New Year calls for courage, hope; no more hatred, selfishness, pope says

BY CAROL GLATZ

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Whether the new year will be good or not depends on us choosing to do good each day, Pope Francis said.

“That is how one builds peace, saying ‘no’ to hatred and violence — with action — and ‘yes’ to fraternity and reconciliation,” he said Jan. 1, which the church marks as the feast of Mary, Mother of God and as World Peace Day.

Speaking to the some 50,000 pilgrims gathered in St. Peter’s Square for the first noon Angelus of 2017, the pope referred to his peace day message in which he asked people to adopt the “style” of nonviolence for building a politics for peace.

Lamenting the brutal act of terrorism that struck during a night of “well-wishes and hope” in Istanbul, the pope offered his prayers for the entire nation of Turkey as well as those hurt and killed. A gunman opened fire during a New Year’s Eve celebration at a popular nightclub early Jan. 1, killing at least 39 people and wounding at least 70 more.

“I ask the Lord to support all people of good will who courageously roll up their sleeves in order to confront the scourge of terrorism and this bloodstain that is

World Youth Day pilgrims reunite

BY JODI MARLIN

Five months after they hiked for miles, slept on the hard ground, ate strange foods and pushed through exhaustion, several dozen young people came together Dec. 26 at St. Mary Mother of God Parish, Fort Wayne, to rekindle the elation they felt celebrating World Youth Day in Krakow, Poland.

The teens and young adults, including a number of religious, seminarians and Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades, spent 10 days in July savoring the universality of their Catholic faith and the invigoration of celebrating it with the head of the Catholic Church on earth, Pope Francis.

Bishop Rhoades recalled the experience in his homily during the Mass, using the word “joyful” to describe the company of hundreds of thousands of young brothers and sisters from all over the world and their inspiring reflections on divine mercy and the pope’s call to live the beatitude of Jesus, “Blessed are the merciful.”

The pilgrims and some of their family members attended the reunion Mass, which was celebrated on the feast of St. Stephen, the first martyr of the church.

“Yesterday, the Church celebrated what Saint Francis of Assisi called ‘the feast of feasts,’” Bishop said. “We celebrated the Nativity of Our Lord. As Catholics, we celebrate the solemnity of Christmas not just on one day, December 25th, but for eight days, which we call ‘the Octave of Christmas.’ Today, the second day of the Octave, is the feast of Saint Stephen. It may seem like a contradiction, a bit perplexing that on the day after we celebrate the peace and joy of Christ’s birth, we reflect on the violent death of the first martyr of the Church and the beginning of the fierce persecution against the Church. But this apparent contradiction is overcome

PILGRIMS, page 4
An ancient blessing for the new year

**IN TRUTH AND CHARITY**

**BISHOP KEVIN C. RHoades**

The following is the text of the homily of Bishop Rhoades at Mass on the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God, at Saint Mary Church in Huntington on Dec. 31, 2016:

Every year on January 1st, on this Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God, we hear in the first reading the ancient priestly blessing from the Old Testament book of Numbers: “The Lord bless you and keep you! The Lord let His face shine upon you, and be gracious to you! The Lord look upon you kindly and give you peace!”

This ancient blessing was entrusted by God, through Moses, to Aaron and his sons, that is, to the priests of Israel. It was entrusted to them as they led the people on the journey of the Exodus through the Sinai desert. Later, this blessing was used in the temple liturgy in Jerusalem. The Church carries on the tradition of this blessing, not only today, but often throughout the year since it is one of the options the priest can use for the blessing at the end of Mass. It is a prayer for God’s protection and for grace and peace — three gifts that sum up our aspirations as human beings. In our journey through life, and especially at the beginning of a new year, we ask the Lord for these blessings. We ask the Lord to let His face shine upon you. What does this mean? God’s face, which we see in the face of the Child Jesus in the manger, is a face of mercy and love. To ask God to shine His face upon us is to ask Him to bless us with His mercy and love. We ask the Lord to be gracious to us: to bestow upon us His saving grace, His divine life. And we ask Him to look upon us with kindness and to give us His peace.

The Catholic Church observes January 1st as the World Day of Peace. Today, at the beginning of a new year, we pray for peace in the world, the peace that begins in our own families. We remember in prayer all who are suffering the ravages of violence, war, and terrorism, in the Holy Land and the Middle East and in so many other places where there is conflict and discord. We also pray for peace in our own country, especially in cities like Chicago where the murder rate continues to climb. We ask for God’s gift of peace in this new year 2017.

The great priestly blessing from the book of Numbers, “The Lord let His face shine upon you,” fell upon Mary and Joseph in the most unique way, for they had the experience of beholding the true face of God. In gazing upon the face of the little infant Jesus, they were gazing upon the face of God. From the face of Jesus, a new light issued forth upon the world, the light of salvation, the greatest blessing for humanity.

In today’s Gospel, we heard that “the shepherds went in haste to Bethlehem and found Mary and Joseph and the infant lying in the manger.” The grace and peace invoked in that ancient Jewish blessing descended upon the shepherds as they adored the child in the manger. And it descends upon us when we adore the Lord Jesus, especially in the Blessed Sacrament.

The first person to be swept up by this great blessing from God was Mary. She was the first to see the face of God made man in the small fruit of her womb. Elizabeth rightly called her “blessed among women.” We honor her today as the “Mother of God.” She is the first of the blessed, the one who bore the blessing, the woman who received Jesus into herself and brought Him forth for the whole human family.

Today’s Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God, is the oldest feast of the Blessed Virgin Mary in the Church’s calendar. We honor her who played such a great role in the mystery of the Incarnation, in the accomplishment of God’s plan of salvation. Her “yes” to God’s invitation to be the mother of His Incarnate Son teaches us to say “yes” to God’s will and to be open to His grace.

Thanks to Mary’s “yes,” Our Savior was born. As Saint Paul wrote to the Galatians: “God sent His Son, born of a woman, … so that we might receive adoption as sons. As proof that you are sons, God sent the Spirit of His Son into our hearts, crying out, ‘Abba, Father!’ So you are no longer a slave but a son, and if a son then also an heir, through God.”

We cannot foresee what this New Year 2017 will bring, but we can live each day knowing that God is our loving Father, that His Son has saved us, and that He has given us His Holy Spirit to dwell in our hearts. We can live each day also knowing that Mary, the Mother of God, is also our mother, the Mother of the Church, who intercedes for us with her Son.

As we begin this New Year, I invoke upon you and all your families and loved ones the ancient priestly blessing. “The Lord bless you and keep you! The Lord let His face shine upon you, and be gracious to you! The Lord look upon you kindly and give you peace!”

John Martin

Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades and several altar servers from the parish of St. Mary, Huntington, make the sign of the cross before the parish crèche during a vigil Mass celebrating the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God.
Father Derrick Sneyd retires after nearly 50 years in the priesthood

BY CLAIRE KENNEY

O rtained in 1970 in his home country of India, Father Derrick Sneyd recently retired from his administrative duties as a priest. He has served the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend in some capacity for more than 40 years.

Father Sneyd studied to become a priest at Saint Charles Major Seminary in Nagpur, India. Immediately after his ordination, he served as secretary to Archbishop Emeritus Eugene D’Souza from 1970-72.

He was transferred to the United States to serve the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend in a variety of roles. Some of those included associate pastor of Our Lady of Hungary Parish, South Bend; assistant seminary community member and chaplain at Marian High School, Mishawaka; pastor of St. Stanislaus Kostka, New Carlisle; St. Thomas the Apostle, Elkhart, St. John the Baptist, New Haven, and St. Monica, Mishawaka; and associate director of the diocesan Marriage Tribunal.

Father Sneyd said that his decision to enter the seminary was partly due to his Catholic education.

“My entire educational background through grade school, high school and this university were all Catholic institutions where, for Catholics, classes, courses, in religion were a must,” he said. “The sisters, in the beginning years, and the priests, in high school and later, were themselves great examples of the Catholic way of life. I have very pleasant memories of these leaders.”

