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TODAY'S CATHOLIC

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Christmas is time to feel God's closeness, experience peace

BY CINDY WOODEN



CNS PHOTO/PAUL HARING

Pope Francis celebrates Christmas Eve Mass in St. Peter's Basilica at the Vatican Dec. 24.

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Celebrating the first Christmas since his election, Pope Francis preached the goodness and tenderness of God, and prayed that men and women around the world would allow God's grace to transform them into peacemakers.

"Let us allow our hearts to be touched, let us allow ourselves to be warmed by the tenderness of God; we need His caress," the pope said Dec. 25, standing on the central balcony of St. Peter's Basilica and addressing an estimated 70,000 people in the square below.

"God is peace," the pope said. "Let us ask Him to help us to be peacemakers each day, in our life, in our families, in our cities and nations, in the whole world. Let us allow ourselves to be moved by God's goodness."

"My hope is that everyone will feel God's closeness, live in His presence, love Him and adore Him," Pope Francis said before delivering his Christmas blessing "urbi et orbi" (to the city and the world).

Instead of reading Christmas greetings in more than 50 languages — from Chinese to Swahili — as his predecessors had done, Pope Francis spoke only in Italian.

CHRISTMAS, PAGE 6

SEMINARIANS GATHER FOR CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON AT ST. PETER

The Serra Club of Fort Wayne hosted its annual Christmas luncheon for the seminarians of the diocese and their families on Dec. 21 at St. Peter Catholic Church in Fort Wayne. Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades celebrated Mass, after which a luncheon was held in the St. Peter's Pavilion, with recognition and gifts for each seminarian.

Seminarians pose with Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades and Msgr. Bernard Galic, vocation director, after the lunch program in St. Peter's Pavilion.



JOE ROMIE

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PUBLISHER: Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades

EDITOR: Tim Johnson

NEWS EDITOR and STAFF WRITER: Kay Cozad

Editorial Department

PAGE DESIGNER: Francie Hogan

FREELANCE WRITERS: Ann Carey, Michelle Castleman, Karen Clifford, Bonnie Elbersson, Denise Fedorow, Diane Freeby, Sister Margie Lavonis, CSC, Jodi Magallanes, Joe Kozinski, Vince LaBarbera and Deb Wagner

Business Department

BUSINESS MANAGER: Sean McBride

AD GRAPHICS DIRECTOR: Mark Weber

BOOKKEEPING/CIRCULATION: Kathy Voirol
kvoirol@diocesefwsb.org

Advertising Sales

Tess Steffen
(260) 456-2824

Web site: www.todayscatholicnews.org

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Epiphany and the Church's universality



IN TRUTH
AND
CHARITY

BY BISHOP KEVIN C. RHOADES

I hope you had a very blessed Christmas and a happy New Year. We are still in the midst of the holy season of Christmas. I invite you during these days to continue to contemplate the mystery of the birth of Jesus. Even though in our culture, Christmas seems to be over on December 26th, it is not over in the life of the Christian community. The Christmas season extends through the Christmas Octave and even further until the Solemnity of the Baptism of the Lord which we will celebrate on January 12th.

This Sunday, in the midst of the Christmas season, we celebrate the Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord. I invite you this weekend to contemplate the event of the Epiphany, "the manifestation of Jesus as Messiah of Israel, Son of God and Savior of the world" (CCC 528) and its significance. The Son of God did not only come for the people of Israel, represented by the shepherds of Bethlehem, but also for the whole of humanity, represented by the Magi.

This past November, when I was in Germany for the beatification of Mother Maria Theresia Bonzel, I had the opportunity to visit the magnificent cathedral in Cologne, the largest Gothic church in Europe. According to tradition, the relics of the Magi were brought from Constantinople in 344 to Milan and then brought to Cologne in 1164. A shrine was constructed for the relics with beautiful gold sculptures of the Adoration of the Magi, scenes from the life of Christ, as well as prophets and apostles. The Cathedral was built to house this Shrine of the Magi. The Cologne Cathedral became a popular pilgrimage site. It was wonderful to see the Shrine, a large gilded and decorated triple sarcophagus behind the high altar of the great cathedral.

It is said that the Feast of the Epiphany is celebrated every day in Cologne because of the people's veneration of the Magi and the influence of the Shrine and the Cathedral on the life and history of the city.

The Magi remind us of the catholicity or universality of the Church. These wise men from the East represent the peoples of the whole earth who set out in search of the new-born King of the Jews. They went to Bethlehem to adore Him. They offered Him symbolic gifts. They are forerunners of all the peoples of different races, languages, and cultures who, through the centuries, seek Jesus and meet Him in His Church.

We perhaps take for granted the universality of the Catholic Church. It is an important "mark of the Church." We believe that God calls all people to salva-



The Epiphany is depicted in a mural titled "Adoration of the Magi" in the Basilica of the Immaculate Conception at Conception Abbey in Conception, Mo. Painted by Benedictine monks in the late 1800s, the artwork is the first appearance of the German Beuronese style in a U.S. church. The feast of the Epiphany is Jan. 5.

tion and that the Gospel is meant to be spread to the nations of the whole world. The Second Vatican Council taught that *this gift of universality which adorns the People of God is a gift from the Lord Himself whereby the Catholic Church ceaselessly and efficaciously seeks for the return of all humanity and all its good under Christ the Head in the unity of His Spirit (Lumen gentium 13).*

We see this universality right here in our own diocese. We are blessed with a diversity of races and cultures. I think of the beginnings of the Church in the territory of our diocese, the French and German missionaries and immigrants, the Native Americans, and the African Americans. Then the immigration of Catholics from other European countries like Ireland, Poland, Hungary, Belgium, and Italy. In more recent decades, the immigration of Catholics from Latin America, Vietnam, and Burma. Our roots remind us that the light of Christ has spread throughout the world. The universal call to salvation is meant for all peoples.

Pope Francis reminds us that "Christians have the duty to proclaim the Gospel without excluding anyone" (*Evangelii Gaudium* 14). As we remember the Magi, we are reminded of our duty to spread the light and joy of the Gospel. Pope Francis tells us that we are not only

to be "disciples," but "missionary disciples." In a sense, we can say that the Church's missionary activity had its start and its universal scope in the feast of the Epiphany.

So many people today are searching for truth and meaning in life, for goodness and love. The Magi were also searching. They followed the star. They were searching for the true light that could enlighten the path of their life. God guided them by the star. They perceived God in creation. And then, in amazement, they found God in the Child Jesus. They found the King of the universe among the poor and humble in the little town of Bethlehem.

Like the Magi, in our lives we can perceive God's presence in creation. But it is in the Word made flesh that God definitively reveals Himself to us. Christ is the true Light that illumines our lives. Jesus said: *I am the light of the world; he who follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life* (John 8:12). And it is this light that we are called to spread to others. The Church is called to offer the light of the Gospel to all people of every nation, race, and culture.

May you have a blessed Feast of the Epiphany! May the Lord bless you with spiritual joy! May we all walk in the light of Christ during this New Year!

Rulings in HHS lawsuits deliver mixed results for Catholic employers

WASHINGTON (CNS) — A U.S. District Court judge Dec. 20 changed a preliminary injunction to a permanent one barring enforcement of the federal health care law's contraceptive mandate against the Pittsburgh and Erie dioceses.

Judge Arthur J. Schwab of the U.S. District Court for Western Pennsylvania issued the ruling after attorneys representing the federal government said they had no new evidence to offer in support of the mandate. The government was expected to appeal his decision to the 3rd U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals.

Two months earlier, in granting the preliminary injunction, Schwab said a religious employer's right to adhere to moral objections to the contraceptive mandate outweighs a government decision to widen access to contraceptives.

But the same day Schwab issued his permanent injunction, rulings handed down in lawsuits filed by other Catholic entities brought mixed results for the plaintiffs.

Suits brought by the Washington Archdiocese, Priests for Life and the University of Notre Dame were dismissed in their respective jurisdictions; both the Catholic organization Legatus and a group of ministries associated with the Southern Baptists were granted preliminary injunctions in their respective courts.

The U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia dismissed the lawsuit filed by the Archdiocese of Washington and its related affiliates, saying they have "no right to challenge" the federal contraceptive mandate and arguing that the Catholic entities are not being forced to act contrary to their religious beliefs. The archdiocese in a Dec. 21 statement called the decision "astonishing" and "perplexing."

Within an hour of the judge's decision in its case, the Washington Archdiocese filed an emergency request with the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit for an "injunction to maintain the status quo" while its appeal to the same court can be heard and decided.

The same District Court dismissed the lawsuit filed by Priests for Life, headed by Father Frank Pavone. The organization also planned to file an appeal.

Employers must comply with the mandate starting Jan. 1 or face thousands of dollars of daily fines.

The University of Notre Dame refiled its HHS lawsuit Dec. 3 in the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Indiana, arguing the mandate's purpose "is to discriminate against religious institutions and organizations that oppose abortion and contraception."

On Dec. 20 that court denied Notre Dame a preliminary injunction and criticized the university for waiting too long to refile.

Notre Dame had originally filed suit last year, but the District Court ruled it premature because the U.S. Department of Health and Human

Services had yet not finalized the rules for implementing the contraceptive mandate, which is part of the Affordable Care Act. The university engaged in talks with the Obama administration over the past year to find an acceptable resolution, but the effort failed.

When the final rules were issued in June, many Catholic employers, like Notre Dame, said they still did not address their moral objections to the mandated coverage.

Elsewhere Dec. 20, Judge Robert Cleland of the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Michigan/Southern Division granted a preliminary injunction to Legatus, an organization for Catholic business leaders.

"The harm in delaying the implementation of a regulation that may later be deemed constitutional must yield to the risk presented here of substantially infringing the sincere exercise of religious beliefs" he said.

In October 2012 Cleland denied Legatus an injunction, saying the organization fell under the temporary "safe harbor" provision the Obama administration had in place to protect employers from immediate government action against them if they failed to comply with the mandate. He, too, noted the final rules were still to come, but told Legatus it could approach the court again if the government "acts in a way inimical" to the rights it sought to protect.

In his Dec. 20 ruling he said that "the court appears to have been unduly hopeful" about the government's action in implementing the mandate. "The balance of harms tips strongly in favor of Legatus. A preliminary injunction is warranted."

In a class-action lawsuit filed by close to 200 ministries associated with the Southern Baptists, Judge Timothy DeGiusti of the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Oklahoma issued a preliminary injunction against enforcement of the mandate.

The ministries involved in the suit include a Georgia Baptist college and an organization called Reaching Souls International, which trains pastors and cares for orphans in Africa and a couple of other countries.

Employees are covered through the health benefits arms of the Southern Baptist Convention called GuideStone Financial Resources.

The Washington Archdiocese in its statement called the court ruling in its case "an astonishing decision that conflicts with the well-reasoned rulings of many other federal courts around the country."

"The District Court's ruling is perplexing. It creates an unequal patchwork of justice in our country, where fundamental liberties seem to depend on where one lives," the statement said.

