

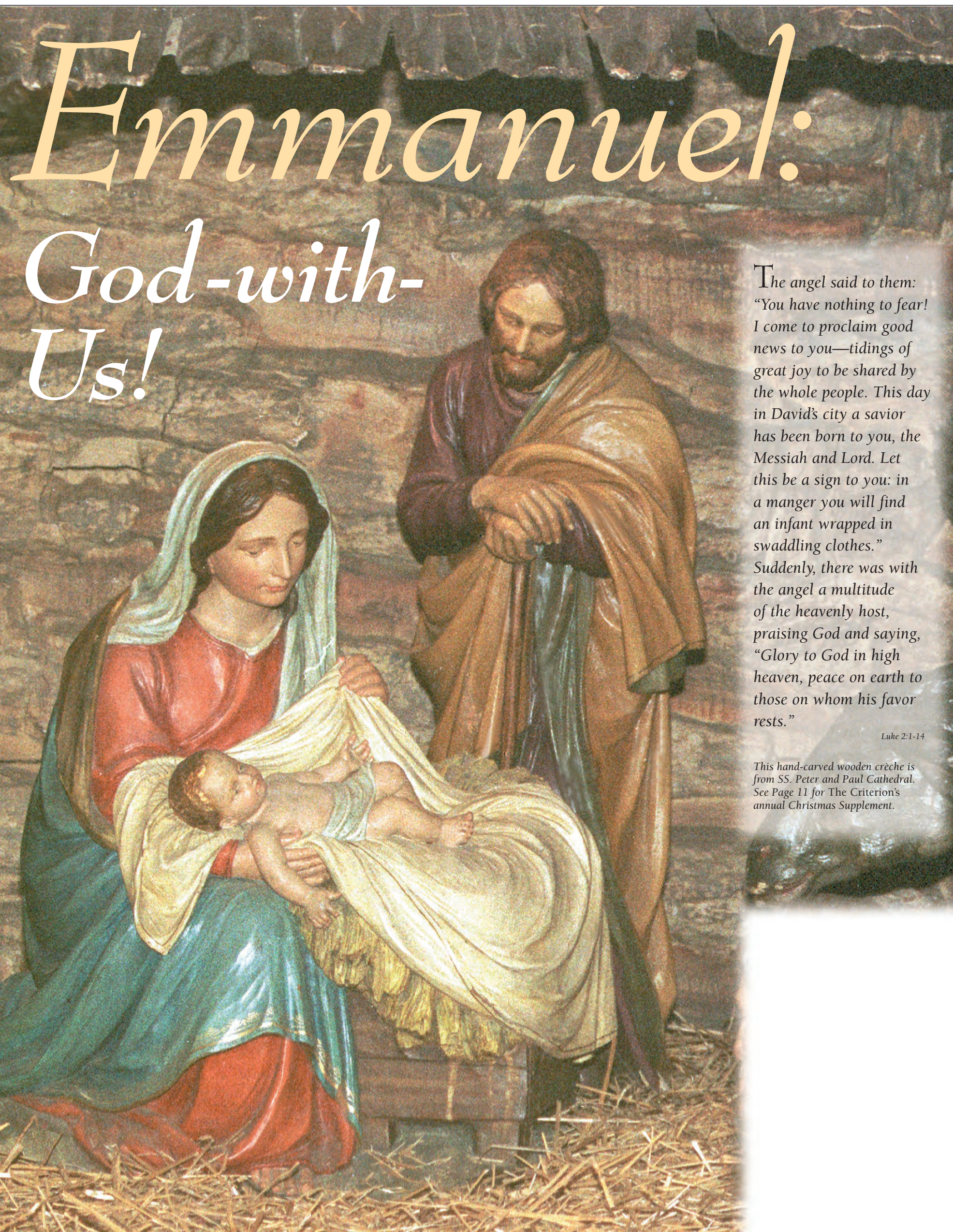


# The Criterion

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Serving the Church in Central and Southern Indiana Since 1960

December 18, 1998



# Emmanuel: God-with-Us!

The angel said to them: "You have nothing to fear! I come to proclaim good news to you—tidings of great joy to be shared by the whole people. This day in David's city a savior has been born to you, the Messiah and Lord. Let this be a sign to you: in a manger you will find an infant wrapped in swaddling clothes." Suddenly, there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in high heaven, peace on earth to those on whom his favor rests."

Luke 2:1-14

This hand-carved wooden crèche is from SS. Peter and Paul Cathedral. See Page 11 for The Criterion's annual Christmas Supplement.



# St. John, Bloomington, to dedicate new church facility

By Susan Bierman

BLOOMINGTON—St. John the Apostle Parish in Bloomington will march toward the new millennium prepared as it dedicates its new parish facility at a Mass at 10 a.m. Dec. 20.

Archbishop Daniel M. Buechlein will preside. A brunch for the parish will follow.

"We are going to celebrate big-time," said Mark Ryan, parishioner and chair of the building committee.

The 530-household Bloomington Deanery parish has much to celebrate.

Approximately three years ago, planning began for the new parish facility. Forty acres of land located on the west side of Monroe County was purchased in December 1996. Ground was broken in August 1997. St. John parishioners and staff moved into the new location at the 4607 W. State Road 46 in Bloomington about two months ago.

The 36,000 square-foot parish facility, costing approximately \$4.2 million, houses a fellowship wing, a sanctuary/narthex wing and a pastoral wing. The facility was designed by Mitchell, Timperman, and Ritz architects of New Albany and built by Wehr Constructors, Inc. of Louisville, Ky.

The fellowship wing houses religious education classrooms,

a gym/fellowship hall, a kitchen, storage spaces, a library, and several offices.

The new sanctuary's capacity is more than 700. Connecting to the fellowship and sanctuary/narthex wings are the pastoral wing, which houses offices, a reception area and the rectory.

The former St. John the Apostle Parish facility consisted of a church and religious education facility under one roof, and a rectory. It was located on 14 acres at 3410 W. Third St., in Bloomington.

The property and facility were sold. The pews and altar were taken out of the church and given to St. Jude Parish in Spencer and All Saints School in Indianapolis. Seventeen stained-glassed windows were transferred to the new parish facility.

"I think that really helped parishioners coming into the new church. They felt that there was some of the old church here,"



St. John the Apostle Church in Bloomington will be dedicated Dec. 20.

Ryan said.

St. John the Apostle Parish was relocated and a new facility was built because of changing demographics, with the present location surrounded by retail and commercial businesses. The parish community also had begun to outgrow the facilities.

"Physically, our church and religious education center was less than a third of the square footage that we have now," said

See CHURCH, page 6

## This week's Criterion is the last of 1998

This week's edition of *The Criterion*, which includes the annual Christmas Supplement, will be the last edition of 1998. *The Criterion* will return on Jan. 8, 1999, and resume its regular publishing schedule.

The Archbishop O'Meara Catholic Center will be closed from Dec. 24 through Jan. 3, 1999. The Catholic Center will reopen for the new year on Jan. 4, 1999. †

### New task force

## Task force assembled for Dearborn Co. study

In the story announcing Father William Marks's assignment to the Bright area (*The Criterion*, Dec. 11), members of a task force were incorrectly listed. Individuals listed were members of the original Northeastern Dearborn County Task Force that recommended to Archbishop Daniel M. Buechlein the assignment of a full-time priest and the investigation of the possibility of a high school. That task force's work has been completed.

A new task force has been formed to study the feasibility of the establishment of a Catholic high school in the area. Members of this group, known as the Batesville Deanery Blue Ribbon Task Force on Catholic Education, are: Bill Comer, St. Mary, Aurora; Franciscan Father William Farris, pastor of St. Louis, Batesville and dean of the Batesville Deanery; Bruce Rippe, St. Louis, Batesville; Candace Harmeyer, St. Mary-of-the-Rock; Msgr. Louis E. Schumacher, administrator of St. Michael, Brookville, and Holy Guardian Angels, Cedar Grove; Leroy Alig, St. John

the Baptist, Dover, and St. Joseph, St. Leon; Tim Deitz, St. Peter, Franklin County; Peg Polanski, St. Mary, Greensburg; Michael Witte, St. Lawrence, Lawrenceburg; Rita Grathwohl, principal of St. Lawrence School, Lawrenceburg; Dave Record, St. Anthony of Padua, Morris; Marty Kollstedt, principal of Oldenburg Academy; Jerry Kretschmann, member of Oldenburg Academy board; Marvin Nobbe, Holy Family, Oldenburg; Franciscan Sister Amy Kistner, congregational minister of the Sisters of St. Francis, Oldenburg; Mary Ann Hartman, St. Nicholas, Sunman; Beverly Miller, St. John, Osgood, and St. Magdalene, New Marion; Jeannie Fry, Immaculate Conception, Milhousen; Eva Roll, Bright; Suzanne Loch, St. Paul, New Alsace; Sandy Volk, St. Anne, Hamburg, and a still-to-be-named representative from St. Joseph, Shelbyville. Joseph Peters, archdiocesan associate executive director of Catholic Education, serves as staff to the task force. †

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# Expectant family finds hospitality, possibilities at Holy Family Shelter

By Margaret Nelson

The journey of a family that traveled from Texas to Indianapolis about this time last year is reminiscent of the Christmas story.

The family—a woman eight months pregnant, her husband and 6-year-old daughter—needed a home in Indianapolis.

“The Holy Family Shelter was there for us,” said Francisco, who asked that only his first name be used for this story.

The couple came to Indiana because they heard better jobs were available.

“We used to have a car,” he said.

“They took the car away because the license had expired. We stayed with people on the east side, but they said they could not afford to let us stay there.”

The situation was frightening, especially for his pregnant wife. The couple hesitated to ask for help, but finally decided they had to try to find a shelter. They found the Holy Family Shelter in the telephone book.

The man they talked with said that the shelter would find a place for them there.

The family was to find much more than shelter. Meals, clothing, a school for their child, job counseling—and medical help—were provided for them.

“When we came in, the people received us and told us the rules,” said Francisco.

“All the people over there were like a big family in the way they care about each other. We saw it as an extension of God’s love.”

“The main thing I was worried about, my wife was [he extended his arms out from his stomach] eight months pregnant. She was starting to feel low. She needed a place to stay with food and clean sheets,” he said.

“They had everything there. But I was worried about my wife when she was ready to go to the hospital,” he said.

“We came to a place where they care about people. They don’t know us. But they open the doors for everybody,” said Francisco.

The baby, Javier, was born three days after Christmas.

Unfortunately, Linda had medical complications and had to have surgery. “I started to get sick when they told me, maybe she was not going to make it,” said Francisco. “I was thinking, ‘What am I going to do?’” His wife’s family was in Texas.

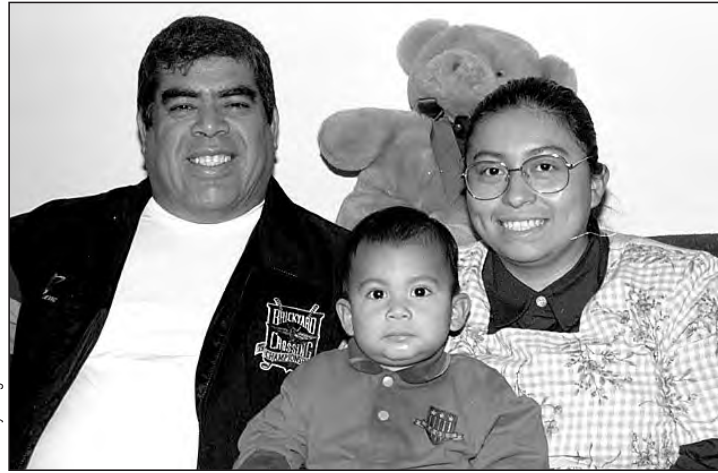
After surgery—at age 22—Linda learned that she could not have any more children.

“It was hard to deal with that,” said Francisco. “The staff from Holy Family Shelter talked with us. They were there when we needed them.”

Linda said that this counseling enabled her husband to be with her when she needed him.

“They never told us, ‘You have got to leave. You don’t have a job.’ It was the other way around. They told us to hold on for a little while,” Francisco said.

“They offered me a maintenance job with the shelter,” he said. But Francisco



Francisco and Linda pose with their son, Javier, who was born three days after Christmas last year while they were living at the Holy Family Shelter.

ended up in emergency care at Wishard Memorial Hospital with high blood pressure. After taking the necessary medication, he was able to work in the place that had helped them.

“Not everyone can work there. The shelter has all kinds of people with all kinds of needs,” said Francisco. “Some have been abused mentally or physically. They ran away—some from other states. Some of the women and children don’t trust men.”

He tries to help the residents of Holy Family Shelter understand the need to follow the rules. And he shows them how helping brings possibilities, rather than limitations.

“I just feel like I want to be part of this,” said Francisco. “I am starting to know people more and more. I am able to let people coming in know they don’t have anything to be scared of.”

“The Holy Family Shelter put confidence in me,” he said. “For them to give me the keys is something.”

“I don’t know what they saw in me,” Francisco said. He explained that he does not have bad habits and has not been in trouble with the law.

The children at the shelter like to help him straighten out the room where cloth-

ing donations are kept.

Francisco, Linda and the children now live at Holy Family’s supportive housing, which provides apartments at the former St. Patrick School. Residents pay some rent and can live there up to two years while they get permanently settled.

The couple now has a van, which they are paying on, for transportation. They attend parenting classes offered by the shelter.

Of the original shelter on Palmer Street, Francisco said, “I still feel like that’s my house.”

“People there think there’s nobody to care about them. They need to have the right person fill that job. They have to really, really care about people.”

“They have room available right away—24 hours a day,” said Francisco. “When you come inside that door, you’re safe.”

“We are very thankful for the Holy Family Shelter for helping us,” said Linda. “They opened the doors for us when we needed their help.” †

*(Holy Family Shelter is an agency of Catholic Social Services of Central Indiana, a member agency of Catholic Charities. For more information about Holy Family Shelter, call 317-635-7830.)*

## IN HIS FOOTSTEPS

A Pilgrimage to the Holy Land and the Beatification of Mother Theodore

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## Editorial

# Vouchers and the need for excellent public, parochial and private schools

Two scions of American liberalism, *The New York Times* and the National Council of Churches, have reacted negatively to the recent Supreme Court decision not to review a Milwaukee case involving school voucher programs. On Nov. 12, the *Times* editorialized that "the Court's silence leaves in place a plan that will directly harm the vast majority of the city's school children, namely those left in Milwaukee's public schools while others flee to the voucher program." A day earlier, the general assembly of the National Council of Churches began discussion of a new policy that supports public schools and opposes vouchers—arguing that conservative Christian groups have commandeered the school voucher debate and created the impression that most religious groups want vouchers.

Why does *The New York Times* consider those who support vouchers to be people "who do not support or have given up on the ideals of public education"? Why would the National Council of Churches, a religious organization that represents 52 million mainline Protestants and Orthodox in America, oppose public funding for religious schools?

Arguments offered by both organizations suggest that any support for parochial and private schools will necessarily come "at the expense of the majority" and, especially, of the poor. In fact, the proposed policy for the National Council of Churches argues that "Christians have a moral responsibility to support public schools because they provide the primary route for poor

children to receive an education." On the other hand, the *Times* editorial charged that the 5,800 low-income students in Milwaukee who received vouchers were given "a subsidy at the expense of public schools."