He discerned his calling through interactions with St. Mother Teresa of Calcutta, who was personal friends with his mother.

“It was my privilege to have been in her (Mother Teresa’s) care on many occasion(s) when my mother would go to Calcutta for shopping,” he explained. “She would leave me with Mother Teresa, do her work in the city and return in the evening to pick me up and head home by train.”

She once told him, “Derrick, be a good priest.”

Though these specific occurrences played a role, he considers the Holy Spirit’s influence to be the overarching factor in his decision.

“After 46 years of celebrating ministerial priesthood, I confidently say that the decision to become a priest was a prompting of the Holy Spirit that gave me the impetus to discern the implications of saying yes to the divine will,” he reflected.

Father Sneyd had some advice to those currently discerning the priesthood.

“When life gets overwhelming, and believe me it does at times, get down on your knees and implore the grace of God to help you get through such times,” he said. “The perception of priesthood today is different than yesteryears; but the reality of being a priest today is the same as ever — (following) after the heart of the great high priest, Jesus.”

Father Sneyd said each community he served impacted his ministry.

“Now in my 46th year of priesthood, I can look back and praise God for bringing me into contact with wonderful folk whose genuine response to their individual vocations, trust and kindness, forgiveness and love. For me, such occasions were indeed milestones in ministry. I am grateful.”

After an annual vacation to his home country of India this winter, Father Sneyd will begin his retirement at Chardon, S.C., where he will minister in ways that vary from his active administrative role as priest.

“Once you retire from priesthood, it continues ‘til the final call of the Master,” he said. “It is my continuing intention to serve God’s people in sacramental and catechetical ministry.”

Of this continual service, he said, “This to me is priesthood at its best. The spiritual development of our people and the lasting development of the faithful, will constitute my priesthood in my retirement years.”

POPE

Continued from Page 1

enveloping the world with the shadow of fear and confusion,” he said.

Earlier in the day, the pope spoke of how maternal tenderness, hope and self-sacrifice were the “strongest antidote” to the selfishness, indifference and “lack of openness” in the world today.

Celebrating Mass in St. Peter’s Basilica, which was decorated with bright red anthuriums, evergreen boughs, white flowers and pinecones brushed with gold paint, the pope said people in the community without mothers would be cold and heartless with “room only for calculation and speculation.”

The pope said he learned so much about unconditional love, hope and belonging from seeing mothers who never stop embracing, supporting and nurturing their children for what is best for their children incarcerated in prisons, ill in hospitals, enslaved by drugs or suffering from war.

“Where there is a mother, there is unity, there is belonging, as children,” he said. Just like all mothers of the world, Mary, Mother of God, “protects us from the corrosive disease of being ‘spiritual orphans,’” he said. “Is that when the soul feels ‘motherless and lacking the tenderness of God, when the sense of belonging to a family, a people, a land, to our God, grows dim.”

“This attitude of spiritual orphanhood is a cancer that silently eats away at and debas es the soul,” which soon “for gets that life is a gift we have received — and owe to others a gift we are called to share in this common home,” he said.

A “fragmented and divided culture” makes things worse, he said, leading to feelings of emptiness and loneliness.

“The world is full of people, a land, to our God, grows dim.”

This collection so clearly authenticates Pope Francis call to us as pastoral, religious and lay leaders to work as a family to help all of our brothers and sisters and share the Love, Faith and Hope of Jesus Christ. We continue to be led by the missionary spirit of St. Katharine Drexel as we engage the people, a land, to our God, grows dim.”

After the prayer service, the pope walked into St. Peter’s Basilica.

“Looking at the manger, we realize that we are a people, that we belong” and can grow, that we are not just mere objects to “consume and be consumed,” that we are not “merchandise” to be bought and sold, that we are “the recipients for information. We are children, we are family, we are God’s people.”

“Every country shows that humility and tenderness aren’t virtues of the weak, but of the strong, and that we don’t have to mistreat others in order to feel important, he said.

The pope also presided over an evening prayer service with eucharistic adoration and the singing of a special hymn of thanksgiving to God Dec. 31 in St. Peter’s Basilica.

As the year ends, he said in his homily, he asked people to reflect on how God has been present in their lives and to thank the Lord for all signs of his generosity; “seen in countless ways through the witness of those people who quietly took a risk.”

Gazing upon the manger, we remember how Jesus “wanted to be close to all those who felt lost, demeaned, hurt, discouraged, isolable and fallen.”

Closing all those who felt lost, “in our bodies carry the burden of separate and loneliness, that sin, shame, hurt, despair and exclusion would not have the final word in the lives of his sons and daughters.”

“His sacrifice and love challenges people “not to give up on anything or anyone,” and to find the strength to forge ahead “without complaining or being resentful, without closing in on ourselves, or seeking a means of escape, looking for shortcuts in our own interest.”

“Looking at the manger means recognizing that the times ahead call for bold and hopeful initiatives, as well as the renunciation of vain self-promotion and endless concern with appearances.”

He urged everyone to help “make room” for young people, who are often marginalized and forced to migrate or beg for undignified jobs. Everyone has a duty to help them grow and fulfill “the dreams of their ancestors for our own nation and community.”

After the prayer service, the pope walked into St. Peter’s Square instead of using the popemobile. He walked the entire periphery of the square, stopping to shake hands, receive cards and notes, offer happy New Year’s greetings, bless babies and chat with people lining the barricades.
when we consider more in depth the mystery of Christmas.

The child Jesus lying in the manger came to save by dying on the cross, Bishop pointed out, adding that Byzantine icons of the Nativity, which show the baby Jesus wrapped tightly in linen strips, call to mind the wrapping of the body of Jesus after His crucifixion as He is put in the tomb. In fact, he said, these icons depict the manger as a kind of altar or tomb.

“This indicates that Christ our Redeemer was born to die, was born to give His life for us, for our redemption. The wood of the manger, as seen in other Christian art, indeed points to the wood of the cross. The mystery of divine love and mercy that we contemplate on the feast of Christmas is the mystery of divine love and mercy that we also contemplate on Good Friday. As Saint Paul says, the Son of God who emptied Himself to be born as a slave, humbling Himself to be born in the likeness of men, also humbled Himself in accepting death, even death on a cross.

“So it should not be so perplexing that the Church celebrates her first martyr on the day after Christmas,” he continued. “Jesus was born on earth so that we could be born into heaven. Saint Stephen, stoned to death for His fidelity to Christ, was born into heaven because Jesus was born on earth. Through His Incarnation, death, and resurrection Jesus opened for us the gates of heaven.”

The Latin word for Christmas is Nativitas Domini, the day of the birth of the Lord, Bishop pointed out. “Nativity in English. Navidad in Spanish. Natale in Italian. The Latin word birthday is “dies natalis.” Christmas is the dies natalis of Jesus, the birthday of Jesus that took place in Bethlehem. Today is the dies natalis of Saint Stephen, but it is not the day of his birth on earth. It is the day of his birth into heaven. You see, the Church very early on celebrated the feasts of the martyrs on the day of their deaths, calling it their dies natalis (birthday), the day of their definitive birth into heaven.

“So there is this link between Christmas and the dies natalis of the martyrs. If Jesus was not born on earth, we could not be born into heaven. Because Christ is born, we can be reborn!”

Following the Mass, those who had gathered enjoyed a meal of pizza and salad and relished the opportunity to catch up with those with whom they had experienced so much.

While in Poland the group toured the former Auschwitz concentration camp, contemplated the sacrifices of St. Maximilian Kolbe, worshipped at the Warsaw church where Blessed Jerzy Popiełuszko served, learned about the life and homeland of WYD founder St. John Paul II and attended papal Masses with 300,000 others near the heart of Krakow.
Patriarchs call for peace amid Christian persecution

BY DOREEN ABI RAAD

BEIRUT (CNS) — Lamenting the exodus of Christians from their ancestral homelands, Catholic patriarchs of the Middle East pleaded for peace and security in their annual Christmas messages.

