



Parishes and schools celebrate feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe, pages 2, 10 and 15.



A Christmas reflection

from Archbishop Joseph W. Tobin, C.Ss.R.



'What came to be through him was life, and this life was the light of the human race; the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it' (Jn 1:3b-5).

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

I am privileged to address the readers of *The Criterion* for the first time, and I hope that these words will reach all the faithful in central and southern Indiana.

The beginning of my service to the Archdiocese of Indianapolis has been a daily experience of gratitude for the incredible welcome sincerely offered by so many good people.

The competence and generosity of my closest partners in mission give me great confidence as I assume my new responsibilities. I go to bed each evening and arise the next day saying "thank you" to God for having called me to labor in this corner of the vineyard. I would like to thank each of you as well. Hoosier hospitality is the real deal!

It seems particularly appropriate to write these words as the Church enters the final days of Advent. The days before Christmas invite us into the season of the Gift. This reflection on our celebration of the birth of the Lord is offered in thanksgiving to God, who loved us enough to become one of us, and who has called us to walk together on our way home to him.

At this time of the year, a great deal of

heat is generated by a sort of "war" concerning the meaning of Christmas.

Many Church-going people are saddened or scandalized by a secular celebration that apparently has little, if anything, to do with biblical tradition.

These sensibilities are only aggravated by the banning of Nativity scenes from public property, a preference for politically correct greetings like "Happy Holidays," and noisy airwaves that blare about snowmen, white and blue Christmases, and poor Grandma and her unfortunate encounter with that reindeer.

However, if you scratch these excesses, I believe that you frequently find values that are traditionally associated with the Christian celebration of the birth of the Lord.

At this time of the year, people desperately want to be happy, try to be generous, and generally like to spend time with friends and family. They also have a keen sensitivity to light.

In the northern hemisphere, Christmas comes at the darkest time of the year. The winter solstice means that our portion of the Earth is at its farthest point from the sun, the source of light and life. The greater portion of each 24 hours is spent in shadow and gloom. No wonder we like to decorate our houses, workplaces and churches with an abundance of light!

The shadows remain, but we trust that the light is finally stronger. Our decorations remind us, among other things, that the source of light, the sun, is returning.

Have you noticed how often the Church prays for light during the season of Advent?

The story of the birth of Jesus is a chronicle of light. Hosts of angels blaze across the night sky, while wise men follow a star. You have to look closely at the Nativity to glimpse the shadow, a reality that does not sit well with the more saccharine contemporary versions of the Christmas story.

The birth of Christ is touched by the shadow of the Cross, already the destiny of the holy Child. A subtle scarlet thread of suffering unites Nazareth and Bethlehem.

Consider how the initial consternation of Joseph at Mary's pregnancy, the hardship of their journey to the city of



Mary, Joseph and the Child Jesus are depicted in a Nativity painted by Benedictine nuns in Madrid. The Christmas season begins with the Dec. 24 evening vigil commemorating the birth of Christ and ends with the feast of the Baptism of the Lord, on Jan. 13., 2013.

David, the miserable poverty of the stable, the disturbing content of the prophecy of Simeon on the day of the Jesus' circumcision, as well as the insane ferocity of Herod and the flight into Egypt, all conspire to shatter the peaceful image of the Madonna and Child bathed in soft light.

The suffering side of the Christmas story leads us to its deepest meaning—that God so loved the world that he sent his only Son (Jn 3:16), who "emptied himself" (Phil 2:7) and became "like us in all things, except sin" (Heb 4:15).

By his birth, the Son of God enters fully into the precarious, violent, unjust and often incomprehensible world of humanity. He is not play-acting. The Gospel of John, which is shot through with references to light, uses that image to describe the Incarnation.

"What came to be through him was life, and this life was the light of the human race; the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it" (Jn 1:3b-5).

This year, I think it is crucial to recognize the suffering side of Christmas. After all, darkness recently has touched families of the archdiocese and the country in a devastating manner.

On Dec. 2, two lovely couples died in a plane crash outside Greensburg. Donald and Barbara Horan and Stephen and Denise Butz were loving parents of a total of six children as well as committed

members of St. Mary Parish in Greensburg and generous partners in the mission of this archdiocese.

Since Dec. 14, our nation has been grieving for the senseless slaughter of innocents at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Conn. Many are asking why God "took" these little children and their teachers. A similar question may have occurred to those who loved the Horans and Butzes.

Christmas reminds us that God does not "take." God is both the Giver and the Gift.

In the life, death and resurrection of Jesus, God experienced the same sort of darkness that was manifest outside Greensburg and in Newton, and proclaimed forever that darkness will never have the final word. The more pronounced the gloom, the more dramatic is the presence of light.

Our celebration of the birth of Jesus pushes back against a long winter night and, even in our day, "the people who have walked in darkness have seen a great light" (Is 9:2).

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Rev. Joseph W. Tobin, C.Ss.R.
Archbishop of Indianapolis

Archbishop Tobin joins Hispanic Catholics to honor Our Lady of Guadalupe

By Sean Gallagher

In one of his first visits to a parish in central and southern Indiana after his installation, Archbishop Joseph W. Tobin celebrated a Mass on the feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe at St. Anthony Church in Indianapolis on Dec. 12.

The church was filled to overflowing primarily with Hispanic Catholics, who came to show their love for Mary—who appeared to St. Juan Diego in 1531 on the Hill of Tepeyac near Mexico City.

Dozens of bouquets of flowers surrounded a large image of Our Lady of Guadalupe placed at the front of the church.

Many young boys were dressed as Juan Diego, wearing an imitation of his famous cloak, known as a *tilma*, on which was imprinted the image of Our Lady of Guadalupe. Young girls wore colorful native dresses.

Archbishop Tobin, who spent many years ministering at largely Hispanic parishes in Detroit and Chicago, celebrated the entire Mass, including his homily, in Spanish.

Following the Mass, an impromptu parade took place on Warman Avenue in front of the parish church that featured a large statue of “*La Virgen de Guadalupe*” and Mexican dancers wearing colorful costumes adorned with bells.

The cold December night in Indianapolis was thus made warm with the devotion of these Hispanic Catholics, who showed so much love for the Blessed Mother. †



Jennifer Garza, a member of St. Anthony Parish in Indianapolis, leads the singing of the responsorial psalm during a Dec. 12 feast day Mass in honor of Our Lady of Guadalupe at her parish's church.



Max Barbon holds his 2-year-old son, Alex, wearing an imitation of the cloak, or *tilma*, of St. Juan Diego, on which was imprinted the image of Our Lady of Guadalupe, during a Dec. 12 Mass at St. Anthony Church in Indianapolis.



Archbishop Joseph W. Tobin, center, elevates a consecrated host during a Dec. 12 Mass at St. Anthony Church in Indianapolis that honored Our Lady of Guadalupe. Elevating a chalice was, at left, Father Kenneth Taylor, director of the archdiocesan Office of Multicultural Ministry. Also concelebrating the Mass was, at right, Father John McCaslin, pastor of St. Anthony and Holy Trinity parishes. Ford Cox, second from left, executive assistant to the archbishop and liaison for episcopal affairs, assisted at the Mass.

‘No words’ can describe shock, sadness after shooting, says priest

NEWTOWN, Conn. (CNS)—Msgr. Robert Weiss, pastor of St. Rose of Lima Parish in Newtown, went to Sandy Hook Elementary School almost immediately after the horrific shooting on Dec. 14.

When the enormity of the tragedy began to unfold, other priests, chaplains and Catholic Charities personnel “were on the ground,” Brian Wallace, diocesan director of communications, told Catholic News Service.

In the days since, St. Rose of Lima Parish has taken center stage as people gathered for a prayer vigil the night of the shootings and flocked to Sunday Masses seeking solace. They looked to Msgr. Weiss and his staff and other Catholic leaders for pastoral outreach in the aftermath of the violence, which left 20 children and seven adults dead.

Eighteen children died at the school, and two others died after they had been rushed to the hospital. All of the children were first-graders. The adults included the principal and five teachers as well as the gunman.

Police officials identified the shooter as Adam Lanza, 20, and said he killed himself as first responders arrived on the scene.

“There are no words,” Msgr. Weiss told a TV reporter on Dec. 15 in an interview for

NBC’s “Today” show after spending hours helping law enforcement officials inform parents that their child had died in the shooting. At least eight of the children belonged to the parish and will be buried from St. Rose of Lima Church.

Msgr. Weiss said many of the family members thanked him for his presence.

“There was a lot of hugging, a lot of crying, a lot of praying, a lot of just being silent,” he said, adding that at the previous evening’s vigil, community members “came together to care and to support. ... People really care here, and hopefully we can just keep the community together and they can console each other.”

The priest, along with Lutheran, Episcopal, Jewish, Congregationalist, Methodist, Baha’i and Muslim leaders, participated in an evening interfaith service on Dec. 16 at a Newtown auditorium.

President Barack Obama addressed the gathering after meeting separately with each family who lost someone in the shooting. He expressed his condolences and the nation’s support as they face their grief and bury their dead.

“I come to offer the love and prayers of a nation. I am very mindful that mere words cannot match the depths of your sorrow, nor can they heal your wounded hearts,” Obama said at the service.

“I can only hope it helps for you to know that you’re not alone in your grief, that our world too

has been torn apart, [and] that all across this land of ours, we have wept with you, we’ve pulled our children tight,” he said.

“And you must know that whatever measure of comfort we can provide, we will provide, whatever portion of sadness that we can share with you to ease this heavy load, we will gladly bear it. Newtown—you are not alone.”

In a Dec. 16 statement, Msgr. Gerald A. Doyle, administrator of the Bridgeport Diocese, said, “On this Gaudete Sunday, we realize how quickly our joy can be turned to sorrow and how our faith can be challenged.

“On behalf of the clergy, religious and all the faithful of the Diocese of Bridgeport, I extend my prayers and condolences to the families of the victims. ... Our concern and support go out to the whole community of Newtown as you try to assist and support one another, especially those who were directly impacted.”

The Bridgeport Diocese’s website included several other messages of condolences, including one sent on behalf of Pope Benedict XVI by Cardinal Tarcisio Bertone, Vatican secretary of state.

He conveyed the pope’s “heartfelt grief and the assurance of this closeness in prayer to the victims and their families, and to all affected by the shocking event.” †

The Criterion and Catholic Center are closed from Dec. 21 to Jan. 1 for Christmas holiday

This week’s issue of *The Criterion*, which is our annual Christmas publication, is the last issue of 2012.

The Criterion will be published again on Jan. 11, 2013, and resume its weekly schedule.

The Archbishop O’Meara Catholic Center will be closed from Dec. 21 through Jan. 1 in observance of the holidays.

Archdiocesan agencies will reopen at 8 a.m. on Wednesday, Jan. 2, 2013. †



Phone Numbers:

Main office:317-236-1570
 Advertising317-236-1454
 Toll free:1-800-382-9836, ext. 1570
 Circulation:317-236-1425
 Toll free:1-800-382-9836, ext. 1425

Price: \$22.00 per year, 75 cents per copy

Postmaster:
 Send address changes to *The Criterion*,
 1400 N. Meridian St., Indianapolis, IN 46202-2367

Web site: www.CriterionOnline.com

E-mail: criterion@archindy.org

Published weekly except the last week of December and the first week of January. Mailing address: 1400 N. Meridian St., Indianapolis, IN 46202-2367. Periodical postage paid at Indianapolis, IN. Copyright © 2012 Criterion Press Inc. ISSN 0574-4350.

Staff:

Editor: Mike Krokos
 Assistant Editor: John Shaughnessy
 Senior Reporter: Mary Ann Garber
 Reporter: Sean Gallagher
 Online Editor: Brandon A. Evans
 Business Manager: Ron Massey
 Executive Assistant: Mary Ann Klein
 Graphics Specialist: Jerry Boucher
 Print Service Assistant: Annette Danielson



The Criterion (ISSN 0574-4350) is published weekly except the last week of December and the first week of January.

1400 N. Meridian St.
 Indianapolis, IN 46202-2367
 317-236-1570
 800-382-9836 ext. 1570
criterion@archindy.org

Periodical postage paid at Indianapolis, IN.
 Copyright © 2012 Criterion Press Inc.

POSTMASTER:
 Send address changes to:
 Criterion Press Inc.
 1400 N. Meridian St.
 Indianapolis, IN 46202-2367



12/21/12

Moving?

We'll be there waiting if you give us two weeks' advance notice!

Name _____
 New Address _____
 City _____
 State/Zip _____
 New Parish _____
 Effective Date _____

Note: If you are receiving duplicate copies please send both labels.

The Criterion • 1400 N. Meridian St. • Indianapolis, IN 46202-2367

Appointment of Archbishop Tobin and tornado in Henryville top local stories

By Brandon A. Evans

The appointment of Archbishop Joseph W. Tobin as our sixth archbishop, the response to tornado damage in Henryville by St. Francis Xavier Parish and others, and the city of Indianapolis hosting the National Black Catholic Congress were voted the top three local news stories of 2012.

Other stories of note include coverage of the local response to the Department of Health and Human Services' (HHS) mandate, Bishop Christopher J. Coyne's *ad limina* visit to Rome with Indiana's other bishops and the ordination of 16 new permanent deacons.

Working in the custom of other news agencies, *The Criterion* editorial staff votes each year for the top 10 local stories that were published in our newspaper.

Many of the stories selected this year were made up of several individual articles. Read this story online to browse the links to all the original coverage.

Among the hundreds of locally produced news stories during 2012, here is our "Top 10" list:

1. The appointment of Most Rev. Joseph W. Tobin, C.Ss.R., as the sixth archbishop of Indianapolis.

Catholics in central and southern Indiana had been praying for more than a year for the news which came early in the morning on Oct. 18—Pope Benedict XVI

had chosen a new shepherd to succeed Archbishop Emeritus Daniel M. Buechlein, who resigned in 2011 due to health reasons.

A Redemptorist priest who formerly served as his order's superior general, Archbishop Joseph W. Tobin was at the time serving the

Vatican as secretary of the Congregation for Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life.

He was second in charge of the Vatican dicastery that helps oversee the life and ministry of more than 1 million men and women religious.

Archbishop Tobin said his first reaction to the new appointment was one of surprise.

"One of my favorite definitions for faith is 'an openness to be surprised by God,'" he said, reflecting on how his appointment came shortly after the start of the pope's international Church observance of the "Year of Faith."

Archbishop Tobin was formally installed during a Mass at SS. Peter and Paul Cathedral in Indianapolis on Dec. 3—the feast of St. Francis Xavier, archdiocesan patron. The Mass was attended by two dozen bishops, more than a hundred priests, and hundreds of other family members, dignitaries and parish representatives.

