



The Criterion

Serving the Church in Central and Southern Indiana Since 1960



Faith and Family

Columnist
Sean Gallagher reflects
on how to make the
baby Jesus' manger soft
this Christmas, page 12.

CriterionOnline.com

December 23, 2011

Vol. LII, No. 12 75¢



CMS/courtesy of Art Resource

'While they were there, the time came for her to have her child, and she gave birth to her firstborn son.'

Lk 2:6-7

Archbishop Buechlein's retirement, arrival of Bishop Coyne top local stories

By Brandon A. Evans

The early retirement of Archbishop Daniel M. Buechlein and the appointment of Bishop Christopher J. Coyne as auxiliary bishop were voted the top local news stories of 2011.

Other stories of note included coverage of the National Catholic Youth Conference (NCYC) in Indianapolis, the successful passage of school voucher legislation and the announcement of parish closings in the Terre Haute Deanery.

Working in tandem with the custom of other news agencies, including Catholic News Service, *The Criterion* editorial staff votes each year for the top 10 stories that were published in our newspaper.

Many of the stories selected this year were actually made up of several individual articles. You can browse links to all the original coverage by reading this story online.

Amid the hundreds of locally produced news stories during 2011, here is our "Top 10" list:

1. Archbishop Buechlein announces his early retirement due to health reasons.

In an emotional press conference, Archbishop Daniel M. Buechlein addressed priests, co-workers, friends and media representatives on Sept. 21 to share the news of his early retirement.

During the past three years, the archbishop had dealt with a stomach tumor, shoulder replacement surgery and, most notably, a battle with Hodgkin's lymphoma. Despite the heavy toll on his health, he continued to serve the Church in central and southern Indiana.

It was a mild stroke in March of this year that proved to be too much. His recovery was not progressing as well as was hoped, and he made the decision to ask Pope Benedict XVI for an early retirement, which was granted.

"I leave with fond memories," he told those gathered at the press conference in September, fighting back tears.

His auxiliary bishop, Christopher J. Coyne, became the apostolic administrator of the archdiocese on the same day—until a new archbishop is appointed—and praised the archbishop's contributions to

Catholic education, youth and young adult ministry, Catholic Charities, priestly vocations and capital campaigns.

"While we are sad to see his ministry here in [the Archdiocese of] Indianapolis come to an end," Bishop Coyne said, "we are so grateful for Archbishop Daniel's long and successful service to the people of central and southern Indiana."

Among his other accolades, Archbishop Buechlein was honored in 2011 with the Bishop John England Award as publisher of the year by the Catholic Press Association.

Promising to pray for all those that he has known and worked with through the years, the archbishop asked in return for prayers as he began a life of simplicity at Saint Meinrad Archabbey in southern Indiana.

2. Pope Benedict appoints an auxiliary bishop to the archdiocese.

Even before the mild stroke that led to Archbishop Buechlein's retirement, the pope responded to the need for support for the archbishop and appointed an assistant for him in January.

Bishop Christopher J. Coyne, originally a priest of the Archdiocese of Boston, was ordained an auxiliary bishop on March 2 by Archbishop Buechlein at St. John the Evangelist Church in Indianapolis. He is the first auxiliary bishop that the archdiocese has had since 1933.

"I'm grateful to the Holy Father," Archbishop Buechlein said during a Jan. 14 press conference announcing Bishop Coyne's appointment. "I consider this a late Christmas gift. We have a vibrant archdiocese with 151 parishes spread out over almost 14,000 square miles in 39 counties in central and southern Indiana. That's a lot of territory for one bishop to be the shepherd of."

Upon his ordination, Bishop Coyne became the second highest-ranking official in the archdiocese.

"I am truly excited about coming to Indianapolis and being a bishop for you," Bishop Coyne said in remarks after his ordination. "I promise that I will try and do all that is possible to be a shepherd after God's own heart."

Six months later, Bishop Coyne became



Archbishop Daniel M. Buechlein, right, exchanges a sign of peace with Bishop Christopher J. Coyne after ordaining him an auxiliary bishop on March 2 at St. John the Evangelist Church in Indianapolis. Bishop Coyne's appointment as auxiliary bishop and Archbishop Buechlein's early retirement in September were among the top local stories in 2011.

the apostolic administrator, assigned to care and tend to the archdiocese until the pope appoints a new archbishop.

3. 23,000 people attend the National Catholic Youth Conference in Indianapolis.

Ten years after hosting the event, the archdiocese again played host to the National Catholic Youth Conference, a three-day event which attracted more than 23,000 high school youths, chaperones and conference presenters to central Indiana to grow in their faith.

Bishop Coyne—who was joined by dozens of other bishops along with a myriad of priests and religious—celebrated the closing Mass at Lucas Oil Stadium in Indianapolis on Nov. 19.

Coinciding with the youth conference

was the first-ever National Catholic Collegiate Conference, at which 250 college-aged young adults gathered for prayer and programs.

"The youths themselves kept amazing me," said Kay Scoville, archdiocesan director of youth ministry. "Their reverence, and the way they were so respectful, patient and joyful."

"The conference truly brought glory to God, and that was the focus. Everybody was connected. It was the Catholic Church at its best."

4. Gov. Mitch Daniels signs school choice legislation into law.

"Real school choice has come to Indiana," said Glenn Tebbe, Indiana Catholic Conference (ICC)

See TOP STORIES, page 5

Official Appointments

Effective immediately

Rev. Noah Casey, rector of SS. Peter and Paul Cathedral in Indianapolis, appointed spiritual director for the archdiocesan Deacon Formation Program and continuing as rector of SS. Peter and Paul Cathedral in Indianapolis.

Effective Dec. 31, 2011

Rev. Gerald Okeke, associate pastor of the Richmond Catholic Community parishes of Holy Family, St. Andrew and St. Mary, upon completion of five years of ministry in the Archdiocese of Indianapolis, reassigned by the Bishop of the

Diocese of Sokoto, Nigeria.

Effective Jan. 4, 2012

Rev. Jegan Peter from the Diocese of Palayamkottai, India, appointed associate pastor of St. Luke the Evangelist Parish in Indianapolis.

Rev. Anto Peterraj from the Diocese of Palayamkottai, India, appointed associate pastor of SS. Francis and Clare Parish in Greenwood with additional weekend assistance at Our Lady of the Greenwood Parish in Greenwood.

These appointments are from the office of the Most Rev. Christopher J. Coyne, apostolic administrator of the Archdiocese of Indianapolis. †

The Criterion and Catholic Center are closed from Dec. 23 to Jan. 2 for Christmas holiday

This week's issue of *The Criterion*, which is our annual Christmas publication, is the last issue of 2011.

The Criterion will be published again on Jan. 13, 2012, and resume its weekly schedule.

The Archbishop O'Meara Catholic Center will be closed from Dec. 23 through Jan. 2 in observance of the holidays.

Archdiocesan agencies will reopen at 8 a.m. on Tuesday, Jan. 3, 2012.

Correction

Father Harold Ripperger was misidentified in a photograph at the Mass celebrating the 150th anniversary of St. John the Baptist Parish in Starlight in the Dec. 16 issue.

On the Cover

"The Nativity" by French painter Noel Coypel features Mary, Joseph and angels in adoration of the Christ Child. The Christmas season begins

with the Dec. 24 evening vigil commemorating the birth of Christ and ends with the feast of the Baptism of the Lord on Jan. 9.



Phone Numbers:

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

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

Postmaster:

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

Web site: www.CriterionOnline.com

E-mail: criterion@archindy.org

Published weekly except the last week of December and the first week of January. Mailing address: 1400 N. Meridian St., Indianapolis, IN 46202-2367. Periodical postage paid at Indianapolis, IN. Copyright © 2011 Criterion Press Inc. ISSN 0574-4350.

Staff:

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



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

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

Periodical postage paid at Indianapolis, IN.
 Copyright © 2011 Criterion Press Inc.

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



12/23/11

Moving?

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

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

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

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

Roman Missal voted top news story of 2011; Pope Benedict top newsmaker

WASHINGTON (CNS)—The introduction of the English translation of the *Roman Missal* topped the religious news stories of 2011, and Pope Benedict XVI was again the top newsmaker, according to the annual poll conducted by Catholic News Service.

The continued effect of the global economic downturn was second among the 30 news stories on the ballot, and the democracy movement in the Middle East—dubbed the Arab spring—took third place.

Among the 24 newsmakers on the ballot, Archbishop Timothy M. Dolan of New York, president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, was second and U.S. President Barack Obama was third.

The poll was the 50th annual survey conducted by CNS. This year's ballots were distributed on Dec. 2, and the deadline for returns was on Dec. 8.

When the editors' poll was first conducted in 1962, the overwhelming choice for top story was the opening of the Second Vatican Council. Last year, editors chose the recovery and rebuilding effort that followed the devastating January earthquake in Haiti as the top religious story of the year, and Pope Benedict as the top newsmaker.

Editors were asked to vote for the top 10 news stories from a list of 30, and the top five newsmakers from a list of 24. Votes were weighted by the rankings that editors gave—10 points for a first-place vote, nine points for second, etc., and five points for top newsmaker, four for second, etc.

With 29 editors and CNS staff members submitting ballots, the maximum points that a story could have received was 290. The most a newsmaker could receive on the five-point scale was 145.

Rounding out the top five for religious news stories were the Irish Church's sex abuse scandal and the issue of religious

freedom.

Pope Benedict, who has been the top religious newsmaker in the CNS poll every year since 2006, took first place this year for his travels to Croatia, Benin, Germany and Spain; his declaration of the upcoming Year of Faith; and his meetings with U.S. bishops, which were to continue into 2012.

Among newsmakers, Blessed John Paul II, who was beatified in May, and a Fordham University theologian, Sister Elizabeth Johnson, whose 2007 book *Quest for the Living God* was declared "seriously inadequate as a presentation of the Catholic understanding of God" by the bishops' Committee on Doctrine, were fourth and fifth, respectively.

Here are the choices for top 10 stories and top five newsmakers of 2011, followed by points received in the weighted ballot count and, in parentheses, the number of first-place votes received.

Stories

1. *Roman Missal*, 200 (9)
2. Economy, 189 (7)
3. Arab spring, 126 (4)
4. Health care, 120
5. Irish Church sex abuse scandal, 111 (2)
6. Religious freedom, 85 (3)
7. World Youth Day, 84
8. (tie) Sex abuse, 74 (1)
8. (tie) Wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, 74
10. Natural disasters, 67 (1)

Two first-place votes also went to the anniversary of the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks.

Newsmakers

1. Pope Benedict XVI, 107 (19)
2. Archbishop Timothy M. Dolan, 75 (5)
3. President Barack Obama, 45 (2)
4. Blessed John Paul II, 28
5. Sister Elizabeth Johnson, 22 (1)

Also receiving two first-place votes was Sister Carol Keehan, president and CEO of the Catholic Health Association. †

2011 top news

STORIES

1. Roman Missal

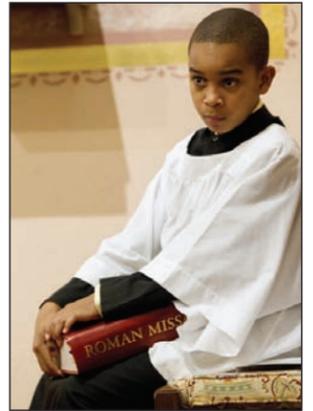
Years of planning went into it, followed by catechesis over the past several months to prepare everyone for the first use of the new English-translation of the Roman Missal.

2. Economy

3. Arab spring

4. Health care

5. Irish church sex abuse scandal



NEWSMAKERS

1. Pope Benedict XVI

He has been the top religious newsmaker in the CNS poll every year since 2006.

2. Archbishop Timothy M. Dolan

3. President Barack Obama

4. Blessed John Paul II

5. Sister Elizabeth Johnson

Results from an annual CNS pool of journalists in the Catholic media.

Source: CNS

Now There Are Two Catholic Radio Stations

Serving Central Indiana



stvincent.org

THE PAST,
PRESENT AND
FUTURE OF
HEALTH CARE
IN INDIANA.

The more than 15,000 associates of St. Vincent Health would like to wish you the happiest of holidays — and to remind you that, now and throughout the year, The Spirit of Caring is alive and well.

We've been serving Central Indiana for more than 130 years.

And we're going to be for a long time to come.

THE SPIRIT OF CARING® St. Vincent HEALTH

TONINI CHURCH SUPPLY CO.
966 BRECKENRIDGE LN. LOUISVILLE, KY. 40207-4670
TOLL FREE — 1-800-626-3545 • LOCAL (502) 897-7100 • FAX (502) 897-7190
OUR WEB ADDRESS: WWW.TONINI.NET * EMAIL: INFO@TONINI.NET

"Keep Christ in Christmas"
OVER 50 DESIGNS TO CHOOSE FROM

STORE HOURS
Mon - Fri - 10am - 7pm
Sat - 10am - 5pm
Sun - Closed

Having lost Krieg Brothers as a longtime friend, we welcome all Criterion customers.

TONINI CHURCH SUPPLY CO.
is just a phone call away.

Phone: 1-800-626-3545 Fax: 1-502-897-7190
Visit our webstore for all of your religious supply needs
www.tonini.net

WE STOCK:
CHURCH CANDLES - ALTAR WINE - COMMUNION HOST
VESTMENTS- CLERGY SHIRTS - ALBS - SURPLICES - GIFTS
BIBLES - CATECHISM - NEW ROMAN MISSAL
WEEKDAY & SUNDAY MISSALS - CRUCIFIXES
PICTURES - NATIVITY SETS

Religious Gifts Can Mean So Much More.



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

Most Rev. Most Rev. Christopher J. Coyne, S.L.D.
Apostolic Administrator, Publisher

Greg A. Otolski, Associate Publisher

Mike Krokos, Editor

John F. Fink, Editor Emeritus

Editorial



A nun greets Latin Patriarch Fouad Twal of Jerusalem during Christmas Mass at the Church of St. Catherine in the West Bank town of Bethlehem on Dec. 25, 2010.

