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# TODAY'S CATHOLIC

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December 8, 2015 THROUGH November 20, 2016

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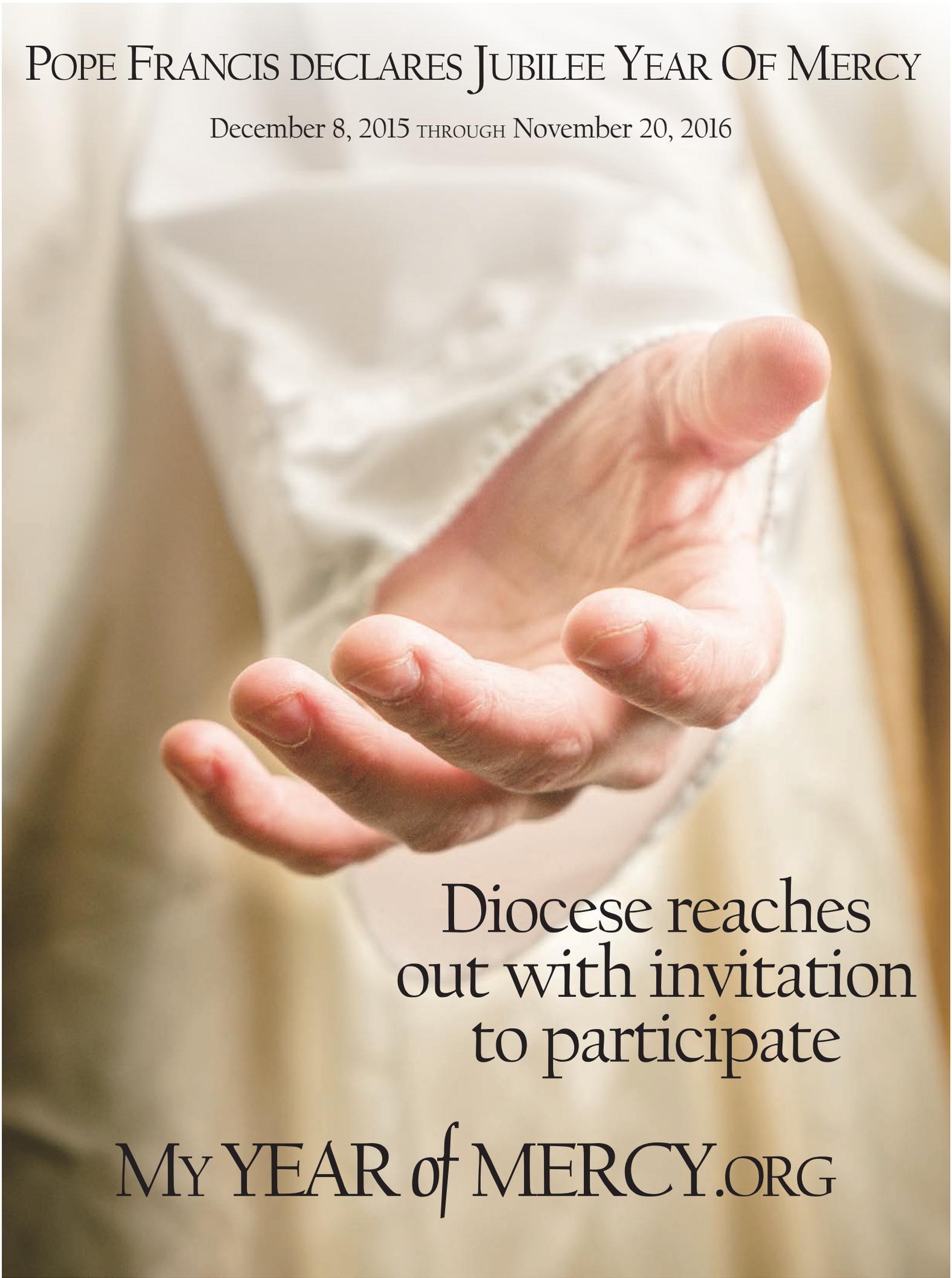
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## TODAY'S CATHOLIC

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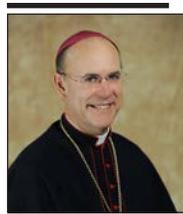
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# The Jubilee Year of Mercy



IN TRUTH  
AND  
CHARITY

BY BISHOP KEVIN C. RHOADES

On December 8<sup>th</sup>, the Church throughout the world will celebrate the opening of the Jubilee Year of Mercy. Pope Francis chose this date because December 8, 2015 marks the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the close of the Second Vatican Council. On December 8<sup>th</sup>, the Holy Father will open the Holy Door, a *Door of Mercy*, at Saint Peter's Basilica in Rome. On the following Sunday, Pope Francis will open the Holy Door of the Basilica of Saint John Lateran, the Cathedral of Rome. Also, on that Sunday, December 13<sup>th</sup>, the Third Sunday of Advent, bishops throughout the world will open the Holy Doors of their cathedrals.

On December 13<sup>th</sup>, I will open the Holy Door at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Fort Wayne; Msgr. Michael Heintz will open the Holy Door at Saint Matthew Cathedral in South Bend; and Father Peter Rocca will open the Holy Door at the Basilica of the Sacred Heart at Notre Dame. I invite you during this Jubilee Year to pass through these Holy Doors in our diocese. They are *Doors of Mercy* through which, as Pope Francis says, "anyone who enters will experience the love of God who consoles, pardons, and instills hope." This is one way to observe the Jubilee Year, visiting our cathedrals and basilica to pray, go to confession, attend Mass, and receive the Jubilee indulgence.

It is significant that the Jubilee Year of Mercy begins on the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception. This has special meaning for us in the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, since Mary, under the title of the Immaculate Conception, is the patroness of our diocese. Let us celebrate this feast with great joy and thanksgiving this year, calling to mind that great moment of mercy and grace when God, in view of the merits of His Son, preserved Mary at the first moment of her existence, at her conception in her mother's womb, from all stain of sin.

At the Visitation, Mary sang of God's mercy in the *Magnificat*: *He has mercy on those who fear Him in every generation. At the end of the Magnificat, she proclaimed: He has come to the help of His servant Israel for He has remembered His promise of mercy, the promise He made to our fathers, to Abraham and his children forever.* These words remind us of God's mercy, the power of His love, throughout salvation history. How many times in the Old Testament the people of Israel experienced the power of God's mercy prevailing over their sins and infidelities!

The mercy of God the Father became incarnate in the world in His Son. It became manifest to us in the greatest possible way in Jesus, in His actions and in His words, and supremely in His passion, death, and resurrection. Jesus reveals to us the mercy of the Father, His faithful love, His infinite goodness, His tenderness and compassion. In the words of Pope Francis: *Jesus Christ is the face of the Father's mercy... Jesus of Nazareth, by his words, his actions, and his entire person reveals the mercy of God.*

Mary proclaimed in the *Magnificat* that God's mercy is *from age to age*, for every



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**Our Lady of Mercy Church, Tampico, Tamaulipas, Mexico displays a statue.**

generation. This includes our own age and generation. The Jubilee Year reminds us that God's merciful actions are not just events of the past. God bestows His mercy upon us now, if we but open our hearts to His grace. As individuals, we all need this mercy, so readily available to us, especially in the sacraments. I encourage all to begin the Jubilee Year by going to confession during the season of Advent. Rich in mercy, the Lord never tires of forgiving us. Speaking about the sacrament of Reconciliation, Pope Francis says:

*In confession, we ask for forgiveness from Jesus. Forgiveness is not the fruit of our own efforts but rather a gift; it is a gift of the Holy Spirit who fills us with the wellspring of mercy and of grace that flows unceasingly from the open heart of the Crucified and Risen Christ.*

The Jubilee Year of Mercy reminds us that God is always close to us and that He assists us in our weakness. He comes to our help. We must turn to the mercy of God, that power of His love that gives us peace. At the same time, we recognize that the Father's mercy is meant for everyone. It is not something we just savor and keep to ourselves. Jesus says to us: *Be merciful just as your Father is merciful* (Luke 6:36). The motto of this Jubilee Year is *Merciful like the Father*. We who have received God's mercy are called to be witnesses of that mercy to others.

We who receive and experience the mercy of God are called to practice mercy to others. One of the eight Beatitudes of Jesus is: *Blessed*

*are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy.*

In this Jubilee Year, I hope that in all our families and parishes, we will focus on this call to practice mercy. The Lord calls us to go out of ourselves to bring the mercy and tenderness of God to others. Our witness must be concrete: words without actions are empty. Pope Francis hopes that during this Jubilee Year, we will reflect on, and rediscover, the corporal and spiritual works of mercy. I hope that we will fulfill this hope of our Holy Father in our diocese. It is by practicing the works of mercy that we live as true disciples of Jesus and enter into what the Holy Father calls "the heart of the Gospel."

During this Jubilee Year of Mercy, I invite you to be close to Mary, our Mother of Mercy. Saint John Paul II wrote that "Mary is the one who has the deepest knowledge of the mystery of God's mercy. She knows its price, she knows how great it is. In this sense, we call her the *Mother of mercy*: our Lady of mercy, or Mother of divine mercy." Mary obtained mercy in an exceptional way at her Immaculate Conception. She helps us to experience deep in our hearts her Son's mercy. She also gives to us the merciful love of a mother. She embraces us in her loving arms as our most merciful and most tender mother.

Through the prayers of Our Mother of Mercy, may this Jubilee Year of Mercy be a time of great grace for our diocese and for the entire Church, that this generation may know and receive the mercy of God that is, as Mary teaches us, "from generation to generation."

## Holy Doors to open for the Jubilee Year of Mercy

FORT WAYNE — The Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend announced that, in accordance with Pope Francis, three symbolic Holy Doors will be opened on Sunday, Dec. 13, 2015, the Third Sunday of Advent. The opening of the doors will mark the beginning of the Extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy. Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades will celebrate Mass at 5 p.m. at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Fort Wayne. Msgr. Michael Heintz, rector, will celebrate Mass at 11 a.m. at St. Matthew Cathedral in South Bend. Holy Cross Father Peter Rocca, basilica rector, will

celebrate Mass at the Sacred Heart Basilica at the University of Notre Dame during the 10 a.m. Mass. All are welcome to attend.

In April of this year, Pope Francis announced that, starting Dec. 8, on the solemnity of the Immaculate Conception and the 50th anniversary of the close of the Second Vatican Council, an Extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy will be observed by the Catholic Church through November 2016. Pope Francis will start by opening a Holy Door in St. Peter's Basilica that remains sealed except during jubilee years. The symbolic opening of the mercy doors signi-

fies living out this Holy Year as an extraordinary moment of grace and spiritual renewal.

"By crossing the threshold of the Holy Door, we will find the strength to embrace God's mercy and dedicate ourselves to being merciful with others as the Father has been with us," Pope Francis wrote in his Bull of Indiction of the Extraordinary Jubilee.

The Year of Mercy is an opportunity for Catholics worldwide to experience God's healing mercy. Pope Francis encourages Catholics to forgive, listen to God's Word and practice the spiritual and corporal works of mercy.

## Year of Mercy to offer indulgence opportunities in the diocese

BY BRIAN MACMICHAEL

Pope Francis has decreed a number of indulgence opportunities for the faithful during the Year of Mercy, which runs from Dec. 8, 2015, through Nov. 20, 2016.

### What are indulgences?

"The Catechism of the Catholic Church" describes an indulgence as "a remission before God of the temporal punishment due to sins whose guilt has already been forgiven, which the faithful Christian who is duly disposed gains under certain prescribed conditions through the action of the Church which, as the minister of redemption, dispenses and applies with authority the treasury of the satisfactions of Christ and the saints" (No. 1471).

Through indulgences, the infinite merits of Christ, as well as the merits of the Blessed Virgin Mary and the saints, are applied to our purification in this life or the life to come (in purgatory).

A plenary indulgence removes all of the temporal punishment due to sins ("plenary" means full or complete). Other indulgences are known simply as partial indulgences.

Those obtaining a plenary or partial indulgence can choose to apply it either to themselves or to the souls of deceased persons.

### What conditions must be met to obtain the Jubilee Indulgence?

For the Year of Mercy, Pope Francis has announced various works that may be done to obtain a plenary indulgence associated with the Jubilee Year.

To obtain any indulgence, one must intend to gain the indulgence via the prescribed work.

One must also be baptized, be in a state of grace and not be excommunicated.

In order to obtain the Jubilee plenary indulgence, all the following conditions must also be met:

- Being truly repentant and receiving sacramental absolution in the sacrament of Penance

- Reception of Holy Communion, while reflecting on the nature of mercy

- Praying both for the Holy Father and for his intentions on the same day as the prescribed work either through the recitation of one Our Father and one Hail Mary or through the recitation of another appropriate prayer for the pope's intentions (such as Pope Francis's Jubilee prayer)

- Reciting a profession of faith (e.g., Nicene or Apostles' Creed) on the same day as the prescribed work, done separately from a regular recitation of the Creed at Mass
- Total detachment from any inclination to sin, even venial sins.

The first two actions (Confession and Communion) may be fulfilled within 20 days before or after the indulgence opportunity. However, it is most appropriate if they are done on the same day as the prescribed work.

Only one plenary indulgence can be obtained each day. A single sacramental Confession suffices for several plenary indulgences, but separately receiving Communion is required for each indulgence.

### What opportunities will there be in the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend to obtain the plenary indulgence during the Year of Mercy?

The aforementioned conditions apply to the following works.

#### Passing through the Doors of Mercy

The Holy Father will open the Holy Door of the cathedral of Rome, the Basilica of Saint John Lateran, on the Third Sunday of Advent — Dec. 13, 2015. On that same day, cathedrals and other specially chosen churches throughout the world will also open their own Holy Doors, or "Doors of Mercy." These doors will remain open until Nov. 13, 2016.