What's going on here? Vouchers are intended to help poor families choose the schools they want their children to attend. And research shows that parochial and private schools do an excellent job of helping individuals and families break the cycle of poverty. Why would someone who advocates for the poor oppose vouchers? Why would someone who promotes religious values argue against support for church-based schools?

We think that the *Times* and the National Council of Churches are being myopic. We believe that it is perfectly possible to support enthusiastically "the ideals of public education" and still favor voucher programs. We also believe that our Christian responsibility to reach out to the poor argues for excellent, and accessible, public, parochial and private schools for all families regardless of their racial, ethnic or religious backgrounds.

We call on all ideologues—whether conservative, liberal or otherwise—to let go of their petty prejudices and to consider the advantages of public support for school choice.

— Daniel Conway

(Daniel Conway is a member of the editorial committee of the Board of Directors of Criterion Press, Inc.)

## Seeking the Face of the Lord

Archbishop Daniel M. Buechlein, O.S.B.



# Miracle of Christmas: finding God in the ordinary

“O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie. . . .” So we sing with joyful hearts at Midnight Mass and during our Christmas liturgical celebrations.

Since our visit to Bethlehem on our archdiocesan pilgrimage earlier in the fall, these words will never seem the same to me. From the outset I must confess that, for me, bustling and dusty Bethlehem teeming with merchants of tourism seemed anything but still these days. I am sure the same was true for my fellow pilgrims. Furthermore, the journey of Mary and Joseph from Nazareth to Bethlehem—whether on foot or on donkey—had to have been an arduous uphill climb. It was even tiring for us traveling by bus! During the pilgrimage, one of the women injected a note of levity by asking if I knew why there was no room in the inn for Mary and Joseph. Of course I responded, “No, why?” She said because they arrived too late, and they arrived too late because Joseph, the typical male, refused to stop and ask for directions! All levity aside, I can’t imagine the trial the journey to Bethlehem presented for an expectant mother, Mary, and an anxious foster father and protector, Joseph.

For understandable and valid reasons, in order to come to grips with the awesome mystery of the divine incarnation, our presentations of the birth of Jesus in Bethlehem tend to be romantic settings in wooden stables. Today, even expensive Waterford crystal nativity sets illustrate the Christmas event in Bethlehem. What I used to suspect must be true—namely, that the romantic representations of the birth of Jesus could hardly have been so. Now I know.

Today, in the land of Israel, and probably even more so 2,000 years ago, very little wood could have been available for construction of houses, guest inns and even barnyard stables. Today, as in the past, trees in the Holy Land are a pretty rare commodity. Our pilgrim journey from Nazareth, through Galilee, and through the Jordan River valley alongside the mountains of Israel, pretty well convinced me that the stable in which Jesus was born had to be a cave in the mountainous region surrounding Bethlehem. From the secure ride in our buses, we pilgrims of today saw caves that shelter animals. We saw flocks of sheep being tended even now by shepherds

along the way to Bethlehem.

No, the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ in Bethlehem was not a romantic occurrence. But for all of its ordinariness, it is even more wondrous! What we revere as the remarkable mystery of the incarnation of God among us must have been a terrifying and faith-testing experience for Mary and Joseph. We recall that Mary and Joseph were ordinary people of their day, ordinary people like we are ordinary people. The wonder is that God chose to make his home among ordinary people like us in rather ordinary places on this earth.

On our archdiocesan pilgrimage of hope, we pilgrims had the privilege of celebrating Mass in what is now called Shepherds’ Field, just outside of the legendary birthplace of Jesus in Bethlehem. We also had the privilege of touching and kissing the stone-marked star where the birthplace of Jesus is said to have been. I and my pilgrim sisters and brothers will never forget this experience. We had the marvelous gift of the Eucharist to help us focus on the momentous divine mystery that took place in the most unlikely place called Bethlehem, the City of Peace. By now you see that one of the greatest blessings I experienced in Bethlehem was the peaceful realization that the birth of Christ was very real and ordinary in all its profundity. We pilgrims found the peace that can only come from God in the midst of today’s hustle and bustle and the merchants of tourism.

I couldn’t help but wonder what it is like for tourists visiting the sacred places in Israel who are not people of faith. It must be a strange experience. That thought carried me to the further realization that living without faith in the ordinariness and the hectic pace of our day in any place in the world must be a strange and empty experience. Belief in the profound miracle of God entering into our busy and ordinary world makes all the difference.

And so my 1998 Christmas prayer and wish for all of you is this:

*May you find the peace that only Christ can give in the Bethlehem of your own hearts. May you find Christ’s peace in the Bethlehem of your own homes. May you carry the peace that only Christ can give into the hustle and bustle of the Bethlehem of your workplace. Have a blessed Christmas filled with peace! †*

### Archbishop Buechlein’s intention for vocations for December

**Catholic grade schools:** that they may teach our children the Catholic faith and assist them in hearing and answering God’s call to service in the Church, especially as priests or religious.




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## Buscando la Cara del Señor

Arzobispo Daniel M. Buechlein, O.S.B.



# Milagro de Navidad: encontrando a Dios en lo ordinario

“El pueblo pequeño de Belén, cómo inmóvil nosotros te vemos quedar...” (Las palabras traducidas de la canción navideña en inglés) Por eso cantamos esta canción con corazones jubilosos en la Misa del Gallo y durante nuestras celebraciones litúrgicas navideñas.

Después de nuestra visita a Belén durante nuestra peregrinación de la archidiócesis en otoño, estas palabras nunca parecerán iguales para mí. Debo confesar que desde el principio, la ciudad bulliciosa y polvorienta de Belén con comerciantes de turismo parecía todo menos tranquila estos días. Me imagino que mis compañeros peregrinos tuvieron la misma impresión. Además, la jornada de María y José de Nazaret a Belén—no importa si fuera a pie o por burro—debía haber sido una jornada ardua y difícil. ¡Fue cansado aún al viajar en autobús! Durante la peregrinación, una de las mujeres dijo algo en broma preguntó en broma si yo sabía por qué no había espacio en la posada para María y José. Claro está respondí “no, ¿por qué?” ¡Porque llegaron demasiado tarde a causa de José, porque como varón típico, se había negado a pararse para pedir direcciones! Con seriedad, no puedo imaginar las dificultades que la jornada a Belén representó para María, una futura madre, y para José, un padre adoptivo ansioso y protector.

Por razones entendibles y válidas nuestras presentaciones del nacimiento de Jesús en Belén tienen la tendencia a ser escenarios románticos con pesebres de madera para que se pueda comprender el misterio imponente de la encarnación divina. Hoy en día, aún los costosos nacimientos de cristal Waterford ilustran el evento navideño en Belén. Lo que me imaginaba en el pasado debe ser verdad, es decir las presentaciones románticas del nacimiento de Jesús, apenas hubiera sucedido así. Ahora lo sé. Actualmente existe poca madera en Israel y probablemente aún menos hace 2.000 años para construir casas, posadas y hasta los pesebres.

Hoy día, como en el pasado, los árboles son muy raros en la Tierra Santa. Nuestro viaje de peregrinaje desde Nazaret, a través de Galilea, y por el valle del río Jordán a lo largo de las montañas de Israel, me convenció de que el pesebre en el cual nació Jesús seguramente fue una cueva en la zona montañosa que rodea Belén. Desde la seguridad de los autobuses, nosotros los peregrinos de hoy, vimos cuevas que resguardan animales. Vimos a los pastores que cuidaban a los rebaños de ovejas a lo largo del camino a Belén. Por todo esto, el nacimiento de

nuestro Señor Jesucristo en Belén no fue un acontecimiento romántico. ¡Pero por todo lo ordinario del evento, es más aun maravilloso! Lo que veneramos como el misterio notable de la encarnación de Dios para nosotros, debía de haber sido una experiencia muy difícil para María y José que pone la fe a prueba. Recordamos que María y José fueron personas ordinarias en su día, como nosotros somos personas ordinarias. La maravilla es que Dios escogió hacer su hogar entre las personas ordinarias como nosotros en lugares bastante ordinarios en esta tierra.

En nuestra peregrinación de la archidiócesis de esperanza, nosotros los peregrinos tuvimos el privilegio de celebrar la Misa en lo que se llama el campo de los pastores, sólo una corta distancia del lugar de nacimiento legendario de Jesús en Belén. También tuvimos el privilegio de tocar y besar la piedra marcada con estrella donde se dice fue el lugar de nacimiento de Jesús. Mis hermanos y hermanas los peregrinos y yo se olvidaremos de esta experiencia. Tuvimos el regalo maravilloso de la Eucaristía para ayudarnos a enfocar en el importante misterio divino que tuvo lugar en un sitio poco imaginable llamado Belén, la Ciudad de Paz. Ahora ustedes miran que una de las más grandes bendiciones que experimenté en Belén fue la realización de paz que el nacimiento de Cristo fue real y ordinario en toda su profundidad. Nosotros los peregrinos encontramos la paz que sólo puede venir de Dios en una actual atmósfera de bullicio por los comerciantes de turismo.

No pude menos que maravillarme con la experiencia de turistas que visitan los sagrados lugares en Israel que no son personas de fe. Debe ser una experiencia extraña. Ese pensamiento me llevó a la comprensión extensa que viviendo sin fe en la ordinariéz y el paso agitado en nuestros días en cualquier lugar en el mundo debe ser una experiencia extraña y vacía. La creencia en el milagro profundo de Dios que entra en nuestro mundo ocupado y ordinario representa toda la diferencia.

Por lo tanto mi oración y deseo navideño de 1998 para todos es el siguiente:

*¡Que ustedes encuentren la paz que sólo Cristo puede dar en el Belén de sus propios corazones!  
¡Que ustedes encuentren la paz de Cristo en el Belén de sus propias casas. Que lleven la paz que sólo Cristo puede dar en el bullicio del Belén de su lugar de trabajo.  
¡Tengan una Navidad con bendición de paz! †*

Traducido por: Language Training Center, Indianapolis

## Letters to the Editor

### Blessings at St. Anthony

I enjoyed reading *The Criterion's* article about St. Anthony Parish of the Indianapolis West Deanery. In addition to the personalities mentioned therein, I would like to add several more.

Providence Sister Catherine Marie Quatters, our organist, directs the choir which sings from the choir loft and becomes an ideal vehicle for worship. Providence Sister Regina Lynch keeps the altars beautifully arranged with flowers according to the liturgical season.

At St. Anthony, we are blessed with many reminders that Christ comes to us in a special way.

Kathleen Naghdi  
Indianapolis

### Thankful for chapels

Thanksgiving has come and gone and now we are in the marvelous season of anticipation and hope. However, we should consider every day as a day of thanksgiving, and I'd like to take this opportunity to thank those five parishes in the Indianapolis area that have said yes to our Lord and opened perpetual adoration chapels. What an asset to this community!

It is indeed a blessing to be able to spend a quiet, peaceful hour in the presence of our Lord. I would encourage all parishes to prayerfully consider this apostolate. Imagine the goodness that could result!

Virlee Schneider  
Indianapolis

## Letters Policy

Letters from readers are published in *The Criterion* as part of the newspaper's commitment to "the responsible exchange of freely-held and expressed opinion among the People of God" (*Communio et Progressio*, 116).

Letters from readers are welcome and every effort will be made to include letters from as many people and representing as many viewpoints as possible. Letters should be informed, relevant, well-expressed, and temperate in tone. They must reflect a basic sense of courtesy and respect.

The editors reserve the right to select the letters that will be published and to edit let-

ters from readers as necessary based on space limitations, pastoral sensitivity, and content (including spelling and grammar). In order to encourage opinions from a variety of readers, frequent writers will ordinarily be limited to one letter every three months. Concise letters (usually less than 200 words) are more likely to be printed.

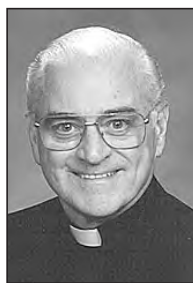
Letters must be signed, but, for serious reasons, names may be withheld.

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### Spirituality for Today/Fr. John Catoir

## This season's real message

I came across a marvelous quote from an anonymous medieval author. It has an interesting bearing on this holiday season's message.



"You are called to be holy with all your heart, mind and soul; but if because of weakness you cannot be holy, then at least be good with all your heart, mind and soul.

"However if you cannot be good because of overpowering temptations,

then at least be wise with all your heart, mind and soul. But alas if you cannot even be wise because of your sinful nature, then bow deeply before the Lord and beg for his mercy with all your heart, mind and soul.

"If you do this with humility and with a confident spirit, you will soon become aware of the tenderness of God's love for you, and you will become wise and good and holy."

The real message of the Christmas season gets lost in all the frantic rush. This real message is hidden in the indescribable humility of the Christ child. Jesus teaches us to love the Father by submitting to his will. From the moment of his conception, Jesus surrendered to his Father's will.

We often hear the words, "God so loved the world that he gave his only Son," (Jn 3:16) but his Son had to be willing to accept his mission. His surrender was an act of love from the very beginning—love for the Father and for us. His humble submission in becoming a human child serves as a model for us. The spirit

of self-giving is his gift to us.

I have searched the Scriptures to find out how this example of humility can help us to grow more in the love of God. It was in the 12-Step Program of Alcoholics Anonymous that I found an answer. I had seen it many times before, but I failed to grasp its full impact. Surrender is at the heart of that program too.

Here is a synopsis of the basic elements of the 12 steps to serenity and sobriety:

"Realize that you are powerless, and surrender yourself to your higher power. Ask the God of your understanding to

show you the way to freedom and light. Admit your wrongdoing. Have a firm purpose of amendment. Pray to know God's will, and pray for the grace to follow it. Help others, and become a carrier of God's love."

These words summarize the Gospel that Jesus preached so effectively.

As you may know, I am presently the executive director of a drug and alcohol treatment center. The

men and women in treatment use the 12-Step Program every day. It is a map of life, telling them how to live and love.

The 11th step reads as follows: "Sought through prayer and meditation to improve our conscious contact with God, as we understood him, praying only for the knowledge of his will for us and the power to carry that out."

Pray "for a knowledge of his will" this holiday season. The spirit of surrender will bring you closer to the heart of Jesus, and in him you will find your peace and your joy. †

(Father John Catoir is a regular columnist for Catholic News Service.)

### La intención del Arzobispo Buechlein para vocaciones en diciembre

**Escuelas primarias católicas:** que ellos puedan enseñar la fe católica a nuestros niños y puedan ayudarles a oír y contestar la llamada de Dios para servir en la Iglesia, sobre todo como sacerdotes o religiosos.



VIPs . . .



**Dan and Daisy Smith** of Sunman will celebrate their 65th anniversary Dec. 27 with a Mass of Thanksgiving at 10:15 a.m. at St. Nicholas Parish in Sunman. An open house will follow at the Sunman Community building from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. All friends and relatives are welcome. The couple has seven children: William, Daniel, Joseph, Kenneth, and Judy Smith, Gertrude Ammerman, and Kathryn Sroufe. They also have 14 grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren. †

## Celebrating Our Lady of Guadalupe

Below: At St. Patrick Church in Indianapolis Dec. 12, dancers dressed in Native American attire lead the offertory procession.



Photos by Margaret Nelson



At St. Mary Church in Indianapolis Dec. 13, Ruben Ivan Maldonado (from left), Vicente A. Vasquez, Manuel Gurman (hidden) and Ramiro Vasquez carry the image of Our Lady of Guadalupe in procession.