Good news in the Holy Land

As we celebrate the birth of Jesus, the Son of God, in Bethlehem, it is easy to be pessimistic about the future of Christians in the Holy Land. As the so-called "Arab Spring" turned into what some have called the "Christian Winter," there have been numerous attacks by extremist Muslims in various parts of the Middle East.

However, we think it is important to be aware of some of the many good things that the Catholic Church is doing to maintain a Christian presence in the land where Christ was born. The Church continues to serve the poor and needy in Bethlehem and other parts of the Holy Land.

We start with Bethlehem University because it is a direct result of the visit of Pope Paul VI to the Holy Land in 1964. Decrying the fact that the Holy Land was becoming a museum for Christians, he encouraged the apostolic delegate at the time, Archbishop Pio Laghi, to find a way to establish an institution of higher learning that would meet the needs of the Palestinian society.

The university, one of several projects that resulted from Pope Paul's visit, opened its doors on Oct. 3, 1973. It is located at the highest point in Bethlehem, and is operated by the De La Salle Christian Brothers.

From 112 students in 1973, its enrollment has grown to 2,936 students. It has 11,470 graduates, most of whom are serving the Palestinian society in the West Bank, East Jerusalem and Gaza in various professions and leadership positions.

The Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem is the designation for the Latin Rite Catholic Archdiocese of Jerusalem. Patriarch Fouad Twal has jurisdiction for Latin Rite Catholics in Israel, the Palestinian territories, Jordan and Cyprus.

His residence is near the Basilica of the Holy Sepulchre in the Old City of Jerusalem, which also serves as his cathedral. The archdiocesan seminary is in Beit Jala, located two miles from the Basilica of the Nativity in Bethlehem.

The patriarchate has dozens of projects, including the maintenance of schools, hospitals, housing programs and youth centers throughout the archdiocese.

Since the time of St. Francis, the Franciscan Friars Minor have been responsible for the Custody of the Holy Land. At the first General Chapter

of the Friars Minor in 1217, Francis decided to send his friars to all nations. The present Custos of the Holy Land is Franciscan Father Pierbattista Pizzaballa.

The Custody's activities are defined as "apostolic and missionary." Above all, it provides pastoral care for the local churches, including Masses, confessions, retreats and other spiritual assistance for the Catholic communities.

The Franciscans' projects are supported by the Franciscan Foundation for the Holy Land, based in the United States. Its president, Franciscan Father Peter Vasko, is frequently in Indianapolis raising funds for the foundation. *The Criterion* has reported on some of those visits.

In recent years, the Franciscans also have opened new schools, especially in Bethlehem. Those who attend the schools promise to remain in the Holy Land as adults, and Father Peter reports that most are doing so.

Finally, there are the knights and ladies of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem, an order that traces its history back to the time of the crusades. Its mission today is to try to maintain a Christian presence in the Holy Land.

Perhaps you have seen some of the local knights and ladies at various liturgical ceremonies. The knights are dressed in berets and colorful capes with the Jerusalem cross, and the ladies wear black mantillas and black dresses.

The Order of the Holy Sepulchre is based in Rome. Archbishop Edwin O'Brien, formerly the Archbishop of Baltimore, was recently appointed grand master of the order. He is succeeding another American, the late Cardinal John Foley, who had to resign for reasons of health. Cardinal Foley died on Dec. 11.

It is an international order with more than 28,000 members in 58 jurisdictions.

Before his resignation, Cardinal Foley reported that, in the year 2010, the order received 10.3 million euros—\$13.7 million—in donations for projects in the Holy Land. Among the expenditures, about 5.5 million euros went to projects and expenses of the Latin Patriarchate, 3.1 million euros went to schools, and 350,000 euros went to Bethlehem University.

Good things are happening in the Holy Land.

—John F. Fink

Reflection/Daniel Conway

An Advent farewell to Archbishop Kelly

The Church in central and southern Indiana has lost a good friend and



neighbor. Louisville Archbishop Emeritus Thomas C. Kelly, O.P., died peacefully in his sleep on Dec. 14. He was called home by the Lord after serving as a priest and bishop for more than 53 years.

At the time of his death,

Archbishop Kelly was 80 years old and had been retired for five years. He was living at a parish in Louisville and actively ministering to the people of God—celebrating Mass and preaching at Holy Trinity Parish, confirming children throughout the Archdiocese of Louisville and occasionally helping out "across the river" in the Archdiocese of Indianapolis.

Archbishop Kelly's career as a priest and bishop followed an unusual path—from service to the universal Church, to the Church in the United States, to the Archdiocese of Louisville to Holy Trinity Parish.

It was in some ways the opposite of the path followed by many Church leaders who start out in parish ministry, and work their way up the hierarchical ladder to service in the wider Church.

Archbishop Kelly, who was known to be impish on occasion, enjoyed the fact that his path was different. He started out serving the Dominican order and the Holy See as an administrator and diplomat.

Then, for five years, he led the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops as its general secretary. For 25 years, he served as Archbishop of Louisville and then, during his final years, he served in parish ministry.

Archbishop Kelly was a good friend and brother bishop of Indianapolis Archbishop Emeritus Daniel M. Buechlein. The men got to know each other when Archbishop Buechlein was president-rector of Saint Meinrad School of Theology, and Archbishop Kelly was the

general secretary of the bishops' conference.

The men shared a love for the priesthood and for the Church that deepened over the years as Archbishop Kelly was sent to Louisville in 1982 and Archbishop Buechlein served first as Bishop of Memphis from 1987 to 1992 then as Archbishop of Indianapolis from 1992 until the fall of 2011.

I had the great privilege of working for both archbishops. Their leadership styles were totally different, but I learned a lot from both of them. I witnessed firsthand Archbishop Kelly's compassion, and his concern for the poor and vulnerable. I loved his humor and his powerful preaching.

Most of all, I appreciated his friendship and his support for my efforts to balance the demands of my work for the Church and my primary responsibility as a husband and father.

I think it is fitting that Archbishop Kelly returned to the Lord during the season of Advent. He had little patience for our commercialized celebration of Christmas. He much preferred the hope-filled images and poetry of this season of joyful expectation. I like to think that he was too eager to be with Jesus to wait for the Lord's coming. Instead, he took the short cut home, bypassing the final shopping days until Christmas.

In that spirit, let us offer an Advent farewell to a good friend and neighbor:

Dear Archbishop Kelly, may this season of joyful hope speed you on your way to heaven. And may our Lord's coming again this Christmas remind us all of the boundless love that awaits each of us when we meet again on the last day. Maranatha! Come, Lord Jesus!

(Daniel Conway is a consultant for mission advancement for the Archdiocese of St. Louis. He is a member of the editorial committee of the board of directors of Criterion Press Inc., and led the archdiocese's Office of Stewardship and Development from 1993-97.) †

Be Our Guest/Sr. Diane Carollo, S.G.L.

More Birthline volunteers needed in the archdiocese

I often joke that Birthline, an outreach of the Office for Pro-Life Ministry, is one of the best kept secrets in the Archdiocese of Indianapolis. However, it is certainly no secret to the more than 2,000 mothers and babies living in poverty who receive material assistance from Birthline annually.

Since April 2000, more than 22,000 women and babies have received needed clothing, supplies and equipment at the Archbishop Edward T. O'Meara Catholic Center in Indianapolis.

Not bad for an organization that relies on a network of approximately 50 volunteers!

These same trained volunteers have provided life-giving options to hundreds of women considering abortion on our hotline.

For those of you unfamiliar with Birthline, volunteers provide material assistance to women and their babies on Mondays and Wednesdays. Agencies throughout the city refer impoverished women, many of whom are single mothers, for a basic layette, crib, toys, etc.

Most outreach workers initially think that the Birthline staff consists of paid employees of the archdiocese. When they learn that Birthline is powered by a network of volunteers, they express amazement. Through the years, they have commented on Birthline's efficiency, professionalism, dedication to the poor and Christian charity.

Some Birthline volunteers answer the crisis hotline or schedule appointments from the comfort of their homes. Recently, on the feast

of the Immaculate Conception, a Birthline crisis intervention volunteer received a call from a woman considering abortion.

After responding to the caller's desperation, confusion and fears, the volunteer was able to rescue the young woman from an abusive situation and reunite her with a close family member. With her basic needs met and a promise for a more hopeful future, the woman abandoned her original plan to have an abortion. "Saves" on the Birthline hotline are not uncommon.

The beauty of the Birthline hotline is that the women reach out to us by simply calling the hotline at 317-635-4808. Their cry for help is always met by caring volunteers who respond with compassion, truth and love. That is probably why many reconsider their decision to abort.

Birthline is currently in need of volunteers who are unconditionally pro-life and have a heart to work with the poor or abortion-minded individuals. Spanish-speaking volunteers are important to the ministry since one-third of the clients that we serve are Latinas. Training for all aspects of the Birthline ministry is conducted at the Catholic Center. Could God be calling you to be a Birthline volunteer?

Birthline depends on financial contributions and donations of new or gently used items for babies and pregnant women.

For more information, contact Jena Hartman, our new Birthline coordinator, at 317-236-1433 or send an e-mail to her at jhartman@archindy.org.

(Servants of the Gospel of Life Sister Diane Carollo is director of the archdiocesan Office for Pro-Life Ministry.) †

TOP STORIES

continued from page 2

executive director, moments after watching Gov. Mitch Daniels sign the school choice bill into law during a May 5 bill signing ceremony at the governor's office.

Tebbe worked to promote school choice in Indiana for more than a decade.

"For the first time in the history of Indiana, eligible parents will be able to use a voucher to send their children to a nonpublic school," Tebbe said. "And in many cases, that school of choice will be a Catholic school."

Under the new law, working Hoosiers whose children qualify for free or reduced price lunches would get 50 to 90 percent of what it costs the state to educate those students in a public school to attend a private one of their choice.

By September, 1,028 students in Catholic schools across the archdiocese benefited from the Indiana voucher program.

5. Plan to energize Terre Haute Deanery includes the closing of four parishes.

The "agonizing" decision to close four parishes in the Terre Haute Deanery came after more than two years of "much prayerful work, research and reflection by the Terre Haute Deanery Pastoral Leadership Team and the Deanery Planning Team," according to archdiocesan officials.

A July 13 letter from Archbishop Buechlein announced the closing of four of the deanery's 14 parishes—Holy Rosary Parish in Seelyville, St. Ann Parish in Terre Haute, St. Joseph Parish in Universal and St. Leonard of Port Maurice Parish in West Terre Haute.

The four parishes represent about 325 families or less than 10 percent of the approximate 4,000 households in the Terre Haute Deanery.

"Even as we grieve these closings, it is ours to look with anticipation to the new collaborations which are key to the strategic plan," said Father Rick Ginther, dean of the Terre Haute Deanery.

The final Mass at St. Leonard Church was celebrated on Nov. 19—one century to the day after the inaugural Mass was celebrated there. The other three parishes will close in 2012.

6. Archdiocesan Catholics prepare for the new translation of the Mass.

Catholics in central and southern Indiana joined with the rest of the country in preparing for the new translation of the Mass, which debuted at the end of November on the first Sunday of Advent.

A Nov. 18 news story reported that, "It is the first major change to the words prayed at Mass in a generation. Many parish leaders have been hard at work preparing their parishioners for the new *Roman Missal*, and trying to help them come to a greater appreciation of the Mass at the same time.

"But because of the diversity of parishes, a variety of approaches have been

implemented to prepare archdiocesan Catholics for the new Mass translation."

SS. Peter and Paul Cathedral Parish in Indianapolis used pamphlets inserted in its weekly bulletin and letters in the bulletin from its pastor, Father Noah Casey, to help parishioners prepare for the new liturgy.

The archdiocesan Office of Worship also offered a series of one-day workshops that served as an introduction to the revised *Roman Missal* for pastoral musicians and parish liturgical leaders.

Some of the sung parts of the new translation were also allowed in parishes—at the discretion of pastors—beginning in September.

7. Historic estate gift announced at Catholic Community Foundation meeting.

A Nov. 11 *Criterion* news story reported that "a historic estate gift to the Archdiocese of Indianapolis was announced during the annual meeting of the board of directors of the Catholic Community Foundation [CCF] at the Archbishop Edward T. O'Meara Catholic Center in Indianapolis.

"Donald Horan, a member of St. Mary Parish in Greensburg and president of the CCF board, told meeting attendees on Nov. 2 that land given to the archdiocese was recently sold for \$7.5 million.

"This estate gift—the largest in archdiocesan history—was made possible through the generosity of James P. Scott, who died in 1979 while a member of St. Joan of Arc Parish in Indianapolis. ... "When the archdiocese was informed of the unrestricted gift, Archbishop Emeritus Daniel M. Buechlein directed that at least \$5 million of the gift be used to create the James P. Scott Endowment. Funds distributed from it annually—totaling approximately \$250,000—will support capital projects in parishes, schools and agencies throughout central and southern Indiana."

8. Sweeping pro-life legislation is signed into law in Indiana.

When Gov. Mitch Daniels signed House Enrolled Act 1210 into law, he helped make Indiana one of the most pro-life states in the country, one of his spokesmen said.

Because of the act, Indiana became the first state to defund abortion providers, such as Planned Parenthood. It also required women to be given certain information—in both oral and written forms—before undergoing an abortion.

A May 13 story explained that, "The wide-ranging pro-life act also prohibits abortions in Indiana after 20 weeks of gestation. ...

"The act also will require doctors who perform abortions in the state to establish emergency room admitting privileges for the purpose of follow-up care should the post-abortive woman need it.

"HEA 1210 also bans an Indiana health insurance exchange established under the federal health care act from including elective abortion coverage."

Because of legal challenges, HEA 1210 has yet to take effect.



Animators bring the word of God to life in Lucas Oil Stadium in Indianapolis during the Nov. 18 morning general session of the National Catholic Youth Conference. More than 23,000 youths, chaperones and conference presenters spent Nov. 17-19 at the Indiana Convention Center and the stadium learning how they are "Called to Glory" through their faith.

9. Deacon Dustin Boehm is ordained to the priesthood.

Bishop Coyne ordained transitional Deacon Dustin Boehm to the priesthood during a Mass on June 4 at SS. Peter and Paul Cathedral in Indianapolis.

