

The Catholic Moment



Prayer petitions via Fruitful Harvest, Page 2

Serving the Diocese of Lafayette-in-Indiana



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December 9, 2018

Project highlights trees found at Bishops Residence in Lafayette

Diocese, Purdue team up to identify, map ‘wonderful collection’ of trees

By Kevin Cullen
For The Catholic Moment

LAFAYETTE — The site of present-day Lafayette was once covered in trees — part of a magnificent hardwood forest that extended hundreds of miles to the south. To the north, tall-grass prairie took over.

Most of those trees are long gone, replaced by streets, sidewalks, buildings, concrete and asphalt.

But here and there, huge specimens — in some cases, more than 200 years old — live on. The Tippecanoe Battlefield, five miles north of the city, has several that witnessed Gen. William Henry Harrison’s victory over Native Americans in November 1811. Growth rings on some recently-felled oaks at the Tippecanoe County Fairgrounds in Lafayette dated to before 1810.

The Bishops Residence at 610 Lingle Ave. has been home to the bishops of the Diocese of Lafayette-in-Indiana since the 1940s. Before that, it was the Murdock family home. The rambling brick house was built in 1912, and its hilly, hilltop acreage is home to some of the largest trees in town. Thanks to a new project by Purdue University horticulture experts, visitors can learn about them as they walk beneath twisted limbs and scan identification plaques with their smartphones.

(Continued on Page 8)



(Photo by Kevin Cullen)

Pope: Advent is time to ask how we spend our lives — and for whom

By Cindy Wooden
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Christians can turn Christmas into a “pagan” or “mundane” holiday by focusing on the gifts and the tree rather than on the birth of Jesus and his promise to come again, Pope Francis said.

Celebrating the beginning of Advent Dec. 2 with the recitation of the Angelus prayer and at morning Mass in the Domus

Sanctae Marthae the next day, the pope focused on the attitudes of vigilance and prayer that should characterize the Advent season and preparations for Christmas.

“If we think of Christmas in a consumeristic climate, looking at what we can buy

(Continued on Page 5)



Pope Francis



Join the celebration!

The Diocese of Lafayette-in-Indiana continues its yearlong 75th anniversary celebration through Oct. 21, 2019. Join us in “Uniting in the Heart of Jesus” throughout the coming year. For more information, visit www.dol-in.org.

2018
BIENNIAL APPEAL

DIOCESE
of
LAFAYETTE-IN-INDIANA

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in the *Light*
of Christ

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**FRUITFUL
HARVEST**

**Have You
Made Your
Pledge Yet?**

Prayer intentions via Fruitful Harvest

Hundreds of written prayer intentions were delivered to me around Thanksgiving. All of these 3.5-by-8.5-inch paper slips are now in my chapel. More will arrive over time. I read and pray about a number of them daily. After I review five or six, I have to pause. The realities that they describe are deep and heartfelt, and the authors primarily name other people's needs rather than their own.

I know that I can support these petitions during my



Bishop
Timothy L.
Doherty

prayer time. What I did not expect was how much these would affect me. Most of them put my own worries into perspective, that I am just one of many who go to God with urgent and persistent concerns for souls.

The writers' names are not on these slips, so they remain anonymous. But there are two kinds of petition that reappear, rarely together: prayer that the Church properly handle "the scandal" with courage, and prayer that family members will welcome a closer relation

with Jesus, usually by returning to church worship. All of us sense some connection between these two petitions, even though it's not automatic. I wonder if those closest to us know how often we commend them to God's care?

So thanks to everyone who submitted prayer intentions for me to share again with God. Advent is never "the same old, same old" for me. But the unanticipated effects of your requests are beyond what any of us might have imagined. You can be sure that I will attend to what is written on every one of those slips.



December 9
Second Sunday
of Advent
Cycle C Readings:

- 1) *Baruch 5:1-9*
- 2) *Philippians 1:4-6, 8-11*
- 3) *Gospel: Luke 3:1-6*

Monday, Dec. 10

- 1) *Isaiah 35:1-10*
- 2) *Gospel: Luke 5:17-26*

Tuesday, Dec. 11

- 1) *Isaiah 40:1-11*
- 2) *Gospel: Matthew 18:12-14*

Wednesday, Dec. 12

- Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe*
- 1) *Zechariah 2:14-17 or Revelation 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab*
 - 2) *Gospel: Luke 1:26-38 or Luke 1:39-47*

Thursday, Dec. 13

- 1) *Isaiah 41:13-20*
- 2) *Gospel: Matthew 11:11-15*

Friday, Dec. 14

- 1) *Isaiah 48:17-19*
- 2) *Gospel: Matthew 11:16-19*

Saturday, Dec. 15

- 1) *Sirach 48:1-4, 9-11*
- 2) *Gospel: Matthew 17:9a, 10-13*

Franciscan Health

Lafayette is in need of **hospital hostess volunteers**. The hostesses greet and visit patients and hand out magazines, puzzles, etc. Openings are available on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays; the shifts are normally from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. (though they may vary depending on number of patients). The schedule is flexible and hostesses can volunteer any number of days per month. For more information, call Volunteer Services at 765-502-4249.

Abbey Caskets, a work of Saint Meinrad Archabbey, will host a "Service of the Longest Night" at 6 p.m. CST Saturday, Dec. 15, in the Saint Meinrad Archabbey Guest House



Chapel in St. Meinrad, Ind. Many people find the holidays a challenging time.



Instead of celebrating, they are struggling with grief. They miss loved ones and find that the usual traditions and bright lights serve only to heighten their struggle.

Father Adrian Burke, OSB, will lead the service with prayer and Scripture that acknowledge those who mourn and struggle with loss during the Christmas season. All are welcome to attend. Light refreshments will follow the service. RSVP is requested, but not required, for planning. Reply to info@abbeycaskets.com or call 800-987-7380 for more information. Parking will be available in the Guest House parking lot.

Do you feel alone in your marriage? Are you frustrated or angry with each other? **Retrouvaille** is a worldwide program that offers tools needed for hurting couples to rediscover a loving marriage relationship. For more than

30 years, the program has helped hundreds of thousands of couples heal their hurting marriages. A **Retrouvaille** weekend will be held **Feb. 22-24, 2019**, at Saint Joseph's Retreat and Conference Center in Tipton. Follow-up post-weekend sessions will take place at Our Lady of Fatima in Indianapolis. To learn more or to register, visit the **Retrouvaille** Web site at www.HelpOurMarriage.com. Those interested in attending also can e-mail RetrouIndy@gmail.com or call 317-489-6811 for confidential registration information. **Retrouvaille** can give couples the tools to begin to heal a hurting marriage, so don't wait — register today.

The Women's Care Center of Indianapolis held a groundbreaking ceremony earlier this fall for its new **Women's Care Center Family Life Center**. The expanded space will allow four additional counseling rooms, expanded office space for additional staff, and an expanded classroom space which will allow the center to increase the size and number of its parenting classes. The current building at the corner of 86th and Georgetown in Indianapolis opened in November 2014, and with the support of friends and donors has served 8,000 women since opening. The expansion will allow the center to continue its mission to love and serve the mothers and babies of the Indianapolis area. Above are Jenny Hubbard, director; board members Sarah Bardol, L.H. Bayley and Suzanne Mencias, and Msgr. Joseph Schaedel at the groundbreaking. (Photo provided)



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Text of Isaiah spans the writings of three prophets

During the season of Advent, the Church prepares us for the coming of Jesus. This time also reminds us of the Old Testament prophets who prepared the people for the coming of the Messiah. One of the greatest of these prophets was Isaiah.

Mistakenly, many see the role of a prophet to foretell the future as opposed to speaking God's truth. Most frequently, these sages were ignored or actively rejected. Eventually, when their predictions were fulfilled, more attention was paid to their messages and their significance was appreciated.

Isaiah, whose name means "God is salvation," lived seven centuries before the time of Jesus. He belonged to the upper class of Judea, the land of the Jewish tribe of Judah around Jerusalem.

He prophesied concerning the coming of the Mess-

**A Moment
with
Monsignor**



BY MSGR. JOHN DUNCAN

ah and the military defeat of the Kingdom of Judah, the Jewish people, and its resulting deportation. He was the most eloquent and imaginative of the prophets. He very much opposed idolatry and oppression. As such, he opposed the evil King Achaz, but was supportive of the reforming King Hezekiah.

The text of Isaiah actually spans the writings of three different prophets.

The original Isaiah was born around 760 B.C. He began to write around 740 B.C. and continued until around 700 B.C. This initial

author's writings are found in the Old Testament prophecy of Isaiah, chapters 1 to 39.

This first Isaiah lived at a time of great moral decline among God's people. This moral decay is not unlike the accepted immorality of our own culture. He speaks of the total holiness of God to which the people and their political and religious leaders must return.

He warned that if they did not repent and reform, their nation would be destroyed, forced into exile and that only a remnant would return to the Promised Land around Jerusalem. This defeat and resulting exile in Babylon actually began in 598 B.C. and continued until 528 B.C.

He also foretold that the gentile nations persecuting the Jewish people would themselves suffer severe punishment. He prophesied that a Messiah, an Anointed

One, would be born of a virgin and would be God among us.

He warned that continued sins of the people would result in suffering and punishment in exile, but that their return to God would be richly rewarded with new life. He foresaw vengeance and punishment for sin, but great reward and restoration of peace and life for the repentant.

Another prophet in the tradition of the first Isaiah, called Second Isaiah, provided chapters 40 to 55 of this prophecy. He lived as a Jew in Babylonian exile around 545 B.C.

He predicted that God would give great comfort to his people and spoke of the greatness and goodness of God. He reminded God's people that the Lord had called them to be a light to the gentile nations. This light was clouded by their sins, but God would redeem and

restore his chosen ones.