2. St. Francis Xavier Parish in Henryville helps community rebuild after a deadly tornado.

On the afternoon of March 2, a tornado bore down on the town of Henryville, one of many storms that cut across the state and region that day leaving dozens dead.

Henryville was devastated. Schools, businesses and homes were destroyed.

"It's a difficult thing to see," said Father Steven Schaftlein, pastor of St. Francis Xavier Parish in Henryville. "[But] the people here have faith and hope."

The tornado caused \$250,000 in structural damage to St. Francis Xavier Church, but the church, which was centrally located in the disaster area, was quickly filled with donations of clothing, food and tools.

Along with other parishes, including St. John the Baptist Parish in Osgood, archdiocesan Catholic Charities staff members immediately began to help with the work of disaster relief efforts in

southern Indiana, which includes a long-term commitment that is still ongoing.

During a trip to Henryville in late March, Bishop Christopher J. Coyne, then apostolic administrator, offered a Mass.

"We can see the devastation when a tragedy like this occurs, but we can also see how God works," he said. "God works through the people around us, answering our prayers through the people in our community."

Bishop Coyne returned on Nov. 25 to rededicate the church after all the repairs were completed.

3. More than 2,200 people gather in Indianapolis for the National Black Catholic Congress.

Every five years, black Catholics from around the country gather for the National Black Catholic Congress, which was held on July 19-21 at the JW Marriott in downtown Indianapolis.

Dominican Father Reginald Whitt, a law professor at St. Thomas University in St. Paul, Minn., gave the opening address, which looked at the history of the congress.

Initial meetings were held in the late 19th century, and dealt with the response to racism and the need for better education for their children.

"Some of those issues persist," Father Reginald said. "Some assert themselves anew. And black Catholics must constantly and repeatedly confront them."

After the re-emergence of a distinctly black Catholic identity following the Second Vatican Council, the U.S. black Catholic bishops issued a pastoral letter titled "What We Have Seen and Heard."

"We were authentically black," Father Reginald said. "We were truly Catholic. And, hence, we were called to evangelization. Thus began the current era of the Black Catholic Congress."

Deacon Lawrence Houston of St. Peter Claver Parish in New Orleans said his positive experience during the opening session started with the music.

"It just touched my spirit," Deacon Houston said. "And just to be among so many African-Americans who know who they are as Christians, and ... are not afraid to let people know that we are black and we are Catholic, and that there's no separation in that was a powerful thing."

4. Local Catholics stand against federal HHS mandate.

On Jan. 20, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) reaffirmed a rule forcing virtually all private health care plans to cover sterilization, abortifacients and contraception.

The exemption for "religious employers" was crafted so narrowly as to not include the vast majority of faith-based organizations, which include Catholic hospitals, universities and charities.

In the wake of the decision, the U.S. bishops and the faithful have spoken loudly about this issue, which Bishop Coyne called "one that challenges the rights of all people of faith to live their lives according to the beliefs and dictates of that faith."

On March 23, 700 people from across central Indiana gathered at the Indiana Statehouse in Indianapolis in the rain for a rally that included religious and civic leaders.

"We are just one of 140 cities across the country that are simultaneously having these rallies to stand up for religious freedom," said Marc Tuttle, president of Right to Life of Indianapolis.

A similar rally, attracting even more people, took place on June 8 at the statehouse.

Many parishes and individuals also participated in a call to prayer, education and action as part of the national "Fortnight for Freedom," which took place from June 21 to July 4.

5. Bishop Christopher J. Coyne meets with Pope Benedict XVI during *ad limina* visit of Indiana bishops.

Bishop Christopher J. Coyne, then apostolic administrator, represented the archdiocese during a Feb. 9 meeting with Pope Benedict XVI at the Vatican.



Melba Myers, from left, Barbara Parks and Grace Okonta of the Diocese of Kansas City-St. Joseph, Mo., sing and clap their hands at the beginning of the opening Mass of the National Black Catholic Congress at the JW Marriott Hotel in Indianapolis on July 19, which was attended by approximately 2,200 black Catholics from across the country.

The meeting, which was held with the other bishops of Indiana, was part of the *ad limina* visit of the bishops of Illinois, Indiana and Wisconsin with the pope and leaders of various offices at the Vatican.

"Each diocesan bishop around the world makes an *ad limina* visit every five to eight years," reporter Sean Gallagher noted in our news coverage. "In advance of the trip, surveys about the life of the diocese are filled out by the bishop and his pastoral staff for review by the pope and various cardinals and bishops who assist him."

"It was a very special moment to be able to sit down for 20 minutes with [the pope]," Bishop Coyne said. "We sat down and had a conversation. He asked questions as he listened to what we had to say. He was very enthusiastic about the work that's going on in Indiana and in the Church."

6. Sixteen men are ordained permanent deacons for the archdiocese.

The archdiocese ordained its second class of permanent deacons on June 23 at SS. Peter and Paul Cathedral in Indianapolis.

The 16 men had been preparing for the day for years. Prior to their class, only one other group of permanent deacons had been ordained for the archdiocese in 2008.

The new deacons will minister at parishes as well as jails, hospitals and nursing homes. Liturgically, they are permitted to baptize, witness marriages and preside over funeral services. Often, they will proclaim the Gospel and preach the homily during a Mass.

"Consecrated by the laying on of hands that comes down to us from the Apostles, and bound more closely to the altar, they will perform works of charity in the name of the Lord God," Bishop Coyne said. "With the help of God, they are to go about all these duties in such a way that you will recognize them as disciples of him who came not to be served but to serve."

7. Marian University celebrates its 75th anniversary and \$153 million in gifts.

More than 2,000 supporters of Marian University in Indianapolis—including the Sisters of St. Francis of Oldenburg, who founded the college—joined president Daniel Elsener at an Oct. 19 dinner to celebrate the 75th anniversary of the institution.

Marian's enrollment is nearly 2,600 students, it has a thriving football program which captured the national title in the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) on Dec. 14, and it is on track to open its new College of Osteopathic Medicine.

It was announced at the anniversary celebration that corporate and individual donors had pledged \$153 million in gifts to extend the mission of Marian University to provide quality Catholic higher education for years to come.

"I have been simply overwhelmed—sometimes to tears—to see the generosity, and what people will sacrifice to do

something great," Elsener said. "... I just greatly appreciate the goodness I've found in so many people."

8. Indiana school voucher law is upheld by a county judge.

From a *Criterion* staff report on Jan. 20: "A Marion County Superior Court judge has ruled that the Indiana school voucher program is constitutional—a ruling that means the nearly 4,000 students who benefit from the state's school choice program can continue to attend non-public schools with state funds.

"In his ruling on Jan. 13, Judge Michael Keele upheld the new program that went into effect for the 2011-12 school year. The judge stated that the voucher system is designed to benefit students and their families—not private, religious schools—because the money is given directly to the students' families."

9. Deacon Jerry Byrd is ordained to the priesthood.

After having prayed, studied and prepared for years as an archdiocesan seminarian, Deacon Jerry Byrd was ordained a priest during a Mass on June 2 at SS. Peter and Paul Cathedral in Indianapolis.

Born into a Baptist family, he had a powerful experience of the Eucharist when he was 17 and felt called to the Catholic faith. Fourteen years later, he was ordained a priest.

"It really proves to me that God had a purpose for my life," Father Byrd said. "The beauty of that is overwhelming. It's overwhelming to think that it's been 14 years and, yet, here I am just beginning. Who knows what the future holds?"

10. Former Anglicans are welcomed into the Catholic Church at the cathedral.

Seventeen Anglican Christians became Catholics on April 7 at SS. Peter and Paul Cathedral in Indianapolis according to a set of provisions established by Pope Benedict XVI in his 2009 apostolic constitution "*Anglicanorum Coetibus*."

Sean Gallagher reported on the details. "The rules in this document were drawn up after several groups of Anglican Christians from around the world asked the pope for a way to become Catholics while still maintaining aspects of their spiritual heritage.

"Earlier this year, Pope Benedict approved the establishment of the Personal Ordinariate of the Chair of St. Peter, which functions like a diocese for former Anglicans in the United States and Canada.

"The 17 members of the St. Joseph of Arimathea Society in Indianapolis that were welcomed into the Church by Bishop Christopher J. Coyne, apostolic administrator, are the fourth group of former Anglicans to join the ordinariate."

(To read the original coverage, including additional links of interest, click on the headline for this story on our website at www.CriterionOnline.com.) †



Rev. Msgr. Raymond T. Bosler, Founding Editor, 1915 - 1994

Most Rev. Joseph W. Tobin, C.Ss.R., Publisher
Greg A. Otolski, Associate Publisher

Mike Krokos, Editor
John F. Fink, Editor Emeritus

Editorial



A woman visits the Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem on Nov. 24 as the West Bank city gears up for the start of the Advent and Christmas season.

No peace in Bethlehem today

As we meditate on that first Christmas, we can picture in our minds Mary and Joseph slowly making their way from Nazareth in Galilee down to Jericho and then up the mountains to Jerusalem and finally to “the city of David that is called Bethlehem” (Lk 2:4). Other than the hardships of travel, especially for a woman about to give birth, it was a peaceful time, the pax Augusta of the Roman emperor Caesar Augustus.

Today, as we again celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ in Bethlehem, the land of his birth is anything but peaceful. It is a mess—and not only the small area around Bethlehem and Jerusalem, but also throughout the Middle East.

When Mary and Joseph went from Jerusalem into Bethlehem, they had no trouble. Today, a wall separates the two cities, with Jerusalem in Israel and Bethlehem in Palestine—at least according to the United Nations. The U.N. declared Palestine a “non-member state” on Nov. 29.

The Vatican and the United States are on opposite sides on this issue. The Vatican immediately praised the 138-9 vote—with 41 abstentions—while the United States was one of the nine votes against. It sided with Israel, which said that the U.N. resolution “does not, and cannot, establish a Palestinian state or even grant it recognition.”

Israel went on to punish the Palestinians for seeking recognition by the U.N. by approving the building of more homes in Israeli settlements located within the boundaries of Palestine but captured by the Israelis in 1967. About 500,000 Israelis now live in these settlements.

The Vatican and the United States agree that the recognition of the two states of Israel and Palestine must be part of the solution to the Israeli-Palestinian problem. The United States and Israel, however, believe that that must come only through negotiations between the two parties.

The U.N. vote was seen as a victory for Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas. But his leadership is recognized only on the West Bank, not in Gaza. Islamist Hamas has reigned supreme there for the past five years, and appears to be even stronger after the recent sparring between Gaza and Israel. The cease-fire there was seen as a victory

for Hamas, which has never recognized the right of Israel to exist.

When the Vatican praised the new U.N. status for Palestine, it also encouraged “negotiations in good faith” and “the sincere search for solutions which could become secure foundations for a lasting peace.”

Elections in Israel are slated for Jan. 22, and it’s likely that Benjamin Netanyahu will be re-elected prime minister. Aside from approving those expanding settlements and the building of the wall, he has more or less ignored any possible peace with the Palestinians.

This could prove detrimental to Israel. As *The Economist* observed in its Nov. 24 issue, “With the rest of the Arab world becoming more democratic, depriving Palestinians of their right to self-determination is creating a powder keg that is bound one day to explode in the territories occupied by Israel.”

And yet, peace is possible if both sides could only be persuaded to do it. Most sensible people know what must happen. There must be two states, with the settlements within the state of Israel but with Israel ceding other territory in return. The two states must share Jerusalem. There must be compensation for descendants of the Palestinians, who were forced out of the country in return for the right to return.

At some point, Israel must come to an agreement with the Palestinians, if only for demographic reasons. The Palestinian population in Israel and the West Bank is growing faster than the Jewish population. Israel cannot keep the Palestinians as second-class citizens forever, but if it were to allow them first-class citizenship it could mean the end of a Jewish majority.

Meanwhile, other parts of the Middle East don’t look any more promising, especially for Christians.

In Egypt, the Muslim Brotherhood, under President Muhammad Morsi, is in control even though riots broke out in the streets of Cairo.

In Syria, the civil war has forced hundreds of thousands of refugees out of the country, and there is danger that extreme Islamists will eventually gain control there, too.

—John F. Fink

Reflection/Daniel Conway

Innocents are slaughtered again and again

“When Herod realized that he had been deceived by the Magi, he became furious. He ordered the massacre of all the boys in Bethlehem and its vicinity 2 years old and under, in accordance with the time he had ascertained from the Magi. Then was fulfilled what had been said through Jeremiah the prophet: ‘A voice was heard in Ramah, sobbing and loud lamentation; Rachel weeping for her children, and she would not be consoled, since they were no more’ ” (Mt 2:16-18).

Sobbing and loud lamentation have been heard once again, this time in Newton, Conn., following the massacre of 26 people at an elementary school—mostly children under the age of 7. This latest manifestation of the “culture of death” shakes all people of good will to their very foundations.

How could the actions of a single “deranged gunman” cause so much horror and death, especially for so many innocent children? How does a good God permit such evil? What is it about our society that allows the death and destruction of children to become a regular occurrence?

Pope Benedict XVI expressed his “heartfelt grief” over this “senseless violence in Newtown, Connecticut.”

He said, “I assure the families of the victims, especially those who lost a child, of my closeness in prayer.”

The pope said he prayed that God will “sustain the entire community with spiritual strength, which triumphs over violence by the power of forgiveness, hope and reconciling love.”

There is no alternative in the face of senseless violence but to pray for spiritual strength. From the very first biblical account of man’s inhumanity to man—Cain’s murder of his brother Abel—no satisfactory explanation has ever been given for the evil that human beings are capable of committing. No consolation is possible—humanly speaking—in the face of such acts.

Deranged persons—whether individuals such as the Connecticut killer or groups such as the Nazis in World War II or modern-day suicide bombers—defy reason. They kill out of madness or a deeply misguided sense of

mission, and they always end badly, either dying at their own hands or being overcome finally and often at great cost by the forces of good.

Still, we can’t help but ask, “Why? How could this happen—again?”

There is no answer. The prophet Jeremiah cites Rachel’s weeping for her children and her inability to be consoled “since they were no more” (Jer 31:15). All we can do is weep—and pray—that the day will come when all violence and all tears will be ended forever.

Until then, as Pope Benedict tells us, we must rely on the “spiritual strength which triumphs over violence.” We must place our trust in God, who “triumphs over violence by the power of forgiveness, hope and reconciling love.”

Isn’t this what Advent is all about? This holy season reminds us that without Christ all of us, and the world we live in, are in a very bad way. Unless guided by God’s Word, human freedom brings with it the capacity for unspeakable evil. Unless grounded in Christ’s reconciling love, there can be no real hope or forgiveness. Things will continue as they are—unredeemed by the power of self-sacrificing love—unless the Messiah comes to save us from the power of sin and death.