Bishop Coyne was the principal celebrant at the Mass, and Archbishop Buechlein was able to attend and preach the homily. It was his first public event since suffering a mild stroke in March.

"It was an overwhelming moment just to see all of the people there so representative of God's grace and God's love, and also their love," Father Boehm said after the ordination liturgy. "It was an absolute gift. It was so humbling, [thinking about] what was about to happen."

The archbishop gave advice and counsel to the new priest during the Mass.

"Priestly ministry is awesome," Archbishop Buechlein said. "You will be able to serve because of God's special grace, which you receive in the sacrament of holy orders this morning. God's grace will accompany you all the days of your life."

Father Boehm began his priestly ministry in July as associate pastor of St. Monica Parish in Indianapolis.

10. Marian University continues work toward new medical school.

On Aug. 24, Marian University in

Indianapolis revealed that Michael Evans, a local businessman and veteran, had donated \$48 million to aid in the creation of a medical school planned to open in the fall of 2013.

The same day, ground was broken for the facility, which Marian University president Daniel Elsener announced would be named the Michael A. Evans Center for Health Sciences. It will house the school of nursing and a new college for osteopathic medicine.

Evans was reluctant to take credit for the donation, which he said was inspired by a desire to share his talents, but Elsener urged him to acknowledge his gift.

"Our hope is that every student who is educated here will be inspired by [Evans'] legacy and understand how they can share their gifts with others as selflessly as he has," Elsener noted.

The university also received a \$1 million gift from the Eli Lilly and Company Foundation.

(To read our original coverage for all of these stories, including additional links of interest, read this story on our website at

www.CriterionOnline.com.) †



Church agencies rush aid to thousands of Philippine flood victims

CAGAYAN DE ORO, Philippines (CNS)—Church agencies teamed with international aid groups and the Philippine government to assist tens of thousands of people left homeless in northern Mindanao by flash flooding caused by an intense tropical storm that left at



A resident carries chairs he salvaged from his damaged shanty on Dec. 18 after flash floods brought by Tropical Storm Washi hit Iligan City in the southern Philippines. Church agencies teamed with international aid groups and the Philippine government to assist tens of thousands of people left homeless.

least 950 people dead and hundreds more missing.

The country's National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council reported that about 338,000 people in 13 provinces were affected by Tropical Storm Washi, which unleashed floods and landslides as people slept in their homes across northern Mindanao late on Dec. 16.

Authorities on Dec. 20 placed the death toll at 957. Philippine President Benigno Aquino has declared a national calamity in the wake of the floods, which affected small but densely populated areas of Mindanao.

The thousands of people remaining in shelters are at risk of disease, authorities said.

Church sources in Cagayan de Oro and Iligan, two of the worst hit areas, say exact casualty figures are difficult to pin down because of the extensive damage caused by the storm, the Asian Church news agency UCA News reported.

Joe Curry, country representative for Catholic Relief Services, the U.S. bishops' overseas relief and development agency, told Catholic News Service on Dec. 19 from Cagayan de Oro, a city of about 600,000, that about 35,000 people who lost their homes are being housed in evacuation centers in schools and outdoor

covered gymnasiums.

Overall, an estimated 75,000 of the city's residents living near a river that flows down from nearby mountains on its way to the ocean were affected by the flooding, he said.

"It looks kind of like the tsunami hitting," he said describing what he saw when he arrived in the low-lying area at the base of a mountain. "Everything was taken off the foundations. The water was 11 feet above its banks, and anything near it was wiped away."

Curry described survivors as stunned.

"People in the evacuation centers we've met have nothing left from their houses," he said. "Everything went with the house. They have no clothes. They have no kitchen items. They have nothing."

Meanwhile, words of comfort and offers of assistance poured in from around the world.

After reciting the Angelus on Dec. 18 at the Vatican, Pope Benedict XVI said he wanted to assure the people of the Philippines of his prayers. After the "violent tropical storm," he said, "I pray for the victims—many of whom are children—for the homeless and the numerous people who are missing." †

Events Calendar

December 23

Paoli Peaks, 2798 W. County Road 25 S., Paoli. **New Albany Deanery ski trip for families, young adults and youths**, 9 a.m.-4 p.m., \$25 per person. Information: 812-945-2000 or leah@nadyouth.org.

December 28

Motherhouse, Sisters of the Third Order of St. Francis, Oldenburg. **Christmas tour**, 6-8 p.m. Information: 812-933-6491.

January 4

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

January 6

Sacred Heart of Jesus Church, chapel, 1530 Union St., Indianapolis. **Lumen Dei, Mass**, 6:30 a.m., breakfast

following Mass at Pure Eatery. Information: rhumper69@yahoo.com.

January 8

Our Lady of Fatima Retreat House, 5353 E. 56th St., Indianapolis. **Discalced Carmelites Secular Order meeting**, noon. Information: 317-545-7681.

January 12

Archbishop O'Meara Catholic Center, 1400 N. Meridian St., Indianapolis. **Abba, Father**

Chapter, Catholics United for the Faith, "Catholicism," 6-8:30 p.m., free-will donation. Information: 317-236-1569 or parthur@archindy.org.

January 13

St. Lawrence Church, Hartzler Hall, 542 Walnut St., Lawrenceburg. Batesville Deanery and Knights of Columbus, **vocations dinner**, 6 p.m. Information: 513-241-1287.

January 14

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

January 15

Richmond Catholic Community, 701 N. "A" St., Richmond. **Charismatic prayer group**, 7 p.m. Information: dicksoncorp@parallax.ws.

January 20

Northside Knights of Columbus Hall, 2100 E. 71st St., Indianapolis. **Catholic Business Exchange**, Mass, breakfast and program, "The Greening of the Catholic Church—New Fad or Core Belief?" Goeff Glanders, president of August Mack Environmental Inc., presenter, 6:30-8:30 a.m., \$14 members, \$20 non-members. Reservations and information: www.catholicbusinessexchange.org. †

Retreats and Programs

December 31

Michaela Farm, Oldenburg. **"Audubon Society's Christmas Bird Count,"** 7:30 a.m.-1 p.m., Oldenburg Franciscan Center, lunch, \$7 per person. Information: 812-933-6437 or center@oldenburgosf.com.

Our Lady of Fatima Retreat House, 5353 E. 56th St., Indianapolis. **"Exploring the Gifts of the Holy Spirit," New Year's Eve retreat**, Msgr. Paul Koetter and Father Eric Johnson, presenters, \$128 per person or \$246 married couple. Information: 317-545-7681 or marcia.johnson@archindy.org.

January 6-7

Benedict Inn Retreat and Conference Center, 1402 Southern Ave., Beech Grove. **"Women's Discovery Weekend,"** Kathy Davis Shanks and Benedictine Sisters Mary Luke Jones, Joan Marie Massura and Sharon Bierman, presenters. Information: 317-788-7581 or www.benedictinn.org.

January 8

Oldenburg Franciscan Center, Oldenburg.

"Coffee Talk: Wise Men and Women Following a Star—Epiphany 1851," Franciscan Sister Rachel West, presenter, 10:45 a.m.-noon, free-will offering. Information: 812-933-6437 or center@oldenburgosf.com.

January 13-15

Our Lady of Fatima Retreat House, 5353 E. 56th St., Indianapolis. **"Tobit Weekend," marriage preparation retreat for engaged couples**. Information: 317-545-7681 or marcia.johnson@archindy.org.

January 14

Mount St. Francis Retreat Center, 101 St. Anthony Drive, Mount St. Francis. **New Albany Deanery Catholic Youth Ministries, "Catholic 101" retreat for grades 9-12**, \$85 per student, registration deadline Jan. 20. Information: 812-945-2000 or leah@nadyouth.org.

January 14-15

Mount St. Francis Retreat Center, 101 St. Anthony Drive, Mount St. Francis. **"On the Journey," New Albany Deanery Catholic Youth Ministries retreat for high school juniors and seniors**, 9:30 a.m., \$85 per person. Information: 812-945-2000 or

leah@nadyouth.org.

January 22

Our Lady of Fatima Retreat House, 5353 E. 56th St., Indianapolis. **"Pre Cana Conference," marriage preparation program**. Information: 317-545-7681 or marcia.johnson@archindy.org.

January 23

Our Lady of Fatima Retreat House, 5353 E. 56th St., Indianapolis. **"Come Away and Rest Awhile," silent reflection day**, 8 a.m.-4 p.m., \$30 per person includes continental breakfast and lunch. Information: 317-545-7681 or marcia.johnson@archindy.org.

February 4-5

Mount St. Francis Retreat Center, 101 St. Anthony Drive, Mount St. Francis. **New Albany Deanery Catholic Youth Ministries, "Catholic 101" retreat for grades 9-12**, \$85 per student, registration deadline Jan. 20. Information: 812-945-2000 or leah@nadyouth.org.

February 5

Oldenburg Franciscan Center, Oldenburg. **"Coffee Talk: Noticing Our Guardian Angel,"** Franciscan Sister Patty Campbell,

presenter, 10:45 a.m.-noon, free-will offering. Information: 812-933-6437 or center@oldenburgosf.com.

February 14

Oldenburg Franciscan Center, Oldenburg. **"Be My Valentine Dinner: Two Hearts—One Love,"** Jim and Carolyn Meyer, presenters, 4-8 p.m., \$50 per couple. Information: 812-933-6437 or center@oldenburgosf.com.

February 16-20

Mount St. Francis Retreat Center, 101 St. Anthony Drive, Mount St. Francis. **New Albany Deanery Catholic Youth Ministries, senior retreat**, \$225 per student, registration deadline Feb. 3. Information: 812-945-2000 or leah@nadyouth.org.

February 18

Oldenburg Franciscan Center, Oldenburg. **"Hope in Diversity—Looking at Our Relationships,"** Franciscan Sister Olga Wittekind, presenter, 9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m., \$45 includes lunch and assessment tools. Information: 812-933-6437 or center@oldenburgosf.com. †

SS. Peter and Paul Cathedral and Saint Meinrad announce Christmas liturgies

The Christmas liturgical schedules for SS. Peter and Paul Cathedral, 1347 N. Meridian St., in Indianapolis and the Archabbey Church of Our Lady of Einsiedeln of Saint Meinrad Archabbey in St. Meinrad are as follows:

SS. Peter and Paul Cathedral

Dec. 24—4:30 p.m. carols, 5 p.m. Mass, 11:15 p.m. vigil service of lessons and carols, midnight Mass with Bishop Christopher J. Coyne scheduled as the principal celebrant.

Dec. 25—10:30 a.m. Mass. All times for liturgies at the cathedral are Eastern Standard Time.

Saint Meinrad Archabbey Church

Dec. 24—7 p.m. vigil, 10 p.m. Mass. Dec. 25—9:30 a.m. Mass. All times for liturgies at Saint Meinrad Archabbey Church are Central Standard Time.

For the Christmas liturgical schedules of other religious communities or parishes in the archdiocese, contact their offices. †

St. Malachy Parish will present 'Catholics Returning Home' series

St. Malachy Parish, 9833 E. County Road 750 N., in Brownsburg will present an ongoing series called "Catholics Returning Home" on six consecutive Wednesdays at 7 p.m. beginning on Jan. 11. The sessions are for non-practicing

Catholics who are seeking answers to questions about returning to the Church. There will be informal sharing and updated information about the Catholic faith.

For more information, call the parish office at 317-852-3195. †



Gift for Care Net

The Knights of Columbus from Council #12540 at St. Malachy Parish in Brownsburg, with some financial assistance from the state council, presented an ultrasound machine to Care Net, a pro-life clinic in Mooresville, on Dec. 9. Assisting with the presentation are, from left, Sherry Young, Care Net's executive director; Tom Gawlik, state deputy of the Indiana Knights of Columbus; Msgr. Mark Svarczkopf, pastor of Our Lady of the Greenwood Parish in Greenwood; Mike Velasco, state pro-life director for the Knights of Columbus; and Tony Shriner, grand knight of St. Malachy's council, holding his son, Joachim Shriner.



112 years young

St. Charles Borromeo parishioner Emilie Weil of Milan celebrated her 112th birthday on Nov. 20. She resides with Robert and Marilyn Weil, her son and daughter-in-law, on a farm near Milan. A feature story published in 2011 recounts milestones in her life, which spans three centuries. To read the story, log on to <http://www.archindy.org/criterion/local/2010/02-05/weil.html>.

Innkeeper tells of the miraculous birth of Christ

By John F. Fink

BETHLEHEM, Judea—I just have to tell someone about the great events that I witnessed yesterday.

First, let me introduce myself. My name is David bar Jacob. I was named after our illustrious ancestor, King David, who lived here in Bethlehem until he entered the service of King Saul.

Of course, as you know, David went on to become our greatest king. He lived in Hebron and then in Jerusalem, but he was born here.

I'm the innkeeper here in Bethlehem. Unfortunately, that's not a very lucrative job because the little town of Bethlehem doesn't get many visitors these days. It has fallen on hard times. People usually bypass Bethlehem and go directly to Jerusalem since it's so close.

However, that hasn't been true the past few weeks. Emperor Caesar Augustus decided that he wanted to take up a census and decreed that everyone had to enroll in the city of his ancestors.

I'm not sure why that was necessary, but I shouldn't complain because it has meant more business for me. The few rooms in my inn sell out quickly every day.

That's the way it was yesterday evening when a very nice couple arrived at my inn. Their names were Joseph and Mary. They were in town to register because Joseph is descended from the family of King David.

When they arrived, Mary was obviously near the end of her pregnancy. They wanted a room, but all my rooms were taken.

I couldn't just turn them away though. I did the only thing that I could—something that I had done a couple of times in the past. I took them to the little cave behind the inn where I keep my

animals. I made them as comfortable as I could then returned to the inn.

It wasn't an hour later that Joseph came running back to me.

"I need a midwife," he said.

My wife, Salome, knew whom to get so she did, and we all hurried back to the cave. Of course, my wife and I didn't go in, but the midwife did.

Soon I heard the cry of a baby. Then I heard the midwife exclaim, "How great is this day to me that I have seen this new sight."

