

TODAY'S CATHOLIC

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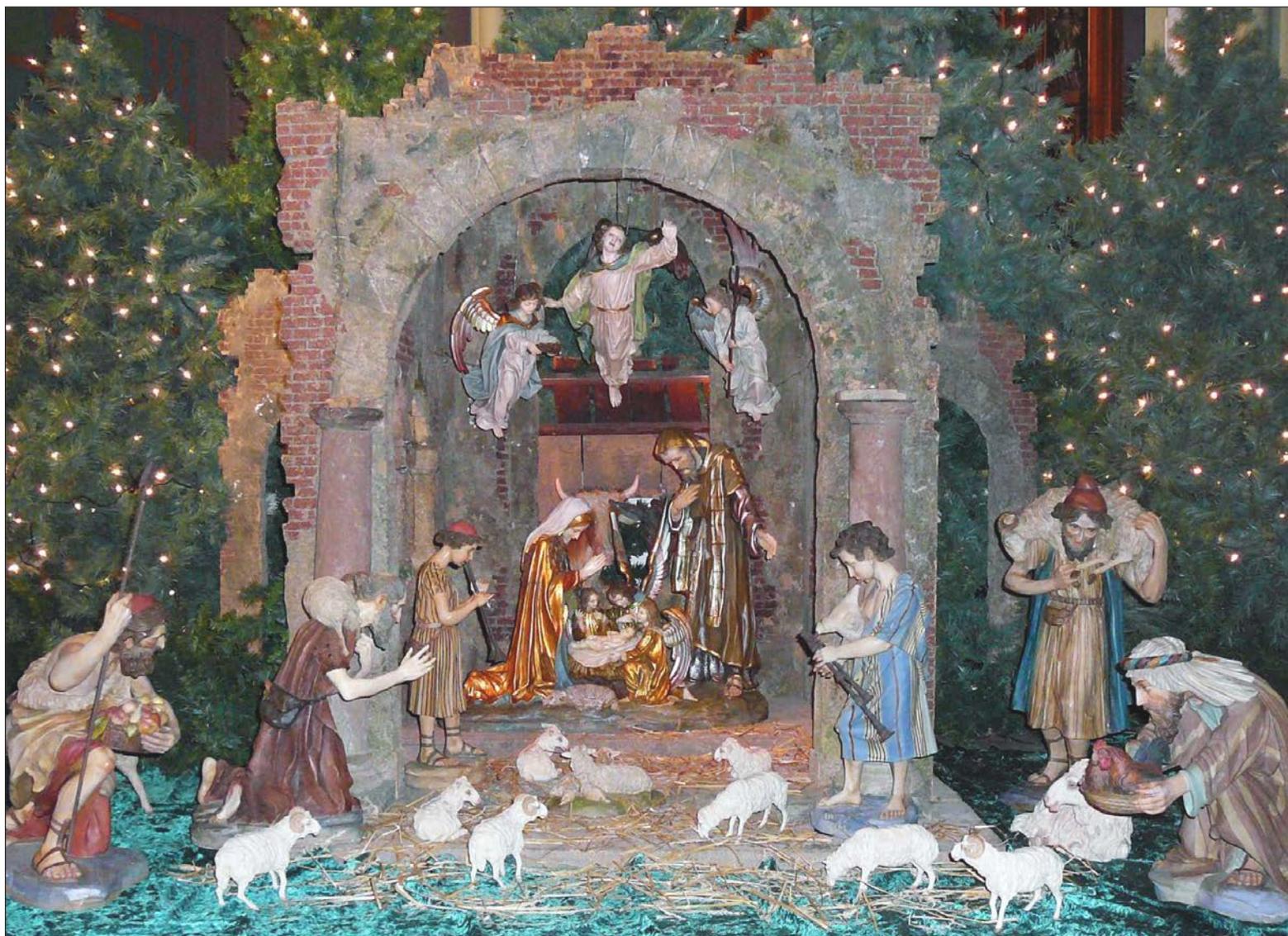
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St. Nicholas is in town

Blessings of Christmas



Provided by the Poor Handmaids of Jesus Christ

Sebastian Osterrieder of Munich, Germany, is the artist-fabricator of the Nativity scene in the Ancilla Domini Chapel in Donaldson. Made of plaster, the detail of the statues, even down to the use of leather and rope on the camels, adds to their authenticity. The tall figures measure 27 inches and the kneeling ones, 24 inches. The Poor Handmaids commissioned the artist to create the crèche for their new Gothic Chapel in their Motherhouse. It was received for Christmas 1926.

Open the Doors of Mercy

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No Issue Dec. 27.

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Holy Doors opened

BY BONNIE ELBERSON

FORT WAYNE — Just as Pope Francis opened the Holy Door at St. Peter's Basilica in Rome on Dec. 8, marking the official start of the Jubilee Year of Mercy in the Catholic Church, Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades opened the Holy Door at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in downtown Fort Wayne at the 5 p.m. Mass Sunday in a similar ritual. The same celebration was held at St. Matthew Cathedral in South Bend and the Basilica of the Sacred Heart at Notre Dame, all in response to Pope Francis' directive to follow his example by opening Holy Doors in every diocese throughout the world. The Holy Doors were aptly opened on the Third Sunday of Advent or "Gaudete" Sunday because "gaudete" means rejoice.

The ritual opening of the Holy Door signifies the opportunity of the faithful to join with the universal Church in experiencing the love of God and gaining indulgences promised in this Jubilee Year of Mercy, and the year will be devoted to celebrating the sacred mysteries and carrying out liturgical acts of praise and supplication.

In Fort Wayne, a large crowd gathered first at Mother Theodore Guérin Chapel, where Bishop Rhoades invited them to bless and praise God. He delivered a brief exhortation, followed by a prayer for the Church. He proclaimed a reading from Luke's Gospel and read an excerpt from Pope Francis' papal Bull of Indiction of the Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy, "Misericordiae Vultus," announcing the Jubilee Year.

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Living the Year of Mercy

Give Drink to the Thirsty

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www.myyearofmercy.org

TODAY'S CATHOLIC

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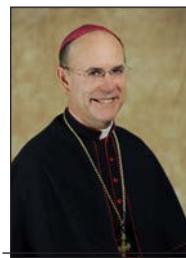
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The Doors of Mercy open into a joyful home



IN TRUTH AND CHARITY

BISHOP KEVIN C. RHOADES

The following is the text of the homily of Bishop Rhoades at the Mass opening the Doors of Mercy of the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception on the Third Sunday of Advent, December 13, 2015:

Today is the Third Sunday of Advent which is called *Gaudete Sunday*. "Gaudete" means "rejoice." So today is the Sunday of joy. Saint Paul invites the Philippians to rejoice. He writes: *Brothers and sisters: Rejoice in the Lord always. I shall say it again: rejoice!* And he gives them the reason why: because *the Lord is near*. We rejoice on this Third Sunday of Advent because Christmas is near. The joy of Christmas is a special joy, yet we should not forget that joy isn't just for a day. As Pope Francis says, *it is for the entire life of a Christian. It is a serene and tranquil joy, a joy that forever accompanies the Christian*. Joy is a fruit of the Holy Spirit. It is a gift from the Lord.

We began this liturgy with the opening of the Holy Doors of our cathedral: the Doors of Mercy. There is a profound relationship between mercy and joy. This Jubilee Year of Mercy is an invitation to joy. We rejoice because the Lord is near. He is near with His mercy. Jesus reveals to us the mercy of the Father. It is in and through that mercy that we find joy in our lives, that we find peace in our souls. When we encounter the mercy of the Lord, we are filled with joy and peace.

Forty years ago, Blessed Pope Paul VI wrote an apostolic exhortation entitled *Gaudete in Domino, Rejoice in the Lord*. In that exhortation that begins with the words of Saint Paul to the Philippians that we hear on this Third Sunday of Advent, Pope Paul VI said that *No one is excluded from the joy brought by the Lord*. He wrote that *the great joy announced by the angel on Christmas night is truly for all the people*. That is because God's mercy is offered to all. God became man to save us all. When I opened the Holy Doors, the Doors of Mercy, I prayed that all who enter those doors during this Jubilee Year will feel that they are welcome here, that the Church is their home. I pray that all those who are saddened by sin will receive the joy of the Lord through the Sacrament of Reconciliation. It is by receiving the Lord's mercy that we can experience anew the joy that He so desires for us.

True joy is linked to our relationship with God. It's much more than having a good time. We can sometimes pursue all kinds of pleasure in our lives, but we're never truly satisfied by material and earthly pleasures. Such happiness is superficial; it doesn't endure. Or we seek happiness by achieving success, by accomplishing things. But that happiness doesn't last either. True joy is deeper. Think about Saint Augustine, who for many years sought happiness in various ways, sometimes in sinful behavior. Like so many people in our society today, he was searching for happiness and peace, but he couldn't find it. Finally, by the grace of God,



Joe Romie

Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades after opening the Holy Doors at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Fort Wayne processes with the Book of Gospels at the Dec. 13 Mass.

he realized why he was unhappy and unfulfilled. He said those famous words: *our heart is restless until it rests in God*. He only found true peace and joy when he encountered Christ and opened his heart to the mercy of the Father.

There's a lot of anxiety in the world today. There's fear of terrorism that has even hardened people's hearts to the suffering of refugees. There's a lot of discouragement about the future, a certain pessimism that afflicts even the young. There is a spiritual aridity in some people's lives that leads them to constantly complain about things — their negativity can be demoralizing to others. We see this also within our communities in the Church. I think of Pope Francis words about "sourpusses." We must say no to a "sterile pessimism," the Pope says. Such pessimism, or defeatism, "stifles boldness and zeal." The Holy Father calls it "an evil spirit." I think it pleases Satan when Christians are without joy, when we succumb to this sterile pessimism, when we wallow in negativity and complain all the time. Where is the Holy Spirit in this? He's not there. The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of joy. One who is moved by the Spirit is a person of hope and a witness of joy. It's all about trust, trust in God's mercy, trust in the victory of grace over sin, of life over death. It is trust in Jesus Christ, that He is the Savior. The good news of the Gospel is precisely that, *good news*. It is the Gospel of salvation, the Gospel of mercy.

We all encounter difficulties in our lives. We face trials. We have crosses to carry. We can be tempted to pessimism and adopt a defeatist attitude, or we can embrace the sufferings of life with courage and hope. Isn't this what our faith teaches us? The greatness of God's mercy and the knowledge that the Lord is always with us gives us the strength

to go forward. He is close to us always. He loves us and forgives us. We can only overcome sadness by trusting in the Lord. Even amid trials and sufferings, we can have joy, not a superficial joy, but the joy that penetrates deep in our hearts and minds when we entrust ourselves to the Lord.