These are the three churches

in the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend that will have designated Doors of Mercy at the main entrance throughout the jubilee year, along with the Masses at which the respective doors will be officially opened:

- Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Fort Wayne — 5 p.m. Mass on Sunday, Dec. 13

- St. Matthew Cathedral in South Bend — 11 a.m. Mass on Sunday, Dec. 13

- Basilica of the Sacred Heart at the University of Notre Dame — 10 a.m. Mass on Sunday, Dec. 13

**Those who make a pilgrimage to these churches in the Jubilee Year and pass through a Door of Mercy may obtain the plenary indulgence.**

- For the homebound: Pope Francis further decreed that the sick and the elderly who are unable to go on pilgrimage may receive the Jubilee Indulgence by "living with faith and joyful hope this moment of trial and receiving Communion or attending Holy Mass and community prayer, even through the various means of communication" (e.g., TV Mass).

- For the imprisoned: Those who are incarcerated "may obtain the Indulgence in the chapels of the prisons." The Holy Father states: "May the gesture of directing their thought and prayer to the Father each time they cross the threshold of their cell signify for them their passage through the Holy Door, because the mercy of God is able to transform hearts, and is also able to transform bars into an experience of freedom."

- Performing spiritual and corporal works of mercy: Those who perform the spiritual and corporal works of mercy during the Year of Mercy can also gain the indulgence. "Each time that one of the faithful personally performs one or more of these actions, he or she shall surely obtain the Jubilee Indulgence. Hence the commitment to live by mercy so as to obtain the grace of complete and exhaustive forgiveness by the power of the love of the Father who excludes no one."



## PUBLIC SCHEDULE OF BISHOP KEVIN C. RHOADES

- Sunday, Dec. 6, 11:45 a.m. — Confirmation Mass, Basilica of the Sacred Heart, University of Notre Dame
- Sunday, Dec. 6, 7:15 p.m. — Advent Lessons and Carols, Basilica of the Sacred Heart, University of Notre Dame
- Monday, Dec. 7, 10 a.m. — Meeting of Bishop's Cabinet, Archbishop Noll Center, Fort Wayne
- Monday, Dec. 7, 5 p.m. — Opening Mass of Jubilee Year of Mercy, Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, Fort Wayne
- Monday, Dec. 7, 7 p.m. — "Saint Faustina" Drama Production, Performing Arts Center of University of Saint Francis, Fort Wayne
- Tuesday, Dec. 8, 3:30 p.m. — Meeting of Bishops of Indiana, Indianapolis
- Wednesday, Dec. 9 — Meeting of Indiana Catholic Conference, Indianapolis
- Saturday, Dec. 12, 6 p.m. — Mass inaugurating Nocturnal Adoration Society, St. John the Evangelist Church, Goshen

## WORKS OF MERCY

### Today's Catholic to highlight works of mercy

Catholics doing the Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy will be highlighted in Today's Catholic each week during the Jubilee Year of Mercy. This will be an opportunity for parish ministries and individuals to focus on how they live out a particular work. The feature will display the different ways the works of mercy inspire others.

Here is the list of upcoming works of mercy and the deadline to send jpeg photos

- Dec. 13 issue (deadline Dec. 3) feeding the hungry
- Dec. 20 issue (deadline Dec. 10) give drink to the thirsty
- Jan. 3 issue (deadline Dec. 23) clothe the naked
- Jan. 17 issue (deadline Jan. 7) shelter the homeless
- Jan. 24 issue (deadline Jan. 14) visit the sick
- Jan. 31 issue (deadline Jan. 21) visit the imprisoned

Email to editor@diocesefwsb.org jpeg photos, about 1 MB in size, with a brief summary of who is in the photo and the work of mercy.

## Diocesan Masses to celebrate the Opening of the Jubilee Year of Mercy

The Jubilee Year of Mercy begins on Dec. 8, the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception. All are cordially invited to attend the special Opening Mass of the Jubilee Year in our diocese, celebrated by Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades, on Monday, Dec. 7, at 5 p.m. in the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, Fort Wayne. This is also the patronal feast of our diocese, dedicated to the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary.



The Door of Mercy at our cathedrals and in cathedrals throughout the world will be opened on the Sunday, Dec. 13, the third Sunday of Advent.

The opening of the doors will mark the beginning of the Extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy. Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades will celebrate Mass at 5 p.m. at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Fort Wayne. Msgr.

Michael Heintz, rector, will celebrate Mass at 11 a.m. at St. Matthew Cathedral in South Bend. Holy Cross Father Peter Rocca, basilica rector, will celebrate Mass at the Sacred Heart Basilica at Notre Dame during the 10 a.m. Mass. All are welcome to attend.

**IN A NUTSHELL**

If all holy years are alike, each holy year is unique, for each one takes place in unique times.

Certainly, Pope Francis describes the Year of Mercy as "an extraordinary moment of grace and spiritual renewal."

Still, making clear what is unique about the present moment, he writes: "The time has come for the Church to take up the joyful call to mercy once more. It is time to return to the basics and to bear the weaknesses and struggles of our brothers and sisters."

## What happens in a holy year?

BY DAVID GIBSON

(CNS) — St. John Paul II wanted the entire Church to enter the 21st century in a spirit of hope, strengthened by a deep-reaching renewal of faith. The new millennium's arrival, he believed, signaled the start of a new stage in the Church's history.

So in a 1994 apostolic letter titled "As the Third Millennium Draws Near" ("Tertio Millennio Adveniente"), he asked the Church's people to begin preparing for a turn-of-the-century holy year, the Great Jubilee of the Year 2000.



"a renewed appreciation" of the Spirit's "presence and activity," he wrote in "As the Third Millennium Draws Near."

The pope urged that 1999 be devoted to God the Father. All Christian life "is like a great pilgrimage to the house of the Father," who loves every human being unconditionally, he wrote.

He hoped that a "sense of being on a 'journey to the Father'" would "encourage everyone to undertake ... a journey of authentic conversion."

With that final word, St. John Paul summed up every holy year's purpose: "conversion." Holy years are times for turning toward God in ways that make a great difference for life in the faith community and in the world.

All holy years are alike in this sense. Conversion and renewal constitute the underlying rationale for the ordinary holy years celebrated every 25 years and the extraordinary holy years celebrated at other times, like the Year of Mercy beginning Dec. 8.

The sacrament of Reconciliation is accented strongly during a holy year. Conversion is this sacrament's goal. Turning from whatever is sinful, people now accept God's invitation to pursue a renewed life.

This way of living takes concrete form in prayer, worship and care for others. Penance, prayer, worship and service all play major roles in a holy year's celebration.

God's generous forgiveness of human failings also is underscored by the traditional holy year practice of granting indulgences, a practice linked with entering through the holy door of one of the Roman basilicas or of the

This preparation would encompass a years-long period of reflection aimed at assuring that "the great challenge of the year 2000 is not overlooked." From his pontificate's very beginning, he considered this holy year "an important appointment," St. John Paul said in January 2001, in his document "Novo Millennio Ineunte."

"I thought of its celebration as a providential opportunity during which the Church, 35 years after the Second Vatican Ecumenical Council, would examine how far she had renewed herself in order to be able to take up her evangelizing mission with fresh enthusiasm."

The pope particularly wanted Catholics to focus from 1997 to 1999 on the Trinity, revisiting the ancient teaching on "Jesus Christ and His mystery of salvation" in 1997 and in 1998 developing

MERCY, PAGE 5

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# MERCY

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

cathedrals and churches designated by local bishops.

Pope Francis, describing an indulgence in his apostolic letter for the Year of Mercy, wrote that "in the sacrament of Reconciliation God forgives our sins, which He truly blots out." But "sin leaves a negative effect on the way we think and act."

The pope explained that "it becomes indulgence" on the part of God, who through the Church "reaches the pardoned sinner and frees him from every residue left by the consequences of sin, enabling him to act with charity, to grow in love."

When Blessed Paul VI announced plans for the 1975 jubilee, he recalled how holy years developed historically and mentioned indulgences. He said: "The jubilee was instituted by Boniface VIII in the year 1300 for a purely spiritual purpose. It consisted in making a penitential pilgrimage to the tombs of the apostles Peter and Paul. ... In 1500, there was added to the jubilee the opening of the holy doors of the basilicas that were to be visited. This was intended ... to symbolize easier access to divine mercy through the gaining of the jubilee indulgence."

If all holy years are alike, each holy year is unique, for each one takes place in unique times.

Certainly, Pope Francis describes the Year of Mercy as "an extraordinary moment of grace and spiritual renewal." Still, making clear what is unique about the present moment, he writes: "The time has come for the Church to take up the joyful call to mercy once more. It is time to return to the basics and to bear the weaknesses and struggles of our brothers and sisters."

Pope Paul VI rather uniquely twinned the theme of renewal with the theme of reconciliation for the 1975 holy year. Reconciliation directly concerns "practical living," he observed, since human lives and relationships are disturbed by so much disharmony.

Re-establishing a happy relationship with God will pave the way to re-establishing caring, just relationships with others in many settings, he proposed.

Pope Paul wanted as many as possible to undertake a holy year pilgrimage to the tombs of the apostles Peter and Paul.

Christians on pilgrimage, he noted, come into contact with the ancient sources of the Church's faith and life in order to be converted by repentance, strengthened in charity and united more closely with their brethren by the grace of God.

## On proclaiming a holy year

BY DANIEL S. MULHALL

(CNS) — The concept of a holy year finds its roots in Judaism when a special year of forgiveness and pardon — a jubilee, if you will — was celebrated every 50 years.

As Leviticus 25:10 explains, "You shall treat this fiftieth year as sacred. You shall proclaim liberty in the land for all its inhabitants. It shall be a jubilee for you, when each of you shall return to your own property, each of you to your own family." The jubilee year celebrated forgiveness and returning to one's home.

From the start, holy years have focused on the forgiveness of sins and have included indulgences (remission of punishment for sin) earned through penitential practices and pilgrimages to holy sites, particularly the four major basilicas in Rome. Participation during these holy years has historically been strong.

Dante's "Inferno" mentions the number of pilgrims heading into Rome seeking the indulgence. In later years, the indulgences were extended to those who could not travel to Rome by allowing pilgrimages to holy sites within the individual's home country or even home diocese.

One of the traditions of the holy year is the opening of the Holy Door at St. Peter's Basilica. This tradition began in 1500 when Pope Alexander VI announced that the doors of the four major Roman basilicas that were part of the pilgrimage route — St. Peter's, St. Paul Outside the Walls, St. John Lateran and St. Mary Major — would be opened simultaneously.

The symbolism of entering through each of the doors refers to the passage in John's Gospel, where Jesus says, "I am the gate. Whoever enters through me will be saved" (10:9).



The celebration of a holy year was changed markedly by St. John Paul II during the Great Jubilee of the Year 2000.

First, he proclaimed three years of meditation on the members of the Trinity before the holy year began.

Second, he simplified the holy year rites and the requirements for gaining the offered indulgences.

Third, for the first time, other Christians were invited to celebrate that holy year with Catholics.

The ecumenical aspects and the loosened requirements for indulgences will continue during the Year of Mercy Pope Francis has called for, to be held Dec. 8, 2015, to Nov. 20, 2016.

In his letter establishing the upcoming Year of Mercy, Pope Francis has again established an indulgence for those who make a pilgrimage to the basilicas in Rome or, for those who cannot travel, who make a visit to their local cathedral.

In addition, while making this pilgrimage, the pilgrim is to make Confession, celebrate the Eucharist and pray for the pope's intentions. These last three are traditional requirements for receiving an indulgence.

For those unable to travel — the

sick or elderly, and those in prison — the pope offers relaxed requirements for celebrating the holy year:

"Living with faith and joyful hope this moment of trial, receiving Communion or attending holy Mass and community prayer, even through the various means of communication, will be for them the means of obtaining the Jubilee indulgence." In so doing, the pope prays that all will "be touched in a tangible way by the mercy of the Father."

In addition, the pope has offered an indulgence for anyone who performs at least one of the corporal or spiritual works of mercy — feeding the hungry, praying for those in need, etc. — during this year of grace.

One of the biggest changes of the Year of Mercy is the emphasis the pope has placed upon the Church and all believers to be missionaries of mercy:

"The experience of mercy, indeed, becomes visible in the witness of concrete signs as Jesus Himself taught us. Each time that one of the faithful personally performs one or more of these actions, he or she shall surely obtain the jubilee indulgence."

## FOOD FOR THOUGHT

(CNS) — Starting Dec. 8 and for the next year, we will hear much about the Holy Year of Mercy. Holy years come and go every 25 years but popes can and do, as Pope Francis has done, call for "extraordinary" holy years in between.

The last extraordinary holy year was called by St. John Paul II in 1983 (the Holy Year of Redemption) to mark 1,950 years since the death of Jesus. Pope Francis wants to focus on mercy and the holy year will run Dec. 8, 2015, to Nov. 20, 2016.

Mercy has been at the center of Pope Francis' message as pontiff. When he announced the upcoming Holy Year of Mercy, the pope said:

"I have often thought of how the Church may render more clearly her mission to be a witness to mercy. ... It is a journey that begins with spiritual conversion. Therefore, I have decided to announce an extraordinary jubilee that has at its center the mercy of God. It will be a Holy Year of Mercy."