In separate statements, the prelates shared their anguish regarding the persecution and uprooting of Christians from the region.

Cardinal Bechara Rai, patriarch of Maronite Catholics, appealed to the international community to work to end terrorism “that is killing and displacing families and depriving them of their rights and dignities.” He made the comments in his message from Bkerke, the patriarchate north of Beirut.

He also called upon the U.N. Security Council “to work seriously to find political solutions to the wars, aimed at bringing comprehensive and lasting peace and the repatriation of refugees back to their homelands.”

In his message, Syrian Catholic Patriarch Ignace Joseph III Younan called attention to “our beloved brothers and sisters of Syria and Iraq, deprived of the Christmas joy, having endured the horrible consequences of war, violence, and all kind of persecutions.” They suffered “all this hardship” because of their Christian faith and their willingness “to persevere in faithfulness to Jesus the Savior,” he added.

Patriarch Younan reiterated that Christians were “uprooted from their lands and driven out unjustly from their homes by barbarian terrorists, in Mosul and the Plain of Nineveh, Iraq,” referring to the exodus of some 100,000 Christians — among them more than 60,000 Syriac Catholics — when the region was overturned by Islamic State militants in 2014.

“Now would they welcome Christmas, but in tears and anxiety for their future!” the patriarch wrote.

Regarding his visit in late November to the recently liberated Christian villages in the Nineveh Plain, Patriarch Younan said “there is still a lot to do” to inspire confidence “to our eradicated and exiled community” to return to their ancestral land.

“We have to keep hoping that the local government and international leaders will expel the terrorists and restore peace and security,” he said, emphasizing that this is a basic condition for the return “of our uprooted people.”

“We hope the same for all the inhabitants of war-torn Aleppo, the second largest city of Syria, after being liberated and reunited,” he added.

Patriarch Younan expressed his appreciation for the “praiseworthy efforts of many Catholic politicians in the West who would disagree with the official policy of their government in dealing with the plight of Christians in the Middle East.”

“We need the honest and courageous solidarity of elected people, like Congressman Chris Smith of New Jersey, to speak up on behalf of Christians and other minorities who have been oppressed, abused and up-rooted by jihadists who kill innocents in the name of their religion, either in Iraq, Syria, Egypt and Nigeria.”

Before Christmas, Smith, R-New Jersey, visited Irbil, in the Kurdistan region of northern Iraq to meet with Christians who had fled Islamic State forces.

The patriarch said it is “quite evident that our people have been persecuted because of religious hatred and forgotten because of the political opportunism of the powerful of this world.”

Patriarch Younan, a native of the Syrian province of Hassake, served for 14 years as bishop of Our Lady of Deliverance Syriac Catholic Diocese of the U.S. and Canada, which is based in Newark, New Jersey. He was elected patriarch in January 2009.

Melkite Catholic Patriarch Gregoire III Laham, in his message, stressed that “today in the Middle East, the cradle of Christianity, the Christian presence is threatened ... by wars that have given rise to this terrifying exodus, especially of Christians.”

“This is a prayer for the peace of Christmas to protect our suffering countries, especially Palestine, Iraq and most especially our beloved Syria,” the Syrian-born patriarch wrote. “I continue to repeat my motto: give us peace and security, because that is the warranty and condition for Christian resistance, presence, role and witness.”

Patriarch Laham urged the region’s Christians to stay in their homelands, stressing that “our presence here is of great, global and historical significance! We are not asked to sacrifice our families, though we must struggle to remain here despite dangers, difficulties and hardships.”

“If Christians emigrate,” Patriarch Laham added, “it is as though Christ were leaving his country and homeland.”

From Baghdad, Iraq, Chaldean Patriarch Louis Sako, wrote: “Amidst the concerns and worries of Iraqis, Syrians, and people of the Middle East, in which children and civilians are victims of a harsh war, millions of persons are displaced from their homes, driven out of their lands and are living in tragic conditions, after the destruction of their towns’ infrastructure.”

He expressed his hope that “this feast may revive our people’s hope to return to their homes, ancestral lands, history and memories.”

CNS photo/Youssef Badawi, EPA

Women light candles before attending Christmas Eve Mass at the Melkite Catholic Cathedral in Damascus, Syria.
NEW YORK (CNS) — Members of the Catholic lay ecclesial movement Communion and Liberation are gearing up for their annual gathering in New York City, a three-day event featuring lectures, music and socializing. Labeled a “cultural event,” the free gathering takes place Jan. 13-15 in New York City and features talks by scientists, writers, economists as well as exhibits and music. “It’s a blend of music and culture a lot of talk about different Catholic topics,” said Father Drew Curry, from the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend in Indiana, who attended the event in 2013. Holly Peterson, director of communications for Communion and Liberation in New York, said the event now in its ninth year, hopes to provide “a place of dialogue and friendship with everyone and anyone, in the heart of the city — which it truly is, in the heart of Manhattan.” Those who participate in the annual event, called Encounter, “have the unique experience of seeing proposals from a diversity of people, from all walks of life; discussions that are not afraid to look at the depth of life, from 360 degrees, and to speak about it together,” Peterson told Catholic News Service.

Benefits association, diocese file suit over HHS transgender regulation

FARGO, N.D. (CNS) — The Catholic Benefits Association, the Diocese of Fargo and Catholic Charities North Dakota filed a lawsuit Dec. 28 in U.S. District Court in North Dakota against a federal regulation scheduled to take effect Jan. 1 that redesignes “sex” for anti-discrimination purposes to include sexual orientation and gender identity. The redesign from the Department of Health and Human Services requires that Catholic hospitals and health care providers perform or provide gender transition services, hormonal treatments and counseling as well as a host of surgeries that would remove or transform the sexual organs of men or women transitioning to the other gender. The HHS regulation requires group health plans to cover these procedures and services. The Catholic Benefits Association is made up of Catholic dioceses, hospitals, school systems, religious orders and other entities that offer their employees insurance and benefit programs that adhere to Catholic teaching. The regulation, which also mandates abortions be performed, affects health insurers, hospitals and health plans administered by or receiving federal funds from HHS. There is no religious exemption.

Encounter 2017 gathering blends talks, music, spirituality

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More than 12,500 attend SEEK2017

DENVER — The week after Christmas, more than 12,500 registrants were gearing up for SEEK2017, held Jan. 3-7 in San Antonio, Texas. Attendees hailed from more than 500 college campuses and at least 10 countries, including Austria, Ireland, Mexico, and South Korea.

The biennial event featured the theme “What Moves You.” Seminars, worship opportunities and peer discussions challenged each heart to discover God’s will through truth, goodness and beauty.

The new “Awaken” program of events, which included an art and poetry exhibit along with a musician side stage, featured students sharing their talents and showing beauty as a bridge to the Divine, a window to encounter the person of Christ. More than 200 priests concelebrated daily Mass, and adoration and confession provided opportunities for prayer and reflection.

Bishop Luers receives $50,000 gift from anonymous donor

FORT WAYNE — Bishop Luers High School is the recipient of a $50,000 gift from an anonymous donor for Phase II of the Faith In Our Future Capital Campaign. The donation was announced on Dec. 15.

The school is engaged in a $4 million capital campaign. Some capital improvements have been made, such as the new Chapel of Saint Francis of Assisi and media center. Additional improvements include the completion of core infrastructure including building renovations and the addition of a 4,000 square-foot performing arts assembly hall.

Those interested in supporting the campaign should contact Kathy Skelly, director of Office of Mission Advancement; visit bishopluers.org or call 260-456-1261, ext. 3142.

Catholic Boy Scouts classes available

FORT WAYNE — Young men who are in grades seven or above and who would like to earn their Ad Altare Dei Religious Emblem can attend classes beginning Jan. 8, from 2-3:30 p.m. in St. Elizabeth Ann Seton’s Scout Room (lower level of school). For those who are in High School and would like to earn their Pope Pius XII Religious Emblem, classes begin on Jan. 15.