He stated that Cyrus, the Persian emperor who would defeat the Babylonians, would be an anointed one of God and would permit the Jews who wished to return to Jerusalem to do so. He noted that they would be the salvation of the entire world.

The final portion of the prophecy, chapters 56 to 66, was written by a Third Isaiah from 537 B.C. to 520 B.C. He repeated that faithless leaders would be rejected and punished. He added four poems indicating the sufferings of the Messiah or Anointed One for the people.

Reading Isaiah during chilly Advent days is to experience the warmth of God's love and truth.

Msgr. John Duncan has been a priest of the Lafayette diocese for more than 58 years.

Christmas crèches on display at Saint Meinrad Archabbey Library



Crèche of cast stone from Mexico

ST. MEINRAD, Ind. — An exhibit of Christmas crèches from around the world will be on display in the Saint Meinrad Archabbey Library in St. Meinrad through Dec. 28.

The display features crèches from the monastery collection, as well as from the Catherine A. Smith Nativity Collection, which was donated to Saint Meinrad in 2002 in memory of Charles Patrick "Pat" Smith.

Catherine Smith began collecting Nativity sets in 1971, purchasing many during her extensive travels throughout the world.

She donated the collection to Saint Meinrad in memory of her brother, who studied for the priesthood at Saint Meinrad and later served as a priest in the Archdiocese of Indianapolis.

The crèches selected for display represent a variety of styles and media, such as porcelain, wood, glazed tile, glass, cloth, stone, metals and ceramic.

The exhibit is free and open to the public.

Visitors are encouraged to arrive at least 30 minutes before closing to view the exhibit.

For library hours, call 812-357-6401 or 800-987-7311, or visit the Archabbey Library's Web site at www.saintmeinrad.edu/library/library-hours/

All times are Central Time. The library will be closed Dec. 22-25.

Information and photo provided by Saint Meinrad Archabbey Library.

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Ecumenical events



On the evening of Nov. 12, nearly 100 Christians from the greater Lafayette community gathered in Fowler Hall on Purdue University's West Lafayette campus for an evening of ecumenical discussion. The question at the center of this event was "What is the Church? How do we love God and neighbor in 2019?" Six local church leaders, from various faith traditions, addressed this topic, which was followed by questions from the audience. Sponsors of the event included the Aquinas Educational Foundation and the Diocese of Lafayette-in-Indiana. Top from left are: Pastor Dave Shockey, Purdue Christian Campus House; Father Joel Weir, St. Stephen the First Martyr Orthodox Church; the Rev. Lisa Williams Hood, First Baptist Church; Pastor James Foster, Living Truth of Christ Church; Pastor Robby Bradford, River City Church; Father Patrick Baikauskas, OP, St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Center, and moderator Professor Don Mitchell. (Photos provided)



An ecumenical Thanksgiving Vespers Service was hosted Nov. 20 by the Attica-Williamsport Ministerial Association. The service took place at St. Francis Xavier Church in Attica. A reception was held after the service. St. Francis Xavier pastor Father Sam Futral was among the approximately 100 attendees. (Photo provided)

REST IN PEACE



Please pray for the repose of the souls of our departed brothers and sisters in the Diocese of Lafayette-in-Indiana.

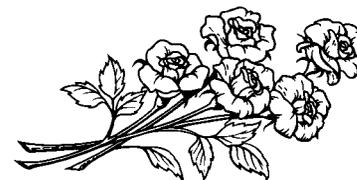
Gladys Bowman, 100, died Sept. 4. **Thomas Agnew**, 54, died Nov. 18. **Charles McLochlin**, 90, died Nov. 23. **Jack Carr Boyd**, 71, died Dec. 1. All were members of Sacred Heart of Jesus in Cicero.

Anita L. Eckman, 81, died Nov. 26. She was a member of St. Boniface in Lafayette.

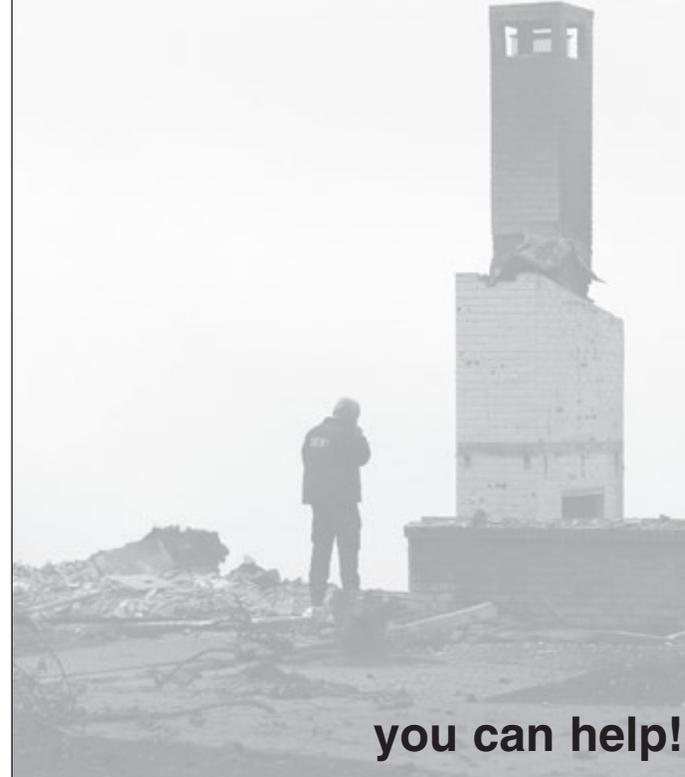
James "Jim" Meng, 89, died Nov. 18. He was a member of St. John the Baptist in Tipton.

Bernard "Bernie" Knouff, 87, died Nov. 16. **Betty Bennett**, 91, died Nov. 25. Both were members of St. Peter in Winamac.

Names of the deceased are provided at the request of parishes in the diocese desiring to provide this information.



When disaster strikes ...



Often, the greatest need after disaster strikes at home or abroad is financial contributions to relief efforts. Your donations can make a world of difference:

- In the United States, Catholic Charities USA provides disaster assistance nationwide. Visit www.catholiccharitiesusa.org to learn more.
- Internationally, Catholic Relief Services responds to emergencies around the world. Visit www.crs.org.

Thank you for your generosity!

St. Joan of Arc Parish celebrates annual St. Nicholas Barn Mass

By **Samantha Rappuhn**
For The Catholic Moment

KOKOMO — One magical night every year, a traditional barn with farm equipment is transformed into a place of worship.

On Nov. 30, the tradition continued as St. Joan of Arc Parish celebrated its annual St. Nicholas Barn Mass.

Each year, the Hartman family graciously offers their property to use for the celebration.

The Mass is an event that parishioners look forward to each year. As those attending enter the barn, they are provided a program with information about the history of St. Nicholas and how he came to be known as the patron of sailors, children and gift-giving.

Joyce Fivecoate, one of the original organizing committee members, said, "The Barn Mass started in 1994 when I had a birthday party out here."

Father Timothy Kroeger was at Fivecoate's birthday celebration and mentioned that the barn would be a good place to celebrate a Mass.

"I told him that if he ever wanted to have a Mass out here to just tell me and I



Above: Father Matthew Arbuckle gives his homily during the annual St. Nicholas Barn Mass. Right: St. Nicholas waits at the back of the barn to surprise children at the end of Mass. (Photos by Samantha Rappuhn)

could make it happen. From there it just got bigger and bigger," Fivecoate said.

She explained that a committee was formed and it continues to organize the event every year. Although the committee members have changed over the course of the 24 years, the parish still relies on the group to keep the tradition alive.

Moving Mass from a church to a barn creates a few quirks.

Instead of ringing a bell to signal the start of Mass,

Father Matthew Arbuckle, current pastor of St. Joan of Arc Parish, shouts a loud "ding" to get the attention of the congregation.

Instead of pews, the congregation sits on hay bales covered in blankets brought from home.

Instead of shedding layers when entering a warm church on a cold day, parishioners bundle up tighter.

And instead of smoke filling the air from incense, it is filled with the warm breath of parishioners as they sing the processional hymn.



In the back of the barn, small heaters are turned on to try to alleviate some of the cold, and tables are set up with roasters of hot dogs, a variety of soups, and hot chocolate, waiting to warm up the chilled congregation after Mass.

Sitting in the cold with barn walls, gravel flooring and hay seating gives a glimpse into what it may have looked like on the night of the Nativity.

Each year, as Father Arbuckle concludes the Mass, bells can be heard jin-

gling in the back of the barn.

The sound comes from none other than St. Nicholas himself, who slips in as Father Arbuckle offers the final blessing.

As the congregation sings "Jolly Old St. Nicholas" to welcome him, all of the children burst with excitement.

Throughout the rest of the evening, St. Nicholas visits with the children, handing out gold coins of chocolate as he goes.

While many years have passed since the first Barn Mass, and a few years have been skipped here and there, the number of attendees continues to grow.

Last year, the St. Nicholas Barn Mass set a record with 196 participants. That record only lasted a year, though, with 200 people driving through the evening fog to be a part of this year's annual celebration.

Next year, St. Joan of Arc will aim to break the record yet again at the Hartman farm.

While no one knows how cold it will be, or how many chickens may wander into Mass, the St. Nicholas Barn Mass will be bringing families together for years to come.

Pope: Advent is time to ask how we spend our lives – and for whom

(Continued from Page 1)

to do this or that, as a mundane holiday, then Jesus will pass by and we will not find him," the pope said before reciting the Angelus with an estimated 20,000 people in St. Peter's Square.