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## Vatican Christmas stamps feature manuscript painting of Holy Family

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — This year's Vatican Christmas stamps feature a 15th-century manuscript illumination of the Holy Family. Flanked by a lowing ox and a donkey, Mary and Joseph pray over baby Jesus as angels sing above and poor shepherds approach. The image, painted by an unknown artist, is from the Codices Urbinate Latini 239 (1477-1478) from the Vatican Library. The special edition stamps went on sale Nov. 19 in two denominations of 80 euro cents and 95 euro cents in sheets of 10. The Vatican post office and Philatelic and Numismatic Office also offer a collector's booklet containing four 95 euro-cent stamps and commemorative cover for 3.80 euro. All order requests should be made by email to: order.ufn@scv.va. The Vatican stamp office will then send a proper order form and methods of payment.

## Kentucky teen says Catholic youth conference 'will change my life'

INDIANAPOLIS (CNS) — This year's National Catholic Youth Conference was a new experience for Andrew Hawes, one he said may have changed his life. "I've witnessed the most amazing thing in my life — 24,000 kids kneeling and staring at the Eucharist," the 15-year-old from the Archdiocese of Louisville, Kentucky, said Nov. 20. Still visibly moved by the experience of Eucharistic Adoration the night before, he said, "I couldn't help it, I cried. This will change my life." Teens from 55 parishes in the Archdiocese of Louisville joined the thousands of Catholic young people from across the nation at the biennial conference, held in Indianapolis at the Indiana Convention Center and Lucas Oil Stadium. The main events took place Nov. 19-21; an evening orientation for delegation leaders was held Nov. 18. The delegation from the Archdiocese of Louisville included 470 people, 380 of them teens. The remainder were parents, youth ministers and clergy. Some in the Archdiocese of Louisville's delegation were returning to the conference for a second time, but the majority were new to the experience, which included workshops, Eucharistic Adoration, daily Mass and other activities.

## 'Vatileaks' trial rescheduled for Dec. 7

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — A Vatican trial against two Italian journalists, a Spanish monsignor and two others was postponed for one week after the court allowed one of the defendants to change lawyers. On what was to be the criminal trial's first day of testimonies by the defendants Nov. 30, the Vatican court granted a request by one of the accused to have a new lawyer and receive more time to prepare for the case. The proceedings began with the presiding judge, Giuseppe Dalla Torre, stating the request by

# NEWS BRIEFS

## SEMINARIANS MARCH FOR CLIMATE, JUSTICE



CNS PHOTO/SIMONE ORENDAIN

Seminarians join climate justice activists at a plaza in Manila, Philippines, Nov. 29, the day before the start of the U.N. climate change conference, known as the COP21 summit, in Paris.

Francesca Chaouqui, a member of the former Pontifical Commission for Reference on the Organization of the Economic-Administrative Structure of the Holy See. Dalla Torre, along with three other Vatican judges, deliberated for 10 minutes before granting her request and announcing the trial would resume Dec. 7. Along with Chaouqui, the defendants present were: Spanish Msgr. Lucio Angel Vallejo Balda, secretary of the Prefecture for the Economic Affairs of the Holy See; Nicola Maio, who served as personal assistant to Msgr. Vallejo Balda when he worked on the commission; and the journalists, Gianluigi Nuzzi, author of "Merchants in the Temple," and Emiliano Fittipaldi, author of "Avarice."

## Mali's Catholic leaders think attack won't hurt relations with Muslims

OXFORD, England (CNS) — The secretary-general of Mali's Catholic bishops' conference said he fears the Nov. 20 hotel attack in Bamako forms part of a wider Islamist campaign, but insisted Catholic-Muslim ties will not be affected by the latest violence. Msgr. Edmond Dembele said the Nov. 20 assault on Bamako's Radisson hotel, which left at least 20 dead, occurred during the Church's annual national pilgrimage to the shrine of Our Lady of Mali at Kita, 160 miles from the capital. Muslims also went on the pilgrimage. "Ordinary Christians and Muslims live well together here, attending each other's ceremonies and sharing in community life. I

think this crisis, far from weakening ties, will actually strengthen them," Msgr. Dembele told Catholic News Service Nov. 23. "We know there's a minority of Muslims who would like to see things change. But they're just a small group, and I'm confident good relations will continue between Christians and Muslims in our country," he added. The representative of U.S. Catholic Relief Services in Mali, Niek de Goeij, told CNS Nov. 23 his agency would "very carefully review" its security after the Radisson attack, but would be "even more determined" to press on with its development and humanitarian projects. "Most of our staff are Muslims, and interfaith relations were always positive and mutually reinforcing here — I don't think this event will have any impact on this," the CRS representative said. "But although Mali has a rapidly growing population, youth opportunities are extremely limited, and there's a great waste of human capital which any terrorist or criminal group can exploit. The country needs to offer viable alternatives in jobs and livelihoods," he said.

## Immigrants, advocates rally for deferred deportation plan now on hold

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Isabel Aguilar of Owings Mills, Maryland, who is not an American citizen and is not documented, has lived and worked in the United States for 13 years. Suddenly let go from her job after five years, the native of Honduras found she could not apply for unemployment benefits because

of her legal limbo. And with her husband, a landscaper, finding work scarce during the fall and winter months, "It's hard, because I don't have any rights." Aguilar, her 9-year-old daughter, Miranda, and 8-year-old son, Rolando, were among some 200 people attending an immigration rights rally Nov. 20 in front of the U.S. Supreme Court in Washington. Rallies there and at the White House marked the one-year anniversary of President Barack Obama's executive actions to protect from deportation both those who came to the U.S. as children and the immigrant parents of children who are U.S. citizens or legal residents of this country. But his executive actions, which are supported by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, have yet to be implemented. They were put on hold Nov. 9 by the 5th Circuit Court of Appeals in New Orleans, which upheld a Texas-based federal judge's injunction against Obama's actions. The Justice Department is appealing the circuit court's ruling to the Supreme Court.

## Education is too selective, elitist, pope says

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The educational alliance among families, schools and states is broken, causing a serious situation that leads to selecting to educate only "supermen" chosen solely based on intelligence or wealth, Pope Francis said. "Behind this, there is always the ghost of money — always," he said. Education has become "too selective and elitist. It seems that only those people or persons who are at a certain level or have a certain

capacity have the right to an education." The pope held an impromptu question-and-answer session Nov. 21 during an audience with more than 2,000 participants in a conference marking the 50th anniversary of the Second Vatican Council's Declaration on Christian Education and the 25th anniversary of "Ex Corde Ecclesiae," St. John Paul II's apostolic constitution on Catholic universities. Taking questions from administrators and faculty members, the pope spoke about Catholic identity in education and warned about the dangers of exclusion and educating within "the walls" of a selective and safe culture. Educating that is too focused on the tangible and ignores the spiritual dimension of existence is "the biggest crisis" facing Christian education, he said. "We must prepare hearts so the Lord can manifest Himself," which requires an education that strives to reflect "the fullness of humanity that has this dimension of transcendence," he said.

## Shooting at Colorado clinic antithesis of pro-life movement, says priest

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo. (CNS) — A priest who celebrates Mass every Friday morning on a sidewalk near the Planned Parenthood clinic targeted by a lone gunman Nov. 27 said the shooter's actions were the antithesis of the pro-life cause. "We want the conversion of Planned Parenthood, not their destruction," said Father Bill Carmody, the long-time Respect Life director for the Diocese of Colorado Springs. "The pro-life movement has no place for violence." The attack on the clinic in northwest Colorado Springs left three people dead, including a police officer, and nine others wounded. The clinic reported that none of its employees or patients was among those killed or seriously wounded in the Black Friday attack. The clinic sits near a busy shopping center that includes a grocery store, a bank and several other businesses. After the attack broke out around 11:30 a.m., local time, patrons and employees of the businesses "sheltered in place" for nearly six hours while police tried to contain the alleged shooter, Robert Lewis Dear, 57. The stand-off ended with Dear's arrest at 4:52 p.m., local time. Among those killed was Garrett Swasey, a police officer at the University of Colorado at Colorado Springs and father of two.

## Refugees in Lebanon, facing new reality, get help at Catholic-run clinic

BEIRUT (CNS) — The three Iraqi retirees met up at St. Anthony's medical dispensary to get medication for hypertension, an ailment exacerbated by the stress of life as a refugee. As they waited their turn, they recalled their life in Qaraqosh, Iraq. "We celebrated everything together," 70-year-old Wissam told Catholic News Service. "We had the biggest celebrations in all of Iraq, especially in summer." That was before the Islamic State seized control of Qaraqosh in August 2014, driving out some 50,000 Christians.

## St. John the Evangelist to inaugurate Nocturnal Adoration Society

GOSHEN — The solemn vigil of inauguration of the Nocturnal Adoration Society will take place at St. John the Evangelist in Goshen on Sunday, Dec. 12.

The itinerary includes inscriptions at 2 p.m.; a welcome by Gilberto Loesa, the president of the Nocturnal Adoration Society of St. John the Evangelist, at 2:30 p.m.; a Eucharistic message by Father Anthony Steinacker, pastor, at 2:35 p.m.; a brief explanation of the ceremony by Raul Mendoza, the national president of the society, at 3:05 p.m.; and Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and solemn vigil of Adoration at 3:40 p.m. Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades will celebrate a Mass at 6 p.m. A reception and closing ceremony will take place at 7:30 p.m.

For more information, contact the parish at 574-533-3385. The church is located at 109 W. Monroe St. in Goshen.

## Bishop Luers High School and Barnes and Noble join forces for holiday fundraiser

FORT WAYNE — In an effort to raise funds to replenish and expand their library collection, Bishop Luers High School is working together with Barnes and Noble Booksellers to host a Bookfair for their family, friends and supporters at the Barnes and Noble store at Jefferson Pointe on Sunday, Dec. 13, from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Barnes and Noble will donate a percentage of every sale made by Bishop Luers supporters with a special voucher throughout the day. Supporters can choose from bestsellers, children's books and toys, games, gift items, home and office products, CDs and DVDs, Café items, including Starbucks coffee and Cheesecake Factory cheesecake, and more ... including NOOK and NOOK accessories.

Donations to the school's library may be chosen from a special "wish list" table of books selected by Bishop Luers' librarian Laura Sturm. Support Bishop Luers High School by shopping at Barnes and Noble or online at [www.bn.com](http://www.bn.com) on Sunday, Dec. 13. For more information, or to get donation vouchers, visit [www.bishopluers.org](http://www.bishopluers.org) or call Laura Sturm at Bishop Luers at 260-456-1261 ext. 3011, or Barnes and Noble at 260-432-2123.

## South Bend to celebrate Advent, end to abortion

SOUTH BEND — The St. Joseph County Right to Life will host an Advent Celebration for the End of Abortion in St. Joseph County, on Saturday, Dec. 5, from 2-3:30 p.m. at Sacred Heart Parish Center, Moreau Drive, Notre Dame.

The St. Joseph County Right to

# AROUND THE DIOCESE

## PRAYER BLANKETS OFFER COMFORT TO HEALTHWIN CARE



LISA KOCHANOWSKI

Members of Prayer Blanket Ministry of Saint Joseph High School, South Bend, meet weekly to make blankets and offer prayers for those in need. Recently, several members visited with residents of Healthwin. Students Annalena Bellm, Faith Boehm, Lexi Goy, Dana Kolata, Alma Núñez, Mary Saillant and Maureen Taghon along with Tami Goy and Jeanette McKew greeted residents and presented each with a prayer blanket and a promise of continual prayer. According to one of the members, "it was a life-changing experience."

Life requests participation to give thanks and to envision its next steps as a pro-life community in preventing abortion from returning and to communicate with women in crisis pregnancies.

For directions and to RSVP, visit [www.prolifemichiana.org/celebration](http://www.prolifemichiana.org/celebration) or call 574-232-LIFE (5433).

## Catholic schools among winners of Festival of Gingerbread competition

FORT WAYNE — The History Center has announced winners of the 30th annual Festival of Gingerbread competition, including Catholic schools or groups.

Catholic winners include the following: in pre-kindergarten through second grade, first place, St. Joseph-Hessen Cassel, second grade; and third-place, St. Aloysius, Yoder, pre-kindergarten; third through sixth-grade group, first place, St. Vincent American Heritage Girls, Explorers.

The Festival of Gingerbread opened Nov. 27 and ends Dec. 13. Admission is \$6 adults, \$4 seniors and students, and free to children age 2 and under.

For regular hours during the

Festival of Gingerbread and for a complete schedule of events visit the History Center's Facebook page or [www.fvhistorycenter.com](http://www.fvhistorycenter.com) or call 260-426-2882.

The History Center is located at 302 East Berry St., Fort Wayne.

## Huntington parish jail ministry to sponsor Year of Mercy series

HUNTINGTON — The Jail Ministry team will be sponsoring a monthly series corresponding with Pope Francis' call to the Year of Mercy, beginning Dec. 8 at 6:30 p.m. (after holy day Mass at 5:30 p.m.) at Ss. Peter and Paul Parish in Gollner Hall. Refreshments will be served.

The series will include talks on the spiritual and corporal works of mercy as well as a book study based on Matthew Kelly's newest release of "Beautiful Mercy" to support the spiritual needs of those who attend. These spiritual sessions are for all parish members who are interested, and especially for victims of crimes, as well as former offenders or those who are affected by loved ones who are facing incarceration or have loved ones in prison.

"Beautiful Mercy: Experiencing God's Unconditional Love So We Can Share it With Others" will be the focus of the sessions. Matthew Kelly and 26 other Catholic authors share their thoughts on mercy in the book.

## Garcia earns 'Realizing the Dream' scholarship at Holy Cross College

NOTRE DAME — For Pedro Garcia, a dream to earn a college degree and to dedicate his life to being an educator, has been brought one step closer to reality thanks to the Realizing the Dream Outstanding First Generation Student Scholarship, provided by the Independent Colleges of Indiana.

Pedro, the son of Antonio and Marina Garcia of South Bend, has been named a recipient of the 2015 scholarship for Holy Cross College.

