

The Catholic Moment

Serving the Diocese of Lafayette-in-Indiana



Volume 74, Number 45

December 16, 2018



Making the acquaintance of John the Baptist during Advent, Page 13

Pope Francis to make historic visit to Arabian Peninsula

By Junno Arocho Esteves
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope Francis will visit the United Arab Emirates next year, becoming the first pope to visit the Arabian Peninsula, the Vatican announced.

In a Dec. 6 statement, the Vatican said the pope will

“participate in the International Interfaith Meeting on ‘Human Fraternity’” after receiving an invitation by Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al-Nahyan, crown prince of Abu Dhabi.



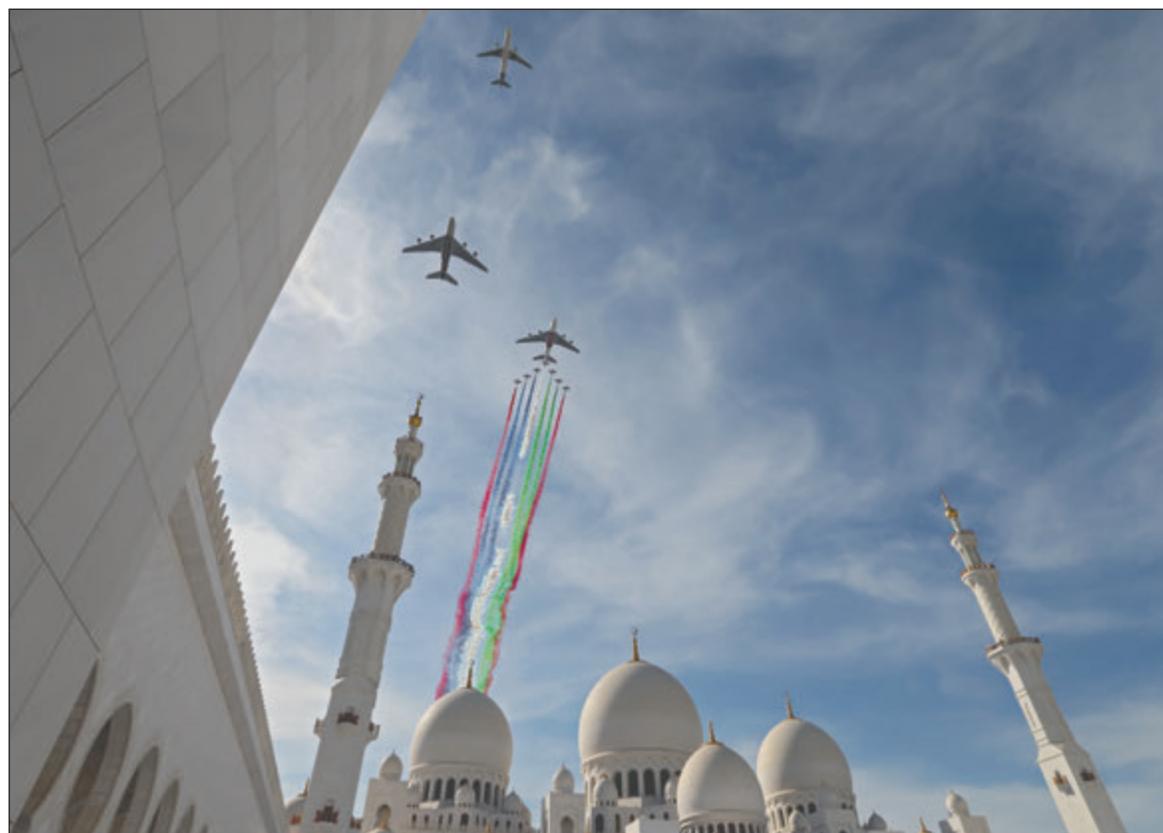
Pope Francis

Mohammed bin Zayed Al-Nahyan, crown prince of Abu Dhabi.

“The visit will take place also in response to the invitation of the Catholic Church in the United Arab Emirates,” the Vatican said.

The trip Feb. 3-5 will take place less than a week after

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Airline carriers Emirates, Etihad, Flydubai and Air Arabia perform by flying over Sheikh Zayed Mosque to celebrate the United Arab Emirates’ 47th National Day, in Abu Dhabi Dec. 2. Pope Francis is scheduled to visit the United Arab Emirates Feb. 3-5. (CNS photo/Ali Haider, EPA)



POPE FRANCIS
UNITED ARAB EMIRATES
3-5 FEBRUARY 2019

A priest for 28 years, Father Kroeger dies at 63



Father Timothy Kroeger

By Gabby Hlavek
The Catholic Moment

LEBANON — Father Timothy D. Kroeger, 63, a priest in the Diocese of Lafayette-in-Indiana for more than 20 years, died on Dec. 9.

“He was such a good man. He cared so much about everyone,” said Karen Metzger, a longtime parishioner and friend of Father Kroeger. “I was just reminiscing about his love of the Mass. He’s been saying Mass

every day around 11 a.m. at his home since he got sick. It has kept him in such good spirits to see so many people and visit with them. His ministry was always most important.”

Born on Aug. 7, 1955, Timothy Kroeger was a native of northcentral Indiana and attended Logansport High School.

He went on to Loyola University in Chicago and came back to work for several years in his family’s funeral home, where his father

was the funeral director.

Growing up in the funeral business was a valuable preparatory course for the priesthood because of the emphasis on caregiving, dealing with people, and meeting them where they were, he said in a previous interview with *The Catholic Moment*.

Father Kroeger eventually entered the seminary in 1983. “I always felt the call,” he said.

(Continued on Page 6)

46 years a priest, Father Haslinger dies at 74

By Gabby Hlavek
The Catholic Moment

CLEVELAND, Ohio — Father Philip S. Haslinger, 74, died Dec. 3 at the Cleveland Clinic after serving the Diocese of Lafayette-in-Indiana for 46 years.

A funeral Mass was celebrated on Dec. 10 at St. Joseph Church in Fremont, Ohio.

Philip Haslinger was born to Paul E. and Jane L. Haslinger on Nov. 22, 1944, the second of four children.

A native of Fremont, he attended St. Joseph’s grade and high schools in Ohio, and then went on to receive his bachelor’s degree from St. Mary’s College in Kentucky.

Father Haslinger attended seminary in Indianapolis and was ordained a priest of the Lafayette diocese on May 27, 1972, by Bishop Raymond Gallagher at the Cathedral of St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception in Lafayette.

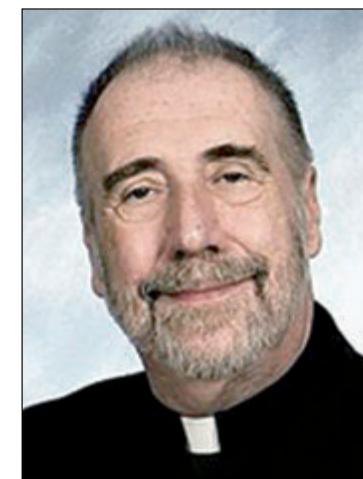
Father Haslinger spent his

first year as a priest at the Church of the Blessed Sacrament in West Lafayette, where he served as associate pastor.

In 1973, he was appointed diocesan director for religious education, which at that time was located in Kokomo. While there, he filled in as chaplain at St. Joseph’s Hospital and ultimately became full-time chaplain in 1977.

“You were there to try to

(Continued on Page 3)



Father Philip Haslinger

The **Benton County Catholic School Educational Trust (BCCSET)** invites those in need of an end-of-the-year tax deductible contribution to consider making a donation to the trust. The trust fund is in place to help financially support Catholic education for Benton County children, with an annual fund distribution to Sacred Heart School in Fowler as well as to religion education programs at St. Mary Parish in Dunnington, Sacred Heart Parish in Fowler, St. John the Baptist Parish in Earl Park, St. Patrick Parish in Oxford and St. Charles Parish in Otterbein. Established in 1993, the trust is managed by a 15-member board from all five Benton County parishes. Donations may be made payable to BCCSET and sent to:



BCCSET, P.O. Box 25, Fowler, IN 47944 or go to the Web site at bentoncatholictrust.org to make a contribution online.

Two residents who live in the Diocese of Lafayette-in-Indiana recently deepened their relationship with the **Sisters of Providence** of Saint Mary-of-the-Woods. Westfield resident Carri O'Donnell and Middletown resident Starletta Schipp joined 21 others as they made the commitment to become **Providence Associates** with the

Sisters of Providence. Sister Susan Paweski, co-director of the Providence Associates, said



Carri O'Donnell



Starletta Schipp

in order to become an associate, a candidate is paired with a Sister of Providence or Providence Associate companion and then goes through a year of study, prayer and reflection. "They both commit to praying and meeting on a regular basis to unfold the mission and ministry of the Sisters of Providence," Sister Susan said. "A binder of materials, the Spiritual Integration Units, provides the background, spirituality and mission of the con-

gregation." The recent commitment ceremony brought the total of Providence Associates to more

than 270. This year, 19 women and men began their journeys as candidate-associates. The associate relationship is open to all people of faith, ages 18 and older. To learn more, visit the Web site at ProvidenceAssociates.org or contact co-director Debbie Dillow at 317-250-3294 or by e-mail at ddillow@spsmw.org or Sister Susan at 312-909-7492 or by e-mail at spaweski@spsmw.org.



**December 16
Third Sunday
of Advent
Cycle C Readings:**

- 1) *Zephaniah 3:14-18a*
- 2) *Philippians 4:4-7*
- 3) *Gospel: Luke 3:10-18*

- Monday, Dec. 17*
- 1) *Genesis 49:2, 8-10*
 - 2) *Gospel: Matthew 1:1-17*

- Tuesday, Dec. 18*
- 1) *Jeremiah 23:5-8*
 - 2) *Gospel: Matthew 1:18-25*

- Wednesday, Dec. 19*
- 1) *Judges 13:2-7, 24-25a*
 - 2) *Gospel: Luke 1:5-25*

- Thursday, Dec. 20*
- 1) *Isaiah 7:10-14*
 - 2) *Gospel: Luke 1:26-38*

- Friday, Dec. 21*
- 1) *Song of Songs 2:8-14 or Zephaniah 3:14-18a*
 - 2) *Gospel: Luke 1:39-45*

- Saturday, Dec. 22*
- 1) *1 Samuel 1:24-28*
 - 2) *Gospel: Luke 1:46-56*

The texts of Scripture readings for the Mass for every day of the week are linked to the diocesan Web site at www.dol-in.org.