In the day's Gospel reading from the 21st chapter of Luke, Jesus tells his disciples to be careful that their hearts "not become drowsy," but to "be vigilant at all times and pray that you have the strength to escape the tribulations that are imminent and to stand before the Son of Man" at the end of time.

"Be vigilant and pray — this is how to live this time from today until Christmas," the pope said.

The drowsy heart described in the Gospel, he said, is a condition that comes from focusing exclusively on oneself, "one's problems, joys and pains," continually circling back



The top of the Christmas tree is seen as Pope Francis leads the Angelus prayer from the window of his studio overlooking St. Peter's Square at the Vatican Dec. 2. (CNS photo/Giuseppe Lami, EPA)

around one's own life.

"This is tiring, boring and closes off hope," he said, while "Advent calls us to make a commitment to watchfulness, looking outside ourselves, expanding our minds and hearts to open them to the needs of people, of our brothers and

sisters, and to the desire for a new world."

The new world Christ promised is the desire of "so many people martyred by hunger, injustice and war; it is the desire of the poor, the weak, the abandoned," he said.

Advent, he said, "is the

opportune time to open our hearts and to ask ourselves concrete questions about how we spend our lives and for whom."

Christians must hold fast to their identity, including at Christmas, by keeping the focus on Jesus and fighting the temptation to

"paganize" the Christian feast, he said at the Angelus.

Returning to the theme at Mass Dec. 3, Pope Francis said Christians do well to remember they are not celebrating "the birth of the Christmas tree," which is a "beautiful sign," but the birth of Jesus.

"The Lord is born, the redeemer who came to save us is born," the pope said.

Of course, Christmas is a celebration, but "there is always the danger, the temptation to banalize Christmas," to stop focusing on Jesus and get caught up in "shopping, gifts and this and that."

Advent, he said, is a time to purify one's focus, remembering that Jesus came into the world to save people from sin, that each person will stand before him at the end of his or her life and that Jesus will come again.

HAPPENING ... IN THE DIOCESE OF LAFAYETTE-IN-INDIANA

Contributions to "Happening ... in the Diocese of Lafayette-in-Indiana" are most welcome. Send items in writing to: P.O. Box 1603, Lafayette, IN 47902 or e-mail: moment@dol-in.org. Please send information at least two weeks before the event to ensure timely notice. The listing is free.

Rosary for healing in the Church

WEST LAFAYETTE — All are invited to join in praying the luminous mysteries of the rosary each Thursday for the intention of healing in the Church. The rosary will be prayed beginning around noon (after the 11:30 a.m. Mass) at St. Thomas Aquinas Church.

The story of the Child Jesus

LAFAYETTE — The Cathedral of St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception continues its evenings devoted to the story of the Child Jesus. "The Infancy Narratives: Jesus of Nazareth," written by Pope Benedict XVI, will be used to delve into the Gospels of Matthew and Luke. On Thursday, Dec. 6, Father Kyle Neterer will discuss the Annunciation. On Thursday, Dec. 13, Father Dominic Petan will present a session on the birth of Jesus. On Thursday, Dec. 20, Deacon Joe Poremski will facilitate an evening focusing on the visit of the Wise Men and the flight into Egypt. On Thursday, Jan. 10, the series will finish with a session led by Anne Roat on the finding of Jesus in the Temple. Everyone is invited

to attend any or all of the evenings which are designed to help us situate Christ in the Christmas season. For more information, e-mail Anne Roat at aroat@lcss.org.

Shroud of Turin exhibit

PERU — All are invited to visit a Shroud of Turin exhibit at St. Charles Borromeo Parish, in the former school gym, at 80 W. Fifth St., Peru. The exhibit will be open from 8:30 a.m. to 8 p.m. Dec. 1-8. Admission is free; free-will donations will be accepted for the preservation of the exhibit. The shroud is one of the most scientifically studied religious icons in history. This exhibit presents the results of a comprehensive scientific, historical and forensic study with numerous photographs and illustrations. The work was done by the Center for the Study of the Passion of Christ and the Holy Shroud. The centerpiece of the exhibit is a full-length replica of the shroud developed from a photographic image made by Eastman Kodak. There also is a large crucifix showing the wounds of Christ corresponding to the Gospel narrative and evidence from the shroud itself, as well as 92 panels detailing the history and science of the shroud.

Eucharistic adoration

DEMOTTE — All are invited to join in Eucharistic adoration from 7 p.m. to 8 p.m. Friday, Dec. 7, at St. Cecilia Church, 334 15th St.

SW. Refreshments and the opportunity for conversation will follow. The evening is sponsored by St. Cecilia's Young Adults.

"Better Breathers Club"

LAFAYETTE — The "Better Breathers Club" will hold its holiday luncheon from 1 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 12, at the Franciscan Healthy Living Center, located in the Lafayette Heart Institute Building, 1116 N. 16th St. The club is a program of the American Lung Association and is open to all patients and community members who have COPD, lung diseases, asthma, emphysema, chronic bronchitis or other respiratory issues. Registration for the luncheon is encouraged; call 765-428-5850.

"Advent on Tap"

ZIONSVILLE — In preparation for the Christmas season, young adults ages 21 to 35 are invited to attend an "Advent on Tap" evening beginning at 7 p.m. Friday, Dec. 14, at Granite City Brewery, located at 150 W. 96th St. in Indianapolis. The event is being sponsored by the SANCTUS Young Adult and Young Family Ministry at St. Alphonsus Liguori Parish in Zionsville. Featured speaker will be Dr. Chris Baglow from Notre Dame Seminary in New Orleans. For more information, contact Heidi Radabaugh at hradabaugh@zionsvillecatholic.com or 317-873-2885, ext. 511.

"Advent Afternoon Cookie Express"

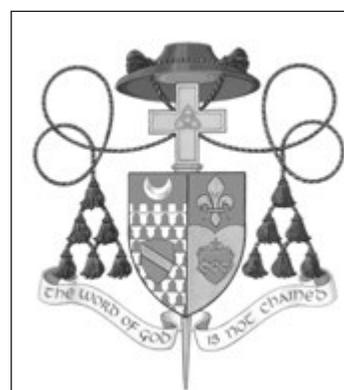
WEST LAFAYETTE — All are invited to attend a Schoenstatt "Advent Afternoon Cookie Express" from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 16, in Newman Hall in the lower level of St. Thomas Aquinas Church. Sister Ann Astell will offer a welcome, a children's play will be presented on "A Letter to the Christ Child" and St. Nicholas will stop by for a visit. Those attending are asked to bring some cookies to share, if they are able. For more information, contact Julie Haskell at jhas821@aol.com.

Schoenstatt holy hour

WEST LAFAYETTE — All are invited to attend a Schoenstatt holy hour with Father Cassian Sama, OP, at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 18, in St. Thomas Aquinas Church. The evening will be a Christmas gift of prayer for all family and friends who have died this year. It will include adoration, a homily, recitation of the rosary, Benediction and the opportunity to enroll loved ones in the "Golden Book of Prayers."

Catholic Business Exchange

Bishop Timothy L. Doherty will be the guest speaker at the next monthly meeting of the Catholic Business Exchange, to be held from 7 a.m. to 9 a.m. Friday, Dec. 21, at the Northside Knights of Columbus, 2100 E. 71st St., Indianapolis. His topic will be "Catholic Business Leaders: The Church and



Official

Father Sean V. Pogue is appointed parochial vicar of St. John Vianney Church, Fishers, and Sacred Heart of Jesus Church, Cicero, with residence at St. John Vianney, Fishers, effective Dec. 1, 2018.

+ Timothy L. Doherty

Timothy L. Doherty
Bishop of
Lafayette-in-Indiana

the World Need You." Cost is \$15 per person for Catholic Business Exchange members and \$21 for non-members and guests; cost includes breakfast. Registration for the meeting will close at noon on Thursday, Dec. 20; walk-ins are not permitted due to meal planning. For more information or to register online, visit the Web site at <http://catholicbusinessexchange.org>.

Franciscan Hospice Care seeks volunteers to aid patients, caregivers

LAFAYETTE — Meet Clara, a 97-year-old with terminal cancer living with her daughter. Clara's daughter is very devoted to her mother's care. She would like to run errands for a couple of hours a week, but she doesn't have anyone to be with her mom while she is gone.

Meet Tom, a 67-year-old with end-stage COPD residing in assisted living. His friends don't live close by and his son is in town, but works a lot of hours. Tom is lonely. He would

love to play cards or talk about the local sports teams with someone.

Meet Marcie, a 102-year-old who sleeps most of the day in her room at the local nursing home. All her friends are gone. She has even outlived her children. Her health-care representative would like to have someone sit in Marcie's room and read Scripture to her and hold her hand.

Franciscan Hospice Care is a nonprofit and the oldest hospice care center in this community. In recent

months, it has tripled in size.

Franciscan Hospice Care is in need of volunteers to keep patients company and provide respite care for their caregivers. Training is provided to those wanting to become volunteers.

Are you being called to work with the terminally ill?

To discern if this opportunity is for you and begin the application process, contact Elizabeth Berger at 765-423-6924 or e-mail

elizabeth.berger@franciscanalliance.org.

An application also may be filled out online at: https://franciscanhealthcare.formstack.com/forms/hospice_volunteer_application.

Franciscan Health is a member of Mishawaka, Ind.-based Franciscan Alliance, one of the largest Catholic health-care systems in the Midwest with 14 growing hospitals, approximately 20,000 employees and a number of nationally recognized

Centers of Healthcare Excellence.

Franciscan Health includes Franciscan Health Lafayette East, Lafayette Central, Carmel, Crawfordsville and Rensselaer, Franciscan Physician Network with offices in Lafayette, West Lafayette, Monticello, Crawfordsville and Rensselaer, and the St. Elizabeth School of Nursing.