One scholarship recipient is selected by each of the 31 independent college campuses in the State of Indiana.

A local resident, and alum of the South Bend School Corporation, Garcia grew up just a short drive from Holy Cross. Both his mother and father were born in Jalisco, Mexico, but traveled to United States in search of a better life. Garcia's parents lived in California before making a move to South Bend, in 1992. He attended Washington High School, where he graduated with honors, and participated in football, cross-country and the National Honors Society.

His parents have always encouraged college but had never seen it come to fruition in their family. That was, until Garcia made the decision to continue his education at Holy Cross College.

## GUINNESS WORLD RECORD IN STACKING



PROVIDED BY ST. JOSEPH SCHOOL

Thousands of participants, including students from St. Joseph School in Decatur, took part in what Guinness Worlds Records terms the "World's Largest Stacking Event" on Thursday, Nov. 12. Sport stacking with Speed Stacks is in more than 40,000 schools and youth organizations worldwide. St. Joseph students who participated are, from left, Josh Myers, Guy Lister, Ryan Gerber, Paige Busick, Avery Ball, Emma Mills, Abby Rumschlag, Sara Bechinski. In back are Seminarian Nathan Maskal, and St. Joseph pastor Father David Voors.

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# Pope surprised by crowds, joy in Africa

BY CINDY WOODEN

**ABOARD THE PAPAL FLIGHT FROM AFRICA (CNS)** — Pope Francis told reporters he is well aware that God is a god of surprises, but he had not been prepared for what a surprise his first visit to Africa would be.

Obviously tired, but equally content, Pope Francis told reporters he prayed in a mosque in Bangui, Central African Republic, and rode around a Muslim neighborhood with the imam seated with him in the popemobile. Both were spontaneous initiatives of the pope Nov. 30, his last day in Africa.

Returning to Rome from Bangui later that day, the pope spent more than 60 minutes with reporters in the back of his plane, responding to their questions.

“The crowds, the joy, the ability to celebrate even with an empty stomach” were impressions the pope said he would take home with him after his six-day trip to Kenya, Uganda and the Central African Republic.

After two years of civil war, the pope told reporters, the people of the Central African Republic want “peace, reconciliation and forgiveness.”

“For years, they lived as brothers and sisters,” the pope said, and local Catholic, Muslim and evangelical Christian leaders are doing their best to help their people return to that situation of peace, coexistence and mutual respect.

Leaders of every religion must teach values, and that is what is happening in Central African Republic, Pope Francis said.

“One of the most-rare values today is that of brotherhood,” a value essential for peace, he said. “Fundamentalism is a disease that is found in all religions. We Catholics have some,” he said. “I can say this because it is my Church.”

“Religious fundamentalism isn’t religion, it’s idolatry,” he told the press. Ideas and false certainties take the place of faith, love of God and love of others.

“You cannot cancel a whole religion because there is a group or many groups of fundamentalists at certain moments of history,” the pope said.



CNS PHOTO/PAUL HARING

**Pope Francis greets a journalist aboard his flight from Bangui, Central African Republic, to Rome Nov. 30. The pope answered questions from journalists for about an hour.**

As the pope ended his trip, global representatives were beginning the U.N. climate conference in Paris to discuss the possibility of forging a binding international agreement to reduce climate change.

Pope Francis said he was not sure what would happen at the conference, “but I can say this, it’s now or never.” Too little has been done over the past 10-15 years, he said, and “every year the situation gets worse.”

“We are on the verge of suicide, to put it strongly,” he said.

Given his visits to Uganda and Kenya, where new HIV infections and AIDS-related deaths continue, Pope Francis was asked if he thought the Church “should change its teaching” about the use of condoms.

Pope Francis responded that an ongoing question for Catholic moral theology is whether condoms in that case are an instrument to prevent death or a contraceptive — in which case they would violate Church teaching on openness to life.

But, he said, the question is too narrow. People are dying because of a lack of clean water and adequate food. Once the world takes serious steps to solve those problems, then it would be “legitimate to ask whether it is licit” to use condoms to prevent the spread of HIV and AIDS.

Pope Francis said that at various moments of his trip, he visited the very poor, people who lack every-

thing and have suffered tremendously. He said he knew that a small percentage of people — “maybe 17 percent” — of the world’s population controls the vast majority of the world’s wealth — “and I think, ‘How can these people not be aware?’ It’s such suffering.”

To say the world’s economy has put profits and not people at the center and to denounce “the idolatry of the god money,” he said, “is not communism. It’s the truth.”

The pope also was asked about the Vatican trial underway in connection with the leak and publication of confidential documents related to Vatican finances.

“I haven’t lost any sleep” over the leaks and the arrest of a monsignor, his assistant, a woman who served on a former Vatican commission and the two authors who wrote books allegedly based on the material, Pope Francis said.

However, he said, he had hoped the trial would be over before the opening Dec. 8 of the Year of Mercy, but he does not think that will be possible because the defendants’ lawyers need adequate time to defend their clients properly.

As for future trips, Pope Francis was not full of surprises. He said he plans to go to Mexico and visit cities where St. John Paul II and Pope Benedict XVI never went. The trip is expected in late February.

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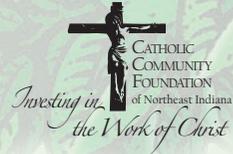
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# Making pink lemonade: Meet Darlene Sweeney

BY JENNIFER MILLER

GRANGER — Lemonade is such a refreshing drink. Precisely because it blends a hint of tartness with the finish of sweetness, a glass of lemonade is much like the life and testimony of Darlene Sweeney. Bitter and sour events have been transformed by grace, mixed with trust and faith in God's will to bear beautiful fruit. Along with a passion for life, humility and choosing joy each day, Sweeney is a remarkable senior woman in the diocese.

Joining the Catholic Church in her 20s, she is now an active member of St. Pius X Parish in Granger. Her real, alive relationship with God guides her every day and clearly animates her very being. Each day she chooses joy, even when it was difficult to get out of bed.

Raised in Chicago, in a house where religion was a personal but not spoken topic, Sweeney and her sister (but not brothers) were encouraged to attend church. Her



JENNIFER MILLER

Darlene Sweeney, right, with volunteers stock shelves at the St. Vincent de Paul Society in South Bend.

gift of faith continued to blossom when as a young adult Sweeney and her best friend explored various church communities to answer their questions. One day, they went to lunch with some nuns and priests, changing the way she understood Catholics. Later at St. Mary's Parish, she met with the priest for instruction. Soon, she found a home in the Roman Catholic Church and real people in the religious ordained, both humble and human. Today Sweeney continues to see the humanity in each person she serves at St. Vincent de Paul headquarters.

A loving mother, widow, grandmother, active Catholic parishioner, great-grandmother, volunteer, Sweeney also has a fulltime job. For the past three years, she has been the volunteer recruiter for St. Vincent de Paul Society, combining her professional work with her faith. Most recently, they signed up over 600 families for the Christmas season, which were shared and adopted by 19 local Catholic parishes.

She accomplished the goal for the year, coordinating everyone before November. They also work in collaboration with the Marine's Toys for Tots program. Sweeney's ability to connect people to build the kingdom of God is evident.

Her rich business background informed her work, improving the way volunteers served. When they came in teams to sort, tag or hang clothes, or re-stock the food pantry, Sweeney noticed a lack of connection between people, the volunteers and clients. So she used her past work experience and figured how many clients would be served with each pound of food donated. There was a data-driven volunteer program. There were spreadsheets and goals. There were competitive parish teams, from the St. Vincent de Paul conferences, to see who could help the most. And there was Sweeney. She put faces and families on to unknown

SWEENEY, PAGE 12

## Still living a dream in retirement

BY VINCE LABARBERA

FORT WAYNE — Meet Don David Romary, who many say is "one of the best horsemen in the State of Indiana." And although he is now 82, friends, acquaintances and even strangers — often their sons and daughters — call on him for advice or to demonstrate how to handle and train a horse, especially for cutting.

Cutting is a sport born of necessity and dating back to a time when ranchers in the American West hired cowboys to work and sort through herds of cattle out on the open range, separating those in need of branding or doctoring, Romary explained.

A native of Fort Wayne, he attended Cathedral Grade School, nearby Central Catholic High School for one year and graduated from Central High School across the street from CCHS.

Two things occupied his dreams in elementary school: singing and horses. He began singing and soloing in the Cathedral Boy Choir. And from that time on until earlier this century, he continued to sing, not only in his high school choir and for countless weddings, liturgical functions and other special events, but with three professional light operettas at the newly built Foellinger Theatre in Franke Park and with the Fort Wayne Philharmonic Chorus. "Often, I would sing for two or three weddings on a weekend, including the rehearsals," he said. Romary now uses his vocal talents serving as a proclaimer of the Word at St. John the Baptist Parish, Fort Wayne.

When he was growing up on Liberty Street, there was a girl named Margie who moved from a farm into the neighborhood and had

a pony. He used to visit her quite often and usually rode the pony. One day she asked him, "Dave, do like me or my pony?" "I realized I had to be careful how I answered her question, so I just said, 'Margie, don't ever sell your pony!'" When he was in sixth or seventh grade, he saved enough money from his paper route to buy his own horse, a long yearling colt he initially kept in the garage until he could board it at Franke Park — ironically, where Foellinger Theatre would be built in 1949. Romary said he broke the horse named Toots in the old Wayne Pump parking lot, which was covered with stones, but he never was thrown off. Romary added that he and his young school friends would ride together and went to area horse shows where they rode the broncos and bulls.

"I didn't date much in high school because I was too busy with my horses and working odd jobs to be able to keep them," he said. But during his junior year he met Joan, the class secretary at Central High School, who said she often walked her dog, Goldie, in nearby Franke Park, where Romary not only kept his horses but ran the livery stable. He told Joan he hadn't noticed her but about the next night he did spot her, he said, and soon they began dating regularly. Romary attributes Toots with helping Joan's initial attraction to him. "I would touch the horses' withers at the base of her neck and ask, 'Do you like Joan?' And Toots would shake her head up and down. But when I asked Toots if she liked me I would rub her neck on the side and she would shake her head sideways. Joan got the biggest kick out of that."

They were married at St. Patrick Church in 1953, two years after graduating from high school. They



VINCE LABARBERA

Dave Romary has kept his current 16-year-old cow horse, Monkey Dey Lena, behind his Fort Wayne home for about 10 years. "I call him Monkey because he's always 'monkeying around,'" he said, "but Monkey is a good cutting horse." Romary also owns a Black Mouth Cur, a rugged herding, hunting and cattle dog from Texas, named Lu.

raised six children: Richard, now residing in Churubusco; Joseph, living in Fort Wayne; Kenneth, deceased; Philip, who lives next door to Dave in southwest Fort Wayne; Rebecca Pape and Lizette Downy, both in Fort Wayne. There

are 15 grandchildren.

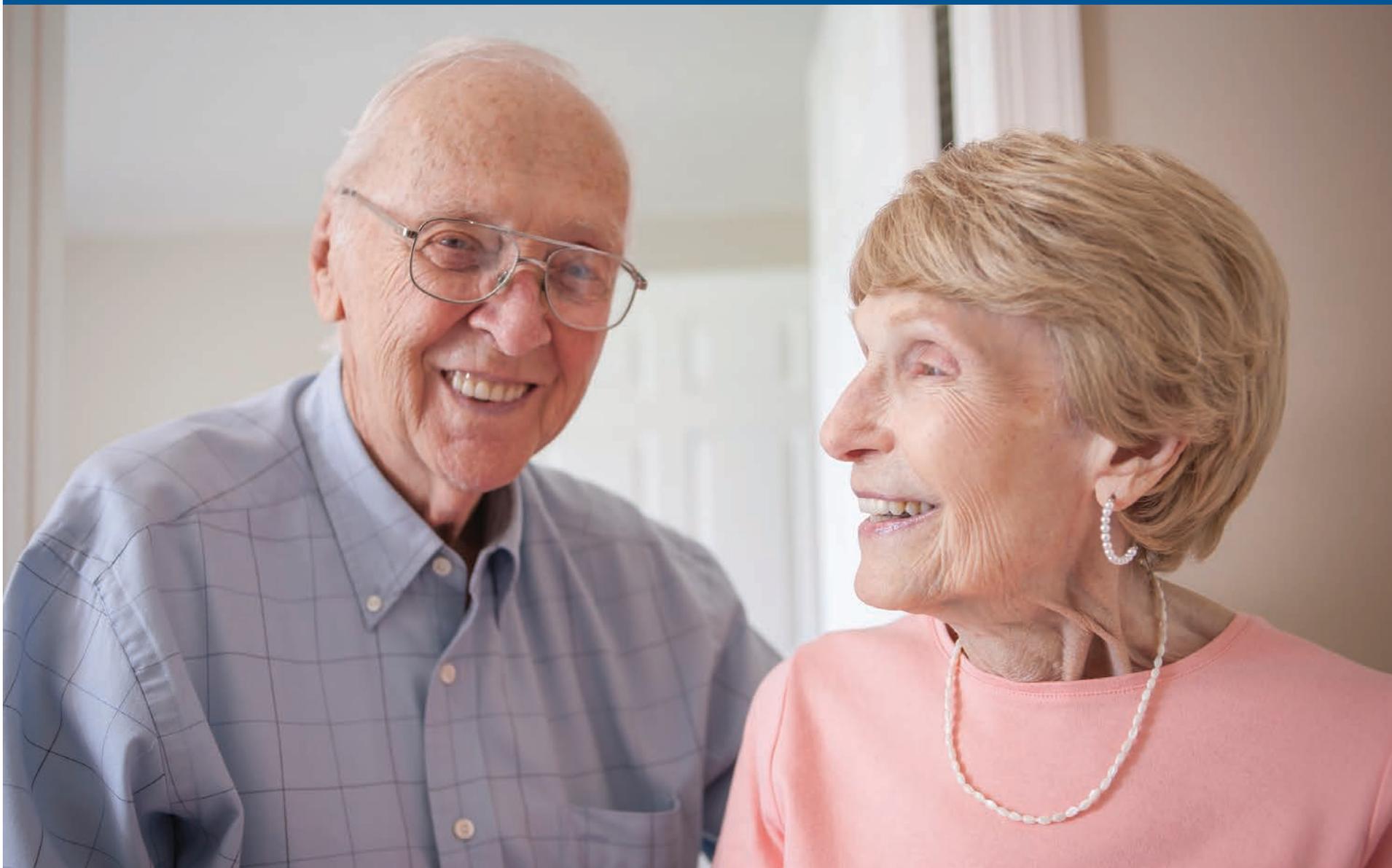
Four years ago, on Oct. 4, 2011, Joan died of cancer. When a good friend of Romary's learned of her illness, he gave him a booklet titled: "The Divine Mercy Message and Devotion" containing selected

prayers from the "Diary of St. Maria Faustina Kowalska." Romary recited the chaplet prayers with Joan at her hospice bedside throughout her suffering and has continued his daily devotion to St. Faustina since Joan's death.