"The ruling is contrary to the recent favorable decisions of federal courts in Pennsylvania and New

York, upholding the challenge to the HHS mandate brought by dioceses and a host of Catholic schools, health care systems and charities," it continued. "These cases are virtually identical to ours, involving the same law, the same arguments and the same essential facts and circumstances."

The statement referred to the decision in favor of the Pittsburgh and Erie dioceses as well as another federal judge's Dec. 13 decision to grant Catholic organizations in the New York Archdiocese and the neighboring Diocese of Rockville Centre, N.Y., a permanent injunction on having to comply with the federal contraceptive mandate in the health care law.

It noted the lower court's decision is also contrary to a recent D.C. circuit court's that blocked enforcement of the mandate against for-profit organizations with religious objections to it.

The Washington Archdiocese and its related affiliates "are extremely disappointed and troubled by the court's failure to uphold the Church's freedom to maintain a health care plan consistent with its religious beliefs," it said.

"Since the regulations take effect on Jan. 1, 2014, and would force the archdiocese's affiliated ministries to violate their deeply held Catholic beliefs or face crippling fines and penalties for noncompliance, we will appeal this decision and seek immediate relief from the appellate court," it continued. "We believe the court erred in its reasoning and application of the law and look forward to advancing a successful appeal."

Currently, there are more than 70 lawsuits against the mandate filed by Catholic and other religious entities and some for-profit companies working their way through the courts.

The HHS mandate requires nearly all religious and other employers to provide free preventative health care coverage specifically for women.

That coverage includes services such as mammograms, prenatal care and cervical cancer screenings, but it also mandates free contraceptives, sterilizations and abortion-inducing drugs — which are contrary to Catholic teaching. It includes a narrow exemption for some religious employers that fit certain criteria.

For religious employers who are not exempt, there is an accommodation for them to use a third party to pay for coverage they find objectionable, but Catholic entities that have brought the lawsuits say the accommodation still does not solve their problem over being involved in providing coverage they reject for moral reasons.

The mandate does not include a conscience clause for employers who object to such coverage on moral grounds.



PUBLIC SCHEDULE OF BISHOP KEVIN C. RHOADES

- Sunday, Jan. 5, 10:30 a.m. — TV Mass, WNDU, South Bend
- Sunday, Jan. 5, 5 p.m. — Epiphany Choral Concert, Queen of Peace Church, Mishawaka
- Monday, Jan. 6, 6 p.m. — Mass for Legatus, St. Pius X Church, Granger
- Thursday, Jan. 9, 9:30 a.m. — Mass and Pastoral Visit, Marian High School, Mishawaka
- Sunday, Jan. 12, 11 a.m. — Mass with Dominican Sisters of Mary, Mother of the Eucharist, St. Felix Oratory, Huntington
- Monday, Jan. 13, 6:30 p.m. — Meeting with Knights of Columbus, St. Andrew Church, Fort Wayne
- Tuesday, Jan. 14, 9:55 a.m. — Mass and Pastoral Visit, Bishop Dwenger High School, Fort Wayne
- Thursday, Jan. 16, 6:30 p.m. — Speech at Theology on Tap, Calhoun Street Soups, Salads and Spirits, Fort Wayne
- Friday, Jan. 17, through Saturday, Jan. 18 — Meeting of National Catholic Office for the Deaf, Las Vegas, NV



CNS PHOTO/TONY GENTILE, REUTERS

Pope Francis waves as he leads the Angelus from the window of his studio overlooking St. Peter's Square at the Vatican Dec. 26.

Pope, on feast of first martyr, prays for persecuted Christians

BY FRANCIS X. ROCCA

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Observing the feast of the Church's first martyr, Pope Francis prayed for Christians suffering persecution and discrimination around the world, even in countries that nominally honor religious liberty.

The pope made his remarks Dec. 26, the feast of St. Stephen, before praying the Angelus from his window overlooking St. Peter's Square.

"Today we pray in a particular

way for Christians who undergo discrimination because of their witness to Christ and the Gospel," he said. "We are close to these brothers and sisters who, like St. Stephen, are unjustly accused and made targets of violence of various kinds. I am sure that, unfortunately, there are more of them today than in the early days of the Church. There are so many.

"This (persecution) happens, especially where religious liberty is not yet guaranteed and fully

MARTYRS, PAGE 6

Pope says peace is impossible without fraternity based on Christ

BY FRANCIS X. ROCCA

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — In his first annual message for the World Day of Peace, Pope Francis writes that peace and social justice are impossible without a spirit of fraternity based on recognition that all men and women are children of God — a relationship fulfilled in the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

The nearly 5,000-word mes-

sage, entitled "Fraternity, the Foundation and Pathway to Peace," was released by the Vatican Dec. 12 in preparation for the World Day of Peace Jan. 1.

"Without fraternity it is impossible to build a just society and a solid and lasting peace," the pope writes. "At the same time, it appears clear that contemporary ethical systems remain incapable of producing authentic bonds of fraternity, since a fraternity devoid of reference to a common Father as

its ultimate foundation is unable to endure. True brotherhood among peoples presupposes and demands a transcendent Fatherhood."

The pope adds that, "in a particular way, human fraternity is regenerated in and by Jesus Christ through His death and resurrection. The cross is the definitive foundational locus of that fraternity which human beings are not capable of generating themselves."

Pope Francis surveys contemporary attacks on human dignity — including war, economic exploitation, crime, environmental pollution and violations of religious freedom — he says require awareness and practice of humanity's brotherhood and sisterhood in Christ.

He decries a widespread "poverty of relationships as a result of the lack of solid family and community relationships," and writes that "fraternity is generally first learned in the family, thanks above all to the responsible and complementary roles of each of its members, particularly the father and the mother."

With regard to economic justice, the pope calls for "effective policies" to reduce income inequality and guarantee "access to capital and services, educational resources, healthcare and technology so that every person has the opportunity to express and realize his or her life project and can develop fully as a person."

He also calls on ordinary Christians to embrace a "sober and essential lifestyle" and share their wealth, calling such practice of "detachment" a "form of promoting fraternity — and thus defeating

poverty — which must be the basis of all the others."

The current economic crisis, Pope Francis writes, offers a "fruitful opportunity to rediscover the virtues of prudence, temperance, justice and strength" that are "necessary for building and preserving a society in accord with human dignity."

He repeats his own calls and those of previous popes for the "nonproliferation of arms and for the disarmament of all parties, beginning with nuclear and chemical weapons,"

and appeals directly to "all those who sow violence and death by force of arms" to see every enemy instead as "your brother or sister, and hold back your hand!"

"Human beings can experience conversion," the pope writes. "I wish this to be a message of hope and confidence for all, even for those who have committed brutal crimes, for God does not wish the death of the sinner, but that he converts and lives."

Pope Francis denounces organized crime for its role in the drug trade, environmental damage, "illicit money trafficking and financial speculation," prostitution, human trafficking, slavery and the exploitation of migrants.

Criminal organizations of all

sizes "gravely offend God, they hurt others and they harm creation, all the more so when they have religious overtones," the pope writes.

He deplores the "inhumane conditions in so many prisons, where those in custody are often reduced to a subhuman status in violation of their human dignity and stunted in their hope and desire for rehabilitation."

Calling for responsible and equitable use of natural resources, Pope Francis focuses on agricul-

ture. "It is well known that present (food) production is sufficient, and yet millions of persons continue to suffer and die from hunger, and this is a real scandal," he writes.

Underscoring the critique of globalization that has become a major theme of his teaching as pope, he

observes that the "ever-increasing number of interconnections and communications in today's world makes us powerfully aware of the unity and common destiny of the nations."

But this unity, he writes, is "still frequently denied and ignored in a world marked by a 'globalization of indifference' which makes us slowly inured to the suffering of others and closed in on ourselves."

"True brotherhood among peoples presupposes and demands a transcendent Fatherhood."

POPE FRANCIS

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Pope proclaims sainthood of Jesuit companion of St. Ignatius

BY CAROL GLATZ

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope Francis issued a decree declaring one of his favorite Jesuits, Blessed Peter Faber, a saint.

The decree is what the Vatican terms an “equivalent canonization,” in which the pope inserts the name of the new saint in the universal calendar of saints without verifying a miracle performed through his intercession and without holding a formal canonization ceremony.

The Vatican announced Dec. 17 that the pope formalized the Church’s recognition of the 16th-century priest, who with St. Ignatius of Loyola and St. Francis Xavier, was a founding member of the Society of Jesus, by “inscribing him in the catalog of saints.”

The same day, the pope advanced the sainthood cause of Sister Miriam Teresa Demjanovich, a member of the Sisters of Charity of St. Elizabeth in Convent Station, N.J., who died in 1927. By recognizing a miracle attributed to her intercession, the pope clears the way for the beatification ceremony to be held.

Sister Demjanovich was born in Bayonne, N.J., in 1901. After attending Bayonne public schools, she began studies at the College of St. Elizabeth in Convent Station, graduating in 1923. Two years later, she entered the Sisters of Charity at Convent Station. She wrote a series of spiritual conferences, which were collected and published after her death as a book, “Greater Perfection.” She died in 1927 at the age of 26. She was declared venerable by the Vatican in May 2012.

Welcoming the news of St. Faber’s canonization, a statement from the Jesuit headquarters in Rome said the canonization was significant because it highlights a man who “is a model of the spirituality and priestly life of the current pontiff and at the same time is one of the important references for understanding his style of governance.”

St. Faber, who was born in 1506 in what is now France, shared lodgings with Ignatius and Francis Xavier at the College of St. Barbara at the University of Paris. Faber actually was the first of the Jesuits to be ordained a priest and he celebrated the Mass in 1534 during



CNS PHOTO/COURTESY OF JESUIT GENERAL CURIA

Pope Francis issued a decree declaring one of his favorite Jesuits, Blessed Peter Faber, a saint. St. Faber, who lived during the 16th century, is depicted serving Communion in a 19th century painting by Pietro Gagliardi.

which St. Ignatius and the others took their vows of poverty, chastity and obedience.

Jesuit Father Marc Lindeijer, vice postulator or promoter of Jesuit sainthood causes, told Catholic News Service Nov. 27 that

“more or less right after his election” in March, Pope Francis asked that the process be started for the canonization of St. Faber.

While according to Church law Pope Francis could have signed a decree immediately, Father

Lindeijer said the pope asked that the cause “be studied and evaluated on its merits.”

The “equivalent canonizations” — used most recently for St. Angela of Foligno and St. Hildegard of Bingen — recognize the candidates’ widespread fame of holiness and veneration by Catholic faithful sustained over centuries.

For modern Jesuits, Father Lindeijer said, the canonization would be another step forward in recognizing that the Society of Jesus was founded by a group of companions and not only by St. Ignatius.

Jesuit Father Antonio Spadaro, editor of *La Civiltà Cattolica*, who conducted the interview with Pope Francis published in Jesuit periodicals in September, had asked Pope Francis about his favorite Jesuits.

