30-16.

A basket explosion by St. Jude's Branson Bonnell silenced the upstart St. Adalbert squad, 32-21.

In the final contest of the day, Holy Family, behind scoring from Chris Morris (21) and Mason Ryons (15), squeaked by St. Michael, 44-40, despite the double-digit efforts of Kevin Schmalzried and Brady Holiday.

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A Christmas collection portrays many variations

BY MICHELLE DONAGHEY

BREMEN — Webster's Dictionary defines a crèche' — manger or Nativity scene as some are called — as "a set of statues that represents the scene of Jesus Christ's birth and that is displayed during Christmas."

What I did not realize, until I started my own collection of mangers, crèches and Nativity scenes, was that each one is different depending on the artist and/or the company that manufactured it.

My collection ranges from the very simple — a plastic gift from a former religious education teacher of our younger son — to the elaborate "living-room-size" manger I display in a place of prominence.

It began simply years ago when our older son who is now 30 was a child. I was desperately seeking, to no avail, a manger scene that a child could touch and move the figures as he or she would imagine the scene to be before and after Jesus' birth. I also felt that the actual meaning of the holiday seemed to be more and more lost without people actually thinking about why we celebrated.

And so my collection began, starting with a breakable crèche that had special meaning. It was the one that I used to look at with awe and send up prayers as a child. I moved the camels and sheep and other figures so much so that I ended up breaking one, which my mother glued back together and placed back in the set for many years until I inherited the set.

I felt then, as I do now, that while other decorations such as wreaths, garlands and lights are fine, all of us need to reflect, especially during the busy season of Advent, why we celebrate Christmas in the first place. That is why in my home you would find a crèche' in every room.

Plans are to donate most of the Nativity scenes to the food pantry in Bremen for those who might not have one in their home. With each, I plan to leave a message of hope for the New Year.



The salt Nativity, above, came from a thrift shop in Nappanee that is part of a church outreach, raising funds for missions. This was a joyous find as I thought immediately on seeing it of how we are the salt of the earth. Note the reading from Mt. 5:13 is: "You are the salt of the earth. But if salt loses its taste, with what can it be seasoned? It is no longer good for anything but to be thrown out and trampled underfoot."



Shown lower left is one of the smallest nativity scenes I have, yet may be the most expensive of all I have purchased. I obtained it at a church sale after Mass when we were able to buy similar items from the Holy Land. While simple, the significance of its origin — that it comes from the land where Jesus was born is very special to me.



The largest of all Nativity scenes, above, comes from Deb Locke, who gave me this Nativity after I had my display at the library. She had heard of my need for a large Nativity to fill in space as well as to add to my collection. It is now prominently set up on a buffet in the living room of our home.

The very tall cloth, china and paper formed Holy Family scene at right, was also obtained at a thrift shop on the day I volunteered to place my display of crèche scenes for the month of December in the entryway at the Bremen Public Library. I had prayed that I would find a large manger scene to complete my

collection that would gain attention of all who entered the library during the 2012 Christmas Season. As I was walking out of the shop a woman was walking in with it in her arms. I excitedly asked if she was planning to consign it and told her of my immediate need. Her answer was to hand it to me, telling me she hoped that all who saw it would be excited and remember



The picture above shows my collection was in the lobby at the Bremen Public Library for the month of December in 2012.

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St. Mary of the Assumption Parish
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Saint Anne Home & Retirement Community (www.saintannehome.com) is actively searching for a qualified Executive Administrator. Saint Anne Home is a Roman Catholic Health Care facility in Fort Wayne, Indiana in affiliation with the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend.

Saint Anne Home has 166 Medicare/Medicaid beds, including 18 rehab suite beds. In addition, the residential area is licensed for 114 independent/assisted living beds. Saint Anne Home also offers an adult day care program. Applicants should have a current Indiana Health Facility Administrator's License (HFA) in good standing and a minimum of 5 years management experience. Practicing Catholic is preferred. Comprehensive benefit package is offered.

Qualified applicants should forward their resume with salary requirements no later than December 31, 2013 as follows:

- E-mail a resume to: skendrick@sah1900.com
- Fax to 260-399-3070 (confidential fax)
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Knights plan spaghetti dinner
South Bend — The Knights of Columbus Council 5521, 61533 S. Ironwood Dr., will have a spaghetti dinner on Friday, Dec. 20, from 5-7 p.m. Adults \$8, children (5-12) \$3.50. Carry-out available.