RSVP to Theresa Dirig at tscoutlady@yahoo.com or 260-414-9172 so books can be ordered.

Historical perspective offered on the Crusades

FORT WAYNE — The University of Saint Francis invites the public to a free lecture as part of the Philosophy/Theology Lecture Series. Associate professor of theology Dr. Adam DeVille will give the lecture, titled “ISIS and the Crusades: On the Uses and Abuses of History,” on Wednesday, Jan. 25, at 7 p.m. on the USF campus, Brookside Ballroom, 2701 Spring St.

For additional information contact Angie Springer at 260-399-7700 x2100 or aspringer@sf.edu or visit the website at http://philosophy.sf.edu/lecture-series/.

Black History Lecture

ST. MEINRAD — Dr. Cecilia Felicichia, a representative of Holy Cross Congregation. In the back row are Nathan Maskal, Dan Niezer, Joseph Knepper, Brian Isenburg, Michael Ammer, Sam Lyon, Keeton Lockwood, Dan Koehler and Father Zach Barry.

More than 12,500 attend SEEK2017

SEEK2017 participants hit the road

Students from the University of St. Francis, Fort Wayne, and IPFW thanked Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades for celebrating Mass on Jan. 2 and blessing those who were about to depart for the SEEK2017 conference in San Antonio, Texas. The national young adult conference is presented annually by The Fellowship of Catholic University Students.

Notre Dame Sacred Music program names assistant professor

NOTRE DAME — Dr. Mark Doerries has been named an assistant professor in the practice of choral conducting and a special professional specialist in the program, Sacred Music at Notre Dame. He also has an appointment in the Department of Music.

Doerries is the artistic director of the Notre Dame Children’s Choir. In addition to his teaching and conducting responsibilities, he is associate director for Communication and Community Outreach in the SMND.

USF examines human side of business

FORT WAYNE — The University of Saint Francis welcomes Sister Helen Alford, OP, as the keynote speaker at the 2017 Servus Omnium Tuesday, Feb. 28 in the USF Robert Goldstine Performing Arts Center Ballroom, 431 W. Berry Street. The event will begin at 7 a.m. with an opening blessing from Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend. Then a Mardi Gras breakfast will be served before Sister Alford’s presentation, “Have You Been Served? Human Dignity, the Common Good and the Purpose of Business.”

Tickets cost $10 in advance, $15 at the door. Tables may be purchased in advance for $80. Corporate sponsorships are available.

For more information visit sf.edu/servus-omnium or contact Dr. Lance Richey at 260-399-8112 or lrichey@sf.edu.

Seminarians gather for lunch with Bishop in Elkhart

Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades visited St. Vincent de Paul Parish in Elkhart on Dec. 20 to celebrate an annual Mass and luncheon with the seminarians of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend. Pictured following the Mass, in the front row, from left, are Father Tom Shoemaker, Deacon Dennis di Benedetto, Deacon Eric Bunger and Jay Horning. Father Andrew Budzinski and Father Terry Coonan. In the second row are Father Matt Coonan, Ben Landrigan, Jonathan Evangelista, and David Huneck. In the third row are a representative of Holy Cross Congregation, Caleb Kruse, Tom Zehr, Dominic Garrett, Bishop Rhoades, Patrick Hake, Mark Hellingan, Logan Parrish, Jonathan Alvarez, David Langford, Stephen Felichia and a representative of Holy Cross Congregation. In the back row are Nathan Maskal, Dan Niezer, Joseph Knepper, Brian Isenburg, Michael Ammer, Sam Lyon, Keeton Lockwood, Dan Koehler and Father Zach Barry.
A holy Year of Mercy and a historic election: 2016 from a Catholic perspective

BY MOLLY GETTINGER

An election of extraordinary contentiousness marked, or perhaps marred, the year 2016 for Americans. During the journey, Catholics across the country and within the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend found it necessary to look more deeply into their faith and contemplate the considerations and direction of their leadership in ways they had not done previously.

However, the year was also frequently punctuated by manifestations of mercy, encouraged and inspired by Pope Francis’ proclamation at the end of 2015 that 2016 was to be a Jubilee Year of Mercy.

In accordance with that proclamation, Holy Doors were opened from Rome to the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, and they would welcome pilgrims who wished to observe it by passing through them to pray, pause and reflect. Others chose to embrace the specific focus of the jubilee year by performing works of mercy in their family, their neighborhood or by involving themselves with diocesan agencies that serve the homeless, the hungry, the incarcerated and the anawim, a Hebrew word meaning the poor and afflicted.

Other notable moments during the past year that showcased God’s mercy in the lives of His faithful included:

January

Bishop blesses narthex, baptismal font at St. Charles Borromeo Church.

Project Rachel offers post-abortion hope in the Year of Mercy.

Our Lady of Hungary recognized by NWEA for academic progress.

Holy Cross College launches Summer Theology Institute for high school youth.

February

St. Dominic, Bremen, expands facilities to enhance parish life.

Pope Francis visits Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe in Mexico.

Pope calls for jubilee year moratorium on the death penalty.

March

Christ the King team crowned Inter-City Catholic League boys’ basketball champions.

Parishes participate in 24 Hours for the Lord.

The glory of Easter is experienced at Masses throughout the diocese.

Dismas House in South Bend observes 30 years of reconciliation.

April

Mother Angelica, founder of EWTN, dies after a long illness.

Congregation of Holy Cross ordains Rev. Matthew Earle Hovde, CSC, and Rev. Dennis Anthony Strach II, CSC.

Diocesan priests challenge Congregation of Holy Cross seminarians in John Bosco Jam basketball game.

The 2015 Annual Bishop’s Appeal set a new record of $6,721,656.

Apostolic exhortation “Amoris Laetitia” (“The Joy of Love”) is released for the benefit of families.

May

Redeemer Radio celebrates 10-year anniversary.

Diocese celebrates ordination to the diaconate of Dennis Di Benedetto and Eric Burgener.

June

Bishop Luers girls’ tennis team finishes season with 7-0 record; takes home championship.

Our Lady of Hungary Parish, South Bend, celebrates a century of faith and fellowship.

July

Fort Wayne College Crew unites students of faith.

Fort Wayne woman, Sister Nancy Frentz, professes perpetual vows to eremitical life.

New jail ministry forms in Elkhart County.

St. Paul Chapel, Clear Lake, celebrates 75 years of faith-filled history.

August

Young people from around the world attend World Youth Day 2016 in Poland.

The University of Saint Francis, Fort Wayne, inaugurates downtown campus.

Mishawaka Catholic School celebrates five-year anniversary.
A holy Year of Mercy and a historic election: 2016 from a Catholic perspective

Kevin Haggenjos

The Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend ordained three new priests on Saturday, June 4, at St. Matthew Cathedral in South Bend. From left is Father David Violi, Father Craig Borchard, Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades and Father Robert Garrow.

Nate Proulx

Diocesan pilgrims were jubilant at WYD.

September
Bishop Rhoades blesses diocese’s newest Catholic school, Our Lady of Good Hope School in Fort Wayne.
‘Mother’ Teresa canonized St. John the Evangelist Church, Goshen, hits the airwaves with bilingual radio station.
St. Joseph Hessen Cassel celebrates 175 years.
Msgr. John Suelzer, Father Jeffery Largent and St. Therese, Fort Wayne, Principal Chuck Grimm pass away.

October
Bishop blesses Queen of All Saints Chapel, dedicates altar at Bishop Dwenger High School, Fort Wayne.
Elkhart County parishes join forces to found new young adult ministry.

Miriam’s Blessing, new diocesan ministry, provides support through difficult prenatal diagnosis.

November
Marian High School boys defend 1-A soccer state championship title.
Jubilee Masses for prisoners call attention to jail ministry.
Bishop Luers High School, Fort Wayne, Chapel of Saint Francis of Assisi blessed.
Jubilee Year of Mercy Holy Doors closed.

December
Bishop Luers High School, Fort Wayne, boys’ tennis team repeats SAC win.
Father Kenneth Sarrazine passes away.