We Christians believe that this Savior has, in fact, come. That he has overcome the power of evil and will come again to reconcile us all to himself on the Day of Judgment.

Until then, we wait in hope. We endure suffering and senseless violence—often with Rachel’s bitter tears—confident that God’s love will triumph over sin and death and restore us to the peace and consolation of our heavenly home.

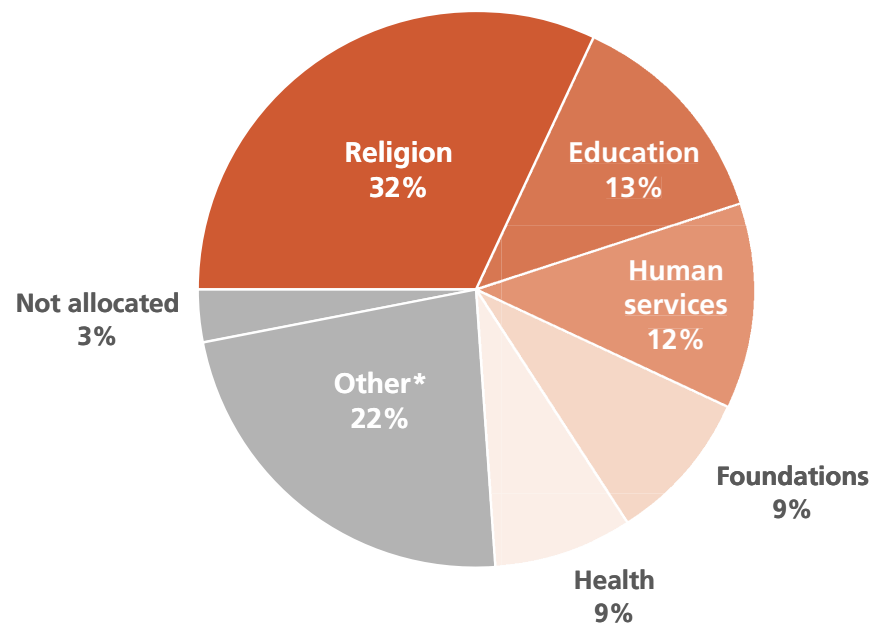
While we wait, we must pray—and weep—for all who suffer from the effects of unspeakable evil. Our sisters and brothers in Connecticut deserve our heartfelt grief. They also deserve our fervent prayer for the Lord’s coming again this Christmas and at the end of time.

Come, Lord Jesus. Free us from the culture of death, and bring us all safely into your kingdom, where you “will wipe every tear from our eyes, and there will be no more death or mourning, wailing or pain” (Rv 21:4).

(Daniel Conway is senior vice president for planning, marketing and advancement at Marian University in Indianapolis, and a member of The Criterion’s editorial board.) †

Where Donations Go

Each year the religion sector receives the largest share of charitable donations. In 2011 nearly \$300 billion was given to charities in these areas.



*International affairs, 8 percent; public-society benefit, 7 percent; arts, culture and humanities, 4 percent; environment and animals, 3 percent.

Source: Giving USA Foundation, Giving USA 2012

© 2012 Catholic News Service



Thank you to the many generous partners who provided financial support for the Installation Mass of The Most Reverend Joseph W. Tobin, C.Ss.R.



Steve's Flowers and Gifts
The parishes of the Archdiocese of Indianapolis
The elementary schools of the Archdiocese of Indianapolis

Bishop Chatard High School
Brebeuf Jesuit Preparatory School
Cardinal Ritter Jr/Sr High School
Cathedral High School
Father Michael Shawe Memorial Jr/Sr High School
Father Thomas Seccina Memorial High School
Oldenburg Academy of the Immaculate Conception
Our Lady of Providence Jr/Sr High School
Providence Cristo Rey High School
Roncalli High School
Seton Catholic High School

Events Calendar

December 21

Northside Knights of Columbus Hall, 2100 E. 71st St., Indianapolis. **Catholic Business Exchange**, Mass, breakfast and program, "Is Capitalism Compatible with Catholicism?," Raul Zavaleta, CEO of Indigo BioSystems, presenter, 6:30-8:30 a.m., \$15 members, \$21 non-members. Reservations and information: www.catholicbusinessexchange.org.

December 22

St. Bartholomew Church, 1306 27th St., Columbus. **Concert series, "Let There Be Light,"** St. Bartholomew Choir and Fairlawn Presbyterian Chancel Choir, 7 p.m. Information: 812-379-9353, ext. 237, or bminut_stb@yahoo.com.
St. John the Evangelist Church, 126 W. Georgia St., Indianapolis. **Faithful Citizens rosary procession** downtown after 12:10 p.m. Mass.

Information: 317-236-1569 or 800-382-9836, ext. 1569.

January 2

Archbishop O'Meara Catholic Center, 1400 N. Meridian St., Indianapolis. **Solo Seniors**, Catholic, educational, charitable and social singles, 50 and over, single, separated, widowed or divorced, new members welcome, 6:30 p.m. Information: 317-370-1189.

January 5

The Atrium, 3143 E. Thompson Road, Indianapolis.

St. Barnabas Parish Men's Club, **Indianapolis South Deanery New Year's party**, dinner, music, \$100 per couple. Information: 317-319-4703 or ecogolf@aol.com.

Corydon Cinemas, 2025 Edsel Lane Northwest, Corydon. **Junior high quarterly event, movie**, 10 a.m., \$6 per person. Information: 812-364-6173, ext. 10.

January 8

Church of the Immaculate

Conception, Saint Mary-of-the-Woods, St. Mary-of-the-Woods. **"Taize" prayer service**, Providence Spirituality and Conference Center, prayer gathering and program on "The Lack of Potable Water in the World," 7 p.m. Information: 812-535-2926.

January 12

St. Roch Parish, Family Life Center, 3603 S. Meridian St., Indianapolis. **Single Seniors** meeting, 1 p.m., age 50 and over. Information: 317-784-4207.

St. Bartholomew Church, 1306 27th St., Columbus. **Concert series, "Nuevo Tango,"** The Minut Piano Duo Mirabella and Bogdan Minut, 7 p.m. Information: 812-379-9353, ext. 237, or bminut_stb@yahoo.com.

January 13-15

St. Matthew the Apostle Parish, 4100 E. 56th St., Indianapolis. **Parish mission, "A Call to Reality Living,"** Mike Patin, presenter, 7 p.m. Information: 317-257-4297, ext. 1004. †

Retreats and Programs

December 29

Michaela Farm, Oldenburg. **"Audubon Society's Christmas Bird Count,"** 7:30 a.m.-1 p.m., \$7 per person for lunch. Information: 812-933-6437 or www.oldenburgfranciscancenter.org.

December 31

Our Lady of Fatima Retreat House, 5353 E. 56th St., Indianapolis. **New Year's Eve retreat, "Mary, the Mother of God,"** Father Aaron Jenkins and Jonathan Higgins, presenters, \$138 per person, \$256 per married couple. Information: 317-545-7681, ext. 15, or cmcsweeney@archindy.org.

January 9

Benedict Inn Retreat and Conference Center, 1402 Southern Ave., Beech Grove. **"St. John's Bible Study: Visio Divina—Seeing the Word, The Sower and the Seed,"** nine Wednesdays, Benedictine Sister Angela Jarboe, presenter, 6:30-9 p.m., \$30 per session includes dinner. Information: 317-788-7581 or benedictinn@benedictinn.org.

January 11-13

Our Lady of Fatima Retreat House, 5353 E. 56th St., Indianapolis. **Tobit Weekend, marriage preparation retreat**, registration required. Information: www.archindy.org/Fatima.

January 13

Our Lady of Fatima Retreat House, 5353 E. 56th St., Indianapolis. **Archdiocesan Office of**

Family Ministries, Pre Cana Conference for engaged couples, 1:15-6 p.m., \$45 per couple. Registration: www.archindy.org/Fatima.

January 12-13

Mount St. Francis, 101 St. Anthony Drive, Mount St. Francis. **Sophomore retreat, "Divin' In,"** \$85 per person, registration deadline Jan. 4. Information: 812-945-2000 or sandy@nadyouth.org.

January 14

Our Lady of Fatima Retreat House, 5353 E. 56th St., Indianapolis. **"Come Away and Rest Awhile—Silent Self-Guided Day of Reflection,"** 8 a.m.-4 p.m., \$30 per person. Information: 317-545-7681, ext. 14, or www.archindy.org/Fatima.

January 19

Benedict Inn Retreat and Conference Center, 1402 Southern Ave., Beech Grove. **"Ways of Grace—The Experience of Prayer Practices,"** Benedictine Sister Susan Marie Lindstrom, presenter, 9:30-11:30 a.m., \$25 per session. Information: 317-788-7581 or benedictinn@benedictinn.org.

January 31

Our Lady of Fatima Retreat House, 5353 E. 56th St., Indianapolis. **"Morning for Moms: Mothers in the Gospels—Our Models and Our Mentors,"** Benedictine Sister Kathy Huber, 8 a.m.-4 p.m., \$30 per person. Information: 317-545-7681, ext. 15, or cmcsweeney@archindy.org. †

Franciscan sisters to host Christmas tours at Oldenburg motherhouse

The Sisters of the Third Order of St. Francis of Oldenburg invite the public to visit their historic motherhouse on Dec. 28 and enjoy traditional holiday decorations as well as see various Christmas artifacts.

The displays represent the many cultures with whom the sisters have served in various ministries, and there are new

additions this year.

Guests will also enjoy performances by the Sisters' Chime Choir in the chapel, and holiday refreshments at the motherhouse.

Christmas tours begin at 6 p.m. on Dec. 28 and conclude at 8 p.m.

For more information, call the Sisters of St. Francis at their motherhouse at 812-934-2475. †

Sisters of Providence announce Christmas season liturgies

The Sisters of Providence will offer a Christmas prayer service and Masses that are open to the public on Monday, Dec. 24, and Tuesday, Dec. 25.

The Christmas Vigil and Christmas Day liturgy will be held at the Church of the Immaculate Conception at Saint Mary-of-the-Woods.

Liturgies are open to people of all faith traditions.

Mass will be celebrated at 11:30 a.m. on Dec. 24.

The one-hour Christmas Vigil will begin at 7 p.m. on Dec. 24. At that time, the sisters and wider community will gather

for a reflective prayer service with Scripture readings, prayers, instrumental carols, the singing of carols and candle lighting.

The Christmas Mass will start at 11 a.m. on Dec. 25. A prelude of instrumental carols and singing will begin at 10:45 a.m.

On Sunday, Dec. 30, the sisters will celebrate the feast of the Holy Family with Mass at 11 a.m.

On New Year's Day—the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God—Mass will begin at 11 a.m.

The Mass celebrating the Epiphany of the Lord will begin at 11 a.m. on Jan. 6. †

'Catholics Returning Home' program begins on Jan. 9 in Brownsburg

St. Malachy Parish, 9833 E. County Road 750 N., in Brownsburg is sponsoring a "Catholics Returning Home" program beginning on Jan. 9.

The program starts at 7 p.m. and continues for six weeks on Wednesday nights.

The sessions are offered for

non-practicing Catholics who are seeking answers to questions about returning to the Church.

The program will feature information about the Catholic faith as well as informal sharing time.

For more information or to register, call St. Malachy Parish at 317-650-5751. †



Christmas gifts for soldiers

Left, Ethan Lyon, a kindergarten student at St. Roch School in Indianapolis, proudly displays a Christmas picture that he created for Lt. Col. Stephani (Ruzicka) Hunsinger and the members of her Air Force unit in Afghanistan. A 1993 graduate of Roncalli High School in Indianapolis, Hunsinger is away from her family this Christmas.

Right, drawing adorable snowmen and Baby Jesus in a manger, all the students in teacher Chelsea Bell's kindergarten class created their version of "God loves you snow much!" The students also sent Christmas candy to distribute to children at a local Afghan orphanage, and are offering prayers for all military personnel away from loved ones at Christmas.



'Live Nativity'

St. Anthony of Padua parishioners Joe and Jennifer Rennekamp of Morris helped their six children prepare costumes and present the 26th annual "Live Nativity" on Dec. 7 and Dec. 8 at the parish. The children are 8-year-old Sophie, left, portraying Mary; 3-year-old Benjamin, right, dressed as Joseph; 3-week-old Anna, center, representing the newborn Jesus; and, from left in the back row, 5-year-old Clare, 1-year-old Rita and 6-year-old Elizabeth dressed as angels. Local groups sang inside the parish gymnasium while audience members enjoyed hot chocolate, popcorn and cookies. Other groups performed outside near the Christmas crèche. The "Live Nativity" featured the Rennekamp children in costumes as well as farm animals that included horses, goats, donkeys and even a llama.

An archangel announces the birth of Jesus

By John F. Fink
Special to *The Criterion*

My name is Gabriel. I'm an archangel. I hope you realize that it is highly unusual for an angel to deliver a message in print, but that's what God has asked me to do.

I admit that I'm much more accustomed to delivering messages in person—as I did to Zechariah in Jerusalem and to a virgin named Mary in Nazareth. I'll get to that story in due time.

First, though, I should explain that I stand before God and serve as his messenger.

In that capacity, I appeared to the prophet Daniel and announced to him the 70 weeks of years before the coming of an anointed one (Dn 9:20-25). I appeared to Daniel again to give him the vision of the Hellenistic wars (Dn 10-12).

Those messages, though, paled in significance with the mission that God gave me a little more than 2,000 years ago. God gave me a role in the salvation of the whole human race.

Before sending me on my mission, God explained that he had decided that the time had come to redeem humankind from the sin of Adam and Eve.

That is, earthly time. Time doesn't exist in heaven's eternity.

Ever since they sinned through disobedience and were expelled from the Garden of Eden, there had been an enmity between God and the descendants of Adam and Eve.

This was such a serious break that the gates of heaven had been closed to those who had died, beginning with Adam and Eve. They had all been living in limbo.

God told me that no human could rectify that situation because no mere human could represent all humanity. But God could do it, and the way he planned to do it was by becoming human himself. A being who was both God and man would redeem humanity.

He said that he had chosen a young girl named Mary to be the mother of the Second Person of the Trinity, whose name was to be Jesus. He had prepared her for this by preserving her from the original sin that all other people were born with.

He said that he also was planning to send another man named John to prepare the way for Jesus.

That's where I was to come in. My assignment was to appear first to John's father, a man named Zechariah, to tell him that he and his wife, Elizabeth, would become John's parents, and to instruct them on how they were to rear him. He was to have neither wine nor strong drink.

Then I was to appear to Mary and tell her what God had in mind for her.

I appeared to Zechariah, a Jewish priest, while he was in the sanctuary of the Temple. When I appear to someone, I try not to startle him or her, but it seems unavoidable. So I always begin by saying, "Do not be afraid."