St. Nicholas recently visited faith formation classes at St. Charles Borromeo Parish in Peru. At left are students in pre-kindergarten through sixth-grade classes, standing on the front school stairs. At right is pastor Father Adam Mauman with St. Nicholas. (Photos provided)





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The Catholic Moment

USPS 403-610 ISSN 1087-2604

PUBLISHER:
Most Rev. Timothy L. Doherty

EDITOR: Gabby Hlavek

ASSISTANT EDITOR: Laurie Cullen

Address all correspondence to:
The Catholic Moment
P.O. Box 1603, Lafayette, IN 47902
765-742-2050
e-mail: moment@dol-in.org

Shipping address for packages:
610 Lingle Ave., Lafayette, IN 47901

Published weekly except the second and fourth weeks in July and August and the last week in December.

Subscription price:
\$27 per year; \$75 per copy
Through parish: \$22 per year

Periodical postage paid at Lafayette, IN, and at additional mailing offices.

Postmaster: Send address changes to:
The Catholic Moment
P.O. Box 1603, Lafayette, IN 47902
Member of Catholic Press Association

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Prophet Ezekiel explored the nature of sin against God

During the Advent season, we are conscious of the coming of Jesus, but also of human sins which occasioned his Incarnation. Before Jesus came as God become man to save us from sin, it is important to realize precisely what sin is. For this purpose, it is good for us to explore the inspired Hebrew Bible writings of the prophet Ezekiel.

We know very little about the origins of this man. In many respects he was a person of contradictions. For example, he was a priest of the Old Testament lineage of Levi. However, the Jerusalem temple of God had been destroyed by the Babylonians. As a result, he was unable to function as a priest in offering sacrifice. He was a member of God's people of

**A Moment
with
Monsignor**



BY MSGR. JOHN DUNCAN

Israel, yet he lived in exile in Babylon. This exile was a discipline from God for his people who had sinned against him. Ezekiel was called to explore the nature of sin against God. As we prepare for the second coming of Jesus at the world's end, it is important that we make this same exploration.

Previous to their exile in Babylon — modern day Iraq — the Chosen People had looked upon sin as a collec-

tive offense against God. Everyone belonging to the tribes of Israel, from the king to the peasant, was responsible for multiple sins against God. In effect, this meant that they felt that no one was personally responsible. This common guilt was somewhat like our national debt today. Our debt is owed to faceless creditors by every citizen, from our president to a newly born child. However, our debt is so huge that no one can pay for it. Therefore, no one assumes responsibility for this crushing indebtedness.

Ezekiel as a prophet spoke to God's people in the name of God. He forcefully reminded them that they were individually, as persons with free will, responsible for their own sins. Per-

sonal guilt could not be transferred to parents, children or the king. This responsibility could not be dissolved in the multitude of the whole nation. It had to be assumed by individuals.

Ezekiel reminded the people that their exile from their homeland of Israel and the reduction of their worship of God without sacrifices were punishments for serious, personal transgressions. He also predicted that the pagan nations which were mercilessly persecuting them would themselves be punished. He promised that the people would be restored to their homeland and would again worship God in an appropriate manner.

As Catholic Christians, we must recognize our own sins. As individual believers,

we rebel against God as did the Chosen People before their exile.

Like the Jewish people in Ezekiel's time, we are in exile from our heavenly homeland in this world. We need to accept retribution for our sins, replace these sins with virtues by the merciful grace of God and worship in true sincerity and repentance.

Every Catholic parish has at least one confessional for the forgiveness of sins. We begin each Mass with an admission of individual guilt. This is very much in the spirit and tradition of Ezekiel.

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

Father Haslinger remembered for kindness, calm presence

(Continued from Page 1)

help these folks. It really didn't matter if you were Catholic and they were Presbyterian. It really helped me to grow a lot. Each case was so different. It was a good time in my life," Father Haslinger said regarding his time as chaplain, in a previous interview with *The Sunday Visitor* in 1991.

In 1984, he was named pastor of Our Lady of Grace Parish in Noblesville, serving as the first diocesan pastor of the parish.

In July 1985, he moved to St. Mary Parish in Alexandria where he spent nearly 15 years as pastor. One of his biggest achievements while at St. Mary's was the building of a new school structure. At the time, it was the only entirely new Catholic school building to be built in northcentral Indiana since the early 1960s.

Msgr. Robert L. Sell, pastor of St. Ambrose and St. Mary parishes in Anderson and former vicar general for the Diocese of Lafayette-in-Indiana, said, "Father Haslinger had a dedication to the welfare of the children and wanted the best form of Catholic education provided to them. He worked to establish a curriculum and staff conducive to the learning and enjoyment of the children."



Father Haslinger poses for a photo with first communicants at St. Mary Parish in Alexandria in this 2011 photo.

In 1999, Father Haslinger became pastor at St. Charles Borromeo Parish, Peru, and a year later, while maintaining his duties at St. Charles, became the dean of the Logansport Deanery.

"Even through the challenging situations that Father Phil encountered, he would try to ask himself 'What would Jesus do?' That was a driving principle for his ministry," said Msgr. Sell.

Two years later, Father Haslinger was named pastor at All Saints Parish in Logansport and in 2004 he became associate pastor at St. Alphonsus Liguori Parish in Zionsville.

Father Haslinger's last assignment was in 2006 as

associate pastor at St. Louis de Montfort Parish in Fishers.

Maggie Berger previously worked in the St. Louis de Montfort parish office with Father Haslinger.

"Even after he left SLDM, our family kept in touch with him," she said. "He went out of his way to visit my grandmother when she was in a nursing home and even fed her ice cream when he visited. She didn't know too many people at that time, but she always knew him. He presided at her funeral, and for this my family will always be grateful."

Msgr. Sell added, "Father Phil had a very keen sense of care for the sick. He always

provided spiritual care and a sense of belonging for those who were ill."

Melissa Crowley, a parishioner of St. Louis de Montfort, also worked with Father Haslinger.

"He brought a sense of civility and grace to parish and school committee meetings, no matter how sensitive the issue being discussed and debated," she said. "He was a good facilitator by teaching us how to disagree without being disagreeable."

"I will always remember his calm presence (and that he) was a patient listener and genuinely kind man."

Julie Ferrucci also worked with Father Haslinger at St. Louis de Montfort Parish.

"We were very fond of Father Phil. He was kind to all of us from the moment we first met him," she said. "My husband, Steve, worked closely with Father Phil on some committees and I did some volunteer work at the parish ..."

Father Haslinger was also a big proponent of the community during his time in Fishers and worked to build the parish community.

"He enjoyed organizing

small faith sharing opportunities for all age groups," Ferrucci said. "He worked closely with our St. Ann's group, which is a group of mature adults that provide many services for the entire parish ... he had a positive influence on the community. He seemed to have a passion for helping those who needed support."

Christopher Palabrica worked on the Stewardship and Parish Council with Father Haslinger.

"He had a great sense of humor," Palabrica said. "After he left SLDM, we remained in contact and often had breakfast. He was very interested in my family and how everyone was doing. His homilies were often thought provoking and challenged us to be good Catholics."

Father Haslinger was granted retirement in 2010 and spent the last several years back in his hometown of Fremont, Ohio.

Msgr. Sell spoke of Father Haslinger's compassion for people everywhere he served.

"His application of the Scripture to his daily life and the overall care he showed, made him a good shepherd to all those entrusted to him."

May he rest in peace.



Above: New video screens are in place in the church. At left are attendees at the 2018 Divine Renovation conference, including: front from left, Caleb Schultz, Missy Krockover, Katie Pechin, Brooke Folkers and Susana Venis; back from left, Chad Krockover, Sean O'Dea, Dan McCarty, Deacon Will Summerlin and Father Ted Dudzinski.

Impact of 'Divine Renovation' grows at West Lafayette parish

By **Sandi Patel**
For The Catholic Moment

WEST LAFAYETTE — The Church of the Blessed Sacrament has been studying Father James Mallon's book "Divine Renovation: Bringing Your Parish from Maintenance to Mission" since August 2015.

The parish staff and pastoral council read the book together and discerned how its 10 guiding values could be implemented at the parish. They held a Vision Day in April 2016 where more than 100 engaged ministry disciples came to share in the vision of Divine Renovation. And in June 2018, team leaders of the parish attended the Divine Renovation conference (DR18) in Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada, to learn more about how to breathe new life into their parish.

Now, it's amazing to see how all of that work has paid off.

Father Theodore Dudzinski, pastor of the Church of the Blessed Sacrament and vicar general of the Diocese of Lafayette-in-Indiana, reflected on the past six months and the time his team spent at the June conference. "I know it was a great opportunity for the staff to hear live witnesses of churches transitioning from maintenance to mission mode."

Father Dudzinski adds, "The challenges and successes and the spiritual battles of allowing the Holy Spirit room to transform lives and

parishes are real. Our experiences are no different.

"Sometimes staff and parishioners are not inspired to embrace a more dynamic relationship with the person of Jesus or the mission of his Church and so they move on; this is both disappointing and sad," he said. "Yet, others are so inspired they strengthen my (our parish's) resolve to live into Christ's mission. The bottom line is this: Divine Renovation happens at God's pace."

The parish staff and pastoral council have been hard at work trying to implement all 10 values of the Divine Renovation program at the Church of the Blessed Sacrament.

For example, the Senior Leadership Team meets regularly to intentionally connect the readings, Gospel and music to one another with a Sunday messaging theme.

Susana Venis, a pastoral council member, believes that the addition of technology and video screens in the church has allowed members to participate more in the Mass, whether they are Catholic or not.

"Including music and lyrics, words to the readings and Gospel, and Mass parts with more contemporary music has motivated many to feel the pleasure and joy of celebrating the Eucharist at Blessed Sacrament," she says.

Chad Krockover agrees. "By embracing technology, people come into worship where they are and all feel

The Divine Renovation model's 10 values

The Divine Renovation model outlines 10 values shared by healthy, growing churches who want to rethink parish life and become assemblies of disciples of Jesus.

- Giving priority to the weekend;
- Hospitality;
- Uplifting music;
- Homilies;
- Meaningful community;
- Clear expectations;
- Strengths-based ministry;
- Formation of small communities;
- Experience of the Holy Spirit; and
- Become an inviting church.

welcomed." He believes that using sacred imagery connected to the Mass theme enhances the worship experience.

Uplifting music is another one of the Divine Renovation values that is evident during the Mass.