Shortly after graduating from high school Romary began working at Indiana and Michigan Electric Company (I&M), now Indiana Michigan Power. Initially he served as a ground man, drove a truck and enrolled in line school. While at I&M, Romary also sold life insurance to his fellow workers and stabled saddle horses at both Franke Park and Robison Park, providing rides for both I&M employees and the public. Eventually, he worked his way into sales and marketing out of the Decatur office before retiring with 43 years of utility service. In retirement, he spent another 18 years working full time on an area ranch where he did everything from breaking and tending horses to building corrals, installing lighting, plumbing, watering, cleaning cow barns and feeding. "It really kept me in shape," he added.

Throughout his life Romary has been an active cowboy, traveling to shows and riding events in Texas, Florida, Alabama, Colorado and Wyoming, to name but a few states. His house contains many horse pictures and a few prized trophies, including a favorite from the Ohio National Cutting Horse Association.

Before dawn Romary, with his dog Lu, is up cleaning out the horse stall — sometimes twice a day — watering, pitching hay and until a few weeks ago splitting wood to burn in the house. Recently, he had two heat pumps installed and now Romary's not using as much kindling. "I felt better when I was splitting that wood," he quipped.



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## SWEENEY

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 10

strangers.

Her friendly manner of being and style of speaking built bridges between the groups. "I am fearless," Sweeney explains, when it comes to recruiting volunteers for St. Vincent. "If you don't ask, people don't know." As an NGO, the marketing budget is small, allowing peer-to-peer interactions to be key.

But how does such a dynamo sustain this type of service? Her personal, real relationship with God lights the way. Through daily prayer, meditation with Christian music and Scripture, Sweeney listens and speaks with God. She always has been part of a faith-sharing group. Even from a simple conversation, one can tell that she knows and loves God. And it was from this real, personal relationship that she came to South Bend.

After her husband, Michael, died suddenly, Sweeney was busy raising her three young children. Her immediate grief was put to the side in exchange for the everyday duties of motherhood. Meanwhile, she also ran a management company in Chicago.

Years later with children grown, she had a business opportunity in Lake Tahoe, Nevada. Never living outside of Illinois,

there was an offer to own and operate a hospitality company. She trusted God's will to lead her to this new place and to grow and flourish. And it was God's will; she attuned her ear to when her son asked her to move to South Bend to be closer to her grandchildren. She observed God's hand moving through these choices. Still to this day, she asks the Holy Spirit to be aware and open her to these types of choices, both large and small.

Impressively, Sweeney too transformed the hardships of her widowhood. She is also one of the co-founders and co-leader of Surviving Hearts at St. Pius X Parish. For widows and widowers, she describes the gathering as "a group of people with a common bond, that is that they have lost their spouses and were ready to begin again to find joy in their lives." Begun two years ago with other widowed friends, they felt a need in their community, prayed and responded to that need.

Now with 45 members, they focus on four main pillars of the group: education, spiritual, service and social. Their education programs range from speakers on the stages of grief to senior self-defense courses. Socially they attend a wide range of events, from wine tastings and theatre shows, to lectures and baseball games together as well as a yearly retreat and Mass. Each member is responsible for an activity, a delegation tool Sweeney employed from her thriving

businesses. There is also a sense of healthy self-care for the group, noticing when people might not be ready to join or who is new in their parish might be interested.

Not only is the group well balanced but it is also flourishing. One member described the seniors as "21 (year olds) with 52 years of experience."

Sweeney also is an active member of her parish. She didn't feel worthy at first to serve as an extraordinary minister of the Eucharist, but her pastor at the time, reminded her "none of us are worthy."

Sweeney also serves as a lector and played in St. Pius X's hand bell choir, a "bucket list" item for her. She has enjoyed these ministries as well as knowing when to quit them "to let someone else enjoy being a lector or bell ringer." Sweeney has learned when to close, when to open doors, wise from her life experiences.

With all of the life, the depth of flavor that Sweeney brings to her lemonade, it is her humility that colors it best. When speaking about her service work, she always first highlighted others, spoke most simply about herself when asked, and engaged everyone around her with empathic listening skills. Her integrity, humor, and sparkle all compliment her humility of being a beloved daughter of God.

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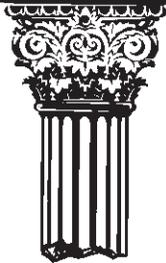
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# Pope in Bangui: Open the doors of mercy, counter violence with love

BY CINDY WOODEN

BANGUI, Central African Republic (CNS) — Put down the weapons of war and work for justice, Pope Francis urged the people of the Central African Republic.

“Even when the powers of hell are unleashed, Christians must rise to the summons, their heads held high, and be ready to brave blows in this battle over which God will have the last word. And that word will be love and peace,” the pope said in an evening homily Nov. 29 at Bangui’s cathedral.

A civil war that began in 2013 and ongoing outbursts of violence, including between mainly Muslim and mainly Christian militias, have sown terror in the Central African Republic, which already was on most lists of the five poorest countries in Africa. A fifth of the country’s population has fled abroad or is living in camps for displaced people.

Explaining to people outside the Bangui cathedral that their city was, for the day, “the spiritual capital of the world,” Pope Francis prayed for the mercy and grace of peace as he used both hands and his body weight to push open the Holy Door of the cathedral. The main opening of the Year of Mercy will be Dec. 8 at St. Peter’s Basilica in Rome.

Marking the first Sunday of Advent at the Mass with priests, religious, catechists and youths, Pope Francis urged the Catholic community to be committed to helping the country make a new start.

Christians, and especially those with a vocation to Priesthood or religious life, are called to love their enemies, “which protects us from the temptation to seek revenge and from the spiral of endless retaliation,” the pope said in his homily.

Anyone who has a role of evangelizer, teacher or preacher in the Christian community, he said, must be “first and foremost practitioners of forgiveness, specialists in reconciliation, experts in mercy.”



CNS PHOTO/PAUL HARING

**Pope Francis opens the Holy Door at the start of a Mass with priests, religious, catechists and youths at the cathedral in Bangui, Central African Republic, Nov. 29.**

As Catholics observe the Advent time of waiting to celebrate Christ’s coming, he said, they should keep reminding themselves that God is a God of justice and of love — two things the people of Central African Republic need desperately.

“God is stronger than all else,” the pope said. “This conviction gives the believer serenity, courage and the strength to persevere in good amid the greatest hardships.”

“To all those who make unjust use of the weapons of this world, I make this appeal: Lay down these instruments of death! Arm

yourselves instead with righteousness, with love and mercy, the authentic guarantors of peace,” the pope said.

Pope Francis arrived at the cathedral after a meeting with representatives of the Central African Republic’s evangelical and Protestant communities.

Catholic Archbishop Dieudonne Nzapalainga of Bangui, president of the Central African Republic bishops’ conference, Rev. Nicolas Guerekoyame-Gbangou, president

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# POPE

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 13

of the Evangelical Alliance of the Central African Republic, and Imam Oumar Kobine Layama, president of the Islamic Community of Central African Republic, have been working together to persuade their people to end the vendettas and embrace peace and reconciliation.

Rev. Guerekoyame-Gbangou was among those welcoming Pope Francis Nov. 29 to a special meeting with representatives of the country's evangelical and Protestant communities.

The pope publicly expressed "closeness and solidarity to Pastor Nicolas, whose home was recently ransacked and set on fire, as was the meeting-place of his community. In these difficult circumstances, the Lord keeps asking us to demonstrate to everyone His tenderness, compassion and mercy."

For too long, too many Central Africans have been suffering, the pope said.

"There are also those who have been scarred in soul or body by hatred and violence, those whom war has deprived of everything: work, home and loved ones," the pope said. When God looks upon the suffering, He does not see members of one denomination or another.

"I have often called this the ecumenism of blood," he said. "All our communities suffer indiscriminately as a result of injustice and the blind hatred unleashed by the devil."

Pope Francis urged the country's Christians to continue on the path of ecumenism, cooperation and common prayer.

"The lack of unity among Christians is a scandal," he said, "above all because it is contrary to God's will."

But it is also a scandal in a world torn apart by hatred and violence, a world yearning for a word of peace and unity, he said.

## Honor your martyrs by putting faith into action, pope tells Ugandans

KAMPALA, Uganda (CNS) — As Pope Francis encouraged Ugandan Christians to draw inspiration from the 19th-century Ugandan Martyrs, he carried with him graphic images of the horrors the 45 Anglican and Catholic martyrs endured.

The pope made an early morning visit Nov. 28 to the Anglican shrine and museum located on the site where many of the martyrs died. The main exhibit features realistic statues of men being tortured, bound and thrown on a fire.

Pope Francis had a look of shock on his face as Anglican Archbishop Stanley Ntagali of Uganda explained how the martyrs were executed on the orders of King Mwangi II in the late 1800s.



CNS PHOTO/PAUL HARING

Pope Francis kneels in prayer as he visits the Anglican martyrs' shrine at Namugongo in Kampala, Uganda Nov. 28.

Afterward, the pope celebrated a Mass outside the nearby Catholic shrine to the martyrs. The shrine has an artificial lake, and Ugandan security patrolled it in a little rubber boat throughout the liturgy.

In his homily, Pope Francis honored all the martyrs, noting that they shared the same faith in Jesus and they offer a witness to "the ecumenism of blood."

## Pope ends Kenya visit defending rights of poor, denouncing tribalism

NAIROBI, Kenya (CNS) — The wealth of residents of the poorest neighborhoods ringing big cities around the world will never be quoted on the stock exchange, even though their wealth gives life and joy to millions of people, Pope Francis said. The pope began his day Nov. 27 in Nairobi's Kangemi neighborhood, usually referred to as a slum.

It features tiny dwellings made of cinder block, tin or reclaimed boards. The homes are jumbled together with dirt roads and paths running between them.

Residents were thrilled not only that the pope would take time to visit them, but that the government fixed several of the roads, installed some street lights and unblocked some water pipes in preparation for the pope's visit.

Exact figures vary, but between 55 percent and 65 percent of Nairobi's population lives in the slums. Many have no drinking water, electricity, sewage system or regular garbage collection.

Irish Mercy Sister Mary Killeen, who has ministered in Kenya for three decades, told Pope Francis that fires — especially from kerosene lamps and stoves — and floods are a danger. Evictions are frequent since the people do not own the land on which their shacks are built.



CNS PHOTO/PAUL HARING

## Choice is clear, pope says: Protect environment or destroy it

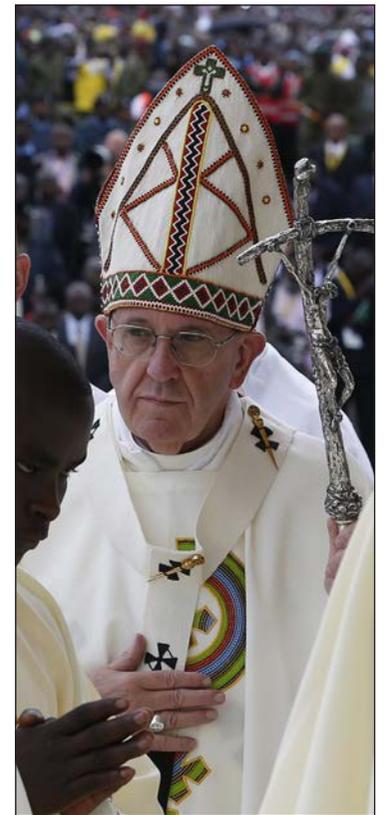
NAIROBI, Kenya (CNS) — The international community is facing a stark and serious choice, "either to improve or to destroy the environment," Pope Francis said, referring to the Paris Climate Conference.

"It would be sad, and I dare say even catastrophic, were special interests to prevail over the common good," the pope said Nov. 26 during a visit to the headquarters in Nairobi of the U.N. Environment Program and U.N. Habitat, an agency concerned with urban planning. Under the auspices of the United Nations, the Paris conference Nov. 30-Dec. 11 has the aim of achieving a legally binding and universal agreement on measures to stem climate change and protect the environment.

## Pope Francis speaks during a visit to the United Nations Office in Nairobi, Kenya, Nov. 26.

Pope Francis spoke at length about the importance of the conference during his visit to the U.N. offices, and his top aides had a meeting the evening before with Kenya's environment minister and other officials to discuss their hopes and strategies for the Paris meeting.