Information provided by
Franciscan Hospice Care.

HAPPENING ... IN THE DIOCESE OF LAFAYETTE-IN-INDIANA

"Cassock Classic" basketball game

NOBLESVILLE — All are invited to attend the fourth annual "Cassock Classic" basketball game, featuring priests and seminarians of the Lafayette diocese, on Thursday, Dec. 27, at St. Theodore Guerin High School. The event is presented by the Frassati Society of Young Adult Catholics. Doors will open at 5:30 p.m., with tip-off at 6:30 p.m. Cost is \$5 per person or \$20 per family. Tickets may be purchased at the door.

St. Lawrence, Muncie, anniversary celebration
MUNCIE — St. Lawrence Church will celebrate its 150th anniversary as a parish (1869-2019) throughout the coming year. The first event will be a candle-light Mass at 4:30 p.m. Monday, Dec. 31. This is also the Vigil Mass for the Jan. 1 holy day of obligation. Beautiful brass ornaments created by the Charleston Mint are available for \$25 each. The ornament design is based on the exterior of the church and shows each side of the church, along with a brass plate that hangs down with the parish information. For more information about ornaments, contact the parish office at 765-288-9223. Many other events also are being planned throughout the year. Events already planned are: Frank Runyeon

KIDS' PAGE ANSWERS

Remembered:
A N T I C E T
S K I C E T
H A T O E L
N I C H O L A S

Kept Safe:
T H E S T A I N O F O R I G I N A L S I N

Go On Saturday:
C O N F E S S I O N

Name Game:
O U R L A D Y O F G U A D A L U P E

Kids' Page on Page 16

will present "The Gospel of Luke" at 7 p.m. Feb. 13 in the church; a "Gala" dinner and dance will be held June 15 at Cornerstone Center for the Arts in Muncie; and a special Mass with Bishop Timothy L. Doherty will be celebrated at 4:30 p.m. Aug. 10, followed by a catered dinner at the Knights of Columbus Hall.

Save the date/ Indiana March for Life
The Diocese of Lafayette-in-Indiana, the Archdiocese of Indianapolis and Right to Life of Indianapolis invite all to join a "Vigil for Life" on Jan. 21, 2019, and the Indiana March for Life on Jan. 22, 2019, in Indianapolis. The events will include a youth rally with a night of worship and a keynote speaker at St. John the Evangelist Church beginning at 7 p.m. Jan. 21. Mass

will be celebrated by Archbishop Charles C. Thompson and Bishop Timothy L. Doherty at 12:10 p.m. Jan. 22 at St. John the Evangelist Church, followed by a march to the state capitol.

Save the date/ "Encounter" middle school event
CARMEL — "Encounter: A Catholic Middle School Event," hosted by the diocesan Office of Catechesis, will be held from 1 p.m. to 9 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 2, at St. Elizabeth Seton Church. The event is open to all sixth-through eighth-grade students, chaperones, youth leaders and priests. The mission of this one-day event of faith is to provide young teens with opportunities to encounter Jesus and his Church and engage with the relevant and powerful Gospel message. The day will include dynamic speakers, kerygmatic preaching, fun and engaging games, opportunities to enter into deep prayer including Mass, and a call to make the decision to move closer to Jesus. For more information, contact Paul Sifuentes at psifuentes@dol-in.org or 765-269-4654.

Save the date/ The O'Connor House Celebration of Life Event
CARMEL — The O'Connor House will hold its 2019 Celebration of Life Event from 6:30 p.m. to 10:30 p.m. Satur-

Follow us on social media to stay in the loop about what's happening in our diocese, engage with inspiring content, learn about your faith, and more!

DIOCESE of LAFAYETTE-IN-INDIANA

day, March 9, at the Booth Tarkington Civic Theatre in Carmel. All are invited to mark their calendars for a unique and fun evening. The mission of The O'Connor House is to provide a Christian home to help single, pregnant, homeless women improve life for themselves and their children.

Save the date/ Indiana Holy Family Catholic Conference
KOKOMO — The 13th annual Indiana Holy Family Catholic Conference will be held Saturday, March 9. Hosted by St. Joan of Arc and St. Patrick parishes, the day-long conference is a family event that is unique to all ages. The day will include separate programs for younger children, middle-school students, high-school students and adults. Registration and speaker information can be found online at www.holyfamilyconference.org. All are wel-

come to attend.

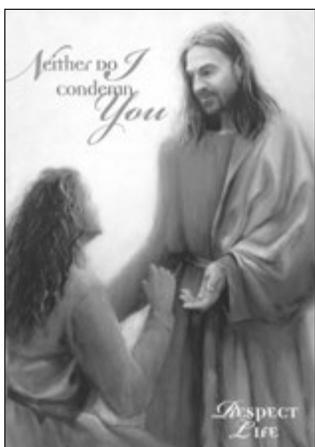
WorldWide Marriage Encounter
Married couples in the Lafayette diocese and Indianapolis area are invited to restore, renew and rekindle their marriages through Marriage Encounter Weekends and Sharing Circles. Visit www.wwme.org to apply. Upcoming weekends to be held in Indianapolis include April 26-28, 2019. Couples who already have participated in a Marriage Encounter Weekend are invited to join monthly Sharing Circles. For more information, e-mail kenannme@comcast.net.

Save the date/Anniversary finale celebration
TIPTON — All are invited to save the date for the Diocese of Lafayette-in-Indiana 75th anniversary finale celebration, to be held Sept. 28 at the Saint Joseph Retreat & Conference Center.

Women who have had an abortion often struggle with questions:

Can God ever forgive me? Can my child forgive me? Can I ever forgive myself? Will this horrible pain ever go away? Is healing possible?

Project Rachel proclaims that the answer to all these questions is YES.



Copyright artwork courtesy of Beverly A. Stautz and the U.S. bishops' Respect Life Program

Call Project Rachel
765-414-3072 (English)
765-701-0620 (Spanish)

Project Rachel is the Church's healing ministry to those who have been involved in abortion. All calls are confidential.

Las mujeres que han tenido un aborto a menudo luchan con preguntas como:

**¿Podrá Dios perdonarme?
¿Podrá perdonarme mi hijo?
¿Podré perdonarme a mí misma?
¿Alguna vez se acabará este terrible dolor?
¿Es posible la sanación?**

El Proyecto Raquel dice que la respuesta a todas estas preguntas es Sí.



Copyright artwork courtesy of Beverly A. Stautz and the U.S. bishops' Respect Life Program

Llame al Proyecto Raquel
765-414-3072 (inglés)
765-701-0620 (español)

El Proyecto Raquel es el ministerio de la Iglesia de sanación para quienes han estado involucrados en el aborto. Todas las llamadas son confidenciales.



Marriage: Unique for a Reason

Dive in deep to the Church's teaching and join the conversation about marriage, children, society and more.

www.marriageuniqueforareason.org



Diocese, Purdue team up to map 'wonderful collection' of trees

(Continued from Page 1)

"Trees are an accumulation of histories of both eras and places," Bishop Timothy L. Doherty said. "The ginkgo trees are living fossils, genetically unchanged for over 200 million years. Many of our trees match planting designs done by (Frederick Law) Olmsted over a century ago in Central Park in New York, and Graceland Cemetery in Chicago."

The seed of the project, so to speak, was planted at the Church of the Blessed Sacrament in West Lafayette.

Father Theodore Dudzinski is the pastor there; Purdue University horticulture and landscape architecture professor Paul Siciliano is a parishioner.

Father Dudzinski also is vicar general for the diocese, with an office in the Chancery building, which stands next to the Bishops Residence. He asked Siciliano if he and his students would be interested in identifying the trees on the property and providing some advice on their proper care.

Siciliano embraced the offer. He is the director of Purdue University's Purdue Arboretum, which was established in 2008. The arboretum's living collections comprise more than 40,000 individual plants, representing 848 "taxa," that is, species, subspecies, varieties, forms and cultivars.

The arboretum, comprising 2,552 campus acres, is an outdoor laboratory that preserves valuable woody plant materials and increases the number of plants in established campus collections.

The West Lafayette campus has more than 8,000 trees, and more than 300 varieties of trees. Approximately 150 new trees are planted each year. Purdue has received the "Tree Campus USA" award from the Indiana Department of Natural Resources for nine consecutive years. Several "tree campus trails," with scannable signs on the trees, are available for



(Photos by Kevin Cullen)

people to follow.

"The Purdue Arboretum is always looking to partner with the community and share our resources," Siciliano said. "Now, the signed tree collection, which is linked to the Purdue Arboretum's mobile learning platform, has transformed the diocese's tree collection into an important resource for regional education and community groups."

"As landscape designers, we are often looking at, or considering possibilities for new landscapes," Siciliano said. "However, in this instance, we were working with a mature collection and highlighting some of the most unique specimens."

He was assisted by Maddy Dubelko and Natascha Wozniowski Lo, both Purdue horticulture students and Purdue Arboretum student interns. Purdue arborists Kris Brown and Peter Vaughn helped with recommendations on tree pruning, removal and planting.

All 105 trees on the property were identified and mapped. At least one specimen of all 29 different kinds of trees was marked with a small

scannable sign. A tree maintenance schedule, detailing required pruning, was created, as was a list of trees that were recommended for removal. Finally, a tree enhancement and succession plan was developed, with recommendations for diversifying the collection and planning for the next generation of trees on the site.

Many of the trees are more than 100 years old, Siciliano said. Some of the oaks are approximately as large in diameter as documented 200-year-old specimens recently cut down at the fairgrounds on Teal Road as part of a modernization project.