After I said that to Zechariah, I told him that God was going to answer his and Elizabeth's prayers, and that she would bear a son whom they should name John.

I told him, too, that John would be filled with the Holy Spirit while he was still in Elizabeth's womb. I didn't mention it to Zechariah, but that happened when Mary visited Elizabeth while both of them were pregnant.

Zechariah, though, doubted what I said, saying that he and Elizabeth were both elderly. I had to assert my authority, telling him that God himself had sent me to announce the good news. But since he doubted, I told him that he would be speechless until what I told him took place. And so it happened.

I visited Mary later, when Elizabeth was six months pregnant. I addressed her, "Hail, full of grace" because, since she was preserved from original sin, she was full of sanctifying grace.

Then, seeing that she was troubled, I added my usual message, "Do not be afraid."

Obviously, I took Mary by surprise when I told her that she would bear a son, who also would be the Son of the Most High.

She had been brought up in the Temple and knew Scripture so she understood that I was telling her that she would be the mother of the long-awaited Messiah, especially when I told her that her son, Jesus, would have the throne of David and rule over the house of Jacob.

She had a problem, though. How could this happen, she asked me, since she had taken a vow of virginity?

Fortunately, God had prepared me for her question. I told her that the Holy Spirit would come upon her and the power of the Most High would overshadow her. Her son would be called the Son of God.

I also told her about Elizabeth's pregnancy. She didn't know about it since Elizabeth lived about 80 miles away, and communications were difficult in those days.

I told Mary that since Elizabeth could conceive in her old age so could she conceive while remaining a virgin because nothing is impossible for God.

That's when Mary replied, "I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to



A sculpture showing an expectant Mary with Joseph en route to Bethlehem is seen in a church during the season of Advent, the time of anticipation and hope before Christmas. The Christmas season begins with the Dec. 24 evening vigil commemorating the birth of Christ, and ends with the feast of the Baptism of the Lord on Jan. 13.

me according to your word" (Lk 1:38). My mission was accomplished so I left.

However, my work wasn't finished yet. Mary had a problem with Joseph, the man to whom she was betrothed.

At that time, a Jewish wedding had two parts. First, the couple took their vows, the actual wedding. Then, at a later date, there was a big party after which the groom took his bride to his home.

Joseph and Mary had done the first part when he found out that she was pregnant. He was perplexed, to say the least. He knew that he wasn't the father. He could have accused her of adultery, the penalty for which was death by stoning. But he didn't want to do that so he decided to divorce her quietly. Since they had taken their vows, divorce was necessary.

God knew that would happen, of course. He told me at the beginning that he wanted me to tell Joseph not to be afraid to take Mary into his home because it was through the Holy Spirit that the child had been conceived in her. This time, though, I was to do it by appearing in a dream.

Furthermore, I was told, I would be appearing to Joseph in dreams twice more after Jesus was born.

The first time would be to warn him that King Herod was going to search for Jesus to kill him and, therefore, he should take Mary and Jesus to Egypt.

The second time was to tell him, after Herod's death, that it was safe to return to the land of Israel.

Fortunately, Joseph realized that his dreams were messages from God.

In regard to the first dream, I think he was predisposed to believe that Jesus was conceived without a man because of her insistence that Joseph respect her vow of virginity. He really couldn't imagine that she had sexual relations with another man. So Joseph took Mary into his home.

Eventually, Jesus was born in the city of Bethlehem and God entered the human race. It was a cause for great celebration, but no one would have known about it if it weren't for the next mission that God sent me on. I was selected to be the one to announce this tremendous event.

But I wasn't sent to the Jewish high priest or some other great religious authority. God sent me to a group of shepherds! This time I really startled them by appearing at night in a great light so I really needed to say, "Do not be afraid."

Then I delivered the great news. "A savior has been born for you who is Messiah and Lord" (Lk 2:11).

By savior, I meant that he would rescue humanity from the condition of alienation from God. By Messiah, I meant the anointed one whom the Jews were expecting. By Lord, of course, I meant God.

That is the message that I gave to the shepherds, and that is the message I give to you today. Jesus, the Savior, Messiah and Lord, has been born to free you from your sins. Rejoice in his birth! Alleluia!

(John F. Fink is editor emeritus of *The Criterion*.) †

Now There Are Two
Catholic Radio Stations
Serving Central Indiana

89.1 Serves a large area from just east of Terre Haute to Indianapolis and from south of Lafayette to Martinsville.

90.9 Serves Carmel, Westfield, Noblesville, Fishers and the surrounding areas.

Outside of these areas you can hear Catholic Radio Indy programming anywhere in the world on your computer at: www.CatholicRadioIndy.org.

FREE APP for your Smart Phone or other Mobile Device is available at www.TuneIn.com.

100% Catholic Programming
24 Hours a Day

Lending Based on Family Values ... Honesty, Sincerity, Integrity
Purchase, Refinance, Debt Consolidation Loans
Conventional, FHA, VA, Rural Housing Home Loans
(317) 255-0062 or (866) 690-4920
on-line 24-hours at www.grandviewlending.com

Local Catholic Company serving the Archdiocese of Indianapolis

Online Lay Ministry Formation

The Archdiocese of Indianapolis has partnered with the University of Notre Dame and Catholic Distance University (CDU) to offer not-for-credit online theology classes:

- Courses on the Catechism of the Catholic Church from CDU
- All 12 classes for a Certificate in Lay Ministry available online
- 20% discount for all employees, volunteers, and parishioners
- Employees also receive reimbursement upon course completion

For more information, please log on to www.archindy.org/layministry

Huser HomeCare

Trusted and Compassionate Care

- Dedicated to meeting your non-medical homecare needs
- Licensed and insured
- Elder or special needs care (e.g., Alzheimer's, Autism)
- In your home, nursing home, or assisted living center
- Temporary or long-term; for a few hours or up to 24/7
- Personal care assistance with bathing, toileting, hygiene, dressing, medication reminders, feeding and transfers
- Companion care and safety monitoring
- Housekeeping, laundry, shopping and meal prep
- Respite care (including periodic or vacation coverage)
- Transportation & errands
- Medicaid Waiver and CHOICE provider

Call us for a free in-home consultation:
Kathy and Terry Huser
(317) 255-5700 or 332-8261
www.HuserHomeCare.com

UNITED CATHOLIC APPEAL: Christ Our Hope

To Donate: www.archindy.org/UCA

Readers share their favorite Christmas memories

Setting up crèche with grandma and aunt is special Advent memory

By Jody Wyss-Treadwell
and Kathann Wyss Koehler

Special to *The Criterion*

As children of some 50-plus years ago, it was the best time of our lives to be able to help our beloved Grandmother Kathleen and Aunt Mary—who lived together in a cozy little home on a busy street—set up their Christmas tree and manger scene during Advent.

Every ornament and figurine had been wrapped with love and care each previous year in tissue paper then packed in cardboard boxes.

Unwrapping each item was like opening a present on Christmas morning with much anticipation and being ever so careful not to break the glass ornaments or chip a small fragile piece off of the crèche set.

Once the live tree was set up in the stand and adorned with lights and ornaments, it was time to place the icicles one by one on the branches. There was no throwing the clumps of icicles on the tree.

If we weren't worn out from the icicle placement, it was finally time to set up the manger scene. This process was nothing short of an acrobatic balancing act. It took a steady hand, planning and patience to repeat this process over and over.

The manger scene was not placed under the tree or on a table, but rather in the front room window for all who would pass by to view.

That would seem effortless, you say,

but not when you consider the fact that the entire stable and its figurines were placed between the double-paned glass windows just barely measuring only the width of the stable.

Each little figurine had its special spot on which to be placed as evidenced by the leftover residue of glue from years gone by. They had to fit just perfectly on those spots or they would topple over and there would be Joseph lying on his side.

So with steady hands and many, many attempts, the stable and its occupants were placed in between the front windowpanes.

First, you had to place the entire set in an opening that Houdini would never have figured out how to get out of then turn the scene at a 180-degree angle and push it at least three feet into the center of the front room window.

If we were lucky, it was successful with all figurines standing erect on the first try. That was rare. It usually took at least four or five tries before we were successful.

Then came the process of adding the shepherds and animals on the outside of the stable. They were delicately placed in their designated areas stage left or right with the aid of long-handled tongs.

Yes, tongs! Our arms were far too short to place the figurines close to the stable where they belonged so we used barbecue tongs. That worked!

This grand day of helping our grandmother and aunt was usually topped off by hot chocolate with marshmallows then a Christmas carol sing-along while



Shepherds bow before the infant Jesus as Mary cradles her son and Joseph watches both of them, part of the figures of the Nativity scene that were restored and conserved in 2008 at SS. Peter and Paul Cathedral in Indianapolis. The cathedral crèche is in place in its entirety from Christmas Eve until the feast of the Baptism of the Lord, which is Jan. 13, 2013. *Criterion* readers Jody Wyss-Treadwell and Kathann Wyss Koehler reflect on how special it was to set up the crèche for their family each year.

my aunt played her organ in the front room.

We were careful not to make too much of a ruckus or jump around there for fear that Joseph would end up lying on his side again!

To this day, when we place our crèche out every Christmas, our thoughts wander

back to those simple days of pleasure and love with our grandmother and aunt.

(Jody Wyss-Treadwell is a member of St. Roch Parish in Indianapolis and Kathann Wyss Koehler is a member of All Saints Parish in Cincinnati.) †

Father finds out the hard way that frugality isn't always the best idea

By Mary Jean Wethington

Special to *The Criterion*

Since my very Catholic parents now share Christmas in heaven, it is good to remember them with love, some tears and a little humor. Thus, I share this story with memory's mirth.

It was 1957, the year that Daddy really blew it at Christmas!

My strong, viral father was a very dedicated mail carrier, but the holiday mail rush literally made him a "Scrooge" at Christmas.

Having lived through the Great Depression, Daddy was somewhat "tight." He called it "frugal."

My beloved Momma was his total opposite, and always went to great pains each year to decoratively wrap each of the 20-some presents displayed under our Christmas tree.

This particular year, Daddy messed up big time by

suggesting to Momma that since their little girl was all of 11, why not save money and not wrap my presents since I probably wouldn't even notice.

Why Momma went along with his "suggestion" I will never know.

On Christmas, we attended Mass then came home, and I had to go into a bedroom until my parents were ready to present my gifts all under the tree.

Finally, when I was told to come out of the bedroom, I flew around the corner expecting to see packages decorated in colorful paper and ribbons.

I stopped dead in my tracks, breathless at the sight! There were wonderful presents—dolls, a guitar, a bike, a desk and dresses—but not one of them was wrapped.

I just stood there for a moment then started crying.

Very slowly, my Momma stood up and gave "that harrowing look" to Daddy, which cut his 6-foot frame down to about 2 inches! No words were spoken aloud between

them in my presence.

Yes, I was spoiled. And yes, I always got the lecture about all those poor children who had no Christmas presents.

But from that moment forward every present ever exchanged in our family—for Christmas, Easter, birthdays, Mother's Day and maybe Father's Day—was wrapped by Momma to the extreme!

Gold, frankincense and myrrh were nothing compared to Momma's fancy gift wrapping.

Many years later, we all laughed at this memory, but Daddy kind of gulped with each laugh.

Now, each Christmas gift that I wrap reminds me of this funny memory.

The love that I have experienced in our holy family carries forth the true meaning of gifting—simple, real, love.

(Mary Jean Wethington is a member of St. Teresa Benedicta of the Cross Parish in Bright.) †

Mother celebrates Christmas with the birth of her fourth child

By Mary Harless Moody

Special to *The Criterion*

My favorite Christmas memory will be 40 years old this Christmas Day.

When I began timing my labor pains during the 11 a.m. Mass at St. Mark the Evangelist Church in Indianapolis that Christmas Eve morning, I knew it wasn't false labor because I was already three days past my due date.

I had a pretty good idea that my baby was going to be born on Christmas Day.

I timed my labor pains all day on Dec. 24 and told my husband, Bob, that we were going to be making a trip to the hospital soon.

We put our three children—6-year-old Beth, 4-year-old Bobby and 2-year-old Amy—to bed a little bit early on Christmas Eve.

I hugged Beth, Bobby and Amy a little tighter than usual because I knew that I probably would not be home in the morning to see them opening their gifts.

About 11 p.m., my dad brought my

mom over to stay with the kids while Bob and I went to the hospital.

Rebecca Anne arrived at 3:30 a.m. on Christmas morning.

I was feeling pretty sorry for myself after Bob went home to receive Grandma and Grandpa, and be with our children when they woke up.

But when the nurse brought Becky into my room for her 7 a.m. feeding, I was overcome with love for our beautiful 7-pound baby girl, who was "gift wrapped" in a precious red receiving blanket with a white reinder on it. I wasn't lonely any longer.

When I look back on that special Christmas morning, I humbly liken myself to another young mother who was far from home on that first Christmas morning so many years ago.

(Mary Harless Moody is a member of Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ Parish in Indianapolis.) †

Receiving first holy Communion on Christmas morning is best gift ever

By Karen Okey

Special to *The Criterion*

Historic Holy Trinity Church is located in the Haughville neighborhood, a blue-collar section of Indianapolis.

On Christmas morning in 1945, the brick church took on the appearance of a charming Currier and Ives scene.

An early morning snowstorm had transformed everything into a winter wonderland.

In my 7-year-old eyes, the church looked just like a majestic cathedral with candles glowing, the heady smell of incense in the air and beautiful flowers all welcoming the birthday of Jesus.

Our second-grade class was making our first holy Communion during the 9:30 a.m. Mass on Christmas morning.

I believe our class was the first and last in our parish to receive such a privilege on Christmas.

We little girls—dressed all in white, crowned with veils and wearing our first long stockings—felt very special.

The boys didn't look like the same boys we went to school with every day. They were all spruced up in long blue dress pants, white shirts and ties. Their hair was all slicked down—not a cowlick in sight.

As I was walking down the aisle, a lady stepped out of her pew and hugged me tightly. She whispered in my ear that I looked like a Christmas angel.

Receiving Jesus for the first time and then being told that I looked like an angel made my little heart swell with joy.

I felt very close to heaven on that Christmas morning.

Because of the snowstorm, the photographer was unable to come to the Mass. That is the reason I have no picture of my first Communion class, but I don't need one.

That beautiful Christmas morning in 1945 will be etched in my memory forever.

(Karen Okey is a member of Christ the King Parish in Indianapolis.) †

Father-daughter Christmas in Austria and Bavaria is 'best ever'

By Stephen Scull

Special to *The Criterion*

When my daughter, Anna-Christine Scull, graduated from Cornell University in Cornell, N.Y., in May of 2011, she decided to teach English in Hungary for one year before deciding for certain whether to enter law school.