Coming out of the cave, the midwife said to my wife, "Salome, Salome, I have a new sight to tell you; a virgin has brought forth, a thing which her nature does not allow."

Salome and I went into the cave and there was Mary with her baby. She had already wrapped him in some swaddling clothes and laid him in a manger.

Salome did what she could to make them comfortable then we returned to our inn.

But that wasn't the end of the story. Salome and I were getting ready for bed while talking about what we'd just seen when we heard a great commotion.

I checked to see what was going on, and there was a group of shepherds headed for the cave.

Well, I have to tell you that shepherds are not my favorite people. They are usually dirty and they manage to pick up an odor from being with all their sheep. They're pretty much at the bottom of our social system. But they usually stay in the fields. It's unusual for them to come around the inn.

I asked one of them what was going on. That's when he told me an amazing story. He said that the shepherds had been keeping watch over their sheep in the fields when suddenly an angel appeared



The adoration of the Magi is depicted in a painting in the Cathedral Basilica of Sts. Peter and Paul in Philadelphia. The Christmas season begins with the Dec. 24 evening vigil commemorating the birth of Christ and ends with the feast of the Baptism of the Lord Jan. 9.

to them with a great light shining around him.

"Naturally, we were scared to death," the shepherd said. "But the angel said, 'Do not be afraid; for behold, I proclaim to you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For today in the city of David a savior has been born for you who is Messiah and Lord.' Then he told us where we would find him."

But that wasn't all. The shepherds told me that a whole multitude of angels appeared, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests."

I believe in angels, but this was the first time I ever talked to someone who had seen one. That is, until this morning when I was able to have a longer conversation with Joseph while Mary was nursing her baby.

He told me that an angel had appeared to Mary nine months ago to tell her about God's plan for her to bear this baby. Not only that, but Joseph also had experienced a visit from an angel in a dream.

At the time, Joseph had discovered that

Mary was pregnant and he knew that he wasn't the father. He had decided to divorce her quietly rather than accuse her of adultery. That's when the angel appeared in Joseph's dream and told him that it was through the Holy Spirit that the child was conceived.

When Joseph told me that, I thought that explained what the midwife had discovered, that Mary had given birth while remaining a virgin.

Well, that's my story. I believe that the long-awaited Messiah was born last night in the cave behind my inn.

Of course, I knew that it would happen in Bethlehem because one of our prophets said about our city, "You, Bethlehem, land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; since from you shall come a ruler, who is to shepherd my people Israel."

(This quotation and the story of the midwife are included in The Protevangelium of James, an apocryphal book [#19]. John F. Fink is editor emeritus of The Criterion.) †

Christmas TV MASS for Shut-Ins

This beautiful 30-minute Mass will be produced from the Crypt Church at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D.C.

THE **CW4** CW4/WTTV
Sunday, December 25
9:00 a.m.

The TV Mass can be seen at 6:30 a.m. every Sunday on CW4/WTTV.

We invite you to participate in the financial underwriting of this program.

Please send contributions to:
Catholic Communications Center, 1400 N. Meridian St., Indianapolis IN 46202-2367

Write or call for a free copy of the weekly missal for your use at home. (317) 236-1585 or 1-800-382-9836, ext. 1585.

Sponsored by:



Air Conditioner & Heat Pump Sale

NO HASSLE FINANCING AVAILABLE with approved credit

THIELE
Heating & Air Conditioning
SINCE 1883

SERVICE & REPLACEMENT SPECIALISTS

www.callthiele.com
317-639-1111

Our staff has over 100 years of Catholic education!

128th Anniversary Sale

FREE
10 Year Warranty

On the Purchase of a new 90% Gas Furnace, Heat Pump or Air Conditioner.

CALL THIELE TODAY!
639-1111

Expires 1/7/12

128th Anniversary Sale

FREE
Labor

On the Installation of a new High Efficiency Furnace, Heat Pump or Air Conditioner.

CALL THIELE TODAY!
639-1111

Expires 1/7/12

128th Anniversary Sale

1/2 Price
Service Call

With Repair
Furnace, heat pump or air conditioner

CALL THIELE TODAY!
639-1111

Expires 1/7/12

Coupon must be presented at time of purchase. Cannot be combined with any other offer! Mon-Fri 8-4 p.m. only.

Readers share their favorite Christmas memories

Surprise proves that grace is found where you least expect it

By Kate Duffy Sim
Special to The Criterion

Grace appears where you least expect it. I certainly wasn't looking for it when I made the rounds at the St. Augustine Home for the Aged rummage sale in Indianapolis early this December.



Kate Duffy Sim

But there among the rubber gloves, sheet sets and mismatched luggage, I was ambushed by grace.

It appeared in the form of a crèche—a Nativity scene—displayed on emerald felt.

It wasn't the only manger scene for sale that day, but what made me stop—and wipe away an errant, wistful tear—was that this set was identical to the Nativity scene that my family put up every Christmas when I was a child.

Made in Italy half a century ago from a material that seems to be a mixture of paper mâché and clay, the figures are painted in bright colors and in admirable detail.

Kneeling, Mary holds slender hands to her breast, her sky blue robe folding over a pink gown.

Joseph, gray-haired and dressed in brown and purple, is barefoot, supporting himself on one knee with the help of a staff.

Both seem pensive although Mary smiles in quiet joy.

There are three shepherds with adoring

Photo by Mary Ann Garber



This crèche is displayed at the Allison Mansion on the campus of Marian University in Indianapolis during the Advent and Christmas seasons. Criterion reader Kate Duffy Sim reflects on how a crèche fills her with the wonder of Christmas and the peace that comes from grace.

expressions.

The three kings are richly gowned, and two have dark complexions.

An angel suspended from a nail blesses the rickety wooden barn that contains the scene.

There are four sheep, a wobbly camel, a cow with horns of twisted wire, a donkey, a dog and a goat.

The jewel of the collection is, of course, the Christ Child, lying on a white drape in his manger of hay, his dreamy face surrounded by sandy curls and a gold halo.

His posture is ironically reminiscent of his impending crucifixion—arms

outstretched, one knee raised higher than the other, a loin cloth gathered at one side. But the loin cloth is baby blue, and his knees are painted with rosy highlights.

The entire figure is no more than 3 inches long, 2 inches wide, and no heavier than a walnut.

Every Christmas that I can remember until I was married and left home, it was my "job" to arrange the crèche.

My mother and I would create a different barn every year, usually from a shoe box and salt dough or Popsicle sticks.

But I alone got to decide how the figures would be positioned.

Who was on the right? Mary or Joseph? Who would be closest to the Baby Jesus? The shepherds? The kings? The animals?

Usually, I opted for the animals.

But it didn't matter where I initially placed them because they moved all during Advent.

My mother wisely knew that these figures were not items for display, but living characters in a child's mind.

Again and again, I acted out the story from the Gospel of Luke, moving the shepherds and wise men closer and closer to their miraculous discovery.

Sometimes I would place myself in the story and bring "treasures," usually sequins and shiny buttons from my mother's sewing box, to place at the feet of the Infant Christ.

Time and six moves took their toll on my family's Nativity set. Spindly legs snapped off the sheep and the dog, and I had to prop them against the human figures. A decapitated shepherd was made whole again by a necklace of glue. Joseph's original wire staff disappeared and was replaced with straightened hair pins or paper clips.

By the end of my mother's life, the set was down to only a few figures—the

Holy Family, a shepherd, an angel and a chalky white replacement sheep made in Japan and purchased at Woolworth's for 25 cents in the 1960s.

But my mother still set them out with her other Christmas decorations, and it gave me a thrill to see them displayed every year in her apartment.

My mother died in November 2009. In all the chaos that came with quickly emptying her apartment before the next month's rent was due, the Nativity set vanished.

I don't know if it was accidentally placed in the Goodwill donations pile or thrown out with the empty boxes. I just know that it didn't come home with me, and I was doubly heartbroken, missing more than my mother that Christmas.

But grace blindsided me at a rummage sale this month, leading me to a duplicate of our original set with 19 pieces all complete and undamaged.

After I dried my eyes, I took out my checkbook.

The "new/old" Nativity set now graces an antique chest next to our Christmas tree. The pieces are, of course, smaller than I remember.

When I was a child, the Baby Jesus figure filled my hand. Now it covers only half of my palm.

But this year, as I carefully, lovingly put the figures into place, I asked myself the same old questions.

Who goes on the right? Mary or Joseph? Who will be closest to the Baby Jesus? The shepherds? The kings? The animals?

I opted for the animals. I was 9 years old again, and filled with the wonder of Christmas and the peace that comes from grace.

(Kate Duffy Sim is a member of St. Thomas Aquinas Parish in Indianapolis.) †

help score a **WIN** for St. John's!
by renovating historic spires

\$100 tickets

-only 1,000 total sold

\$20 tickets

-unlimited amount sold

*** Grand prize for each raffle is two tickets to the Super Bowl!**

For more information or to purchase tickets contact Lynette Koffskey (lynette.koffskey@stjohnsindy.org) 317.635.2021 or Megan Fish (mnfish25@gmail.com) 765.561.2924 in the parish office!

All ticket stubs and money must be received by St. John's no later than 12 noon on January 12, 2012.

Gaming License Number: 126319

*10% of all proceeds will be gifted to ministries to serve the poor. The rest of the proceeds will go toward the renovation of our spires!

More information? www.stjohnsyounadult.org/super-bowl-2012/

Super Bowl 2012 Raffle

Raffle conducted by: St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church 126 West Georgia Street, Indianapolis, IN 46225

Children ask Santa Claus for new Nativity set for their Christmas gift

By Judy Mang
Special to The Criterion

It was in the early years of the 1950s. My brothers and sisters and I were still children.

Our father died in 1951 at age 39. Our mother was only 36 years old, and had six children who were all under 9 years of age to raise by herself.

One Christmas, we asked our mother if we could have a new Christmas crib.

She said that maybe Santa would bring a new Nativity set.

So, on Christmas Eve, we hid our cardboard pop-up manger pieces under the sofa cushions in the hope that Santa

would see that we needed a new one.

The next day, on Christmas morning, there was a beautiful new crib where the old crib had been.

The crib had pieces that you could move around any place you wanted them.

We looked under the sofa cushions for the old crib, and discovered that it was gone.

Mother said Santa saw them there and took them away.

It was nice to have a new crib for Christmas.

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

Marian's Madrigal



Marian University senior Chelsey Edwards of Brookville, a member of St. Louis Parish in Batesville, left, and sophomore Sam Hood of Carmel, Ind., in the Lafayette Diocese, sing as they portray the medieval queen and king during the Franciscan college's annual Madrigal dinner on Dec. 9 at the university's historic Allison Mansion in Indianapolis. She is a vocal performance major and he is studying vocal music education. Members of the university's chorale and other music students have presented the annual Madrigal dinner and concert on several days during Advent for about three decades. "We put a lot of work into it," Edwards said. "We come together as a family, and really work hard on this music. We sing traditional Christmas carols."



Above, portraying court jesters, Marian University junior and music education major Dustin Smith of Indianapolis, left, and freshman Julia Horninger of Brookville carry in a stuffed boar, a fun prop used during the annual medieval dinner at the Allison Mansion on the campus of Marian University in Indianapolis, on Dec. 9 as diners watch with amused expressions. "This is a truly unique experience and rare opportunity," Smith said. "It's a pleasure to play a part in it."



Left, senior Philippe Moore of Indianapolis, a music education major at Marian University, sings during the annual Madrigal dinner on Dec. 9 at Allison Mansion on the campus of the Franciscan college in Indianapolis.

Dolls bring magic of Christmas for woman who helped children

By **Cindy Leppert**
Special to *The Criterion*

Christmas came early this year on a stolen afternoon in October when I visited a little, two-room flea market in the back of a gas station.



Cindy Leppert

I'd often wondered what was in there. At the time, of course, I didn't know it was Christmas.

The sweet shop lady was old and walked with a cane.

I perused the assortment of household items, computer equipment and clothing all arranged and for sale.

Two sets of eyes followed me everywhere.

There, in a beat-up, handmade doll cradle under a card table were two baby dolls propped up together.

One had a pacifier, and the other a bottle.

They had stuffed cloth bodies with molded heads and arms and legs, but no clothes. The little one had an impetuous face and a shock of yellow hair. The big one was angelic.

Perfect condition, I thought.

Was it my name that I heard?

"Keep walking," I told myself. "You're not collecting things. You're getting rid of them. What are you doing in here anyway?"

But I had to touch just once. Oh, so soft, the big one was like a real infant, and the little one was a charmer.

"You like our dolls?"

The shop lady smiled. I liked, all right, but I put them

down.

"Do not take anything home that you can't use," I told myself.

I was firm with myself, and went on. I complimented the lady on her nice store and left.

Hours later, memories of Christmases past were welling up from somewhere deep inside, oddly overpowering the October sunshine.

Dolls dressed by my mother and grandmother all seemed to come out of closets. The two that Santa took away on Thanksgiving, leaving a note that he would return them on Christmas, did come back to my sisters with new hair and wearing clothes that were vaguely reminiscent of my mother's scrap bag. My sisters were thrilled.

My boy and girl twins had matching crocheted skating outfits, complete with skates, lots of clothes and their own trunk. It didn't bother me that the boy looked like a girl with a bad haircut.

There was the life-size infant with a soft rubber body wearing a complete handmade Christening outfit as well as a pink crocheted sweater with matching hat and booties all stored inside a cardboard carrying case. She had other clothes, flannel diapers and a bottle. This was the dearest thing I ever had as a child.

"Well, I wouldn't have to keep the dolls," I thought. "I could just dress them and give them away."

Fifteen minutes before closing time, I was back at the shop.

"Your dolls need a home," I said.

The Christmas magic was upon me. My mind raced. I hadn't made doll clothes in years.

All the stuff that I would need was still stowed away in the attic and garage since my move to "down-size"

three years ago. I had no clue where the vintage doll clothes patterns were.

And so it went for weeks. The project became a homecoming into a world almost forgotten.

I played with baby dolls, daydreamed about layettes and wept over the scraps from years of sewing for my family.