On his way into the meeting with U.N. officials and diplomats accredited to the two U.N. agencies, Pope Francis planted a tree. While his speech contained ample quotes from his June encyclical on the environment, the pope also referred several times to the significance of planting trees and borrowed several lines from a speech he made in Bolivia in July to a variety of grass-roots movements advocating for justice for the poor.



CNS PHOTO/PAUL HARING

Pope Francis arrives in procession to celebrate Mass on the campus of the University of Nairobi in Nairobi, Kenya, Nov. 26.

## Belief in God seen in respect, unity, service, pope says in Nairobi

NAIROBI, Kenya (CNS) — Respect, unity and service are the foundations of a strong family, a solid democracy and a healthy response to the gift of faith — any faith, Pope Francis told the people of Kenya.

Meeting ecumenical and inter-religious leaders, celebrating a large outdoor Mass and greeting priests, religious and seminarians in Nairobi Nov. 26, Pope Francis insisted faith means serving one's fellow human beings. The pope's day began early on the rainy morning with an intimate meeting with 40 representatives of Kenya's Christian, Muslim, Jewish, Sikh and Buddhist communities, as well as with a Masai elder and other leaders of communities that have maintained their traditional African beliefs.

During the meeting in the Vatican nunciature, Pope Francis remembered the terrorist attacks on Kenya's Westgate Mall in 2013, Garissa University College in April and Manda Bay in July, and urged a common recognition that "the God who we seek to serve is a God of peace." The Somali-based militant group al-Shabab claimed responsibility for all three attacks the pope mentioned.

## Remembering the dead and sacrifice

In November, Americans set aside a day to honor veterans, with special emphasis on those who have served in wars.

For my part, I think of my father on Veterans Day. He did not seek out a military career, but the times in which he lived found him and forced him into it. He was drafted the day he graduated from college, became a captain in the U.S. Army, and served in Europe in World War II. Like many war veterans, he never talked about his experience there, even though he probably had a lot to say.

This year, I also prayed for my nephew, a Green Beret who is serving with his men somewhere in the Middle East (he's not allowed to say exactly where).

November is also a month when, as Catholics, we remember and pray for the dead. We do so from a place of hope, not despair. Death is not a tragedy for Christians. Those who die are not simply gone forever. They will rise again.

Yet even if the curse of death has been lifted, death remains a serious thing for us. It is a natural process that cannot be reversed by any natural means. When our friends and family members die, we can hope to see them in heaven, but we know we will not see them at Thanksgiving dinner. We are still sad to lose them and to know we will not hear their voices except perhaps in old home videos.

Our sadness about death is not inappropriate. Jesus wept at the death of His friend Lazarus, even though He knew that He would raise him from the dead once again. Christ knew that He would end death, but He left us with a clear message that He didn't expect us to find it easy for the living to handle.

The gravity of death is an important reason why we honor military veterans as we do. They risk death for their country. We also demand that they kill our enemies. This is no light matter, even in a perfectly just and justly waged war.

Soldiers are trained to kill, as they should and must. On the beaches of Normandy, the muscle-memory instilled through repetition and training probably kept many men alive. Some wars cannot be avoided. The recent terrorist attacks in France remind us that there are truly bad people in the world who are not interested in listening to reason or engaging in dialogue.

But no good person really wants to kill, any more than he wants to die. I have always believed this is one reason that veterans like my father are so hesitant to discuss their experience, no matter how honorably and justly they acquitted themselves in serving their country. Killing, even when it is justified and necessary, takes a toll on the human person and cannot be a pleasant thing to remember under any circumstances.



JOHN GARVEY

### INTELLECT AND VIRTUE

Our devotion to veterans, living and dead, is an appropriate and laudable part of America's civic virtue. We owe a great debt to those whom we ask to carry such heavy burdens for us.

And like our solicitude for the dead, our tributes to veterans are full of hope. We take the opportunity to hope for peace, to hope that others will be so dedicated to the common good, and to hope that our society and our government will honor its promises to veterans after they return.

John Garvey is president of The Catholic University of America.

## Thirteen sons, no daughters, no reality TV shows

The wedding that Tyler Schwandt and his fiancée are planning could've been broadcast on national TV. But he's perfectly content with a quieter, more intimate wedding Mass.

The 23-year-old Catholic from Rockford, Michigan, has the distinction of being the firstborn of 13 boys, the family whose improbable boy streak went viral with the 12<sup>th</sup> pregnancy and generated another round of stories when a 13<sup>th</sup> son arrived in May. Crews from "The Today Show" and "Good Morning America" were at the Schwandts' six-bedroom brick home before they had returned from the hospital, citing statisticians who set the odds of 13 consecutive boys at 1 in 8,000.

Each boy has felt like a one-in-a-million blessing to Jay and Kateri Schwandt, whose openness to life is rooted in their Catholic faith.

Ty absorbed those values his entire life and considers his family the best marriage-prep he could've hoped for. He's been changing diapers since third grade and has a knack for getting a baby to sleep. When asked what he wants to do when he grows up, Ty has always offered the same answer: be successful, be happy and be a dad.

Growing up with so many brothers brought a series of practical jokes and broken windows, including one instance when the family's pole barn didn't have a single intact window, thanks to errant hockey pucks. Stuffed with backpacks and bunk beds and mounds of hockey pads, Kateri has likened their house to a locker room. Ty loves it.



CHRISTINA CAPECCHI

### TWENTY SOMETHING

He and his fiancée, Bailey, a 20-year-old college junior, plan to learn NFP before their July 2016 wedding. She has one sibling and used to imagine having two kids of her own one day but has since raised it to four – a number Ty still considers far too low. "God has a plan for us," Ty said. "I'll be happy with whatever we're blessed with. Every time we get on that subject, Bailey says, 'Please, just give me one little girl.'"

After the birth of their 12<sup>th</sup> son in 2013, TLC offered the Schwandts a reality show. Jay and Kateri sat down to discuss the prospect with their older sons one autumn evening before supper, hashing out the pros and cons.

"I was never intrigued," Ty said. "I liked the attention, but I never loved the attention, and it almost lasted a little too long for me. I'd rather live a simple, happy life. You see 'Kate Plus 8' and the Duggars and all those other shows. They make a good run and then, in the end, they come crashing down. It wasn't worth trying to be the exception."

The money TLC offered didn't

CAPECCHI, PAGE 16

## John the Baptist calls us to be prepared



### THE SUNDAY GOSPEL

MSGR. OWEN F. CAMPION

### 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent Lk 3:1-6

The Book of Baruch provides the first reading for this second Sunday of Advent.

Baruch is not one of the Major Prophets. Having only five chapters, it is relatively brief, certainly when the long books of Ezekiel, Isaiah and Jeremiah are considered.

It also is among the books called by Protestants scholars the Apocrypha, by Catholics the Deutero-Canonical. As such it does not appear in the King James Version of the Bible and some other translations that rely upon the thinking that led to the selection of books for inclusion in

the King James edition.

It is not found in Jewish translations of the Scriptures.

One reason for its omission from these versions is that at one time it was presumed to have been written originally in Greek. It was thought that Old Testament books could not be considered authentic revelation unless composed in Hebrew. Actually, scholars now believe that Baruch first was written in Hebrew, but that only Greek translations survive.

For Catholics, however, most important is the fact that Christians from early times venerated Baruch as part of the Bible, and the Church officially long ago recognized it as such.

In any case, when Baruch was written great problems beset God's people. This book encouraged the suffering, reassuring them that God would not forsake them, and that God's justice and mercy will prevail over all.

The Epistle to the Philippians furnishes the next written lesson. Sent to the Christians of Philippi, an important city in the ancient

Roman Empire, the epistle urges the Philippians loyal to the Lord to be steadfast in their faith, come what may, until the second coming of Jesus.

As so often found elsewhere in the New Testament, this reading strongly states that one-day, but at a time unknown, Jesus will come again in triumph and judgment.

St. Luke's Gospel is the source of the last reading.

This reading centers upon Jesus, although also highly visible in the reading is John the Baptist. Carefully constructed, the Gospel presents the coming of Jesus as extraordinarily, indeed uniquely, important in the course of human affairs.

The Lord's coming was so important, in fact, that John the Baptist spent his life proclaiming that, in God's majesty, a savior would come. The savior, of course, would be Jesus.

John was a holy man. Ancient Jews believed that holiness gave persons special wisdom. God used such persons to reveal truth to other humans. Thus, John's prediction of the coming of Jesus

had particular credibility.

This Gospel takes pains in setting the presence of John, and the future coming of Christ, at an exact moment in history, namely when Tiberius was emperor, Pilate his governor in Palestine, and so on.

Finally, when Jesus came as God's promised redeemer, these predictions were fulfilled. The prophets of old had yearned for the redeemer and had forecast the coming of a savior. It was John's message as well. When this messiah would come, all would be made right. The rough ways for people would be made smooth.

### Reflection

When Baruch was written, times were bad for the Jews. When Philippians and the Gospel of Luke were written, times were hard for Christians. The nature of the hardships differed, but the consequence was the same.

On this second Sunday of Advent, the Church speaks to us. Times may be hard. Human life always has its puzzles, setbacks

and worry.

Despite our worries and heartaches, however, all will be right. All will be joy and peace, if we admit Jesus into our lives. He awaits our invitation. We invite the Lord into our lives sincerely by reforming ourselves, by renouncing our sins, and by giving ourselves totally to God.

Jesus is coming. John the Baptist also calls us to be prepared.

### READINGS

**Sunday:** Bar 5:1-9 Ps 126:1-6  
Phil 1:4-6, 8-11 Lk 3:1-6

**Monday:** Is 35:1-10 Ps 85:9ab, 10-14  
Lk 5:17-26

**Tuesday:** Gn 3:9-15, 20 Ps 98:1-4  
Eph 1:3-6, 11-12 Lk 1:26-38

**Wednesday:** Is 40:25-31 Ps 103:1-4, 8,  
10 Mt 11:28-30

**Thursday:** Is 41:13-20 Ps 145:1, 9-13b  
Mt 11:11-15

**Friday:** Is 48:17-19 Ps 1:1-4, 6  
Mt 11:16-19

**Saturday:** Zec 2:14-17 (Ps) Jdt 13:18bc,  
19 Lk 1:26-38

God is mercy:

Holy Year affirms belief Christians, Muslims, Jews share

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Opening the Holy Door of St. Peter's Basilica and the Year of Mercy, Pope Francis also hopes to open a year of "fervent dialogue" among Christians, Muslims and Jews, so that all who profess faith in a merciful God may be stronger in showing mercy toward one another.

The opening of the special jubilee year just a month after the terrorist attacks in Paris and at a time of continuing strife in the Holy Land and around the Middle East shows the size of the challenge facing those committed to interreligious dialogue, but it equally shows the need.

In his official proclamation of the Year of Mercy, Pope Francis noted that the Christian profession of faith in God's mercy "relates us to Judaism and Islam, both of which consider mercy to be one of God's most important attributes."

He prayed that the jubilee would "open us to even more fervent dialogue so that we might know and understand one another better; may it eliminate every form of closed-mindedness and disrespect, and drive out every form of violence and discrimination."

"This jubilee of mercy is an inspiration," said Shahrzad Houshmand, a Muslim scholar who teaches at Rome's Pontifical Gregorian University. "At this difficult moment in history, it is time to return to the original name of God who, for all three of us, is mercy. We have lost so much on the way because of pride, because we have not recognized each other as brothers and sisters and some have even gone so far astray that they see each other as enemies. This jubilee can help us return to the roots of our religious existence which is based on the name of God, the merciful."

For Rabbi Naftali Brawer, CEO of the Spiritual Capital Foundation in London, being religious means imitating God, particularly in the pursuit of justice and the demonstration of mercy.

Making the world a better place, he said, "is all about

individuals, it is about bottom up, it is about little acts of mercy. ... It's not going to happen through conferences of interfaith leaders making more proclamations about the meaning of mercy or theologians delving deeply into what mercy means, but it's about people of different faiths living together and trying to see the other for who the other really is and responding accordingly."

"It happens on the ground," the rabbi said. "It happens in a million different little acts every day."

For Jews, he said, God's justice and mercy go together. "There is a passage of Jewish teaching in the Talmud that states that if someone is merciful to the cruel, they will end up being cruel to the merciful. In other words, justice is important in Judaism; it is not just unadulterated mercy."

"But what we do in our liturgies," the rabbi said, "we are constantly asking God to temper His justice with mercy."

It is a "bit of a caricature" to say the might of God in the Hebrew Scriptures is greater than His mercy, Rabbi Brawer said, because the Bible presents different images of God. "There are times in which He is angry and vengeful, but then there are times in which God is extraordinarily vulnerable, betrayed and almost astounded by the behavior of a people He loves who are not returning that love. So, yes, God can be vengeful and wrathful and demand justice, but then He very often allows humans to challenge that, invites humans to challenge that and I think that's the fuller picture."

For example, he said, after the Israelites worship the golden calf, God tells Moses, "I'm going to wipe this lot out," — that's one snapshot — but what's equally important is the following snapshot in which Moses intercedes and God gives way, and that's an extraordinary thing."

Houshmand said 113 of the 114 chapters of the Quran open with the phrase, "Bismillah al rahman al rahim," usually translated as, "In the name of

THE VATICAN LETTER

CINDY WOODEN

God, the most gracious, most merciful." Muslims begin their formal prayers with the phrase, they say it before meals, begin formal speeches with it and recite it at the beginning of wedding and funeral rites.

"Why does the Quran repeat this name so often? Maybe it is because God knows that unfortunately the human heart needs to hear repeated, constantly and often, that God is mercy," she said. "With our instincts and selfishness, our failures and pettiness, the human being tends always to flee from mercy, so the Quran repeats and repeats and repeats it."