Caleb Schultz, pastoral assistant for music and worship, shared the importance of inviting people into prayer through music.

"In my area in particular, I love seeing continual growth by helping to bring the congregation into worship through our music ministry, particularly through our use of different types of music at the different Masses, and

using music at Alpha, and retreats throughout the year. I want to invite people into musical prayer, so they know how much God loves them," he says.

Alpha is one program centered on developing meaningful community, as well as forming small communities.

Sean O'Dea, pastoral assistant for evangelization and youth, says, "Alpha is our culture-changing opportunity that focuses greatly on relationships with Jesus, one another in small groups, and with God the Father."

The first goal of Alpha is to create a warm, welcoming, non-threatening environment that invites people from all walks of life to encounter Christ. It is a fresh way to explore the Gospel that is non-denominational.

By the end of the 10-week program, a sense of community has grown, and many are led to a personal relationship with Christ.

From the Alpha experience, people may join the Alpha Team to take the program forward for the next group of participants. Their relationship with God flourishes as they are involved with more prayer and deeper relationships with others through service.

O'Dea adds, "I constantly go back to the presentations we heard at DR18. It helped me set our ministries on the right foot as we bring new life to our parish through the creation and development of Connect Groups, Beta Nights, and the new Alphas

for youth and young adults."

Looking to the future, Missy Krockover, executive director of parish life and administration, sees a variety of opportunities to continue their transformation as a parish. "The newly opened Adoration Chapel is a great first step for all future goals; we hope to inspire a foundation of prayer, trust and thanksgiving for the gift of God, our Creator, and Jesus, his Son."

According to Missy Krockover, they are also planning a Leadership Summit. "We want to invest in our disciples (leaders in lay ministry) with presenters who clarify the mission, vision and purpose for 'why' we do what we do at Church of the Blessed Sacrament."

O'Dea hopes to create an "Ananias Training Program," a 1:1 mentorship that will allow more spiritually developed parishioners to meet with new parishioners, or those looking for further spiritual development.

Venis would like to find ways to involve more Hispanics in the Church, and Katie Pechin, pastoral assistant for mission and discipleship, hopes "for full pews of joyful parishioners who are missionary disciples."

Missy Krockover sums it up best: "The power of an invitation can lead to a personal encounter with Jesus and a lifetime of hope, peace, joy and love."

Guest column

'Divine Renovation' values come alive in firsthand experience

By Sandi Patel

For The Catholic Moment

Having followed the Church of the Blessed Sacrament for the past six months on its commitment to the Divine Renovation model, I attended a weekend Mass to experience the ongoing transformation firsthand.

As the liturgy began, Father Ted Dudzinski, pastor of the parish and vicar general of the Diocese of Lafayette-in-Indiana, invited those attending to introduce themselves to someone they didn't know and ask them for a prayer intention to offer for them during Mass and the week ahead.

Bart walked over from the other end of my pew, opening himself to enter a relationship with me. In that moment, I understood the reality of the Divine Renovation model and all I learned from the parish staff at Blessed Sacrament.

The model outlines 10 values shared by healthy, growing churches who want to rethink parish life and become assemblies of disciples of Jesus. (See Page 4.)

As Father James Mallon writes about each value in his book "Divine Renovation: Bringing Your Parish from Maintenance to Mission," he gives examples of his experience at St. Benedict Parish in Nova Scotia, Canada.

The team from the Church of the Blessed Sacrament traveled to Nova Scotia in June to experience the 2018 Divine Renovation confer-



Participants in the fall 2018 Alpha (Photos provided)

ence. They met the parishioners at St. Benedict Parish, heard their stories, and connected with faithful from all over the world who share this missional vision of bringing souls to Christ.

Missy Krockover, executive director of parish life and administration at Blessed Sacrament Parish, reflected to me, "I continue to visualize the energy and commitment of St. Benedict parishioners who are leading and investing their time, talent and treasure into inviting others into the life of the parish. They share 'who Jesus is' with those they encounter."

My first impressions came on the walls of the gathering space and connecting hallways. Much like a home, they are adorned with pictures of the parish family engaging in the life of the parish. From education sessions to socials, the pastor, parish staff members and parishioners are shown smiling and engaging in the activities that bring the family together. It reflects the joy of belonging.

Then, the greetings began.

Every parish staff member, all present on Sunday mornings, greeted me as he or she walked by. In a few brief moments, I was no longer a stranger, but a welcomed guest.

When I asked what a visitor to the parish would notice, Susana Venis, pastoral council member, told me, "A person who comes to our church enters a large family where everyone offers talents to serve."

Katie Pechin, pastoral assistant for mission and discipleship, added, "We want people to feel loved, and a part of us."

It is safe to say that they have the value of hospitality embedded into their community.

Family-based faith formation is just one program introduced to build meaningful community. I witnessed this in session with children in their individual classes and parents gathered in a large meeting room.

The morning schedule is intentionally set to allow for focused time on both worship and catechesis, with Mass either before or after faith formation.

According to Pechin, this program, introduced in September, provides catechesis for both parents and children on the same topic at age-appropriate levels.

"The benefit of this type of programming is that parents engage with each other as well as with their children," she said. As the individual sessions conclude, parents and children are reunited in the sanctuary.

There, musicians provide a prayerful environment

with a song; the lyrics are projected on the screen so people may join in as they enter. Krockover leads the families in a closing prayer as she thanks them for attending. There is a strong sense of community as families either leave for home or prepare for Mass.

Uplifting music, homilies and becoming an inviting church are three Divine Renovation values that were obvious to me within the Mass.

The music, Sunday message and homily are connected by a theme each Sunday. On this particular Sunday, the last of the liturgical year, the theme was the end of time.

In his homily, Father Dudzinski tied the topic from family faith formation to the Gospel reading and then gave three specific lessons to reflect on during the coming week.

It was also clear to me that the addition of technology and video screens in the church helps members actively participate in the Mass. Whether people belong to the parish, are visiting for the weekend or looking for a new church home, the screens invite everyone into the liturgy.

A beautiful image of Jesus standing with his apostles on the Mount of Olives looking out over the Kidron Valley at the beautiful temple that was soon to be destroyed made it easy for me to imagine myself in that scene during the homily.

I enjoyed being able to sing the songs with my eyes lifted toward the altar to see the words projected on the

screen.

Additional youth and young adult Alphas, the opening of the new Adoration Chapel and prayer partners add to the commitment that the Church of the Blessed Sacrament has to following the Divine Renovation model.

Making introductions to people in the pews, like Bart at the beginning of my Mass experience, is no longer a foreign concept to parishioners.

Brooke Folkers, a pastoral council member, told me, "I think we are starting to become more comfortable introducing ourselves to one another and actually asking for prayer from our fellow parishioners. To be able to share the joys and struggles of another person definitely helps to develop community."

I agree. When I shared what was in my heart with my prayer partner at the start of Mass and he with me, I experienced hospitality, meaningful community and the Holy Spirit, working through him. It felt welcoming and, when Father Dudzinski offered an intercession for the needs of our prayer partners, it became powerful!

The model of Divine Renovation and the outcome of the 2018 conference is definitely transforming the parish family at the Church of the Blessed Sacrament.

Sandi Patel is the Lilly Endowment Inc grant project coordinator for the Diocese of Lafayette-in-Indiana. She lives in Indianapolis with her husband and son.



Sandi Patel



Family-based faith formation

'He was a pastor with a very loving heart for his people'

(Continued from Page 1)

"I have long considered Father Tim Kroeger to be a special gift. I say that because even though he was a native of Logansport, he was ordained in 1990 by Bishop John Myers, bishop of Peoria, for the Franciscans," said Bishop Emeritus William L. Higi.

Father Kroeger was ordained a Franciscan priest on Sept. 29, 1990, in Peoria. He said he was drawn to the Franciscan community's devotion to living, praying and dining together.

His study and work assignments took him to Chicago, Peoria, Detroit, Staten Island, N.Y., and Albany, N.Y., but he eventually felt the desire to be grounded in a parish.

After much prayer and discussion, Father Kroeger spoke with Bishop Higi about becoming a diocesan priest.

"In 1995, Father Kroeger felt God was calling him home to our diocese," Bishop Higi said. "All the necessary steps were taken to make that possible and he accepted assignment to St. Joan of Arc Parish, Kokomo. Three years later (in 1998), he was incardinated as a priest of this diocese. What a gift."

It was during this time that his friendship with Father David Hellmann, then pastor of St. Joan of Arc Parish, really blossomed.

"I remember people coming up to us and saying, 'The two of you actually seem like you like each other. We've never really experienced two priests who worked together as well as you two have,'" Father Hellmann, now pastor of St. Lawrence Parish in Muncie, said with a laugh. "I would tell them 'Well, you know, we are friends!' We had such a good respect for each other. We cared about each other."

In 1998, Father Kroeger was named associate pastor of St. Thomas Aquinas Parish, on the Purdue University campus in West Lafayette.

He became associate pastor of St. Louis de Montfort Parish, Fishers, in 1999, and served as pastor there from 2001-2005.

After a yearlong sabbatical at Catholic Theological Union, Chicago, he was



In late 2015, Father Kroeger began experiencing symptoms of Parkinson's disease. Ultimately, the disease led to his retirement from St. Joseph Parish, Lebanon, earlier this year. Above is Father Kroeger in his home in Lebanon this fall. (File photos by Kevin Cullen)

named pastor in Lebanon.

At the time, Father Kroeger said "it was God's providence" to be allowed to return to his home diocese, where he was able to spend time with his father, stepmother and other relatives.

Father Kroeger spent 13 years at St. Joseph Parish in Lebanon as pastor.

"He was a very spiritual man with a lot of insight into people. Things were obvious to him that weren't obvious to others. He could read people very well," said Father Hellmann. "He could also identify gifts within people and help them use their gifts for the service of God. He was a good listener. There was such a bond between the people of his parish and him that was just very strong."

During his time in Lebanon, Father Kroeger helped the parish build a new church.

"I will remember Father Tim as a great leader of our parish. His leadership throughout the new building project was tremendous," said parishioner and friend Michael Reynolds.

"He listened to the people and their desire for a new church building. It was built to serve what the people desired. It wasn't his church or his building, it was theirs.

He was a pastor with a very loving heart for his people," Father Hellmann said.

In late 2015, Father Kroeger began experiencing symptoms of Parkinson's disease. The progressive, incurable disease made him weak, exhausted and unable to walk without a walker. Ultimately, the disease led to his retirement from St. Joseph Parish earlier this year.