"There are a number of really large and mature specimens," he said. "For example, at the front of the Bishops Residence is a magnificent tulip poplar, which is the state tree of Indiana. There are also several wonderful ginkgo trees on the site and, of course, a fantastic collection of oaks."

The identification signs are unobtrusive, but by linking them to modern computer-based technology, they provide a wealth of information about each specimen.

"Smartphone users are

able to use their personal hand-held devices to access location-based information through the use of QR codes displayed on signage throughout the landscape," Siciliano said.

Once scanned, those codes direct visitors to the Purdue Arboretum Web site. There they can see and read plant-specific educational content, including instructional podcasts.

"Users have immediate access to a plant's identification characteristics, landscape value, cultural requirements and maintenance needs," Siciliano said.

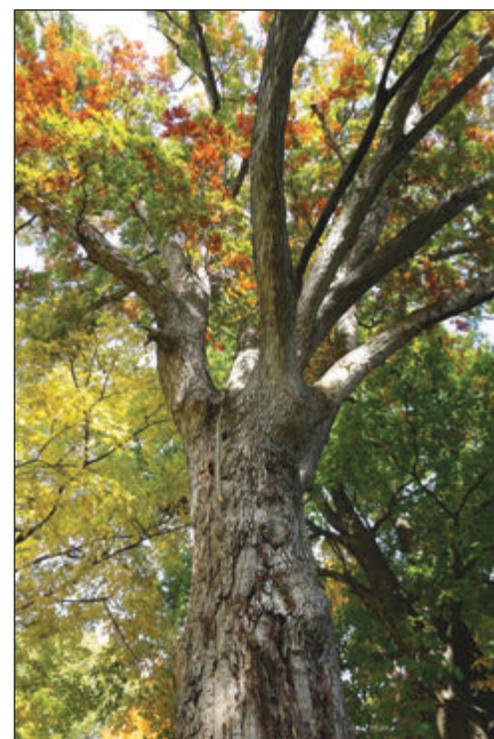
The arboretum's mission, Siciliano said, is to collect and display woody landscape plants in a way that enhances the land-grant university's educational, research and outreach mission. It also works to preserve valuable woody plant materials, promote sustainability and make the West Lafayette campus more beautiful.

The arboretum also helps develop public education programs and provides areas for "passive recreation," he said.

"Through this partnership between the Purdue Arboretum and the Catholic diocese," Siciliano said, "we hope to engage the public, encouraging them to take advantage of this opportunity to learn about the wonderful collection of trees on the diocese's property and, as a result, increase public awareness of the importance of trees and the preservation of trees in the landscape."

Bishop Doherty said that the project really began with concerns about trees damaged by disease and lightning strikes. Professionals were needed to plan for proper care, removal and replacement.

"When I was a kid, I dreaded having to rake leaves in the fall," he said. "Today, I look at (trees) as characters, as habitats for birds and animals. One looks like it's out of a book of fairy tales. I have kinder feelings toward these stately creatures now that I'm not the one doing the raking."



SoulCore grows from a ‘little yes’ to sites across the country

By Rita DeKlyen

For The Catholic Moment

CARMEL — When SoulCore — a movement to nourish body, mind and soul — began six years ago, co-founders Colleen Scariano and Deanne Miller had no idea just how much of an impact the practice would have on the community.

“We never cease to be amazed how the Holy Spirit has inspired the growth of SoulCore and the number of beautiful souls that have been called to join us in this apostolate,” said co-founder Scariano. “We are constantly in awe of what God can do with our simple ‘little’ yes!”

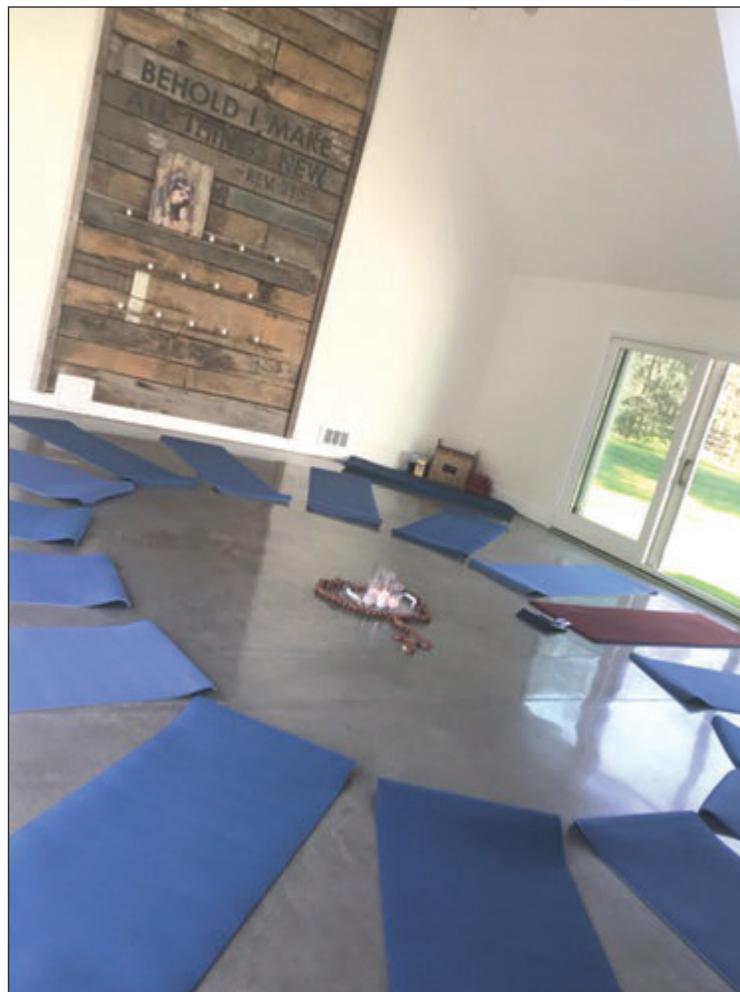
To date, SoulCore is being taught in more than 90 cities throughout the United States with 101 certified SoulCore leaders.

In the Diocese of Lafayette-in-Indiana, a total of 13 sites offer SoulCore each week.

“Our prayer is that more and more will follow the promptings of the Holy Spirit and discern to become leaders,” said Miller, co-founder of SoulCore. “Each leader that has already said yes has been brought to us through Our Lady’s grace.” Katie Pechin, pastoral assistant for mission and discipleship at the Church of the Blessed Sacrament in West Lafayette, is one of those people.

“In November 2017, I felt called to the ministry and became a certified leader,” she said. “We then began classes at Blessed Sacrament; but even before that, we were using the SoulCore DVD series to guide our practice on a weekly basis.”

The focus of the program is prayer, so there is no cost



to attend a class, but free-will offerings are voluntary for the leaders’ time.

Both Scariano and Miller stressed that they never want anyone to be kept away from SoulCore for financial reasons, as they want to introduce as many people as possible to the movement.

“I have really seen SoulCore grow in our community. We have men and women of all ages from different parishes in our diocese and many denominations. It’s a great way to bring people together,” Pechin said.

SoulCore is a movement born from the desire to nourish body and soul through prayer, core strengthening and functional exercises.

Together, Scariano and Miller developed SoulCore. Each of them had a devotion to the Blessed Mother, and Miller had a background in fitness instruction. It was a perfect match.

“I once read a quote that sums up our partnership and SoulCore perfectly,” Miller said. “When you get to do what you get to do, and you can’t believe you get to do it, you know you’re in the will of God. That is exactly how we feel about SoulCore and the fact that God will use any of us. We simply just needed to say yes.”

The SoulCore studio is calm and soothing, with mats laid out in a circular pattern around a large

wooden rosary and candles.

The workout begins with light stretches while participants recite the Apostle’s Creed. Then, a SoulCore leader begins reciting the beginning of the Our Father while asking participants to begin doing push-ups; the second part of the Our Father is done in silence while continuing the push-ups.

During the Hail Mary’s, various movements are conducted, again with the leader saying the beginning and silence quieting the room.

A stretching position of surrender is taken while the leader recites the Glory Be.

Each mystery of the rosary begins with a Scripture verse and a reflection, offering a time of rest.

“With SoulCore, you’re strengthening not only your muscles, but your mind and soul. We do planks and push-ups, but we also reflect and meditate on Scripture and the mysteries and virtues of the rosary,” Pechin said.

“Our deepest desire is to draw more people to pray the rosary, to honor God in body and soul, and to cultivate a deeper devotion to the Blessed Mother, bringing all of us closer to her son,” Miller said.

Pechin added, “Everyone should try it! All are welcome and no exercise experience is necessary. We announce in all of our classes that ‘the prayer comes first and movement comes second.’ I have been a fitness instructor for about four years and it is like nothing I have ever tried or instructed.”