Archbishop Daniel M. Buechlein blesses Juan de Dios, dressed as Juan Diego, during the Dec. 13 celebration of a Mass for Our Lady of Guadalupe at St. Mary Church. Father Michael O'Mara, pastor, is in the background.

## CHURCH

continued from page 2

Ken Miller, parish pastoral council chair.

Before building the new parish facility a "wants and needs" list was created.

"We had needs and we had wants, and we not only were able to meet our needs, but I think we also met all our wants," Ryan said.

Ryan added that a lot of input from various parish committees contributed to the list and helped in planning the new facility.

"We were very fortunate. I think we were

able to deliver what people had hoped for," said Father Daniel B. Donohoo, who has served as pastor since 1996.

A religious education center was both a need and a want.

At the old facility, Ryan said there really wasn't a good space for religious education. Miller said the area was very congested and not soundproof.

"It just didn't work. It was a very typical early-1970s design," Miller said.

Currently, 230 children are enrolled in the growing religious education program at St. John Parish.

"Separate classrooms were a real need, and we were able to achieve that," Father Donohoo said.

In planning the new facility, St. John's people looked to the future. Parishioner Ann Floyd said the ultimate goals included "what would be good 20 years from now."

Father Donohoo agrees that everything accomplished was not so much for today but for tomorrow as well.

"That was, I think, the vision that drove the whole project," he said.

Miller believes the new parish facility offers boundless opportunities for the third-

generation parish. In the future, plans for a parish school could be possible.

Father Donohoo said there are a few things that remain unfinished with the project. These include a life-size crucifix that will sit on top of the hill. It was carved by a parishioner from a 10-ton piece of stone. An outdoor Marian garden with a statue of Our Lady of Grace will be another finishing touch.

The Bell Tower, which is already in place, is something the parish's Legacy of Hope campaign will fund. The parish has surpassed its goal of \$236,500. †

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# Youth serve the poor during holiday season

By Mary Ann Wyand

Catholic high school students in the archdiocese have kept busy helping others this month. Many of these holiday service projects, programs and activities are long-time school traditions.

About 25 years ago, performing arts and music students at Our Lady of Providence Jr./Sr. High School in Clarksville started entertaining children, adults and senior citizens in the Kentuckiana area with seasonal skits and songs as a community service.

Dale Durham, performing arts chair at the New Albany Deanery interparochial junior/senior high school, said 50 students participating in the Providence Singers and the Christmas Capers, Popcorn Players and Acting Up theater groups donated their time and talents during Advent for 60 performances at grade schools, aftercare programs, nursing homes and holiday events in southern Indiana and northern Kentucky.

"Our extracurricular theater groups start performing right after Thanksgiving and continue until our Christmas break," Durham said. "Most of our material is Christmas-related, both contemporary stories and traditional folk tales, primarily for children. Our Providence Singers present Christmas concerts at area nursing homes. The students also perform at a lot

of Christmas parties sponsored by community organizations."

Durham said canned food drives, clothing drives and an annual giving tree project are other ways Providence students help people in need during the holidays.

This year, Roncalli High School students in the Indianapolis South Deanery continued their ambitious holiday tradition of canvassing southside neighborhoods for the Rebels' annual canned food drive.

Roncalli students collected 55,151 cans of food between Nov. 4-23, according to Principal Charles Weisenbach. Donations were distributed to St. Vincent de Paul food pantries, St. Augustine Home for the Aged, Gleaner's Food Bank, the archdiocesan Catholic Social Services Crisis Center, the Franklin Township Civic League and Hunger, Inc.

"We delivered canned goods to close to a dozen different social service agencies in the Indianapolis area," Weisenbach said. "We also collected money to help victims of Hurricane Mitch in Honduras and Nicaragua, and we gave money to the archdiocese's Catholic Social Services and Holy Family Shelter and to the Little Sisters of the Poor, the Damien Center, Lighthouse Ministries and other community service agencies."

For the third year, Weisenbach said, Roncalli students in Rebecca Pavlik-

## Christmas programming to air Christmas Day

Special television programming produced by the archdiocesan Catholic Communications Center will be broadcast Christmas Day in most viewing areas of the archdiocese.

A special Christmas Day television Mass with Archbishop Daniel M. Buechlein will air at 11:30 a.m. Christmas morning on WTTV Channel 4 (WB4).

Also on Channel 4, and following the TV Mass at noon, will be the broadcast premiere of "In His Footsteps: A Pilgrimage to the Holy Land and the Beatification of Mother Theodore." The one-hour documentary is a video journey of the 1998 archdiocesan pilgrimage to the Holy Land and Rome led by Archbishop Buechlein in October.

The documentary includes coverage of pilgrims' visits to shrines and holy sites in Galilee, Jerusalem and other areas of the Holy Land. In Rome, the documentary also includes coverage of the beatification by Pope John Paul II of Mother Theodore

Guérin, foundress of the Sisters of Providence of Saint Mary-of-the-Woods.

The archdiocesan Journey of Hope 2001 celebration has included annual pilgrimages led by the archbishop or by Msgr. Joseph F. Schaedel, vicar general of the archdiocese.

Channel 4 is available throughout most of Indiana by broadcast signal and on many cable systems. Coverage areas include nearly every area of the 39-county archdiocese. Readers with questions about programming on their local cable system should call their cable provider.

A longer "home version" of "In His Footsteps" will be available for purchase on VHS. Ordering information is available from the Catholic Communications Center by calling 317-236-1570, or 800-382-9836, ext. 1570. The video costs \$30 and is also available by ordering with the coupon located on this page and also on Page 3 of this issue of *The Criterion*. VISA and MasterCard orders are accepted. †



Photo by Mary Ann Wyand

## Madrigal Dinner at Marian

Marian College chamber singers Vince Schurger of Indianapolis and Elizabeth Voors of Cromwell take part in one of the Franciscan college's annual Madrigal Dinners Dec. 13 at the Allison Mansion in Indianapolis. Marian's music department established this Christmas tradition in 1975. Jack Fox directed the Marian College Chorale and Chamber Singers for three Madrigal productions held Dec. 11-13.

Heger's human relations class helped Santa Claus by replying to letters sent to the North Pole by kindergarten and first-grade students enrolled in Catholic grade schools in the Indianapolis South Deanery.

Student "elves," working on Santa's behalf, completed their letter-writing project Dec. 4, but not without a few challenging moments.

Senior Jennifer Mehalik, from St. Jude Parish in Indianapolis, responded to a child who wanted a God doll for Christmas.

Classmate Sara Fields, a member of Our Lady of the Greenwood Parish in Greenwood, said another child asked for a pet dinosaur—a real dinosaur—for Christmas!

With impossible requests, Sara said, "I say, 'I'll be sure to give Santa your list.'"

Weisenbach said Roncalli foreign language students spent time during Advent on a variety of projects promoting peace, unity and respect for others.

In addition to observing seasonal customs from other countries, students decorated an international Christmas tree. French, German and Spanish students also wrote letters to U.S. men and women who are serving their country overseas during the holidays.

At Father Michael Shawe Memorial Jr./Sr. High School in Madison, students collected children's clothing and gently used toys for shipment to Honduras to aid young survivors of Hurricane Mitch.

Debbie Yingst, religion teacher for the eighth, ninth and 10th grades, said Josh Watterson, a seventh-grader from Prince of Peace Parish in Madison, initiated the school-wide service project.

Shawe seventh-graders also created a Trinity quilt with symbols of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, Yingst said.

Proceeds from the quilt raffle in January will benefit the Youth Shelter of Jefferson County. †

# IN HIS FOOTSTEPS

A Pilgrimage to the Holy Land and the Beatification of Mother Theodore

The video documentary of the 1998 archdiocesan pilgrimage to the Holy Land and Rome will be available soon. Journey with Archbishop Daniel M. Buechlein and pilgrims from central and southern Indiana to many important holy shrines and sites.

## Special Christmas Television Programming

with Archbishop Daniel M. Buechlein, O.S.B.

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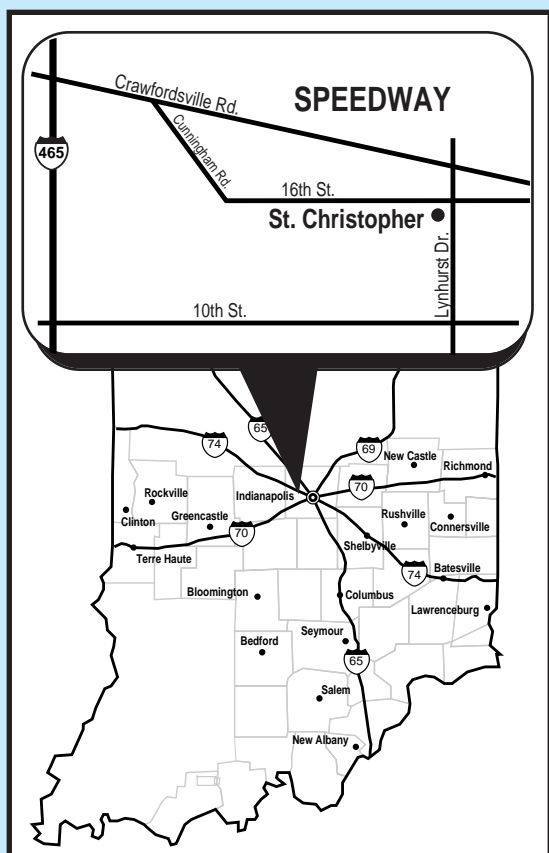
## Indianapolis West Deanery

# St. Christopher Indianapolis

Story and photos by Margaret Nelson

### Fast Fact:

For the second year, students at St. Christopher School in Speedway have designed Christmas cards they sell to benefit their school. The children provide the artwork and verse for each card. "The verses are so profound, so elegant, so spiritual," said Barbara Leek, principal.



Journey of Hope 2001

# St. Christopher's legacy: Building from within for the future

St. Christopher Parish in Speedway has 2,300 families—and a staff of 16 who minister to the faithful.

The staff met in the parish office recently to discuss the focus of the parish for the Journey of Hope 2001.

"We're planning a church," said Father Michael Welch, pastor. At its meeting last week, the archdiocesan art and architecture committee considered the church plan the parish design committee created.

"Building from Within"—to build the community first—is the aim of parish planners.

The design committee defined the characteristics of the

St. Christopher Parish community as a hospitable, praying community where all give, all receive, all celebrate. They understood "the real symbol of Eucharist is the parish assembly, fully aware of ourselves as God's people."

"The focus is on the spiritual part of all of our programs," said Providence Sister Marie Wolf, minister to the sick.

The Legacy of Hope from Generation to Generation capital and endowment campaign for this community—located on the west side of Indianapolis—involves: How to call people to their baptismal promises, and how to call them to minister and to be ministered to no matter what



St. Christopher staffers, looking at plans for the new church, are (seated from left): Franciscan Sister Sue Bradshaw, Providence Sister Marie Wolf, Brenda Butz, Jeanne Sexton, Father Michael Welch; (standing) Larry Hurt, Roberta Hurst, Therese Brennan, Robert Basile, Barbara Leek, Bill Szolek-Van Valkenburgh, Mary Ann O'Neal, Steve Quinnette, Nancy Meyer and Father Robert Gilday. Youth ministry assistant Shannon Gaughan is not pictured.

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Jessica Payne, from St. Christopher's confirmation class, serves salads to Mary Fendel and Howard Schirtzinger during the 10th annual 55 and Over Dinner for people who help the school. It is hosted by the Home School Association.

physical building the parish does.

"It is a vision embraced by the whole church," said Barbara Leek, principal of St. Christopher School.

St. Christopher has six Sunday Masses and ministers to 6,300 people. The median age is 31 years.

Brenda Butz, parish secretary, went through the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults process there, and said one thing that draws people to St. Christopher is the warmth and welcome of parishioners.

"They feel comfortable," she said. "Sometimes they say they have 'shopped around' at different churches first."

Father Robert Gilday, who lives in the parish and celebrates weekend Masses, said, "Part of the reason people feel so welcome is that the people greet each other before Mass. They get to know the people in the pews around them."

Father Welch said, "Church attendance isn't a problem—except we can't get everyone in our church."

Leek said the parish is trying to keep the people informed by putting all the information about the new church on the parish web site at [www.stchristopher.com](http://www.stchristopher.com).

Father Welch said, "Our attempt [as a staff] is to model

for the community what it means to be a community."

"I think we've been overwhelmed by the support of the parish," said Leek.

Providence Sister Marie Wolf said, "We had a wonderful liturgy under the tent." Twelve hundred parishioners gathered at the end of June for a single weekend liturgy, using the entire parking lot.

"I told them that this is only one-third of the parish," said Father Welch.

Steve Quinnette, director of maintenance, said, "Before I was an employee, I loved this church as my church; I found more community than I ever knew before; the people have love for everyone.

"The parents really do care for the school and the parish staff," he said. "It's nice to see everyone hang in there when we need it—and when we don't."

Parishioners are quite aware that they are building the new church as a legacy for the kids now in the school, who will be ready for it in the new millennium.

That includes the youth. Sixth-grade students at St. Christopher School planned the yearbook cover with the theme: "Legacy of Hope, We're Building Our Future." Their ideas, visualized by their art teacher, show a drawing of the school mascot, a cardinal, in construction clothes putting money in a bank shaped like the school. A sign reads, "Legacy Bank." "It pays when the kids are not left out of the vision," said Leek.

A few weeks ago, when the Indianapolis Motor Speedway announced it would sponsor a new Formula One race in the year 2000, parish leaders knew that meant a third weekend of gridlocked traffic and rescheduled Masses. St. Christopher has always made adjustments for the Indianapolis 500 and, more recently, the Brickyard 400.

"It will be great," said Mary Ann O'Neal, youth ministry coordinator. "It will put us on the international map."

Sister Marie Wolf, who works with the more mature members of the parish, voiced their appreciation for what is being done for them. "Their openness to change is wonderful."

In 1987, St. Christopher became one of the first parishes to use a van to pick up parishioners for Sunday Mass.

The 55 and Over group meets monthly and is treated to an annual Christmas dinner sponsored by the Home School Association. Teen-age confirmation candidates help the adults serve.

"It's a spider web," she said, mentioning the ways parishioners can get caught up in ministries.

O'Neal said, "There are no age barriers. The [teen-age]

kids are actively involved in the parish. Retirees are serving lunch at the school." She said that the youth—from seventh-graders through high school seniors—sort packages that people bring for the Christmas Giving Tree.

Brennan said, "They are interconnected—the school children and the CCD kids. They're our parish children."

"It's a healthy program," O'Neal said of the 21 CYO athletic programs involving children from third grade through high school. The space the Legacy of Hope campaign will bring will save rent money for gym rentals.

St. Christopher's interior design team tried "to develop a whole plan for the campus—not just for now—but for 10 years from now," said Father Welch.

"The possibility of new space can be a gift and a curse," he said. He explained that it has helped the parish in that, when it did not have space, they had to do outreach.