"He never, ever complained about his disease. Father always had a way to make you feel good no matter the situation. He would have the feelings of others before his own. Every time I would leave his house I would feel good about helping him and wanting to continue doing so," Reynolds said.

He assisted Father Kroeger with the Saturday vigil Mass as his health began to deteriorate.

After his retirement, Reynolds and his mother, Vickie, would help Father Kroeger finish dinner, take his medications and get into bed. "We were glad to have the opportunity to help."

Parishioner Josh Frost, his wife, Lori, and their six children have known "Father Tim" for more than 10 years.

"He accepted the disease with graciousness. It was

incredibly inspiring," Josh Frost said. "He was a great man with a very warm and inviting personality."

"My wife and I both grew up in households with strong parish ties. When our family started to grow, our parish life grew in importance to us and our family. As we spent more time investing in our parish community, we got to know Father Tim better and allowed him to know us. Father Tim baptized most of our children and celebrated almost all of their first sacraments. He provided spiritual guidance and support. Father Tim was a very dear friend to me."

Frost even traveled recently with Father Kroeger and his brother, Paul Kroeger, to Lourdes.

Father Hellmann recalled Father Kroeger talking of the trip. "It was his lifetime desire to go to Lourdes. When I talked with him about it beforehand, he said 'The only reason I want to go there is because I want to know God's will for me. And I want to surrender myself totally to God's will.'"

"To take the path to the grotto is to go into another world," Father Kroeger said in an interview after the trip. He saw the visit to Lourdes as a dream fulfilled. "It was a great gift," he said, to a place filled with "the experience of the love of God."

"One of the most memorable parts of our trip to Lourdes was the overt awareness of the presence of the Holy Spirit," Frost said. "At every turn, God was with us. It sometimes seemed like it might be easier to have the burning bush moment to know our plan.

'Just tell me what to do, Lord!'

"Now I think it is better to listen for the guidance the Lord is providing through the intercession of the Holy Spirit on a daily basis. I witnessed a miracle at Lourdes. The healing waters of Lourdes does not always involve casting the crutches aside, it is sometimes the renewal of spirit and the awareness that we are not alone. God is with us as he promised," he said.

And while Father Kroeger may not have experienced a miraculous physical healing, he had a renewed sense of purpose for his ministry upon his return.

"We saw a real difference in Father since he returned from his trip to Lourdes ... so many graces came from that trip," said Metzger.

"It was a very spiritual experience for him and he felt in a powerful way the presence of Mary. He felt his whole body was enveloped in closeness with God," said Father Hellmann.

"He was a deep thinker. He never had to write anything out. He was so intellectual and his ministry was more important than going to his own therapy," Metzger said. "And towards the end, every homily that he ever gave, especially after he got sick, always involved the words forgiving, mercy, charity and love in some way."

"He was so gracious of anything you did for him. I never left the house without him saying thank you. He was such a good person. He cared so much for those in his ministry and always saw things through all the way to the end."

May he rest in peace.



Father Kroeger with his brother Paul (left) and Josh Frost after the visit to Lourdes

Pope Francis to make historic trip to Arabian Peninsula

(Continued from Page 1)

Pope Francis returns from his Jan. 23-28 visit to Panama for World Youth Day.

Shortly after the announcement, Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al-Maktoum, vice president and prime minister of the United Arab Emirates, welcomed the announcement of the pope's visit in a post on his personal Facebook page.

The visit, he said, "will strengthen our ties and understanding of each other, enhance interfaith dialogue and help us to work together to maintain and build peace

among the nations of the world."

In a message published on the visit's official Web site, Swiss Bishop Paul Hinder, apostolic vicar of Southern Arabia, expressed his hope that the pope's "short visit will be a moment of deepening our faith and our adherence to the bishop of Rome."

Although a detailed program of the pope's schedule "will be published before Christmas," Bishop Hinder confirmed that Pope Francis will celebrate a public Mass in Abu Dhabi Feb. 5 and that arrangements are being

made to allow as many faithful as possible "to participate in this historic event."

"Let us keep in mind that it will be the first visit of a pope to the Arabian Peninsula," the bishop said.

The Vatican also released the logo and the theme of the papal visit, "Make me a channel of your peace," which is inspired by St. Francis of Assisi's prayer for peace.

The theme, the Vatican statement said, "expresses our own prayer that the visit of Pope Francis to the United Arab Emirates may spread in a special way the peace of

God within the hearts of all people of goodwill."

Greg Burke, Vatican spokesman, said the theme was also a fitting description of the purpose of the pope's visit, which will focus on "how all people of goodwill can work for peace."

"This visit, like the one to Egypt, shows the fundamental importance the Holy Father gives to interreligious dialogue," Burke said. "Pope Francis visiting the Arab world is a perfect example of the culture of encounter."

Gabriel Said Reynolds, professor of Islamic studies

and theology at Notre Dame University, said the trip is a sign of Pope Francis' "profound personal commitment to interreligious dialogue."

The trip to Abu Dhabi, he said, also "shows his appreciation for the increasing openness there to the religious freedom of non-Muslims, as witnessed by the presence of two Catholic churches in the Emirate."

Reynolds said the visit could "also raise the visibility of the problematic situation for religious freedom in neighboring Saudi Arabia."

Around Indiana

German Catholic tradition opens season in town of Ferdinand

By Katie Rutter
Catholic News Service

FERDINAND, Ind. (CNS) — The sights and sounds of Christmas brightened the massive dome of the Monastery Immaculate Conception in Ferdinand as six Sisters of St. Benedict rang out "Silent Night" on hand bells.

The gentle chimes of the season soothed the hundreds of people who gathered at the foot of the Ferdinand monastery during the cold Nov. 16 night, while the German tradition launched Christmas celebrations in the Indiana hamlet.

The Benedictines were heralding the opening of the town's Christkindlmarkt, a weekend of vendors, concerts and Christmas cheer. The sisters have bolstered Ferdinand's tradition since the festivities began two decades ago.

"It's a town celebration and the sisters are very much an integral part of the town of Ferdinand," said Sister Rose Wildeman, the monastery coordinator and director of the hand-bell choir.

About 10,000 people — more than four times the number of Ferdinand residents — amassed into the small town for its Christkindlmarkt held Nov. 16-18.

The monastery — its arched windows, turrets and towers seeming to come straight out of medieval



Hillary Cremeens, a native of Ferdinand, Ind., portrays the Christkindl, or Christmas angel, at the opening of the town's Christkindlmarkt. (CNS photo/Katie Rutter)

Europe — provided an appropriate backdrop for the weekend.

Ferdinand city officials founded Christkindlmarkt with the intent of transporting attendees to Old World Germany. The event mimics a celebration by the same name held in Nuremberg, Germany, since the 16th century.

"Ferdinand has so many German characteristics about it. It looks like little Bavaria as you come in over the hills," said Diane Hop-

penjans, the executive director of Ferdinand Tourism and founder of the celebration.

"You see the church steeple in the center of the town and the village is kind of gathered around it and this huge beautiful monastery," Hoppenjans told Catholic News Service.

The German Catholic community was founded in 1840 by Father Joseph Kundek, a missionary priest from Croatia. The Benedictines, their founding com-

munity rooted in Eichstatt, Germany, arrived to teach the local children in 1867.

"I can't imagine Ferdinand without (the monastery) and without the nuns' influence," Hoppenjans said.

"I think it's because of the monastery that we were able to grow the way we did, the way the town did, and that also kind of kept us with that German tradition," she said.

For Christkindlmarkt, the sisters supplied their event hall as one of six locations where vendors set up booths filled with crafts and other items. The nuns also offered tours of their monastery and sold baked goods, including German-inspired desserts like "kuchen," which is a cinnamon or cranberry-topped cake, and springerle and almerle cookies.

"The springerle cookie is a traditional German cookie, it has a licorice flavor. We have molds that some of our sisters brought back in the 1920s," said Sister Jean Marie Ballard, the quality assurance manager for the religious order's bakery.

The evening of Nov. 16 — the Friday before the events officially began — the monastery also served as the focal point for Christkindlmarkt Eve. The highlight of the night, accented by the sisters' hand bells and local choirs, is the moment that "Christkindl" emerged from the monastery's doors.

Plainly translated "Christ Child" and, at one time, an

imaginative portrayal of the Baby Jesus, the modern Christkindl is an angel who many European families still believe is the deliverer of gifts at Christmas.

Ferdinand's Christkindl is a close replica of the angel that opens the Nuremberg celebration. Dressed in a white, gold-trimmed gown and portrayed by Ferdinand native Hillary Cremeens, the Christkindl emerged from the monastery to the sound of trumpets and sang a welcoming message.

"Ye men and women folk, who once were children too, be child again today, and do rejoice when the Christ Child invites you all to see this market," she sang, reciting a translated version of Nuremberg's Christkindl message.

Following the angel's welcome, the crowds were invited into the monastery for a German dinner and to visit the sisters' table full of baked goods.

"The sisters are part of our community. They share in a lot of things, they're involved with the Chamber of Commerce, they're involved with this Christkindlmarkt event, they open their home and their hearts to everyone," said Kathy Tretter, a native and member of the committee that organizes Christkindlmarkt.

"This is their home, and their home is Ferdinand," she said.

Guest column

St. Stephen among martyr feasts during octave of Christmas

By Deacon John Etter

Contributing Writer
Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish, Cicero
Ordained Sept. 14, 2013

Christmas is supposed to be a season of joy and good tidings. So why is the liturgical calendar for the Christmas season peppered with the feasts of martyrs?

Let's take a moment and look at all the martyr feasts that are upon us this month.

The day after Christmas is the feast of the first martyr of the Church, St. Stephen, who was stoned to death for standing up for his beliefs. Friday, Dec. 28, is the feast of the Holy Innocents, the innocent babies killed by a tyrant who was trying to kill the infant Jesus. And Dec. 29 is the commemoration of St. Thomas Becket, who was murdered by agents of King Henry II of England because he defended the rights of the Church.

According to the *Catholic Encyclopedia*, the scheduling of these feast days around Christmas was intentional. "These dates have nothing to do with the chronological order of the events." The feasts were kept within the octave of Christmas because the Holy Innocents gave their lives for the newborn savior; St. Stephen and St. Thomas Becket were wit-

nesses to Christ's love and passion. The dates of the feast days represent the martyr's birth dates into eternal life, which is a time for joy.