Pope Francis says that *the Church is not a haven for sad people, the Church is a joyful home! And those who are sad find joy in her, they find in her true joy!* It is of great importance that all people, especially those hurting as a result of sin, feel welcome in the Church, that they know that the doors of every Catholic church are doors of mercy. I pray that all those who are sad may find joy in the Church, not some superficial joy, but true joy: the joy that comes from listening to God's word and the joy of the sacraments, the joy of worshipping God, the joy that comes from prayer and conversion. But also that they find joy through our witness of love and mercy, our welcoming spirit. May no one feel excluded from the joy brought by the Lord! I pray that when people enter our churches, they will not find embittered faces, sourpusses, self-righteous modern-day Pharisees, but will find faces which radiate the love of Jesus and the joy of the Gospel.

My brothers and sisters, on this *Gaudete Sunday*, the Church rejoices because the Lord is near. Christmas is near. We will soon be gazing at the manger where we are able to savor the true joy of Christmas, contemplating in the face of the newborn Jesus the merciful face of God. As we have opened the holy doors of this cathedral, let us open the doors of our hearts to the God who became flesh and dwells among us. May all of us experience in our lives the deep joy of His salvation and bear witness to that joy in our lives!

First Nocturnal Adoration Society Chapter in state established

BY DENISE FEDOROW

GOSHEN — In an installation ceremony and Mass celebrated by Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades on Saturday, Dec. 12, the feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe, St. John the Evangelist Church in Goshen was established as an official chapter of the Nocturnal Adoration Society.

A number of Spanish-speaking parishioners have been committed to this devotion for approximately three years, staying with the Blessed Sacrament all through the night. They were joined by a handful of English-speaking men.

On Saturday evening approximately 50 members were officially inducted as nocturnalists and presented special medals and candles blessed by the bishop.

Members of the National Nocturnal Adoration Society, President Raul Mendoza and Treasurer Eduardo Elizondo from Laredo, Texas, were present for the installation Mass and earlier in the afternoon explained more about the society.

The Nocturnal Adoration Society is worldwide. It began in the United States 104 years ago and initially the national headquarters was in New York City. In 2000, the national headquarters moved to Cleveland, Ohio, under the spiritual direction of Father Anthony Schueller. At approximately the same time, according to Elizondo, a Hispanic headquarters was opened in Laredo, Texas. Last year, Father Schueller decided to move the entire national headquarters to Laredo because of the culmination of 20 years work developing a bilingual Office of the Most Blessed Sacrament book.

The Office of the Most Blessed Sacrament is similar to the Liturgy of Hours with some adaptations in keeping with the Second Vatican Council's Constitution of the Sacred Liturgy.

"Now it's truly a bilingual movement," Elizondo said. "And with the bilingual book we hope it continues."

There are 500 parishes with chapters in the United States and 161 of them have been established since 1986. St. John the Evangelist is the first chapter in the state of Indiana.

Once a month, nocturnal adorers stay all night at the church. The night usually begins with a prayer service around 9 p.m. and Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament. Two people are assigned for every hour to stay with the Sacrament, but the rest of the members remain on the premises throughout the night. According to Elizondo, women are not supposed to stay all night. They should attend the first two to three hours and



Denise Fedorow

Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades places the Nocturnal Adoration Society medal on new member George Fattal at the installation Mass and ceremony held Saturday, Dec. 12 at St. John the Evangelist, Goshen. Treasurer of the National Nocturnal Adoration Society Eduardo Elizondo places the flag across the shoulders of each candidate. Looking on from left are Father Fernando Jimenez and Father Tony Steinacker.

return in the morning prior to the closing Mass. He said this is for the safety of the women and to avoid any potential scandal.

"We consider ourselves soldiers of God," he said. "We intervene and pray to mitigate and ask for forgiveness on behalf of mankind and our role is to defend the Mother Church against any spiritual attacks."

Requirements to establish a local chapter

Elizondo said a minimum of 15 men, who are committed to remain constant participants in Nocturnal Adoration, is required to establish a chapter and there are rules that must be followed by the nocturnalists, most of which are to remain committed, prompt and avoid anything that could bring disgrace to the society.

Raul Mendoza spoke to the candidates prior to the evening Mass. He told them how special it was that it is happening on the feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe.

"It was the Holy Spirit that chose the date," he said. He told the candidates that they were patient and had worked hard to get more people involved.

Several children were also being inducted as members. Mendoza said when people ask him why they allow children when the children don't really understand what they're doing he replies that parents know what they want for their children and the children will someday understand.

Loren Hartman one of the English-speaking candidates spoke about why he was joining. "To pray the Office (of the Blessed Sacrament) was beautiful and powerful," he said. "Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament has changed my life and changed Joanne's (Hartman's wife) life profoundly. And He has spoken to me in Adoration."

Rosa Hernandez, one of the bilingual women candidates said participating in Nocturnal Adoration was an act of thanksgiving. "I want to give my time to Jesus and the Sacrament for all the blessings in my life," she said.



Public Schedule of Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades

- Sunday, Dec. 20, 10:30 a.m. — Television Mass, Chapel of University of Saint Francis, Fort Wayne
- Monday, Dec. 21, 11 a.m. — Mass for Fort Wayne Diocesan Employees, Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, Fort Wayne
- Tuesday, Dec. 22, 11 a.m. — Mass for Seminarians and their families and Serra Club, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Church, Fort Wayne
- Thursday, Dec. 24, 5 p.m. — Vespers with Franciscan Brothers Minor and Poor Sisters of Saint Clare, Saint Andrew Church, Fort Wayne
- Thursday, Dec. 24, 10:30 p.m. — Christmas Mass During the Night, Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, Fort Wayne



Priest appointment

The Most Reverend Kevin C. Rhoades, Bishop of Fort Wayne-South Bend, has appointed Father Eric Zimmer as pastor of Saint Patrick Parish, Walkerton, effective January 1, 2016.



Denise Fedorow

At the conclusion of the Mass celebrating the installation of St. John the Evangelist, Goshen, into the Nocturnal Adoration Society, Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades prayed in front of the shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe. The Mass was held on the feast day of Our Lady of Guadalupe and the parish established the chapter under the patronage of Juan Diego.

Installation Mass

Bishop Rhoades told the standing-room-only crowd he was glad to be with them on the feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe and to celebrate the grand mystery of salvation. In his homily he spoke frequently of Juan Diego and Our Lady of Guadalupe and the blessings of Christ's nativity.

During the installation, Bishop

Rhoades asked each candidate about their commitment and why they wanted to join. They each responded that their intent in becoming members was to make Jesus in the Eucharist the center of their lives, to participate frequently in the celebration of the Mass, to be loyal to their monthly hour of Adoration and proclaim and extend Christ's love in the



Provided by St. John the Evangelist Parish

Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades, center, posed with the newly inducted members of the St. John the Evangelist, Goshen, Nocturnal Adoration Society. About 50 members of all ages were inducted as members of the society, the first chapter in the state of Indiana.



Provided by St. John the Evangelist Parish

From left, Deacon David Elchert, Father Fernando Jimenez, parochial vicar, and Father Anthony Steinacker, pastor of St. John the Evangelist Parish in Goshen, are seated during the celebration of Mass celebrated by Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades on Dec. 12, the feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe. During the Mass, Bishop Rhoades installed approximately 50 members to the Nocturnal Adoration Society Chapter, the first chapter in Indiana. A celebration in honor of Our Lady of Guadalupe followed the Mass.

NOCTURNAL

Continued from Page 3

witness of their daily lives.

As the bishop blessed the medals to be given to the members he prayed that "whoever wears the medal and humbly strives to serve and honor Your Son through Nocturnal Adoration may by His merits and intercession be granted Your abundant grace in this life and share His glory in the eternal kingdom."

Medals were first given to Bishop Rhoades, Father Fernando Jimenez, parochial vicar, and Father Tony Steinacker, pastor, who was given the authority to accept members or delegate that authority to any priest of his choice.

The Nocturnal Adoration Society flag was placed across the shoulders of each candidate as they approached the altar to receive his or her medal. The medals were symbols of sacramental love and were to serve as shields against the snares of any malignant spirit. Each candidate was also given a candle. The flag given to St. John Church by the national society was blessed and waved by Bishop Rhoades, then Father Jimenez and St. John's chapter president Gilberto Loesa as the congregation cheered "Viva!" amidst applause.

At the end of the ceremony, Bishop Rhoades said, "In virtue of the faculty granted me by the Holy See through the Archconfraternity of Nocturnal Adoration, I hereby receive you into the Archconfraternity of Nocturnal Adoration and make

you beneficiaries of all spiritual benefits, favors and privileges which have been granted by the Holy See to the Archconfraternity in Rome."

Afterwards the officials of the new chapter spoke of what it meant to them. Father Jimenez said, "It's a dream come true. Some didn't think it would happen. It's a special occasion for all of us to celebrate this feast and to celebrate in the presence of the bishop is very special."

Father Steinacker said everything was connected. "The fact that St. John the Evangelist — the beloved disciple — calls every one of us to be that beloved disciple in all ways and the fact that this (the establishment of the chapter) is happening on this day proves that nothing happens by coincidence. We chose to have this society under the patronage of Juan Diego and how beautiful that everything is culminating on Our Lady of Guadalupe's feast day and Gaudete (joyful) Sunday. It is indeed a joyful day for each member, for our parish and the diocese."

St. John's Nocturnal Adoration Society President Gilberto Loesa said, "I'm very happy. Thanks to God and to all the brothers and sisters who prepared for this day and thanks to Father Tony, Father Fernando and the bishop for all their hard work."

As Bishop Rhoades posed for photos with new members of the society he said of the event, "It's a blessing for the parish and the whole diocese. It's such a beautiful devotion and to see so many in our Latino community involved and making the commitment to spend time in Adoration during the night."

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Living the Year of Mercy

Give drink to the thirsty

Support for Catholic Relief Services

Bill Duffy of St. Paul of the Cross in Columbia City reminds the faithful of the work of Catholic Relief Services (CRS) in giving drink to the thirsty:

The numbers, as reported by Catholic Relief Services, (www.crs.org) are staggering. It reports, 750 million people do not have access to clean, safe water and 43 percent of these folks live in sub-Saharan Africa. What water they do have is often polluted with pathogens of all kinds including parasitic worms that cause horrific afflictions. Lack of water access further puts populations at risk for diseases such as diarrhea that come with not being able to wash their hands. In Third World countries, diarrhea continues to be a leading cause of death for children.

In this Year of Mercy, there are several things we can do to focus on the reality that clean safe water is not something that all people have. Catholic Relief Services' WASH program (water, sanitation, and hygiene) has been very successful in working with people who need help in terms of access to water as well as improved sanitation. This information is easily available at the CRS website, www.crs.org



Susan Byers

Ceceila Kramer offers coffee to a homeless person in Fort Wayne. She is a regular volunteer with Catholics on a Mission Homeless Outreach.



Sarah Speer

Attached is a picture of our middle school EDGE group feeding the hungry at Warm-A-Heart soup kitchen in Waterloo. The youth served 173 meals and packed groceries for 53 families in need.