"But we can't bring all the people together now," said Father Welch. †

### St. Christopher (1937)

Address: 5301 W. 16th St., Indianapolis, IN 46224-6497  
Phone: 317-241-6314

Church Capacity: 500 ♿ Number of Households: 2,422

Pastor: Rev. D. Michael Welch  
In Residence: Rev. Robert J. Gilday  
Pastoral Associate: Sr. Sue Bradshaw, OSF, Bill Szolek-Van Valkenburgh, Nancy L. Meyer

Director of Religious Education: Therese Brennan

Minister to the Sick: Sr. Marie Wolf, SP

Family/Pastoral Counselor: Robert Basile

Youth Ministry Coordinator: Mary Ann O'Neal

Youth Ministry Assistant: Shannon Gaughan

Music Director: Larry Hurt

Parish Council Chair: Jim Kovacs

Business Manager: Jeanne Sexton

Director of Maintenance: Steve Quinnette

Parish Secretary: Brenda Butz

Principal: Barbara E. Leek

School Secretary: Roberta Hurst

School: 5335 W. 16th St., 317-241-6314 (P-6)

Number of Students: 263

Masses: Saturday Anticipation — 5:30 p.m.  
Sunday — 7:00, 8:30, 10:30 a.m., noon, 5:30 p.m.  
Holy Day Anticipation — 5:30 p.m.  
Holy Day — 6:00, 9:00 a.m., 6:30 p.m.  
Weekdays — 9:00 a.m., 5:30 p.m.

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January 16, 1999	May 15, 1999
February 20, 1999	June 19, 1999
March 20, 1999	

## Schedule of Events

8:30	Mass at St. Andrew
9:00	Prayerful March to Clinic
9:30	Rosary at Abortion Clinic
10:00	Return March to Church
10:30	Benediction



Archdiocese of Indianapolis

The Church in  
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Indiana



# Penance services

Parishes throughout the archdiocese have scheduled Advent communal penance services. The following is a list of services that have been reported to *The Criterion*.

### Batesville Deanery

Dec. 19, 7:30 p.m. at St. Charles, Milan  
Dec. 19, 7:30 p.m. at St. Nicholas, Sunman  
Dec. 20, 5:30 p.m. at St. Anthony of Padua, Morris  
Dec. 22, 7 p.m. at St. Anthony of Padua, Morris

### Indianapolis East Deanery

Dec. 21, 7-8 p.m. at St. Mary

### Indianapolis North Deanery

Dec. 21, 7:30 p.m. at St. Lawrence

### Indianapolis South Deanery

Dec. 20, 4 p.m. for Sacred Heart, Good

Shepherd, Holy Rosary and St. Patrick, at Sacred Heart  
Dec. 21, 7:30 p.m. at Our Lady of the Greenwood, Greenwood

### Indianapolis West Deanery

Dec. 20, 2 p.m. at St. Anthony

### New Albany Deanery

Dec. 20, 3 p.m. at St. Joseph, Corydon, Most Precious Blood, New Middletown, and St. Peter, Harrison Co.  
Dec. 21, 7 p.m. at St. Anthony of Padua, Clarksville  
Dec. 21, 7 p.m. at Holy Family, New Albany

### Terre Haute Deanery

Dec. 20, 7 p.m. at St. Joseph, Rockville  
Dec. 21, 7:30 p.m. at St. Margaret Mary, Terre Haute †



Photo by Margaret Nelson

## Dedicated

Archbishop Daniel M. Buechlein dedicates the new All Saints School on the Indianapolis west side as Principal Mary Pat Sharpe, Holy Trinity Pastor Father Kenneth Taylor and St. Anthony Pastor Msgr. John Ryan participate. Present and former students and school parents joined in the Dec. 13 open house celebrating the renovation of former Indianapolis Public School 50.

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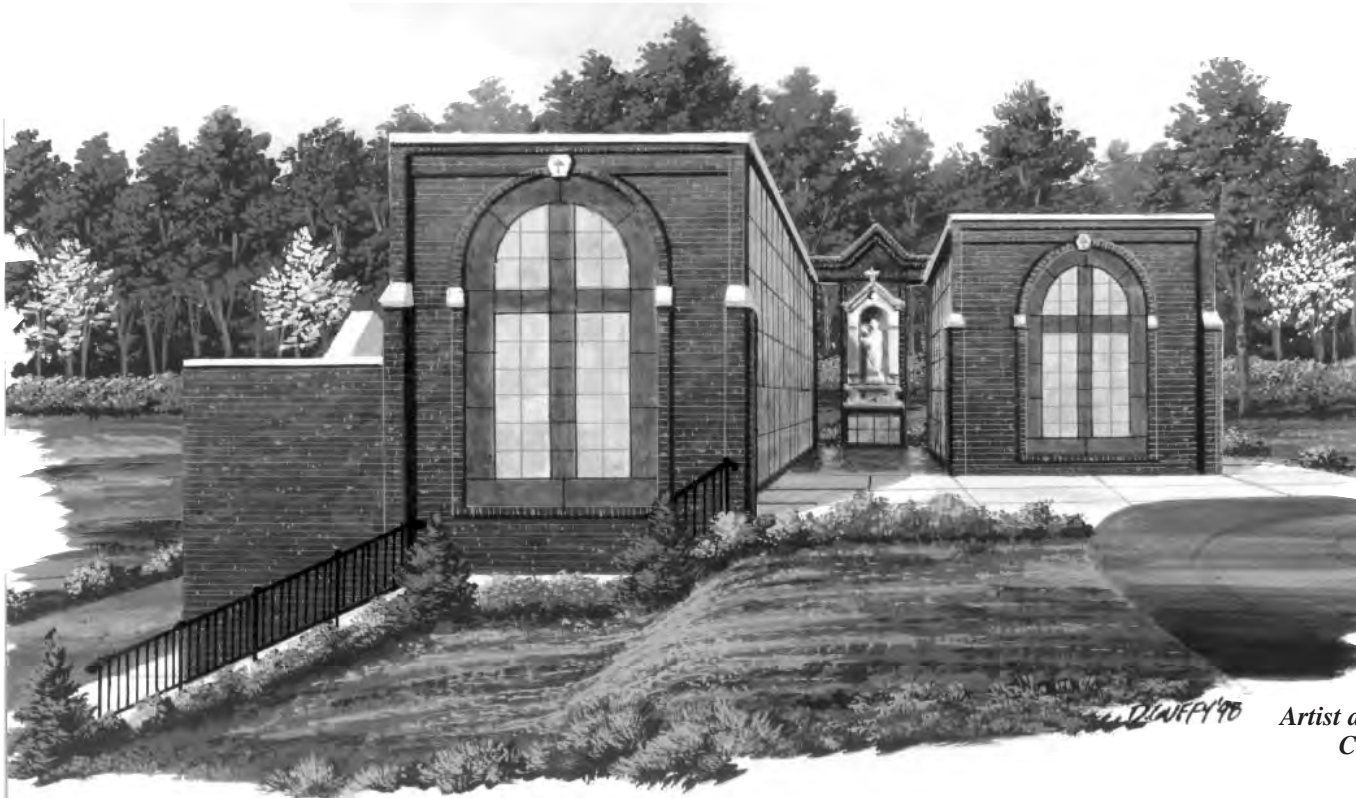
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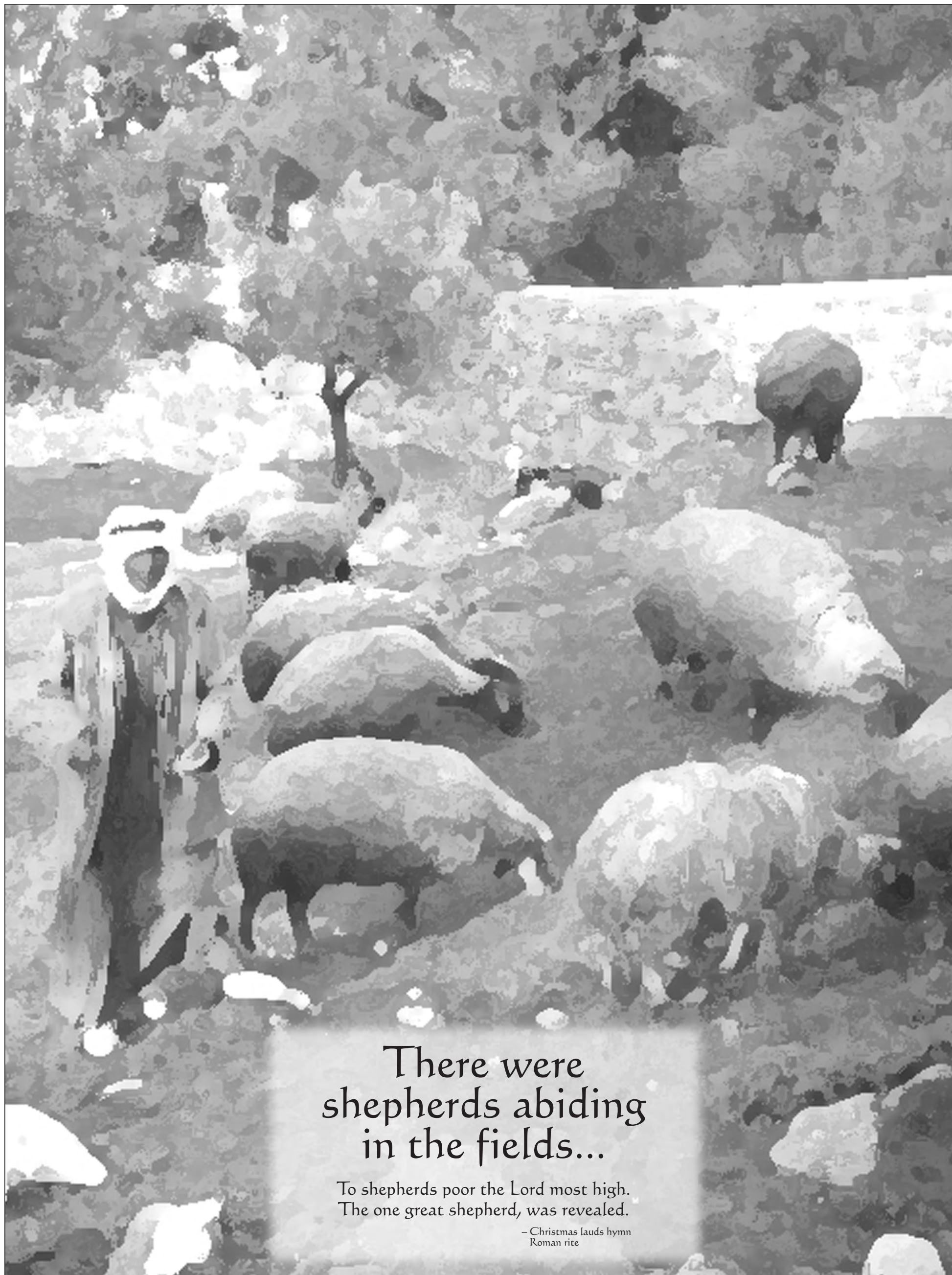
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# CHRISTMAS

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There were  
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in the fields...

To shepherds poor the Lord most high.  
The one great shepherd, was revealed.

— Christmas lauds hymn  
Roman rite



# Church of the Nativity has seen many wars

By John F. Fink

The land where the "prince of peace" was born has seldom known peace. And the church built over the site of Jesus' birth has sometimes been involved in wars and conflict. The Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem, for example, figured importantly in the Muslim siege of Vienna in 1683 and in the Crimean War of 1854.

The Church of the Nativity is considered to be the oldest Christian church in the world. It was built by St. Helena, the mother of Constantine, in 332, when she (or, technically, her son) ordered churches to be built over the sites of Christ's birth, death and resurrection, and ascension. It was then renovated by Justin in the sixth century.

In 614, the Persians invaded the Holy Land and destroyed all the Christian churches except the Church of the Nativity. It was spared because the invaders found a mosaic of the three Magi, wearing Persian robes, inside the church.

After the crusaders conquered the Holy Land, Baldwin I was crowned "King of the Latins" in the Church of the Nativity on Nov. 11, 1100. The crusaders set about repairing and rebuilding numerous churches in the Holy Land. One of the repairs to the Church of the Nativity consisted of putting on a new roof, for which they used lead to keep the roof from leaking for centuries.

It remained that way for more than five centuries. But in the latter half of the 17th century, the Turks were threatening to overrun all of Europe. They had already conquered Hungary and laid siege to Vienna. That's when Pope Innocent XI urged the Polish king, John Sobieski, and the German princes to assist Austria. Sobieski led a Christian army to Vienna to fight the Muslim Turks.

The Turks were running out of ammunition. Then someone remembered that the roof of the Church of the Nativity had been built with lead. The lead was stripped from the roof, melted down and made into cannon balls, and they were hurried to the Turkish camp at Vienna. Fortunately for the Christians, perhaps, the cannon balls didn't arrive in time because Sobieski's troops defeated the Turks, relieved the siege of Vienna, and drove the Turks out of Hungary.

But, of course, the damage had been done to the Church of the Nativity. From then on, the roof leaked



Photo by Margaret Nelson

Bethlehem's Church of the Nativity, one of the oldest Christian churches in the world, stands over the site of Jesus' birth.

whenever it rained. The first few times I visited the church I noticed puddles of standing water. The roof wasn't repaired because the various Christian communities (mainly Roman Catholics, Greek Orthodox and Armenians) couldn't agree on which of them was responsible for doing it. The agreement among them only specified the areas in the church where the communities could mop up the water. It wasn't until after the Israelis occupied Bethlehem that suddenly (some people said miraculously) the roof was repaired and the leaks stopped.

Those disagreements among the Christian communities escalated into the Crimean War in 1854. The argument at that time was over control of the cave, under the main altar of the church, where it is believed Christ was born.

Today, a silver star marks the place of Jesus' birth. Above it are 15 lamps belonging to different Christian communities. Off to the side is a Greek Orthodox altar of the crib, where the newborn infant was laid, and a Roman Catholic altar of the Magi.

Fights over this sacred site were, unfortunately, not uncommon. In 1847, a particularly nasty brawl broke out when it was discovered that the silver star marking

the place of Jesus' birth was missing. Accusations were made by and against the Greek and the Latin clergy. Soon the argument involved France, the "protector" of the Latin community, and Russia, the Greek community's "protector."

France was eager to use this provocation as a chance to reopen the question of ownership of the Christian holy places because the Muslim rulers of the Holy Land at the time had given pride of place to the Greeks. Russia, on the other hand, was satisfied with the arrangements then in effect. Britain joined France and, when negotiations fizzled, they declared war on Russia.

The Crimean War started in 1854 and ended in September 1855 with Russia's defeat. Somehow the silver star was reclaimed and replaced in the cave of the nativity and a semblance of peace was reestablished. †

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# Grace is God's turning toward us with love

By Fr. Dale Launderville, O.S.B.

When the angels proclaim "peace on earth" at the time of Jesus' birth, they are proclaiming that God has come to change us and the circumstances of our lives so that we can all find an honored and meaningful place in God's world.

Mary provides us with a courageous example of one who freely and fully accepted God's plan in Jesus. Her conception of Jesus prior to marriage with Joseph, and her giving birth to Jesus in poor conditions on society's margins, are events early in the story of Jesus which make Anna's ominous prophecy to Mary about her life with Jesus readily believable: "A sword will pierce your heart" (Luke 2:35).

In the midst of these trying, confusing circumstances, Mary could find consolation and direction in Elizabeth's words: "Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee!" Elizabeth confirms for Mary her experience that God has come to be with her in an intimate and special way.