In the process of digging into boxes, I found 21 handmade quilt squares that had been lost more than 15 years ago. How on earth did they survive the move? Miracle of miracles!

My living room was a wreck for weeks because that's where I have to sew. Dishes were piled in the sink as I compressed my schedule to make time for trips to the fabric store and the thrift shop.

The big doll got some new onesies and a jacket and a backpack doll carrier. The little doll got overalls made from a friend's old jeans and a striped shirt and a flannel quilt with a wide, satin binding.

In the process of dressing the dolls, I remembered a certain struggling family. I spoke to the grandparents raising their three grandchildren, and found out that one girl could really use a doll.

The other child was crazy for artwork. The grandson was a toddler. I got permission to work with Santa Claus this year.

On Thanksgiving, Santa came to my house and took away two orphaned dolls with complete outfits and a stack of recycled art supplies in a new carrying case packed with a bold crayon print apron.

Then Advent began.

(Cindy Leppert is a member of St. Christopher Parish in Indianapolis.) †

Christmas provides years of special memories of faith and fellowship

By **Mark Hummer**
Special to *The Criterion*

As a college student at the University of Toledo, which is in the Mid-American Conference, Advent and Christmas were always special times.

I was a member of the Newman Club at the university. They still have a very active Newman Center.

One of the Christmas activities that we sponsored—and they still do—was a midnight Mass on campus at the Student Union on the weekend before final exams in December.

As with all their Masses, this liturgy was open to the public.

Over the years, I had volunteered as a lector, greeter and server. The music was always very special.

Years later, we had our oldest daughter, Valerie, baptized at Corpus Christi Church near the university.

My mentor in college, Father James Bacik from Sandusky, Ohio, has been the Catholic campus minister

there since about 1981.

He is still there, and the community of Toledo is very blessed to have him minister on the campus. He is a very wise, humble and down-to-earth priest who always brings out the best in people.

I grew up in the small town of Holly, Mich., where my parents are still residents. It is about an hour north of Ann Arbor and about 10 miles south of Flint.

One of the fond memories I still have about the area is that the village of Holly would hold their Christmas sing-a-long at St. Rita Church, our hometown parish.

Ever since we moved there when I was 12, the town has sponsored what is called "Dickens' Days."

All the shopkeepers and even some local volunteers would dress in period costumes, and talk in the style of Charles Dickens' characters from his books.

Going back home to visit, you felt like you also went back in time!

From 1997 until 2007, I had the distinct honor of working as the activity coordinator at A Caring Place in

Indianapolis with Providence Sister Susan Dinnin.

The center is operated by Catholic Charities Indianapolis as part of their older adult day services program.

One of my favorite memories about working at A Caring Place was playing the role of Santa Claus along with the late Benedictine Brother Anthony Streit.

We would adopt a participant and make sure that he or she had a present.

The Indianapolis "500" staff from the Indianapolis Motor Speedway also provided care packages for A Caring Place participants.

We would pile all the gifts on a sled and roll it down the hallway then open the doors and say, "Ho ho ho! Santa is here!"

The family members and especially the participants are truly blessed to have a caring and creative person like Sister Susan as their site manager.

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

Our Lady of Guadalupe celebration

Photos by Charles D'Schneina courtesy Denise Lumby Photography



Msgr. Mark Svarczkopf, pastor of Our Lady of the Greenwood Parish in Greenwood, prays the eucharistic prayer during the Dec. 12 Mass. Concelebrating priests include, left, Conventual Franciscan Father Leopold Keffler and Father John Beitans.



Above, people lay red roses at the foot of the altar before a Dec. 12 liturgy honoring the feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe at Our Lady of the Greenwood Church. Officials from the Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe in Mexico City, which houses the image of the Virgin of Guadalupe that appeared on the tilma of St. Juan Diego in 1531, have written a letter of congratulations recognizing the annual celebration at Our Lady of the Greenwood Parish in union with all the Americas.

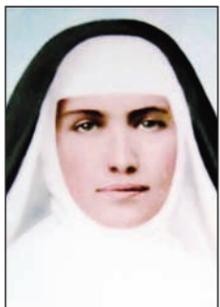


Left, members of the Committee of Guadalupe process around Our Lady of the Greenwood Church with a framed image of Our Lady of Guadalupe. The church held its 16th annual Mass honoring the Patroness of the Americas on Dec. 12. The frame that holds the image of Mary was hand-carved in Mexico.

Pope advances sainthood causes of Marianne Cope, Kateri Tekakwitha

VATICAN CITY (CNS)—Pope Benedict XVI advanced the sainthood causes of Blessed Marianne Cope of Molokai and Blessed Kateri Tekakwitha.

During a meeting on Dec. 19 with Cardinal Angelo Amato, prefect of the Congregation for Saints' Causes, the pope signed the decrees recognizing the miracles needed for the canonizations of Blesseds Marianne and Kateri.



Blessed Marianne Cope

Before a date is set for the canonization ceremonies, there must be an "ordinary public consistory," a formal ceremony opened and closed with prayer, during which cardinals present in Rome express their support for the pope's decision to create new saints.

Blessed Marianne, who worked as a teacher and hospital administrator in New York, spent

the last 30 years of her life ministering on the Hawaiian island of Molokai to people with leprosy. She died on the island in 1918 at age 80, and was beatified at St. Peter's Basilica in 2005.

Blessed Kateri, known as the Lily of the Mohawks, was born to a Christian Algonquin mother and a Mohawk father in 1656 in upstate New York along the Hudson River. She was baptized by a Jesuit missionary in 1676 when she was 20, and she died in Canada four years later. In June 1980, she became the first Native American to be beatified.



Blessed Kateri Tekakwitha

Pope Benedict also recognized miracles attributed to the intercession of five other people, who now can be declared saints. They are:

- Blessed Giovanni Battista Piamarta, an Italian priest who

founded the Congregation of the Holy Family of Nazareth for men and the Humble Servants of the Lord for women. He died in 1913.

- Blessed Jacques Berthieu, a French Jesuit priest who was martyred in Madagascar in 1896.

• Blessed Carmen Salles y Barangueras, the Spanish founder of the Sisters of the Immaculate Conception. She worked with disadvantaged girls and prostitutes, and saw that early education was essential for helping young women. She died in 1911.

• Blessed Peter Calungsod, a lay Catholic from Cebu, Philippines, who accompanied Jesuit missionaries to Guam as a catechist and was martyred there in 1672 while he was in his late teens.

• Blessed Anna Schaffer, a lay German woman who wanted to be a missionary, but couldn't do so after a succession of physical accidents and illnesses. She accepted her infirmity as a way of sanctification. Her grave has been a pilgrimage site since her death in 1925. †

CHRIST'S COMING IN CHRISTMAS

Please join

Bishop Christopher J. Coyne

the rector and parishioners of SS. Peter and Paul Cathedral

on

Christmas Eve

to celebrate Christ's coming in Christmas.



Vigil Mass

December 24

5:00 p.m.

Dickens Carolers
4:25 p.m. - 4:55 p.m.

Presider: Fr. Noah Casey

Vigil Service of Lessons and Carols

December 24

11:15 p.m.

Presider: Fr. Noah Casey

Midnight Mass

December 24

12:00 a.m.

Presider
Bishop Christopher J. Coyne

Concelebrant
Fr. Noah Casey

Christmas Mass

December 25

10:30 a.m.

Presider: Fr. Noah Casey



Secured Parking at SS. Peter and Paul Cathedral lot (enter from North Pennsylvania Street)

The Catholic Center lot (enter from West 14th Street)



Online Lay Ministry Formation

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

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

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



Now There Are Two Catholic Radio Stations

Serving Central Indiana



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

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

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

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

100% Catholic Programming
24 Hours a Day

The prologue of St. John's Gospel focuses on Jesus' divinity

By Joseph Kelly

Catholics attending a later Mass on Christmas Day are often surprised by the Gospel reading. There is no mention of shepherds, of Magi, of angels, of Bethlehem or, very surprisingly, of Mary and Joseph.

Instead, the Gospel starts, "In the beginning was the Word," (Jn 1:1) and it continues to speak only of the Word of God.

What people are hearing is the prologue to the Gospel of St. John. But why is this a Christmas Gospel reading?

John wrote his Gospel after St. Matthew and St. Luke had written theirs, and those are the two Gospels with the accounts of Jesus' birth.

Matthew has the Magi and the flight into Egypt, while Luke has the Annunciation, the census and the shepherds. They focus upon the human aspects of the birth of Jesus. Luke and Matthew's Gospel even include genealogies that, respectively, trace Jesus' human ancestors back to Adam and Abraham.

John, on the other hand, wanted to emphasize Jesus' divinity. His Gospel records Jesus' sayings such as "The Father and I are one" and "If you knew me, you would know my Father" (Jn 10:30, 14:7). John's emphasis upon Jesus' divinity begins with the prologue.

In fact, John's prologue is a type of genealogy—not the human genealogies recorded by Luke and Matthew but a divine one, speaking of Jesus' eternal generation from the Father. "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God" (Jn 1:1).

But why does John say "Word" rather than "Son"? Because John wrote in Greek, and in that language, the word for "Word" means "the perfect expression." The Son of God is the perfect expression of the Father, that is, in his human form

he will present the divine reality to us humans.

The prologue emphasizes that "the Word became flesh" because this was a radical idea for the ancient world, saying that the divine being could take on flesh and become incarnate as a revelation of divinity itself.

Although we accept this today, this notion made tremendous demands upon ancient people. For some, it was just too much to accept. John tells us that many of the Jews who first heard this message objected to it and listened to Jesus no more.

But other Jews who heard of the Word made flesh did believe, and they became Jesus' first disciples.

Although the Gospel of St. John will tell primarily about the words and deeds of Jesus during his public ministry, this magnificent prologue focuses on what the Word did before becoming flesh, an approach that harmonizes with other New Testament books.

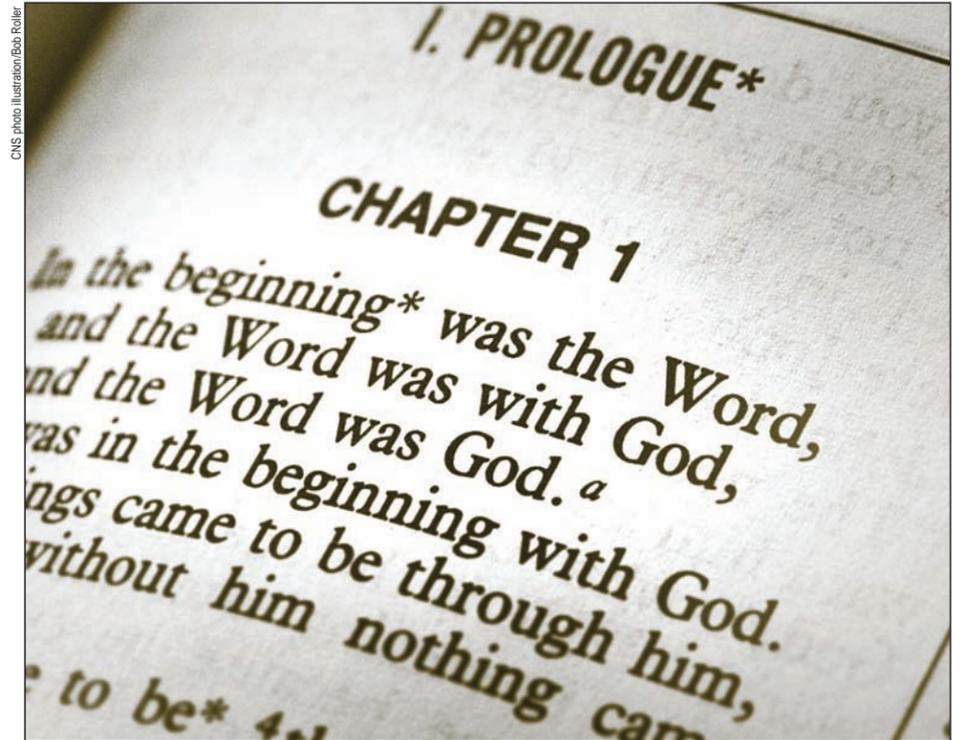
For example, in his

Letter to the Romans, St. Paul presents Jesus as the new Adam. John, in Revelation, written about the same time as his Gospel, makes many comparisons between the beginning of the world and its end. In this prologue, John also alludes to the creation.

He tells his readers that the Word "was in the beginning with God" and that "all things came to be through him, and without him nothing came to be," so the incarnation is not the first time the Son has been concerned with all of creation (Jn 1:2-3). John has effectively linked the Word with the world Jesus would come to save. Even more, the phrase "in the beginning" recalls the very first words of the entire Bible, Genesis 1:1.

John maintains the creation motif in the next verse. "Through him was life,

'... John's prologue is a type of genealogy—not the human genealogies recorded by Luke and Matthew but a divine one, speaking of Jesus' eternal generation from the Father.'



Although the prologue to the Gospel of St. John differs greatly from the infancy narratives found at the start of the gospels of St. Luke and St. Matthew, John is very much interested in Christ's birth. In it, he emphasizes Christ's divinity and the wonder of the Word of God taking on human flesh.

and this life was the light of the human race; the light shines in the darkness" (Jn 1:4).

Jesus represents the re-creation of the world, so John again takes us back to first day of creation when God separated the light from the darkness, and "God saw that the light was good" (Gen 1:4). Readers who also knew Matthew's Gospel would recall how the light of the star led the Magi to Jesus.

But John's prologue looks equally to Luke's infancy narrative. John speaks of "his glory, the glory as of the Father's only Son" (Jn 1:14). Readers familiar with Luke's account would recall that the angels sang to the shepherds, "Glory to God in the highest" (Lk 2:14).

When we attend Mass, we do not always realize how Church leaders have diligently worked to give meaning to every liturgy. Choosing the prologue of John's Gospel was not an easy decision to make.

The modern religious Christmas

focuses almost entirely on the infancy narratives of Matthew and Luke as well as on material that is not found in those narratives, for example, that Gospel Magi were actually three kings.