Pope Francis began “by mentioning Ignatius Loyola and Francis Xavier, but then focuses on a figure that other Jesuits certainly know, but who is of course not as well known to the general public: Peter Faber (1506-46),” Father Spadaro wrote.

Asked what he admired about Faber, the pope replied, his “dialogue with all, even the most remote and even with his opponents; his simple piety, a certain naivete, perhaps, his being available straightaway, his careful interior discernment, the fact that he was a man capable of great and strong decisions but also capable of being so gentle and loving.”

Pope Francis also recognized the heroic virtues of Father Manuel Herranz Estabes — the 20th-century Spanish founder of the Handmaids of Our Lady of Sorrows, and Jerzy Ciesielski — a Polish husband and father who died in Egypt in 1970. Pope Francis declared them venerable; a miracle attributed to their intercession still is needed before they can be beatified. In general, a second such miracle is needed for canonization.



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MARTYRS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

realized," Pope Francis said. "But it also happens in countries and societies that protect liberty and human rights on paper, but where, in fact, believers, especially Christians, encounter abridgements of liberty and discrimination."

The pope then led the crowd in the square in prayer for persecuted Christians, first with a moment of silence and then with a recital of the Hail Mary.

"For the Christian, (persecution) is no surprise, because Jesus foretold it as a propitious occasion for bearing witness," he added. "Nevertheless, in the civil sphere, this injustice must be denounced and eliminated."

Pope Francis said that commemorating St. Stephen's martyrdom might seem to clash with the spirit of Christmas, the "feast of life which inspires us with sentiments of serenity and peace. Why disturb its enchantment with the memory of such atrocious violence?"

But the pope said the feast of St. Stephen, who died asking forgiveness for his killers, is "fully in tune with the deep meaning of Christmas. In martyrdom, in fact, violence is defeated by love, death by life."

Pope Francis said remembering the first martyr dispels a "false image of Christmas, sugary and fairy-tale like, which is not found in the Gospel. The liturgy recalls for us the authentic sense of the Incarnation, linking Bethlehem to Calvary and reminding us that divine salvation implies the struggle against sin and passes through the narrow gate of the cross."

The pope did not mention specific countries but, the previous day, three separate bombings in Baghdad killed at least 37 people. Two bombs exploded in an outdoor market of a Christian neighborhood, killing at least 11 and wounding 21, and a car bomb exploded near a Catholic church, killing at least 26 and wounding 38. The Associated Press reported that the bomb exploded after Christmas Mass, but no one who attended the Mass was injured.

Chaldean Catholic Patriarch Louis Sako of Baghdad said he did not believe the church was the target. He has, however, noted that the number of Iraqi Christians has dropped to fewer than 600,000 since 1987, when they numbered 1.2 million.

Thank you,
Today's
Catholic
readers, for
your support.

CHRISTMAS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

As is traditional, his Christmas address included prayers and pleas for peace in war-torn and tense countries around the world, including Syria, Central African Republic, South Sudan, Israel and Palestine and Iraq, where a car bomb exploded outside a church a few hours earlier, killing at least a dozen people.

Looking at the Christ child, "our thoughts turn to those children who are the most vulnerable victims of wars," he said. Offering a prayer, he asked God to "look upon the many children who are kidnapped, wounded and killed in armed conflicts, and all those who are robbed of their childhood and forced to become soldiers."

"Wars shatter and hurt so many lives," he said.

"True peace is not a balance of opposing forces," he said, and it is not "a lovely facade" simply covering conflicts and divisions. Rather, "peace calls for daily commitment — it's homemade — starting from God's gift, from the grace which He has given us in Jesus Christ."

Departing from his prepared text, Pope Francis asked nonbelievers who feel unable to pray to "enlarge their hearts" by ardently desiring peace.

Pope Francis also prayed for the elderly, for battered women, for the sick, for migrants and refugees, for those persecuted for their faith, for the victims of human trafficking and for the conversion of traffickers.

The pope's Christmas celebrations began in the crisp air of a cloudless winter night when he celebrated Christmas Mass Dec. 24 in St. Peter's Basilica, starting his homily with the first line from the night's reading from Isaiah: "The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light."

The reading gave the pope an opportunity to combine reflections on the Christmas symbolism of light and a verb he has emphasized since his first Mass as pope: "to walk."

Thousands of people packed into the basilica for the Mass and hundreds stood outside watching on big video screens; already in November people were being told there were no more of the free tickets left.

Pope Francis carried a statue of the baby Jesus to a golden manger in front of the altar at the beginning of Mass. After the liturgy, walking behind children from Italy, the Philippines, Argentina, Congo and Lebanon, he carried the statue to a Nativity scene.

In his homily, the pope said that from the moment God called Abraham, believers in the one God have been a walking, pilgrim people, and through all the wandering, God has never left His people's side.

"Yet on the part of the people," he said, "there are times of both light and darkness, fidelity and infidelity, obedience and rebellion; times of being a pilgrim people and times of being a people adrift."

In individual stories as well, "there are both bright and dark moments," the pope said. "If we love God and our brothers and sisters, we walk in the light; but if our heart is closed, if we are dominated by pride, deceit, self-seeking, then darkness falls within us and around



CNS PHOTO/PAUL HARING

Children carry flowers in procession as they leave Christmas Eve Mass celebrated by Pope Francis in St. Peter's Basilica at the Vatican Dec. 24.



CNS PHOTO/PAUL HARING

Pope Francis kisses a figurine of the baby Jesus after celebrating Christmas Eve Mass in St. Peter's Basilica at the Vatican Dec. 24.

us."

The glad tidings of Christmas reveal that God has broken into the world with light and salvation, he said. "Jesus, born of the Virgin Mary, true man and true God," has entered human history and is sharing the human journey.

"Jesus is love incarnate," Pope Francis said. "He is not simply a teacher of wisdom, He is not an ideal for which we strive while knowing that we are hopelessly distant from it. He is the meaning of life and history who has pitched His tent in our midst."

The biblical Christmas story tells how the shepherds were the first to hear the news of Jesus' birth and the first to run to see Him. They were first,

the pope said, because in social standing they were among the last. They were the ones outside town staying up all night keeping watch over the flocks.

With the shepherds, he said, "let us pause before the Child, let us pause in silence."

"Together with them, let us thank the Lord for having given Jesus to us, and with them let us raise from the depths of our hearts the praises of His fidelity: 'We bless You, Lord God most high, who lowered Yourself for our sake. You are immense, and You made Yourself small; You are rich and You made Yourself poor; You are all-powerful and You made Yourself vulnerable.'"

As people continue their journey through the world, even when it is dark, Pope Francis said Christmas is a reminder that they do not have to be afraid. "Our Father is patient, He loves us, He gives us Jesus to guide us on the way which leads to the promised land. Jesus is the light who brightens the darkness."

While the pope added only a few improvised words to his prepared text, one phrase he added was a familiar refrain of his pontificate: The Lord is merciful; "our Father always forgives us. He is our peace."

"Peace calls for daily commitment —
it's homemade — starting from
God's gift, from the grace which he
has given us in Jesus Christ."

POPE FRANCIS

SJHS Quiz Bowl team ranked 33 in top 150

SOUTH BEND — The Saint Joseph High School Quiz Bowl team, led by teacher and alum Ben Dillon, is currently ranked 33rd in the midseason rankings of the top 150 quiz bowl teams in the world according to Fred Morlan with the High School Quiz Bowl Rankings online service. To date, the performances of over 1,500 teams from China, Singapore, Canada and the United States have been considered in the rankings. The top 150 is currently made up of teams from 27 states, the District of Columbia, Canada and Singapore.

Quiz Bowl is an academic competition in which teams compete with buzzers to answer questions about subjects such as history, sciences, literature, fine arts and social sciences.

Victory Noll Center series features films, discussion

HUNTINGTON — Victory Noll Center will host the series "Movies and Popcorn," promoting themes with undertones of faith and social justice.

The ongoing series will present a film and discussion. In response to Catholic social teachings, it will feature evenings of inspiration and creative thought that will inspire a broader understanding of self, life, social justice and faith. The events will offer opportunities to join with community that will enhance dialogue and deepen bonds with humanity.

The first event will be Friday, Jan. 17, to honor Dr. Martin Luther King, and will feature the film "Slavery By Another Name."

The second event will be Thursday, May 1, in conjunction with International Day of Labor. The film will be "The Harvest."

Each event will run from 6:30-9 p.m. Suggested donation is \$10. Registration is required one week prior to each event.

Victory Noll Center is located at 1900 W. Park Dr. in Huntington.

For more information about Victory Noll Center or to register for the program, call (260) 356-0628, ext. 174, or contact the center by e-mail at victorynollcenter@olvm.org. More information is also available at www.olvm.org/vncenter. No one is ever turned away because of inability to pay. Payment plans or other arrangements may be made by contacting the center.

USF to present lecture on feasts of the Child Jesus

FORT WAYNE — Franciscan Sister Felicity Dorsett, assistant professor of theology, will present the lecture "Five Feasts of the Child Jesus" on Sunday, Jan. 12, at 3 p.m. in North Campus Auditorium at the University of Saint Francis. The offering is part of a free series by the university's Department of Philosophy and Theology and School of Arts and Sciences.

Sister Felicity will discuss how

AROUND THE DIOCESE

ST. ADALBERT RELIGIOUS EDUCATION STUDENTS PERFORM PEQUEÑO POSADAS



RITA KOPCZYNSKI

Angels, shepherds and kings, with Mary and Joseph and the donkey Hannah, await the beginning of the St. Adalbert religious education program's Pequeño Posadas in South Bend on Saturday, Dec. 14. A Mexican tradition of seeking shelter for Mary and Joseph as they await the birth of Jesus, children and parents traversed the neighborhood surrounding the St. Adalbert Church singing the Posada hymn. Afterwards the children performed a short Nativity play and enjoyed hot chocolate and treats in the Parish Heritage Center.

devout souls learn to conceive Christ in their own hearts, to go up with Mary into the hill country of the spirit, to give birth spiritually to Christ, to adore Him with the Magi and to present Jesus to God the Father.

Bishop Dwenger to host Tuffy's Trivia Night

FORT WAYNE — The third annual Bishop Dwenger Trivia Night will be held Saturday, Jan. 18. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. and games begin at 7 p.m. in the SAC. Tickets are \$10 per person in advance, \$15 per person at the door.

Participants may come on their own, as a couple or with a handful of friends, and trivia organizers will compose a fun (and smart) team. They may also put their own team of 10 together.

Those attending should bring their own appetizers and desserts and plan for a night of fun. Groups are encouraged to come up with a creative team name and decorate their table.

Pop and water will be complimentary. A full cash bar will be available (due to state excise laws, absolutely no alcohol may be brought into the event). All guests

must be 21 years of age or older.

Sponsorship opportunities are available. For information, contact the Development and Alumni Office at mschreck@bishopdwenger.com or at (260) 496-4775.