St. Mary of the Assumption, Decatur

David and Allisten Hamel share water with Lt. Chris Brite and Decatur's police officers. David and Allisten were recently married and are participants of the Why Catholic? group at St. Mary Parish in Decatur.



Rose Worman

Eighth-grade students at St. Joseph-Hessen Cassel, Fort Wayne, organized a soap and shampoo drive for their school-wide Thanksgiving Community Service Project. Students and staff brought in 678 items for the Ave Maria House in downtown Fort Wayne. The shelter provides a place for the homeless to shower, wash clothes and check emails.

Year of Mercy day 12

"Mercy: The bridge that connects God and man."

— Pope Francis



More photos showing works of mercy can be found at MyYearofMercy.org

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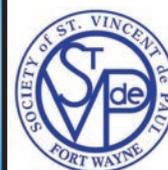


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Pope to visit marginalized communities in Mexico in February

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope Francis will visit some of the most marginalized communities in Mexico and seek to bring hope to a country deeply suffering from crime, corruption and inequality when he visits in February. The Vatican announced Dec. 12 details about the pope's Feb. 12-17 trip to Mexico, during which he will stop in six cities, including two in the state of Chiapas and — across from El Paso, Texas — Ciudad Juarez, which just five years ago was considered the “murder capital of the world” as drug cartels disputed a trafficking corridor. The pope said in November that he wanted to visit cities where St. John Paul II and Pope Benedict XVI never went. But he said he will stop at the capital of Mexico City to pray at the Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe. “But if it wasn't for Our Lady I wouldn't” go there, he had told reporters. The pope will fly out of and return to Mexico City each day after celebrating Mass at the basilica on the second day of his trip. Over the following four days, he will visit a pediatric hospital in the capital as well as families and indigenous communities in the southernmost state of Chiapas, Mexico's poorest state, which gained worldwide attention for the 1990s Zapatista rebellion.

NEWS BRIEFS

Chicago interfaith prayer services for peace held



CNS photo/Karen Callaway, Catholic New World

Archbishop Blase J. Cupich of Chicago, center, leads an interfaith prayer service at Holy Name Cathedral Dec. 8. The service was organized to pray for peace and show solidarity for the city of Chicago and against violence in the city.

tants “perpetrated crimes against humanity, ethnic cleansing and war crimes” against Christians as well as the Yezidi, Turkmen, Shabak, Sabeen-Mandean and Kaka'i peoples.

Attendees at vigil pray for shooting victims, healing in community

SAN BERNARDINO, Calif. (CNS) — Our Lady of the Rosary Cathedral was dark as men and women of different faiths walked down the center aisle of the mission-revival-style church. The names of the 14 victims of the Dec. 2 shooting at the Inland Regional Center in San Bernardino were read by an unseen woman, with an equal number of 6-inch white candles lit on a table before the altar. And the haunting high voice of a soloist sang the civil rights theme “We Shall Overcome.” More than 400 gathered in the Diocese of San Bernardino's mother church for an evening vigil Dec. 7. They came to pray for the slaughtered and 21 injured in what President Barack Obama has called a terrorist attack in this city, some 65 miles east of Los Angeles along Route 66.

New Vatican document reflects on relations between Catholics, Jews

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Catholics are called to witness to their faith in Jesus before all people, including Jews, but the Catholic Church “neither conducts nor supports” any institutional missionary initiative directed toward Jews, says a new document from a Vatican commission. How God will save the Jews if they do not explicitly believe in Christ is “an unfathomable divine mystery,” but one which must be affirmed since Catholics believe that God is faithful to His promises and therefore never revoked His covenant with the Jewish people, it says.

Sisters' numbers shrinking but growing more diverse

WASHINGTON (CNS) — A new report on U.S. women religious said that religious life is becoming not only more multiethnic but more international as well. The report, “Understanding U.S. Catholic Sisters Today,” said that of all women who entered religious life in the past 10 years, only 57 percent were white, while 17 percent were Hispanic, 16 percent were Asian, and 8 percent were black — including both African-American women and those born in Africa. Because of the growing numbers of foreign-born women religious, the report noted, Trinity Washington University recently received a grant to study and map the presence of international women religious in the United States and their evolving ministries in response to Church and societal needs.

Pope Francis will venerate Mary at Mexico shrine next year

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — On the feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe, Pope Francis announced that he would travel to the Marian shrine in Mexico City and pray to Mary so that Christian communities “may become oases and rivers of mercy. To ask her this, in a strong way, I will travel to venerate her at her shrine on Feb. 13. There, I will ask this for all of America, of whom she is especially a mother,” the pope said. The pope made the announcement during a Dec. 12 Mass in St. Peter's Basilica honoring Our Lady of Guadalupe, who appeared to St. Juan Diego in 1531. In his homily, the pope said that God's merciful love is His “most surprising attribute” and is not only manifested through Mary but also directed toward the Church and every person. God, he said, “loves us with a free love, without limits, expecting nothing in return.” The pope said that no sin could cancel out God's mercy but only shine forth His love with greater strength. “No matter how great or serious the sins of the world may be, the Spirit, who renews the face of the earth, makes possible the miracle of a more human life, full of joy and hope,” he said.



CNS photo/Paul Haring

Pope Francis uses incense to venerate an image of Our Lady of Guadalupe during Mass marking the feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe in St. Peter's Basilica at the Vatican Dec. 12.

Witnesses at hearing say killing of Middle East Christians 'genocide'

WASHINGTON (CNS) — A Dec. 9 congressional hearing sought a State Department determination of ongoing Christian genocide by the Islamic State, a designation that could produce considerable pressure for additional U.S. military intervention in the region, not just humanitarian aid. Such a designation also has policy implications for U.S. efforts to restore property and lands taken from the minority groups and for offers of aid and asylum to the victims. Many hope that when the State Department soon declares, as expected, that the Yezidis, a religious minority in Iraq targeted by the Islamic State since 2014, are facing genocide, it also will produce something stronger than reserving judgment about the militants' treatment of Christians. On Dec. 4, 30 Christian leaders, including Cardinal Donald W. Wuerl of Washington, asked for a meeting with Secretary of State John Kerry in advance of that declaration. The meeting has yet to be scheduled. The current push is the result of a U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum report, issued in November, that detailed attacks against the Yezidi in the Ninevah province in Iraq. It also concluded that Islamic State mili-

St. Patrick to host 'Called and Gifted' seminar

ARCOLA — St. Patrick Parish will host a Called and Gifted workshop on Jan. 8, from 7-9 p.m. and Jan. 9, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Participants will learn how to discern the unique work of love to which God is calling them and to discover how God has empowered them to carry it out.

The Called and Gifted workshop is presented by the Catherine of Siena Institute, nationally headquartered in Colorado Springs. Dominican Father Mike Fones, and Sherry Weddell are co-founders of the institute.

Cost for the weekend that includes breakfast and lunch on Saturday is \$30, \$50 for a couple and \$75 for a family. Participants 15 years of age and older are welcome.

For more information about the workshop or the Catherine of Siena Institute, visit www.siena.org.

Participants may register online at www.eventbrite.com and search "Called and Gifted" or call Ken and Kam Schaefer at 260-625-3930 for questions and to send in paper registration.

Professor Snead appointed to Pontifical Academy for Life

NOTRE DAME — Carter Snead, a professor of law at Notre Dame was recently appointed to the Pontifical Academy for Life, a prestigious honor recognizing world leaders dedicated to the study of bioethics and law in promotion of the Church's defense of all human life. He is one of only 82 corresponding members of the PAL worldwide — one of 11 from the United States.

Before coming to Notre Dame, he served as General Counsel to the President's Council on Bioethics (Chaired by Dr. Leon R. Kass), where he was the primary drafter of the 2004 report, "Reproduction and Responsibility: The Regulation of New Biotechnologies." He has testified in the U.S. House of Representatives on regulatory questions concerning RU-486 (the abortion pill). In 2014, he testified in the Texas state legislature on the constitutionality of a proposed fetal pain bill. Professor Snead led the U.S. government delegation to UNESCO and served as its chief negotiator for the Universal Declaration on Bioethics and Human Rights (adopted in October 2005). He served (with President's Council on Bioethics Chairman, Dr. Edmund Pellegrino) as the U.S. government's Permanent Observer to the Council of Europe's Steering Committee on Bioethics (CDBI), where he assisted in its efforts to elaborate international instruments and standards for the ethical governance of science and medicine.

AROUND THE DIOCESE

Breakfast with St. Nicholas



Provided by St. Anthony of Padua Parish, Angola

A "Breakfast with St. Nicholas" during which St. Nicholas, played by Father Bernie Zajdel, parochial vicar of St. Anthony of Padua Parish, Angola, visited with the children in the parish hall following the 10 a.m. Mass, on Sunday, Dec. 6, the feast day of St. Nicholas. The eighth-grade confirmation class sang Christmas Carols for the approximately 100 children and their families who attended the breakfast provided by the Knights of Columbus.

Redeemer Radio names Cindy Black as executive director

FORT WAYNE — Redeemer Radio announced that Cindy Black has been named executive director for the Radio Network in Northern Indiana. As the executive director, Black will serve as the primary visionary for the organization. It is her responsibility to see where the organization will be over the next three to five years, and design and implement strategies to execute that vision.

Redeemer Radio Board Chair Jeremy Reidy expressed, "We are thrilled to welcome Cindy Black as the new leader of Redeemer Radio. Cindy brings tremendous talents, character and years of experience in evangelization to the apostolate. Redeemer Radio is poised to spread the Gospel even



CINDY BLACK

further with Cindy's vision and experience."

Black has a rich and diverse background. She is a former college professor of communications, a former youth director, and also served directing youth ministry for the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend. She transitioned to adult faith formation before being called to Redeemer Radio.

"Cindy Black has been an invaluable coworker, friend and passionate disciple for so many in our diocese," says Mary Glowaski, director of the Secretariat for Evangelization at the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend. "To say we will miss her couldn't be more of an understatement! My heart is full of joy and excitement as Cindy says 'yes' to new opportunities to bring Christ to her new Redeemer family. Under her leadership and care I can strongly recommend that Redeemer Radio get a bigger family table because you are about to grow beyond your wildest expectations."

Cathedral Museum needs volunteers

FORT WAYNE — The Cathedral Museum is seeking volunteers to work one day per month, Tuesday through Friday, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Those interested may contact Margaret Venderly at 260-459-1032.

'Because of His Mercy' theme for young adult retreat

NOTRE DAME — Young adult men and women in their 20s and 30s, single and married, are invited to get away from the busyness of daily life and encounter the Lord in a personal way.

The annual Overnight Retreat will take place Saturday, Jan. 9, 9 a.m. through Sunday, Jan. 10, 1 p.m. at the Sacred Heart Parish Center in South Bend.

This year's retreat theme is "Because of His Mercy." The retreat will include relevant talks, music, Adoration, Confession, Mass and social time. Also included are overnight lodging, lunch and dinner on Saturday, and breakfast and lunch on Sunday. Additional information and registration is available at www.diocesefwsb.org/yam-retreats. Sponsored by St. Pius X Young Adults and the diocesan young adult ministry.