Her Thanksgiving holiday there was a very lonely experience without her friends and family.

As a retired German teacher, I had always wanted to experience a Christmas in the Alps of Austria.

I asked Anna if she would like to meet me in Salzburg, Austria, a few days before Christmas then spend time together in Austria and Bavaria until Dec. 29.

Of course, she was excited. I arranged for hotel rooms just to the north and east of Salzburg because in the village of Oberndorf bei Salzburg the carol "Stille Nacht" ("Silent Night") was composed on Christmas Eve in 1818.

I found out that the original church of St. Nicholas was destroyed by fire in 1849, but a chapel was built on its site in commemoration of "Silent Night." An outdoor celebration takes place there at 5 p.m. every year on Christmas Eve.

I flew into Munich, Germany, on Dec. 22 and drove a rental car to meet Anna at our hotel in the forest just outside of Acharing, Austria.

We spent Dec. 23 shopping at the *Christkindmarkt* in Salzburg, where we found simple but beautiful things.

I had already prepared a stocking for

Anna with the American products that she missed most in Hungary—peanut butter, maple syrup and Reese's Peanut Butter Cups.

At our hotel, we had made friends with Frau Lückinger, who is the breakfast cook at a nearby farm.

We were the only guests in the hotel over Christmas. When we came to breakfast on Dec. 24, there was a beautiful candle on a wrought iron candlestick with a branch of fir beneath it on our table.

The light of the candle is brought every Advent from the Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem to Austria by a child from Upper Austria sponsored by the television network ORF. The candle is brought to Vienna and presented to His Eminence Christoph Cardinal Schönborn, primate of Austria.

From that candle, other candles are lighted and spread throughout the country with the help of scouts, firefighters and other civic organizations.

Frau Lückinger had brought this *Friedenslicht* (peace light) especially for us.

Anna and I expressed our appreciation by singing "We Wish You a Merry Christmas" for her.

Oberndorf on Heilige Abend—Christmas Eve in Austrian-German dialect—was the most special time.

Anna commented that she had never seen a crowd of people so polite and quiet as the thousand or so faithful who had gathered to hear "Stille Nacht" played on a guitar the same way it was sung for the first time 193 years earlier. It is indescribable.

Twelve siblings gather several times each year to celebrate faith and family

By Margaret Thielking

Special to *The Criterion*

I come from a large family of 13, with one sister no longer with us. There are six boys and six girls left.

In late October every year, we get together to plan our family holidays.

Our parents are now gone, and we want to continue to stay close together.

When we were younger, a shed was built for my dad and brothers for them to cut wood, stay warm and eat lunch.

Little did any of us know that this shed would be such a comfort, a joy and a place for us to forever call "home."

Our parents' picture still hangs in the shed, and we are blessed that they are with us in spirit while we still put our shed to good use.

For 10 years now, my siblings and I have been

celebrating a tradition that we call "Christmas in the Woods."

Our first Christmas celebration of the year—and by far my favorite—is during the first week of December.

We go to my brother's woods, which is by his house. We build a big campfire, set chairs around for all 12 of us and have dinner.

The sisters take care of the food. The brothers bring the drinks and a door prize, which is a Christmas wreath that decorates the shed.

We also decorate the shed with lights outside, and a small tree with lights outside as well.

After dinner, we have a gift exchange. We are given two months to plan a special gift for whoever's name we draw from a hat. Sometimes our gifts are serious and sometimes—well, oftentimes—our gifts are fun ones. We open them one at a time, enjoy a story then move on.

We then take a group picture in the woods, draw a name

for our door wreath prize and spend the remaining time talking about old times as kids. This is a great way to catch up on all of our lives.

Two weeks after our "Christmas in the Woods" party, we celebrate Christmas at my sister's home with our spouses.

Then, on Christmas Day, we all invite our children and grandchildren for Christmas together at my sister's house again.

We enjoy lots of family time together, especially the 12 siblings during our "Christmas in the Woods" party.

We are so blessed to have such happy and healthy times with countless memories.

We are so thankful for our late parents, Leo and Ruth Amberger. Our strong faith keeps us together.

(Margaret Thielking is a member of St. Louis Parish in Batesville.) †

Family traditions at Christmas span many years and several generations

By Mark Hummer

Special to *The Criterion*

When I was growing up in Michigan and later as a college student at the University of Toledo in Ohio, it was a Hummer family tradition to meet at my dad's parent's house in West Toledo on Christmas Eve night.

After he died, we kept up that custom even after my Grandma Hummer passed away.

We still meet at my Uncle Ken's and Aunt Jane's house, the old family home where my dad and his brothers grew up.

After we gathered at their house, we would go out to look at the Christmas lights in the area then visit the Children's Winter Wonderland at the Lucas County Recreation Center, where the Toledo Mudhens used to play baseball.

While we were out looking at the holiday lights, Santa Claus would visit the house and stack the presents in a big pile.

My Grandpa Hummer and later my dad would play the part of Santa.

But we did not unwrap our presents until after the Mass.

On Christmas, my brother, Mike, and I would go with our parents to pick up my mom's mother and take her to my Uncle Mick's house in Whitehouse, Ohio, where we would spend the holiday with his family.

Uncle Mick would always say, "Anyone up for a hike or a walk in the woods?"

My wife, Siming, the kids and I still keep up those traditions today.

When I was growing up, my dad would always say, "Christmas is about the kids."

I did not really catch on to what he was talking about until I had kids of my own.

(Mark Hummer is a member of St. Christopher Parish in Indianapolis.) †



Austrian Cardinal Christoph Schönborn blesses traditional singers dressed as the Wise Men in his office in Vienna, Austria, on Dec. 27, 2011. The singers collect money for Catholic charity projects between Christmas and the Feast of the Epiphany. *Criterion* reader Stephen Scull said last Christmas in Austria and Bavaria was a special time for him and his daughter, Anna-Christine.

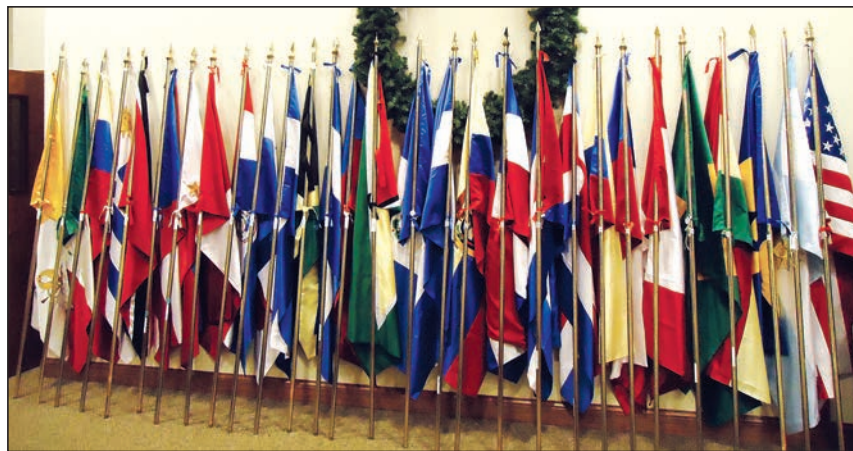
Our Lady of Guadalupe celebration



Right, Sophia Crews and Aiden Fox, dressed in traditional costumes process toward the altar with their offering of red roses during a Dec. 12 liturgy honoring the feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe at Our Lady of the Greenwood Church in Greenwood. It was the parish's 17th annual Mass honoring the patroness of the Americas. Our Lady appeared to St. Juan Diego in 1531.

Top left, members of the Bishop Chatard Assembly Honor Guard of the Knights of Columbus stand at attention as children process into the church during the annual liturgy at Our Lady of the Greenwood Church honoring the feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe, patroness of the Americas, on Dec. 12.

Bottom left, flags from the Americas are displayed at the back of Our Lady of the Greenwood Church in Greenwood on Dec. 12. The flags are displayed in a similar fashion at the Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe in Mexico City.



Pastor celebrates universal Church with multicultural Christmas wishes

By Julie Williamson
Special to *The Criterion*

One of my favorite Christmas memories was going to Christmas Eve Mass at Holy Spirit Church on East 10th Street in Indianapolis.

During the '70s, our pastor, Father William Munshower, made that Mass extra special.

As a family, all nine of us along with my Aunt Hermina attended the 7:30 p.m. Christmas Eve Mass.

The cozy, beautifully decorated church came alive with the angelic sounds of the choir, and the booming sound of the trumpets and other instruments.

During his homily, Father Munshower

would always start by asking for the parishioners to call out "Merry Christmas" in all the different languages represented in our parish.

We would hear "Joyeux Noël" (French), "Frohe Weihnachten" (German), "Wesołych Świąt Bożego Narodzenia" (Polish), "Feliz Navidad" (Spanish) and a host of other beautiful ways to say "Merry Christmas."

I always loved how no matter what background, culture or country that we came from, we all wanted to celebrate the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ together as one.

(Julie Williamson is a member of St. Simon the Apostle Parish in Indianapolis.) †

Some Christmas presents are best when bought at the last minute

By Tim Prickel
Special to *The Criterion*

I grew up in St. Louis Parish in Batesville in a family of seven children and—fortunately—two caring parents.

We had a toaster that would only "toast" two slices at a time—not good for a large family at breakfast time!

I saved enough money from mowing our neighbors' lawns to buy a four-slice toaster for my parents for Christmas.

One of my younger sisters—who was probably about 7 at the time—asked me for gift ideas for Dad and Mom.

I suggested a loaf of bread to complement the toaster gift.

Little did I know that she would buy the loaf of bread in early December!

When my Mom opened my sister's present at Christmas, she found a loaf of bread that was green and moldy!

(Tim Prickel is a member of St. Benedict Parish in Terre Haute.) †

New tombstone for mother is unique Christmas present from children

By Judy Mang
Special to *The Criterion*

We—six children all grown up now—wanted to buy our widowed mother a very special gift, but we told her that she couldn't use it for a long time.

Our father died in 1951, and his tombstone was very faded. You had to get down on your knees to be able to read the words inscribed on it.

We wanted our mother to pick out a new tombstone, and told her that we would pay for it.

She laughed, and did choose a new tombstone that she liked to mark their graves.

She said it was the nicest thing that we could do for her.

(Judy Mang is a member of St. Louis Parish in Batesville.) †

Miracle of flowers surprises homesick woman on Christmas

By Dolores Francis
Special to *The Criterion*

It had been a rough year.

Job changes for both my husband and me, and a move from a city where we had put down roots had left me feeling homesick, lonely and anything but ready to celebrate Christmas.

On Christmas Day, I rose early to put the turkey in the oven.

With that chore finished, I sank into the recliner for a few quiet moments.

I closed my eyes, and asked God to help me put on a happy face and not let my bad mood spoil the holiday for my family.

Taking a deep breath, I opened my eyes and there—on the geranium plant that I had brought in from outside last fall—a small cluster of bright red flowers had burst into bloom.

My own personal gift from God!

(Dolores Francis is a member of St. Agnes Parish in Nashville.) †

Christmas Eve engagement leads to 18 years of happy married life

By Theresa McHolland
Special to *The Criterion*

One of my favorite Christmas memories goes back to 1993.

It was Christmas Eve, and my husband, Don, and I became engaged.

We had both been widowed, and met each other on a blind date.

So all the family members were gathered together—the six children, husbands and wives, and all the grandchildren.

He got down on one knee—which wasn't too easy at his age—and asked me to marry him.

It's been 18 years now. Ours has been a good marriage made in heaven, and we live happily ever after.

God is good!

(Theresa McHolland is a member of Holy Spirit Parish in Fishers, Ind., in the Lafayette Diocese.) †

"Furnace, Heat Pump or Air Conditioner"

129th Anniversary SALE!

FREE LABOR
On the installation of a FURNACE, HEAT PUMP OR AIR CONDITIONER
Cannot be combined with any other offer. Must be presented at time of service. Expires 01-05-13. M-F 8-4 THIELE 639-1111

CALL TODAY! 639-1111
Still Locally Owned & Operated
CALLTHIELE.COM

129th Anniversary Sale!
1/2 OFF SERVICE CALL
Save \$45 With Paid Repair
Cannot be combined with any other offer. Must be presented at time of service. Expires 01-05-13. M-F 8-4 THIELE 639-1111

129th Anniversary Sale!
FREE 10 YEAR WARRANTY ON PARTS & LABOR
High Efficiency Air Conditioner, Heat Pump or 90% Furnace. Call for details.
Cannot be combined with any other offer. Must be presented at time of service. Expires 01-05-13. M-F 8-4 THIELE 639-1111

129th Anniversary Sale!
Furnace or Heat Pump TUNE-UP \$59.95
Cannot be combined with any other offer. Must be presented at time of service. Expires 01-05-13. M-F 8-4 THIELE 639-1111

Rheem
RELAX. IT'S RHEEM.®

THIELE
Heating & Air Conditioning
SINCE 1883

SERVING CENTRAL INDIANA

The humble love of the Christ Child establishes true peace

By Marcellino D'Ambrosio

In the days of Caesar Augustus, an era of peace was established in the Mediterranean world after centuries of strife. But this peace was forged by the proud ambition of emperors and the edge of their armies' swords.

Upon this stage appears a baby acclaimed as king by eastern dignitaries. Neither Caesar nor Herod will brook any rivals. Brutal hordes are sent to slay him at birth although he comes without armies. The thugs are thwarted, but only for a season. The royal child is laid in a manger, and the wood of that manger foreshadows the wood of the Cross.

Caesar and Herod were bound to misunderstand him. They climbed their way to the top, stepping on all who stood in their way. He emptied himself and plunged to the bottom, from the glory of heaven to the squalor of a stable.

Pharaohs and Caesars strained toward immortality. Yet, he who was immortal by nature embraced mortality. The great ones of the world took every opportunity to exalt themselves. In the very act of being born, he humbled himself.

You would think that he would have chosen Rome or Athens as the place of his appearance. But he selects an obscure desert town in a dusty provincial outpost. Even in this humble spot, not even a seedy inn would make room for him. So they had recourse to a cave, welcomed only by the animals.

Isaiah said it well. "An ox knows its owner, and an ass its master's manger; but Israel does not know, my people has not understood" (Is 1:3).

Everything was in fulfillment of Scripture. He was born in Bethlehem, a town whose name means "house of bread." His crib was a manger, a feeding trough. But they did not understand that he was the bread of life. He was wrapped, like Solomon, in swaddling clothes, but they did not recognize him as the new king and embodiment of divine wisdom.

The only people who recognize him are shepherds, the humblest in society, and Magi, the wisest. But most Israelites, like us, were neither humble nor wise so they missed it.