As in Catholicism, in Islam invoking God's mercy is particularly tied to asking God's forgiveness for one's sins, she said. Islam teaches that "God, the fullness of love, knows and sees the mistakes, errors and sins of the human person. But His mercy never stops in the face of anything. His mercy embraces all of creation — the good and the bad, saints and sinners — and He says, 'I see you, I see your sins, but I am still merciful always. And the doors of My mercy, of My forgiveness are always, eternally open to you.'"

Muslims, she said, believe that at different times of the year — such as the last days of the fasting month of Ramadan — the gates of heaven open wider and God's mercy flows more abundantly. "I see the jubilee as having this purpose, too, of healing deep wounds. We must welcome this call to mercy and remember that no one is perfect, no one is without need of mercy. Like Jesus said, 'Let whoever is without sin throw the first stone.'"

to take it. My biggest concern would be all of the little boys. They would grow up in front of cameras. I feel like they would never become who they really are."

Watching their lives unfold as he begins a family of his own leaves nothing to be desired. It is the adventure of a lifetime.

Christina Capecchi is a freelance writer from Inver Grove Heights, Minn., and editor of SisterStory.org.

SCRIPTURE SEARCH

Gospel for December 6, 2015

Luke 3:1-6

Following is a word search based on the Gospel reading for the Second Sunday of Advent, Cycle C: when John appears as the Precursor. The words can be found in all directions in the puzzle.

- REIGN GOVERNOR ITURAEA JOHN SINS PROPHET THE WAY CAESAR TETRARCH PRIESTHOOD REGION WRITTEN VOICE STRAIGHT PILATE PHILIP THE WORD REPENTANCE BOOK PREPARE ALL FLESH

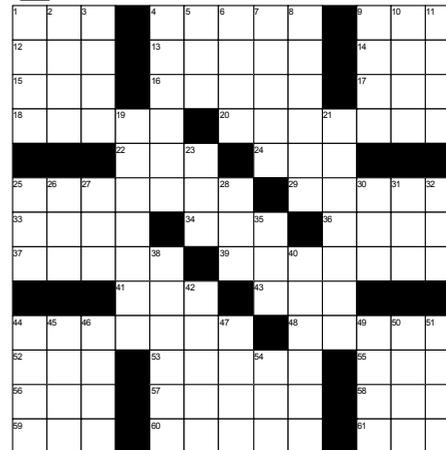
SET IN HISTORY

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

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The CrossWord

December 6 and 13, 2015



Based on these readings: Phil 1:4-6,8-11; Lk 3:1-6 and Zeph 3:14-18a; Phil 4:4-7; Lk 3:10-18

ACROSS

- 1 Abdominal muscles (abbr.)
4 Japanese dish
9 Estimated arrival time
12 Fear
13 Guides to pew
14 Male cat
15 Build up
16 Egyptian capital
17 Alien craft
18 Invigorating
20 Pilate
22 White robe worn at Mass
24 Casino roller
25 Syrupy alcoholic drink

- 29 Desert plants
33 Binders
34 Old horse
36 skin cap
37 Golden king
39 Tropical cyclone
41 Time zone
43 "Blessed \_\_\_ you among women"
44 Insincere people
48 Mid-Eastern dwellers
52 Baba and the 40 thieves
53 God is the only one
55 Friend
56 # of Commandments
57 Magic lamp dweller
58 Lanka

- 59 Greek dawn goddess
60 Garden tool
61 "Omega" means in the Bible

DOWN

- 1 Arabian
2 Third U.S. VP
3 Very large truck
4 Drink like a baby
5 North American country
6 Ark was a type of
7 Pilate sent Jesus to him
8 Humorous
9 Decorative needle case
10 Meat alternative
11 OT sycamore prophet
19 Pork link
21 John was called one
23 Hamburger holder
25 Long-term memory
26 Next Vatican Council will be
27 It is proven
28 Lab animal
30 Dove sound
31 Also
32 No room here
35 Gigayears ago
38 Ash Wednesday mark
40 Paul put joy in every \_\_\_
42 Cornered
44 Crown of the head
45 Margarine
46 "Baptism for forgiveness of \_\_\_"
47 "\_\_\_ joyfully, O Israel!"
49 Roof vault in a church
50 Wheat gathered into
51 Skidded
54 Neckwear

Answer Key can be found on page 19.

CAPECCHI

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 15

justify the cost it would come at, Ty felt.

Surely the camera crew would've gravitated toward the handsome firstborn, turning his engagement into a major storyline and reducing the wedding sacrament to a heavily marketed special episode.

No thanks, says Ty. "We want our wedding to be intimate. I'm glad we're able to keep this in the family."

Just reading the online comments strangers have written about his family is enough to make his stomach turn. Saying no to reality TV, as he sees it, is a yes to privacy, serenity and family. He has total confidence — and a measure of relief — in their decision to decline.

"I'm very thankful for it because I don't know how well I'd be able

# Sports

**USF-MARIAN GAME TICKETS** The University of Saint Francis put tickets on sale on Dec. 1 for the NAIA Football Championship Series Semifinal Game on Saturday, Dec. 5, at D'Arcy Stadium. Sixth-ranked Marian University will play at fourth-ranked USF at noon on Dec. 5. Fans can also purchase tickets by calling the business office at 260-399-8004 or by emailing requests to [jmcmeeeking@sf.edu](mailto:jmcmeeeking@sf.edu). Tickets are \$10 for adults in advance, \$12 on game day; students — \$5 throughout. Gates will open at 10 a.m. on Saturday, Dec. 5.

## State football champions, Bishop Dwenger Saints celebrate victory

BY MICHELLE CASTLEMAN

FORT WAYNE — Hailing from three hours south of Fort Wayne near St. Leon, Indiana, the East Central Trojans may have scored first at Lucas Oil Stadium on Saturday, Nov. 28, and led 3-0 at the half, but this year's most coveted crown, a Class 4-A state championship ended up with the No. 3-ranked Bishop Dwenger Saints. The entire school, family members and media gathered to celebrate a fourth state football title in an assembly on Monday afternoon.

More photos are available in the photo gallery and at [diocesefwsb.org](http://diocesefwsb.org)



The sweet victory culminated a dazzling season and amazing playoff run for the Saints. A team full of stars, not just a standout or two, Bishop Dwenger completed a goal they set out to reach last summer. As they witnessed the daily battle with cancer for two special men this season, the team became more unified, more determined and more inspired to reach their goal.

Last summer, Coach Chris Svarczkopf (132-42), who had been at the helm of the Dwenger program and served as its heart and soul 13 seasons, handed over the head coaching reins to Interim Coach Ernie Bojrab, who led last year's freshman squad to a 9-0 record.

The young men also had to do without the constant, visible support of beloved former principal and coach, Fred Tone, who was forced to spend more time in bed this season than the sidelines or classroom due to his immense pain.

Trailing at half time with a state championship on the line, Bishop Dwenger came exploding out of the locker room for four scores in the final two quarters — putting the explanation mark on their 2015 season.

In the win, Bishop Dwenger was able to gain an amazing 269 yards of offense against a notable East Central defense. Amaun Clark was brilliant running for three touchdowns. Bishop Dwenger's double-threat, field general Blake Podschline completed 10-16 passes and had a one-yard score, while Keenan Buenconsejo was good for three point after attempts to etch a final score of 27-3 in the Indiana record books and bring back a state title — after five trips since its last win in 1991.

Led by Frank Yanko's eight tackles, the Dwenger defense had a stellar second half as well, equally



PHOTOS BY JOE ROMIE

**Bishop Dwenger football team wins state Class 4-A championship on Nov. 28 at Lucas Oil Stadium in Indianapolis. The Dwenger Saints defeated the East Central Trojans, 27-3, after being down at halftime 0-3. Dwenger's football players raise their helmets with the trophy in celebration of their state Class 4-A championship victory.**



**Bishop Dwenger High School football captains present the state Class 4-A trophy to Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades, Principal Jason Schiffli and Superintendent of Catholic Schools Marsha Jordan at an assembly on Nov. 30.**

making the win possible by forcing four turnovers and holding the Trojans, who entered the contest averaging nearly 400 yards per game, to just 172 yards.

Bojrab did the unheard of leading a squad who finished 4-6 a year ago and were blanked in their sectional opener to a 14-1 record with coaches he didn't hire.

In a postgame interview with Indianapolis media, the humble leader quickly clarified this was not his team, "This is Coach Svarczkopf's program, this is his coaching staff, these are his guys," Bojrab said. "It all came together this year with the work ethic and perseverance of these kids and I'm very proud of them."

Redeemer Radio's Joe Wharton was most impressed with the team and entire coaching staff's overall ability to adjust.

The commentator summarized, "This team struck me as one who genuinely cared for one another and were led by a great group of (32) seniors. They adjusted perfectly and made this season one worthy of a Hollywood script."

At the Monday assembly, Svarczkopf embraced the role of emcee and opened with well-deserved thank yous — first to the special guests in attendance from the diocese, Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades and Superintendent of Catholic Schools Marsha Jordan. He continued thanking all those from top to bottom including the parents for their weekly pre-game meals, 42-year veteran statisticians, Dave Scudder and Carol Cornell and the inspiring team chaplain, Father Jacob Meyer.

After calling out the individual names of each of his invaluable coaching staff, Svarczkopf then explained how he chose the most positive, capable man for the interim position in Ernie Bojrab. The emotional display continued as Svarczkopf thanked his wife and doctors who have helped him along his difficult health journey this season. Finally, the coach thanked his players and warned them that their story has just begun and they will forever be remembered as a player on the 2015 championship team — for what they did and how they did it. He finished quoting Romans 5:3-4 which calls us to rejoice in our sufferings.

Bojrab was up next thanking everyone involved in any way with the 2015 season. Coach Tone received a second standing ovation and the four team captains each took a turn at the microphone. After the presentation of the state trophy and final blessing by the bishop, the school fight song resounded throughout the gym.

Coach Bojrab saw it was possible during the summer workouts and 7-on-7 competitions and Director of Football Operations John Eppard had been motivated with it on Aug. 21 back in the gym after the 28-15 opening loss to Bishop Luers, "There's nothing wrong with a 14-1 state championship season."

## Queen of Angels hosts annual Thanksgiving basketball invitational

BY MICHELLE CASTLEMAN

FORT WAYNE — Many people have Thanksgiving weekend traditions — football, Black Friday shopping and special time with family. For the past 23 years, Catholic Youth Organization (CYO) teams and other Fort Wayne area hoopsters have been busy showcasing their basketball talents in the annual Queen of Angels Invitational.

Crowned the 2015 pre-season champions for the girls' field was St. Joseph-Hessen Cassel (SJHC). The Squires kicked off their season in an impressive fashion playing seven games in all over the three-day marathon. In their opener, SJHC reignited their Blue League rivalry with St. Rose-St. Louis slipping by the Twins in a come-from-behind 28-25 overtime win Friday morning. But later in the afternoon, the Squires fell to a towering St. John the Baptist, Fort Wayne, squad, 37-38, booting them to the loser's bracket.

However, Coach Maria Parsenow's team was not ready to go home just yet. The determined Squires returned on Saturday and went 3-0 beating Queen of Angels, St. Rose-St. Louis once again and the seventh-grade ladies from St. Charles.

This allowed SJHC the chance to return on Sunday to avenge their loss against SJFW. In the double elimination format, the mighty Squires were required to hand the Eagles their first loss then turn around and beat them again to win the championship, and that's just what they did, 42-39 and 47-44.

Jelena Girod and Ali Beard led the team offensively with help

from Maddie Parsenow, Hannah Sweeney and Madalyn Rauner, who all played tough defense. In her eighth year of coaching at SJHC and final season with eighth-grade daughter Maddie, a pleased Parsenow explained, "Our team played very well together this weekend — and we hit our free throws. It is always fun to watch how much the girls grow from Friday to Sunday."

The former Bishop Luers guard continued, "All the girls contributed in the games to get us to the championship. Rachel McKinnon, Leah Lashure, Ingrid Spenn, Addie Knipp, Jaiden Jordan and Maggie Hare all contributed and stepped up when they were in the games."

In the championship, SJFW made a valiant effort clawing their way back from a 9-27 halftime deficit. Taylor Bransfield led all scoring with an amazing 30 points.

For the boys' seventh-grade tournament, St. Vincent chalked up a 4-0 start to their season and came out on top in the championship game against St. John the Baptist, New Haven. In the eighth-grade frenzy, a solid St. Therese team had a strong showing over the three days with four victories in all. The experienced Crusaders, who list 13 on their roster this season, including seven eighth graders who have been playing in the system for three to four years, were beat both times by Central Lutheran. The final score in the championship was 26-35.

Looking forward to the 2015-2016 CYO season, Coach Zach Palmer summarized, "Our team is coachable and very unselfish. We have a great mix of height and speed this year."



MICHELLE CASTLEMAN

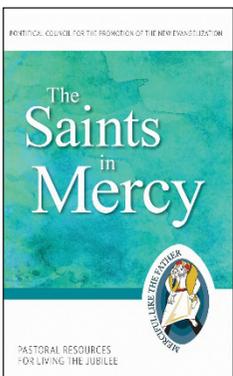
**The St. Joseph-Hessen Cassel Squires girls' basketball team took top honors at the Queen of Angels Invitational over the Thanksgiving holiday.**

# Year of Mercy resources

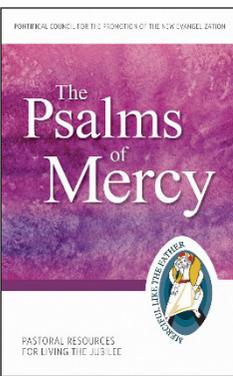
## The Official Catechesis

The following books offered by Our Sunday Visitor provide the perfect structure for a series of small group studies and reflection throughout the year. The plan recommends choosing three per quarter, or one per month for eight months, to work through these themes as a parish.