'Goodies for God' sale benefits Women's Care Center



Jessica Patton and her St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic School first graders gather on the first day of the "Goodies for God" cookie sale.

FORT WAYNE — The St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic School first graders and their families have baked dozens of cookies and other holiday treats for the annual "Goodies for God" cookie sale where the baked goods were sold for 25 cents to the school and parish community from Dec. 7-10.

This year, the first graders' goal was to make \$1,000, to be donated to the Women's Care Center in Fort Wayne. "The first graders understand that this is our way to help the moms and their babies at the Women's Care Center," said first-grade teacher Julie Peters. "This service project is our way to pay it forward."

Jessica Patton, another St.

Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic School first-grade teacher, said that the first graders previously visited Ellison Bakery to see how a cookie factory works.

"In this Year of Mercy, what a wonderful example our first graders are showing towards the community," said Principal Lois Widner. "I am so proud of our students, parents and staff for bringing Christ to others and sharing the vision of our patroness, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton."

A check for the total amount made from the cookie sale was presented to a representative of the Women's Care Center at the end of the St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic School Mass on Dec. 11.

Knights give 'visit the imprisoned' a Christmas twist

BY TIM JOHNSON

BLUFFTON — Two Knights of Columbus councils have brought some Christmas cheer this year to the work of mercy — visit the imprisoned.

The Knights at St. Joseph Parish in Bluffton purchase Christmas gifts for the children of those incarcerated at the Wells County Jail.

Lt. Jim Paxton, a detective in the Wells County Sheriff's Office, and Larry Mock, the Wells County public defender, are both Knights at the St. Joseph council. Modeled on the Angel Tree Program, Paxton spoke to the St. Joseph Knights who felt there was a need at the jail for those incarcerated to provide Christmas gifts for their children. Now in its third year, individual Knights purchased gifts for seven children and are presented from the mom or dad.

Paxton said the inmates have the need to have a connection with their family while they are



Mike Follis

Children received their gifts at a Christmas party at St. Henry Church on Dec. 13. The Knights of Columbus council at St. Aloysius, Yoder, coordinate a Prison Fellowship and Angel Tree program where gifts are purchased for the children whose parent may be in jail or in prison.

in jail. "It's tough during a holiday to be away," he said. "I felt there was a need for the inmates to still bond with their families during the holiday."

Paxton asks for six to eight names of local inmates from the jailers who know the inmates and work with them every day. Paxton then meets with the inmates in a group and explains the Knights of Columbus pro-

gram. He asks if there is a gift in particular that the inmates would like for their children. The inmates write down that gift, and the Knights purchase those gifts.

The gift is presented from mom or dad. "We want the child to know that their parent is still thinking about them while they are here in jail," Paxton told *Today's Catholic* from the Wells

County Sheriff's Office.

"This time of year is tough on everybody, especially if you are away from your family," Paxton noted. "It's tough on you if you have other problems in your life. If we can help some families during the holidays be a little happier, that is what we are supposed to do."

After the gifts are collected, Paxton or Mock go to the homes where the children are staying, knock on the door and say, "This is from your mom or dad."

"The people I have dealt with in the past have been very appreciative," Paxton said. He tells those in jail to make sure they tell their family that Paxton or Mock will be delivering the gift.

Paxton said the Knights of Columbus are a great help for this outreach as a corporal work of mercy, visit the imprisoned.

He said if another council or sheriff's department is interested in adapting a similar outreach, they may contact him at the Wells County Sheriff's Department.

The St. Joseph Knights are also involved in the purchase of Coats for Kids. On Dec. 6, they sponsored a breakfast with funds going toward the purchase of several new coats.

Up State Road 1 at St. Aloysius, Yoder, the Knights of Columbus have sponsored the Prison Ministries Angel Tree program for the last nine years, and the parish sponsored it two years prior. In the program parishioners select from a Christmas tree a card representing a child whose parent is in jail. Parishioners purchase the gifts, which are returned beneath the tree at the church and then transported to a celebration at St. Henry Church in Fort Wayne.

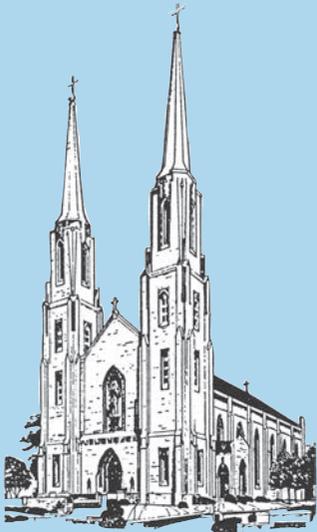
The families and guardians of the children are invited to the gift party that includes prayer petitions and a talk from Msgr. Bernard Galic, pastor of St. Aloysius. Each family then receives the gifts with a message from the parent who is in prison, has lunch and a visit with Santa. In return the family can sign a Christmas card, which is mailed back to the incarcerated parent.

Mark Michuda, the district deputy Knight and member of the St. Aloysius Knights of Columbus, said there are 120 children representing 56 families with a parent incarcerated. And typically in Allen County, he said, there are over 1,000 children whose parent or parents are incarcerated. "The need is just enormous," Michuda said. He said, this year there are children receiving gifts with both parents who are incarcerated.

For more information about the St. Aloysius Knights' Prison Angel Tree program, email district15@indianakofc.org.

Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception

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Christmas Eve Masses:
5:00 PM Vigil Children's Mass
10:30 PM Mass During The Night
(Music begins at 10:00 PM)

Christmas Day Masses
9:00 & 11:00 AM

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

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Luke 2:10

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Helping a Knight's widow with firewood for winter



The Knights of Columbus of St. Francis Xavier in Pierceton assisted a widow of the parish by making firewood for her wood-burning furnace on Nov. 14.

Provided by the Knights of Columbus, St. Francis Xavier

St. Joseph students 'pay it forward'

The fifth and sixth graders of St. Joseph Catholic School in Garrett participated in an art contest to create a holiday poster. The St. Joseph students placed first in the middle school category and they received \$500, which the students will use to buy toys for families sponsored by the Garrett Christmas Bureau.



Jill Hamblin



Merry Christmas from all of us at the **University of Saint Francis**

"May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you will abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit."

-ROMANS 15:13



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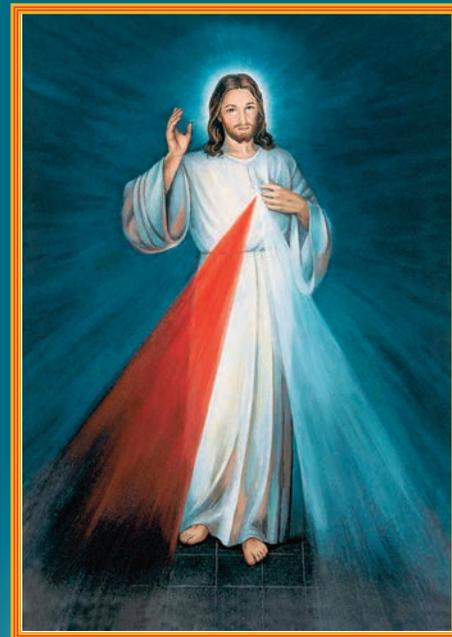
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HOLY DOOR

Continued from Page 1

The procession began with the words, "Brothers and sisters, let us go forth in the name of Christ: He is the way that leads us in the year of grace and mercy."

Then the faithful, along with a large group of postulants, novitiates, nuns, Franciscan Brothers Minor and Knights of Columbus processed to the entrance of the cathedral where the bishop performed the celebratory rite of opening the Holy Door.

Bishop Rhoades knelt as he crossed the threshold of the cathedral, then turned and displayed the Book of Gospels with the words of God's divine mercy while choir sang the antiphon, "I am the gate, says the Lord ..." Then, led by the liturgical procession, all entered through the Door of Mercy.

The procession of the faithful is an important part of the rite, as it represents the pilgrimage, the journey each makes in this life. And the opening of the Holy Door of Mercy recognizes that Christ is the sole door through which to enter into salvation.

During his homily at Sunday's Mass, Bishop Rhoades explained, "The Jubilee Year of Mercy is



Photos by Joe Romie

The Knights of Columbus lead a procession from the St. Mother Theodore Guérin Chapel on the cathedral grounds to the plaza entrance of the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception where Bishop Rhoades opened the Jubilee Year of Mercy Holy Doors.



Mass servers lead the pilgrimage procession from the St. Mother Theodore Guérin Chapel to the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception where the Holy Doors were opened.

At left, Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades opens the Holy Doors at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception on Dec. 13, the third Sunday of Advent.

an invitation to joy. We rejoice because the Lord is near. He is near with His mercy."

St. Vincent's parishioners Nick and Irene Reith were on hand for the special occasion. Nick said they wanted to attend after reading about the event in *Today's Catholic*. Many others did as well and the cathedral was crowded for the extraordinary celebration.

At St. Matthew Cathedral, Msgr. Michael Heintz, rector, announced at the 11 a.m. Mass: "Open the gates of justice, we shall enter and give thanks to the Lord."

With this prayer, the entire nave of St. Matthew Co-Cathedral waited in complete silence and anticipation. Even babies hushed as the newest holy doors were about to be unlocked. There was a palatable excitement as all stood listening, incense swirling to heaven. Turning the key, a click was heard and the words: "This is the Lord's gate; let us enter through it and obtain mercy and forgiveness."

Joy filled the church and the people of South Bend welcomed the Jubilee Year in their own diocese.

"Catholicism relies on sacrament and sacramental, tangible, physical reminders and tokens of God's love and mercy. During the Jubilee Year of Mercy, these simple doors (and there is absolutely nothing remarkable about them in themselves) can become, by grace, signs of God's mercy, open and available to all," Msgr. Heintz explained.

The Scriptural basis for the holy doors comes from Jesus Himself. In the Gospel of John 10:9, Jesus says "I am the gate ... whoever enters through Me, will be saved; he will enter and go out and find pasture." Some translations use the word "door" instead of "gate."

"The gift of the Doors of Mercy make the cathedral, co-cathedral and basilica churches places of pilgrimage," said Msgr. Heintz. "While for the parishioners of St. Matthew this is their parish church and they pray here regularly, for many residents of our diocese, the cathedral is a place they may never have taken the time to visit."

All are welcome to pray and walk through the doors. They will be open until the feast of Christ the King, in November 2016.