Christ who was in heaven was born onto earth so that those of the earth might be able to be born into heaven. Christ was born to die so that those who unite their deaths to his might be born again into eternal life. This is why it is so fitting that we celebrate these martyrs during the Christmas octave as we celebrate Jesus' birth on earth.



Deacon
Etter

Let's take a closer look at the life of St. Stephen, the Church's first martyr and a deacon.

In the Acts of the Apostles, the name of St. Stephen occurs for the first time on the occasion of the appointment of the first deacons. You see, there was some dissatisfaction concerning the distribution of alms from the community's fund to the poor.

Seven men were selected and specially ordained by the apostles to care for the poor, allowing themselves to devote time to prayer and the ministry of the word. Stephen is the first mentioned and the best known among the seven.

Stephen's life before this appointment is mostly unknown. His name is Greek and suggests he was a Hel-



St. Stephen the Martyr is seen in a mural painted by Lorenzo Sabbatini during its restoration in 2007 at the Vatican. (CNS photo courtesy the Vatican Museums)

lenist, one of the Jews who had been born in some foreign land and whose native tongue was Greek. We do not know when and in what circumstances he became a Christian.

His ministry as a deacon appears to have been mostly among the Hellenist converts with whom the apostles were at first less familiar.

By selecting him as a deacon, the Church publicly acknowledged Stephen as a man of "good reputation and full of the Holy Ghost

and wisdom" (Acts 6:3). Chapter 6 also says that he was "full of grace and fortitude" and his uncommon oratorical powers and unimpeachable logic were difficult to resist.

Many of his arguments were full of the divine energy of the scriptural authorities of God, with the added weight of great wonders and signs. As great as his wisdom and spirit were, he was still unable to change the minds of the unwilling and would soon become an

enemy of the scholars.

During a dispute one day, Stephen inflamed the hatred of the scholars so much that they found witnesses to testify that they heard him speak words of blasphemy against Moses and against God.

So, Stephen was arrested and dragged before the Sanhedrin, where he was accused of saying that "Jesus of Nazareth shall destroy this place and shall change the traditions which Moses delivered unto us" (12,14).

While the debate continued, we read in Chapter 6, "All that sat on the council ... saw his face as if it had been the face of an angel."

Then when he said, "Behold, I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing on the right hand of God," they ran violently toward him and cast him out to stone him to death (Acts 7:56-58).

As they were stoning him, he said, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them," and when he said this, he fell asleep (Acts 7:60). Little did all the people present casting stones at him realize that the blood they shed was the first seed of a harvest that was to cover the world.

This reminds us that the Catholic Christian life should always include witness, care for the poor and sacrifice.

St. Stephen's life is a perfect model of how we are to live our lives.

REST IN PEACE



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

Jack Donati, 84, died Nov. 30. **William "Bill" Taylor**, 94, died Dec. 1. Both were members of St. Lawrence in Muncie.

Ann (Hildebrandt) Pearson, 65, died Nov. 27. She was a member of All Saints in Logansport.

Ann Martine Clyne, 69, died Dec. 3. She was a member of St. Alphonsus Liguori in Zionsville.

William Silvis, 93, died Dec. 2. He was a member of St. Joseph in Lebanon.

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

2018
BIENNIAL APPEAL

DIOCESE
of
LAFAYETTE-IN-INDIANA

Walking Together
in the *Light*
of Christ

www.dol-in.org

FRUITFUL HARVEST

Have You
Made Your
Pledge Yet?

Guest column

'Young Life' is evangelization opportunity for adults

By Kerin Buntin

Have you ever heard of Young Life? If you said "no," that makes two of us!

When my husband, Eric, and I entrusted our teenage daughter, Shannon, to the care of friends while we traveled to Italy for 10 days, we arrived home excited to share our Vatican highlight — Eric had captured Pope Francis' hand clasped with mine on our 25th wedding anniversary.

But, before I ever said a word, Shannon enthusiastically inquired if she could go to Young Life camp. I was thinking to myself, "What is Young Life camp and where is it?" Eric, the avid CPA in the family, was eager to learn how much it would cost. The moral of our story is: God works miracles every day if you are still enough to recognize them.

We quickly surmised that Young Life is much more than a worldwide, week-long summer camp, it is a weekly gathering at a public place and it's all about Jesus!

Eric and I never had the experience of attending summer camp, so the idea was new to us. Camp just wasn't a thing growing up in our generation, or so we thought.

We didn't know Young Life has been around for generations. Founded in 1938, it is a worldwide ministry reaching more than 1.7 million high school students, middle school students, college students, students with disabilities, teen moms and military, every year.

Witnessing Shannon's undeniable love for Jesus and that of her friends from

various high schools and nearby churches sparked our interest, and suddenly there was no turning back. Eric and I jumped into Young Life eager to share our gifts. Eric was excited and surprised to find out that more than 200 dads show up on a given Monday night to play basketball with their kids!

Young Life is a not-for-profit Christian organization that focuses on real relationships with adults who care about teenagers. Young Life represents more than 4,000 staff and 40,000 volunteers ministering in more than 80 countries around the globe.

While the Church calls all baptized Christians to work together to proclaim the Gospel and promote the common good, Young Life is ready to partner with the Catholic Church in an ecumenical gift exchange:

- Young Life exists because of adult leaders that want to live their faith outside the four walls of a church.

- Young Life leadership is open to any adults 18 years or older with a desire to engage in the ministry driven by the vision — that every adolescent will have the opportunity to know Jesus and grow in their faith.

- Young Life leaders are willing to demonstrate authentic, faith-based friendships and share the love of Jesus by mentoring teenagers.

Young Life groups throughout Indiana are thriving, but there is huge potential for enormous growth in high schools and middle schools. Some areas that are active throughout the Diocese of Lafayette-in-

Indiana include, but are not limited to, Muncie, Lafayette, Lebanon, Zionsville, Carmel and Fishers.

Ian Faulkner, the Fishers area Young Life director, emphasized that Young Life does not and cannot replace the Church. Young Life adult leaders simply walk alongside teens and point them back to the Church. The overall goal is to engage Catholic speakers and Catholic adult leaders to share their faith journey by incorporating the sacraments and the saints with Young Life teens.

Pope Francis describes evangelization: "Christians must be willing to move where the Spirit leads them and not be benchwarmers on the sidelines of efforts to evangelize. A 'couch potato' evangelization doesn't exist. Get up and go! Be always on the move. Go to a place where you must speak the word of God."

There are many Church documents that have been written by previous popes about evangelization in the Catholic Church, and there is a long history of how Catholics should evangelize the faith. Throughout every age, the Catholic Church's greatest joy and challenge is to proclaim the Gospel of Jesus in ways that engage, inspire and challenge individuals and the culture at large.

Young Life is on the cutting edge of youth ministry by adapting to the ever-changing world of kids today. The first forum, being organized by the National Leadership Team for Young Life in collaboration with the Diocese of Brooklyn in New York, is under the leadership of Auxiliary Bishop James Massa. It is an invitation for pastors, priests, youth minis-

ters, Young Life leaders, parents, bishops, diocesan staff, teachers and administrators to come to the historic gathering in New York City on Jan. 24-26, 2019.

The idea is to have a team of Indiana adults representing both Young Life and the Catholic Church in New York. We want people there, and particularly the right people — bridge builders, evangelizers, those who have a passion for Jesus, for kids and for the Church.

The experience will foster unity and relationship, the ability to really get to know each other, and cast a common vision for reaching the next generation of teens.

Joe Reitz, former Indianapolis Colts player and parishioner at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Parish, Carmel, shared his support for a Young Life Indiana team. He said, "Faith was first throughout my football career and serving others is at the heart of my life. My first responsibility is to God,

to be a loving and servant Christian."

Butler University men's basketball coach LaVall Jordan said, "My wife, Destinee, and I support Young Life and are grateful for the positive faith journey that it is providing for our three daughters."

The Indiana team is growing. This is a defining moment in the Catholic Church. How will you respond? Registration information may be found at <https://younglifecatholicforum.splashthat.com>.

You can learn more about how to get involved in your local Young Life by entering a zip code into the Young Life locator on the Web site www.YoungLife.com.

Kerin Buntin has a master's degree in pastoral theology and is a freelance journalist and founder of Peace Love Pilgrimage. Her greatest blessing is wife and twice-blessed mom. Follow Kerin Buntin on Twitter and LinkedIn.

Upcoming retreats at Saint Joseph Retreat & Conference Center in Tipton

- Women's Silent Retreat, Jan. 11-13
- "Get Away for a Day," Jan. 15
- Married Couples Retreat, Jan. 25-26
- Crafters' Retreat, Feb. 1-3
- Men's Silent Retreat, Feb. 8-10



- "Get Away for a Day," March 12
- Lenten Day of Reflection, March 26
- "Get Away for a Day," Feb. 12
- "Get Away for a Day,"

- "Get Away for a Day," April 9
- St. Joseph the Worker Day of Reflection, May 1
- "Get Away for a Day," May 14
- Women's Silent Retreat, June 21-23
- "Get Away for a Day," July 9

- Men's Five-Day Silent Retreat, June 8-12

To register, contact Samir Azer at sazer@dolin.org or 765-551-9570. For more information, visit www.stjosephretreat.org. Retreats are available for adults ages 19 and older.

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. 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 either or both 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.

"Advent Afternoon Cookie Express"

WEST LAFAYETTE — All are invited to attend a Schoenstatt "Advent Afternoon Cookie Express" from



Religious education students at St. Thomas Aquinas Parish in West Lafayette recently enjoyed a visit from St. Nicholas. He gave each student a chocolate-filled coin to symbolize his love for the poor and to show everyone the gift of love that Jesus gives to all who receive him in the Eucharist. (Photo courtesy Julia Haskell)

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 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>.

"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.

Tootsie Roll Drive

CARMEL — Knights of Columbus Council 12387 will conduct a Tootsie Roll Drive at an upcoming Indy Fuel hockey game to benefit Special Olympics Indiana. A portion of ticket prices for the game also will be donated to Special Olympics Indiana. The game will be played on Friday evening, Dec. 28, at the Indiana State Fairgrounds. Doors open at 6:30 p.m.; the game will begin at 7:30 p.m. Tickets may be purchased at <https://fuel.isportstix.com/order/group/KofC>. For more information, e-mail kjhodel@aol.com. All are invited to attend.

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 candlelight 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 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.

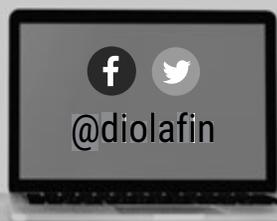
Eucharistic adoration

DEMOTTE — All are invited to join in Eucharistic adoration from 7 p.m. to 8 p.m. Friday, Jan. 4, 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.