**"The Saints in Mercy"** includes stories of 27 saints, blesseds, venerables and other holy people who witnessed to the faith not only through works of mercy, but by living within God's mercy. Through perseverance and humility, their ordinary lives became extraordinary portraits of holiness because they allowed God's Mercy to penetrate and overflow. Paperback, T1739, <https://www.osv.com/Shop/Product?ProductCode=T1739>.

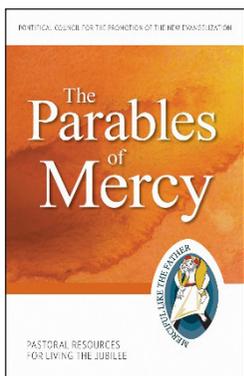


**"The Psalms of Mercy"** offers 10 Psalms of mercy to pray that will help the faithful more deeply come into God's presence, and reveal

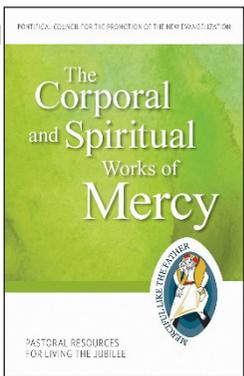


God's mercy and tenderness for each reader. Paperback, T1736, <https://www.osv.com/Shop/Product?ProductCode=T1736>.

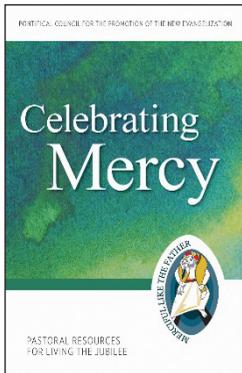
**"The Parables of Mercy"** provides the reader with an invitation to see familiar parables in a new way, recognizing themselves in the stories and seeing that mercy is a powerful force that overcomes all, filling hearts with God's unbridled pardon and fierce love for all. Paperback, T1737, <https://www.osv.com/Shop/Product?ProductCode=T1737>.



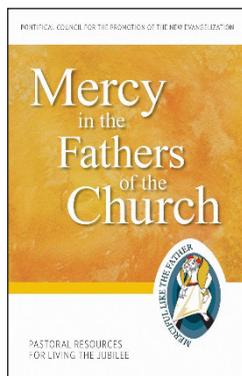
**"The Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy"** outlines the roots of mercy as presented in Scripture, and then delves deeply into each of the corporal and spiritual works, enlivening the faithful's commitment to common humanity. Paperback, T1741, <https://www.osv.com/Shop/Product?ProductCode=T1741>.



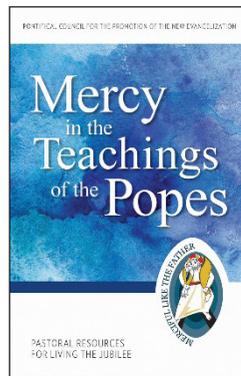
**"Celebrating Mercy"** is the definitive guidebook for all diocesan and religious communities, parishes and shrines, filled with useful recommendations for celebrating the Jubilee, including the official Rite of the Opening of the Door of Mercy in Local Churches. Paperback, T1735, <https://www.osv.com/Shop/Product?ProductCode=T1735>.



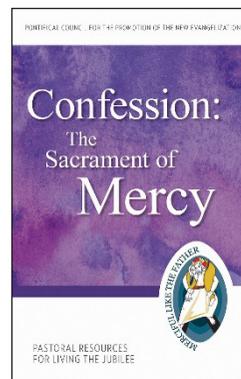
**"Mercy in the Fathers of the Church"** includes an in-depth look at St. Augustine, the Preacher of Mercy, and an anthology of passages from Church Fathers including St. Maximus, St. Cyril, St. John Chrysostom, St. Ambrose, St. Basil, St. Polycarp, St. Ignatius of Antioch and many more. Paperback, T1738, <https://www.osv.com/Shop/Product?ProductCode=T1738>.



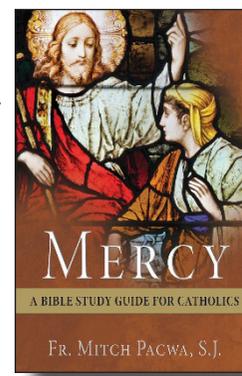
**"Mercy in the Teachings of the Popes"** is a collection of teachings of popes Pius XI, Pius XII, John XXIII, Paul VI, Benedict XVI, John Paul II, and Francis on subjects like the source of divine mercy; Mary, mother of mercy; mercy, the life of the Church, and much more. Paperback, T1740, <https://www.osv.com/Shop/Product?ProductCode=T1740>.



**"Confession: The Sacrament of Mercy"** uses four Gospel passages to bring forward the themes of mercy, forgiveness and conversion, coupled with a deeper reflection on the Catholic Tradition and pastoral ministry of the sacrament, reminding readers of the beauty, power and efficacy of Reconciliation. Paperback, T1742, <https://www.osv.com/Shop/Product?ProductCode=T1742>.



**"Mercy: A Bible Study Guide for Catholics"** by respected scholar and author Jesuit Father Mitch Pacwa leads his readers to a deeper understanding of mercy through the study of Israel's long, slow struggle to experience it. Perfect for a parish small group study, or for personal reflection, each of the six sessions in "Mercy: A Bible Study Guide for Catholics" will help the faithful rediscover the incredible history of God's mercy in their own lives. Paperback, T1597, <https://www.osv.com/Shop/Product?ProductCode=T1597>.



## 365 Days to Mercy App

Our Sunday Visitor presents the "365 Days to Mercy" app for daily meditations on mercy, OSV Bookshelf excerpts, Pope Francis' tweets, Divine Mercy Chaplet and Novena and more. The app is free on iTunes and Google Play App Stores.





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-St. Catherine of Siena

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# WHAT'S HAPPENING?

**WHAT'S HAPPENING** carries announcements about upcoming events in the diocese. Send in your announcement at least two weeks prior to the event. Mail to: Today's Catholic, P.O. Box 11169, Fort Wayne 46856; or email: fhogan@diocesefwsb.org. Events that require an admission charge or payment to participate will receive one free listing. For additional listings of that event, please call our advertising sales staff at (260) 456-2824 to purchase space.

**Bishop Luers to hold scholarship/ placement make-up exam**  
Fort Wayne — Bishop Luers High School will hold the Henry-Keefer Scholarship/placement make-up exam for all eighth graders on Saturday, Dec. 12, from 8–11:30 a.m. in the school library, 333 East Paulding Rd. Scholarship money totaling \$10,000 will be awarded among students scoring in the top 10 of the placement test. No pre-registration is required; no testing fee. Students should bring pencils. Any current eighth-grade student who plans to attend Bishop Luers in the fall of 2017 is required to take the exam. For information contact Jenny Andorfer, director of admissions, jandorfer@bishoplucers.org or 260-456-1261, ext. 3139. Students with an IEP who need special testing accommodations should plan on contacting Jenny Andorfer to confirm any special testing accommodation; a copy of the student's IEP should be presented at the test site.

**Holy Hour planned for New Year's Eve**  
Fort Wayne — Father George Gabet, FSSP, will lead a Holy Hour on New Year's Eve at Sacred Heart Parish, 4643 Gaywood Dr., from 11:30 p.m. to 12:30 a.m. There will be Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament as well as the rosary.

**Cookie and wreath sale**  
Mishawaka — The St. Monica Rosary Society will have a cookie and wreath sale Saturday, Dec. 12, in the church basement, 222 W. Mishawaka Ave. A variety of cookies will be sold for \$5 per pound. Seasonal wreaths will also be sold.

**Pancake and sausage breakfast with Santa**  
Fort Wayne — The St. Charles Athletic Association, will have a pancake and sausage breakfast Sunday, Dec. 13, from 8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., at the church, 4910 Trier Rd. All the pancakes you can eat and a visit with Santa. Enter at door No. 9. Cost is \$4 for adults, \$3 per child 12 and under or \$15 per family.

**Christmas Candy and Bake Sale**  
Fort Wayne — The Rosary Society of Most Precious Blood Church, 1515 Barthold St., will have a Christmas candy and bake sale Saturday, Dec. 12, from 4-6:30 p.m. in the gym and Sunday, Dec. 13, from 8 a.m. to noon. Santa will be present both days so bring a camera.

**Snacks with Santa**  
South Bend — Visit and have snacks with Santa Sunday, Dec. 6, from noon to 2 p.m. at Saint Joseph High School. Free admission.

**St. Monica concludes 100-year anniversary celebration**  
Mishawaka — St. Monica Parish, 222 W. Mishawaka Ave., will celebrate the conclusion of its centennial year with a Mass Sunday, Dec. 13, at 10 a.m. followed by a reception in the church lower level. The St. Monica choir will sing and the 100-year banner will be taken in procession to a permanent location in the church. Visit [www.stmonicamish.org](http://www.stmonicamish.org) or [www.facebook.com/stmonica100](http://www.facebook.com/stmonica100).

**Lessons and Carols**  
Elkhart — St. Vincent de Paul Parish and School, 1108 S. Main St., will present an Advent festival of Lessons and Carols on Monday, Dec. 14, at 6 p.m. Music provided by parish, school and community choirs. Reception to follow in Vincent Hall. No charge for admission.

**Prayers for those on death row**  
Granger — The Community of Sant'Egidio will offer prayers for life on death row, for an end to the death penalty and to remember those on death row on Wednesday, Dec. 9, at 7 p.m. at St. Pius X Parish, 52553 Fir Rd.

## REST IN PEACE

**Culver**  
William A. Horwath, 82, St. Mary of the Lake

Jacqueline Marie Anderson Momper, 85, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton

**New Haven**  
Robert Joseph Wright III, 54, St. John the Baptist

**Fort Wayne**  
Jane E. Ineman, 83, St. John the Baptist

**Granger**  
John Arthur Humphrey, 80, St. Pius X

**Notre Dame**  
Therese Bourke Reilly, 80, Sacred Heart

Steven Karl Cebalt, 55, Queen of Angels

Deborah Ann Landgrebe, 44, St. Pius X

**South Bend**  
Genevieve M. Glon, 73, St. Therese, Little Flower

Claire Houser Honkanen, 93, Our Lady of Good Hope

**Mishawaka**  
Josephine J. Baert, 84, St. Joseph

Lottie A. Golba, 93, St. Anthony de Padua  
Flora B. Alexander, 95, St. Augustine

Rose Mary I. Peterink, 94, St. Peter

Margery E. Boehnlein, 93, St. Joseph

Sharon Lee Kindt, 76, St. Matthew

Jean M. David, 83, Most Precious Blood

Geraldine S. Chrzanowski, 85, St. Joseph

Mieczyslaw Potarzycki, 80, St. Adalbert

Agnes P. McArdle, 87, St. John the Baptist

### Director, Human Resources PHJC Ministries

The Center at Donaldson is part of a faith-based, not-for-profit group of ministries sponsored by the Poor Handmaids of Jesus Christ located in Donaldson, Indiana. We are seeking a Director, Human Resources PHJC Ministries. Although the position will be housed on the Donaldson, IN campus, it will have responsibility for all 16 ministries sponsored by The Poor Handmaids of Jesus Christ. The ministries are located in Donaldson, East Chicago, Fort Wayne, Hammond, Hobart, and Gary, IN, and also includes a ministry located in East Saint Louis, MO. The Director, Human Resources PHJC Ministries is responsible for ministry-wide strategic human resource planning and directing that includes recruitment, policy development, performance management, compensation and benefits administration, organizational training and development, and worker's compensation. Qualified candidates will have a Master's degree in Human Resources or another related organizational discipline with 10 years experience in Human Resources and five years in a Director, Human Resources role. A professional certification in Human Resources is required. Previous experience working in a not-for-profit, faith-based environment would be a definite plus. This position requires regional travel to all ministries on a regular basis.

Please visit our website at [www.poorhandmaids.org](http://www.poorhandmaids.org) or [www.thecenteratdonaldson.org](http://www.thecenteratdonaldson.org) to learn more about our ministries.

We offer a competitive wage, and excellent benefit package. Résumé, including salary history, should be submitted by December 11, 2015 to:

Poor Handmaids of Jesus Christ



Partners in the work of the Spirit

The Center at Donaldson  
Attn: Human Resources  
P.O. Box 1  
Donaldson, Indiana 46513  
Phone: 574-936-9936  
Fax: 574-935-1735  
E-mail: [hr@poorhandmaids.org](mailto:hr@poorhandmaids.org)  
EOE

## Camp Program Director

### SHARE FOUNDATION

**Job Description:** Share Foundation seeks a person to take over the camp program at Sharing Meadows.  
**Responsibilities:** Responsibilities include recruiting and scheduling staff for each camp; recruiting, inviting and scheduling campers for each camp session; organizing paperwork; establishing themes, planning menus, craft projects and activities for each camp session; purchasing food and supplies and keeping an inventory; conducting orientation and training for camp staff; and evaluating each camp session. The position will also include marketing the camp building for rental to outside groups, scheduling rental contracts and seeing that renter's needs are met.  
**Qualifications:** Candidate should have a bachelor's degree in human services or a related field, good organizational skills, proficiency in Microsoft Office, proven public speaking skills and be able to work with minimal supervision.  
**Benefits:** This full-time position offers a salary commensurate to experience, health insurance, vacation and paid holidays. More importantly, the right person will be a part of meaningful experience and know the joy of making a difference in the lives of our other abled campers.

Please submit a résumé to [share@sharefoundation.org](mailto:share@sharefoundation.org) or by mail to: Share Foundation - P.O. Box 400 - Rolling Prairie, IN 46371 EOE



## The CrossWord

Dec. 6 and 13, 2015

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



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