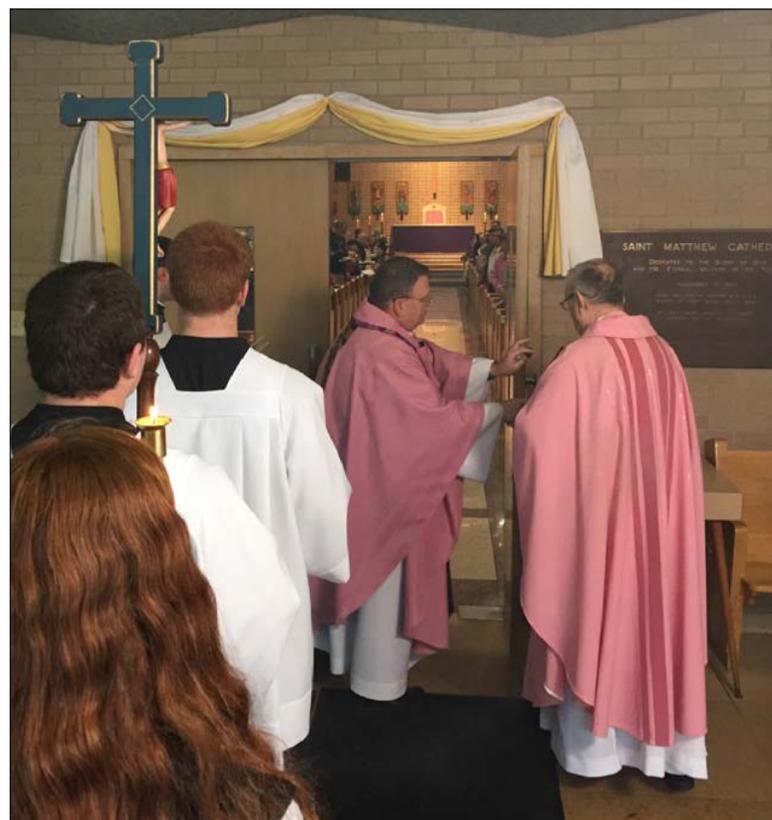
One parish family actually walked "on pilgrimage" from their home to St. Matthew Cathedral, John Fyrqvist, the father, explained, "Pilgrimage is a part of our family life. It is good, but hard, too, you know? With grumpy toddlers and cracks, bumps on the road, but prayer and joy filled song on the way."

The Fyrqvist family felt "moved to have this at our own parish. To feel God's mercy wash over us in this day, a great occasion to mark the start of the jubilee year."

At the Basilica of the Sacred Heart, Notre Dame, Father Peter Rocca, rector, opened the Jubilee



The faithful assemble at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Fort Wayne.



Jennifer Miller

Msgr. Michael Heintz, rector, opens the Holy Doors at St. Matthew Cathedral in South Bend on Dec. 13. Below, Msgr. Michael Heintz blesses the faithful and St. Matthew Cathedral in South Bend on Dec. 13.



Priests join in the celebration of Mass at the opening of the Holy Doors at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception on Dec. 13.



Kevin Haggengjos

Door at the basilica on the University of Notre Dame campus during the 10 a.m. Mass on Sunday.

He reminded the congregation of the joy associated with Gaudete Sunday and the coinciding call to be missionaries of joy in the world. Drawing from the Gospel reading describing the teaching of St. John the Baptist, he emphasized the fulfillment of the Gospel edict to perform the corporal and spiritual works of mercy, as a particular way to bear fruit during this Year of Mercy.

Peter Lombardo, director of community involvement, Center for the Homeless, and Sacred

Heart parishioner, described the real fruits of the Holy Father's call to corporal and spiritual works of mercy that he witnesses on a daily basis through the myriad ministries and volunteers that unite in service to the poor and vulnerable in the area.

The opening of the Jubilee Door, he explained, "is more symbolic for our people, because of so many doors that are closed to them. That opening of the door, that outpouring of grace and mercy and service, that is what is going to effect them."

"In some ways the emphasis on the holy door and the Year of Mercy, are new but not

new," explained Father Paulinus Odozor, associate professor, Theology and Africana Studies and concelebrant of the Mass. "The pope is trying to invite us again to remember who we are and what we are all about. We are a community who believes that God, who created the world has not abandoned us, even when we sinned and disobeyed Him. God is still after us for one reason and that is to draw us back to Himself and to show us His face of love and kindness."

Tim Johnson, Jennifer Miller and Kathy Kershner contributed to this article.



Kathy Kershner

Holy Cross Father Peter Rocca, rector, opens the Holy Doors at the Basilica of the Sacred Heart on the campus of the University of Notre Dame on Dec. 13.

Time for forgiveness has begun, pope says as holy doors open worldwide

BY CAROL GLATZ

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — With the opening the Holy Door at the Basilica of St. John Lateran, Pope Francis declared that the time for tenderness, joy and forgiveness had begun.

As holy doors around the world were opened at city cathedrals, major churches and sanctuaries Dec. 13, the pope said this simple gesture of opening God's house to the world serves as "an invitation to joy. The time of great pardon begins. It is the Jubilee of Mercy."

Dressed in rose vestments on Gaudete Sunday, the third Sunday of Advent, marking the joyful expectation of Christmas, the pope began the ceremony outside the basilica in front of the bronze holy door. The door depicts a bas relief of the crucified Christ looking down on Mary tenderly holding the baby Jesus, whose small foot shone like bright gold from the countless kisses and touches of visiting pilgrims.

"This is the door of the Lord. Open for me the gates of justice. I will enter Your house, Lord, because of Your great mercy," the pope read solemnly before climbing two marble steps and pushing open the large door. He crossed the threshold decorated with a garland of flowers and greenery and bowed his head in silent prayer inside the darkened interior of the basilica.

The Church and the people of God are called to be joyful, the pope said in his brief homily.

With Christmas approaching, "we cannot allow ourselves to become tired, no form of sadness is allowed even if we have reason for it with the many worries and multiple forms of violence that wound our humanity," he said.

Amid the bullying, injustice and violence wrought, "above all, by men of power, God makes it known that He Himself will rule His people, that He will never leave them at the mercy of the arrogance of their leaders and that He will free them of all anguish," the pope said.

People today are called to listen to the words of the prophet Zephaniah in the day's first reading, as he told God's people not to be afraid or discouraged "because of doubt, impatience or suffering."

God always protects His people, He is always near, the pope said, and that is why "we must always be joyful and with our kindness offer everyone witness of the closeness and care God



Pope Francis walks after opening the Holy Door of the Basilica of St. John Lateran in Rome Dec. 13. Holy doors around the world were opened at city cathedrals, major churches and sanctuaries Dec. 13 as part of the Jubilee of Mercy.

CNS photo/Paul Haring

has for everyone."

The Holy Year of Mercy is meant to be a time for people to rediscover God's real presence in the world and His tenderness, he said.

"God does not love rigidity. He is father. He is gentle. He

does everything with fatherly tenderness."

As Christians are called to cross the threshold of "the door of mercy," they are asked to welcome and experience God's love, which "re-creates, transforms and reforms life."

From there, people of faith must then go out and be "instruments of mercy, aware that we will be judged by this," the pope said. Being a Christian calls for a lifelong journey and a "more radical commitment" to be merciful like God the father,

he added.

Christians are asked to be joyful as they open their arms to others and give witness to "a love that goes beyond justice, a love that knows no limits. This is the love we are responsible for despite our contradictions," and weaknesses, he said.

Later in the day, the pope appeared at the window of the apostolic palace to recite the noonday Angelus with visitors in St. Peter's Square.

He focused on the day's Gospel reading according to St. Luke, in which people in the crowd, including tax collectors and soldiers, asked St. John the Baptist "What should we do?" in order to convert and become acceptable for the coming of the Lord.

St. John does not leave them waiting for an answer, the pope said, and replies with concrete instructions: to live justly, in moderation and in solidarity toward those most in need. "They are the essential values of a life that is fully human and authentically Christian," the pope said.

The saint said to share food and clothing, do not falsely accuse others, do not practice extortion and do not collect more than the tax prescribes, which means, the pope said, "no bribes. It's clear."

By addressing people who held various forms of power, the prophet showed that God excludes no one from being asked to follow a path of conversion in order to be saved, not even the tax collectors, who were considered among the worst of all sinners.

God "is anxious to be merciful toward everyone and welcome everyone in the tender embrace of reconciliation and forgiveness."

Advent is a time of conversion and joy, he said. But today, in a world that is "assailed by so many problems, the future weighed down by the unknown and fears," he said, people really need courage and faith to be joyful.

In fact, life lived with Christ brings the gift of solid and unshakable joy because it is rooted in knowing "the Lord is near" always.

The same morning, U.S. Cardinal James M. Harvey, archbishop of the Basilica of St. Paul Outside the Walls, opened that basilica's holy door.

Pope Francis is scheduled to open the fourth and last holy door in Rome at the Basilica of St. Mary Major Jan. 1, the feast of Mary, Mother of God.

STAY IN TOUCH WITH DIOCESAN YEAR OF MERCY EVENTS
VISIT MyYearOfMercy.org

St. Dominic Church in Bremen blesses Good Shepherd Hall

BY PHOEBE MUTHART

BREMEN — St. Dominic Church in Bremen blessed its new addition, Good Shepherd Hall, on Tuesday, Dec. 8. Father Bob Lengerich, pastor of St. Dominic, said the project had been a long-time mission of the parish, “a dream of many.”

The addition includes a chapel, kitchen and ground-level restrooms. “A lot of work went on behind the scenes,” Father Lengerich said, and several parishioners made the addition a reality. The project dates back 10 years in the discussion and planning stages to accommodate concerns for aging parishioners and safe access to restrooms. The church was founded more than 50 years ago.

The conceptual and planning stages of the annex project began with the Master Planning and Cohesive Leadership Team created by Father Lengerich. The building committee also had a representative on that team. Tom Keller led the group, which was called the Design Leadership Team and consisted of Keller, Doug DeSchepper and Steve Burkins.

Burkins' area of concern was the building itself, especially the interior. Burkins' wife Kristi contributed to the interior deco-



Photos by Phoebe Muthart

St. Dominic's Catholic Church in Bremen recently blessed its new addition Dec. 8. Father Bob Lengerich said the project was a long-time mission of the church. “This was a dream of many,” said Father Lengerich.

rating. DeSchepper took care of the groundwork and the hall's exterior. Keller acted as project manager and handled the financial responsibility and communications.

Father Lengerich noted the project was a team effort that involved many dedicated volunteers.

The church needed to raise \$550,000 to make the project a reality. The church's pledge drive committee canvassed the entire parish.

“It is important to note that

we enlisted the help and advice of many others along the way,” stressed Keller, whose wife, Toni, was at the heart of the fundraising efforts, keeping track of the money raised.

The Hispanic brethren organized fundraisers. Several parish committees were involved in fundraising — including landscaping, building, finance, Knight of Columbus, rosary sodality, Catholic Men's Club — to make the project possible. Fortunately, the project came in under budget at \$549,000.22.



Father Bob Lengerich blessed the new hall at St. Dominic's Church in Bremen. The new addition was dedicated Dec. 8. Parishioner Glenn Godbold built the new chapel's altar.

“Over 38 percent of the congregation contributed to the efforts with their time, talents and treasure. How can we possibly recognize one without acknowledging all?” said Keller.

Another parish couple, Gene and Mary Myers, donated \$55,000 to St. Dominic Church.