John Martin

Bishop Rhoades celebrates the Eucharistic liturgy during a Mass with dedication of the altar at the new Chapel of Saint Francis of Assisi, Bishop Luers High School, Fort Wayne, Thursday, Nov. 10.

Students, faculty, alumni and donors of Bishop Dwenger High School, Fort Wayne, celebrate Mass and observe the blessing of the chapel and dedication of the altar for the Queen of All Saints Chapel on Sept. 20.

Vince LaBarbera

In front of a statue of Mary, Bishop Rhoades begins prayers for the blessing of the new Our Lady School at Our Lady of Good Hope Parish, Fort Wayne.

Jubilee Year of Mercy Holy Doors closed. The faithful pray before entering the Holy Doors at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, Fort Wayne, for the closing Mass of the Jubilee Year of Mercy.

Mollie Schutt

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St. Matthew Cathedral, our bishops’ South Bend parish home

BY ANDREW MENTOCK

In My Diocese—St. Matthew Cathedral

St. Matthew Cathedral in South Bend serves as the co-cathedral for the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend. It is located on Miami St., just south of downtown.

St. Matthew went through a transition in 2016, when formal cathedral rector Msgr. Michael Heintz became the associate professor of systematic theology at the University of Mount Saint Mary’s in Maryland and Father Terry Fisher was named the rector. Msgr. Heintz had been the pastor at St. Matthew for over a decade.

Previous to coming to the cathedral Father Fisher was pastor at St. Joseph Catholic Church in Mishawaka, but he had strong roots at St. Matthew. His mother has been a parishioner there for over 40 years; additionally, he taught third grade at the elementary school for 10 years prior to becoming a priest.

“Coming back and getting to see and meet people all over again has been great,” said Father Fisher. “Some of the parishioners I taught years ago have grown up and now have children of their own.”

St. Matthew was also the site of the ordination of three diocesan priests last year, for the first time in several years. One of the ordained was Father David Violi, who is now parochial vicar at the cathedral.

Parish history

St. Matthew was established with humble beginnings in 1922. The year prior, the plan for the parish included a church and a school; but after estimating the construction cost it was decided that a small wooden church would be built instead. The parish membership started out with 75 southeast South Bend families.

Its initial capacity was a mere 240 people, but the population quickly grew. The church went through several expansions in its early days in order to accommodate the growth.

In 1959 ground was broken for a new church, and before completion it was named the co-cathedral of the diocese, along with the Cathedral of Immaculate Conception in Fort Wayne. Ever since then it has been the home of the auxiliary bishops of the diocese, who have traditionally lived in South Bend; as well as of the bishop when he visits.

In 1929 the church established an elementary school, which had an initial enrollment of 150 students. Later, in 1934, the parish turned the second floor of the elementary school into an all-boys Catholic high school known as Central Catholic.

However, in 1951, with the opening of St. Joseph High School in South Bend, Central Catholic closed. The second floor of the school was used to expand the elementary school.

St. Matthew Cathedral School today

St. Matthew Cathedral School has about 400 students in grades kindergarten through eighth.

The school is an area leader in utilizing new technology in the classroom. This past fall it received a couple large technology grants that allowed the addition of several “smart” televisions. The classrooms also have access to “wireless hotspots,” which students without Internet access at home can use.

This technology has also allowed teachers to address the needs of their students, no matter whether they are visual or auditory learners. Students are

Dear Readers:

In 2016, Today’s Catholic began a special series called “In My diocese” to celebrate the uniqueness of the Catholic parishes and schools that make up the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend. In this monthly section of Today’s Catholic, 12 different counties were featured, and we told the story of the 34 parishes contained within each.

From the urban churches to the rural parishes, we do each have a different Catholic story to tell. Yet, we are all one diocese — one Catholic church.

In MY diocese will continue in 2017, and will feature the stories of the parishes that are located in the remaining two counties, St. Joseph and Allen.

If you are interested in helping to tell these stories or take pictures, or if you would like to know when your parish will be featured, visit www.todayscatholicnews.org.

What is the Catholic Community Foundation?

The Catholic Community Foundation of Northeast Indiana consists of 137 endowments collectively invested to fund the various ministries and services of the Church throughout the diocese.

Making a gift to the Catholic Community Foundation

There are currently five endowments in the Catholic Community Foundation for schools and ministries at St. Matthew Cathedral: the Marilyn McGrane Fund, Bishop Crowly Fund, Joseph Dillon Scholarship Fund, Verhoestra Fund and the Michael Flynn Memorial Fund. These endowments fund various ministries, including charity support, school support and tuition assistance.

For more information visit www.diocesefwsb.org/Catholic-Community-Foundation.
Savoring the strange and joyful life of a seminaran

M y mother recently asked me what my very first memory was. I responded with a quick and confident, “9/11.” I don’t say this to set the mood of this piece or to make a political statement. I merely say it to date myself. I am a fairly young Today’s Catholic reader. While this may denote inexperience or a lack of worldviews, I intend to view this in light of the good it could bring about.

The fact of the matter is, I was not shaped by the same world events as most of you. I don’t remember when we switched from Latin to English Mass, none of my friends were in Vietnam. I have only a faint memory of St. John Paul II’s papacy and I wasn’t even alive during the Challenger disaster. So I know, beyond a shadow of a doubt, that I have much to learn from you. What I hope to provide us with is a unique place to which my contribution is another exciting and rewarding. Too often, we allow ourselves to slip into the role of Herod. We look for security in earthly terms. We make judgments based on earthly instincts. Fear overtakes us. The divinity found by the magi in Bethlehem hardly met earthly expectations. God was a newborn child, innocent, indeed helpless, with Mary. Finally, God alone supplies the answers and reward — in life. The wonder is that if we are sincere, God will guide us to Himself, living in Christ.

M SGR. OWEN E. CAMPION

Epiphany of the Lord
Matthew 2:1-12

T his weekend the church celebrates the ancient Feast of the Epiphany of the Lord, commemorating and reflecting upon the visit of magi “from the East” to the crib side of the newborn Savior.

For the first reading, the church presents a passage from the third and last section of Isaiah. After four generations of exile in Babylon, survivors, or descendants of survivors, of the long-past Babylonian conquest of the Holy Land finally were able to return to their homeland. When Persia, in turn, overtook Babylonia, Persia’s King Cyrus allowed the exiles to leave Babylon and to return to the Holy Land. But the homecoming was bittersweet. They returned after so many years was desolate and unyielding. The prophets insisted that, in spite of this desolation, times would change for the better, because God would not forget the chosen people. Thus, this reading rejoices in God’s salvation, not the bad fortune. He will vindicate the people. In justice and mercy, God will come. The prophecy predicts a great new day.

For the second reading the church offers us a selection from the Epistle to the Ephesians. It is a frank and direct statement, that God intends salvation also for the Gentiles, not only for the chosen people.

St. Matthew’s Gospel furnishes the last reading. Among the four Gospels, only Matthew and Luke refer to the conception, birth and very early life of Jesus. Mark and John are silent on these subjects.

Between Matthew and Luke, only Matthew has the story of the magi. This story is one of the most profound and expressive revelations in the New Testament. Better understanding of it requires recognizing the symbols and images contained in the passage.

First, the Gospel speaks of visitors “from the East.” “From the East” was a phrase referring to much more than a direction of the compass. It meant a distant and unknown place. It was a term of mystery. What was the origin of these visitors? All that is known is that they were “from the East.” Who and what were they? Scholars cannot agree, and have not agreed, on a translation. Some think that they were astrologers, in a time when astrology was heavily associated with theology and philosophy. Others think they were nobles or kings. Another term is “magi,” its meaning unclear.

Whatever the answer, they were gifted, learned and very sincere people from somewhere far away, strangers earnestly seeking the true God. Art and legend have seen them over the centuries as three in number.