Lilly Endowment gives \$1 million to Ancilla College

INDIANAPOLIS — Ancilla College, Indiana's only private, associate's degree granting college, has been awarded a \$1 million grant from Lilly Endowment Inc. The grant is one of 39 provided by the endowment to the state's accredited colleges and universities as part of its Initiative to Expand Opportunities Through Educational Collaborations. The grants, totaling \$62.7 million, will provide a significant boost to the schools' efforts to enhance and expand opportunities for college graduates to find meaningful employment in Indiana.

"We are very excited to receive this grant and appreciate the endowment's long support of education in Indiana," Dr. Joanna F. Blount, dean of academic and student services at Ancilla, explained.

Ancilla will implement a three-pronged approach to enhancing educational opportunities for its stu-

dents: "Pathways for high school students that decrease the time it takes them to complete degrees, internships that enhance skill development and lead to paid positions, and seamless transitions for students who transfer to senior institutions," Blount said.

"We plan to do this by enhancing dual credit and early bird opportunities with local high schools and implementing two computer information systems degrees that lead to certifications in networking and web development," she said.

The college will also work with regional employers to develop internship opportunities. "Our ultimate goal is to increase college completion, provide internships for students and employers, and keep local talent in Indiana," she said.

Also, as part of the grant, Ancilla is developing a northern Indiana regional Healthcare Training Center that will offer healthcare-related certificates like Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) and Qualified Medication Aide (QMA) programs.

St. Bavo Parish captures zeal of New Evangelization

MISHAWAKA — St. Bavo Parish in Mishawaka held a fundraiser Dec. 14 for the Church in Uganda. For almost 10 years, the parish has given support — mainly financial — to various apostolic projects in Uganda.

The specific project being promoted Dec. 14 was providing scholarships for the education of Ugandan orphans. The gym was packed with parishioners, mostly younger couples for trivia night "for God and Uganda!" St. Bavo's raised \$5,000, enabling 40 Ugandan orphans to attend school for another term.

The evening began with an opening prayer led by St. Bavo's pastor, Father Barry England, who asked the Lord to continue to bless the work of lay pastoral associate Gus Zuehlke, who helped organize the event.

Zuehlke gave a short witness to the work he had been doing, with the support of the parish, to help the Ugandan Church. It began with a retreat he gave to the Ugandan parliament and a visit to the northern Uganda war zone, during which he came within earshot of the fighting. Through Zuehlke's apostolate, St. Bavo has been implementing the "Church as field hospital" idea of Pope Francis, going to where the need is great.

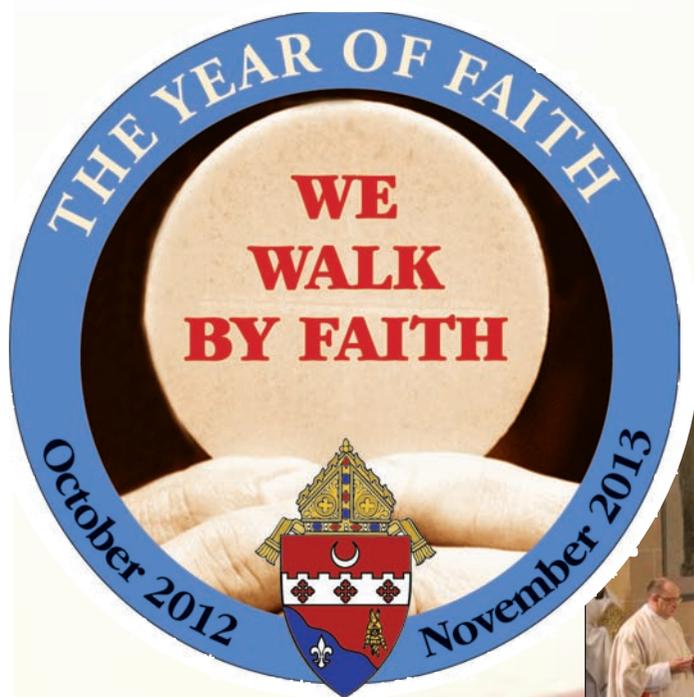
"Bavo's was a Church as field hospital before it was fashionable," Zuehlke said.

"St. Bavo's is also a church of what Pope Francis calls 'encounter with Christ,'" Zuehlke said noting additional projects conforming to the New Evangelization. "For years, Christ Renews His Parish has been giving conversion retreats. Over 300 parishioners have participated. We also have sponsored youth retreats with our Antioch group. About 1,000 young persons have encountered Christ on these retreats. Gradually, we have moved on from the 'pay, pray and obey' consciousness of pre-Vatican II lay life to Vatican II's 'priest, prophet, king' way of understanding and living the Gospel."

"Our pastor, Father Barry, has provided wise and steady leadership in our efforts," Zuehlke said. "He is a humble shepherd who introduces people to Christ and to one another. The ARISE program has also helped move things forward in the direction of the implementation of Vatican II."

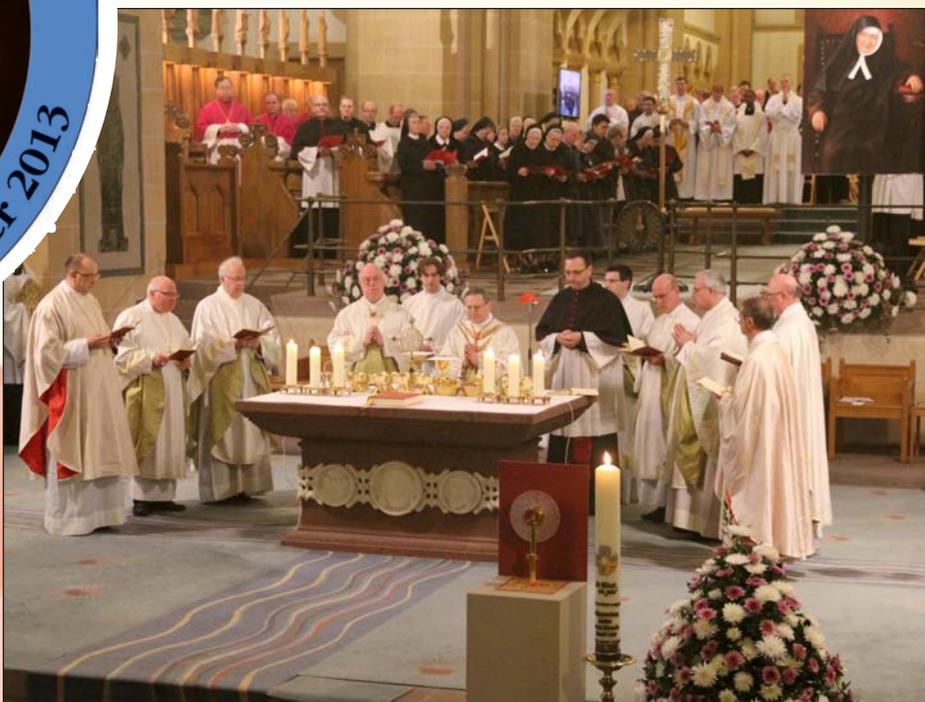
"Of course, all of this is done as part of the New Evangelization," Zuehlke said. "We had been doing this sort of evangelization for years, and then the popes started talking about doing it. We felt on the one hand that this was confirmation of what we already were doing. And on the other hand it enabled us to go deeper in this direction. And we are excited about the future."

A LOOK BACK AT A YEAR OF FAITH



The Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, in response to Pope Benedict XVI's Year of Faith initiative, developed a mobile app for all ages for iPhone and Mobile device users that offered daily reflections from local and national voices. It was well received and inspired the faithful near and far.

Mother Maria Theresia Bonzel, foundress of the Sisters of St. Francis of Perpetual Adoration, was beatified at a Mass concelebrated by Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades in Paderborn, Germany, on Sunday, Nov. 10. Of the over 100 sisters in attendance were 47 from Mishawaka.



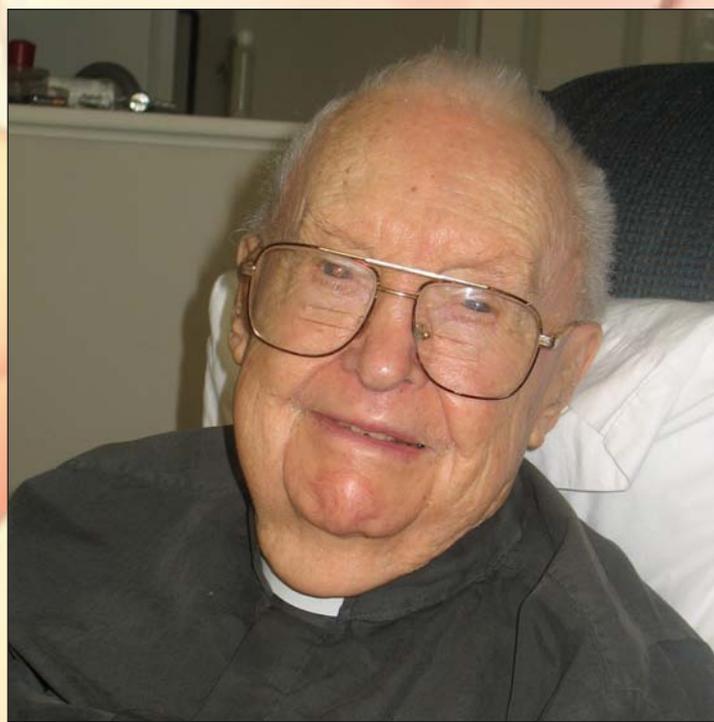
CNS PHOTO/COURTESY OF PDP-ERZBISTUM PADERBORN



Christopher Raymond Lapp was ordained into the priesthood by Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades at the Mass of Ordination at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Fort Wayne.

"The Light is on for a diocesan-wide event on Nov. 6 opened all parishes at 6-8 p.m. for the sacrament of Reconciliation and was considered a "time of grace."

During a ceremony that was the culmination of a special Marian Day organized for the Year of Faith, Pope Francis formally entrusted the world to Mary in St. Peter's Square.



VINCE LABARBERA

Father Robert L. Traub, longtime diocesan priest celebrated his 100th birthday on Aug. 23 with a special Mass celebrated by Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades and concelebrated by other priests of the diocese at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Fort Wayne.

The Sisters of St. Francis of Perpetual Adoration celebrated their 150th jubilee with regional events including a special Mass in the St. Francis Chapel in Mishawaka on Sept. 29 and in Fort Wayne at the University of Saint Francis on Oct. 13.



KEVIN HAGGENJOS

Pope Francis announced July 5 he will canonize Pope John Paul II and Pope John XXIII saints. The canonization is slated for April 27, 2014.

Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades celebrated a special Closing Mass for the Year of Faith at St. Matthew Cathedral in South Bend on Nov. 24 where he offered an apostolic blessing on the faithful and revealed an opportunity for obtaining a plenary indulgence.