John's Gospel takes Jesus' birth very seriously indeed but does not express it in the familiar form. Like Matthew and Luke, John speaks about Jesus' birth but in terms of the divine Word, present at the creation, becoming again present but this time to the creation. The world was created through him, and now it would be redeemed through him via his human birth, his incarnation.

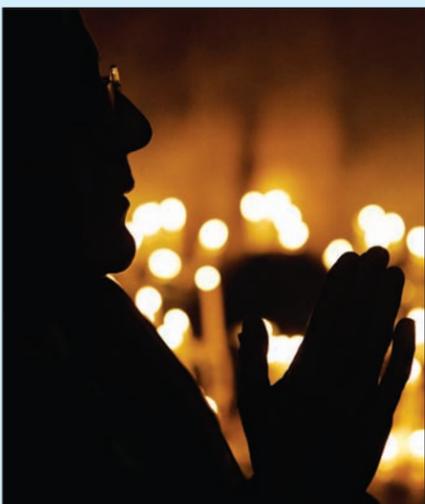
This prologue makes a superb Christmas Gospel reading.

(Joseph Kelly is professor of religious studies at Jesuit-run John Carroll University in Cleveland, and author of An Introduction to the New Testament for Catholics, published by Liturgical Press.) †

God joins himself to humanity forever in Christ's birth

By Father Lawrence E. Mick

Twice in one week, the Lectionary uses the same psalm as the responsorial



A Catholic prays during a Christmas Eve Mass at the church of the Italian Embassy in Tehran, Iran, on Dec. 24, 2006. When Christ took on human flesh, humanity became forever joined to God.

psalm at Mass. Psalm 89 is used on the fourth Sunday of Advent this year, and also appears at the Christmas Vigil every year.

From one standpoint, this seems an odd choice. Psalm 89 is categorized as a psalm of lament. It is a complaint to God after a defeat suffered by a king of Israel. "You have rejected and spurned, been enraged at your anointed" (Ps 89:39).

But, as is typical of lament psalms, this one also expresses a great deal of confidence that God will eventually be faithful to the promises he has made to King David. The psalmist prays to God to remember those promises and act in accord with them.

It is from these parts of the psalm that the Lectionary draws. Though slightly different verses are used on the two different days, both times the responsorial ends with the same verse. "Forever I will maintain my kindness toward him, and my covenant with him stands firm" (Ps 89:29).

Earlier the text says, "I have made a covenant with my chosen one ... forever I will confirm your posterity and establish

your throne for all generations" (Ps 89:4-5).

The posterity of David includes Jesus Christ, and it is his throne that is established for all generations. Jesus is God's ultimate answer to the lament of the psalm.

This psalm can remind us, therefore, that the birth of Jesus is not an isolated event but part of the longer arc of history, part of God's ongoing plan to bring about our salvation.

The covenants that God formed with his people through Noah and Abraham and Moses and David are all fulfilled in the new covenant established through Jesus Christ.

This is the deeper meaning of Christmas. God and humanity are forever joined in a covenant of love. Going beyond the earlier covenants, God now shares our very life. Humanity and divinity are forever united in Jesus.

This is what we mean by the term "Incarnation." A literal translation might be "enfleshment," reminding us that God has taken on human flesh and shared our life.

But there are also broader implications

that flow from this belief. The Incarnation continues. Jesus is still to be found in human beings because all the members of the Church form his mystical body.

Christmas celebrates the end of our separation from God because God has established the new covenant in Jesus and forever linked us to himself.

Even in our worship, we rely on the connection that God has established between creation and divinity. We use created things to mediate the presence and grace of God—bread, wine, water, oil, stained glass, stone, marble and many other elements of creation.

Our worship is not purely spiritual, but incarnational. We don't have to seek God in some other world, but can find his presence in the things around us, especially in other human beings. May we remember that as we gather with family and friends and fellow parishioners to celebrate the great feast of Christmas!

(Father Lawrence E. Mick is a priest of the Archdiocese of Cincinnati.) †

From the Editor Emeritus/John F. Fink

Biblical readings: St. Paul's Letter to the Colossians

After Christmas, there are special readings in the Office of Readings next week from Monday through Wednesday for the feasts of St. Stephen, St. John and the Holy Innocents, and then again on Friday for the feast of the Holy Family. St. Paul's Letter to the Colossians slides in there, though, on Thursday and Saturday. It is a short letter, only four chapters.

Colossae was in Asia Minor, in modern Turkey. It was one of the churches Paul wrote to that he didn't establish. A man named Epaphras did. Then, apparently, he reported to Paul that false teachers were telling the Colossians that Christ's work was insufficient, and that certain other ascetical practices were needed for salvation.

Paul, writing from prison—we don't know where—tried to use his authority to assure the Colossians that, by Christ's saving death, God "delivered us from the power of darkness and transferred us to the

kingdom of his beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins" (Col 1:13-14).

He quotes a liturgical hymn apparently known by the Colossians. It states that Christ is the image of the invisible God, that through him and for him all things were created, that he is the head of the Church and the firstborn from the dead, and God will reconcile all things for him, making peace by the blood of his cross.

Paul then writes about his own ministry, telling his readers to emulate him, to follow his example. It is his desire, he says, to "present everyone perfect in Christ. For this I labor and struggle" (Col 1:28-29).

Then comes his warning against false teachings. They apparently included the worship of angels that were connected with pagan superstitions, and rules about food, drink and ascetical practices. These things, he says, detract from the person and work of Christ for salvation.

He then encourages the Colossians to renounce vices such as anger, fury, malice, slander and obscene language. Instead, they should practice compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. "And

over all put on love, that is, the bond of perfection" (Col 3:14).

He urges wives to be subordinate to their husbands, husbands to love their wives, children to obey their parents, slaves to obey their human masters, and masters to treat their slaves justly and fairly, "realizing that you too have a Master in heaven" (Col 4:1).

He concludes with greetings from those with him, including Mark and Luke, traditionally thought to be the authors of Gospels later in their lives.

The Criterion will not be published the next two weeks. Between Epiphany and the feast of the Baptism of Jesus, the Office of Readings returns to the Book of Isaiah, this time to the oracles in Chapters 60-66. These chapters were written in Jerusalem after the Jews returned after their exile.

During the First Week in Ordinary Time, on Jan. 9-14, the Office of Readings includes selections from the Book of Sirach. As this book itself says, it was not written by Sirach but by his grandson, a man named Jesus. It is part of the Jewish wisdom literature. †

Cornucopia/Cynthia Dewes

'Tis the night before Christmas (almost), and we can't wait!

Well, the little drummer boy has thankfully been drummed out of hearing range. Santa's elves, including the mean ones, the TV technology salesmen kind, and all the other imaginative wisecracks of holiday lore have been put on hold for another year.

The ethnics are gearing up for their traditional Christmas Eve or Christmas day meals. This includes my Norwegian relatives, who enjoy a "white" supper on Christmas Eve, featuring lefse—a pale, soft bread made mainly from potatoes—plain boiled potatoes, turnips and lutefisk, boiled cod which has been treated with lye and dried. Don't ask.

Amahl is still waiting for the night visitors, and Rudolph the red-nosed reindeer is charging his batteries. St. Nicholas has had his day, while Santa Claus is readying for his. And yes, Virginia is still glad to hear there really is a Santa Claus. All this while some unseen force is letting it snow, letting it snow, letting it snow.

The Grinch, whoever that is, is trying to steal Christmas, whatever that means.

The Bottom Line/Antoinette Bosco

The Christmas 'shock'—We must take Jesus seriously

When I saw the title *Christmas Shock: The Human Experience of God*, I grabbed the book.

And when I saw the author's name, Jean Maalouf, I knew that I had a good learning experience in store. I read some of his previous books, and was particularly moved by his writings on the great French Jesuit priest, Father Pierre Teilhard de Chardin.

I have often met with Maalouf, a very spiritual writer who has two doctorates from the Sorbonne University in France. I have eaten a Chinese lunch with him, and listened with my heart more than my ears as he spoke of why he wanted to write this book.

He wanted to write it, he said, "because we are not taking Jesus seriously, and we cannot live our lives as if Jesus hadn't come."

The miracle of Christmas is that "God could become a human being," and this is a "shocking" miracle, and new proof that "our lives are where the sacred

Solemn choirs are singing "Adeste Fideles," and joyous ones are belting out the "Hallelujah Chorus." The bells are poised to ring on the big day, even though they have been jingling for some time now.

Scrooge is winding down his dyspeptic dream, and Tiny Tim is about to be given a big surprise. O. Henry's gift exchange between a loving husband and wife is in the works. The story of how "Silent Night" came to be written is told to a new generation of singers, and enjoyed by everyone.

Frosty the Snowman and other peripheral holiday characters have been laid aside for now. In fact, every aspect of the Christmas story has probably been covered, including the dopey, irreverent, meaningful or charming ones. That is the kind of feast, the kind of holy day, that it is.

No matter how politically correct we try to be during these Happy Holidays, the "Christ" word keeps slipping in to remind us that Christmas is, in fact, a Christian holiday. Christmas is the entrance of the Messiah into human his-story. It is the culmination of God's promise to the Jews in the Old Testament, and the beginning of God's promise in the New Testament of redemption for all of us on Easter. Of course, Easter is the greatest feast of all, but Christmas may

and the secular meet."

Thus, with the coming of Jesus, he emphasized, there was an explosion of "something new in human history.

"Jesus made God accessible, tangible, concrete and eager to be with us, 'God's children,'" Maalouf explained. "And so, each and every day we can touch God right where we are in life—right here, right now."

Meeting with this brilliant scholar, who has devoted his life to what he acknowledges is "contemporary spirituality," is an exceptional privilege.

He acknowledges that he can "shout" with the saintly Francois Mauriac: "Once you get to know Christ, you cannot be cured of him."

In his book, Maalouf underscores why he has come to believe that Christmas is a continuous celebration.

"Every time we incarnate what Jesus told us to do, it is Christmas. Every time we stir more love in others, it is Christmas. Every time we let the Holy Spirit be active in our lives as well as in the lives of others, it is Christmas.

"Christmas is a continuous celebration. ... Christmas is the meaning of all things." Maalouf points out the teachings of the

be more beloved.

After all, the Christmas story involves a sweet, helpless baby, his harassed parents, a political tyrant and folks trying to help the little family along its journey. That is much more pleasant for us to contemplate than thinking about the violent death of our innocent Savior by crucifixion.

It is a story that appeals to everyone because it is familiar to everyone in some way. The salvation that the baby brings comes later, but right now we have pure hope. We can relate to the Holy Family and their baby, the plight of the poor and powerless, and the simple good will of humble shepherds at the scene. There are animals, too, inspiring affection because they ask nothing in return.

Hope is always a good thing. So maybe we should just relax and enjoy putting up stockings in anticipation of surprises from a jolly, overweight fellow who can slide up and down chimneys, and drive a deer-driven sleigh through the sky. Maybe we should be more like the children, who always expect gifts from loving parents, sweet surprises and happy endings.

(Cynthia Dewes, a member of St. Paul the Apostle Parish in Greencastle, is a regular columnist for *The Criterion*.) †

Faith and Family/Sean Gallagher

Make the baby Jesus' manger soft this Christmas

It is not uncommon for us parents to presume that the learning relationship between us and our children is one way. We teach and they learn. I know that this has been the case for me over the years.

But this teacher-student relationship is not absolute between parents and their children.

Parents should always be mindful that we can learn so much from our children.

I have been reminded of this in a poignant way during these weeks of Advent leading up to Christmas.

My young sons have shown me how many chances we have each day to make the ordinary daily hardships we are forced to bear into sweet prayers to our Lord.

They have also reminded me how taking some initiative and coming up with small sacrifices on our own can help us bear those little and big crosses—such as illnesses, job loss or bearing with annoying co-workers or relatives—that are imposed upon us.

In the process, my boys have put me to shame, showing me how often I fail to do even little things for God.

During Advent, my wife, Cindy, has encouraged our sons to remember the little sacrifices they make during each day. At supper, we go around the table and tell each other what they were.

One of my sons mentioned eating food served to him at a meal that he really didn't like. Another mentioned letting one of his brothers play with a toy that he really wanted to play with.

Nothing huge in the grand scheme of things, but hopefully it is opening the eyes of my boys' hearts to the spiritual possibilities that surround them every moment of every day, and strengthening their will to actually choose to take advantage of them.

When our boys are ready for their bedtime prayers, we will have them take one yellow piece of yarn for each of their sacrifices that day and lay them in a small basket we have put into a Nativity set. They thus become another piece of straw that they put into the manger to make the baby Jesus' bed that much softer for him.

In a more profound way, this wonderful practice that Cindy heard about from some friends has taught me, through my boys, that gaining a new perspective on our sufferings and drawing closer to Christ through them can be a great gift we can receive from God at Christmas.

In our culture, we tend to flee from all suffering to a fault. Yes, we can freely do all that we morally can to alleviate our own suffering. And it is a commendable thing to lessen the hardships of others.

But it is impossible in this life to eliminate all suffering. So it is good for us to find ways to make our crosses meaningful and even, with the help of grace, to see them as blessings.

One way to do that is to bear suffering for the good of others. So often, we can make the days of other people around us easier by going out of our way to serve them and be pleasant to them.

When we do that, we are being like my boys. We are making the manger that much softer for the baby Jesus.

So often, our culture leads us to be overly sentimental when we think about the scene of Christ's birth.

But, if you think about it, Jesus, Mary and Joseph had it pretty rough in that cave that served as a stable outside of Bethlehem 2,000 years ago.

Yet, what happened there continues to be Good News for all humanity.

And in this life, in which at least some degree of suffering is unavoidable, part of that Good News is that God can transform our daily crosses into his eternal glory. †



Feast of the Birth of the Lord/Christmas/Msgr. Owen F. Campion

The Sunday Readings

Sunday, Dec. 25, 2011

- Isaiah 52:7-10
- Hebrews 1:1-6
- John 1:1-18

The liturgy includes several Masses for Christmas. These readings are for the Mass celebrated during the day.



Isaiah's third section supplies the first lesson.

To understand this reading, it helps to be aware of the historical context that surrounds the composition of this part of Isaiah.

God's Chosen People had been

through very much in the preceding century.