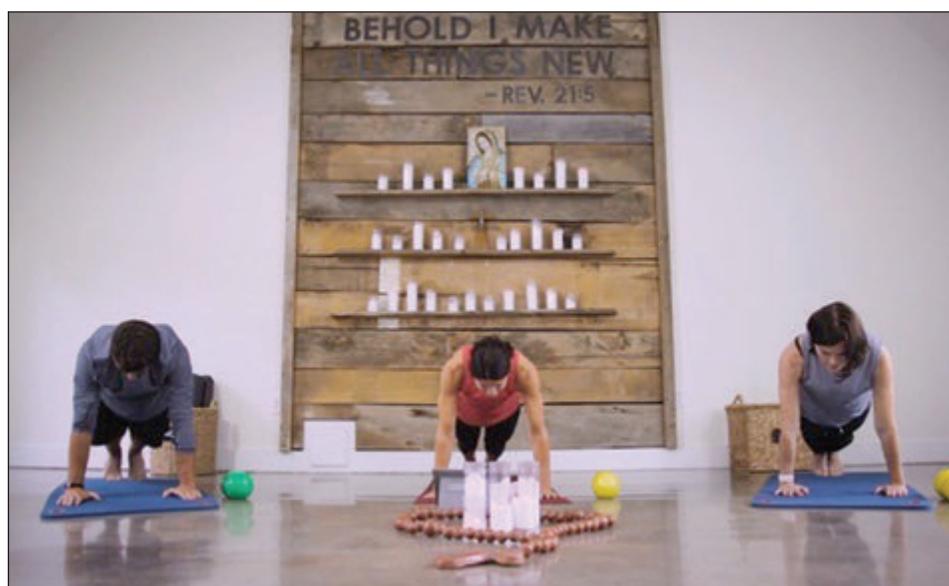
SoulCore is an invitation to integrate body and soul in

SoulCore sites in the Lafayette diocese

- Carmel
 - St. Elizabeth Seton Church
 - Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Church
- Fishers
 - St. Louis de Montfort Church
 - Holy Spirit Church
- Logansport
 - All Saints Church
 - Kristie Wright School of Dance
- Muncie
 - St. Francis of Assisi Church
- Noblesville
 - Marian House Studio
 - St. Theodore Guerin High School
 - Our Lady of Grace Church
- West Lafayette
 - Church of the Blessed Sacrament
- Westfield
 - St. Maria Goretti Church
- Zionsville
 - St. Alphonsus Liguori Church

prayer, directing an individual’s heart and mind toward Christ while discovering the beauty of the rosary, remembering — “If you say the rosary faithfully until death, I do assure you that, in spite of the gravity of your sins, you shall receive a never-fading crown of glory” (St. Louis De Montfort).

For more information, visit <https://soulcore.com/>



Encounter School of Healing at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Parish in Carmel



Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Parish in Carmel partnered with Encounter Ministries to conduct an Encounter School of Healing to teach and inspire Catholics to be more effective ministers of Jesus' healing in the world. The event includ-

ed a healing service held in the church. Above left: Deacon Bill Rahill prays intently for an attendee at the service. Above center: Ryan and Katherine Reid pray with their son Dominic during the healing service. Above right: A Domini-

can sister graciously receives prayers from Encounter Ministries staff and students during the service.

Photos by Rita DeKliyen



Eyes closed and hands reached up to heaven during the healing service as people gathered to pray for those who sought healing of mind, body and soul.



The vision of Encounter Ministries is that evangelization cannot be limited to words and persuasion only. Their vision is to see a Church truly empowered by the Holy Spirit where disciples are confident to proclaim the Gospel and then demonstrate it through signs, wonders and miracles. More than 135 people from several states attended the Encounter School of Healing held at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Parish.

Above: Bryan O'Donnell of Encounter Ministries teaches on "The Gospel of Power and Prayer for Empowerment."

At left: Patrick Reis, director of Encounter Ministries, speaks about "The Role of Faith in Healing Ministry."

U.S. / world news

'A Night of Witness' recalls life, faith of today's martyrs

By Kurt Jensen
Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Catholic churches throughout the world were bathed in soft red light to honor martyrs and mark the "Courage in Red — Stand Up for Faith and Religious Freedom" campaign sponsored by Aid to the Church in Need.

So it was Nov. 28 at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, where a quiet vespers service, "A Night of Witness," commemorated the martyrdom, just in the last two years, of some 22 members of the priesthood, most of them in Mexico and South America, and 82 others killed in terrorist attacks in Pakistan and Egypt.

Most martyrs are killed anonymously while simply going about their jobs before being caught up in the violence from civil wars and terrorist groups.

"They may not be on the covers of magazines. They may not ever make the news. But they gave their blood for the Church," observed Msgr. Vito Buonanno, director of pilgrimages at the basilica.

"Tonight, we seek to remember all of them," said George Marlin, chairman of Aid to the Church in Need, an international papal charity that provides pastoral and humanitarian aid to persecuted and oppressed Christians and supports various church projects in more than 140 countries.

"The Church has lived through many periods of persecution, claiming the lives of millions," Chaldean Catholic Archbishop Bashar Warda of Erbil, Iraq, reminded worshippers during his testimony. "Christianity is the most widely targeted religious community, suffering terrible persecution globally."

"The Church in Iraq," he said, "is a martyr Church. Since 2003, 61 churches and shrines were burned, destroyed or bombed. Over 25,000 homes seized; 150,000 Christians were displaced, and most since 2014. Countless Christians have been kidnapped or murdered."

"We are closer to God in our suffering. St. Paul said, 'I



A participant lights a candle in recognition of a Christian martyr Nov. 28 during a vespers service at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington. (CNS photos/Tyler Orsburn)



Chaldean Catholic Archbishop Bashar Warda of Erbil, Iraq, gives a testimony about Christian persecution. "Christianity is the most widely targeted religious community, suffering terrible persecution globally," he said.



In the diocese led by Bishop Oliver D. Doeme (above) in Maiduguri, Nigeria, 1,500 people have been killed by members of Boko Haram since 2009.

want to know Christ.' Yes. To know the power of his resurrection and participation in his suffering, becoming like him, in his death," the archbishop continued.

"Our persecution continues to make us a Church of peace and reconciliation, transforming us into an apostolic missionary Church," he added. "The first Church recognized the primacy of God in which our life and our being has lived. The Church never lost its faith during persecution, but bore everything with a great confidence that the victory is always for God."

Bishop Oliver D. Doeme of Maiduguri, in northeast Nigeria, experienced 1,500 killed in his diocese by members of Boko Haram since 2009. Members believe

"women's education is evil, so it should be eliminated, and Christianity, according to them, should also be eliminated."

With the group now largely driven out, Christians returned to find houses of worship destroyed, "but the good news is that our people have unshakable faith," Bishop Doeme said.

Sister Annie Demerjian, whose ministry with the Sisters of Jesus and Mary has been in Aleppo, Syria, spoke of the long-term damage to children from the ongoing civil war there.

"Many people feel suffering from the consequence of the war. Healing of memories and healing of wounds, it will take years and years. This war has astonished many nations by its violence



Sister Annie Demerjian of Aleppo, Syria, speaks of the long-term damage to children from the ongoing civil war there.

and brutality. It has robbed children of their childhood and innocence ...

"In the time in which we moved from (our) school and we shared another school, we shared afternoon times at school. And our little children, 4 years old, they were carrying (flashlights) in their hands. And when it became dark, they put it on, and they continued their lessons. For me, it taught me a lot. Even though they are little — small angels — they can adapt themselves to the situation we are facing."

After the end of the conflict, she warned, children "will be stamped by this negative attitude of violence." Those born during the war, "all that they saw were violence, destruction and death."

Other services in the preceding days were held at the Co-Cathedral of St. Joseph in Brooklyn, N.Y., St. Francis of Assisi Cathedral in Metuchen, N.J., and Epiphany Cathedral in Venice, Fla. Those churches and the national shrine in Washington were illuminated at dusk by red lights.

The "Courage in Red" campaign in previous years has illuminated Westminster Abbey and the Houses of Parliament in London, the Colosseum in Rome and the Christ the Redeemer statue in Rio de Janeiro.

This year's "Courage in Red" also illuminated landmarks including Sagrada Familia Cathedral in Barcelona, the Sacre Coeur Basilica in Paris and Westminster Cathedral in London.

NEWS BRIEFS

Healing of U.S. woman could lead to Newman canonization

MANCHESTER, England (CNS) — Catholic bishops have expressed hope that Pope Francis will canonize Blessed John Henry Newman in 2019 after Vatican medics said the inexplicable healing of a U.S. mother was a miracle attributable to his intercession.

The cardinal was beatified in 2010 by Pope Benedict XVI in Birmingham, England.

Archbishop Bernard Longley of Birmingham said the English and Welsh bishops were informed during their *"ad limina"* visit to Rome in September that the second miracle needed for the canonization of Blessed Newman had been found.

It involved a young woman who faced life-threatening complications during her pregnancy, but suddenly recovered when she prayed to Blessed Newman to help.



The Conference of the Catholic Patriarchs of the East gathered for its annual meeting Nov. 26-30 in Baghdad under the theme "Youth Is a Sign of Hope in the Middle East Countries." (CNS photo courtesy Conference of the Catholic Patriarchs of the East)

Mideast Catholic leaders vow support for youth in 'turbulent world'

BAGHDAD (CNS) — Catholic leaders of the Middle East cautioned that the very existence of Christians in the region is threatened, but their faithful continue "to bear witness to the Lord Jesus amid a turbulent world interrupted by mighty waves."

The Conference of the Catholic Patriarchs of the East reminded young people:

"In light of the difficul-

ties and challenges you face in the midst of the current situation in the Middle East, and in light of the bleak migration that threatens your future and the Christian presence in the East as a whole, we stand by you. As we share the same present pain, we look forward to a bright future with your presence, and we assure you that we will work together to provide the foundations of your steadfast-

ness and steadfastness in your land."

The patriarchs met in Baghdad Nov. 26-30 with the theme "Youth Is a Sign of Hope in the Middle East Countries."

Cardinal Louis Sako, patriarch of Chaldean Catholics, opened the meeting and noted that emigration and religious extremism are pressing challenges.

People gather to protest in front of the embassy of the Russian Federation Nov. 26 in Warsaw, Poland, after Russia seized three Ukrainian naval ships anchored at a port in Kerch, Crimea. (CNS photo/Pawel Supernak, EPA)



Ukrainian Catholics fear full-scale war after naval clashes

WARSAW, Poland (CNS) — Catholics in Ukraine said people fear a full-scale war with Russia, after a naval confrontation prompted the imposition of martial law in Ukraine's eastern regions.