ITH IN 2013

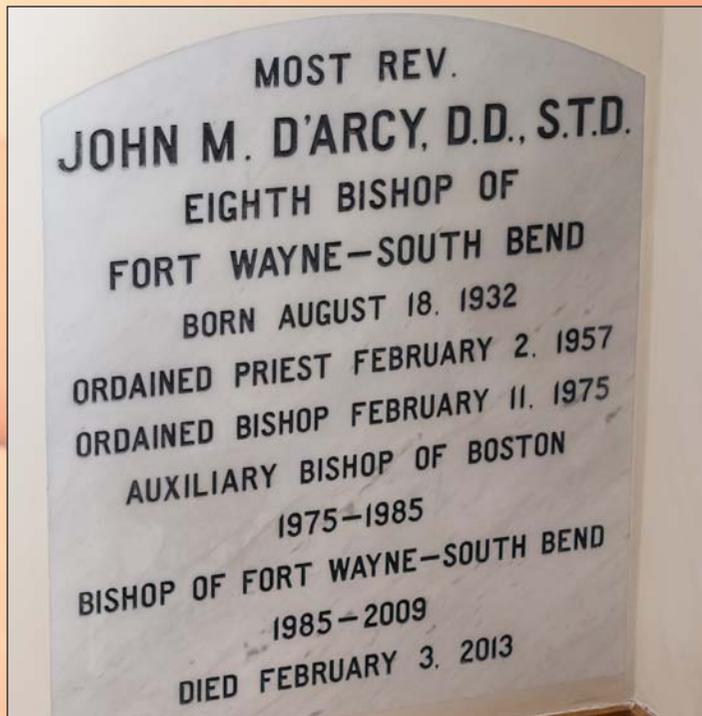


JOE ROMIE

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The second annual Fortnight for Freedom, two weeks from June 21 to July 4, of prayer, education and action in support of religious freedom, opened with Mass, celebrated by Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades, at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Fort Wayne on June 22. The fortnight concluded July 4 with a Mass at St. Matthew Cathedral in South Bend,.



JOE ROMIE

Bishop John M. D'Arcy, bishop of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend for 28 years, died of cancer on Feb. 3. A Mass of transferal was celebrated at St. Matthew Cathedral in South Bend on Feb. 6 and a funeral Mass was celebrated at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Fort Wayne by Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades on Feb. 8. Bishop D'Arcy was entombed in the crypt of the cathedral.

Pope Francis' first encyclical "Lumen Fidei" ("The Light of Faith"), released July 5, is a celebration of Christian faith as the guiding light, inspiring social action as well as devotion to God. Publication of the encyclical was one of the most awaited events of the Year of Faith. Most of the encyclical was written by Pope Benedict XVI.



KAY COZAD

Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades ordained Zachary Barry as deacon at the Mass of Ordination to the Sacred Order of the Diaconate at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Fort Wayne on May 25.



CNS PHOTO/PAUL HARING

Pope Francis appears for the first time on the central balcony of St. Peter's Basilica at the Vatican March 13. Cardinal Jorge Mario Bergoglio of Argentina was elected the 266th Roman Catholic pontiff. He is the first Jesuit and first Latin American pope.

Argentine Cardinal Jorge Mario Bergoglio, 76, was elected the 266th pope on March 13 and took the name Francis. He succeeded Pope Benedict XVI, who retired.

Pope Benedict announced Feb. 11 that he would resign at the end of February after an eight-year pontificate. He said he no longer had the strength to exercise ministry over the universal Church. Pope Benedict XVI greets a crowd gathered for his arrival in Castel Gandolfo, Italy, Feb. 28. It was his final public appearance before he drew to a close his papacy. "I am a simple pilgrim who begins the last stage of his pilgrimage on this earth," he said. He was the first pope in more than 600 years to resign.



CNS

More than 1,200 consumer complaints against South Bend abortion doctor

'Backup' doctor terminates relationship

SOUTH BEND —

Representatives from Indiana Right to Life, St. Joseph County Right to Life and the South Bend pro-life community announced at a press conference Dec. 19 more than 1,200 consumer complaints against South Bend Women's Pavilion doctor, Dr. Ulrich Klopfer. Each complaint is the result of errors or omissions found on terminated pregnancy reports provided by the Indiana State Department of Health for abortions performed by Klopfer between July 2011 and June 2013.

The complainants include 16 women from St. Joseph County. In their complaints, they are requesting the immediate suspension of Klopfer's medical license, pending a full investigation. Local Right to Life leaders are requesting a meeting of the county prosecutor as he has the authority to bring criminal charges against Klopfer. Indiana law states that failure to complete and submit the report on time carries a Class B misdemeanor charge.

In October, 17 women filed nearly 500 complaints against Klopfer for errors and omissions on reports regarding Allen County abortions, and on Dec. 3, 20 women filed more than 600 complaints against Klopfer for errors and omissions on reports regarding Lake County abortions.

"The sheer numbers of errors and omissions on these terminated pregnancy reports cannot be ignored," said Tom Gill, president of St. Joseph County Right to Life. "A few errors and omissions could be understandable, but 1,590 is unacceptable. If Dr. Ulrich Klopfer can't get his paperwork in order, how can he run a business that profits from invasive surgical procedures on women?"

"These errors and omissions are careless and we call on authorities to investigate why this doctor has been submitting reports with substantial errors and omissions for years," Gill added.

"Today's complaints show that Dr. Klopfer is demonstrating sloppy work at all three of his abortion facilities," said Mike Fichter, president and CEO of Indiana Right to Life. "We thought a combined 1,100 errors and omissions from Lake and Allen Counties was alarming, but here the total number is an astounding 1,590. Terminated pregnancy reports are important for health and safety accountability measures at these facilities. Dr. Klopfer's pattern of sloppy reports shows he doesn't fully value the health and safety of

his patients."

"Proper reports are important to our community and to the health and safety of women seeking abortions," said Jeanette Burdell, program director of St. Joseph County Right to Life. "This isn't the first time the community has learned that Dr. Klopfer has failed to meet state-required reporting requirements. Dr. Klopfer has also improperly reported abortions on 13-year-olds as required by law to protect young girls from child abuse. We call on the state and local authorities to take action immediately."

On Dec. 12, the Allen County Right to Life learned that Klopfer was losing his relationship with his legally-required physician designee, or "back-up" doctor. Dr. Geoffrey Cly, OB/GYN, notified Klopfer in a letter dated Dec. 12 that he was terminating his relationship as physician designee effective Dec. 31, 2013, because of Klopfer's handling of 13-year-old abortions.

The Allen County Patient Safety Ordinance (Title 10, Article 10) requires doctors practicing but not residing in the county to have a relationship with a local doctor who can legally practice in Allen County. Additionally, state law requires abortion doctors to have local admitting privileges or have entered into an agreement with a physician who has admitting privileges at a hospital in the county or contiguous county concerning the management of possible complications of the services provided.

Cly, a pro-life physician who is board certified in obstetrics and gynecology, became Klopfer's physician designee in September 2010 because of his desire to protect the health and safety of any woman who may have a complication due to an abortion. As Klopfer's physician designee, Cly would have cared for any of Klopfer's patients with medical complications or situations arising after an abortion if Klopfer was not available. Klopfer resides in Crete, Ill., and leaves Fort Wayne immediately after he performs abortions.

The Fort Wayne *News Sentinel* reported Dec. 27, that Klopfer will take a "hiatus" from performing abortions in Fort Wayne but plans to resume when a replacement for Dr. Cly is named.

Today's Catholic staff contributed to this report.

Right to Life rallies, marches and activities

The Elkhart County Right to Life will hold its third annual Rally and March for Life on Saturday, Jan. 11, at 12 p.m. in the Lerner Theater, 410 S. Main St., Elkhart.

Angela Minter will be the keynote speaker.

Minter is a born again Christian and the wife of her high school sweetheart, Parnell. They have enjoyed over two decades of marriage and are blessed with three wonderful children. Angela and Parnell also lost two pre-born babies to abortion while in their teens. They bear the scars of abortion, which only heightens Minter's commitment to pre-born babies, their parents and families. Minter discovered later in life that her parents had attempted to abort her.

Her story is one of forgive-

ness and healing through Christ. Minter is the founder and executive director of Sisters For Life. Sisters For Life is a Christian, non-profit organization based in Louisville, Ky., and is inspired by God to take a holistic approach in advocating for pre-born babies, and mothers and fathers that are faced with an unplanned or crisis pregnancy. They are also advocates for God's family values and believe God has a good plan and purpose for every life and family. Sisters For Life's goal is to serve and assist them in fulfilling that plan.

Testimonies from the "Silent No More Awareness" members will be included.

The march will follow the rally.

Minter will also speak at the 40th annual Fort Wayne

March for Life on Saturday, Jan. 18, beginning at 12 p.m. at the University of Saint Francis Performing Arts Center, 421 W. Berry St.

After the rally, attendees will march through downtown Fort Wayne and conclude at the Federal Building to hear Silent No More Awareness Campaign post-abortion testimonies.

The Knights of Columbus will sponsor a bus trip to the 41st National March for Life in Washington, D.C. Pro-lifers will depart from several locations around Indiana for Washington, D.C., for the national march. Non-members are welcome on this trip. For more information visit www.indianakofc.org or call Michael Velasco at (219) 663-0509.

MSGR. HEINTZ BLESSES NEW OFFICES OF ST. JOSEPH COUNTY RIGHT TO LIFE



TOM UEBBING

Msgr. Michael Heintz, rector of St. Matthew Cathedral, blesses the new offices of St. Joseph County Right to Life in South Bend on Dec. 17. The organization is now strategically located at 2004 Ironwood Circle, Suite 130, South Bend, next to the Women's Pavilion abortion business. Left of Msgr. Heintz is Jeanette Burdell, the new program director, and to her left, John Kominkiewicz.

CONSUMER COMPLAINTS PRESENTED AT PRESS CONFERENCE



TOM UEBBING

Jeanette Burdell, program director of the St. Joseph County Right To Life, stands at the podium surrounded by University of Notre Dame Right to Life officers, Marian High School students and former students and pro-life supporters who were present for a press conference Dec. 19 announcing consumer complaints attached to Terminated Pregnancy Reports. The reports were reviewed by Right-to-Life members and highlighted for errors and omissions. There are 1,202 complaints citing 1,590 total errors and omissions between the 1,202 Terminated Pregnancy Reports found containing mistakes.

Christmas season and private suffering

The Christmas season is still upon us, albeit coming to a close. Traditionally the 12 days of Christmas is celebrated from Christmas Day through the Epiphany, the coming of the three kings on Jan. 6. The Church closes the season with the Baptism of the Lord, which is Jan. 12 this year.

While the Christmas season usually brings much joy and celebration (rightfully) surrounding the commemoration of Christ's birth, and happiness abounds as families gather to share a meal and presents, sometimes, on one Christmas season or another, we experience deep sadness or pain. A loved one dies close to the holiday. A grown child strays. A disease is diagnosed. In my own life, my first Christmas as a married woman was like this — I experienced a miscarriage on Christmas day and spent the afternoon in the emergency room at the hospital.