Herod tried to frustrate their search, hoping to remove any threat to his corrupt control over the people, fearful as to what a “newborn king” might do. Looking for clues, he discovers that according to the Scriptures, the Savior indeed will be born in Bethlehem.

Overall, the message is powerful. The magi, only human, yearned for God but could not find God on their own. God assists them, with a star in the sky and even through the evil Herod.

Reflection

This wondrous feast teaches a vital lesson. First, we must recognize that we are limited humans, even sinners. We are human, in the last analysis.

Accepting our limitation is one message. We also should examine what we regard as rewarding. Too often, we allow ourselves to slip into the role of Herod. We look for security in earthly terms. We make judgments based on earthly instincts. Fear overcomes us. The divinity found by the magi in Bethlehem hardly met earthly expectations. God was a newborn child, innocent, indeed helpless, with Mary.

Finally, God alone supplies the answers and reward — in life. The wonder is that if we are sincere, God will guide us to Himself, living in Christ.

All nations are invited worship the long-awaited King

THE STRANGE AND JOYFUL LIFE

Dominican sister, Sister Mary Vianney, and a grateful gradu- ate of Bishop Dwenger High School. I’m currently living and discerning at Simon Brute College Seminary and attending Marian University in Indianapolis. I have a passion for reading and history, and I love to laugh. Lastly, I’m thrilled to be writing for Today’s Catholic. This opportunity is another exciting and unique place to which my strange seminary life has led me.

Fort Wayne native Sam Lyon is currently discerning the priesthood at Simon Brute College Seminary and attending Marian University in Indianapolis.

SOMETHING TO TWENTY

Severe conditions the blessing of a new year

CHRISTINA CAPECCHI

On Currey was a 30-year-old graduate student when he cut down the world’s oldest tree.

A brown-eyed, suntanned geography student at the University of North Carolina, Currey was striking in his looks and his ambitions: to better understand Ice-Age glaciology by examining bristlecone trees. So he found himself in Nevada in the summer of 1964, amid a grove of bristlecones on Wheeler Peak Mountain, with his tree corer got stuck in a tree. Since it would not come out, a park ranger helped him remove his instrument by cutting down the tree. Currey began to count its rings and eventually realized, much to his dismay, that he had felled a tree that was 4,844 years old — what was then considered the oldest tree on the planet.

The tragic mistake advanced geographers’ understanding of Ice-Age glaciology, which was then closely related with size of tree, like the Redwoods of California. Ice-buried bristlecone pines, with their storybook swirls on gnarled limbs — trees that peak at just 20 feet — are, it turns out, some of the oldest trees in the world.

They’re able to live so long because even if a large portion of a bristlecone is damaged by erosion or fire, small strips of living bark, which are dubbed “life lines,” can function and keep the tree alive. A strip of bark that might be only two inches wide can support all of the tree’s foliage.

Adversity bears longevity, analysis suggested. The oldest tree.

THE PURSUIT OF HAPPINESS IN THE NEW YEAR

The pursuit of happiness in the new year

On January 8, 2017, severe conditions the blessing of a new year.
M any people today believe that moral judgments and values are merely expressions of sentiment. They deny that moral values are fixed or universally true, and instead argue that we have changing emotions that may or may not correspond to the moral feelings of those around us.

This can play out in various real-life situations when people say, for example, “You can’t really know what it’s like to have an unexpected pregnancy if you haven’t been in the situation yourself, so you can’t tell me it’s wrong to get an abortion.” The morality of terminating a “prob-lem pregnancy,” according to this view, depends on “being in the moment,” and experiencing the mother’s desperation, fears and sentiments.

Most of us, in fact, have probably granted our emotions leeway to trump our better moral judgment somewhat along the line. We can relate to stories of friends who make various solemn declarations like: “You don’t know how hard it’s been for me in this pain-ful marriage, and you don’t understand how it feels to fall in love with somebody who really cares for you, so you can’t say it’s wrong for me to be in a relation-ship with someone else.”

Philosopher Alasdair MacIntyre notes that this emo-tive approach to moral think-12

MAKING SENSE OF BIOETICS

Father Tad Pacholczyk

Favoring the practice. To think clearly about morality, we need to start by acknowledging that certain moral duties do not operate on context or emotion, but are universally binding on us, hav-ing even a common commitment-like quality. Professor William May, a remarkable teacher of moral theology at the John Paul II Institute for Studies on Marriage and Family, had a penchant for choosing clear and memorable examples when he would lecture. He used to tell his students that we all know certain actions are wrong, regardless of circumstances. One of his most graphic examples, recounting his stud-ents even decades later, was his undeniable assertion that we all know barbecuing a baby is wrong. Similarly, he stressed that everyone recognizes the wrongness of adultery, an act, so often shrouded in secrecy, that attacks the good of our spouse and seriously violates certain important and defining personal con-13

scripture search

Gospel for January 8, 2017

Matthew 2:1-12

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

CROSSWORD

Epiphany, Jan. 8, 2017

65 Kimono sash
64 Stomach sore
58 Wheel tooth
59 Fast plane
60 Takes the skin off (as in fruit)
61 Slide on snow

DOWN

1 Twice-baked bread
2 Decorative needle case
3 Pennsylvania (abbr.)
4 Houston
5 BB referee
6 Jerusalem will do in splendor
7 Uncivil
8 Mary is Jesus’
9 Daughter carried in
10 ... (instead of)
11 Arrow shooters
12 Glares
13 Foos
14 Morning moisture
15 Vapor
16 Often poetically
17 Ball holder
18 Lady
19 Ephesians (abbr.)
20 Give false witness
21 American Cancer Society
22 Still
23 Raffle
24 Arise Jerusalem
25 Jesus cursed 10 of them
26 Beautiful (Fr.)
27 Deuces
28 Steals
29 Piece
30 Cubes
31 What children learn
32 50 Eye
33 Wise men
34 Eastern state

ACROSS

1 Representative
2 4 Jewish feast related to Queen Esther
3 Loose robe worn at Mass
4 Shoshone
5 Protein part, with acid
6 Rio de Janeiro
7 God makes it shine and good and bad
8 Defeat undoubtedly
9 Kitten’s cry
10 Pope Urban VIII’s symbol
11 Holy of Holies
12 Moses did, from Egypt
13 Used to make Eve
14 Visit (3 wds)
15 # of Commandments
16 Moses, it was
17 Sacred poem
18 Strike out a word
19 People here
20 First of Commandments
21 Visit (3 wds)
22 Deuce
23 5 Holy Land
24 # of Commandments
25 Visit (3 wds)
26 Type of race
27 Not many words (2 wds)
28 Words per minute
29 Rodents
30 Control
31 Symbol
32 Holy of Holies
33 Used to make Eve
34 Pope Urban VIII’s symbol
35 Holy Land
36 Used to make Eve
37 Control
38 Symbol
39 Used to make Eve
40 Symbol
41 Used to make Eve
42 Symbol
43 Symbol
44 Bound
45 Sacred poem
46 Gained
47 Strike out a word
48 Constructor snake
49 Strike out a word
50 Strike out a word
51 Strike out a word
52 Gained
53 Strike out a word
54 Strike out a word
55 Strike out a word
56 Kimono sash
57 Stomach sore
58 Wheel tooth
59 Fast plane
60 Takes the skin off (as in fruit)
61 Slide on snow
62 Strike out a word
63 Strike out a word
64 Stomach sore
65 Kimono sash

BIOETHICS

THREE SENSES

HEROD

HIS STAR

CHIEF PRIESTS

JUDEA

SHEPHERD

THIRD CHILD

THE HOUSE

PRINTED

THE EAST

RISING

INQUIRED

PROPHET

SECRETLY

WORD

MARY

JEWS

HOMAGE

BE BORN

LORD

SEARCH

STOPPED

GIFTS

CAPECCHI

Continued from Page 11

spiritual terms, showing how the saints’ capacity for goodness and love, ultimately, made them happy.

My biggest takeaway is the book’s message about learning to see and learning to love. “Our whole business in this life,” St. Augustine wrote, “is to restore health to the eyes of the heart, whereby God may be seen.”