Meanwhile, an official with Caritas Ukraine said local inhabitants had begun hoarding food, water and candles in preparation for a "sudden escalation" in events.

Father Grzegorz Semenkov, chancellor of the Church's eastern Kharkiv-Zaporizhia Diocese, said Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko had justified martial law as a necessary precaution against "new threats from Russia."

However, he said, some Ukrainians were asking why martial law had been declared now, "rather than earlier, during more than

four years of war in eastern Ukraine."

"Some of our parishioners in Mariupol and Berdyansk are in a state of panic, fearing Russia is massing its forces for an attack," said Father Semenkov. "... Many Catholics have already left the country, and others will clearly respond in their own ways if conditions worsen."

Philippine president renews attacks on Church leaders

MANILA, Philippines (CNS) — Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte renewed his attacks on Catholic leaders and urged Filipinos to stop going to church altogether.

The president, who earlier this year called God "stupid," suggested in a Nov. 26 speech that people should instead build their own chapels where they can pray, ucanews.com reported.

"You don't have to go to church to pay for these idiots," said Duterte, referring to bishops who have condemned the wave of drug-related killings in the country.

Bishop Arturo Bastes of Sorsogon said people should disregard the president's statement.

"Every Filipino with the right mind should only ignore this nonsense," Bishop Bastes said.

Quotes Re-Quoted

"If the Lord were to call me today, what would I do? What will I say? What harvest will I show him? ... Thinking about the end, the end of creation, the end of one's life, this is wisdom, the wise ones do it."

— Pope Francis, during Mass on Nov. 27.

...

"Sister Marie-Paule teaches us that war, persecution and suffering cannot extinguish the light of Christ. Most importantly, she shows by her example how ordinary people can become the light of Christ that brilliantly shines for others."

— Father Jack Wall, president of Catholic Extension, speaking of Sister Marie-Paule Willem, a Franciscan Missionary of Mary and recipient of the 2018-2019 Lumen Christi Award from Catholic Extension.

...

"We remember with gratitude this great man who spent his life selflessly in service of his country. With an unwavering commitment to building bridges of peace and ensuring our nation's freedom, he also inspired many as a devoted husband, father and family patriarch."

— Cardinal Daniel N. DiNardo, president of the U.S. Catholic bishops' conference, following the death of former President George H.W. Bush.

...

"We are guided by faith. We are (regular) attendees at church and that gives us strength every Sunday. And we just feel that it's important as a family to pray together. We still say our blessings at our meals and we still say our prayers at night."

— Then-President George H.W. Bush, during an interview with Catholic News Service in 1992.

'We have to choose joy and keep choosing it every day'

By Susan Hines-Brigger
Catholic News Service

"Life moves pretty fast. If you don't stop and look around once in a while, you could miss it."

That iconic line from the 1986 film "Ferris Bueller's Day Off" seems pretty off-base just a short time away from Christmas, doesn't it? Stop and look around? There's no time for that.

There's shopping and wrapping to be done. The house has to be cleaned and Christmas cards have to be mailed. Cookies need to be baked, plated up and distributed. Who's got time to stop or slow down?

Does any of this sound familiar? Unfortunately, it probably does for far too many of us. But, wait, isn't this supposed to be a season of joy? After all, isn't the whole purpose of this season to prepare for the amazing gift of the birth of Christ? Luckily, we have something that can get us back on track.



Susan Hines-Brigger

On Dec. 16, we celebrate Gaudete Sunday. Literally translated from Latin, the word "gaudete" means "re-joyce." And that message comes through loud and clear in the readings for Dec. 16.

This mid-Advent celebration offers us a short timeout to stop, catch our breath and refocus on the joy and purpose of the season. And if we didn't notice the change in the Advent message, the rose-colored candle and

vestments we see only for the third Sunday in Advent certainly provide a subtle stop — or at least a slow-down — sign for us. The message of rejoice comes through loud and clear starting with the first reading from the Book of Zephaniah for Sunday, Dec. 16. In fact, within the first three lines we hear the words "joy," "joyful" and "glad." And it doesn't stop there, further encouraging us to "sing joyfully" and "be glad and exult with all your heart."



Faith Alive!

This week's
topic: Third
Sunday of
Advent is
Dec. 16



(CNS photo/Jaclyn Lippelmann, *Catholic Standard*)

The second reading from the Letter to the Philippians offers even more ways to embrace the joy of the season, instructing us that "your kindness should be known to all" and "have no anxiety at all."

Great, you might be thinking, but the reality is that right now there are quite a few challenges to being joyful, of which the stress of the season is the least pressing. In fact, these days, joy or a cause for it sometimes seem to be in short supply. Well, even then we are en-

couraged to remain in joy, says Pope Francis. In an Angelus address for Gaudete Sunday last year, he encouraged us to remain joyful "even when things do not go according to our desires. Anxieties, difficulties and sufferings permeate our lives, and so many times the reality around us seems to be inhospitable and arid, like the desert in which the voice of John the Baptist resounded, as the Gospel of today recalls."

OK, so the message in the first two readings is clear

that now is the time to focus on the joy of the season. But what does that even look like? Does it mean we have to walk around happy all the time?

In his book, "Here and Now," renowned priest and author Henri Nouwen says, "Joy is not the same as happiness. We can be unhappy about many things, but joy can still be there because it comes from the knowledge of God's love for us."

"Joy," he says, "is essential to the spiritual life. Whatever we may think of or say about God, when we are not joyful, our thoughts and words cannot bear fruit. Jesus reveals to us God's love so that his joy may become ours and that our joy may become complete. Joy is the experience of knowing that you are unconditionally loved and that nothing — sickness, failure, emotional distress, oppression, war or even death — can take that love away."

Once we embrace that joy, the Gospel from Luke offers a ready-made plan for ways to share that joy with others, saying "Whoever has two cloaks should share with the person who has none. And whoever has food should do likewise (3:11)."

As Henri Nouwen says, "Joy does not simply happen to us. We have to choose joy and keep choosing it every day."

Luckily, Gaudete Sunday provides us a perfect opportunity to do just that as we head toward the end of Advent, culminating in the perfect joy of Christ's birth.

Hines-Brigger is co-executive editor of St. Anthony Messenger.

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(CNS photo/Michael Alexander, *Georgia Bulletin*)

On Gaudete Sunday,
St. Paul's Letter to the
Philippians tells us,
"Rejoice in the Lord
always. I shall say it
again: Rejoice!" (4:4)





(CNS photo/Balazs Mohai, EPA)

The Catholic Moment

OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER
OF THE DIOCESE OF LAFAYETTE-IN-INDIANA

Expectations

In this Sunday's Gospel, John the Baptist preaches to his fellow Jews. They shared expectations about what God was going to do when he came to set things right in the world.

The first reading gives a sample of the prophecies that fed their expectations. When God brings his people together, Baruch declares, they will be "borne aloft in glory as on royal thrones."

As they proceed toward salvation, "God has commanded that every lofty mountain be made low, and that the age-old depths and gorges be filled to level ground, that Israel may advance secure in the glory of God." It will be splendid!

John aroused people's hopes that these promises were now going to be fulfilled. Yet, when Jesus appeared, he didn't lead people on a triumphal march to Jerusalem to overthrow enemies and miraculously restore justice and prosperity.

After his baptism by John in the Jordan, Jesus returned to the villages of Galilee to heal the sick, forgive people's sins and teach them how to live in God's kingdom.

His listeners needed to let go of their picture of how God was going to fulfill his promises. They needed to focus their attention on Jesus, trust that he knew what he was doing, humble themselves and learn from him how to cooperate with the way God's kingdom was actually coming into the world.

What about us? Don't we, too, have expectations for how God will move obstacles out of the way, give us success, protect us and fill our lives with blessings?

But then we lose a parent, or a child, or a spouse. We make some mistakes and suffer hard consequences. We lose our job, we lose our health. We and those close to us suffer in one way or another.

The gap between our expectations for how God was going to work in our lives and what is actually happening can become huge. This puts us right back there with the people who first encountered Jesus in Galilee.

We have the opportunity to discover more deeply, or perhaps for the first time, who he really is and what he has come to do in our lives. If we pay attention, we will experience what the psalmist proclaims: "Those who sow in tears shall reap rejoicing."

This guest editorial was written by Kevin Perrotta, the editor and an author of the "Six Weeks With the Bible" series.



MISSION STATEMENT

Diocese of Lafayette-in-Indiana

We are the people of God
uniting in the heart
of Jesus Christ.
We join the whole Church in
proclaiming the Gospel in
Word, Sacrament and Charity
for the salvation of all people.

VISUAL REFLECTIONS



(CNS file photo/Carolos Jasso, Reuters)

*If we have no peace, it is because we have forgotten
that we belong to each other.*

— St. Teresa of Kolkata

'Kindness Counts' in all our relationships

St. Francis de Sales once said, "A spoonful of honey gets more flies than a barrel full of vinegar." This take on an old English proverb points to the reality that likable things will naturally be more attractive than those which are harsh or bitter. St. Francis shared this wisdom in order to highlight how to be effective in sharing the truth with others.

Kindness counts in our relationships, especially those with whom we occasionally find ourselves in minor disagreements or who may be hostile to our ideas.

The Christopher News Note "Kindness Counts" is a classic that remains as relevant today as it ever was. It opens with a line by famed screenwriter Myles Connolly: "Everybody at one time or another has known such people — strangers, relatives or friends — who have changed the quality of the day for others ... The shining

Light One Candle



BY FATHER ED DOUGHERTY, MM

quality of goodness radiates from them, from their mere presence. All these, humble and unaware, carry with them the kindness and generosity of their lives. These are the greatest artists; they practice the highest of arts — the art of living, the art of life itself."