Tom Keller noted that Father Lengerich's leadership, prayers and guidance were of paramount importance throughout the efforts.

“Bishop Kevin Rhoades and his staff's support and approvals were also critical to our success,” stressed Keller.

The Design Leadership Team members are only three of the many men and women that helped. The sod was donated, but an irrigation system cost \$2,000.

The DeSchepper family cleared the stones, among other instrumental projects.

Parishioner Glenn Godbold, of Glenn's Custom Creations, built the chapel's altar and side table, donating his time and talent to the project. The Corian top and center oval can be removed to change for the different seasons.

“Last, and certainly not least, we cannot say enough regarding the professional design and construction services, provided by Ancon Construction Company, in Goshen,” said Keller.

“I think we had a great team effort and a great contractor to work with in Ancon,” said Burkins.

During the blessing, Father Lengerich also noted two other men who helped with the project: parishioners Bert Egging and Sergio Aguayo.

The church's basement was also remodeled to make way for much needed religious education classrooms. A food pantry is also located in the church basement.

Ireland

Today's Catholic Travel announces a pilgrimage to St. Patrick's Ireland

South Bend Pilgrimage

with

**Father Zach Barry, parochial vicar
St. Vincent de Paul in Elkhart**

Fort Wayne Pilgrimage

with

Father Jacob Meyer, parochial vicar

Today's Catholic Travel is happy to announce a pilgrimage to St. Patrick's Ireland in the fall of 2016. The 10-day trip **Sept. 4-13, 2016**, will present opportunities for the faithful to visit historic sites.

Visit www.todayscatholicnews.org/tct for informational brochures and to view a video presentation.

TODAY'S CATHOLIC Travel

Visit www.todayscatholicnews.org/tct or call Tina Schneider or Bethany Belleville at 260-456-2900 for details.

Mass with students in Short Course Process



Kate Morgan

Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades celebrated Mass for students at the University of Notre Dame who were formed through Short Course Process over the fall semester and completed their initiation into the Catholic Church. The Short Course serves as a condensed process (one semester in length) of sacramental preparation for baptized students with good experience studying and living the Christian life. The Short Course meets on Sundays, with each session beginning with a celebration of the 11:45 a.m. Sunday Mass in the basilica, followed by a catechetical session. Students in the photo were confirmed in the Catholic Church on Dec. 6.

Indiana bishops meet with governor



Provided by Bishop Thompson

Indiana Governor Mike Pence hosted the Bishops of Indiana for breakfast at the governor's residence on Dec. 9 during the semi-annual meeting of the bishops and the Indiana Catholic Conference.

Actress meets public



Joe Romie

Actress Maria Vargo, who portrayed St. Faustina Kowalska in the production of "Faustina, Messenger of Divine Mercy," greets a fan after the Fort Wayne performance. The presentation by Saint Luke Productions was held in South Bend, Warsaw and Fort Wayne, Dec. 5, 6 and 7 to celebrate the opening of the Year of Mercy.

A caroling we will go



Emily Eickholtz

Youths from Immaculate Conception Parish in Kendallville go Christmas caroling at a local center in Kendallville.

Mercy and spiritual fatherhood

“Merciful like the Father” is the motto of the Year of Mercy. What a great reminder for our fatherless culture. What a great challenge and reminder for men on how to live as spiritual fathers.

Fatherlessness is a disease that is at pandemic proportions (43 percent in the U.S.) throughout our world and carries with it devastating effects on the culture, the family, children and men in particular. The Year of Mercy points us to the Father’s tender mercy. Fatherlessness makes it harder to speak of God or for people to experience Him as love. With the sustained Marxist and feminists’ attacks on the family, marriage and gender, it does not look like things are going to get better any time soon. But the world’s greatest need right now is to experience the Father’s mercy to undo the effects of fatherlessness.

The greatest antidote to fatherlessness already exists in our Catholic faith. Jesus reveals God as Abba (Papa, Daddy) and since God is our spiritual father all Catholic men (young or old, single or married) are called to live out their identity as heroic spiritual fathers. If Catholic men would live this out, the effects of fatherlessness — which produces the culture of death — would be stopped cold in its tracks.

So what do we need to make this journey of mercy? If we are to “be merciful as your heavenly Father is merciful,” then we have to experience this mercy.

Pope Francis says: “The mercy of God is not an abstract idea, but a concrete reality with which He reveals His love as

that of a father or a mother, moved to the very depths out of love for their child. It is hardly an exaggeration to say that this is a ‘visceral’ love. It gushes forth from the depths naturally, full of tenderness and compassion, indulgence and mercy.”

If we are going to be led into this “concrete reality,” we need prayer, Confession and relationships to help us encounter the Father of mercies.

Steve was fatherless by the age of six due to his parents’ divorce. Even when he was with either parent, he spent a lot of time by himself. His father was into pornography and by default Steve was exposed by eight. Steve’s father was a bully and verbally abusive. Steve was always working to be loved and lived in fear because his father was so moody and unpredictable. Steve’s faith caught fire in his late teens, but he carried the burden of working for his father’s love into his relationship with God. He is now married and a father of four. He is struggling to love them the way he wants to, but feels stuck. Pornography is still an occasional problem. He feels like he is never good enough and unlovable — perfect lies from the Accuser. Steve is my typical client who knows God’s love and mercy as an abstract truth in his head, but hasn’t experienced the “concrete reality” of God’s tender, indulgent, mercy in his heart.

In counseling, it is the relationship that heals. In pastoral counseling, that relationship also brings the love and mercy of God into the deepest, dark-



DAVE McCLOW

THE ULTIMATE CHALLENGE

est places in our hearts where “everything is bound and loosed” (CCC 2843). Listening and empathy let Steve know I was in his world — it is incarnational — not to judge but to bring God’s mercy and love to bind up his broken heart. We would pray and imagine Jesus telling him the truth that “You are my beloved son, a gift, a delight to me and this is not based on your behavior. You are forgiven.” I encouraged Steve to go to Confession regularly, but especially when anger rears its ugly head or when lustful temptations overcome him. As Steve experiences his true identity as a son in his heart, he lives out this love in his hands as a physical and spiritual husband and father. His wife is more grateful and his kids listen to him more. He is getting them involved in the St. Vincent de Paul Society by collecting toys and clothes for others. The kids are excited about being able to do something for someone else. Yet there are still times of stress that push him back to old decisions and feelings.

Mercy is the essence of God’s fatherhood and for men it is the

McCLOW, page 12

Nature’s gifts

There are many different options of how to stay healthy that we have control over. I was reminded of this as I reviewed a recent article in the medical literature. A group of doctors did a prospective study of over 500,000 people on their use of certain spices. They were put into four groups. Using spices: never, one or two days per week, three to five days per week, and six or seven days a week. The spices were chili sauce, fresh chili pepper, dried chili pepper, chili oil and several other spices.

The participants who ate the spices six or seven days a week had a 14 percent less chance of dying from cancer, coronary heart disease and lung diseases over the course of the study, which was for an average of about seven years. Spices have been known to enhance health for some time.

One example is the use of red pepper that has been shown to reduce appetite and therefore obesity. Spices can be antibacterial in the gut and also reduce the risk of diabetes and liver disease. One of the active ingredients in spices is capsaicin, which has been shown to reduce the incidence of cancer.

There has been a growing trend in food preparation to add more spices and that appears to be a good thing. I have personally been very wimpy when it comes to eating spicy hot food. In fact my four daughters have made fun of me when out of peer pressure I have tried to eat something out of my comfort zone that provides some heat, and then have to slug down multiple glasses of the available beverage to put out the fire. Meanwhile, they just smile and enjoy the spicy food without any hint of distress.

THE CATHOLIC DOCTOR IS IN

DR. DAVID KAMINSKAS

Let me review several other recent studies whose results have surprised me. Up until recently I would counsel my patients who liked to drink regular soda to switch to diet soda to try to reduce their risk of weight gain. It just made sense to me that eliminating about 140 calories that come in a can of pop was the healthy thing to do. Now there is proof that drinking diet sodas actually worsens obesity and in particular increases belly fat. Increased waist circumference has been associated with an increased risk for heart attack, stroke, cancer and overall mortality.

The reason for actual weight gain with diet soda consumption is speculative. It may be that artificial sweeteners affect the brain and metabolic rate or it may be as simple as diet soda enthusiasts believe they have the right to eat more because, after all, they just drank a diet drink. My advice, for the most part, is to eliminate any type of soda from your diet (apologies to Coke and Pepsi). You can’t go wrong with water; an all-natural drink with no calories created by God the Father.

Another recent study showed that one or two cups of caffeine-

DOCTOR page 12

A Savior will come to lead people from sin



THE SUNDAY GOSPEL

MSGR. OWEN F. CAMPION

4th Sunday of Advent Lk 1:39-45

This weekend the Church observes the last Sunday in Advent. The first reading is from the Book of Micah.

Micah is regarded as one of the Minor Prophets. It is a relatively short book, containing only seven chapters. By contrast, the Book of Isaiah has 66 chapters.

Very few biographical facts about the author of Micah are known, but it is thought that the author was a contemporary of Isaiah, the author of the first section of the Book of Isaiah, and that he came from a small village some 25 miles southwest of Jerusalem.

As was the case with so many prophets of ancient Israel, Micah saw his mission as calling the chosen people away from indifference to God, and from sin, to piety and to loyalty to the covenant with God. He lived in a time when piety was in short supply. Greed and exploitation flawed the economy. Religious practices were sparse and often insincere, and poorly presented when they did occur.

In this weekend’s reading Micah promises that a savior will come. This savior will lead the people away from sin and to God. To be precise, the savior will come from Bethlehem.

Of course, for Micah, the reference is to David, who was from Bethlehem. David became the great king of Israel, venerated in Hebrew history. His royal role was not primarily political. It was religious. His task was the see that the nation upheld the Covenant, that the people obeyed God.

The savior will inherit this role. When the savior comes, all will be well, because the nation will obey God.

For its second reading, the Church gives us a lesson from the Book of Hebrews.

Heavy with its Hebrew symbolism, this epistle eloquently extolls Jesus as Lord and as the Lamb of God.

In Hebrews, Jesus appears as the perfect victim and priest. His sacrifice on Calvary was sublime, perfect and utterly unique. It was final because its effects are eternal, providing for humanity’s reconciliation with God. The result will never cease, so no other sacrifices are necessary. All has been accomplished.

St. Luke’s Gospel furnishes the last reading. It is the story of the Visitation. Mary travels from her own home to a place in the hills of Judah. Traditionally, it has been thought that this place is the site now called Ein Karem. Once a few miles from Jerusalem, it has been absorbed by the sprawl of the city and for all practical purposes is today a part of Jerusalem.

Mary travels to meet her cousin, Elizabeth, the wife of Zachariah. Elizabeth herself is pregnant. Elizabeth’s unborn

child will be John the Baptist. John had a special destiny. He would prepare the way for Christ.

Since Elizabeth was past the childbearing age for a woman, her conception was regarded as miraculous.