First, their land, regarded by the devout as sacred itself—and certainly belonging to the Hebrew people by nothing less than divine mandate because God had given it to them—had been conquered by invading pagans.

Not only were the people robbed of the land, and chaos and destruction swept through the society, but the social structure was destroyed.

Many people were killed, and those who survived this conquest were taken to Babylon, the capital of the Babylonian Empire.

There, they languished for four generations, far from their homeland and compelled to live in an atmosphere greatly unfriendly to their religion and to all that they had known.

At long last, this enforced exile ended. Returning to the Holy Land, however, was a hollow achievement for the people. The land was poor and unproductive.

Through prophetic guidance, such as that provided by the author of this section of Isaiah, the realization came to the people that true deprivation is the want within the human heart for peace, hope, and a sense of strength and worth.

This Scripture sees, as the antidote to anxiety, a sense in the heart of the presence of almighty God—the source of all peace, joy and hope—and living in obedience to God.

The second reading is a passage from the Epistle to the Hebrews.

It is a marvelous revelation of God as

the Trinity and of Jesus, as Son of God, the true and full reflection of the Father. The reading is characteristic in its eloquence and depth of this entire epistle.

In the third reading, the Church presents the first 18 verses of the Gospel of St. John.

Each of the four Gospels has its own literary majesty and inspired insight into the reality of God and salvation.

While each of the Gospels is splendid in its own literary construction, none outdoes John for clarity and magnificence.

For that matter, few passages, if any, in the long Gospel of John outdo the glory of these first 18 verses.

These verses, read today, are extraordinary because of the soaring and profound sense that they convey in revealing the person and mission of Jesus.

He is God's wondrous gift to humankind, given in God's eternal and unending love.

Only in Jesus does existence have meaning, order, purpose and a future. He is the glory of God, living for and among humans. He is the light of the world. He is eternal. He is life itself.

Reflection

By the time the Mass during the day is celebrated, dawn has come. Daylight shines almost everywhere on Earth, even if shaded in some places by the grey clouds of winter.

The Church began celebrating the marvel of Christ's birth at Mass at midnight. It also celebrated at Mass at dawn.

In the Mass celebrated during the day, the Church ponders once again what it celebrated earlier. It invites us to join in this holy reflection.

What is the true meaning of the event of Christ's birth? What does it mean for each person?

The true meaning is that, despite the deprivation and despair produced by sin, as Third-Isaiah realized, we have a reason for hope and confidence.

Jesus, the Son of God, and the very glory of the Father, has come and is here for us.

Jesus is not distant or inaccessible. He is one of us, being the son of Mary. He has been born for and given by God to us! †

Daily Readings

Monday, Dec. 26

Stephen, martyr
Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59

Psalm 31:3cd-4, 6, 8ab, 16bc-17
Matthew 10:17-22

Tuesday, Dec. 27

John, Apostle and evangelist

1 John 1:1-4
Psalm 97:1-2, 5-6, 11-12
John 20:1a, 2-8

Wednesday, Dec. 28

Holy Innocents, martyrs

1 John 1:5-2:2
Psalm 124:2-5, 7b-8
Matthew 2:13-18

Thursday, Dec. 29

1 John 2:3-11
Psalm 96:1-3, 5b-6
Luke 2:22-35

Friday, Dec. 30

Holy Family of Jesus, Mary

and Joseph
Sirach 3:2-6
or Colossians 3:12-21
or Colossians 3:12-17
Psalm 128:1-5

Luke 2:22-40

or Luke 2:22, 39-40

Saturday, Dec. 31

1 John 2:18-21
Psalm 96:1-2, 11-13
John 1:1-18

Sunday, Jan. 1

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

Monday, Jan. 2

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

Tuesday, Jan. 3

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

(continued on page 15)

Question Corner/Fr. Kenneth Doyle

Reader offers another perspective on church fees for weddings and funerals

QI read your column regarding fees that some parishes charge for weddings and funerals.

The column pointed out that people are sometimes puzzled or even offended by such charges, and made the suggestion that, where possible, parishes "would probably do well to forego these special fees and to finance all of their sacramental celebrations through the regular weekly collection."

I think there are other things to be said.

More and more, couples these days are reserving a reception facility first then calling a nearby church to see if "their date" is available.

This is indicative of the couple's priorities. They think nothing of spending huge sums of money on the rehearsal dinner and reception, dresses and tuxedos, photographers and flowers, disc jockeys and limousines with a comfortable honeymoon thrown in.

If the church service is a "freebie," what does that teach them about the respect and gratitude they owe the parish? Not to mention the fact that the church's maintenance and utility bills—bumped up a bit by the rehearsal time and the wedding—still need to be paid. (Lindenwold, N.J.)

AYour observation stands on its own, and I have little to add. I would prefer, though, that the balance of values not be measured only by the money spent.

I would be delighted if a couple spent half as many hours planning the liturgy—the Scripture readings and prayers, vows and blessings—as they do on the reception.

And I'd even give them credit for time spent in pre-Cana instruction.

QA friend told me recently that the privilege of receiving holy Communion in the form of wine expired in the year 2005, and that, according to the *General Instruction of the Roman*

Missal, we are violating Church law by taking Communion from the cup.

Is this true? (Columbus, Ohio)

AYour friend is misinformed. In fact, the 2011 version of the *General Instruction of the Roman Missal* encourages the practice of taking Communion under both forms, and calls it "a fuller form as a sign" (#281) since it more clearly recalls the eucharistic banquet and reminds the recipient that the new covenant was ratified by the blood of Christ.

The 2011 version, if anything, expands the opportunities for reception from the cup by giving to the diocesan bishop "the faculty to permit Communion under both kinds whenever it may seem appropriate to the priest to whom a community has been entrusted as its own shepherd" (#283).

This same guideline cautions that the faithful should be well-instructed about the nature and meaning of the Eucharist, in which Christ is fully present whether Catholics receive under one species or two, and that there should be no danger of "profanation of the sacrament" and no difficulty because of a large number of participants.

In a letter sent on Oct. 26, 2011, to all bishops in the nation, New Orleans Archbishop Gregory M. Aymond, chair of the U.S. bishops' Committee on Divine Worship, noted, "If the diocesan bishop discerns these minimum requirements are met, he may allow holy Communion under both kinds at any celebration of the Eucharist in his diocese"—on a "weekday, Sunday or holy day."

With regard to your friend's contention, what did, in fact, expire in 2005 was an earlier Vatican indult that had permitted extraordinary ministers of holy Communion to purify the sacred vessels following Communion.

The practice of receiving Communion under both species remains not only allowed, but recommended.

(Questions may be sent to Father Kenneth Doyle at askfatherdoyle@gmail.com and 40 Hopewell St., Albany, N.Y. 12208.) †

My Journey to God

Mary

In the midst of prayer,
Devoid of words—
How painfully bereft is speech to a
soul!—
I laid myself bare
In aching repetition,
Pleading!

O, merciful Mother,
Hear my cry!
The Lord is with Thee!
Bravest are You and most
Blessed among women.
From Your womb
Descended the Divine.
Wondrous Lady,
Heavenly Queen,
You gave birth to Our Lord
On a bed meant for livestock and
Suffered All—
Your Life's Love and Devotion
Nailed to a cross
To save the soul of
Every other woman's child.

You gave All and All and All and All,
And still the whole world cries to You,
Our most Gracious and Loving
Advocate,
Asking that you continue
To lead us
Unto the Fruit of Your Womb—
Jesus!

Stripped of any words of my own,
Sincerity flowed from the
Nothingness of repetition
Until His voice echoed over my plea,
"Child, what more do you seek?"

If truly, what? Then strength!

Holy Mary,
Mother of God,
Pray for us!

By Angela Roesler

(Angela Roesler is a member of St. Christopher Parish in Indianapolis. She works for the Sisters of St. Francis at the Oldenburg Franciscan Center in Oldenburg.)

Rest in peace

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

GILLIAM, Michael David, 40, St. Paul the Apostle, Greencastle, Dec. 7. Father of Kierra Gilliam. Son of Gary Gilliam and Kathleen Harris. Brother of Thomas Gregg, Cody and Travis Gilliam.

HASTY, Edwin J., 87, St. Simon the Apostle, Indianapolis, Dec. 3. Husband of Teresa (Graham) Hasty. Father of Mariann Denton, Jane Gilliam, Barbara Morgan and Michael Hasty. Brother of Ruth Hansen. Grandfather of eight. Great-grandfather of 18. Great-great-grandfather of one.

HENDERSON, Marie N., 84, St. Jude, Indianapolis, Dec. 2. Mother of Mary Clemmer, Alma Shaul and James Henderson. Sister of Harry Ardizzone.

Grandmother of eight. Great-grandmother of three.

HUBER, Paul, 77, St. Nicholas, Sunman, Nov. 29. Husband of Dorothy (Robbins) Huber. Father of Tonya Cremeans, Paula Reed, Terry and Tom Huber. Brother of Bertha Sarringhaus, Ellen Quisenberry, Franklin and Robert Huber. Grandfather of nine.

KANE, Julia E., 95, Most Holy Name of Jesus, Beech Grove, Dec. 10. Mother of Mary Begley, Nancy Ellis, Rose Marie Faust, Martha Foster, Henry and Leo Kane. Sister of Donna Arianoutsos, Barbara Bowers, Lula Seger and Nancy Vogel. Grandmother of 15. Great-grandmother of 21. Great-great-grandmother of one.

KEEVERS, John S., 75, St. Mark the Evangelist, Indianapolis, Dec. 8. Husband of A. Ruthannah (Good) Keevers. Father of Brian and John Keevers. Grandfather of nine. Great-grandfather of seven.

KENT, John Saxton, III, 85, St. Bartholomew, Columbus, Dec. 1. Husband of Mary (Sims) Kent. Father of Julie Johnson, Bill, Conventual Franciscan Father James Kent, John IV, Rick and Rob Kent. Brother of Mike, Peter and Phil Kent. Grandfather of 12.

KIRTLEY, Shari, 45, former member of St. Malachy, Brownsburg, and St. Monica, Indianapolis, Nov. 25. Wife of David Kirtley. Mother of Adeline and Sophie Kirtley. Daughter of Ron and Joyce Sparks. Sister of Brad and Brian Sparks.

KOCHER, Bernard, 93, St. Jude, Indianapolis, Dec. 14. Father of Mary Haley, Chris, Gerry, Leo, Marvin and Michael Kocher. Brother of George Kocher. Grandfather of 13. Great-grandfather of four.

KOVACH, Irma A., 86, St. Charles Borromeo, Bloomington, Dec. 6. Mother of Ann Oelker, Kay Van Fossen and James Kovach. Grandmother of 11.

MEYER, Aloysius H., 88, former member of Our Lady of the Greenwood, Greenwood, Dec. 11. Husband of Ida Rose (Caito) Meyer. Father of Mary Agnes Gates, Joanne Jones, John and Michael Meyer. Grandfather of nine.

MILLER, Diane E., 74, St. Augustine, Jeffersonville, Nov. 26. Sister of Charlene Bube and Phyllis Osbourn.

OAKLEY, Esther M., 88, St. Mary, Greensburg, Dec. 9. Mother of Leann, James and William Oakley. Grandmother of three. Great-grandmother of three.

O'BRYAN, Mary Laura, 97, St. Jude, Indianapolis, Dec. 3. Mother of Mary Lannan and Cecelia O'Bryan. Sister of Lucille Greaver, Opal Marks and Gene Underwood. Grandmother of three. Great-grandmother of four.

ROBISCH, Robert C., 84,



Good Shepherd, Indianapolis, Dec. 11. Husband of Margaret (Higgins) Robisch. Father of Bob and Jim Robisch. Grandfather of two.

SCHNIEDERS, William G., 67, St. Luke the Evangelist, Dec. 9. Husband of Janet (Pogue) Schnieders. Father of Jennifer and John Schnieders. Brother of Mary O'Brien, Ann, David, Jim and Paul Schnieders. Grandfather of two.

SKATES, John, 82, St. Andrew, Richmond, Dec. 10. Husband of Betty Skates. Father of Marilou

Harvey. Brother of Anna Binion, Maria Smith and David Skates. Grandfather of three. Great-grandfather of five.

SHOWALTER, John L., 70, St. Gabriel, Connersville, Dec. 5. Father of Jill Darby, Julianne Jaensson and J.B. Showalter. Brother of Dr. Bradley Showalter. Grandfather of eight.

TANDYK, John W., 84, Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, Indianapolis, Dec. 11. Husband of Eileen Tandyk. Father of Janice Glassford, Mary Layly and Carol Tandyk. Brother

Cloaked in snow

A snow-covered statue of St. Francis of Assisi stands outside St. Anthony Church in Butler, N.J., after a recent snowstorm.

of Mary Anne Murphy. Grandfather of three.

WIGGINS, Dorothy M. (Davis), 92, Holy Angels, Indianapolis, Nov. 24. Mother of Rochelle Morton, Kenneth and Ronald Wiggins. Grandmother of 12. Great-grandmother of 36. Great-great-grandmother of 10.

WILSON, Alene, 78, St. Rita, Indianapolis, Dec. 4. Mother of Cynthia Wilson-Tyler and Terry Wilson. †

Huser HomeCare

Trusted and Compassionate Care

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

Call us for a free in-home consultation:

Kathy and Terry Huser
(317) 255-5700 or 332-8261
www.HuserHomeCare.com



Providence Sister Joseph Clare McCarthy ministered for 58 years as a teacher, principal and parish staff member in four states

Providence Sister Joseph Clare McCarthy died on Dec. 12 at Mother Theodore Hall at Saint Mary-of-the-Woods. She was 90.

The Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated on Dec. 15 at the Church of the Immaculate Conception at the motherhouse. Burial followed at the sisters' cemetery.

The former Josephine Mary McCarthy was born on Oct. 28, 1921, in Chicago.

She entered the congregation of the Sisters of Providence on Jan. 18, 1939, and professed her first vows on Aug. 15, 1941, and final vows on Aug. 15, 1947.

Sister Joseph Clare earned a bachelor's degree in education at Saint Mary-of-the-Woods College and master's degree in education at Indiana State University in Terre Haute.