God's presence changes Mary's life—and the course of human history.

When Elizabeth says Mary is "full of grace," she acknowledges that God has turned toward Mary and bestowed special favor upon her.

In its deepest sense, grace is God's turning toward us to be in relationship with us. The wonder of God's turning toward us becomes clear in the particularities of our lives, examples of how God speaks to the hearts of people and

walks with them to bring about newness and wholeness in their lives, But such newness is only the tip of the iceberg of what God intends for us.

Our true destiny is not simply to behave well so that we are in harmony with all in heaven and on earth. Our destiny is to share in God's life and be transformed by it!

With Jesus' birth, God highlights the goodness and potential of our embodied human life. And God becomes like us to share fully in the anxieties, limitations, and brokenness of the human condition.

God is not a detached spectator who puts us to the test. Rather, God is one who keeps reaching out to us and pouring forth the divine self in order to bring us to new life.

Through the birth of Jesus, God does not merely save us from danger, but rather brings us to share in divine life.

Jesus becomes the child of Mary so that we might become children of God! †

*(Benedictine Father Dale Launderville is a Semitics scholar at St. John's University in Collegeville, Minn.)*



Photo by Margaret Nelson

## Holy Name Christmas Concert XXXVII

Jerry Craney, music director for Holy Name of Jesus Parish in Beech Grove, leads practice for the high school choir that will participate in the Dec. 20 Christmas concert in Holy Name Church at 3 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. The adult and boys' choirs will sing parts of Schubert's "Mass in G Major." The girls' choir and the high school group will join them to form a 150-voice choir—accompanied by an orchestra—for traditional and contemporary Christmas music. Tickets, at \$5 each, are available by calling 317-787-1682. Tickets for the afternoon concert will be available at the door.

## Generosity is the great grace of Advent, Christmas

By Maureen Daly

The Christmas when I was 12, the St. Thomas the Apostle Children's Choir took its act on the road, Chicago.

Our choir director, Father Robert Oldershaw, who later co-edited the widely used hymnal *Worship*, taught us a repertoire of international songs.

Bundled up against the winter air, we set out on foot to visit community centers and old folks' homes within walking distance of our school in the Hyde Park neighborhood of Chicago's South Side.

Our touring circuit that first season was limited to a radius of a few city

blocks, but it opened up a whole new world. Inside buildings we often had walked past but never entered, we were surprised to find fragile elderly residents who were so thrilled to have us visit.

Since we rarely met elderly strangers, we were astonished by how pleased they were to have us visit. Their attention was flattering, their applause gratifying, and their gratitude truly touching.

In the coming years, the St. Thomas the Apostle Children's Choir would have other exciting performing opportunities. The choir would even release an album, but I always remembered that first experience of the gratitude of strangers.

The great grace of the Christmas season is the widespread impulse to generosity.

One of the greatest gifts to give children is the sense that they have something to offer to the wider world, something the world will be grateful for.

If adults don't provide opportunities, children will invent them.

For children or adults, generosity is the great grace of Christmas. Throughout the year there is no greater gift than giving someone an opportunity to be needed, a chance to be generous. †

*(Maureen Daly is an associate editor for special projects at Catholic News Service.)*

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# Crèche symbolizes reality of God with us

By Fr. Lawrence E. Mick

My first image of Christmas is of the manger scene, with Mary and Joseph and the child surrounded by ox and ass and sheep, and shepherds and wise men from the East.

It's a good image. We are indebted to St. Francis of Assisi, who popularized the creation of such crèche scenes in the 13th century.

But how did people think of Christmas well before St. Francis?

It is likely, of course, that some would have imagined a similar scene, because the Gospels of Matthew and Luke describe the various elements that make up the traditional crèche scene.

But there were other images that can enrich our own understanding of the meaning of Christmas.

The Scripture readings assigned to the various Masses of Christmas give us some additional ways of thinking about the feast.

The first reading for the Vigil Mass of Christmas speaks of Christmas as a wedding: "As a young man marries a virgin, your Builder shall marry you; and as a bridegroom rejoices in his bride, so shall your God rejoice in you."

This image of Christmas as the wedding of heaven and earth, of humanity and divinity, is an ancient way of thinking about the significance of Christ's birth.

Christmas celebrates the incarnation, the enfleshment of God. It rejoices in the fact that, in Jesus, God entered into human history and shared human existence in order to bring about our salvation.

This wondrous union continues today, as Christ lives in the members of his body, the Church, and continues to

dwell in our midst through the Spirit. He is forever "Emmanuel," God with us.

The first reading for the Mass at Midnight speaks of Christ's birth in terms of light breaking forth in the darkness: "The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; upon those who dwelt in the land of gloom a light has shone."

The image of Jesus as the rising sun may have contributed to this feast's placement near the winter solstice when the days begin to lengthen again, when the sun seems victorious over the forces of darkness.

In addition, the Gospel for the Mass on Christmas Day speaks of Christ's coming in terms of light and darkness:

"What came to be through him was life, and this life was the light of the human race; the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it ... The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world."

The Gospel also speaks of Christ in terms of the eternal Word who was present at the creation of all things and came into the world to give those who believe in him "the power to become children of God."

This image of Christ as the Word of God was a primary way of speaking of Jesus in ancient times, and we continue to call him the incarnate Word of God, the Word made flesh.

The second reading for the Mass dur-

ing Christmas Day speaks of Christ as God's final word: "In times past, God spoke in partial and various ways to our ancestors through the prophets: In these last days, he has spoken to us through the Son."

The crèche serves as a strong reminder of the sacred event we celebrate at Christmas.

These additional images of Christ as God's final and complete word to us, of Christmas as the dawning of the light of the world, and of Christ's birth as the wedding of heaven and earth can help us understand more fully the deep meaning of this great feast. †

(Father Lawrence Mick is a priest of the Archdiocese of Cincinnati, Ohio.)

## Sometimes grace comes to us in the strangest ways

By Sr. Theresa Sanders, R.S.C.J.

It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God. We don't like to believe that. We want to encounter God in familiar, comfortable ways.

Often, God complies with our wishes. We find grace in dinner with friends or in Scripture passages we know by heart.

Yet there are other times when God breaks through familiar routines so the awesomeness of divine love strikes us with a force we would not have thought possible.

I remember one of those times. It was a hot, steamy summer day in Washington, D.C. I was looking forward to having lunch with Karen, an old friend. We arranged to meet at a subway station.

On the day of our appointment, I lost track of the hour. I was already 15 min-

utes late for our lunch when I caught a cab to the subway station.

Once there, I scanned the faces in the crowd but couldn't find her. Then it dawned on me that there are two exits at that subway station. I ran across a busy intersection to the other exit, but there was no one there—except for a panhandler.

"Hey," a voice behind me said. I ignored it. I was in no mood to be bothered by this homeless stranger.

"Hey, lady," the man said.

I didn't turn around.

"Hey, lady!" he said again. "Are you looking for Karen?"

"What? Well ... yes, I am," I replied.

Then the man stood up and began shouting across the intersection.

"Hey, Karen, here she is! Here she is!"

Out of the crowd, my friend turned around and ran over to meet me. We

hugged and went off to the restaurant.

As we talked, Karen told me about the homeless man who brought us together. While she waited, they had had a long conversation. She knew his name and all about his family, and said I should pray for him because there was a chance the man soon could reunite with his family.

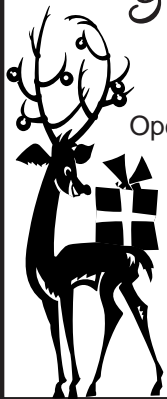
Sometimes grace comes in the strangest of ways. As Christmas nears, I think how easy it would be to miss the gift of the Christ child, a child born to poor parents, a child for whom there was no room at an inn but only a manger for a bed.

Let's keep watch. Let's keep our eyes open and see what grace might appear. †

(Sister Theresa Sanders is a member of the Religious of the Sacred Heart. She teaches theology at Manhattanville College in Purchase, N.Y.)

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# Readers share special Christmas memories

## Parents teach child meaning of giving

By Margaret Bordenkecher Kennedy

I wanted a red rosary for Christmas. I wanted a doll, too—one that opened and closed her eyes—but mostly I wanted a red rosary. My little sister wanted a doll with a hat and coat.

Mama had told us that the war wasn't long past and materials were still hard to come by. Even Santa Claus had to have materials to make toys, she said, so we children would have to understand if it was a slim Christmas.

The year just past had been a hard one for my parents. Daddy had experienced several layoffs, and both of my parents were trying hard to feed and clothe the nine of us children. In addition to that, they were struggling to keep my oldest sister in St. Mary Academy and my oldest brother in Sacred Heart High School where you had to pay something called "tuition."

In our Catholic elementary school, Sister tried to prepare us for Advent. She said that we should do good deeds for our brothers and sisters, and perform little acts of kindness for our moms and dads.

She told us that we should give up things like candy. In doing this, we would be giving a gift to the Christ Child. In turn, we would receive gifts far greater than toys and games. We would receive a gift that was special ... a gift from the Christ Child.

This thoroughly puzzled me, and I wondered if a gift from the Christ Child meant a red rosary.

Christmas Eve arrived. We spent the day helping Mama clean the house and running errands as we waited in great anticipation for that evening.

At our house, we followed my father's family's tradition of Santa arriving on Christmas Eve after supper. The older children would then attend Midnight Mass at St. Philip Neri Church, and we younger children would go to the 9 o'clock Mass there on Christmas morning.

The great moment finally arrived. Supper was eaten and the dishes were washed and put away. We were ushered

into the darkened living room.

The fire in the fireplace sent a warm glow into the room. The Christmas tree with its many colored lights seemed to dance. On a table nearby was the crib with the figure of the newly-born Baby Jesus. The stockings hanging from the mantle were puffed with small gifts, which told us that the kindly saint had indeed arrived. Daddy turned on the lights, and we saw nine small piles of gifts placed around the cozy room.

From then on, chaos reigned as the nine of us greedily examined our gifts with oohs and aahs.

My little sister received her doll with its navy blue coat lined with a soft light blue. I couldn't keep my eyes from the doll. It looked oddly familiar! Then I recognized it as an old one that had been in the toy box. The material from the coat strongly resembled some of the material that Mama kept in her material scrap box. The refurbished doll was indeed beautiful!

Then I saw my own gifts. My doll was there, but her legs seemed slightly askew, telling me that it came from the part of the store where they sold "seconds." But her lovely eyes opened and closed and, when turned, she cried "ma-ma." She had a soft blue dotted-swiss dress and bonnet. In spite of her crooked legs, she was mine, and I loved her.

Then I spied a small gold box. It had "Krieg Bros." written on the lid. With shaking hands, I opened it. There on a little nest of cotton lay a shimmering crimson rosary. The little beads were of faceted red glass, and they reflected the lights from the tree. The crucifix was of gold with a halo encircling the head of Jesus.

I looked around to tell Mama and Daddy that I had gotten my Christmas wish. They stood near the doorway. I stopped and stared at what I saw. Even though they had no gifts to open, their eyes were aglow with happiness and unselfish love.

I knew in that moment that my parents had sacrificed and given of themselves so that the nine of us would know a happy Christmas. I thought about what Sister had told us about preparing our hearts and



This doll and rosary are treasured gifts that Margaret Kennedy, a member of St. Gabriel Parish in Indianapolis, has saved since her parents gave them to her for Christmas when she was a child.

Photo by Mary Ann Wyand

receiving a special gift. I knew that my parents had received that special gift ... the gift from the Christ Child.

I still have the doll and the rosary from that long ago Christmas. The doll no longer says "ma-ma" and her lovely complexion has darkened with age. The rosary has one badly cracked bead, and nine of the beads have been replaced. The chain linking the beads doesn't want to stay together.

To me, though, they are still beautiful as they are reminders of my first realization of the true meaning of Advent and Christmas. They remind me of the deep love of my parents, which reflected the love of God. †

(Margaret Bordenkecher Kennedy is a member of St. Gabriel Parish in Indianapolis.)

## Baby's arrival is Christmas surprise

By Joan E. Ebacher

Christmas 1940 was very memorable for me. I am the second eldest in a family of 12, and I grew up in the middle of Chicago.

About 10 p.m. on Christmas Eve, all the children were in bed and my Mom was taking a bath at the kitchen sink in a small house we were renting. We did not have a bathtub.

Mom had her foot in the sink when her "water" broke. She called for help. I heard her and hurried to help her.

She sent me to a neighbor's house to ask if the woman would drive her to the hospital.

Dad worked for the Chicago Transit Authority, and he didn't get home until about 11:30 p.m. each night.

Dad got home from work and then to the hospital just in time to collect his Christmas present—a beautiful and healthy little girl! My parents named her Carol Emily. She was our present from God.

The neighbor who took Mom to the hospital also shared Christmas with us.

The kind woman and her family helped Dad put up our Christmas tree and place the gifts under it for us, and they invited us to breakfast on Christmas morning.

It was a new experience for them because they were Jewish. †

(Joan E. Ebacher is a member of Holy Family Parish in Richmond.)



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*In the waiting days to Christmas,  
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I love, small images of God to  
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## A stocking for Jesus is a family tradition

By Margaret A. Hillan

Traditions are the glue that help bond families long after individual members have left the childhood home to begin families of their own.

Believing that, my husband, Bob, and I have continued many traditions that began in our families generations before. We have also tried to implement a number of traditions for our children. Our most treasured family tradition came about because of a child's innocent question.

About 30 years ago, I made red felt Christmas stockings for each member of our family. Our six small children watched with excitement as we hung them early in December.

Suddenly, one small voice asked, "Mommy, where is Jesus' stocking? You said he is our brother, but he doesn't have a stocking."

I made another stocking that very day and inscribed it with the name "Jesus."

In an effort to extend the holidays a bit for our little ones, we decided that we would fill the stockings on the Sunday before Christmas, and that they would be filled with gifts that the children chose for each other. We hoped that, with such a large family, this would encourage "small" gifts throughout the years, allowing us to focus on the true meaning of Christmas.

It was such fun! While the others were in another room, Bob would lift each child up to fill the stockings with his or her special gifts. Clare's gifts might be Hershey bars. Beth's presents might be Cracker Jacks. Even baby Nick was included. Each child also placed a gift in Jesus' stocking.

Excitement filled the air as the goodies were discovered, and the children felt like

they had contributed to the joy and fun of that day. We decided that since Jesus had said, "What you do unto others, you do unto me," we would offer a treat from Jesus' stocking to everyone who visited our home.

As our family grew, more stockings were added. Counting Jesus, our family grew to 13.

The Jesus' stocking tradition continued through the years, and usually worked beautifully, but I must admit that there were a few years when unknown thieves pilfered the contents of Jesus' stocking! On more than one occasion in the years that followed, guests reached in to find empty candy wrappers on the bottom of the felt stocking! Usually the perpetrators merely "exchanged" treats for something more desirable.

While there were a few problems, hopefully the idea, rather than the crimes, survived to influence our children's adult lives.

This Christmas, 38 stockings will be hung around our fireplace—10 for our children, seven for our daughters- and sons-in-law, one for a daughter's fiancé, 17 for our grandchildren, one for Bob, one for me and, of course, one for Jesus. †

(Margaret Hillan is a member of St. Barnabas Parish in Indianapolis.)