They especially missed this—that one of the birthday gifts was incense, used in the worship of gods. He was not only king, wise man, messiah and Savior. He was God incarnate.

How could Jews have believed this? God is infinite, invulnerable and omnipotent. What is more vulnerable, fragile and helpless than an infant? Can the Eternal be born



The Latin Patriarch of Jerusalem Fouad Twal blesses a statue of the infant Jesus in the grotto of the Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem on Dec. 25, 2009, following Christmas Eve midnight Mass.

in time? Can the Divine Word be a child at the breast, incapable of speech? Can a mere teenage girl be the mother of God?

It was just as hard for the pagans to believe it. Their philosophers had taught that God is spirit and the body is a prison. Salvation means liberation from the confines of the physical body. The idea that a divine Savior would embrace human flesh did not compute.

Love sometimes does strange things. It takes great risks and goes to extreme lengths that many people would call foolish. On that first Christmas day, God's foolishness was wiser than men, and his weakness was stronger than men. It took them all by surprise.

But this, of course, was part of God's strategy. The element of surprise is critical in warfare. And Christmas

was an act of warfare. It was the day of deliverance. The preparation had taken centuries, but now it was time for the conqueror to land on enemy-occupied territory.

He came in humility and would finish the conquest 30 years later by the greatest act of humility the world has ever seen.

"Peace on Earth, good will toward men" (Lk 2:14). True peace can never be forged by steel, but only by love. It is the humble babe in the manger who is the real prince of peace.

(Marcellino D'Ambrosio writes from Texas. He is co-founder of Crossroads Productions—www.crossroadsinitiative.com—an apostolate of Catholic renewal and evangelization.) †

Christmas can be a time to renew relationships with kindness

By David Gibson

Our grandson, Joseph, hoped to find a hockey helmet from us under the Christmas tree last year—not just any helmet, but a goalie's helmet.

He found it, but getting it there proved stressful.

After driving long distances from one sports store to the next, I learned that

goalie helmets for 6-year-olds were not sold in our area. So I passed my task off to our daughter, Joseph's mother, who located the correct helmet in the city where she and her family live.

Was Joseph happy on Christmas morning? He was ecstatic, jumping and shouting all around.

Does that mean getting the perfect gift for him was worth the effort? Well, it means

that with three children and seven grandchildren, my wife and I are fully aware of the effort, fatigue and sometimes great joy represented by Christmas gifts.

It is one thing, however, to share happiness with a child on Christmas and quite another to do that for an adult.

Adults will travel far to be in the "right place" on Christmas. But are they hoping to receive a perfect, wrapped gift? I suspect most adults travel for other reasons that have much to do with relationships.

At Christmas, renewing the riches of key life relationships is what matters.

But according to TV situation comedies that I viewed on Thanksgiving, misery often prevails at holiday gatherings with loved ones.

Are failed holiday celebrations the new norm? Probably not, but stress can assess its toll, particularly at Christmas.

It's no wonder that ACCORD, the Irish Catholic bishops' marriage care service, had cautionary words in 2009 for spouses overwhelmed by holiday chaos.

During stressful times, ACCORD warned, it sometimes is tempting "to take out your frustration verbally" on those "closest to you," like your spouse. That could mean taking things out on your greatest source of support.

For people hoping to reap the riches of rewarding relationships, it seems vital that the "rules" of good relationships remain in

place, despite the busyness of Christmas.

One rule is to be a good listener, actually hearing what others say. Another rule is to treat each other with respect.

For St. Paul, relationship rules are about love. He described love as patient, kind and neither jealous nor pompous.

He wrote in his First Letter to the Corinthians, "[Love] is not rude, it does not seek its own interests, it is not quick-tempered, it does not brood over injury" (1 Cor 13:5).

Christmas companionships could draw support from smiles, humor and kindness. Jesus drew upon such qualities in making himself truly and compassionately present to others, Basilian Father Thomas Rosica recently said.

Father Rosica is founding CEO of Canada's Salt and Light Catholic Television network.

In December 2011 remarks for a Christmas tree lighting in Gubbio, Italy, Pope Benedict XVI highlighted kindness.

"Every small act of kindness is like a light of this great tree," he said. "May each of us be a light for those nearby; may we step out of the selfishness that often ... makes us think only of ourselves; may we give a little attention and love to others."

(David Gibson served on Catholic News Service's editorial staff for 37 years.) †



Dr. Ramzi Sansour carves a leg of lamb for dinner as others fill their plates at a Sansour family home in the West Bank town of Bethlehem on Dec. 24, 2009.

From the Editor Emeritus/John F. Fink

Year of Faith: Our belief in the Incarnation

"The Word was made flesh and dwelt among us" (Jn 1:14).

That is what we celebrate on Christmas, the magnificent mystery of the Incarnation. It is the amazing fact that Almighty God actually lowered himself to become a human being. St. John's Gospel tells us as plainly as possible, "In the beginning was the Word"—he existed from all eternity—and the Word was with God, and the Word was God" (Jn 1:1). To make it even clearer, he identifies the Word with creation, saying, "All things came to be through him, and without him nothing came to be" (Jn 1:3).

St. Paul also taught the pre-existence of Jesus Christ. In his Letter to the Philippians, written perhaps as early as 55 A.D., he quoted a hymn that already existed.

"Jesus Christ, who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God something to be grasped. Rather, he

emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, coming in human likeness" (Phil 2:6-7).

Paul wrote about God sending his Son in other letters, too. To the Galatians, he wrote, "When the fullness of time had fully come, God sent forth his Son, born of a woman" (Gal 4:4). To the Romans, he wrote, "Sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh ... " (Rom 8:3).

This has been the belief of Christians down through the centuries—that Jesus was true God, existing from all eternity and through whom all things were made, but at a particular moment in history also became a human being.

He was both God and man, fully human with all our imperfections and weaknesses while remaining the perfect and infinitely powerful God. He is not part God and part man or some confused mixture, but fully human while remaining God.

But why did God choose to assume our human nature? Various reasons are given. The Word became flesh in order to save us by reconciling us with God, so that thus we might know God's love, to be our model of

holiness, and to make us partakers of the divine nature.

The ultimate reason, though, is because God chose to assume a human nature in order to accomplish our salvation, our redemption, in it. That couldn't be done by just any human, but it did require a human to do it. Since Jesus is divine and human, he is the one and only mediator between God and humans.

Because we have been redeemed by the God-man, we humans can share God's divine nature. Ever since the beginning of Christian theology, the reason for the Incarnation has been "so that man, by entering into communion with the Word and thus receiving divine sonship, might become a son of God" (Irenaeus, second century).

Or as St. Athanasius wrote in the fourth century, "God became man so that man might become God."

In the 13th century, St. Thomas Aquinas said, "The only-begotten Son of God, wanting to make us sharers in his divinity, assumed our nature, so that he, made man, might make men gods." †



the magnificent mystery of the Incarnation. It is the amazing fact that Almighty God actually lowered himself to become a human being.

St. John's Gospel tells us as plainly as possible, "In the beginning was the Word"—he existed from all eternity—and the Word was with God, and the Word was God" (Jn 1:1). To make it even clearer, he identifies the Word with creation, saying, "All things came to be through him, and without him nothing came to be" (Jn 1:3).

St. Paul also taught the pre-existence of Jesus Christ. In his Letter to the Philippians, written perhaps as early as 55 A.D., he quoted a hymn that already existed.

"Jesus Christ, who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God something to be grasped. Rather, he

The Human Side/Fr. Eugene Hemrick

My Christmas wish for you, brothers and sisters in Christ

In his letter to the Corinthians, St. Clement captures my Christmas wish for you. St. Clement also was Pope Clement I,



and he issued the letter after a dispute among the Corinthians.

"Our entire body then will be preserved in Christ Jesus, and each of us should be subject to his neighbor in accordance with the grace given to each. The stronger should care for

the weak, and the weak should respect the stronger. The wealthy should give to the poor, and the poor man should thank God that he has sent him someone to supply his needs.

"The wise should manifest their wisdom not in words but in good deeds, and the humble should not talk about their own

humility, but allow others to bear witness to it. Since, therefore, we have all this from him, we ought to thank him for it all."

It is my Christmas wish that those of us blessed with good health and strength will not only cherish this gift, but will employ it in greater earnestness for those in need of care, and that those of us who receive care will be filled with the joy of thankfulness.

May we who are caregivers and care receivers experience more deeply the beauty of unity that we possess in Christ.

It is my wish that those of us who have means will see their ultimate value in being shared with those less fortunate. May we open up our pocketbooks, but also let our hearts be opened with generosity.

And may those of us who are the recipients of generosity imitate the healed leper, who not only remembered Christ's miracle, but also had the presence of mind to

return and thank him.

It is my wish that those of us who have received an education will realize its preciousness and endeavor to employ it to the best of our means to enhance our families, workplace, neighborhoods and government. May the education we received help in promoting wisdom.

St. Gregory the Great hailed humility as a great virtue, and St. Thomas Aquinas saw it linked to magnanimity because a humble person can achieve great things for God and others.

May we be filled with heartfelt Christmas spirit in which we experience the essence of a joyful life by living less for us and more for others, who are our brothers and sisters in Christ.

(Father Eugene Hemrick writes for Catholic News Service.) †

Catholic Education Outreach/Margaret Hendricks

Theology of the Body program will help form adults

The archdiocesan Office of Catholic Education (OCE)



introduced a chastity program, "A Promise to Keep," in 1994. The program was the first of its kind—a peer-

facilitated, pro-active, preventive health model that addresses challenging issues facing teenagers and adolescents.

St. Vincent Health has been a faithful partner with the archdiocese since the beginning of this initiative.

There is now both scientific and anecdotal evidence to support the effectiveness of the program as well as the attitudinal changes created among mentors and the adolescents they serve.

To date, there have been about 9,500 teenagers who have served as peer mentors. The average age of these mentors and former mentors is about 27, with the first group of mentors from 1994 turning 35 this year.

While our success is well documented in this ministry to teenagers, we have identified a growing need to provide adult education in the areas of chastity and sexuality.

The Theology of the Body Institute (TOBI) in

Quarryville, Pa., offers some outstanding courses on the teachings of Blessed John Paul II on "The Theology of the Body" and Catholic sexual ethics. These courses provide 30 hours of graduate-level instruction in a retreat setting designed to meet the spiritual and educational needs of participants in a powerful way.

We are very blessed that Our Sunday Visitor has generously granted OCE the funds necessary to send a diverse group of 14 adults from the archdiocese to the institute during the 2012-13 program year.

Adults who receive grants to attend TOBI will be able and expected to share their knowledge and influence throughout the archdiocese and beyond. They will form a speakers' bureau on the teachings of Theology of the Body that will be accessible to Catholic schools and parishes.

In addition to traditional training provided through archdiocesan ministries to schools and parishes, the ministry of these trained presenters has the potential to expand to college campuses, medical and nursing schools, and hospital staffs—just to mention a few possible target populations. The first step is to qualify those people who feel called to this ministry.

In October, Lori Lewis of



Several representatives from the Archdiocese of Indianapolis attended the Theology of the Body Institute in Quarryville, Pa., in October. They are pictured with *Theology of the Body* author Christopher West. Shown, from left, are Ashley Barnett, Lori Lewis, Christopher West, Scott Williams and Sarah Erotas.

St. Paul the Apostle Parish in Greencastle, Scott Williams of St. Jude Parish in Indianapolis, Ashley Barnett of St. Charles Borromeo Parish in Bloomington, and Sarah Erotas, a campus minister, attended TOBI. They were the first to attend "The Head and Heart Immersion," Course 1. The funds from Our Sunday Visitor covered the cost of the course and all expenses associated with their attendance.

We are grateful to Our Sunday Visitor for their financial commitment, which is making this initiative possible. Forming adults through TOBI

will help prepare them to minister at a grassroots level.

Connecting the Gospel message with lived experience and engaging young adults in "marketplace ministry" strengthens not only their own ability to live out chaste lives and the universal call to holiness, but also their witness will have a powerful ripple effect upon those they encounter.

(Margaret Hendricks is program coordinator of *A Promise to Keep* in the archdiocesan Office of Catholic Education. You can e-mail her at mhendricks@archindy.org.) †

Faith and Family/Sean Gallagher

Music expresses the joy of Advent and Christmas

The seasons of Advent and Christmas are filled with symbols of our faith.

Advent wreaths, Christmas trees, lights, garland and gifts closely connected to these seasons—even in our secular culture—are important signs through which we can joyfully express our love for the Christ Child.

The music of the season is especially important to me. Some of my fondest and clearest memories of Advent and Christmas from my childhood are bound in music.

I can easily conjure up images of singing Advent hymns and Christmas carols at Mass, and hearing a variety of holiday songs playing on our record player at home.

When I was growing up, my mom would play Christmas albums by The Kingston Trio, The Lettermen and The Clancy Brothers that she probably bought in the early 1960s.

I've found CDs and YouTube videos of most of the songs that I share with my sons.

I've also bought Christmas albums that I've discovered on my own. One of my favorites is a solo piano jazz recording by the recently deceased Dave Brubeck that he made in the mid-1990s.

A Christmas album recorded by Pat Gallagher, a cousin who lives in Nashville, Tenn., is a favorite of my sons. They especially love "Whatcha Waitin' for Christmas" that features a hound dog howling at the end.

My boys have also become familiar with far older—and a bit more serious—Advent and Christmas music, such as the beautiful "O Antiphons" (the basis of "O Come, O Come Emmanuel") and "Of the Father's Love Begotten"—an ancient chant hymn that is my favorite Christmas hymn.

Michael and Raphael—at 10 and 7 the oldest sons of my wife, Cindy, and me—have added a new dimension to the sounds of the season in our home by their fledgling attempts to play "Jingle Bells" on our piano.

A few months ago, they started taking piano lessons, and it's been a joy for Cindy and me to see them start to express themselves musically and nurture the gifts given to them by God.

Advent is said to be a season of joyful waiting for the coming of Christ. And when we do celebrate his coming at Christmas, that joy is only increased.

It's fitting then that music should have a cherished place in our observance of these seasons since music allows us to express a joy that cannot be contained in words alone.

Maybe that's why I play these old albums and an even older chant for my sons.

I want their own lives of faith to overflow with joy now and throughout the year. And I believe that joyful Advent and Christmas music, both new and old, is a tool to make that dream a reality.

This music also renews that joy within me when the daily duties of being a husband and father can drown out the joy that we as Catholic Christians are called to exude.

In actuality, we're called to have and share that joy in the midst of life's challenges. Christian joy isn't some pipe dream of life devoid of difficulties.

It can often be expressed by a kind of smiling serenity where we make others wonder what makes us different, which is just a question away from an opportunity to evangelize.