Theology on Tap announces event
Fort Wayne — Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades will speak at Theology on Tap on Thursday, Jan. 16, at 6:30 p.m. at Calhoun Soups, Salads, and Spirits. Young adults in their 20s and 30s, married and

unmarried, who are looking for a place to meet people and share their faith are invited. The evening will include a question and answer period. Visit <http://www.diocesefwsb.org/tot-fw> for information.

Christmas concert
Fort Wayne — Rosary Society of Most Precious Blood Church, 1515 Barthold St., will have a Christmas concert Sunday, Dec. 29, at 7 p.m. in the church. Admission is free.

Young Adult overnight retreat planned
Young adults in their 20s and 30s are invited to an overnight retreat Jan. 11-12. Learn more and register at diocesefwsb.org/YAM-RETREATS.

Divine Mercy Ministry offers post-abortion healing
Fort Wayne — Divine Mercy Ministry, a Catholic support ministry devoted to the healing of the post-abortive woman or man, meets twice a month. Location and times are confidential. For information, call (260) 445-8119 or email mary@divinemercyministry.com. All inquiries are confidential.

REST IN PEACE

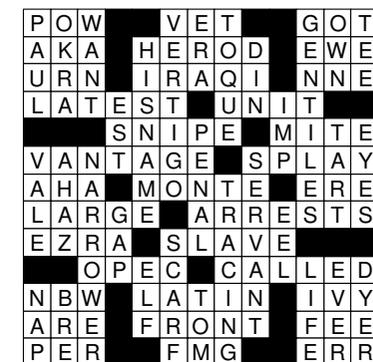
Bluffton Robert Dale Morrissey, 91, St. Joseph	McClosky, OLVM, 85, Victory Noll	Casimer J. Lechtanski, 91, Christ the King
Fort Wayne Walter R. Michalec, 96, Our Lady/Good Hope	Stanley Nicholson, 80, Ss. Peter and Paul	Audrey G. Brown, 91, St. Jude
Jacquelyn K. Andrews, 65, Cathedral of Immac./Conception	Sister Carlota Baca, OLVM, 104, Victory Noll	Jadwiga Harriet Ksiezopolski, 92, St. Adalbert
Ruth M. Bolinger, 90, St. Therese	Mishawaka M. Ida Boudonck, 98, St. Bavo	Harry Flowers, 92, St. John the Baptist
John H. Deitch, 84, St. Peter	Andrew Mikulyuk, 79, St. Monica	James W. Davis, 86, St. Therese, Little Flower
James A. Hornak, 81, St. Charles	Notre Dame Rosemarie L. Hickey, 87, Basilica/Sacred Heart	Mary E. Lightner, 85, St. John the Baptist
Dorothy A. Lauritsen, 78, St. Patrick	South Bend Marco Antonio Leal, 24, St. Adalbert	Daniel Plencner, 74, Holy Family
Leonard J. Glaser, 80, St. Jude	Joseph Grunwald, 76, Our Lady of Hungary	Mary Mazzone, 96, St. Anthony de Padua
Huntington Sister Rose Anthony	Jonathan A. Hernandez, 17, St. Adalbert	Waterloo Kathryn A. McNerney, 64, St. Michael

Worldwide Marriage Encounter weekends announced
A Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend gives you the special

time and tools to rekindle the flames of your marriage. The next weekends are Feb. 14-16 at the Baymont Inn in Elkhart and March 21-23 at the Quality Inn in Fort Wayne. For more information visit www.wwme-ni.org or call Greg and Norma Germann at (574) 287-6432.

Christmas at Loretto
Notre Dame — The South Bend Chamber Singers will present the sounds of the season as part of its 25th concert season Sunday, Dec. 22, at 7:30 p.m. in the Church of Our Lady of Loretto. For information visit www.moreaucenter.com or call (574) 284-4626.

The CrossWord
December 22 and 29, 2013



TV MASSES FOR JANUARY

2013	Feast Day	Fort Wayne 10:30 a.m. WFFT-TV, Ch. 55	South Bend 10:30 a.m. WNDU-TV, Ch. 16
January 5	The Epiphany of The Lord	Father David Meinzen Chaplain VA Hospital, USF Fort Wayne	Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend
January 12	The Baptism of The Lord	Father Ben Muhlenkamp St.Elizabeth Ann Seton Fort Wayne	Father Matthew Coonan St. Vincent de Paul Elkhart
January 19	Second Sunday in Ordinary Time	Msgr. Robert Schulte Cathedral/Immaculate Conception, Fort Wayne	Father Brad Metz, CSC Notre Dame
January 26	Third Sunday in Ordinary Time	Father David Mary Engo Our Lady of the Angels Friary, Fort Wayne	Father Tom McNally, CSC Notre Dame



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MERRY CHRISTMAS to our readers...