That’s what happened to Thomas Merton, Ellisberg recounts, when he was on an errand in the shopping district of Louisville, Ky., at the corner of Fourth and Walnut. “I was suddenly overwhelmed with the realization that I loved these people, that they were mine and I theirs ...” Merton wrote. “It was as if I suddenly saw the secret beauty of their hearts, the depths of their hearts, where neither sin nor desire nor self-knowledge can reach, the core of their reality, the person that each one is in God’s eyes.”

I tear up when I read this passage. What more could we hope for in the near future, than to share in that vision?

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

It’s not wrong if it feels right!

The making of sense of bioethics

By Christina Cappechi
CYO teams burn up the court in holiday Hoopfest

BY RON BUSCH

For the past 21 years there has been a Christmas holiday basketball tournament, now called “Hoopfest.” Denny Jamison has done the organizational work for the event in recent years.

This year the tournament format was double elimination and featured four separate tournaments for seventh-grade girls, seventh-grade boys, eighth-grade girls and eighth-grade boys. The games were held between Christmas and New Year’s at St. Vincent de Paul, Queen of Angels parishes and the University of Saint Francis, all in Fort Wayne.

Hoopfest tournament tipoff was Monday, Dec. 27 at St. Vincent at 4 p.m. It was raining buckets of water outside as the tournament got underway. The St. Jude seventh-grade girl Eagles played against the home Panthers squad, a game that proved to be quite a barnburner. St. Jude jumped out to a quick 8-2 lead in the first quarter, with four Eagles players each contributing two points in a balanced scoring attack. The second quarter featured much of the same and the half ended in an 18-9 tally, with the home team trailing.

St. Vincent was not ready to give up and rallied to a 20-16 score at the end of the third quarter. The Panthers’ scoring was led by Emily Szepanski and Kaylee Mulligan. A very close fourth quarter followed, with both teams vying for the win. The game was tied 25-25 going into the final minute, before Ava Panza of St. Jude poured in the winning bucket with just a few seconds left on the clock. Top scorers for St. Jude were Ava Panza and Bekah Landstoffer, and Hoopfest was off to an exciting start.

Seventh-grade boys’ Tuesday night winner’s bracket action included a 7:30 p.m. game at Queen of Angels between the St. Charles Cardinals and a determined St. Rose of Lima/St. Louis, Besancon Twins team.

Although the Twins gave it everything they had, they were outmatched by the Cardinals. St. Charles immediately jumped out to a 15-3 first quarter lead and never looked back. Scores at the quarter stops were 15-3, 26-9 and 41-11. The final score was 53-18. St. Charles had balanced scoring, with nine players contributing to the win. Joe Smith had 12 points, including two three-point buckets. Henry O’Keefe followed with nine points, and Gavin Groves and Joe Fiddy each contributed seven.

St. Charles played with its squads substituting in and out to remain fresh, which proved too much for the undermanned yet tenacious St. Rose/St. Louis team.

The 5 p.m. Thursday-night game at Saints Francis’ was an elimination game between the eighth-grade girls of St. Vincent de Paul and St. John the Baptist, New Haven. The winner would advance on to the final bracket, while the loser faced elimination.

Both teams seemed to sense the importance of the game, which went into overtime. St. Vincent led at the end of the first two quarters, 6-3 and 9-8. After the halftime break St. John fought back, led by Rachel McCarthy of the St. John Raiders ment, with a 32-19 victory over the eighth-grade girls tourname-

The eighth-grade boys’ tournament started at 5 p.m. Thursday with a 43-35 final score. Olson’s strong performance netted 19 points, including three three-pointers. Eleven of those points came in the fourth quarter of play. Meanwhile, St. Charles was led by Brenden Lytle’s 19 points, which include three three-point shots as well. Devon Tippmann chipped in eight points for the Cardinals in the victory.

St. Charles also took wins in the eighth-grade girls tournament, with a 32-19 victory over runner-up St. Vincent, and its seventh-grade boys defeated St. Elizabeth 44-33. The St. Jude seventh-grade girls squad proved too much for the St. Vincent Panthers, who lost 27-20.

The 5 p.m. Thursday-night game was high-lighted by the eighth-grade boys’ finals at the University of Saint Francis. St. Vincent entered the game from the loser’s bracket, with one tournament loss and played the St. Charles squad.

St. Vincent battled from behind the entire game and was unable to derail the Cardinals. Despite a stellar performance from St. Vincent’s Dillon Olson, St. Charles sealed the victory with a 43-35 final score. Olson’s strong performance netted 19 points, including three three-pointers. Eleven of those points came in the fourth quarter of play. Meanwhile, St. Charles was led by Brenden Lytle’s 19 points, which include three three-point shots as well. Devon Tippmann chipped in eight points for the Cardinals in the victory.

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Priests eek out third win over seminarians in Cupertino Classic

BY PAT MURPHY

FORT WAYNE — It was youth versus experience when seminarians of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend clashed with several of its priests at the third annual Cupertino Classic basketball game Dec. 27 at Bishop Luers High School in Fort Wayne. And experience once again prevailed, as the priests defeated their younger opponents in overtime 46-44.

“This was the most exciting, the most competitive game I’ve seen,” said Sean McBride, who has broadcast all three Cupertino Classic games on Redeemer Radio, “and the most physical. Clearly the seminarians had practiced and prepared for this one.”

Both teams played admirably, said Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades, who added that the priests’ experience might have indeed been the deciding factor in the hard-fought contest. But next year could be different, he said, because the seminarians continue to polish their skills.

A close game was to be expected, according to Doyle Minix, a member of St. Charles Borromeo Parish, Fort Wayne, and one of the estimated 1,200 people in the vocal audience. His children grew up with Fathers Matthew and Terrance Coonan when they attended Bishop Dwenger High School; nevertheless, Minix correctly predicted the priests would have a slight edge.

The game went into overtime. This year was the first time that the priests could only manage a desperate shot that didn’t come close. According to the official results, Father Matthew Coonan was the high scorer for the priests with 21 points, while his brother, Father Terry Coonan, chipped in with 15. Father Andrew Curry had eight and Father Jonathan Norton scored two. Father Zack Barry, Father Mark Gurtner, Father Ben Muhlenkamp and Father Jason Freiburger helped the team, although they did not score.

Landrigan lead the seminarians with 18 points, while Dan Niezer scored nine, Garrett Knepper, Caleb Kruse and Father Mark Gurtner, Father Andrew Curry and Father Terry Coonan were tied for the winning margin.

Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades wears the colors of the seminarian team as he celebrates the priests’ third Cupertino Classic victory.

Over $4,400 was raised at the door during the third annual Cupertino Classic. The focus of this competitive game is on fraternity and good-natured fun.

This year was the first time that the game went into overtime.

by Daniel Niezer, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, who made nine out of nine free throws.

The seminarians looked like they might pull away when they surged to a 32-27 lead with less than five minutes remaining in the game. But the priests, with strong rebounding by Father Jason Freiburger of St. Thomas the Apostle, Elkhart, came back to knot the score at 40 just before regulation time ended.

As the four-minute overtime clock was drawing to a close, the priests set up for a final shot. Father Terrance “Tink” Coonan missed a 13-foot jump shot, but he put the rebound in for the winning margin.

The priests put a full-court press on the seminarians as time ran out, and the youngsters could only manage a desperation shot that didn’t come close.

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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 260-399-1449 to purchase space.

XLT Night at Bishop Dwenger High School
FORT WAYNE — St. Charles, St. Jude and St. Louis youth minis- tries will have an XLT event on Sunday, Jan. 22 at 7:30 p.m. in the BDHS Chapel. Music and adora- tion starts at 7 p.m. After adora- tion, a social time for high school students only will be offered until 9 p.m. Anyone may attend adora- tion and benediction from 7-8 p.m. Teens from All high schools welcome. Contact Vickie Lottie at 260-484-6009 ext. 1012 for information.