## Surprise at Mass adds to excitement

By Linda Beatty

What is the most special way to celebrate Christmas, other than attending Midnight Mass?

There are several ways I can recall, but the most memorable celebration for me happened at Holy Spirit Church in Indianapolis a few years ago. Father William Munshower, a wonderful friend, was the pastor there then.

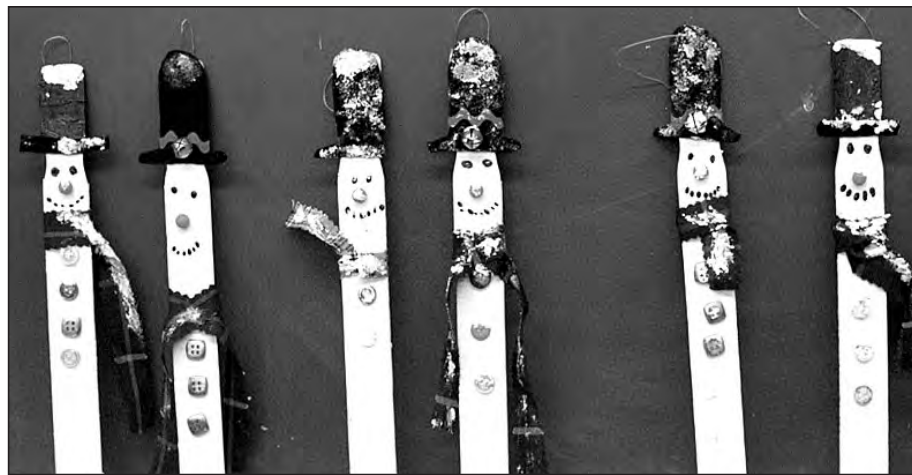


Photo by Mary Ann Wyand

## Smiling snowmen

Fifth-grade students at St. Bartholomew School in Columbus are making little wooden snowmen for holiday art projects this year.

My husband, Steve, and I were returning home after opening gifts with his family. Since we had no children, we enjoyed being out late. We had moved to Shelby County, but since we were visiting relatives in Indianapolis we decided to attend Midnight Mass at the parish where we were married, then drive home and sleep in on Christmas morning.

We arrived at the church just in time for Mass. It was very crowded. We ran into a friend and joined him and his sons in the balcony. That was the only time I had ever been up there. Many of the numerous folding chairs that had been set up in the balcony were already taken by other late arrivals.

The Mass was wonderful, especially with all the Christmas songs. One of my favorite parts of the Mass is the time to offer the Sign of Peace to each other. I always feel so good inside when I do that!

On that memorable night, after I kissed my husband and shook hands with our friends, I greeted other people nearby. When I grasped one young man's hand and said "Peace be with you," he passed out and fell onto the chairs!

Thankfully, he wasn't hurt. I was totally surprised and shocked! I didn't know if I should feel uncomfortable or not. I would imagine he was embarrassed, but his family was with him and he seemed fine after a few moments. I think he stayed for the remainder of the Mass. It was awfully crowded and very warm and the incense smelled very strong in the balcony, which probably caused him to faint.

I do not know who this young man is, but that Christmas Eve is one I will never forget. It was a little too much excitement for one night! †

(Linda Beatty is a member of St. Joseph Parish in Shelbyville.)

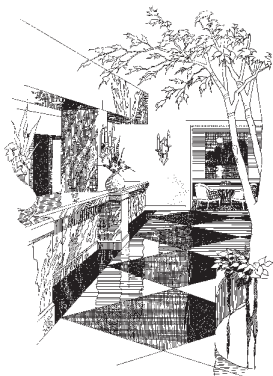
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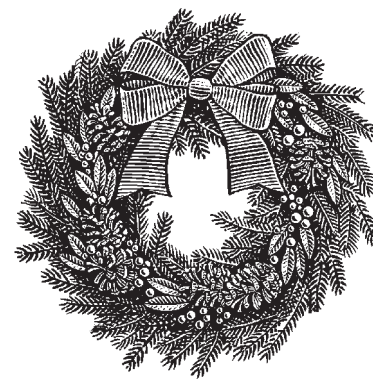


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# Christmas memories focus on faith, family

## Christmas Eve Mass was joyous, uplifting

By Elizabeth Vollmer Suding

The first memory I have of Holy Cross Church in Indianapolis is the beauty of it at Christmas time. I would go there with my parents to see the nativity set and to put my shiny new pennies in the golden dish at the foot of the manger.

On Christmas Eve I would go to Midnight Mass with my family, and years later with my sweetheart.

I can remember Professor Klein softly playing the organ up in the choir loft. The church smelled of candle wax and flowers, and there was a warm and quiet feeling in the air.

The lights would be dimmed, and 10 nuns would enter the eastside door in single file, each carrying a lighted candle, and go quietly to their seats in the front-row pew reserved for them. There was a quiet beauty and dignity about them.

Then the notes of the organ would start to swell and fill the church. We could hear singing and would turn to see the choir boys coming down the center aisle. They looked beautiful in their long red cassocks with snowy white surplices over them.

They held candles and sang in Latin, perhaps "Venite Adoramus" or "Pani Angelicus." They would process to the front of the church, followed by the servers and the priests. At the front, some of the boys would go to the right, others to the left, then across the front of the church and down the side aisles back to the choir loft, with Father Goossens, to continue their singing at intervals during the Mass, which was a pageant of beauty.

At Communion time, everyone would stand and walk to the front to kneel beside the altar rail.

After the Mass, the choir continued to sing as people would go up to the front of the church to kneel and say prayers next to the nativity scene.

Then we would all leave for home. Most of us walked to church then, and we would greet friends all along the way home as the music followed us out the doors and down the street.

Many of us went home and enjoyed hot cocoa and little Christmas cookies. Later, as we drifted off to sleep, the sound of carols echoing in our minds, we knew that Christmas was really here, right then, all around us. †

(Elizabeth Vollmer Suding is a member of Our Lady of the Greenwood Parish in Greenwood.)

## War-time Christmas necessitates sacrifice

By Bernadine Purcell

My whole world seemed to be turned upside down in December 1941.

There were new songs during the holiday season, and the song "I'll Be Home for Christmas" brought sadness. I thought about my two brothers, who had been drafted into the service of their country the past spring and realized that because of World War II we wouldn't be having a family reunion this Christmas.

I busied myself baking cookies. They would make nice gifts and be easy on our budget. Fortunately, our ration stamps supplied me with sufficient sugar.

My husband and I were adjusting to our new living conditions. We were now living in my old familiar neighborhood. The two front rooms of a friend's house were sufficient for our bedroom and kitchen furniture. Months before, we had rented the only place available that fit within our budget at the time.

Home supplies were secondary to war supplies. Many small businesses were forced to remodel their stores into two-



In recent years, the interior of Holy Cross Church in Indianapolis has served as a temporary storage site for large quantities of food during some days of Advent. The donated food is distributed to needy people in the center city before Thanksgiving and Christmas.

File photo by Margaret Nelson

room apartments. Then we lived among strangers.

The nylon stockings I purchased before my marriage were no longer wearable. I had hoped to buy a new pair to wear on Christmas Day, but this would not be possible. The nylon was needed for essential commodities for a country at war. For the first time in my adult life, I would be wearing plain cotton stockings to church on Christmas. I wouldn't have to resort to leg make-up, which had become a solution for many women. And the cotton stockings would warm my legs during the winter months.

My husband and I had planned our Christmas budget carefully. We would buy a small artificial tree, a few ornaments and our first nativity set. We

decided that the gift we both wanted, our family Bible, would be put under the tree and would be a gift we could share throughout the years.

Midnight Mass was beautiful. The songs "Go Ye to Bethlehem" and "Glory to God in the Highest" brought peace in my heart.

After the Mass, we visited the nativity set at the left altar. The life-size figures made it easy to look upon them as real-life people. Silently I prayed to Mary and Joseph because, in just a few months, my husband and I would be privileged to hold our own newborn baby in our arms. I prayed that we would be faithful to this special calling. †

(Bernadine Purcell is a member of St. Anthony of Padua Parish in Clarksville.)

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## Surprise engagement adds to the joy of Christmas

By Sharon Mickel

When I think of Christmas, I think of family. Recently our own growing families have been tugging us in different directions.

When I was younger, my parents and I, along with my eight brothers and sisters and their spouses and children, would gather at Christmas.

It was so fun! Our living room would be overflowing with family. It was bedlam, but I loved it. The smallest members of our family would be Santa's "elves." They would go to the tree and bring presents to everyone.

Lights fascinated me. As a child, I would get up early, sneak downstairs in the dark, plug in the Christmas tree and enjoy the peace and solitude. And some nights my parents would pack us all in the car, and we'd drive around town enjoying the Christmas lights.

Now I love how our 5-year-old daughter, Anna, enjoys the twinkling lights. Seeing how her eyes grow wide at the beautiful displays brings back my own childish excitement. Even our baby, Rachel, noticed the neighbor's Christmas lights. She pointed and smiled and chanted, "La-ee! La-ee!"

What a nice tradition to continue!

Looking back at my childhood years, we sure didn't have much. We were always wearing hand-me-down clothes, and Mom was always scrimping and saving. I noticed that we didn't have extravagant gifts like some of my friends. But I don't remember Christmas as being anything but magical. How did my parents do it?

When my husband, Jeff, and I were dating, we spent Christmas with both of our families.

First we'd visit his family. On Christmas Eve, after church services, they would slowly open and savor each present. There was lots of time to sip fragrant flavored coffees, talk and rest.

On Christmas morning, Jeff and I would make the nearly four-hour drive to my hometown. As usual, holiday bedlam prevailed at our family gathering. To me, it was exciting and familiar, but I think Jeff was shocked by all the noise and commotion.

On our second Christmas together, about 30 members of my family were gathered at my brother Mike's house. I was stunned when my niece, Molly, handed me a small package containing a lovely diamond ring.

Jeff proposed to me in front of everyone! He was so bold!

I wept with joy, and he told me how happy he was that I'd accepted. But I mischievously replied that I hadn't accepted yet! Then I quickly said what was in my heart: "Yes!" But I'll never be allowed to forget the moment of torture I put him through!

And, of course, five years ago, in the biggest change of my life, I became a mother six days before Christmas. Our newborn daughter, Anna, and I were released from the hospital on Dec. 23. I was in no shape to travel, so we had a quiet, peaceful Christmas at home.

I had never missed Christmas Mass before. Celebrating our Lord's birth, with the gorgeous music and decorations, is so special. But that year, I rested on the couch, with Anna sleeping on my chest, and "celebrated" Christmas Mass with Pope John Paul II—thanks to the miracle of television.

Caring for our newborn baby reminded us more than ever what Christmas is all about—a tiny baby born in Bethlehem almost 2,000 years ago.

It's so easy to get swept up in all the "stuff" of the hol-

iday season. I hope and pray that, as Anna and Rachel grow up, Jeff and I will do a good job teaching our daughters that "Jesus is the reason for the season." †  
(Sharon Mickel is a member of St. Ambrose Parish in Seymour.)

## Sudden death of father unites family for bittersweet holiday

By Margaret Ruffing

That first Christmas on my own was different than any other—not because I had planned to spend it 600 miles from home, but because I would be home after all. My father had been involved in a car accident and had not survived.

I will always hold dear the new friendships I found with each of my brothers and sisters and my mother that Christmas. We held each other in sorrow, laughed with each other in fun, and prayed with each other in thanksgiving.

"Give thanks to God in all things," my mother always

said, and this time was no exception. Dad had led a good life. Each of us was at peace with him before he died. And, just 10 days earlier, we had all been together to celebrate my wedding.

Just as the Grinch discovers in the Dr. Seuss Christmas story, no matter what happens, Christmas has a way of coming just the same.

That year, on Christmas Eve, there were "elves" taking off in many directions. Some went to finish shopping for gifts so there would be presents under the tree for everyone. Others went to find candy canes to fill the stockings. One "elf" even remembered to bring the fresh shrimp so that age-old tradition in our house could continue for yet another holiday.

When I look back at the photographs taken that year, I readily laugh at the fun we had despite the emptiness we all felt for Dad. I thank God once again for my family and offer a prayer for Dad.

And when I retell the story to my children, I remind them—as my mother reminded me—that comfort comes from God and through him all things are possible. †

(Margaret Ruffing is a member of St. Luke Parish in Indianapolis.)

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# Holiday gifts include memories of family

## Gift from God helps family at Christmas

By Mary Ann Wyand

Last year, during Advent, my family received a gift from God. It was a blessed surprise for us, and a priceless present, especially after losing my mother to cancer in March of 1996 and my sister to cancer in March of 1997. Shortly after my sister died at age 50, her daughter discovered she was expecting her third child. The joy of my niece's unexpected pregnancy helped carry us all through months of grieving.

Nathan Bruce was born on Dec. 6, 1997, the feast of St. Nicholas, and weighed in at 10 pounds. He looks like the Gerber baby, with blond hair, blue eyes and a charming smile. Even as a newborn, he smiled a lot and seemed delighted to be held by anyone.

When I asked Amy how she and her husband, Bruce, happened to name him Nathan, she said it was the only name they could agree on.

"Did you look in a baby names book?" I asked.

"No," she replied. "We just talked about names, and since we already have Joseph Paul, that was the only other boy's name we could agree on."

"Do you know what it means?" I inquired.

"No," she said. "Did you look it up?" Nodding, and smiling, I told her the name Nathan means "a gift given of God."

"Well, we certainly named him right!" Amy said. "With Mom so sick and dying, we weren't thinking about babies!"

Nathan was baptized on the feast of the Baptism of Our Lord last January, and I am his godmother as well as his great-aunt.

He's walking now, and we're all looking forward to sharing Christmas with Nathan, his older brother, Joe, and his older sister, Emily.

I will never forget how, in the midst of my family's sorrow, God gave us this priceless gift as a reminder that life goes on. †  
(Mary Ann Wyand is a member of St. Thomas Aquinas Parish in Indianapolis.)

## Homemade candy is tasty part of holiday

By Anna-Margaret O'Sullivan

One of my delightful Christmas memories is our custom, even during the Depression, of making a variety of homemade candy to celebrate the holiday.

Having stockpiled sugar all fall, a little at a time, we made chocolate fudge, both plain and peanut butter, and added nuts or coconut to at least one batch. Mother or Kirby, my older sister, always made the fudge.

If Kirby made it, I got to lick the kettle with the big spoon in return for buttering the plates. She hated greasy fingertips, but I was not so dainty and gladly tolerated them for the few minutes that elapsed before I could wash my hands.

Sometimes we would coax my grand-



Photo by Mary Ann Wyand

## Jolly St. Nick

This cheerful Santa Claus tree ornament is a festive reminder of the legacy of St. Nicholas of Myra, a fourth-century bishop who inspired the giving of gifts in his name at Christmas time.

mother to make peanut brittle. It was a real art to caramelize the sugar without burning it. So far as I can remember, Mother never attempted it. Her forte was fudge.

In later years, I added "white" or "blond" fudge to whatever skill I had acquired with our chocolate varieties. Patrons of church festivals, usually older parishioners, enjoyed candy without chocolate.

Infrequently, for good reason, my grandmother could be prevailed upon to make taffy. Mother's seven children managed to touch, smear and "sticky-fy" every available surface in the kitchen while pulling taffy with the blissful exuberance we showed for few other activities. Sometimes I made vinegar taffy, which we didn't pull, but let harden for a tart yet sweet flavored hard candy that we

sucked and savored in sparing quantities.