"Follow Me"

ZIONSVILLE — St. Alphonsus Liguori Parish invites all to attend an upcoming Ascension Press Bible Study, "Follow Me: Meeting Jesus in the Gospel of John." The eight-week program will be held beginning at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 8, and 9:30 a.m. Wednesday, Jan. 9; participants are welcome to attend either the evening or morning sessions, as their schedule permits. Workbooks cost \$19.95 plus tax, and are available at the Celtic Cross Catholic Gift Shop, 1512 W. 86th St., Indianapolis. For more information, call 317-873-2885, ext. 501, or e-mail jtumasian@zionsvillecatholic.com.

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

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

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 and the Indiana March for Life on Jan. 22 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

KIDS' PAGE ANSWERS

Rejoice:
GAUDETE SUNDAY

The Greatest:

H	O	E	S	A	I	N	T		
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ADSRITTYAWMLDE
CVUEJMMTOPNG
WESAOAAIQYAN
NNGTNSROSECA
GTJHCJYNIGPM

Kids' Page on Page 16

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. Saturday, 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,

New ambulatory care center opening in Frankfort

FRANKFORT — In May, St. Vincent and Witham Health Services announced a major initiative to expand health-care access in Clinton County with the development of a new ambulatory care center at 2485 E. Wabash St. in Frankfort, across from Walmart.

On Dec. 5, the health systems announced that St. Vincent Medical Group at Frankfort would begin seeing patients on Dec. 10, and Witham Health Services of Frankfort will begin seeing patients on Jan. 7.

The new facility will offer immediate care, primary care, imaging, rehabilitation and laboratory services, in addition to a variety of specialty care providers.

"As the health-care

industry moves toward more personalized care, patients expect providers to make their services more accessible and convenient for them," said Aaron Shoemaker, chief medical officer, St. Vincent Medical Group. "In collaboration with Witham Health Services, Clinton County residents in need of non-emergency care will have a new option."

This new development reinforces St. Vincent and Witham Health Services' continued commitment to Clinton County and surrounding residents.

"It brings quality health care closer to home so that we can better serve their needs," said Raymond Ingham, president/CEO of Witham Health Services.

"We are very excited to bring these services to the residents of Frankfort and Clinton County and continue to look for ways we can improve access and quality care to those we serve."

The new center will be open Monday through Saturday, 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

A family community day and open house will be held from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday, January 13. Attendees will be able to meet providers, tour the new facility and enjoy refreshments and a giveaway.

For more information about the new ambulatory care center or to schedule an appointment, call St. Vincent at 765-656-3900 and Witham at 765-485-8000.

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 welcome 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 Week-

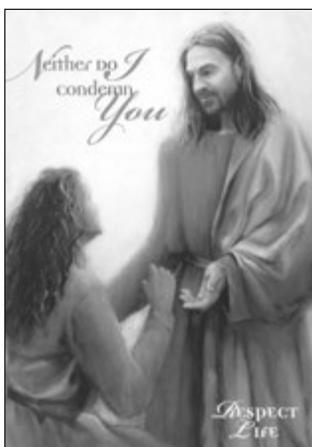
ends and Sharing Circles. Visit www.wvme.org to apply. Upcoming weekends to be held in Indianapolis include April 26-28, 2019. Couples who already have participated in a Marriage Encounter Weekend are invited to join monthly Sharing Circles. For more information, e-mail kenannme@comcast.net.



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

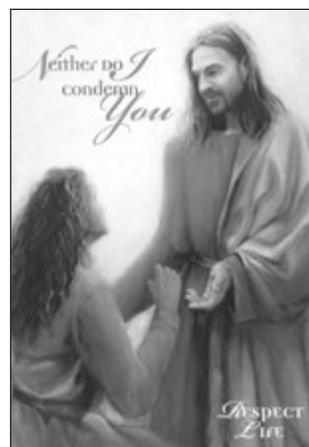
765-414-3072 (English)
765-701-0620 (Spanish)

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



NEWS BRIEFS

Paris archbishop prays for his country

PARIS (CNS) — Paris Archbishop Michel Aupetit offered special prayers for his country at Mass Dec. 7, even as the French government dropped all fuel tax increases for 2019.

The government move came after French cities were hit with weeks of violent protests, as French demanded lower fuel taxes and better purchasing power. Images of rampage at the Arc de Triomphe and the Champs-Élysées during the Dec. 1 weekend have been shown around the world.

At least four people have died since the protests began in mid-November.

On Dec. 5, Archbishop Aupetit said he believed the protests reflected a “significant suffering of many of our fellow citizens,” but he denounced the “outrageous violence” that led to violent clashes, particularly in Paris.



Faithful attend the beatification ceremony for 19 religious men and women who were killed in Algeria’s civil war, at the shrine of Notre Dame de Santa Cruz in Oran, Algeria, Dec. 8. (CNS photo/ Abdelaziz Boumzar, Reuters)

Pope: Algerian martyrs a testament to dialogue and peace

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The lives of 19 religious men and women martyred during the Algerian civil war are a testament to God’s plan of love and peaceful coexistence between Christians and Muslims, Pope Francis said.

In a message read Dec. 8 at the beatification Mass for the six women religious and 13 clerics, Pope Francis said it was a time for Catholics in Algeria and around the

world to celebrate the martyrs’ commitment to peace, but it was also a time to remember the sacrifices made by all Algerians during the bloody war.

Cardinal Angelo Becciu, prefect of the Congregation for Saints’ Causes, celebrated the Mass in Oran, Algeria, for the martyrs who were killed between 1994 and 1996.

Both Christians and Muslims in Algeria “have

been victims of the same violence for having lived, with faithfulness and respect for each other, their duties as believers and citizens in this blessed land. It is for them, too, that we pray and express our grateful tribute,” the pope said.

Among those who were beatified were seven Trappists who were murdered in 1996 by members of the Armed Islamic Group in Tibhirine, Algeria.

Pope Francis greets a sick child as he visits poor, sick people at a center run by the CasAmica Onlus organization on the outskirts of Rome Dec. 7.

(CNS photo/Vatican Media)

**Surprise! Pope makes more impromptu ‘Mercy Friday’ visits**

ROME (CNS) — Pope Francis made surprise visits Dec. 7 to people receiving medical care far from their homes and to a dozen intellectually challenged young people.

The late-afternoon visits Dec. 7 to the CasAmica residence for families with a member needing long-term medical care far from home and to Il Ponte e l’Albero, a therapeutic rehabilitation

home, were part of the pope’s continuing “Mercy Friday” activities.

Pope Francis began the Friday visits to hospitals, clinics, schools and residential communities during the 2015-16 Year of Mercy to demonstrate that mercy involves concrete acts of kindness and solidarity.

Both the CasAmica and Il Ponte e l’Albero are on the extreme southern edge of

Rome.

The Vatican said most of the guests at the CasAmica are Italian families, mostly from the south, who cannot afford to stay in a hotel or rent an apartment while their family members are receiving treatment for cancer, leukemia or other serious illnesses. A few of the families, though, come from North Africa and from Eastern Europe.

Pope’s Lamborghini now up for raffle

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — A custom-built 2018 Lamborghini Huracan coupe autographed by Pope Francis is back on the block, but this time with an online fund-raising platform, not at an elite European auction house.

The Italian luxury carmaker donated the vehicle to the pope in 2017, then the vehicle was put up for auction to raise money for charity. However, it turns out the final bidder at the Sotheby’s auction in May did not finalize the transaction and the promised \$800,000 sale fell through.

In an effort to still raise funds for a good cause, Lamborghini has decided it will offer people around the world — not just the highest bidder — the chance to win the unique vehicle. Donations begin at \$10 in order to enter the contest, at www.omaze.com/experiences/pope-francis-lamborghini.

Quotes Re-Quoted

“Why don’t we begin each day with a ‘Here I am, Lord’? It would be beautiful to say each morning, ‘Here I am, Lord, may your will be done in me today.’ ... ‘Here I am’ is the key to life. It marks the passage from a horizontal life focused on oneself and one’s own needs, to a vertical life, reaching toward God.”

— Pope Francis, during the midday Angelus prayer on Dec. 8.

...

“In a kind of perpetual cycle of wanting to move from event to event, to have no preparation but just to celebrate and move, Advent is a radical critique.”

— Timothy O’Malley, academic director for the Center for Liturgy at the University of Notre Dame.

...

“Something like this awakens something within us. It gives the Lord a chance to pull triggers within us of generosity, of kindness and of gentleness with others.”

— Deacon Ray Helgeson, of St. Thomas More Parish in Paradise, Calif., speaking about acts of kindness in the wake of devastating wildfires. An estimated 640 of the parish’s 800 families lost their homes.

...

“One theme is constant. Our work doesn’t just help people through a tough time — it transforms lives, not temporarily, but permanently; and not just one person, but their families and their communities. That is the kind of transformational change we always strive for.”

— Sean Callahan, president and CEO of Catholic Relief Services, during a 75th anniversary celebration of the global aid organization.

Making St. John the Baptist's acquaintance in Advent

By David Gibson
Catholic News Service

What do you think the John the Baptist of real time 2,000 years ago looked like and sounded like? I'm talking about the fascinating desert preacher who makes a fresh appearance in Christian communities during the Advent season leading to Christmas.

John's was "a voice of one crying out in the desert," the Gospel of Luke states (3:4), borrowing words of the ancient prophet Isaiah.

Do those words, coupled with the Gospel of Matthew's depiction of John eating "locusts and wild honey" and wearing camel's hair garments (3:4), prompt some to imagine him as eccentric, strange and rather disheveled, shouting a message of repentance to anyone who would listen?

But John "was famous," Pope Francis observed in a 2018 talk in Peru. "All came to be baptized by him; they listened to him with respect." The Gospel of Matthew affirms this (3:5).

The unknown medieval artist who sculpted a figure of the Baptist for the magnificent cathedral in Chartres, France, seems to have wondered what he really looked like. The sculpture, standing above the cathedral's north portico doorway, stunned me when I first saw it.

If anything, this John the Baptist is a prayerful, appealing figure. The sculpture presents John as gentle, kind, self-possessed and even contemplative. (He does wear a camel's hair garment!)