Elizabeth knows that Mary is expecting a child, and additionally she realizes that Mary’s child will be the messiah.

Elizabeth’s unborn child understands all that is transpiring and senses God in the presence of Mary and her own unborn infant. Thus, even before birth, John testified that Jesus, also yet to be born, will be the Messiah.

Reflection

It is the last Sunday of Advent. Christmas preparations are hectic. Everyone is in a hurry, and most are excited.

Less and less attention is given the spiritual preparation for Christmas, but the Church calls us to reality. Jesus is everything, the Church emphatically and joyfully reminds us.

In the writings of Micah, it

reminds us that when we allow Jesus to come to us, all peace and happiness will abide with us. In Hebrews, it proclaims the everlasting loving mercy of God.

In the Gospel, the Church reinforces its belief in Jesus as Lord by recalling the Visitation.

READINGS

Sunday: Mi 5:1-4a Ps 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19 Heb 10:5-10 Lk 1:39-45

Monday: Sg 2:8-14 Ps 33:2-3, 11-12, 20-21 Lk 1:39-45

Tuesday: 1 Sm 1:24-28 (Ps) 1 Sm 2:1, 4-8d Lk 1:46-56

Wednesday: Mal 3:1-4, 23-24 Ps 25:4-5b, 8-10, 14 Lk 1:57-66

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

Friday: Christmas Day: Is 52:7-10 Ps 98:1-6 Heb 1:1-6 Jn 1:1-18

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

A higher standard than cats and dogs

Sometimes people will point out: "We euthanize our pets when they suffer, and they are clearly creatures of God, so why can't we euthanize a sick and suffering person who wants it? It seems like we treat our dogs and cats better than we treat our suffering family members."

The way we treat animals, however, should not be the measure of how we treat fellow human beings. We keep animals as pets, but we don't do the same with humans. We use animals to make clothing and food, but we don't do the same with humans. For all our similarities to the rest of the animal kingdom, we are aware of a fundamental difference in kind between ourselves and our furry friends. We are not meant to die just as animals do, or be euthanized as they are. The death of a human is a more complex event that has other important realities associated with it.

In euthanizing a cat or dog, an assessment about the nature of the creature is rolled up into our decision to proceed. Our pets seem to process the world around them mostly in terms of pleasure and pain, oscillating between these two poles as they instinctively gravitate towards pleasurable experiences, and engage in "mechanisms of avoidance" when they come up against pain or discomfort. Animals lack that uniquely human power to reason about, resign themselves to, and allow good to be drawn out of pain. Animals can't do much else in the face of their suffering apart from trying to skirt around it, escape the situation, or passively endure it. Because of our strong sense of empathy, humans find it more emotionally acceptable to "put the animal to sleep," rather than watch it suffer a long and agonizing death.

But it would be false empathy, and a false compassion, to promote the killing or suicide of suffering family members. As human beings, we have real moral duties, and better options, in the face of our own pain and tribulations. On an instinctual level, we tend to recoil and do our best to avoid suffering, just like animals. But we are able to respond in a way that animals cannot, and even willingly accept our suffering, which is unavoidably part of the fabric of our human existence. None of us lives out our life without encountering some suffering, even if it may be purely internal, like the agony that comes from loneliness, isolation, depression, or rejection. Every person must, in one way or another, confront suffering along the trajectory of life, and human maturity is partially measured by how we deal with suffering.

Those who live with serious disabilities, through their determined and beauty-filled lives and example, remind us every day of the good that can be drawn from suffering. The way they deal with their struggles manifests the depths of what it is to be authentically human. It is precisely disability, with its disfigurement, impairment, vulnerability and dependence, that challenges us to grasp the outlines of our human journey in a less superficial way, and to value human life and protect human dignity in sickness as well as in health. Victoria Kennedy spoke to this same point when describing Senator Kennedy's final months:

"When my husband was first diagnosed with cancer, he was told that he had only two to four months to live. ... But that prognosis was wrong. Teddy lived 15 more productive months.... Because that first dire prediction of life expectancy was wrong, I have 15 months of cherished



MAKING SENSE OF BIOETHICS

FATHER TAD PACHOLCZYK

memories. ... When the end finally did come — natural death with dignity — my husband was home, attended by his doctor, surrounded by family and our priest."

As human beings, we reach beyond the limits that suffering imposes by a conscious decision to accept and grow through it, like the athlete or the Navy seal who pushes through the limits of his exhaustion during training. We enter into an awareness of something greater behind the veil of our suffering when we come to accept it as an integral component of our human condition. We also give positive example, strength and encouragement to the younger generation as they witness our response to, and acceptance of, our own suffering. Our trials and tribulations also teach us about our reliance on God and the illusions of self-reliance.

On the other hand, if our fear of suffering drives us to constant circumlocution and relentless avoidance, even to the point of short-circuiting life itself through euthanasia or physician-assisted suicide, we can miss those mysterious but privileged moments that invite us to become more resplendently human, with all the messiness, awkwardness and agonies that are invariably part of that process.

Father Tadeusz Pacholczyk, Ph.D. serves as the director of education at The National Catholic Bioethics Center in Philadelphia.

meditate on the rejoicing and delight that occurs when you return to the Father's house.

If you are caught in an addiction of any kind, get help.

The Ultimate Challenge: Stop the culture of death, be the spiritual fathers that you are — start with your own friends and family, but don't stop there. Go beyond your "comfort zones" to the people on the fringes.

Dave McCLOW, M.Div. is a counselor with the Pastoral Solutions Institute Tele-Counseling Services. Read more at CatholicExchange.com.

SCRIPTURE SEARCH

Gospel for December 20, 2015

Luke 1:39-45

Following is a word search based on the Gospel reading for the Fourth Sunday of Advent, Cycle C: the Visitation of Mary and Elizabeth. The words can be found in all directions in the puzzle.

MARY	HILL	ENTERED
ZECARIAH	ELIZABETH	LEAPED
WOMB	SPIRIT	BLESSED
ARE YOU	AMONG WOMEN	FRUIT
MOTHER	MY LORD	SHOULD COME
TO ME	EARS	JOY
BELIEVED		SPOKEN