On December 20th

diocesan employees in Fort Wayne offered Mass in the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception.

One of the petitions at that Mass was for you and your family...

If you are traveling,
We prayed for your safety.

If a member of your family is ill,
We prayed for improved health.

If a family member is unemployed,
We prayed that a job comes your way.

If a child is expected,
We prayed for the Christ Child's gentle assistance.

For you and yours,
We asked the blessings of The Holy Family.



The family is the Church in miniature.

-Blessed John Paul II



Two Christmas Stories 112 Years Apart

Dr. Anthony F. Laviano



He rang the doorbell. It sounded his last stop. He arrived. It had been a long, cold, lonely, exhausting trip. When he started out a winter snowstorm was on the horizon and approaching at full force. Not deterred, he was determined to begin his journey. He needed to fulfill Her request.



On Dec. 20 1896, with luggage in hand at the Superior, Wis., depot he boarded the 11 p.m. train heading Southwest to St. Paul then taking him Eastward across Wisconsin to Milwaukee. The snowstorm was intense. The train slowed to a crawl having to plow its way through snowdrifts. Arriving in Milwaukee he stopped to visit the Capuchin seminary of St. Francis two miles from the depot. The following day he boarded the train to Chicago and upon arrival changed trains to Detroit. Heavy snow slowed the last leg of the train trip to 12 miles an hour. From the Detroit station he took the street car to 1740 Mt. Elliot Ave., St. Bonaventure Monastery. He arrived well after dusk and rang the door bell. It was now Dec. 24, Christmas Eve. - With anticipation he waited for the door to open. He knew that when he stepped through the doorway he would have completed Our Lady's desire. She related it to him on Dec. 8, 1896, the feast of the Immaculate Conception, the last day of his novena asking guidance of the Blessed Mother. "Go to Detroit," She impressed upon him. Bernard Francis Casey had completed his initial step to becoming a Capuchin Friar. - The Capuchins at St. Bonaventure were expecting him. He was warmly welcomed by the porter who led him to a chair within the entrance. Unknown to him, such a station in life would be his and such entrances would one day become his office. The porter soon reappeared with Father Casimir, the superior, and Father Gabriel Messmer, his future novice master. They suggested that he have something to eat but his exhaustion satisfied his appetite. He wanted to sleep. - They led him up the stairs to his room behind a wood latch door. Soon he was fast asleep on the narrow iron bed. A one-drawer wooden desk with a straight back wooden chair, the only furnishings, kept watch. Light from the Christmas Eve sky coming through the one window blanketed the ascetic 9x12 room with restful comfort. - He had only been asleep an hour when the traditional procession before Midnight Mass began along the monastery corridors. He was awakened by bells and acapella singing scented with incense. The voices were singing Christmas carols in Latin and German. These languages would later confront him in his studies. Listening, he could hear Friars joining the carolers. Approaching his door he joined them. The procession moved into the chapel. His heart was uplifted and "Silent Night" echoed in his ears. - Father Solanus often told the story of his first Capuchin Christmas and how he felt a flood of happiness during the Midnight Mass. - The words in the Last Gospel of the Latin Mass that Christmas remained a Christmas crèche etched in the soul of Father Solanus Casey.

"The Word was made flesh and dwelt among us."

*Et Verbum Caro Factum
Est,
et habitavit in nobis.*

*Deo gratias!
Merry Christmas
and a
Joyous New Year*

*Stille Nacht! Heilige Nacht!
Alles schläft; eison wacht
Nur das traute heilige Paar.
Holder Knab im lockigten Haar,
Schlafe in himmlischer Ruh!
Schlafe in himmlischer Ruh!*

*To report favors received through the intercession
of Father Solanus, please direct correspondence to
the official office in Detroit; The Father Solanus Guild.*

www.solanuscassey.org



Venerable Solanus Casey, OFM, Cap
Christmas at the Manger

**My Christmas story is a
simpler one but heartfelt.
It took place 112 years later.
It is told in an unnoted footnote
in the unpublished portfolio of
Solanus miracles.**



**"Anthony F. Laviano was cured of
prostate cancer
during the 2008 Christmas season
through the intercession of
Father Solanus Casey.
Deo Gratias!"**

**A Feriverino for the Beatification of Solanus Casey
Mary, our mother, we ask you to intercede for us before your son,
as you did at the wedding at Cana, that the beatification
of the Venerable Solanus Casey may be brought about.
We pray that through your intercession the Holy Spirit will bring
his beatification about at this time so that we may be strengthened
in our faith and filled with gratitude to God. Hail Mary...Glory be...**

Dr. Anthony F. Laviano, Chairman and Founder, NANOWorld®
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