It isn't hard to imagine people asking his advice. Indeed, crowds coming to hear



John the Baptist, depicted in the statue second from the right, is seen in the cathedral in Chartres, France. The sculpture shows him carrying the lamb of God, at once cradling him and pointing toward him. (CNS photo/Stephane Mahe, Reuters)

him in the desert did precisely that. What "should we do"? they asked (Lk 3:10).

John responded, "Whoever has two cloaks should share with the person who has none. And whoever has food should do likewise" (Lk 3:11).

Significantly, his response parallels words attributed in

Matthew 25:34-36 to the Son of Man at the time of his coming in glory: "Come, you who are blessed by my Father. Inherit the kingdom prepared for you. ...

"For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, a stranger and you welcomed me, naked and

you clothed me."

So John the Baptist's presence during Advent has a way of underscoring the importance of Christ's second coming, one key theme of this liturgical season.

Did our Chartres sculptor aim to jolt imaginations with an unpredictable, thought-provoking figure of John?

"Works of art inspired by Scripture" can reflect "the unfathomable mystery which engulfs and inhabits the world," St. John Paul II once said.

During Advent, Christians remember that John the Baptist introduces Jesus as the Lamb of God.

"Behold, the Lamb of God, 'who takes away the sin of the world,'" he said when he saw Jesus coming toward him (Jn 1:29).

Catholics will recognize these as the words priests proclaim at the time of Communion during the Mass. So John's words echo even today in the Church's daily life.

The lamb in salvation history is a figure of peace, mercy, kindness and freedom. By applying the blood of a lamb to their doorways, the ancient Israelites enslaved in Egypt were assured that God would protect them and free them for the journey to their homeland (Ex 12:3-13).

Throughout Christian history, "Lamb of God" served as a descriptive title for Jesus.

To know people well, it is essential not just to hear their words, but to observe their actions. Don't actions speak as loud, or louder, than words?

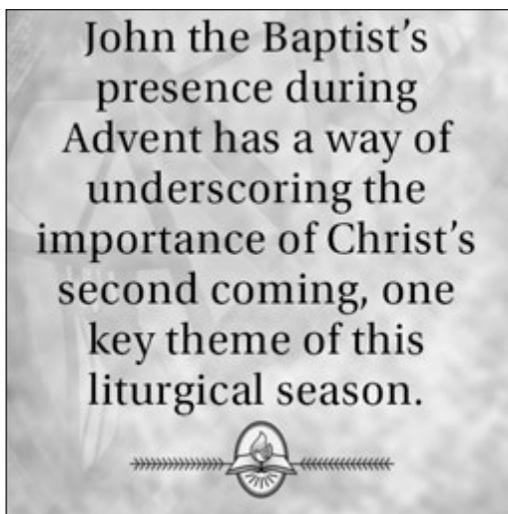
The Chartres sculpture of John the Baptist clearly shows him in action. He is carrying the lamb of God, at once cradling him and pointing toward him.

This is what all followers of Christ do. They become bearers of the lamb, carrying him into their world through their words and actions.

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



(CNS photo/Nancy Wiechec)



(CNS photo/Nancy Wiechec)

The Catholic Moment

OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER
OF THE DIOCESE OF LAFAYETTE-IN-INDIANA

With a spirit of gratitude

For a Christian, thanksgiving is not just an annual holiday, but a daily attitude of life. For God became one of us, in humble self-emptying, to reconcile each one of us to God's love and mercy. For this act of undeserved and unmerited divine love, we never exhaust the depths of our gratitude to God.

On the Third Sunday of Advent, traditionally known as Gaudete Sunday, the readings of Scripture invite us to recapture that deep Christian spirit of gratitude expressed in deeds of justice and charity. And as we give thanks to God, we discover the deep hope of Advent in God's renewed coming into our families, homes and lives.

One of the first phrases parents teach a child is to say, "thank you." And public expressions of gratitude are often on display during award ceremonies when people receiving awards deliver short or long acceptance speeches. From the Oscars and the Golden Globes to the Grammys and Country Music Awards, winners are compelled to deliver words of thanks as they accept the honor of a special award.

Overjoyed winners often list, with gratitude, those in their professional and personal lives who made it possible for them to achieve success and fame. And they are quick to admit that in the limited time of an acceptance speech, they could only mention a few outstanding persons since they could not thank everyone who is truly deserving of their gratitude.

When it comes to expressing our gratitude to God, there are never-ending opportunities to lift our hearts and minds to God. There is no limit to what we can thank God for since all of creation comes from the loving hand of God.

Everywhere we look we discover some sign of God's love, mercy and providential care, even in the midst of difficulties and obstacles to faith. Perhaps this is why St. Paul urges the Philippians with such confidence by saying, "Rejoice in the Lord always. I shall say it again: Rejoice!"

It's never too late to begin the spiritual preparations of Advent. Give God thanks for the small and large gifts of daily life as one way to get back on the spiritual track you may have hoped to travel this Advent.

This guest editorial was written by Jem Sullivan, secretary for Catholic education of the Archdiocese of Washington.



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



(An icon of Mary Undoer of Knots/CNS file photo/Octavio Duran)

*The heart of
this good Mother
is all love
and mercy;
she desires only
to see us happy.*

— St. John Marie
Vianney

A songwriter's thanks to one red cardinal

In the liner notes of an album, musicians usually thank their colleagues, staff and family for their talent and support. But on the back cover of Grammy nominee Matt Maher's new record "The Advent of Christmas," the singer-songwriter expresses an unusual sentiment of gratitude: "Thanks to the red cardinal that kept showing up during the making of this record." That bird helped Maher find solace over a loss that he was still grieving, while also leaving him with a renewed sense of purpose and joy.

Maher is one of the most successful Christian musicians in the industry. During a "Christopher Closeup" interview, he recalled feeling that the time was right to record his first Christmas album, which is a wonderful mixture of joyous, sing-along-style celebrations and deeply meaningful, bitter-sweet reflections.

Light One Candle



BY TONY ROSSI

The bittersweet element arose from the fact that Maher lost his father in 2017, so he had to navigate feelings of sorrow during a season of joy.

The album's closing track "When I Think of Christmas" addresses that heartache in the line, "There are faces I miss, the ones not with us."

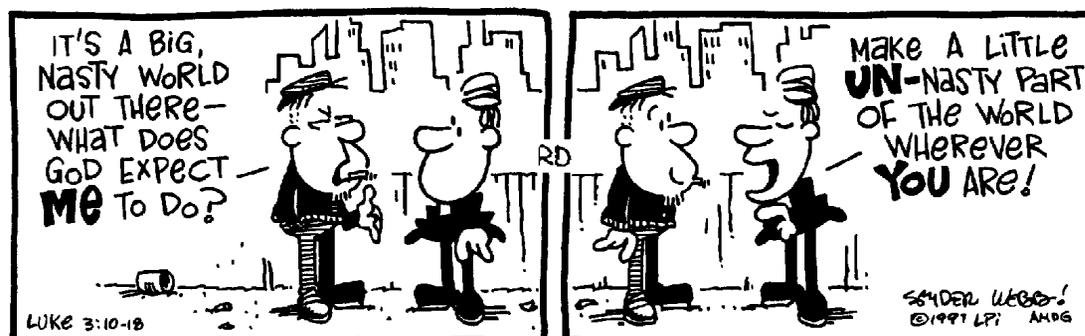
Interestingly, that was one of the two songs for which the red cardinal started showing up outside the studio. Having grown up in Newfoundland, Maher had never seen many cardinals and kept admiring its beau-

ty. But he also wondered why this was happening, so he Googled the words "red cardinal Christian symbolism."

He recalled, "It said that if you keep seeing a red cardinal, it's a sign that someone you love is praying for you. And immediately, I thought, 'Dad!' ... My dad loved Christmas, and loved melancholic Christmas songs. He was Irish, and the Irish love a good cry. So as soon as I saw that cardinal, I just knew my dad is praying for me with this record. (It was) a huge encouragement to keep going."

In addition to the album, Maher wrote a children's book, also titled "The Advent of Christmas." The idea arose because he treasures reading stories with his kids at bedtime. "That's how the faith was transmitted for the first couple of hundred years," he points out. "Just people telling stories."

3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT



'You can count on me': Ask God if maybe it's time to reach out

My husband and I raised three kids in Alaska.

It was a great place to live, but it was a long way from our families in the Midwest and on the East Coast. So when Christmas rolled around, we started out attempting the "I'll be home for Christmas" thing.

The airports were — and still are — at their most frenzied then. Santa had to find us as we spanned the United States. One child inevitably came down with an illness. We had to juggle Christmas programs, the greater cost of seasonal travel, the potential for blizzards thwarting us in at least one of the airports we had to negotiate.

It didn't take long to decide that we needed to establish our own Christmas traditions in our own house and save those long journeys

For the Journey



BY EFFIE CALDAROLA

to relatives for the summer months.

This was practical and made sense. But emotionally, it was tougher.

My neighborhood grocery must have seen me coming, and at my entrance would inevitably play, at high volume, Bing Crosby singing "I'll be home for Christmas. You can count on me."

It had to be Bing Crosby — a favorite of my mother's — and on cue, at those words, "you can count on me," I would puddle up and cry from the produce aisle to

the deli to the bakery.

I would try to compose myself in case I saw friends, but my coat sleeve would be soaked by the time I made it through the checkout.

Is there such a thing as "Catholic guilt"? Or is a feeling of family nostalgia built into this crazy season? I could not be counted on. Bing knew.

Christmas is a wonderful time, but it's definitely stressful. We want to carve out time for reflection while the culture pulls us the other direction entirely. Parties, gift exchanges, cookies, checkbook shock, fatigue, to-do lists — it can be overwhelming.

And then there are the memories.

My mom is gone now, and I look back and am proud that we made great effort and financial commitment to

seeing our families.

Friends would be heading to Hawaii or Mexico — favorite Alaskan destinations — while we'd be saving to visit family. We spent our vacation time seeing East Coast sights or sitting with Mom at her small-town pool while the kids splashed.

But sometimes at Christmas I hear those words, "you can count on me," and I get a little pang. It is, after all, Christmas. And I wish I had one more with Mom.

Occasionally, I'll hear from a friend or relative that they are "estranged" from a family member.

I hate to be too inquisitive so I don't ask why. But we all know families where somebody's angry at somebody. Or maybe someone's just drifted away.

If you are one of those families — if there is a sib-

ling, a cousin, a parent, a child, a former best friend — with whom you no longer communicate, make an effort this year, if it seems prudent or possible.

Take some of that promised quiet time, be completely silent before God and let him love you for a while with no other thoughts rattling around in your head.