During 72 years as a Providence sister, she ministered in education for 53 years at Catholic schools in Indiana, Illinois, Missouri and California.

For seven of those years, Sister Joseph Clare served as a principal. She also ministered as an assistant principal for 14 years.

In the archdiocese, she taught at the former St. Mary-of-the-Woods Village School from 1940-41, St. Thomas Aquinas School in Indianapolis from 1941-47 and the former St. Andrew School in Indianapolis from 1948-53.

After retiring from teaching, she served in parish ministry in Chicago for five years.

In 1998, she returned to the motherhouse and ministered in a variety of ways.

In 2006, she began her full-time ministry of prayer with the senior sisters at the motherhouse.

Surviving are two brothers, Joseph McCarthy of Chicago and William McCarthy of Lombard, Ill.

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

Our Lady of Fatima Retreat House

From the entire Fatima Retreat House staff:

May your lives be blessed with the love of family and friends and the peace of Christ in your hearts.

We thank you for all who have visited us and for all you have done for us in 2011. We hope that you will take some time in the New Year to see what the peace of Fatima Retreat House is all about.

All are welcome at our home, A place to be...with God!

Our Lady of Fatima Retreat House
5353 E. 56th Street
Indianapolis, IN 46226
(317) 545-7681
www.archindy.org/fatima



At this holiday season

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul expresses its grateful THANK YOU ...to our volunteers who donate their time so selflessly ...to our donors who contribute their financial support so generously ...to our clients who teach us the value of resilience so hopefully ...to Our Heavenly Father for the supreme gift of His Divine Son.

May the peace and joy of the Christ Child be with you this Christmas season.

Society of St. Vincent de Paul
3001 E. 30th Street
Indianapolis, IN 46218

www.svdindy.org



Now There Are Two Catholic Radio Stations

Serving Central Indiana



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

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

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

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

100% Catholic Programming
24 Hours a Day

Evidence of alleged miracle credited to Archbishop Sheen heads to Rome

PEORIA, Ill. (CNS)—Boxes wrapped in ribbon and a happy little boy are Christmas images, but the combination had another joyful meaning on Dec. 11 during ceremonies closing the Diocese of Peoria's inquiry into an alleged miraculous healing through the intercession of Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen.

"May God, who has begun this great work, bring it to fulfillment," said Peoria Bishop Daniel R. Jenky after affixing a wax seal on a box containing evidence gathered in the past three months by an investigative tribunal. The assembly gathered for the special Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral responded with sustained applause.

That evidence is now on its way to Rome for consideration by the Congregation for Saints' Causes. The congregation is studying the sainthood cause of Archbishop Sheen, a central Illinois native and priest of the Peoria Diocese who became an internationally known evangelist, radio and TV personality, writer and missionary.

In a pew just outside the cathedral sanctuary, the focus of the testimonies contained in the box—15-month-old James Fulton Engstrom—sat contentedly with his parents and two older siblings, squirming occasionally as all healthy little boys will do.

"For a lot of us, it felt like a full-circle moment," said James' mother,

Bonnie Engstrom, of the official ceremonies that took place at the start of Mass. Among those in attendance were members of the tribunal as well as representatives of the Archbishop Sheen Foundation.

Bonnie Engstrom recalled sitting in the same cathedral—where Archbishop Sheen had been ordained in 1919—a few days after James' birth, and "begging for a miracle" during a holy hour attended by family members and friends.

Considered stillborn on Sept. 16, 2010, after a routine pregnancy, James was without a pulse for the first 61 minutes of his life. It was only when doctors at OSF St. Francis Medical Center in Peoria were ready to call the time of death that his heart started beating. The doctors had warned the parents that he might not be able to function normally, but they were proved wrong.

"It's an amazing story," said Msgr. Jason Gray, who served as episcopal delegate to the investigative tribunal and was responsible for guiding the process. An oath of secrecy sworn by tribunal members kept Msgr. Gray from commenting further about the findings of the tribunal or expectations regarding its review in Rome.

But family members are free to talk, and Travis and Bonnie Engstrom—residents of Goodfield, Ill., and members of St. Luke Parish in Eureka, Ill.,—have

widely shared the story of their son, and how they believe he is alive and well because of a healing by Christ and the intercession of Archbishop Sheen.

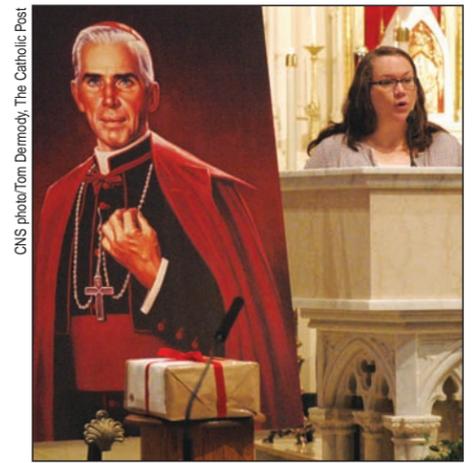
The Engstroms were familiar with the famed orator—perhaps best known for his popular "Life Is Worth Living" television show seen by millions in the 1950s—and Bonnie had asked him to watch over her pregnancy. They decided that if their baby was a boy, his middle name would be Fulton. Travis made good on that intention during an emergency baptism as they awaited an ambulance after James was born in crisis at their home.

Bonnie remembers praying to Archbishop Sheen as CPR was performed on her newborn son, and asking family members and friends to seek his intercession when doctors warned them that James might be blind and unable to function normally after his heart began beating.

Fifteen months later, James is medication-free, has just been released from physical therapy and continues to meet growth milestones.

"He's just a normal kid," said Bonnie, who credits Christ with healing her son "for his greater honor and glory."

She told *The Catholic Post*, Peoria diocesan newspaper, that she and her husband were "amazed and impressed" by the thoroughness of the tribunal's inquiry.



With evidence of her son's alleged miraculous healing boxed and sealed in front of a portrait of Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen, Bonnie Engstrom gives a reading on Dec. 11 during Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral in Peoria, Ill. Bonnie and Travis Engstrom of Goodfield, Ill., believe their son, James Fulton Engstrom, is alive due to the intercession of Archbishop Sheen, whose cause for sainthood is being considered in Rome.

The evidence includes both medical records and witness testimonies.

"With every step, they wanted to flesh out the details, and do it with integrity and honesty," said Bonnie. "Not that we wouldn't expect that from the Church, but the extent was really impressive." †

Daily Readings

(continued from page 13)

Wednesday, Jan. 4

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

Thursday, Jan. 5

John Neumann, bishop
1 John 3:11-21
Psalm 100:1-5
John 1:43-51

Friday, Jan. 6

André Bessette, religious
1 John 5:5-13
Psalm 147:12-15, 19-20
Mark 1:7-11

or Luke 3:23-38
or Luke 3:23, 31-34, 36, 38

Saturday, Jan. 7

Raymond of Penyafort, priest
1 John 5:14-21
Psalm 149:1-6a, 9b
John 2:1-11

Sunday, Jan. 8

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

Monday, Jan. 9

Baptism of the Lord
Isaiah 42:1-4, 6-7
or Acts 10:34-38
Isaiah 55:1-11

Psalm 29:1a, 2, 3ac-4, 3b, 9b-10
Mark 1:7-11

Tuesday, Jan. 10

1 Samuel 1:9-20
(Response) 1 Samuel 2:1, 4-8
Mark 1:21-28

Wednesday, Jan. 11

1 Samuel 3:1-10, 19-20
Psalm 40:2-5, 7-10
Mark 1:29-39

Thursday, Jan. 12

1 Samuel 4:1-11
Psalm 44:10-11, 14-15, 25-26
Mark 1:40-45

Friday, Jan. 13

Hilary, bishop and doctor of the Church
1 Samuel 8:4-7, 10-22a
Psalm 89:16-19
Mark 2:1-12

Saturday, Jan. 14

1 Samuel 9:1-4, 17-19;
10:1a
Psalm 19:8-10, 15
Mark 2:13-17

Sunday, Jan. 15

Second Sunday in Ordinary Time
1 Samuel 3:3b-10, 19
Psalm 40:2, 4, 7-10
1 Corinthians 6:13c-15a, 17-20
John 1:35-42

Classified Directory

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

Financial Services

Strength is nothing without consistency.

At Northwestern Mutual, we've received the best possible financial strength ratings for more than 20 years.

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



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



05-2933 The Northwestern Mutual Life Insurance Company, Milwaukee, WI (Northwestern Mutual). Michael P. McGinley is an Insurance Agent of Northwestern Mutual (life and disability insurance, annuities), a Representative of Northwestern Mutual Wealth Management Company®, Milwaukee, WI, a subsidiary of Northwestern Mutual and limited purpose federal savings bank, and a Registered Representative of Northwestern Mutual Investment Services, LLC (securities), a subsidiary of Northwestern Mutual, broker-dealer and member FINRA and SIPC. A.M. Best, 2009, Fitch, 2009, Moody's, 2009, Standard & Poor's, 2009. Third party ratings are subject to change.

Vacation Rentals

BEACHFRONT CONDO, Maderia Beach, Fl., 2BR/2BA, pool & 25ft balcony overlooking the Gulf of Mexico. Meet Indpls. owner. See photos, maps. Call Scooter at 317-257-2431 or 317-506-8516.

For Sale

Morse Lake waterfront home, breathtaking view, short walk to Cicero Park and downtown Cicero. 30 minute drive from North side Indy. 3 bedrooms, large bonus room, 3 full baths, Walk-out Basement. \$375,000. Call 317-331-5578 for information.

Help Wanted

HELP WANTED

St. Mary Church in Ireland, Indiana has an opening for Liturgical/Music Ministry position. Must be able to play the organ, lead musicians, and plan liturgies and music for services. Part-time or full time depending on the qualifications of the candidate. Interested candidates please send résumé to Fr. Ron Kreilein at kreilein@evdio.org or mail to P.O. Box 67, Ireland, IN 47545.

Now There Are Two

Catholic Radio Stations

Serving Central Indiana



Web space for sale!
Call 236-1454 today!

Home Improvement

Brother's Construction
Chimney's cleaned & inspected \$99.00

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

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

D & S ROOFING

24-hour service!
Rubber, torch downs, hot tar roofs, reroof and tearoffs.

- Any large or small repairs
- Wind or hail damage repairs

Call Dale for free estimates!
317-357-4341
Licensed • Bonded • Insured
33 years experience • References available

Home Improvement

KELLY'S GUTTER SERVICE
Gutter Cleaning Only
Free Estimates
317-862-9377

A HOME SPECIALIST
ON ANGLE'S LIST / 25 Years Exp.
Commercial and Residentially Insured

- Siding • Roofs • Windows • Decks
- Wood & Metal Fabrication • Hauling
- Gutter Cleaning • MORE

Call for Free Estimate
317-361-3052

Hotel

St. Vincent Marten House Hotel

- Weddings/Social Events
- Meetings/Conferences
- New 1881 Grille Restaurant
- Large indoor pool

Call
(317) 872-4111

Mention this ad and receive a 5% discount

PAID ADVERTISEMENT

Returning to our ROOTS

Cathedral
once again
a school
in the
Holy Cross
tradition.



On a cloudy Friday morning some 93 years ago, it seems unlikely that the 90 young men who climbed the front stairs to the new Cathedral School would have imagined they were building a legacy.

But from 1918 to today, Cathedral has indeed subscribed to what Holy Cross founder Blessed Father Basil Moreau dreamed of, then created. “The mind will not be cultivated at the expense of the heart,” Moreau wrote. “While we prepare useful citizens for society, we shall likewise do our utmost to prepare citizens for heaven.”

As 2011 draws to a close, Cathedral’s students, faculty, staff and alumni are celebrating and offering prayers of thanksgiving for our recent reaffiliation with the Brothers of Holy Cross. Work on the official reaffiliation took more than four years, and was not a decision taken lightly. We are proud that *Cathedral is now part of elite company as one of only 16 high schools in the U.S. affiliated with the Brothers. And of course Holy Cross higher education includes such schools as University of Notre Dame, St. Edward’s University, St. Mary’s College and Holy Cross College.*

Said Stephen J. Helmich, president of Cathedral, “Someday when I look back at my time here, I know without a doubt this will be the most significant thing that we have done to most positively impact the future of Cathedral High School.”

Cathedral was and remains a private school that is independently governed. *And we continue to offer a faith-based education that is academically rigorous, for students who represent all parts of Central Indiana and bring unique talents and gifts to share.*

But Holy Cross sponsorship brings with it large pools of resources and other opportunities which our young people may tap into. Bro. Chester Freel, C.S.C., provincial superior of the Midwest Province was on hand for the celebration Mass, held in September and helped facilitate the reaffiliation.

“Fr. Moreau’s view of a Holy Cross education is the heritage that is shared across all schools sponsored by Holy Cross, and it forms the foundation for the reaffiliation of Cathedral High School and the Brothers of Holy Cross,” Freel said. “We are truly excited and equally proud to have formalized our reaffiliation with Cathedral. The Brothers of Holy Cross are honored to again be part of the Cathedral community.”

Cathedral and Holy Cross characteristics and charisms

Our Characteristics —

As a Catholic school in the Holy Cross tradition, Cathedral is committed to:

- The education of the whole child.
- Inclusiveness and the fostering of a family spirit.
- A commitment to excellence.
- An option for the poor and vulnerable.
- Faith formation.

Our Charisms —

As a Catholic school in the Holy Cross tradition, Cathedral embraces and fosters these graces:

- Faith
- Family
- Hearts and Minds
- Hope
- Inclusiveness and Diversity
- Option for the Poor
- Zeal



ABOVE RIGHT: Riley Weber shows the day’s schedule to her guest, Bro. Ray Harrington, C.S.C. The nine Brothers who traveled to Cathedral in September for the Mass spent the rest of the day with students and were honored with a luncheon where they met faculty and staff.



RIGHT: Senior Guy Valponi chats with Brother John Paige, C.S.C., president of Holy Cross College in Notre Dame, Ind.

 **Cathedral**
LIVING HOLY CROSS VALUES SINCE 1918 