A little taste of peace
SOUTH BEND — Celebrate Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.’s birthday Saturday, Jan. 14, from 6:50-9:15 p.m. at St. Therese, Little Flower Church, 54191 Ironwood Rd. People from all racial, cultu- ral, and religious backgrounds are invited to bring a dessert or other finger food to share and partici- pate in a conversation on current problems and solutions that can help us to build Dr. King’s dream. RSVP to Erin at 574-233-9491, ext. 316 or online at littleflowerchurch.org and provide details to assure diversity in each group by Jan. 12.

Bishop Luers High School show choirs to host Cabaret Knight
FORT WAYNE — Bishop Luers High School show choirs will host Cabaret Knight on Sunday, Jan. 15. Cabaret Knight is an event to showcase the talents of students and to raise funds. The evening begins at 4 p.m., and dinner is served at 4:30 p.m. Performers will take the stage at 5 p.m. with show choir performances beginning at 6:30 p.m. Tickets can be purchased by either contacting a show choir member or Beth Savice at msavice@gmail.com until Jan. 8. Cost is $15 for ages 10 and older; $6 for children ages 4-9; and free to children 5 and younger.

Worldwide Marriage Encounter plans upcoming weekend
Worldwide Marriage Encounter weekends are for married cou- ples who have an OK marriage, but want to get back to when they were first married. The next weekend will be Jan. 27-29. Contact Greg and Jen at 260-422-0803 or go to wme- ni.org to apply. Go to wme- ni.org for more information.

Cathedral Choir announces Epiphany concert
FORT WAYNE — The Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception will have an Epiphany Concert on Sunday, Jan. 8, at 4 p.m. at the Mother Theodore Guerin Chapel on the Cathedral grounds. This event is free and open to the public. Join the choir for a post-concert reception in the lower level of the chapel. Free parking is available in the cathedral parking lots.

Vocation society to meet
FORT WAYNE — The January Vocation Society Meeting will be Friday Jan. 6, at St. Joseph Hospital, with Mass in the hospi- tal chapel at 11:30 a.m. followed by lunch and speaker Franciscan Brother Pio Maria. He will share his vocation story and information about the activities of the Franciscan Brothers Minor in the diocese. Consecration to Mary retreat set to begin
MISHAWAKA — A new group retreat. Consoling the Heart of Jesus, designed by Father Michael Gaitley, the author of “33 Days to Morning Glory” will begin meeting on Sunday, Jan. 29, at 3 p.m. and finish on Palm Sunday, April 9 at St. Bavo. A consecration to Jesus will be on Divine Mercy Sunday, April 23. This is a 10 week retreat. Even if you cannot attend all sessions, you may still participate. RSVP to Monica at 574-314-0887 or mjheyiggis@sbcglobal.net.

Knights plan fish fry
SOUTH BEND — The Knights of Columbus Council 5521, 6153 S. Ironwood Dr., will have a fish fry on Friday, Jan. 6, from 5-7 p.m. Adults $9, children 5-12 $4. Shrimp or chicken strips available for $9.50 and cheese pizza for $1 per slice.

Divorced/Separated Catholic support
FORT WAYNE — St. Vincent de Paul Church, 1502 E. Wallen Rd., will continue “The Catholic’s Divorce Survival Guide” on Thursday, Jan. 19, with the ses- sion “Finding Perfect Power.” From 7-9 p.m. in the parish library, located off of the gathering space in the church. For more information visit www.stvincent.org or call 260-489-5357 ext. 208.

Catholic Business Network meetings
FORT WAYNE — The next Catholic Business Network meet- ing will be Friday, January 13, with Mass in the Guerin Chapel at 7 a.m. followed by fellowship in the Cathedral Center at 7:30 a.m. The guest speaker will be Father Bob D’Souza, Parochial Vicar at St. Jude Parish. He will speak on the “Face of Mercy on Mother Teresa.” Refreshments will be provided by Dave MacDonald Associates.

Holy Name Society fish fry
NEW HAVEN — The Holy Name Society of St. John the Baptist Parish will have a fish fry Friday, Jan. 13, from 4-7 p.m. at the church. Adults $9, children 5-12 $5.50 and children under 5 free. The Holy Name Society will have a meeting Sunday, Jan. 8, from 7-8 p.m. at the church. Refreshments will be served.

Plays to be performed
FORT WAYNE — Three short children’s plays called the “Mis- Adventures of Rebel Rachel” and a one-act family play called “Christmas in His Eyes” will be performed Friday, Jan. 6, from 7-8:30 p.m. at the downtown Allen County Public Library.

Frasatti young adult game night
FORT WAYNE — Catholic young adults, ages 18-39, the Frasatti group is having a game night at Our Lady of Good Hope on Jan. 14, at 6 p.m. in the gym. Bring board games, your own drinks and a snack to share. Babysitting available for $15 per family.
Bishop blesses new Fort Wayne friary chapel

BY BROTHER JOSEPH MARIA, OUR LADY OF PEACE, FFM

Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades blessed a new chapel and consecrated the altar at Our Lady of the Angels Friary in Fort Wayne on Dec. 29. The chapel bears the name of the first Franciscan Friary established in Assisi by St. Francis in 1209: “Our Lady of the Angels Chapel.” Due to its smallness the original chapel was commonly known as “The Portziuncula.” In the old Italian dialect it means “The Little Portion.” The friars of Fort Wayne have thus dubbed their chapel “The Portziuncula.”

Mass was concelebrated by Father David Mary of the Mother of Mercy, FFM, who coordinated the sacred rites as master of ceremonies. Bishop Rhoades gave a powerful homily wherein he spoke of “the miracle of the Eucharist” as “the fruit of Jesus’ sacrifice,” which brings its participants into “union with Jesus Christ and with one another.” Father David Mary spoke of a different sort of miracle in his notes of gratitude at the end of Mass, emphasizing the miracle of the chapel’s completion amidst the formation work and the myriad apostolic endeavors of the friars who were working on the project alongside the generous friends and benefactors of the community. Our Lady of the Angels Friary is situated in an area of Fort Wayne where those in need can easily be reached. Ministry to these poor people, along with countless outreaches to the youth, many parish missions, evangelization efforts across the country and even into foreign lands, and several other services rendered unto the people of God have kept the friars from getting into a consistent work regimen. This was a significant reason why the project took over three years to complete.

One could say they saved the least for last, with the blessing of this chapel coming at the end of the 2016 calendar year. In his thank-yous at the end of Mass, Father David Mary drew from our Lord’s words in the gospel of Matthew, “…as long as you did it to one of these my least brethren, you did it to me.” (Mt 25:40) It was the generosity of various friends of the community that enabled these friars minor to turn a former powerhouse for the generation and distribution of electricity into a powerhouse of prayer for the spread of grace throughout the world. As Father David Mary concluded his notes of gratitude, one got the sense that it was fitting for words to fall short in the face of all the Lord has done for the completion of this chapel. At such a point all that’s left to do is pray; thus the reason for which it was made.

A former energy generation and distribution facility in New Haven, on property now serving as the home of Our Lady of Angels Friary, has been converted to a small prayer chapel called “The Portziuncula.” The chapel was blessed and its altar consecrated by Bishop Rhoades on Dec. 29.

The highlight of their 2016 gatherings was perhaps a Marian pilgrimage that took place in May. Participants prayed the rosary while visiting some of the Marian statues and shrines on the University of Notre Dame campus.

The group is also optimistic regarding its plans for 2017. “We’re hoping to continue having opportunities for young adults to get together and also to encourage participation in the very active parish life of St. Mary’s,” said Caroline Cole, a member of the planning committee. “Monthly potlucks, small gatherings will take place as well, such as a possible “winter adventure” to an ice-skating rink or an outing to go sledding.”

Looking forward

The parish is currently home to about 1,300 families. Some of the highlights every year are the Chrism Mass, which takes place on the Monday of Holy Week, and any occasion on which Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades leads Mass at his home parish in South Bend.