Not every Christmas is going to be like the holiday depicted on a Currier and Ives plate. Sometimes, devastating circumstances can be thrust upon us this time of year. Crushingly devastating.

When this happens, we are prone to feeling something close to despair, especially as the festivities wane and the world seems to be getting back, matter-of-factly, to ordinary life. Have you ever felt like this?

What do you do when something catastrophic hits you? When you have failed? When clearly your goals and efforts have not been met by an outcome you worked for and desired? When your robust and determined energies have not been enough? When something — physical, emotional or spiritual — comes upon you suddenly, and painfully, and is out of your control, juxtaposed against the gaiety of Christmas joy? When sickness,



Theresa A. Thomas

EVERYDAY CATHOLIC

spiritual or physical, invades your life? Or, when fresh grief is so severe you feel you cannot take another breath, you cannot eat and you cannot sleep? When, while you haven't completely given up, you are unable to know really how you are supposed to carry on, with such a heavy heart. With questions unanswered. With wondering what you could have or should have done to make things different.

You long for the typical troubles of the typical family this

EVERYDAY, PAGE 12

Cold hands, young heart: the wonder of winter

Just when you think you've seen everything — every lion hugging human, every shark-eluding seal — the World Wide Web churns out a picture that makes you stare.

We process a barrage of images so glibly that it takes something special to keep us from skipping and scrolling right by. And yet here it was: a Twitter link that led to a Flickr page of super-magnified snowflakes dripping and fluttering in remarkable intricacy.

Despite their commonality as symmetrical, six-pointed crystals, their diversity is staggering, no two even close to alike: a boxy hexagon, a dainty doily, a set of arrows, a regal crown ready to enshrine emeralds.

Elizabeth Scalia, a Benedictine Oblate I follow on Twitter, had already responded to the snowflakes. "When I first saw these pictures, all I could think was, 'Look! Pictures of Christ!'" she had blogged. "The snowflakes are ordered. They are visibly, perfectly ordered, like Christ. And as with Christ, you can see the whole world in them. Butterflies and flowers, dragonflies and stingers and crescents, stars, arrows and feathers and leaves, sand dollars, beetles and tents and cathedrals and even people."

I emailed the link to my friend Sister Mary, a Dominican sister from San Francisco who recently moved to St. Paul, Minn., and seemed alarmed by our recent cold snap. Perhaps their beauty would soften their bite. "It is incredible that every snowflake and every grain of sand is unique," she wrote back. "What an awesome God we have!"

We are in the midst of a white winter here, Sister Mary can attest, and for me, the snowfall never gets old, filling me with childlike glee and recalling the magic of a snow day, one fell swoop that could wipe away 12 hours of well-set plans. You were going to put on jeans and sit through social studies and then hustle through basketball practice? Nah, let's keep you in those nice, warm pajamas a few more hours and then send you outside to build a snow fort!



Christina Capecchi

TWENTY SOMETHING

Each time I spot flurries, I step away from my desk and entertain the urge to grab my camera and photograph the old oak out back that somehow looks new again. The other day I discovered an Anne Sexton quote that conveys it well: "I am younger each year at the first snow. When I see it, suddenly, in the air, all little and white and moving, then I am in love again and very young and I believe everything."

Beauty leads to belief, and the footbridge is a youthful sense of wonder, inviting us to pause from the day's demands and simply delight. As young adults distancing ourselves from college, we can be consumed by practicalities — rent, insurance, a 401k — and we barrel toward the future with our heads down and elbows pumping. We mistake growing more serious for growing wiser. We starve our imaginations. It's all made worse by the fact that we, as a species, now largely live indoors, glued to tiny electronics and oversized TVs, stuck in a kind of second-hand existence.

This winter I am compelled to venture outside, to feel cold, alert and alive. Last week I almost succumbed to an impulse buy of snowshoes beckoning from a Sam's Club endcap. And I'm framing the Dec. 30, 2013, *New Yorker* cover, an illustration of Pope Francis making a snow angel, as a symbol of levity in the great outdoors. My mom is celebrating her retirement on a dogsledding trip near the Canadian border. I'll be content to stand below a full moon and let its cloudy light drip down.

Christina Capecchi is a freelance writer from Inver Grove Heights, Minn. She can be reached at www.ReadChristina.com.

Hope for salvation through Jesus



THE SUNDAY GOSPEL

Msgr. Owen F. Campion

Feast of the Epiphany Mt 2:1-12

This weekend the Church invites us to celebrate the feast of the Epiphany of the Lord, one of the most revered feasts in the Christian calendar.

Clear and distinct in the first reading from the third section of the Book of Isaiah is a brilliantly triumphant note. Why? The long, dreary exile of the faithful Hebrews in Babylon has ended.

It was not all rejoicing, however. For those who returned to the Holy Land, life was not easy. The land was decimated.

Despite this, the prophet insists, a new day will come! It is not necessarily a prediction of material success, although this would be a part of it. Rather, the new day will come when the chosen people will realize their vocation. Then, as they return to God, the world will see the majesty and power of the great God of Israel.

For its second reading, this liturgy presents a selection from the Epistle to the Ephesians. In the first generations after Jesus, as converts increased the numbers of the Christian community, great interest began understandably to surround the question of who was the object of the salvation secured by the Lord.

Prompting this interest was the fact that so many new converts were from pagan backgrounds.

Very soon, these Christians outnumbered the Jewish Christians.

Part of the message of Jesus was that throughout the ages God had spoken through, and to, the chosen people, namely the descendants of Abraham, the Hebrews — but to the world. Gentiles could expect salvation.

This is the promise underlying this reading. The salvation procured by Jesus is open to any human being.

St. Matthew's Gospel furnishes the last reading, the story of the Magi who came from the "East" to find, and then to adore, the newborn "king of the Jews." The story is unique to Matthew. None of the other three Gospels reports such a visit.

The story situates Jesus, the newborn Son of Mary, in the great train of God's saving works. Jesus was born in Bethlehem, the birthplace of David, who as king established his own covenant with God. David ruled the chosen people, but he was much more than a political leader. His task was to bring the people to God, God to the people.

The Magi were searching for the "King of the Jews." The title re-appears in the stories of Jesus offered in the Gospels. It is inscribed on the placard that was placed atop the cross as Jesus was dying. His entire life on earth was to complete the mission of divine salvation.

Finally, who were the Magi? No one knows exactly. Where was their home? We know only that they came from the mysterious East. How many of them? Tradition says three. The Gospel is silent.

The point is that they were searching for truth, for God, and they found both in Jesus.

Reflection

At the time of Jesus, relying upon the divine revelation given the Jews through the centuries, salvation with its promise of God's mercy and eternal life was seen as being primarily, if not exclusively, available to the chosen people. After all, Jesus was a Jew, born of a Jewish mother. Could people of other nationalities expect to be saved?

The message of this feast, drawn from these readings, is that all people may hope for salvation through Jesus. None is preferred. All are beloved.

Nationality is no longer so much the issue, but sin, fear, guilt or indifference separate people from God or from a sense of being with God.

On this feast, the Church calls us to come to the Lord, born of Mary, the King of the Jews, the lamb slain on Calvary. He belongs to us all. God loves us all.

READINGS

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

Monday: 1 Jn 3:22-4:6 Ps 2:7-8, 10-12a Mt 4:12-17, 23-25

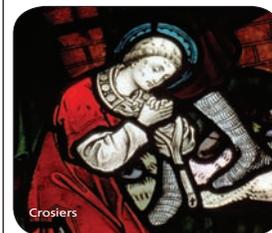
Tuesday: 1 Jn 4:7-10 Ps 72:1-4, 7-8 Mk 6:34-44

Wednesday: 1 Jn 4:11-18 Ps 72:1-2, 10, 12-13 Mk 6:45-52

Thursday: 1 Jn 4:19 - 5:4 Ps 72:1-2, 14, 15bc, 17 Lk 4:14-22a

Friday: 1 Jn 5:5-13 Ps 147:12-15, 19-20 Lk 5:12-16

Saturday: 1 Jn 5:14-21 Ps 149:1-6a, 9b Jn 3:22-30



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.

Cardinal George: an anniversary appreciation

When Francis Eugene George first sought admission to the Chicago seminary in the 1950s, Chicago Catholicism imagined itself the future of the Catholic Church in the western world — and not without reason. A lot of the ferment in Catholic intellectual, liturgical and pastoral life that would eventually produce the Second Vatican Council had already passed through Cook and Lake Counties in the previous two decades. Thus “this confident Church” (as one historian of Chicago Catholicism dubbed it) readily imagined itself the cutting-edge of the Catholic future: where Chicago was, the rest of the Church would eventually be. It was a conceit, to be sure; but it was a conceit with some institutional and pastoral foundation.

Now, as he marks his golden anniversary of priestly ordination on Dec. 21, Cardinal Francis E. George, OMI, the first native Chicagoan to lead what many still regard as the flagship American diocese, is best known, in some circles at least, for proposing the possibility of a very different Catholic future. He sketched it starkly for a group of priests, to illustrate the implications of radical secularization for America: “I will die in bed, my successor will die in prison, and his successor will die as a martyr in the public square. His successor will pick up the shards of a ruined society and slowly help rebuild civilization, as the Church has done so often in human history.”

There have likely been moments when my friend Cardinal George has rued the day he publicly engaged in that thought-exercise. Many 21st

century Catholics are reluctant to think outside their comfort-zones; the blogosphere can distort anything. Yet the arresting way he formulated that possible future, and especially its net result, gets us to the essence of Francis Eugene George, I suggest.

By the time Francis George became its bishop in 1997, the “confident Church” of Chicago had become a shaken Church: pastoral practice was slack; practice of the faith, by such elementary measures as Sunday Mass attendance and frequency of sacramental Confession, had taken a severe hit; the seminary was in various forms of distress. Cardinal George addressed these and other problems in the face of ecclesiastical resistance (both clerical and lay), an increasingly challenging public environment, and a deteriorating culture. Yet even after a difficult decade of working to restore Catholic practice in the Windy City, Cardinal George remained confident that, even if the worst should happen down the line, the Catholic Church would not only survive but become one of the agents of society’s renewal. And the cardinal’s confidence rested, not on the vast institutional network that buttressed the “confident Church” of his boyhood, but on his faith in the Lord’s promise that the Holy Spirit would always be with the Church, calling it to conversion and mission, to the works of charity and service.

Francis Eugene George is a man of well-honed, critical intelligence. But to focus solely on the man of intellect can sometimes obscure the deeper truth that he is a man of profound faith: the cross-centered faith that supports



THE CATHOLIC DIFFERENCE

GEORGE WEIGEL

the remarkable physical courage of this polio survivor who must bear regular pain; the faith in divine mercy that allows him to say, without blush, that “the most important conversations on the planet” take place in the confessional; the evangelically alert faith that has led him to support such bold initiatives as Father Robert Barron’s “Word on Fire” media ministry and its remarkable “Catholicism” series; the ecclesial faith that made him an effective leader of the U.S. bishops, preparing the way for the work of Cardinal Timothy Dolan and many others.