Mingled with the tantalizing scents of homemade candy was that of the smell of hot popcorn as fluffy white kernels exploded in the wire-box popper held and shaken over a burner or, preferably, the glowing coals of the fireplace.

The buttery brown sugar syrup for caramel corn or popcorn balls added another mouth-watering holiday odor to our already fragrant house.

The blended scents of the days before Christmas were always delicious and left a vivid memory lasting more than 70 years. If I try hard enough, I can almost persuade myself that I can still smell them! †

(Anna-Margaret O'Sullivan is a member of St. Rose of Lima Parish in Franklin.)

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## Christmas crèche is symbol of faith, love

By Mary Jo Keegan

For centuries, Christians have looked to the crèche to more fully understand and appreciate the meaning and simplicity of a silent night in Bethlehem about 2,000 years ago.

To many of us, this single scene reenforces our faith, renews our hope and strengthens our assurance of the abiding love God will always have for us.

As we place manger scenes throughout our homes during Advent, we truly are reminded that "Jesus is the reason for this season."

The cribs we place prominently throughout our homes during December evoke so many memories as we cherish again the family history they symbolize.

Some crèche sets are high in quality, and we handle them carefully to preserve their value. Others we assemble gently because our home has been chosen to be the guardian of Gramma's crib, the one loved and remembered by our extended family.

But, for those of us who use several cribs to express Christmas in our home's holiday decorations, there is surely that one manger scene placed tenderly in its special place.

For us, it's the crib consisting of five little pieces of scrap wood and only three inexpensive plastic pieces. This treasured gift was "created" by Kristen's little hands during her preschool class in 1986. And it's just beautiful!

As we look at any crèche, we can forget totally the commercialism and focus on the message of Christmas. We really only need three figures in our crib; by their presence they completely personify love.

We see the faith of a young maiden, always kneeling at the crib, who was called to be the first Christian and know that her

son was the Son of God.

There is St. Joseph, the protector, provider and husband, who bows in humble adoration.

And the Christ Child's baby arms are always open as they invite us to be his followers, yet remind us also of the ultimate redemptive act that began that holy night.

Kristen, whose little hands assembled this simple crèche, is now a junior at Roncalli High School in Indianapolis.

I'm grateful to her for defining the simplicity and totality of the Christmas story displayed in her Grammy's cherished crib. †

(Mary Jo Keegan is a member of St. John the Evangelist Parish in Indianapolis.)

## Holiday with family is a time to treasure

By Patricia Gause

Awakening to my mother's call on an early Christmas morning with news of a new-fallen snow, the excitement of Christmas motivated me to get out of my warm bed.

The upstairs rooms were cold, even though Mother had already stoked the coal furnace, which I wasn't aware of at that time.

My father died at 48 years, leaving my mother with the task of raising six children ages 16 down to 6 months (me). We lived in a big old house which sat way back from North Keystone Avenue on five acres of land just outside the Indianapolis city limits. When it snowed, it looked like a winter wonderland.

Somehow, we all got dressed for church and piled into a cab to attend Mass at St. Joan of Arc Church.

The church was especially beautiful and exciting on Christmas, with full-size statues in the nativity scene. I clearly remember the candle odor, incense and scent of Christmas trees. The special choir sang



CNS Photo from Library of Congress

## Winter fun

Ice skaters enjoy skating on a frozen stream in this 1870 Currier & Ives lithograph titled "Winter Pastime." The artwork is from the collection of the Library of Congress in Washington, D.C.

beautiful Christmas carols.

When we returned home after church, we had our Christmas celebration.

Mother put up the Christmas tree on Christmas Eve after we were in bed. She would close the door to the sitting room so we never saw the tree or presents until Christmas morning.

As I remember, we were all happy and excited with the gifts we received, but I'm sure it wasn't much compared to today's Christmas presents.

My sisters and I each received a special doll from our older cousin, who always remembered us on special occasions.

Our family, alone, was a big group, but sometimes Grandpa, or our great aunts, would come and join us for dinner. The

table was very festive, with candles lit and all the good dishes. We enjoyed the feast that Mother had prepared.

After dinner, we played with our own new toys and with each other's toys. Sometimes Mother would play the piano, and we were allowed to entertain our guests by singing and acting. Being the "baby," I would tap dance.

We had a very joyful day and were happy when we went to bed with our new dolls. The bedroom was cold and the covers were warm, and we'd talk and giggle until we fell asleep. The snow was still falling and it was quiet. How blessed we were! †

(Patricia Gause is a member of Our Lady of Lourdes Parish in Indianapolis.)

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# Faith *Alive!*

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## God's grace blankets us in love and compassion

By Carole Norris Greene

It started as tiny specks of ice dancing on my car's windshield as I drove to my home in Baltimore, Md.

There it took the shape of ribbons of dust, playfully swirling about my feet as it accompanied me from my driveway to the front door. By morning, everything outdoors was bedecked in white splendor as giant snowflakes parachuted down incessantly.

So began the blizzard of 1996. A day later, the entire metropolitan area was practically immobilized.

Then it felt more like Christmas than at the time of the actual Christmas about two weeks earlier. I was glad we hadn't taken down our tree.

But more than images of Christmas came to mind as I beheld the winter wonderland. For if I had to give shape to my concept of the outpouring of God's grace—God's unmerited love and favor—it would take the form of snow, pure and majestic, gently falling, but at the same time able to arrive with the force of an avalanche.

Grace, like snow blowing hard against my face, must have been at work the summer night I was driving home from a prayer group across town.

I had traveled the same route for years, yet on this particular night I missed my turn onto a road I always took to expedite

### Christmas teaches us not to judge by appearances

By David Gibson

Christmas teaches us not to judge by appearances. The story of Jesus helps us discover that appearances—surface impressions—never tell the whole story.

For here is the Messiah, the long-awaited leader and king, born in a stable!

To judge by appearances is to misjudge. But it happens a lot.

To avoid misjudging others, we have to know them, to hear their story. If we listen, they can reveal themselves to us and become a grace to us. †

(David Gibson edits Faith Alive!)

my journey. How annoyed I was, realizing I now had to endure several additional traffic lights worth of inconvenience!

Then the unexpected happened. Out of the car in front of me at the next traffic light came a woman who needed directions. Before I could speak, the car behind me whipped around us. The young men inside shouted obscenities at us for holding up traffic. So I decided to lead her to her destination.

Before we parted, she explained that she was going to see her husband in the hospital. They both were missionaries who had just returned from South America when they learned that he needed major heart surgery. She hadn't planned to visit long, so she threw a sweater over a thin house dress and left her home with only her driver's license.

When she exited the expressway too soon, she was not only lost, but was almost out of gas, and she had no money! It was dark, and she was terrified.

Was it coincidence or the grace of God that put me on the road right behind her, giving me the opportunity to help her and bringing her the kind of safe help she needed at just the right moment?

I can envision the grace which accompanied us to our respective homes as once again a gentle swirling that would settle all around us as we retired for the evening. So peaceful, yet so strong and sustaining.

Then there is the grace that enters our lives forcefully under circumstances that come close to overwhelming us.

The Carpintieri family in East Baltimore was caught up in a hailstorm of grace after their 14-year-old son, Angelo, died along with two other boys in a fiery car crash in October.

Their community held its breath for their response. Didn't the Carpintieries profess Christ boldly, even establishing a successful business they named Blessings Beauty Salon to underscore God's graciousness?

Angelo was an eager student, a dutiful son who looked after his younger brothers, Chase, 11, and Mario, 5. Angelo was active at church and studied Scripture regularly with his parents, Jonathan and Juneat.

Where was the blessing in the events surrounding this painful loss of a child?



CNS illustration

"If I had to give shape to my concept of the outpouring of God's grace," Carole Norris Greene explains, "it would take the form of snow, gently falling, but able to arrive with the force of an avalanche."

But it was there all along, gushing forth like a blizzard, sustaining legs otherwise too numb to stand as the family arrived at the hospital.

Later, the family would stretch out their arms to hug countless sympathizers who filled Mt. Moriah Baptist Church to overflowing.

The power of God's grace intensified with Chase's testimony. He too was in the car when its 18-year-old driver lost control on a rain-slick street, hitting two trees in succession before the vehicle burst into flames.

Chase told how his big brother instantly shielded him upon the first impact, then let him go as he lost consciousness, allowing Chase to crawl through the Mustang's side

window.

Once outside, grace froze all panic, giving Chase the presence of mind to drop to the ground and roll to extinguish the flames erupting on the back of his shirt.

And at no time, Chase assured his parents, did Angelo and the other boys pinned inside ever say a word, scream or move. They did not suffer before God took them home.

"He was never ours," Angelo's mother said. "God loaned him to us for a while. Now he stands before the Lord forever. And for this I will still praise God."

Oh, the power of grace! †  
(Carole Norris Greene is an associate editor for special projects with Catholic News Service.)

## Discussion Point

### Loved ones make holidays special

#### This Week's Question

What is a favorite memory for you of a past Christmas?

"I had my first child on Christmas Day. I went to the same hospital where I was born, and the same doctor who delivered me, delivered my son." (Elaine Hemenway, Houston, Texas)

"The year my parents came in for Christmas from California and surprised me. My husband and my two older kids knew ..., but I was totally surprised." (Jane Kostas, Indianapolis, Ind.)

"The Christmas there were six of us, and we all got bikes. That supported the fact there was a Santa Claus—because my dad didn't know how to put bikes together!" (Cathy Roney, Mishawaka, Ind.)

"The last Christmas I had with my dad, because he passed away the following September. Afterward I

thought about how important Christmas is to me, how important it is to make the memories. I'm more careful now to make memories for my own kids." (Mardi Abbott, Lincoln, Neb.)

"Going to Midnight Mass from my Grandma's house. The whole family would gather and go to Mass, come back and have homemade bread and ham, and all those wonderful homemade things that drew us together." (Audrey Ditella, Mishawaka, Ind.)

#### Lend Us Your Voice

An upcoming edition asks: What specific virtue supports your family's life together or the life of a family you know?

To respond for possible publication, write to *Faith Alive!* at 3211 Fourth St. N.E., Washington, D.C. 20017-1100. †



CNS photo



## Perspectives

From the Editor Emeritus/John F. Fink

## Jesus' lesson in humility

For my Christmas column, I thought I'd reflect, not on one of the Gospel readings, but on Chapter 2 of Paul's Letter to the Philippians. He includes in this chapter an early Christian hymn, the first half of which is:



*Christ Jesus, though he was in the form of God, did not*

*regard equality with God something to be grasped. Rather, he emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, coming in human likeness; and found human in appearance, he humbled himself, becoming obedient to death, even death on a cross* (Phil 2:6-8, NAB translation).

This first half of the hymn tells us how Christ humbled himself, and that is what we observe when we celebrate Jesus' birth. (The second half of the hymn is about how God exalted him.)

Jesus was indeed "in the form of God." John's Gospel was more emphatic: "The Word was God" (Jn 1:1). He was with God in the beginning and participated in the creation. Despite that, Paul says, he humbled himself, emptied himself, took the form of a slave, a human being. The awesome God who created the universe, the intelligence who established the laws of nature, came as a baby in a remote area of the world to lie in a place reserved for animals. That is really humbling yourself.

And why would Christ do that? Our hymn tells us it was out of obedience to

his Father who wanted to redeem humanity and who decreed that it should be done through the sacrifice of a person who was both divine and human. Although Christmas is a joyous time because of the birth of our savior, we must recall that the reason for his birth was that he could achieve our salvation through his death on a cross.

The Church, though, observes the mystery of our redemption at a different time of the year. For now we concentrate on Christ's act of humility in assuming our human nature.

In the journal Father Henri Nouwen kept during the last year of his life, published posthumously by Crossroad Publishing Co. as *Sabbatical Journey*, he made this notation after the Christmas Mass he attended in Freiburg, Germany: "Where is God? God is where we are weak, vulnerable, small, and dependent. God is where the poor are, the hungry, the handicapped, the mentally ill, the elderly, the powerless. I increasingly believe that our faithfulness will depend on our willingness to go where there is brokenness, loneliness, and human need. ... I realize that the only way for us to stay well ... is to stay close to the small, vulnerable child that lives in our hearts and in every other human being."

Or, as Paul says in his Letter to the Philippians, just before the hymn I quoted: "Do nothing out of selfishness or out of vainglory; rather, humbly regard others as more important than yourselves, each looking out not for his own interests, but [also] everyone for those of others" (Phil 2:3,4). †

Cornucopia/Cynthia Dewes

## This is the night; maybe the life

Christmas Eve. This is the night. This is it. That's what we proclaim in church when we gather, and what we celebrate with feasting and song. This is when the Good News begins.



It's an exciting time. Even the pagans, the lukewarm, the disaffected, or the faithful of other beliefs feel its thrilling significance. This is the night.

What we need to do now is figure out how to carry this message onward and upward for the rest of our lives. Or, at least the rest of the year. Well, at least until some time after New Year's Day.

The idea is to keep our eyes on the prize promised by the birth of the sweet infant Jesus. And maybe that's what creates a problem: the fact that such an important experience is presented through the humble story of two ordinary, faithful people struggling to do God's will in an unfriendly world. Just like us.

We need to remember what that prize means, not only for us as individuals, but for our kind. We need to envision our world as God created it and meant it to be before sin eroded our sight, before we made complex that which is simple.

In that world, we'd be born into a family that accepted our arrival and made us welcome. We could afford to share our parents' love with brothers and sisters, knowing that each of us is as valuable in their eyes as in God's.

The trust we developed at home would

extend to our relationships as we grew. We'd listen to teachers, clergy and mentors with respect, knowing that they respected us and worked always for our benefit. We could feel friendly toward everyone we met and intimate with some.

We would be able to discern the gifts that God gives each of us and to develop them. Our lives could become models of beauty and service, providing inspiration and guidance for others, and especially for our children. Whatever our job, profession or vocation, we would be proud of it.

Judgments would not be made about the wealth, social class, level of education, physical prowess or beauty of others, nor of ourselves. We could openly admire achievements or commiserate about failings without condescension, fear or malice.

The beautiful Earth, its creatures and fruits would be constantly available to us and we would respond with wise stewardship of its gifts. There could be no reward for greed when the common good proved to be so very good.

Our intellectual, aesthetic and physical pleasures and excitements would reflect the perfection of God, their ultimate creator. Shock and prurient titillation would not only be repugnant to us but evident as ridiculous.

We wouldn't want to waste a moment of the wonderful time allotted to us by God, nor jeopardize our reunion with him in glory later. The Good News, born this day, offers the prize of a happy ending. God bless us, every one. †

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

The Bottom Line/Antoinette Bosco

## Last year of the 20th century is here

I always enjoy wishing my readers a Happy New Year as January dawns, and



this year is no exception. But I have to admit it is not going to be an ordinary year. As we put up our January calendars, we must note that the year ahead is 1999, meaning that we must be prepared for huge servings of dire predic-

tions for what's ahead in this last year of the century.

The end of a century always captures the imaginations of some people as a time for catastrophic change, mostly in the form of punishment. And the doomsday people are already out in force, aided by a technological uncertainty called "Y2K," which is computer-speak for "Year 2000."