Then, ask God if maybe it's time to reach out.

The older you get, the more you know that life is incredibly short, our time on this earth so limited.

Maybe just a card, maybe a quick call. Just the basics, an "I love you" with no strings and no conditions and no accusations or expectations.

Just a very short, "You can count on me."

LOOKING BACK

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

- **50 years ago, Dec. 15, 1968:** Judy Baker, who graduated last June from the Holy Cross School of Nursing in Kokomo, is one of eight registered nurses who will spend the next 12 months assisting the starving, sick and war-injured in Nigeria and Biafra. She volunteered through the Catholic Medical Mission Board.

- **25 years ago, Dec. 12, 1993:** Celebrations for the feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe have been scheduled at parishes across the Lafayette diocese. A diocesan observance is planned at St. Mary Church in Frankfort.

- **10 years ago, Dec. 14, 2008:** More than 200 families will receive outerwear to stave off the cold this winter, thanks to a coat drive at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Church and School in Carmel. The coat drive ministry started at the parish in 1992.

- **Five years ago, Dec. 15, 2013:** Sacred Heart School in Fowler recently hosted its 32nd annual Christmas bazaar, featuring more than 60 vendors. Organized by school parents, it's the biggest school fund-raiser of the year.

You're always welcome here.

Come to St. Peter, Winamac.



When you are not with us, we miss you.

Lord's Day Masses
Saturday: 4 p.m.
Sunday: 10 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



Dominic of Silos
 (1000 - 1073)
 Feast: Dec. 20

As a youth, Dominic tended sheep on the foothills of the Pyrenees where he learned to appreciate solitude. He then pursued the quiet life of a monk. Dominic became prior of his monastery, but was forced to flee by the king of Navarre, who intended to seize the monastery's land. The monastery of St. Sebastian at Silos welcomed him. There as prior, Dominic conducted a successful program of spiritual and material renewal. Blessed Joan of Aza later visited his tomb, where she had a vision that she would have another son. When the child was born, she named him Dominic; he became the founder of the Dominican Order.

(Catholic News Service)

Kids' Page

Answers on Page 11

INCREDIBLE Saints

Truly Incredible Stories of Incredible Saints

WHEN ONE IMAGINES POETS, ONE OFTEN PICTURES SOMEONE SITTING AT A DESK IN A COMFORTABLE ROOM WEAVING RHYMES AND PHRASES INTO STANZAS.

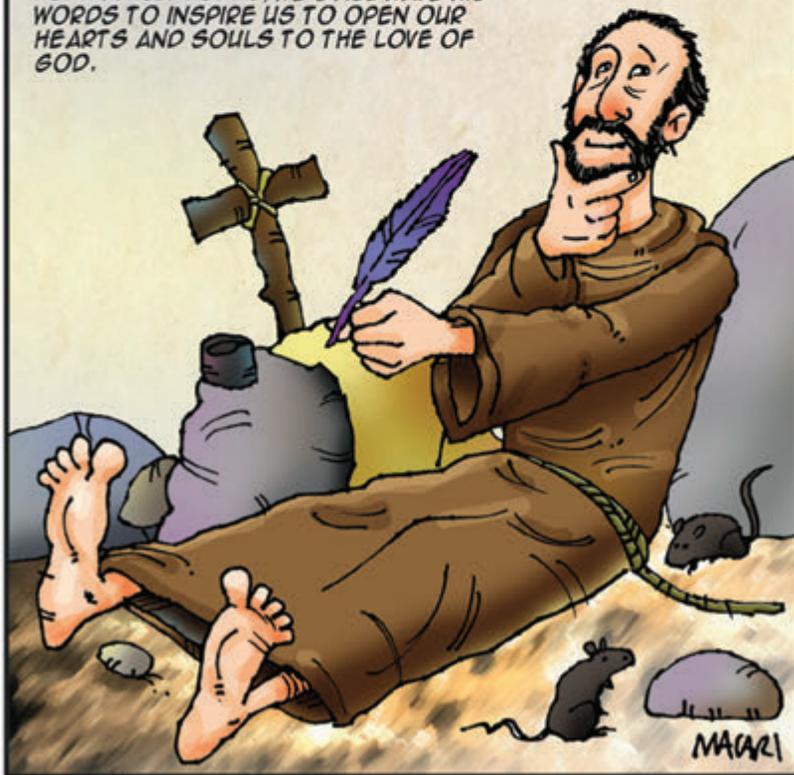
NOT SO FOR ST. JOHN OF THE CROSS. OFTEN BEATEN BY "RELIGIOUS" PEOPLE AND LEFT TO SUFFER IN A COLD, DARK PRISON CELL, JOHN SCRIBBLED NOTES TO HIS EARLY POEMS.

WHEN HE FINALLY ESCAPED, HE MADE HIS WAY TO A CONVENT AND DICTATED HIS POEMS WHILE HE RECOVERED FROM THE WOUNDS HE HAD SUFFERED. PRISON AND BEATINGS DID NOT DISCOURAGE JOHN FROM DOING GOD'S WORK.

ONCE HE GOT WELL, HE CONTINUED TO ESTABLISH CONVENTS, TEACH AND WRITE. HIS WORDS HAVE INSPIRED CATHOLICS FOR SIX CENTURIES BECAUSE THEY PROVIDE SIMPLE GUIDANCE BY WHICH THEY CAN LIVE: "THERE IS NOTHING BETTER OR MORE NECESSARY THAN LOVE."

IN THE FINAL YEARS OF HIS LIFE, HE ONCE AGAIN SUFFERED AT THE HANDS OF RELIGIOUS PEOPLE WHO SHOULD HAVE TREATED HIM WITH LOVE AND RESPECT. ST. JOHN DESCRIBED HIS TREATMENT AS BEING "THROWN IN A CORNER LIKE AN OLD KITCHEN CLOTH."

FORTUNATELY FOR US, WE STILL HAVE HIS WORDS TO INSPIRE US TO OPEN OUR HEARTS AND SOULS TO THE LOVE OF GOD.



THE ADVENT WREATH

THE THIRD CANDLE IS LIT.

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

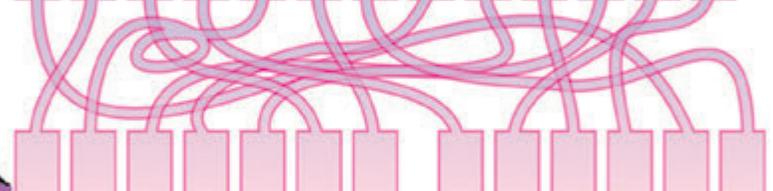
O Key of David, Jesus Christ, the gates of heaven open at your command. Come and show us the way to salvation.



REJOICE IN THE LORD ALWAYS, I SHALL SAY IT AGAIN: REJOICE!

This antiphon written by St. Paul in Philippians 4:4 is sometimes used to open the Mass on the Third Sunday of Advent. It is the beginning of a joyful week, the midpoint of Advent, so the rose colored candle is lit in the Advent wreath and in many parishes, rose colored vestments are worn for the Mass. Follow the paths to find out the Latin word for "rejoice" and the name for the 3rd Sunday of Advent.

A G T S A E Y D E N U U D



THE GREATEST Isaiah the prophet wrote God would send a messenger who would cry out in the desert. Jesus said in St. Matthew's Gospel this messenger was the greatest person who ever lived. Who was this messenger? Use the picture clues to find the words. Then put the numbered letters in order on the grid.



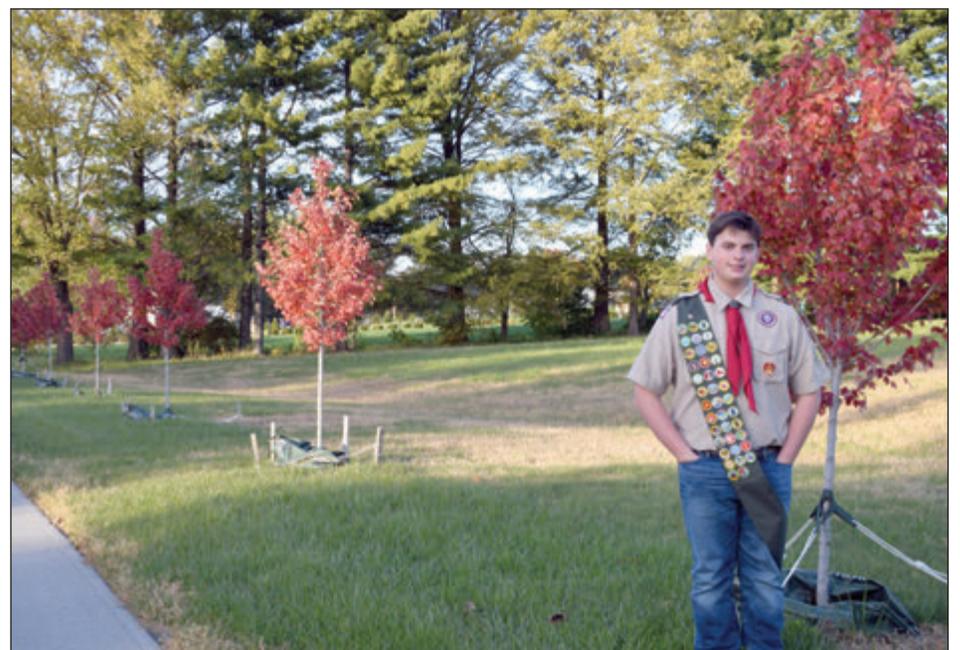
Merry Merry Christmas!

Find these **ADVENT** words in the grid below.

- | | | | |
|-----------|-------------|----------|-------------|
| Advent | Incarnation | Mary | Preparation |
| Calendar | Inn | Messiah | Purple |
| Candles | Jesus | Nativity | Rose |
| Christmas | Joseph | Oplatek | Wonder |
| Hope | Manger | Owl | Wreath |

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

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



As part of his Eagle Scout project, John Leriger, a parishioner of St. Alphonsus Liguori Church in Zionsville, planted a row of Sun Valley Maples that are sure to make an impact on the church campus for years to come. The lengthy project involved selling engraved bricks to raise funds, obtaining permits, working with a civil engineer for survey and

plotting, and working with a botanist to find the right fertilizers and other necessities. "I then followed the trees for a year to ensure they had enough water and grew straight. We made it! A year later, the trees have taken root," the Zionsville High School senior said. (Photos provided)

All art on this page ©2008 Mario D. Macari | - Servus Maria Numquam Peribit | mario@incredible-saints.com