The joy of our tradition's Advent and Christmas music can also be a means to bring ourselves and others closer to Christ. So sing out a faith-filled joy this Christmas! †



Fourth Sunday in Advent/Msgr. Owen F. Campion

The Sunday Readings

Sunday, Dec. 23, 2012

- Micah 5:1-4a
- Hebrews 10:5-10
- Luke 1:39-45

The Book of Micah is the source of the first reading for this fourth and last Sunday of Advent.



This book's author was a contemporary of Isaiah. Little is known about him except that he came from a small community about 25 miles southwest of Jerusalem.

As in the cases of the other prophets, Micah felt the obligation to denounce the disobedience to God that he saw all around him. Also, as in the cases of the other prophets, he devoutly believed that he spoke not just on his own authority, but also more importantly as the spokesman for God.

In this weekend's reading, Micah predicts that the Savior of Israel will come from Bethlehem. David, the great king of Israel, who established a personal covenant with God—and whose kingship had as its chief purpose the guidance of the people in the ways of God—was from Bethlehem.

This new Savior will "shepherd" his people, a term reminiscent of David himself, a shepherd. This Savior's majesty will shine to the ends of the Earth. He will be the Savior of all humankind.

For the second reading this Advent weekend, the Church presents St. Paul's Epistle to the Hebrews.

Hebrews is distinctive in part because of its strong reliance upon ancient Hebrew symbols. This reading certainly is in keeping with this characteristic. Highlighted is the ritual sacrifice, the heart of the ancient Jewish religion.

The other central characteristic of this writing is its developed and eloquent Christology. Its message about the Lord, the Lamb of God, the Redeemer, is profound. This characteristic also is abundantly clear in this weekend's reading.

St. Luke's Gospel supplies the Gospel reading.

It is the account of the familiar story of

Mary's visit to Elizabeth. As the story makes clear, Mary already is expecting the birth of Jesus. He has been conceived.

This reading identifies Christ. Elizabeth and Zachary were very special people. They were becoming parents because of God's direct intervention in their lives. They were holy people. Their unborn child would be the great forerunner of Jesus, John the Baptist.

These holy people recognized Mary as the mother of the unborn Redeemer, and testified that Mary's child was the Savior long promised.

The reading also reveals the great longing for God coming to humanity in the person of Jesus. Ages had come and gone. Nothing else had satisfied this longing. God alone would satisfy the longing by sending Jesus.

Reflection

Elizabeth and Zachary, mentioned in this weekend's Gospel reading, were persons of deep faith. They were mature people. They had pondered life. They understood the greatness—and certainly the reality—of God.

Yet, as in the lives of all human beings, a vacuum was present. In their wisdom—a wisdom derived from holiness—they realized that only a knowledge of, and union with, God could fill this vacuum.

So Elizabeth rejoiced when she saw Mary. She rejoiced because she knew Mary was bearing the unborn Redeemer, the Lord who would bring God's presence and peace to the world.

Hebrews proclaims the majesty of this Lord. Micah predicted not only the Lord's eventual coming, but also identified the need for God, a need sensed by Elizabeth.

In only a few days, the Church will celebrate the birth of Jesus. His birth occurred at a given time in a given place.

Advent points us toward the celebration of this birth. It also reminds us that we await not an anniversary, but hopefully more importantly a renewal of God's presence with us through Jesus.

In Advent, have we recognized the vacuum of living without God? In Advent, have we sought to fill the vacuum, knowing that God alone is the answer?

Jesus the Lord, the son of Mary, is the Son of God. †

Daily Readings

Monday, Dec. 24

2 Samuel 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a

Psalms 89:2-5, 27, 29

Luke 1:67-79

Vigil of the Nativity of the Lord

Isaiah 62:1-5

Psalms 89:4-5, 16-17, 27, 29

Acts 13:16-17, 22-25

Matthew 1:1-25

or Matthew 1:18-25

Tuesday, Dec. 25

The Nativity of the Lord (Christmas)

Night

Isaiah 9:1-6

Psalms 96:1-3, 11-13

Titus 2:11-14

Luke 2:1-14

Dawn

Isaiah 62:11-12

Psalms 97:1, 6, 11-12

Titus 3:4-7

Luke 2:15-20

Day

Isaiah 52:7-10

Psalms 98:1-6

Hebrews 1:1-6

John 1:1-18

or John 1:1-5, 9-14

Wednesday, Dec. 26

St. Stephen, the first martyr

Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59

Psalms 31:3-4, 6-8, 17-21

Matthew 10:17-22

Thursday, Dec. 27

St. John, Apostle and evangelist

1 John 1:1-4

Psalms 97:1-2, 5-6, 11-12

John 20:2-8

See DAILY READINGS, page 15

Question Corner/Fr. Kenneth Doyle

Priest does not administer, but is a witness to sacrament of marriage

I recently attended the wedding of a young man and his bride, who are both practicing Catholics. At the end of the ceremony, the congregation was confused



when the priest—newly ordained—did not pronounce the couple as "man and wife" and introduced them as such to the attendees.

It was all very awkward, and no one seemed to know what to do. Finally, the organist began the recessional

music, and the bride and groom exited.

When asked later why he did not introduce the couple, the priest said that it was not a part of the marriage rite of the Church.

Weddings should be such joyous occasions, but this put a damper on it. I think that the priest's rigid adherence to ritual could well have alienated people from the Catholic Church. What is your feeling? (Jefferson City, Mo.)

My wife is on the shy side and prefers not to have to shake hands with the person who happens to be next to her in the pew. At most, she would nod, but feels that this would be rude. Are there any options? If you ran a petition drive to eliminate the sign of peace, I'll bet that it would be greeted with 95 percent approval from Catholics. (Louisville, Ky.)

Far from being a new invention of the 1970s, the restoration of the sign of peace was actually a return to a practice common in the earliest days of the Church.

In those times, Christians, in a reminder of the charity that linked the eucharistic community, exchanged a greeting at the offertory—that timing chosen from the suggestion of Jesus (Mt 5:23-24) that one reconcile with others before presenting gifts at the altar.

By the late fourth century, the exchange of peace had been placed instead right after the Our Father since Christians were committed to live in harmony with those with whom they were about to share the Eucharist. The greeting of peace faded gradually into disuse over the centuries and was restored to the Mass during the liturgical reforms following the Second Vatican Council.

Technically, the sign of peace is optional. The *General Instruction of the Roman Missal* prescribes in #154 that it be shared "when appropriate." But other sections of the *General Instruction*, #82 and #239, imply that it is customarily used. During a flu epidemic, for example, the exchange of peace could reasonably be suspended.

The greeting ought to be exchanged in a quiet and dignified manner, and Pope Benedict XVI reminded Catholics in 2006 that restraint was needed lest the gesture distract from the reverence appropriate to the reception of holy Communion. Marathons during which congregants roam the church widely in search of hugs would seem to run counter to that caution.

The particular type of greeting is not prescribed worldwide, but left to be tailored by national conferences of bishops to the customs and culture of the place.

In the U.S., a handshake is common, while an embrace or kiss is often used for family or close friends. Some simply nod or wave, which is surely acceptable. Eye contact, though, would seem to be at least a minimum requirement.

(Questions to Father Doyle may be sent to him at askfatherdoyle@gmail.com or 40 Hopewell St., Albany, NY 12208.) †

My Journey to God

Advent

I was sitting in a great deal of space and then a tiny thing no bigger than a seed or maybe a pearl rolled into me and I knew for sure that You love me.

By Wendy Yanikoski

(Wendy Yanikoski is a member of Most Sorrowful Mother of God Parish in Vevay. This rosary with red, white and blue beads features an image of Our Lady of America in front of a U.S. flag.)



CNS photo/J.D. Long-Garcia, The Catholic Sun

Rest in peace

Please submit in writing to our office by 10 a.m. Thursday before the week of publication; be sure to state date of death. Obituaries of archdiocesan priests serving our archdiocese are listed elsewhere in *The Criterion*. Order priests and religious sisters and brothers are included here, unless they are natives of the archdiocese or have other connections to it; those are separate obituaries on this page.

BAYES, John Lee, Sr., 75, St. Joseph, Corydon, Dec. 1. Husband of Janice (Vaughn) Bays. Father of Jolene Downs, Jaime, Jay and John Bays Jr. Brother of Mildred Despain and Sherry Kopp. Grandfather of 12. Great-grandfather of one.

BISHOP, Ann, 82, St. Mary, North Vernon, Nov. 27. Mother of Theresa Browning, Elizabeth Murphy, Amy Ponsler, Catherine Webster, John and William Bishop. Sister of Elizabeth Sullivan. Grandmother of 14. Great-grandmother of 12.

CLAISE, Clara, 86, St. Paul, Tell City, Dec. 7. Wife of Delmar Claise. Mother of Jayne Glenn, Karen Oost, Jaci and Harry Claise. Grandmother of 12. Great-grandmother of 14.

DUFEK, Paul F., 85, St. Christopher, Indianapolis, Nov. 26. Husband of K. Florence (Zener) Dufek. Father of Paula DeLong and Suzanne Mulligan. Brother of Don, Jerry and John Dufek. Grandfather of seven. Great-grandfather of two.

ERNE, Carol Ann, 71, St. Anthony of Padua, Morris, Dec. 5. Wife of Robert Erne. Mother of Matt Sr., Rob and Ted Erne. Sister of Arlene Orth, Mark and Mike Hester. Grandmother of three. Great-grandmother of one.

FENSKE, Daniel Edward, 58, St. Louis, Batesville, Dec. 7. Husband of Wanda Hedrick-Lomeli. Father of Erin Daily, Stan and Steve Lomeli. Brother of Sue Dickman, Karen and Tim Fenske. Grandfather of one.

HORSTMAN, Betty, 84, St. Mary, North Vernon, Dec. 3. Sister of Bill Horstman.

MATTINGLY, Joseph Warner, 90, St. Paul, Sellersburg, Nov. 18. Father of Elizabeth and Joseph Mattingly. Brother of Mary Riley. Grandfather of three. Great-grandfather of seven.

McMAHON, Katherine, 77, St. Paul, Tell City, Nov. 28. Wife of Mack McMahon. Mother of Lori Thompson, Tim and Tom McMahon. Sister of Pat Boardman. Grandmother of one. Great-grandmother of two.

MESSMER, David J., 51, St. Malachy, Brownsburg, Dec. 2. Husband of Debra Messmer. Father of Abigail, Samantha and Kyle Messmer. Son of Virgil and Clara Mae Messmer. Brother of Dorothy Mendel, Joann, Frank, Joe and Tony Messmer.

NICHOLS, Donald, 73, St. Therese of the Infant Jesus (Little Flower), Indianapolis, Nov. 29. Husband of Judith (Della Penna) Nichols. Father of

Donna Dunn, Victoria Hendley, Julie Winters, Matthew Henninger and Jeff Nichols. Stepson of Alice Nichols. Brother of Patty Brown.

OWENS, Ronald W., 81, Holy Family, New Albany, Nov. 30. Father of Karen Cullen and David Owens. Brother of Harold Owens. Grandfather of two.

RAUCK, Jim, 69, St. Joseph, Clark County, Dec. 3. Father of Chrissy Cook. Son of Luella Rauck. Brother of Linda Helms, Patty Hendricks, Carolyn Thomas and Ron Rauck Sr. Grandfather of three.

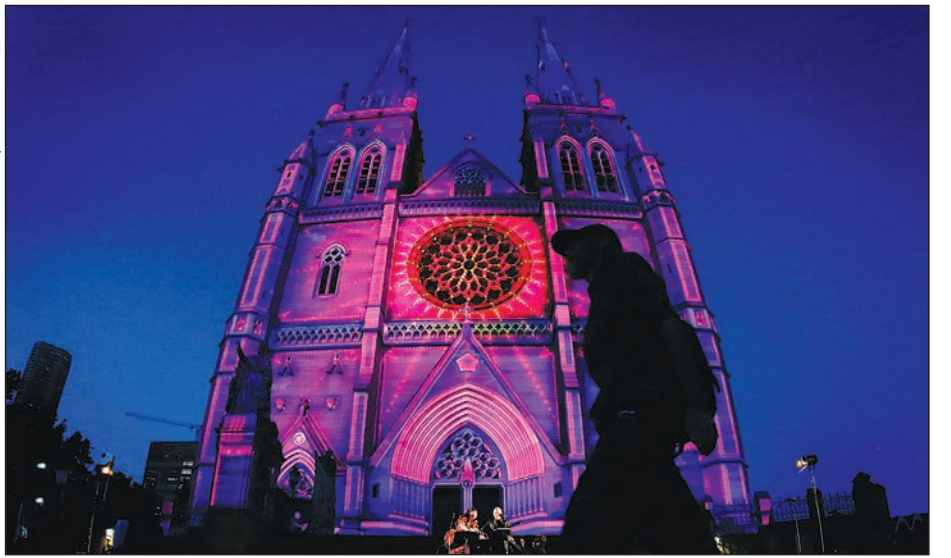
ROLPH, Harold Joseph, Jr., 79, St. Bartholomew, Columbus, Dec. 1. Father of Lisa, Greg and Mark Rolph. Grandfather of one.

SIMPSON, Leo K., 95, St. Paul, Tell City, Dec. 7. Father of Bill, Kenny and Richard Simpson. Brother of Frank Simpson. Grandfather of 14. Great-grandfather of four.

SOLITO, Ricardo S., 89, St. Luke the Evangelist, Indianapolis, Dec. 4. Father of Leo Solito. Grandfather of eight.

STRANGE, Raymond J., 93, St. Benedict, Terre Haute, Dec. 1. Husband of Mary (Bruno) Drake Strange. Stepfather of Roberta Cordell, Anthony, Larry and Paul Drake. Step-grandfather of several. Step-great-grandfather of several.

SWIEZY, Thomas Jerome, 43, St. Mark the Evangelist, Indianapolis, Dec. 9. Son of Anthony Swiezy. Brother of Annamaria Bachman, Jeannette Bowling, Jeanene Doughty, Aura Lyons, Andrew, Anthony II, Matthew and Thaddeus Swiezy. Uncle of several. †



Sydney cathedral

St. Mary Cathedral in Sydney, Australia, is illuminated by a 246-foot projected "Lights of Christmas" display on Dec. 13. The Archdiocese of Sydney and the Australian Catholic University are presenting the colorful light show through Christmas Day.

Providence Sister Mildred Dudine taught music at Catholic schools in several states for 55 years

Providence Sister Mildred Anne Dudine died on Nov. 21 at Mother Theodore Hall at Saint Mary-of-the-Woods. She was 94.

The Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated on Nov. 30 at the Church of the Immaculate Conception at the motherhouse. Burial followed at the sisters' cemetery.