FAMILY

```

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

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DOCTOR

Continued from Page 11

ated coffee per day reduce the incidence of dementia (cognitive impairment) as we age. So don't feel guilty if you like to partake in a few cups of java each day. The threshold where coffee may begin to be harmful is in the range of greater than four cups per day, so don't overdo.

We have been blessed with many wonderful natural options here on earth that no doubt God created for our use and pleasure. Spices, water and coffee are just a select few. Stay natural, stay healthy and enjoy the many gifts from God.

Dr. David Kaminskas is a board certified cardiologist and member of The Jerome Lejeune Guild of Northeast Indiana.

McCLOW

Continued from Page 11

essence of spiritual and physical fatherhood. It is the nature of God's mercy and love that once it is received, it must be given to others; it is a law in the economy of salvation. God's mercy must be fruitful. Spiritual fathers must be fruitful — you are called to have spiritual children — go and make disciples. We do this every time we see a good movie — we become evangelists and we go tell it on the mountain — or at least on the Internet.

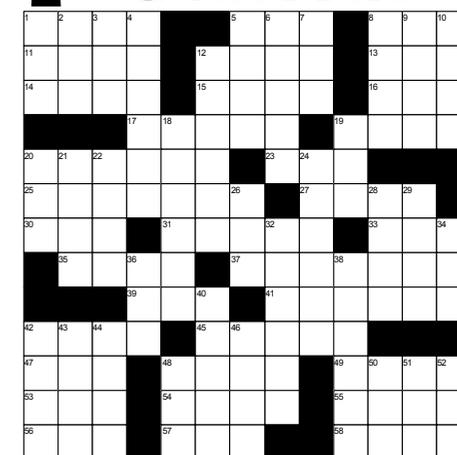
The Call to Action: Be Loved and Challenged!

Pray daily and mediate on the mercy of our Abba and your identity as a son. You must knock over the obstacles to experiencing this in your heart.

Go to Confession regularly to receive His mercy deeply and

The Cross Word

December 20 and 27, 2015



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Based on readings: Mic 5:1-4a; Heb 10:5-10; Lk 1:39-45 & 1Sam 1:20-22,24-28; 1Jn 3:1-2,21-24; Lk 2:41-52

ACROSS

- 1 Nazarite never drank
- 5 Friday fish _____
- 8 Insert
- 11 Eastern holy image
- 12 Lotion ingredient
- 13 Bishop's territory
- 14 Geek
- 15 Pea holders
- 16 Bowl problem
- 17 Use
- 19 Khz
- 20 Scary
- 23 French "yes"
- 25 Stay steadfast
- 27 Belonging to ark's man
- 30 Abbr. for Books of

Samuel

- 31 Ancestry
- 33 Corporate top dog
- 35 Cross of St. John artist
- 37 Will shepherd his flock (2 wds)
- 39 Possessive pronoun
- 41 Hannah did when Samuel was old enough
- 42 Posttraumatic stress disorder
- 45 _____ of Judah
- 47 Not ordained
- 48 Mary and Joseph searched with _____
- 49 Biblical weed
- 53 Wing
- 54 Institution (abbr.)

- 55 Sins are
- 56 Ali Baba & 40 thieves
- 57 Comprehend
- 58 Prefix for half

DOWN

- 1 Gain
- 2 Frost
- 3 Neither's partner
- 4 Endows
- 5 Scourge
- 6 Cowboy show
- 7 Affirmative
- 8 Francis Xavier is a patron of _____
- 9 Financial obligation
- 10 Dept. of Elementary & Secondary Education
- 12 Province in the Philippines
- 18 The Holy _____
- 19 2016 Olympics site
- 20 Protective Services
- 21 Lectors do
- 22 Short version of Hermione
- 24 "The Father is _____"
- 26 Toddler
- 28 Economics abbr.
- 29 Dried-up
- 32 Frustrate
- 34 Mismatched
- 36 Top
- 38 Endure
- 40 Vista
- 42 Appeal
- 43 Towering
- 44 Guinea soccer team
- 46 "The first shall be _____"
- 48 Jesus cursed this tree
- 50 "_____ Maria"
- 51 Brim
- 52 Priest at Shiloh

Answer Key can be found on page 19.

Sports

KEVIN DONLEY AFCA REGIONAL COACH OF THE YEAR University of Saint Francis Head Football Coach Kevin Donley is one of the American Football Coaches Association's 2015 Regional Coach of the Year winners. Donley, who just completed his 37th season as a collegiate head coach, guided the Cougars to a 9-0 regular season. USF finished as the only unbeaten team in NAIA during the regular season. USF ran its record to 11-0 reaching the NAIA FCS Semifinals. This is Donley's second AFCA Region COTY Award. He also won in 2008, the last time USF went undefeated during the regular season.

CYO basketball hosts full roster of weekend competition

BY MICHELLE CASTLEMAN

FORT WAYNE — The Catholic Youth Organization (CYO) teams saw a full weekend of games with Most Precious Blood (PB) getting the win over St. Mary's, 49-18. Xavier Allen led PB with 18 points. Gardner Barile added 16, and Connor Christman chipped in 12.

Coach Justin Allen summarized, "We had a well-rounded attack with great defense."

In girls' action, St. Vincent Coach Dan O'Brien's eighth-grade Panthers got their second win in the second weekend of CYO play. With just five players dressed, St. Vincent is challenged this season staying conditioned.

"We spend a lot of our practices running and working on defense," explained O'Brien. In opening round play, the Panthers downed Blue League powerhouse, St. Joseph-Hessen Cassel, 42-40, and on Sunday, Dec. 13, they beat St. Rose/St. Louis, 41-19.

In the win over the Twins, Susie Beeber led all scorers with 14 points. Sam O'Brien added 11, while Taya Dazey and Kaylee Lyons had nine a piece. O'Brien cited tough defensive play as a key to the win. He added, "We had a balanced attack on offense. It was a good team effort on both sides of the court."

In the loss, Maggie Castleman led the Twins with six.

ICCL teams square off in hoop matchups

BY JOE KOZINSKI

ST. JOSEPH COUNTY — The second week of the Inter-City Catholic League saw a litany of matchups as teams squared off to work their way to the head of the pack at Saint Joseph and Marian high schools.

The Crusaders of Holy Cross, behind double-digit performances of Jaden Ivey and Chaz Black, held off Peter Royeca and his Panthers from St. Anthony, 46-37.

A 15-point performance from St. Pius X's Adam O'Dell squashed the upset bid from the Bulldogs of Our Lady of Hungary and the 10 points from Christian Tate, 43-20.

For the second straight week, Cameron Weidner of St. Michael's dominated his team's scoring, but fell short of a victory as Mishawaka Catholic's reigned, 35-20.

Corpus Christi's dynamic duo of Derek Derda and Evan Lindzy jumped on the Falcons of St. Jude, 66-7.

The Eagles of St. Joseph snuck by St. Thomas, 32-29, in the day's closest battle. Holy Family triumphed over the Blazers of St. Matthew, 40-28, and Christ the King outscored Queen of Peace, 45-25, to round out the scores.

Play continues this weekend and the schedules can be found accompanied by highlights and standings at www.icclsports.org.



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Saint Joseph hockey team shares Christmas spirit

BY LISA KOCHANOWSKI

SOUTH BEND — The Saint Joseph High School hockey team took a break from practice to spend time with two families they adopted during this holiday season.

This Adopt-A-Family program is facilitated through the University of Notre Dame's athletic department that invites groups to "adopt" a family from Perley Elementary School and provide gifts for the children. Gifts were presented to the adoptive family at an ice skating party in the Compton Family Ice Arena.

This year, the hockey team adopted two families.

According to hockey coach Chris Kleva, hockey families made monetary donations and a couple of the moms shopped and wrapped all of the gifts. The adopted families provided a wish list giving the moms a starting point for gift purchases.

"In most cases, these are families (children) that otherwise wouldn't have Christmas presents," said Kleva. At the skating party, the Notre Dame athletic department sponsored a meal followed by family skating time. "Our boys eat with the family and go on the ice and help all of the kids skate. This is one of the most rewarding community service projects we do — the smiles on these kids faces while skating and then the joy in their eyes when we give them their gifts are pretty special to be a



Player Brian Tyler skates with his new friend during the adoptive family skating party in the Compton Family Ice Arena.

Below, player Tommy Lewis delivers during the party in the Compton Family Ice Arena.

part of. It's truly what Christmas is all about."

This wonderful event happened during the middle of a hectic holiday season with shopping, school finals, hockey practice and games. Coach Kleva noted that there were plenty of reasons the boys could have checked-out, wanted to go home, or have less than stellar moods, but not one of them wanted to be anywhere else but at that arena to celebrate with these two families.

"This is the most rewarding event of the year. Our student athletes have the chance to help a family that is struggling and provide a joyous Christmas morning for the family — happy kids that have a few presents to open and mom and dad to see these smiles," said Kleva.



Pictures by Derrick Forchetti

2nd Annual
EST 2014
Cupertino Classic

Priests VS Seminarians BBall Game
Mon, Dec 28th at Bishop Dwenger High School

6:30pm tip-off

~All Are Welcome~

Returning from the 'Run for the Heart' race



Terry Powers

Lucas Rhodes, dressed as Santa, passed out water to the late Msgr. James J. Wolf's great niece, Molly Barnes, and niece at the sixth annual "Run for the Heart" 5k run/walk and 1 Mile Santa Chase in memory of Msgr. James J. Wolf. The run/walk was recently held at Sacred Heart Parish in Warsaw. Members of CROSS, including Rhodes, assisted with the race in which all proceeds go towards the Tuition Assistance Fund at Sacred Heart School, Warsaw, in memory of Msgr. James J. Wolf.

Crucifix blessed at St. Joseph, Decatur



Provided by St. Joseph Parish

Father David Voors, pastor of St. Mary Parish in Decatur, blesses the school gym crucifix with the families of the late Barney and Fred Schultz in attendance. The dedication was attended by the basketball team coached by Tony Staub, a family friend and Matt Schultz, son of Fred. For many years, Barney and Fred volunteered their time, talent and treasure to St. Joseph athletics.

May the timeless message of Christmas fill your heart and home with joy, now and throughout the coming year!

Merry Christmas,

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WHAT'S HAPPENING?

WHAT'S HAPPENING carries announcements about upcoming events in the diocese. Send your announcement at least two weeks prior to the event. View more Catholic events and submit yours at www.diocesefwsb.org/bulletin. 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.

Theology on Tap

Fort Wayne — "The Earth: Our Common Home" is the topic for young adults in their 20s and 30s, single or married, and will be held at Soups, Salad and Spirits, 1915 S. Calhoun St., Thursday, Dec. 17, at 6:30 p.m. Panel discussion, lead by Dr. Philip Sakimoto, former NASA program coordinator and current professor at the University of Notre Dame, will ask "What is the relationship between human beings and the world around us?" Come discover how to live a life of encounter that honors God's Creation and the common good.

Polish, English Epiphany Mass

Fort Wayne — A Polish Epiphany Mass will be celebrated at 2:30 p.m. on Jan. 3 at St. Joseph Church. Father Tim Wrozek, pastor, will be the celebrant. A prelude of singing of Polish Christmas carols (koledy) will begin at 2 p.m. Light refreshments will be served after Mass.

German Christmas Concert

Fort Wayne — Fort Wayne Männerchor/Damenchor will sing favorite German Christmas Carols in a concert Sunday, Dec. 20, at 4 p.m. at St. Peter Catholic Church, 518 E. DeWald St. Visit www.fortwaynemaennerchor.us.

Christmas concert planned

Fort Wayne — St. Vincent de Paul Music Ministry will present a Christmas concert in the church, 1502 E. Wallen Rd., on Wednesday, Dec. 30, at 7 p.m.

Pancake breakfast planned

Plymouth — Knights of Columbus Council 1975, 901

Jefferson St., will have a pancake breakfast on Sunday Dec. 20, from 9-11:15 a.m. The cost is \$5 adult donation. Children age 10 and under \$2. Pancake Breakfast third Sunday every month. Proceeds will benefit Meet Me At The Well, Plymouth First United Methodist Church.

New Year's Eve Party

South Bend — Enjoy dinner, drinks and dancing at St. Pius X Church on Thursday, Dec. 31, from 7 p.m. to 12:30 a.m. Appetizers and dinner catered by The Riverside Terrace, cash bar, dance music and champagne toast at midnight. Tickets are \$50 per person, \$30 per person for arrival after 9 p.m. Visit www.stpius.net/NYE for details.

REST IN PEACE

<p>Arcola Alex Pursley II, 74, St. Patrick</p> <p>Elkhart Roger Dean Koch, 75, St. Vincent de Paul</p> <p>Fort Wayne Mary Theresa Kerwin, 79, St. Charles Borromeo</p> <p>Marian Lancia, 93, St. Jude</p> <p>Stephanie P. Dimond, 71, St. Charles Borromeo</p> <p>Mark Howard Johnson, 42, Queen of Angels</p> <p>Patricia A. Wetzel, 77, St. Jude</p> <p>Anita M. DeLaBarre, 73, St. Vincent de Paul</p>	<p>Larry L. Sorg, 73, St. Joseph-Hessen Cassel</p> <p>Helen J. Dixon, 86, St. Charles Borromeo</p> <p>Dianna Maldeney, 77, St. Peter</p> <p>Alice L. Denny, 98, Saint Anne Home</p> <p>Robert Liehr, 89, St. Vincent de Paul</p> <p>William E. Perkins Sr., 90, Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception</p> <p>Mishawaka Donna M. Leniski, 86, St. Joseph</p> <p>Plymouth Nancy R. Popham, 80, St. Michael</p>	<p>South Bend Wilbur McDougal, 90, St. Augustine</p> <p>Elva C. Bautista, 71, Holy Cross</p> <p>JoAnn Fabiszak, 76, Christ the King</p> <p>Rose L. Kaczmarczyk, 86, Our Lady of Hungary</p> <p>Marion C. Sharpe, 90, St. Anthony de Padua</p> <p>Dorothy G. Sobieski, 96, Holy Family</p> <p>Florus M. Jeffers, 83, St. Patrick</p> <p>Alexander R. Horvath, 99, Christ the King</p>
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Submit obituaries to kcozad@diocesefwsb.org

Christmas concert at St. Pius X Granger — St. Pius X Music Ministry, under the direction of Jeremy Hoy, Carol Flora, Melissa Butner, and accompanist, Beth Habas, will close the Christmas season with a concert on Sunday, Jan. 10, at

2:30 p.m. in the church, 52553 Fir Rd. Featured choirs include: Children's Choir, Middle School Choir, Sunday Morning and Evening Adult Choirs, Adult and Youth Handbell Choirs and Instrumentalists. The concert is free.



little flower holy hour

St. Mother Theodore Guerin Chapel
First Tuesday of the Month at 7:00 p.m.

- January 5, 2016 Bishop Rhoades
- February 2, 2016 Deacon Jerry Kohrman
- March 1, 2016 Msgr. Galic
- April 5, 2016 Fr. Ben Muhlenkamp
- May 3, 2016 Fr. Tyrell Alles, OSB
- June 7, 2016

Please, come and pray for vocations to the priesthood and consecrated life.



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Parishioners: St. Vincent de Paul, Fort Wayne

John XXIII Retreat Center
New Year's Eve
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Ecclesiastes 3:1-15

December 31, 2015
to January 1, 2016
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Presenters
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Sr. Joetta Huelsmann, PHJC

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Two Christmas Stories

112 Years Apart

Dr. Anthony F. Laviano

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

www.solanuscasy.org



Venerable Solanus Casey, OFM, Cap
Christmas at the Manger

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



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

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

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

• Pacific Palisades, California

a.f.laviano@NRAIT.edu