He may well be the most intellectually sophisticated bishop in U.S. Catholic history; he certainly has shown keen insight into the sources of America’s current crisis of public culture. Yet as he marks the 50th anniversary of the day when he became a priest of the Church, an icon of the eternal priesthood of Christ, it is as a brother in Christ whose faith-based Christian courage gives courage to others that I wish to salute him.

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

EVERYDAY

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11

time of year — where to store the extra garland picked up at a sale at Target, when to fit in writing all the thank you notes necessary from the holiday, and how to clean everything up quickly and efficiently after a busy celebratory season, first world problems for sure. If only that were all you had to worry about.

I realize most people don’t think of suffering when they think of Christmas, but so often it is there — buried perhaps behind a polite smile, simmering under a sincere but double edged Merry Christmas. In fact, that very first Christmas, in its amazement and joy and prophecy fulfilled was soon laced with sorrow as the evil King Herod hunted down to find baby Jesus. He wanted to kill Him. In fact, from the beginning, the Christmas story was mixed with suffering — weary travelers finding no place at the inn:

A pregnant wife, uncomfortable from an uncertain journey, an evil king seeking death for an infant child, a husband waking his wife in the night and sneaking out to escape an evil plan against them.

Suffering continues to be a mystery in all of our lives, and many times it doesn’t make sense in a logical mind. 1 + 1 = 2. If I do A and B, then C should be the result, but sometimes it isn’t. And why do innocent people suffer? Why does catastrophe strike some but not others? And, of course, we all ask, even if just quietly in our hearts, Why me?

I don’t know. Tomes have been written on the subject of suffering, its meaning and its reason. And many more books will be written on the subject for sure. Why? Why? I don’t know. But I know God loves us and is with us in it. That’s all I can offer.

In your sorrow, in your suffering, in mine, we can find hope in the newborn Jesus. Like Mary and Joseph, we don’t understand the circumstances thrust in our lives at this time, at this juncture

in history, even with our best intentions, even when we don’t feel we ‘deserve’ the suffering or pain. And like Mary and Joseph we trust in God’s providence. One step at a time we take our lives in faith, like the donkey led by Joseph into Bethlehem, like the kings who followed an uncertain star. Step by step, in faith, slowly, we too will find Him.

The Christmas season, beginning on Christmas day and ending with the Baptism of the Lord, Jan. 12, is a time of hope, punctuating warmth into the cold of winter.

If you have a private sorrow, the Christmas season and Epiphany is still for you. In fact, it is especially for you.

Have hope. He loves you and came for you.

Theresa Thomas is the wife of David and mother of nine children. Watch for her newest book “Big Hearted Families” (Scepter) and read more on her blog: <http://theresathomas.wordpress.com/>

SCRIPTURE SEARCH

Gospel for January 5, 2014

Matthew 2:1-12

Following is a word search based on the Gospel reading for Epiphany Sunday, Cycle A, the wise men visit Bethlehem and Jerusalem. The words can be found in all directions in the puzzle.

HEROD	JERUSALEM	HOMAGE
CHIEF	PRIESTS	SCRIBES
PEOPLE	BE BORN	BETHLEHEM
JUDEA	WRITTEN	NO MEANS
SHEPHERD	DILIGENTLY	STOPPED
HOUSE	MOTHER	OFFERED
GIFTS	WARNED	A DREAM

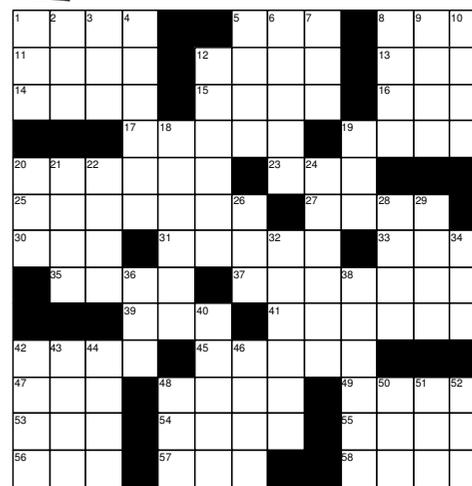
FROM HEROD

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

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The CrossWord

January 5 and 12, 2014



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Based on these readings:

Is 60: 1-6; Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6; Mt 2:1-12 and Is 42: 1-4, 6-7; Acts 10: 34-38; Mt 3: 13-17

ACROSS

- 1 Devil has a forked one
- 5 Central nervous system
- 8 Evil
- 11 Fairy tale opener
- 12 Joseph had one of many colors
- 13 Kimono sash
- 14 Raise eyes & look about (Is 6)
- 15 First man
- 16 Bishop’s area
- 17 Shrub
- 19 Book of the Apostles
- 20 TV or VCR “clicker”
- 23 Doctoral degree
- 25 Employee wage list

- 27 Incense has a distinctive one
- 30 Clock time
- 31 David wrote many
- 33 Raise the ante
- 35 Citizen
- 37 Symbol of Christ
- 39 Waggle
- 41 Glistening
- 42 How Holy Spirit often appeared
- 45 Cowboy show
- 47 Vane direction
- 48 Notre ___ Cathedral
- 49 Defunct football league
- 53 Airport abbr.
- 54 Won

- 55 Cart for hauling heavy things
- 56 Pain unit
- 57 Rooster’s mate
- 58 Building lot

DOWN

- 1 St. Peter’s stau in Rome has a worn one
- 2 Some
- 3 Frost
- 4 Proprietor
- 5 Musical repeat
- 6 Civil rights group
- 7 Short-term memory
- 8 Pear type
- 9 A wager (2 wds.)
- 10 Unless grain of wheat does
- 12 Magi’s animals
- 18 St. Thomas More’s city
- 19 Adorn
- 20 Revolutions per minute
- 21 Direction Magi came from
- 22 Fable
- 24 Honor Magi gave Baby
- 26 Around track
- 28 Band instrument
- 29 Costa ___
- 32 Choice besides unleaded
- 34 Dam
- 36 Respect for God
- 38 Thick ones cover the people in darkness
- 40 God’s blessings
- 42 Accomplishment
- 43 “___ to us a child is given”
- 44 Young beef
- 46 Sign
- 48 Morse code “T”
- 50 ___ Lanka
- 51 Not thin
- 52 Caustic substance

Answer Key can be found on page 15

Sports

EIGHT COUGARS EARN DAKTRONICS NAIA SCHOLAR ATHLETE STATUS University of Saint Francis Head Football Coach Kevin Donley announced that eight members of the 2013 USF football team have earned recognition for achievement in the classroom as well as the football field. They earned selection to the 2013 Daktronics NAIA Scholar Athlete team including three two-time selections in senior nose guard Matt Carden, senior outside linebacker Devon Rush and senior linebacker/special teams member Joe Torres. First time selections included senior Brett Guenther and juniors Antoin Campbell, Joey Dynako, Wesley Hunsucker and Micah Noble.

Cougars win ICCL Christmas Tournament

BY JOE KOZINSKI

ELKHART — The Inter-City Catholic League's Christmas Tournament brought more than gifts this season as teams squared off and played their hearts out during the holidays for the coveted championship.

As in years past, Holy Cross and St. Thomas the Apostle hosted the tournament with the finals being played at the eastside venue.

The finals would find the upstart Cougars of Corpus Christi matched up against a pride of Lions from St. Pius X, the only undefeated team in the league this season.

St. Pius X came out of the locker room poised and confident and it showed as their Walter Ellis knocked down the first bucket of the contest.

The Cougars played a little tight at first struggling from the full court pressure that was being applied, but somehow found a way as Alex Francoeur stroked a three late in the first stanza putting Corpus Christi up 7-6.

Both teams pushed back and forth through the second quarter; big inside baskets by Michael Godfrey of St. Pius X pushed the margin to three, 22-19, at intermission.

The third quarter saw a little wrinkle as the Lions played a pesky man-to-man defense. The Cougars countered with an aerial attack but still struggled for answers as the lead grew to four points.

The game heated up with just 3:04 on the clock. St. Pius X clung to a one-point lead when Corpus Christi got things going by defending and running the floor and when Marty Kennedy hit a baseline jumper, the Cougars had the lead for the first time in the second half.

St. Pius X would not relent as Zach Lattimer had a big three-point play the old-fashioned way by getting fouled on his shot in the lane and making a big free throw.

The Cougars' Francoeur would not back down and promptly hit a three pointer at the minute mark once again giving Corpus Christi the lead by one.

With ice water in his veins, Cougar Raulyn Wawrzyniak hit two big free throws and added another, pushing the lead to four. Ellis added another two points for



PROVIDED BY ANNE RICE

The sixth-grade boys' basketball team of St. Thomas the Apostle, Elkhart, was undefeated in four games during the Christmas holiday tournament Dec. 26-28. They defeated Holy Cross in the championship game, 35-29.

the Lions making the score 48-45 with time running out.

St. Pius X would have one more look at the basket and as the clock's final tick sounded, Lattimer's desperation three fell short in effect crowning the Cougars as the champions.

"St. Pius X is a good team and we really relied on our much improved zone defense. Our players were more aggressive and played with more confidence in the second half," explained Corpus Christi Coach John Kennedy. "I'm pretty happy. This was definitely a team win in all aspects of the game."

"You have to give credit to Corpus Christi. They played hard," remarked Lions' Coach

Gene Pilawski. "We are a little disappointed in the outcome, but we played a solid game."

"If there is such a thing as a good loss, this may be it. Hopefully it teaches our players the importance of playing hard every game against every opponent," added Pilawski. "I believe we can use this as a teaching point and be focused on the rest of the season and into the playoffs."

The consolation game featured a victory by the Mishawaka Catholic Saints and their balanced scoring attack (five players with five or more points) over the Blazers of St. Matthew and a 13-point output from Mason Talos, 32-22.

Lions remain undefeated as ICCL marks Week 3

SOUTH BEND, MISHAWAKA — As the holidays quickly approached the Inter-City Catholic League's boys' basketball season is almost one-third complete with teams taking full advantage of quick starts.

The Lions of St. Pius X jumped out to the only undefeated start by squeaking by St. Joseph by five as Walter Ellis tossed in 14 and despite the 11 scored by the Eagles' Josh De St. Jean.

Holy Cross remained atop the St. John Bosco Division by poaching the Falcons of St. Jude, 40-27, behind a 10-point outpouring from Antonio Blackman. Branson Bonnel led all scorers with 14.

Colin Jones and Adam Evans posted 13 points each as their Pumas from Queen of Peace dispatched the upstart St. Michael

squad and the 10 thrown in by Brady Holiday, 32-16.