Mildred Veronica Dudine was born on Jan. 3, 1918, in Jasper, Ind.

She entered the congregation of the Sisters of Providence on Jan. 12, 1935, professed her first vows on Aug. 15, 1937, and professed her final vows on Aug. 15, 1943.

Sister Mildred earned a bachelor's degree in music education at Saint Mary-of-the-Woods College.

During 77 years as a Sister of Providence, she ministered as a music teacher for 55 years at Catholic schools in Indiana, Illinois, California

and Washington, D.C.

In the archdiocese, Sister Mildred taught at the former Sacred Heart School in Terre Haute from 1942-43 and St. Philip Neri School in Indianapolis from 1948-53.

In 1992, she retired to the Precious Blood Convent in Jasper, where she taught piano lessons part-time.

In 2003, Sister Mildred moved to the motherhouse and dedicated herself to the ministry of prayer full-time with the senior sisters.

Surviving is a sister, Doris Kirksen of Santa Maria, Calif.

Memorial gifts may be sent to the Sisters of Providence, 1 Sisters of Providence Road, Saint Mary-of-the-Woods, St. Mary-of-the-Woods, IN 47876. †

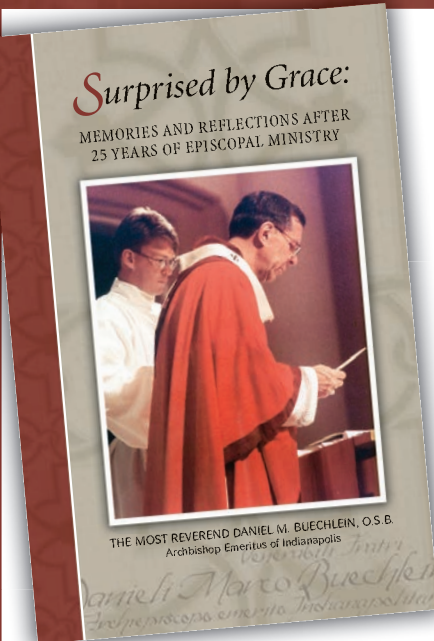


*This season, we remember
the reason ... and celebrate
The Spirit of Caring
in everything we do.*

— JUST PUBLISHED —

Surprised by Grace:

MEMORIES AND REFLECTIONS AFTER
25 YEARS OF EPISCOPAL MINISTRY



Read this book about
Archbishop Buechlein's
Life and Ministry
and it will leave you
spiritually inspired.

*Enjoy the archbishop's
memories and reflections plus
photos of his childhood, family
and his life in the ministry.*

"Archbishop Daniel remains a steward of grace whose ministry is to be a man of prayer and an example of obedient acceptance to God's will no matter what the cost."

—Daniel Conway, Editor

ORDER TODAY!

Please send me _____ copies of *Surprised by Grace* at \$15.00 per copy, plus \$5 shipping and handling (\$6.15 for two books). Enclosed is \$_____

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Telephone _____

Enclosed is my check in the amount of \$ _____

Make check payable to: Criterion Press, Inc.

Or charge my: Visa MasterCard Account No. _____

Exp. Date _____ Signature _____

Mail this coupon with payment to: Criterion Press, Inc., P.O. Box 1717, Indianapolis, IN 46206-1717, or call 317-236-1570 or 1-800-382-9836, ext. 1570

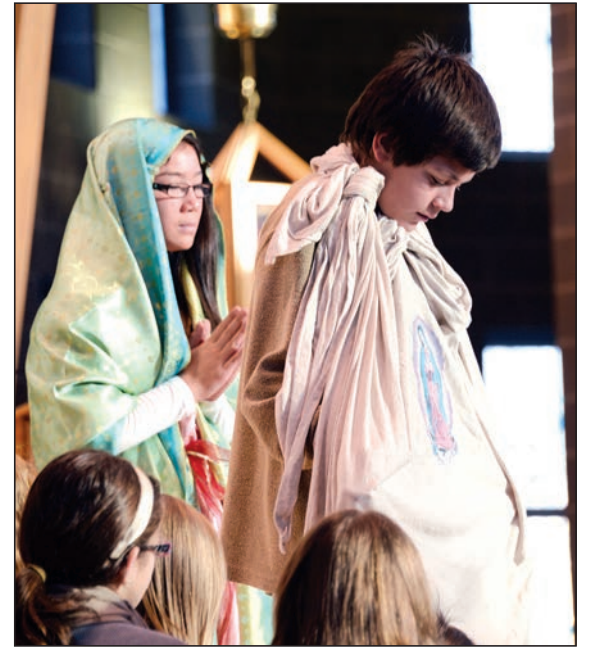
Students celebrate Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe



To honor the apparition of Our Lady of Guadalupe to the Indian convert St. Juan Diego in 1531, St. Jude School Spanish teacher Kristi Marino led her students on Dec. 12 in a re-enactment of the momentous occasion when Our Lady left a marvelous portrait of herself on the *tilma*, or cloak, of Juan Diego.

Left, the students also participated in a procession recognizing all countries comprising "the Americas," celebrating Our Lady as their patroness. Carrying a flag in the procession are, Betsy Crosley, left, Luke Davey and Sydney Clifford. Throughout the Mass that followed, students read the readings in Spanish and wove Spanish lyrics into the music of the liturgy. Father Mauro Rodas, a native of Ecuador, concelebrated the liturgy with Father Stephen Banet, pastor of St. Jude Parish in Indianapolis.

Right, pictured as Our Lady of Guadalupe is student Gabrielle Viduya. Chris McKay portrayed St. Juan Diego.



Daily Readings

continued from page 13

Friday, Dec. 28

The Holy Innocents, martyrs
1 John 1:5-2:2
Psalm 124:2-5, 7b-8
Matthew 2:13-18

Saturday, Dec. 29

St. Thomas Becket, bishop and martyr
1 John 2:3-11
Psalm 96:1-3, 5b-6
Luke 2:22-35

Sunday, Dec. 30

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph
Sirach 3:2-6, 12-14
Psalm 128:1-5
Colossians 3:12-21
or Colossians 3:12-17

Monday, Dec. 31

St. Sylvester I, pope
1 John 2:18-21
Psalm 96:1-2, 11-13
John 1:1-18

Tuesday, Jan. 1

Mary, the Holy Mother of God
Numbers 6:22-27
Psalm 67:2-3, 5-6, 8
Galatians 4:4-7
Luke 2:16-21

Wednesday, Jan. 2

St. Basil the Great, bishop and doctor of the Church
St. Gregory Nazianzen, bishop and doctor of the Church
1 John 2:22-28
Psalm 98:1-4
John 1:19-28

Thursday, Jan. 3

The Most Holy Name of Jesus
1 John 2:29-3:6
Psalm 98:1-3, 6
John 1:29-34

Friday, Jan. 4

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, religious
1 John 3:7-10
Psalm 98:1, 7-9
John 1:35-42

Saturday, Jan. 5

St. John Neumann, bishop
1 John 3:11-21
Psalm 100:1-5
John 1:43-51
Vigil of the Epiphany of the Lord
Isaiah 60:1-6
Psalm 72:2, 7-8, 10-13
Ephesians 3:2-3a, 5-6
Matthew 2:1-12

Sunday, Jan. 6

The Epiphany of the Lord
Isaiah 60:1-6
Psalm 72:2, 7-8, 10-13
Ephesians 3:2-3a, 5-6
Matthew 2:1-12

Monday, Jan. 7

St. Raymond of Penyafort, priest
1 John 3:22-4:6
Psalm 2:7-8, 10-12a
Matthew 4:12-17, 23-25

Tuesday, Jan. 8

1 John 4:7-10
Psalm 72:1-4, 7-8
Mark 6:34-44

Wednesday, Jan. 9

1 John 4:11-18
Psalm 72:1-2, 10, 12-13
Mark 6:45-52

Thursday, Jan. 10

1 John 4:19-5:4
Psalm 72:1-2, 14, 15bc, 17
Luke 4:14-22a

Friday, Jan. 11

1 John 5:5-13
Psalm 147:12-15, 19-20
Luke 5:12-16

Saturday, Jan. 12

1 John 5:14-21
Psalm 149:1-6a, 9b
John 3:22-30

Sunday, Jan. 13

The Baptism of the Lord
Isaiah 42:1-4, 6-7
or Psalm 29:1a, 2, 3ac-4, 3b, 9b-10
Acts 10:34-38
Luke 3:15-16, 21-22

Classified Directory

For information about rates for classified advertising, call (317) 236-1454.

Financial Services

Strength is nothing without consistency.

Northwestern Mutual's financial strength ratings are unsurpassed in the industry.

Put our strength to work for you. Contact us to learn how.



Michael P McGinley
Wealth Management Advisor
(317) 818-2644
mike-mcginley.com



05-2933 © 2012 Northwestern Mutual is the marketing name for The Northwestern Mutual Life Insurance Company, Milwaukee, WI (NM) (life and disability insurance, annuities) and its subsidiaries. **Northwestern Mutual Investment Services, LLC** (NMIS) (securities), a subsidiary of NM, broker-dealer, registered investment adviser, and member of FINRA and SIPC. Michael P McGinley, Insurance Agent(s) of NM. Michael P McGinley, Registered Representative(s) of NMIS, Representative(s) of Northwestern Mutual Wealth Management Company®, Milwaukee, WI, (NMWMC) a subsidiary of NM and limited purpose federal savings bank that provides financial planning, investment management, and trust services. Representative(s) may also be an Investment Adviser Representative(s) of NMIS. A.M. Best Company A++(highest), 2/2011; Fitch Ratings AAA(highest), 8/2011; Moody's Investor Service Aaa (highest), 6/2011; Standard & Poor's AA+(second highest), 8/2011. Ratings are subject to change.

Prayers Answered

I would like to thank God, the Blessed Mother, Sacred Heart, St's Joseph, Jude, Anthony and Francis for all the prayers answered. I am grateful to all of them. If people would pray and ask for help, help is there for them. God, St. Jude and all the rest are ready to help you. J.W.

Financial Services

You can provide a total of \$25,000 in term life insurance for children*, all the way to age 23.

For just \$30 per year!

Catholic values in action.



Catholic Financial Life®

Find out more about all we have to offer!

- Life Insurance
- Annuities
- Member Benefits
- Scholarships



Call me to find out more!

Gordon Smith
Broker

(877) 598-5988
601 E. 106th St. #100
Indianapolis, IN 46280
gsmith@stjosephagency.com

Headquartered in Milwaukee, WI. Products and services not available in all states. *For children ages 0-15. 15-01751-05/12 Policy Form #ICC10JV

Charity

UNITED CATHOLIC APPEAL:
Christ Our Hope

To Donate: www.archindy.org/UCA

Vacation Rental

2 BDR CONDO FOR LEASE
Panama City Beach, FL.,
January through April
Weekly, monthly or long term.
for info e-mail Sue:
gpatton01@earthlink.net

Vacation Rental

BEACHFRONT CONDO,
Maderia Beach, FL., 2BR/2BA,
pool & 25ft balcony overlooking
the Gulf of Mexico. Meet Indpls.
owner. See photos, maps. Call
Robin at 317-506-8516.

Home Improvement

D & S ROOFING

24-hour service!
Rubber, torch downs, hot tar roofs,
reroof and tearoffs.
• Any large or small repairs
• Wind or hail damage repairs
Call Dale for free estimates!
317-357-4341
Licensed • Bonded • Insured
33 years experience • References available

KELLY'S GUTTER SERVICE

Gutter Cleaning Only
Free Estimates
317-862-9377

Brother's Construction

Chimney's cleaned & inspected \$99.00

- Furnace Specialist
- Complete Chimney & Furnace Work
- Brick & Concrete Specialist
- Home Electrical Work
- Fencing & Carpentry Work

St. Lawrence Parishioner
Serving the Eastside since 1976
5066 E. Michigan Street
317 501-4830

Legal

Report sexual misconduct now

If you are a victim of sexual misconduct by a person ministering on behalf of the Church, or if you know of anyone who has been a victim of such misconduct, please contact the archdiocesan victim assistance coordinator:

Carla Hill, Archdiocese of Indianapolis,
P.O. Box 1410, Indianapolis, Indiana 46206-1410

317-236-1548 or 800-382-9836, ext. 1548
chill@archindy.org

'We're No. 1!' Marian University wins national title

Photo by Brittany Hamath/Rome News-Tribune

Criterion staff report

The football team of Marian University in Indianapolis became national champions of the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) on Dec. 13 with a dramatic 30-27 overtime win over Morningside College from Iowa.

In describing the comeback victory, Knights head coach Ted Karras Jr. said, "We have guys that don't quit. We recruit guys that are hungry to play with a never-say-die attitude."

The Knights displayed that quality after trailing 20-10 in the third quarter of the game at historic Barron Stadium in Rome, Ga.

Marian's senior kicker Michael Josifovski tied the game with a 35-yard field goal as time expired to force overtime. After the Knights held Morningside scoreless on its possession in overtime, Josifovski kicked a 26-yard field goal to win the championship game.

The winning kick led to a joyous celebration for the players and fans of Marian University, which started playing football in 2007.

The celebration continued on the evening of Dec. 14 when the team returned to Marian's campus where the players and coaches were greeted by a crowd chanting "MU" while fireworks exploded in the sky.

Starting the football program was part of the vision of the school's president, Daniel Elsener. He viewed it as a way to increase school spirit and male enrollment at the Franciscan university that celebrated its 75th anniversary earlier this year.

The national football championship is the first NAIA title in the school's history. The championship reflects the spirit that has guided the program since its beginning, Karras noted.

"We really believe that it's never over till it's over, and we fight to the end," Karras said. "I appreciate that so much." †



Photo by AJ Pienoz, Rome News-Tribune

Marian University quarterback Adam Wiese looks to pass during the NAIA championship game at Barron Stadium on Dec. 13.



Photo by Brittany Hamath/Rome News-Tribune

Above, Marian University head coach Ted Karras Jr., top center, shakes hands with associate head coach Martin Mathis as the team celebrates and holds up the NAIA national championship trophy after defeating Morningside College 30-27 at Barron Stadium in Rome, Ga., on Dec. 13.

Left, Marian University senior Michael Josifovski kicks the game-winning field goal as senior John Hasty holds the football at Barron Stadium on Dec. 13.

A Blessing For Our Community.
Franciscan St. Francis Health welcomes Archbishop Joseph W. Tobin to the Archdiocese of Indianapolis.

Franciscan St. Francis Health wishes great success to Archbishop Tobin as he begins his mission as leader of the Indianapolis Archdiocese. His life of stewardship and outreach to all cultures is an inspiration to us as we continue our own mission of compassion and service to others, following in the footsteps of St. Francis.

Embracing the future.

FranciscanStFrancis.org