Kindness manifests itself in different ways. When we find people in desperate circumstances, kindness may call for heroic actions of rescue, protection or advocacy to overcome seemingly impossible odds. We often see this sort of heroism in soldiers, police officers, fire-

fighters, and missionaries in various fields.

But heroic kindness can manifest itself in small ways as well. We can promote harmony within our families and in the workplace, and we can stay committed to reaching out to people wherever we go.

The "Kindness Counts" News Note tells of a man living alone who says, "What a difference it makes when people at Mass treat you like a family member, not someone intruding on their private space."

The moment we think we're done having to be sensitive to others' needs and appreciate where they are coming from is the moment our relationships will begin to degrade. So we should all commit to taking up the cross that true kindness entails. We will see our relationships flourish and the kingdom of God begin to manifest itself wherever we go.

2nd SUNDAY OF ADVENT



Guest column

Author draws inspiration from saints who lived with disabilities

By Maureen Pratt
Catholic News Service

Like many of us, when Megan Gannon lifts a concern in prayer, she turns to Mary, the mother of Jesus, first.

"I'm a big believer in the whole St. Louis de Montfort idea of 'to Jesus through Mary,'" Gannon said.

But, she also has another, less familiar, go-to saint: Blessed Herman of Reichenau. The 11th-century German Benedictine monk was born with cerebral palsy and spina bifida, yet despite his disabilities made significant contributions to science, theology, poetry and music.

"I really identify with

Blessed Herman," said Gannon, who also was born with cerebral palsy. "I like how much he was able to accomplish in his life, even though he had multiple disabilities.

People who know me will say that I'm a very determined person and have a wide range of interests. I'm glad to see the same traits in Herman."

Cerebral palsy, a neurological disorder, affects everyone who has it differently.

"In my case, my mind works fine," Gannon, a college graduate, said, "but (cerebral palsy) affects all my motor skills, as well as my speech. My muscles can be very tight and spastic, but I

also have lots of extra movements. I'm able to drive my power wheelchair, but basically need a lot of assistance with all aspects of daily life. Also, because I don't have control over my arms/hands to use the keyboard and mouse, I use a Tobii Dynavox eye gaze system."

The technology uses a camera to track Gannon's eyes as she looks at an on-screen keyboard to select the letters she wants to type, and allows her to "click on" something on the screen by holding her gaze on it for a certain amount of time, and includes a speech output capability.

Through her communication system, she engages actively with people in her parish. She participates in a Catholic women's study

group, providing written comments for the discussion, and serves as the parish Web master.

And then there is Blessed Herman.

"When I was young, saints were sort of like super heroes who did amazing things, but I couldn't really identify with them on a personal level," said Gannon.

Several years ago, after searching but not finding a book on saints with disabilities, Gannon began to look for the saints online. Finding several, the idea for a book formed.

"I never imagined that I would write a book. But I just couldn't get this out of my head," she said. "I figured if I hadn't heard of them (saints with disabilities), others probably hadn't

either, and I began to think that these saints could be both an inspiration and role models for many others with various disabilities."

In 2014, Gannon self-published "Special Saints for Special People." Included with Blessed Herman are eight other saints who lived with disabilities ranging from blindness to diabetes. She gives programs on her book in schools, and finds it provides a way for adults to approach her, too.

Where disability can be a divider, it is a blessing to be able to recall the saints who have gone before us — Blessed Herman from the 11th century, or another from another time — who give companionship for the journey and inspiration for the soul.



Maureen Pratt

LOOKING BACK

These stories appeared in *The Catholic Moment* and its predecessor, the Lafayette edition of *Our Sunday Visitor*:

- **50 years ago, Dec. 8, 1968:** Many parishes in the Lafayette diocese held a Thanksgiving clothing collection in cooperation with the U.S. bishops' annual Thanksgiving clothing collection for the needy overseas.

- **25 years ago, Dec. 5, 1993:** The Cathedral of St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception in Lafayette will close out its yearlong celebration of 150 years as a parish on Dec. 8. Father Richard Weisenberger is the current pastor of the parish.

- **10 years ago, Dec. 7, 2008:** Eighth-graders at Our Lady of Grace School, Noblesville, have created a mosaic bench as a class gift to their school. The wooden bench is covered with thousands of pieces of colored glass and tile in a design made by the students.

- **Five years ago, Dec. 8, 2013:** The Catholic Social Justice Committee of St. Ambrose and St. Mary parishes in Anderson recently hosted a presentation on "Hunger in Madison County: The Impact of Food Insecurity." Of the 130,000 county residents, an estimated 21,070 are considered "food insecure."

You're always welcome here.

Come to St. Ambrose Church, Anderson.



When you are not with us, we miss you.



Lord's Day Masses
Saturday: 5:30 p.m.
Sunday: 9:30 a.m.



*To see more Mass times across the Lafayette diocese, visit the Web site at www.dol-in.org and look for all of our parishes in coming weeks in *The Catholic Moment*.*

Saints of the week



Lucy
 (circa 284 - 304)
 Feast: Dec. 13

St. Lucy, venerated by Christians since her own time, likely was martyred in Sicily, probably during the persecutions of Roman Emperor Diocletian, who ruled from 284 to 305. However, legends about Lucy include a rejected suitor denouncing her as a Christian and miracles that saved her from life in a brothel, from being burned at the stake and from having her eyes plucked out. Lucy, whose name suggests light, is among the saints listed in the canon of the Mass; she is the patron saint of electricians and ophthalmologists and Christians pray for her intercession regarding diseases of the eyes.

(Catholic News Service)

INCREDIBLE Saints

Truly Incredible Stories of Incredible Saints

ST. FRANCIS XAVIER LIVED BY THE GOSPEL AND BY THE MAP, TOO.

HE WAS ONE OF THE FIRST JESUITS - THE FOLLOWERS OF **ST. IGNATIUS OF LOYOLA**. IGNATIUS SENT FRANCIS TO MINISTER IN THE EAST INDIES WHOSE PEOPLE WERE SUBJECTS OF THE KING OF PORTUGAL.

WHEN FRANCIS ARRIVED THERE, HE FOUND THAT THE GOSPEL WASN'T BEING PRACTICED. LOCAL RESIDENTS WERE TREATED UNJUSTLY BY THE PORTUGUESE. HE MINISTERED AMONG SLAVES, THE POOR AND THE SICK, PROVIDING FOOD FOR THEIR BODIES AND FOOD FOR THEIR SOULS.

HE CONTINUED TO TRAVEL AND MINISTER THROUGHOUT INDIA AND EVENTUALLY SAILED TO JAPAN AND THEN TO CHINA. IT WASN'T EASY.

NOT ONLY DID FRANCIS SUFFER FROM SEVERE SEASICKNESS, BUT SOME GOVERNMENT LEADERS DID NOT WANT THEIR PEOPLE TO HEAR THE WORD OF GOD. BUT FRANCIS PERSISTED. HE AND THE OTHER MISSIONARIES KNEW THE GOSPEL WAS MORE POWERFUL THAN ANY EARTHLY FORCE, SO THEY DID WHATEVER WAS NECESSARY TO SHARE IT WITH THOSE THEY MET.

THE WORD OF GOD GAVE THEM STRENGTH AND THE HAND OF GOD WAS THEIR MAP, TAKING THEM WHERE HE NEEDED THEM TO BE.



THE ADVENT WREATH

THE SECOND CANDLE IS LIT.

O Emmanuel, Jesus Christ, desire of every nation, Savior of all peoples, come and dwell among us.

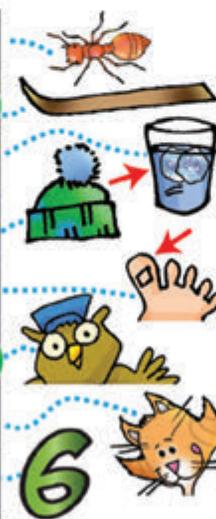
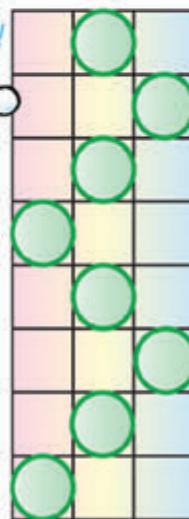


A PRAYER TO SAY WHILE LIGHTING THIS WEEK'S CANDLE.



REMEMBERED! This saint was archbishop of Myra and he has been remembered and beloved ever since his reign. Find his name by finishing each word using the picture clues. Then write the circled letters from top to bottom on the lines.

Ask him to PRAY for you!



6



KEPT SAFE On the feast of the Immaculate Conception we pay homage to the Blessed Virgin Mary for a unique grace God bestowed on her. Use the code to decipher from what God preserved Our Lady.



GO ON SATURDAY What sacrament should we receive at least once during Advent? Cross out each letter that appears three times. Then write the remaining letters in order on the lines below.



NAME GAME Because she is the Queen of Heaven, Our Lady has many titles, pictures and statues in her honor. What is the name of the image given to St. Juan Diego on his tilma. Just add the missing vowels.

__ R L _ D _ _ F
G _ _ D _ L _ P



The Kids' Page is created by Catholic artist Mario Macari of Greenfield, Wis., and edited by the staff of the *Catholic Herald* in Milwaukee.

Five girls and several adults from St. Charles Borromeo Parish in Peru recently visited the Poor Clare Sisters in Kokomo to learn about their way of life.



Girls pictured from St. Charles are: Kaylene Kirk, Madi Nallenweg, Ravi McCain, Aliyah Acuna and Penelope Hagan. (Photo provided)



Faith fundamentals at your fingertips



The online version of the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* is easy to search and read. Visit the U.S. bishops' Web site at: www.usccb.org.