Corpus Christi upended the Mishawaka Catholic Saints in a nail-biter, 36-34, with help from leading scorer Brady Power 18. Zack Whitfield netted 12 in the loss.

Mason Talso had a huge day for the Blazers of St. Matthew by connecting for 24 and securing the victory over their west side rivals, Holy Family, 47-22. Mason Ryans scored in double digits in the loss.

In other action; St. Anthony got past St. Adalbert, 42-15, and St. Thomas surged ahead of Christ the King, 36-23.

Regular season league play will continue on Sunday at Saint Joseph and Marian high schools. The complete schedule can be found at www.icclsports.org.

— Joe Kozinski

Queen of Angels' holiday tourney draws CYO teams

BY MICHELLE CASTLEMAN

FORT WAYNE — Several Catholic Youth Organization (CYO) teams and other Fort Wayne area hoopsters were busy over the Christmas break participating in a slew of games at the annual Queen of Angels Hoopsfest held at the University of Saint Francis.

This year's girls' champion for the 10-team field was St. John Emmanuel Lutheran School (Flatrock) from Monroeville. The powerful Tigers went undefeated slipping by St. Charles in the final, 27-23. Up 17-10 at the break, the Cardinals could not hang on in the second half after an impressive four-day run.

The Cardinals lost to Flatrock, 22-28, in the opening round, then battled their way out of the losers' bracket all the way to the championship with wins over St. Vincent 7, 28-8, St. John the Baptist, Fort Wayne, 51-12, St. John the Baptist, New Haven, 44-26, St. Joseph-Hessen Cassel, 38-25, and the third-place team, St. Rose/St. Louis, 43-19, before facing the Tigers one more time.

"We have lots to work to keep us busy in practice for a while," explained Coach Kurt Patterson. The scrappy Cardinals ring in the new year with a 9-4 record.

St. Charles lists 11 on their eighth-grade roster, but missed point guard, Grady Clark, at the tournament. The team is averaging just over 36 points per game with balanced scoring between Faith Taylor, Alice Talarico, Claudia Ream and Victoria Fisher. Patterson feels Kate Barrow is quickly improving her post presence on both sides of the ball, while Isabella McGillicuddy and Kennedy O'Boyle are provid-

ing strong post depth.

He continued, "Emily Shearer had a solid tournament and should be able to provide additional depth to our guards."

Besides the two losses to Flatrock, Maple Creek and East Noble have also beaten St. Charles.

"Right now we continue to practice, play games and uncover weaknesses. We work on those issues during practice and repeat. Although we see the court well at times, make good decisions and execute, we need to be more consistent. We apply some pretty good pressure on the ball in the full court and are working hard to develop our half-court defense and rebounding. Our goal is to peak in February. Hopefully, we will have improved enough by then to make a run in the CYO tournament," he added.

Patterson concluded, "We really enjoy working with this group of girls. They work hard, listen and are a lot of fun."

Six seventh-grade boys' squads duked it out with St. Jude winning it all, but not without a fight from St. Joseph, Decatur.

The two teams from opposite brackets had to play each other three times in the tournament with the Eagles winning the first meeting, 28-23. The Commodores then beat Canterbury, 37-31, to advance from the losers' bracket and hand the Eagles their first loss, 37-44, which forced the final matchup in the double elimination tournament.

In the eighth grade, eight-school tournament, several CYO teams had strong showings, but it was St. Paul Lutheran School who claimed victories over St. Jude, St. Charles 8, St. Charles 7 and St. Vincent, to remain unbeaten and sail through the brackets to a championship.



MICHELLE CASTLEMAN

The ladies from St. Charles shake hands after a win over St. Rose/St. Louis in the annual Hoopsfest tournament.

Father Robert Barron's 'Catholicism: The New Evangelization' available as study program through media outlets

"Catholicism: The New Evangelization," the second installment of Word On Fire's new documentary and multimedia formation program, was released this past September and focuses on the challenges the Church faces today, such as the emergence of "the new atheism" and relativistic attitudes toward questions of faith and morality.

The initial documentary, "Catholicism," illustrated what the Church believes and why. "Catholicism: The New Evangelization" demonstrates how to put faith into action in today's increasingly secular world. It examines the factors that have created this secularized culture, and outlines specific action steps for Catholics who want to share the Faith with others.

Father Robert Barron created and hosted the original "Catholicism" series and formation

program, which was released in the fall of 2011. Now he has built on that foundation to provide a program that focuses on actively sharing the beauty, goodness and truth of Catholicism with our contemporary Western culture.

"While the content of the Apostolic Faith remains the same, all Catholics are called to share it with new ardor, new expressions and new methods," said Father Barron. "We need to reach out to those in our culture and invite them to know Christ and also reach out to those who have already been baptized, but have drifted. We are called to awaken their faith and bring them closer to Jesus Christ and to His Church."

Presented in classic documentary style, Father Barron is joined by young, active Catholics as well as notable Catholic leaders and thinkers. Many leading commentators on faith and culture are interviewed,

such as Brad Gregory, author of "The Unintended Reformation," Ross Douthat, author of "Bad Religion," and George Weigel, papal biographer and author of the recently-released "Evangelical Catholicism."

Father Barron showcases numerous examples of individuals and groups proclaiming the Gospel with creativity and innovation. Whether it's in the United States, England or Australia, the film shows the Church alive with a renewed spirit, talking about the Lord with new expressions, and reaching out globally with new media.

The 90-minute DVD was released last September and starts with the definition and history of the New Evangelization, and then takes viewers on a world tour to witness examples of new ardor, new expressions and new methods. "Catholicism: The New

Evangelization" is accompanied by a study program for adult faith formation, which was written by Brandon Vogt, author of "The Church and the New Media" and a well-known Catholic blogger and advocate of the Church's evangelization efforts via the new media.

The original "Catholicism" series aired across the country on PBS and EWTN, and has been seen and broadcast in parishes, schools and media outlets throughout the world. The documentary received a Christopher Award for excellence.

Father Robert Barron is an author, speaker and theologian. He is also the founder of the global media ministry Word On Fire,

which reaches millions of people by utilizing the tools of new media to draw people into or back to the Catholic Faith. He currently serves as the rector-president of Mundelein Seminary/University of St. Mary of the Lake.

Father Barron also works with NBC News in New York as an on-air contributor and analyst. He has published numerous books, essays and DVD programs, and his articles on theology and the spiritual life appear frequently online and in numerous journals. To order "Catholicism: The New Evangelization," visit www.WordOnFire.org.

MOVIE CAPSULES

NEW YORK (CNS) – Following are capsule reviews by the Office for Film & Broadcasting of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops.

"Grudge Match" (Warner Bros.)

Two long-retired boxing rivals (Robert De Niro and Sylvester Stallone), each of whom scored a single victory against the other, are lured back into the ring for a tiebreaking rematch. Besides their professional competition, their mutual antagonism is also fueled by unresolved personal issues, De Niro's character having had a one-night stand with his adversary's true love (Kim Basinger) that resulted in the couple's breakup — and in the birth of her now-grown son (Jon Bernthal). Director Peter Segal's comedy — which also features Kevin Hart as the promoter who arranges the big event — amuses intermittently. But its theme of family reconciliation is undercut by the misuse of a child actor's (Camden Grey playing Bernthal's son) age-appropriate innocence to forward some of the script's frequent sex jokes. More predictably, screenwriters Tim Kelleher and Rodney Rothman's dialogue is chockablock with foul vocabulary. Mature themes, including promiscuity, pugilistic violence, an off-screen nonmarital encounter, much sexual humor, about a dozen uses of profanity, a single bleeped instance of the F-word, pervasive crude and crass language. The Catholic News Service classification is L — limited adult audience, films whose problematic content many adults would find troubling. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13.

"Saving Mr. Banks" (Disney)

Director John Lee Hancock's fact-based film recounts the behind-the-scenes circumstances surrounding the making of the classic 1964 Walt Disney musical "Mary Poppins." Having promised his daughters he would make a movie from the children's books they loved — tales of the magical nanny Poppins written by P.L. Travers (Emma Thompson) — Disney (Tom Hanks) lobbied for the film rights for two decades, to no avail. But when Travers' fortune eventually dried up, she was forced to reconsider. So she headed to Hollywood, determined to protect her prized creation from being "Disneyfied." A battle of wills ensued, until Disney learned the personal side to the volumes, including the story of Travers' beloved father (Colin Farrell), the inspiration for the fictional George Banks of the title. A handful of emotional scenes may be too intense for pre-teens. But the overall sincerity and wholesomeness of this blend of comedy and tearjerking drama make for a welcome change at the multiplex. Mature themes, one use of profanity, a mild oath. The Catholic News Service classification is A-II — adults and adolescents.

The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13.

"The Secret Life of Walter Mitty" (Fox)

Strange blend of comedy, drama and travelogue in which a soft-spoken, office-bound photo editor (Ben Stiller) at a fictionalized version of Life magazine finds his endless day-dreams of grand adventure coming true as he trots the globe in pursuit of a missing negative sent in to the periodical by the glamorous photographer (Sean Penn) he idolizes. Supporting him from afar along his urgent quest — he faces unemployment if the crucial item fails to turn up — is the fetching co-worker (Kristen Wiig) for whom he secretly pines. Stiller, who also directed this very loose adaptation of humorist James Thurber's classic short story, shifts the tone of his tale erratically, with humor about awkward workplace situations and executive bullies giving way to a serious study in self-realization augmented with social commentary. The Catholic News Service classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG.

Liturgical Music Director

St. Michael Parish in Plymouth has an immediate opening for Director of Liturgical Music. We are searching for a Catholic in good standing, with expertise at the piano. St. Michael is a bilingual parish and knowledge of Spanish would be beneficial. There are four weekend Masses in English and Mass with the school children four days a week. For more information please contact Mrs. Kathy Girres at 574-936-4935 or kgirres@comcast.net

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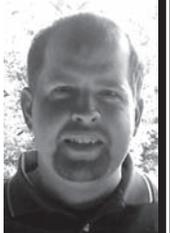
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CELEBRATION OF THE CHRISTMAS VIGIL AT ST. JOSEPH-HESSEN CASSEL



PHOTOS BY JOE ROMIE

Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades celebrates the Christmas Vigil Mass at St. Joseph-Hessen Cassel Church in rural Fort Wayne. At right with the bishop is Father William Kummer, administrator.



Adelaide Knipp, left, and Adelle Herber sing with the choir before Mass.



Luke Lashure carries the baby Jesus statue in the entrance procession.



Celebrate Epiphany

Join the Cathedral Choir
Kathy Miller, organ & Michael Dulac, conductor

Sunday, 5 January 2014 at 7:00PM

*Solemn Evening Prayer
followed by
A Concert of Christmas Music*

The Cathedral is conveniently located
in downtown Fort Wayne, Calhoun St. near Jefferson

FREE PARKING AND FREE ADMISSION



Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades offers the homily at the Christmas Vigil Mass at St. Joseph-Hessen Cassel.



The Zelt family admires the Nativity scene after Mass.