If you haven't heard of this one, you'd have to be unconscious. It's called the Millennium Bug. Put simply, the way many computers are set up, they use only the last two digits for the year, assuming the first two digits are 19. So when 2000 arrives these computers will interpret the 00 as being 1900. The result will be a computer transformation from smart to stupid, with a "crash" heard round the world.

What to do about this? Some are in the same camp as the Christian broadcaster Jerry Falwell, reported to be stocking up on food, sugar, gasoline and ammunition just in case the computer crash causes a national catastrophe. He's even put out a video called "A Christian's Guide to the Millennium Bug" in which he indicates the Y2K problem may be a warning from God to shake us up and get a religious revival going so Christ can come back and carry believers up to heaven.

The comedians are already onto the

Y2K scare. Composer Rick Kueth and comedian Adam Christing have come up with a funny song, released by Fire Husker, "because the message of doom is best delivered with a few yuks," they explained.

The doomsday predictions are also proving profitable for book authors. A proliferation of "apocalyptic fiction" is selling so fast that it is making publishing history, according to *The New York Times* article "Fast-Selling Thrillers Depict Prophetic View of Final Days." It appears the public is fixated "on the approaching millennium and the widespread anticipation that the year 2000 portends some earth-shattering event," it said.

I have to trust that technology will find the way out of the Y2K gloom scenario, and I hope readers of doomsday fiction will get bored with that genre of garbage.

I'd like to offer some good news.

I think Catholics have been given a different kind of challenge as we enter the final year of the 20th century. Pope John Paul II has declared 2000 a holy year, and he asks all of us to prepare for that special time by focusing on prayer, penitence and doing good works for others in need, all in an ecumenical spirit.

I especially applaud that he asks rich nations to help poor nations by reducing Third World debt. Practical charity should always be a priority with nations and with individuals.

By releasing this message in a papal bull titled *The Mystery of the Incarnation* as Advent began, the pope links us to the love and peace brought to the world by Jesus. That nicely counteracts the doom-and-gloom messages getting such big play.

Let's all make 1999 a great year where love prevails, preparing ourselves for a glorious holy year in 2000. Happy New Year, my friends. †

(Antoinette Bosco is a regular columnist for Catholic News Service.)

The Yardstick/Msgr. George G. Higgins

## The worsening plight of farm workers

NBC-TV recently featured a one-hour documentary on the trials and tribulations



of a family of 10 migrant farm workers who, over a six-month period, followed the migrant labor stream from their home in the Rio Grande Valley to Michigan, Indiana and Ohio, and back again to Texas, with little or nothing to show for their labor after their accident-prone, trouble-filled journey.

It was a heartbreaking story, but at the same time an inspiring example of what psychiatrist Robert Coles has described in the foreword to a new book about migrant workers as the mystery of suffering. Out of it, he says, "can emerge an ironic stoicism, a gentleness and a patience and a decency that are astonishing, even unnerving to behold: Amidst so many burdens, there is such evident dignity."

That's a perfect description of the family featured in the documentary. Despite all their suffering, they emerge as people of amazing dignity.

Thirty or 40 years ago there was reason for optimism about the possibility of solving the migrant farm-labor problem. Widespread media coverage of the problem, plus the initial success of Cesar Chavez's heroic efforts to organize farm workers into a bona fide union, created the impression that a new and better era for farm workers was in the offing. Alas, that was a false impression.

If anything, we are going backward. With the exception of the recent documentary, the media seem to have forgotten the migrants' plight. Yet their plight is measurably worse today than a generation or two ago, and, from all accounts, is getting worse with each passing year.

The sad story of the migrants is told in agonizing (but, again, inspiring) detail in the book referred to above: *With These Hands: The Hidden World of Migrant*

*Farm Workers Today*, by Daniel Rothenberg (Harcourt Brace, 1998). The best available book of its kind, it is based on 250 interviews in the United States and Mexico with migrant workers, growers, crew leaders and labor contractors, border smugglers, food processors, union leaders, government officials, et al.

While Rothenberg makes no secret of his own pro-migrant views, he leans over backward to be fair to growers and processors, and to all others involved in any way in the U.S. agricultural industry. There are some villains in his survey of the industry, but he is more interested in changing the farm-labor system than he is in fingering the villains or separating the sheep from the goats.

"The key components of the farm labor system," he says, "have been a steady oversupply of workers and the use of a series of techniques to consistently disempower farm workers."

Rothenberg's magnificent book is also meant to awaken all of us as citizens and consumers to the plight of 1.5 million men, women (and all too often children) who provide us with the world's most abundant and cheapest supply of fruits and vegetables. He deplores the fact that the production of our food has for most of us become invisible. That is to say, we seldom if ever see farm workers in the flesh and thus are unaware of their worsening plight.

His concluding paragraph is sobering. He says that the apparent invisibility of production is a form of social forgetting, a politics of glossing over the real social and economic relations that allow for our high standard of living.

"Considering the world of farm laborers," he said, "presents a powerful corrective to a society easily enamored of its own self-serving myths."

That's something to give all of us serious pause. †

(Msgr. George G. Higgins is a regular columnist for Catholic News Service.)



Fourth Sunday in Advent/Msgr. Owen F. Campion

# The Sunday Readings

Sunday, Dec. 20, 1998

- *Isaiah 7:10-14*
- *Romans 1:1-7*
- *Matthew 1:18-24*

The Book of Isaiah is the source of the first reading for this fourth Sunday of Advent.



Rarely were kings, in either of the two kingdoms carved from the domain of David and Solomon, regarded kindly by the prophets, but all were seen as God's instruments. Surely this is the case in this reading.

King Ahaz of Judah has the privilege of actually hearing the voice of God. The king is faithful and in awe of God. The king calls all those in the kingdom to be strong in their loyalty to God.

God will not forsake the Chosen People. Divine protection and guidance will continue. A new leader will be born.

This prophecy probably referred to the pending birth of the king's own son. As the child's mother was a virgin, he surely will be her firstborn, and the heir.

The Church, of course, over the centuries has seen in this event a foretelling of the coming of Christ.

Supplying the second reading is the Epistle to the Romans. This reading is from the very beginning of the epistle. Paul, its author, initiates his writing by sending greetings to all.

When Paul wrote, Rome was not only the capital of Western civilization, it was the largest city in the vast Roman Empire. The results of any census do not survive. However, estimates are that as many as 1 million people lived in the great imperial city.

Rome was a very cosmopolitan community. Within its walls dwelt people from all parts of the empire, among them many Jews. Some of these Jews had brought with them knowledge of Jesus. Romans of other backgrounds had converted to Christianity. Apparently the Christian group in the city was numerous.

To these Christians, Paul directed his attention in this epistle. Of course, the exact date of its composition is unknown.

This reading is a great proclamation of Jesus as Lord. First, Paul clearly identifies himself as a "servant of Christ Jesus"

(Rom 1:1). He extols Jesus as the Son of God, the descendant of David, born as a human but divine nevertheless.

Jesus rose from the dead and he calls all believers to discipleship, Paul emphasized, so spreading the Gospel is the task of every Christian.

St. Matthew's Gospel once again this Advent season furnishes the Gospel.

This is the story of the Lord's conception according to Matthew. Of the four Gospels, only Matthew and Luke report the birth of Jesus in any detail. Of these two, Matthew's Gospel has the shorter, though not insignificant, version.

The story is filled with expressive statements. First, the virginity of Mary is made clear, then the power of the Holy Spirit in the conception of Christ is verified.

Next an angel announces the future arrival of the Son of God. In Jewish tradition, angels only revealed the most momentous of events. Then the angel reassures Joseph, and Joseph accepts the angel's word, giving credence through his faith to the angel's holy mission. The forthcoming birth of Jesus was in full accord with the ancient prophecies.

## Reflection

The Gospel this weekend is a splendid affirmation of the person and mission of the Lord Jesus. He is human among humans as the son of Mary. Without an earthly father, he is the Son of God.

All ages have looked forward to the Lord's coming. The prophets of old captured this anticipation. Reinforcing this Gospel revelation are the powerful words of Paul in the Epistle. Jesus is Lord. He is the Son of God. He is the Redeemer.

Proclaiming the Lord's message is the greatest act of love for others and for God.

Isaiah foretold the coming. This great prophet reassured his contemporaries that God would protect the Chosen People through all ages.

He is true to this promise. Jesus is the Redeemer, the Consoler, and the Lord of Life.

Joseph, the husband of Mary, is an interesting figure. His faith and trust in God enabled him to see reality and to understand truth. He believed even though belief meant setting aside the most basic law of nature, that among humans offspring came as the result of a physical union between one man and one woman. For Joseph, the reward was the great privilege of God's

## Daily Readings

Monday, Dec. 21

Peter Canisius, priest,  
religious and doctor of the  
Church

*Song of Songs 2:8-14 or*  
*Zephaniah 3:14-18a*

*Psalm 33:2-3, 11-12, 20-21*  
*Luke 1:39-45*

Tuesday, Dec. 22

*1 Samuel 1:24-28*

(Response) *1 Samuel 2:1, 4-7,*  
*8abcd*

*Luke 1:46-56*

Wednesday, Dec. 23

John of Kanty, priest

*Malachi 3:1-4, 23-24*

*Psalm 25:4bc-5ab, 8-10, 14*  
*Luke 1:57-66*

Thursday, Dec. 24

*2 Samuel 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16*

*Psalm 89:2-5, 27, 29*

*Luke 1:67-79*

Vigil of Christmas

*Isaiah 62:1-5*

*Psalm 89:4-5, 16-17, 27, 29*

*Acts 13:16-17, 22-25*

*Matthew 1:1-25 or*

*Matthew 1:18-25*

Friday, Dec. 25

Christmas

Midnight

*Isaiah 9:1-6*

*Psalm 96:1-3, 11-13*

*Titus 2:11-14*

*Luke 2:1-14*

Dawn

*Isaiah 62:11-12*

*Psalm 97:1, 6, 11-12*

*Titus 3:4-7*

*Luke 2:15-20*

Day

*Isaiah 52:7-10*

*Psalm 98:1-6*

*Hebrews 1:1-6*

*John 1:1-18 or*

*John 1:1-5, 9-14*

(Daily Readings continue P. 26)

consolation.

As Advent concludes, as Christmas approaches, in these readings the Church

presents us with the Lord Jesus. Faith in Jesus brings us insight and the great reward of peace of soul. †

Question Corner/Fr. John Dietzen

## Gospel reading varies for three Christmas liturgies

Q My question concerns the different Gospels read at Masses on Christmas.



Why is the true Christmas Gospel read only at midnight Mass?

It is so anti-climactic to go to Mass on Christmas morning, and there's barely a word mentioned about the reason we're even there. I don't think it's fair that when we

attend a later Mass we cannot listen to the words of Christ's birth.

Whose decision is this, and can anything be done about it? (North Carolina)

A First, a bit of background for this question may be helpful. People who attend the same Christmas Mass each year may not be aware that three entirely different Masses are provided in the Church's liturgy for the Nativity of Our Lord.

The first is at midnight; it is often called the "main" Christmas Mass, since the Gospel passage tells of the birth of Jesus (Lk 2:1-14).

The Gospel for the second Mass, officially at dawn, is the story of the shepherds hearing the good news and coming to Bethlehem (Lk 2:15-20).

I suspect your concern centers mostly on the Gospel for the third Mass, later in the morning, the prologue to the Gospel According to John (1:1-18). While theologically one of the most magnificent passages in the New Testament, it contains no narrative connection with the birth of Jesus, which most people naturally look for on that feast.

Reasons for these multiple liturgies go back to ancient times. Celebrations in Rome of the feast of the Lord's Nativity, beginning somewhere around the year 300, imitated somewhat the custom in Jerusalem of a midnight Mass in Bethlehem and a morning Mass on Calvary.

At least by the time of Pope Gregory the Great (590-604), the pope (later other cler-

gy) celebrated Christmas with three Masses. Midnight Mass took place at the Basilica of St. Mary Major, the major basilica in Christendom in honor of the mother of Jesus.

From there, people marched toward the Roman Forum, to the church of St. Anastasia, a martyr of the Byzantine Church, for Mass around daybreak. (This was, it seems, a courtesy to the large community of Byzantine Catholics living nearby at the time.)

Finally, the procession wound to the Basilica of St. Peter for a late morning Mass.

Some of this history is a little fogged by time, and details changed over the years. But the pattern of three Masses continued.

Obviously, at least theoretically, people participating in these processions, including the clergy, were present for all three Masses. It made sense, therefore, to have three different Scripture and prayer texts. The later dawn and morning Masses built, as it were, on what everyone had heard and prayed earlier in the day.

Equally obvious, that supposition has not been valid for centuries and certainly is not true today. The whole sequence is clearly unrelated to the necessary Mass schedules in most parishes on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day.

With few exceptions, people now participate in one Mass, determined of course by other Christmas plans and customs in their families. Whenever they come, as you indicate, they understandably desire to hear, and be spiritually fed by, the Gospel story of the Nativity.

Since the choice from these texts is flexible, a large number of parishes (maybe most) opt to use the Scriptures of midnight Mass, with its story of Mary and Joseph and Our Lord's birth, at all Christmas Masses, regardless of time.

This certainly makes it easier for everyone, children particularly, to connect their liturgical worship with the Christmas celebrations and reflections occurring in their homes. †

## My Journey to God

### Christmas Memories

Once again it's Christmas, that loveliest time of the year  
When we think of family, those we hold most dear.  
Far ones ... near ones ... all such dear ones,  
Fondest memories ... often bringing a tear.

Happy times ... some sad times, thoughts of bygone years,  
Memories of yesterdays, as the New Year nears.  
Prayerfully and carefully, we close this page of time,  
Thankfully and trustfully, Lord, we place our hand in thine.

We know not what the future holds, but looking in the past,  
We see so many lovely things that you have made to last.  
Friendships and family love, memories of long ago,



Times we've shared with those who've cared; you've sent us your very best.

Thank you, Lord, for all of this,  
Richly we've been blessed.

By Dorothy Moody

(Dorothy Moody is a member of St. Therese of the Infant Jesus, Little Flower Parish in Indianapolis.)



## The Active List

The Criterion welcomes announcements for "The Active List" of parish and church-related activities open to the public. Please keep them brief, listing event, sponsor, date, time and location. No announcements can be taken by telephone. No pictures, please. Notices must be in our offices by 10 a.m. on Monday of the week of publication. Hand deliver or mail to: The Criterion, "The Active List," 1400 N. Meridian St., P.O. Box 1717, Indianapolis, Ind., 46206.

### December 18

The Catholic Choir of Indianapolis will sing at Parisian Department Store in Keystone at the Crossing from 6 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. Information: 317-216-5588.

Union St., Indianapolis, will hold a free Christmas concert of "Christmas Carols Old and New" featuring the Sacred Heart Choir starting at 3 p.m. in the church. Information: 317-638-5551.

### December 20

Sacred Heart Parish, 1530

Mary's Rexville Schoenstatt will host the Schoenstatt Holy

Hour at 2:30 p.m. followed by Mass at 3:30 p.m. with Father Elmer. (located on 925 South, .8 miles east of 421 S, 12 miles south of Versailles.) Information: 812-689-3551.

The Little Sisters of the Poor and residents of St. Augustine's Home for the Aged, 2345 W. 86th St., will host a holy hour to pray for vocations in the chapel beginning at 4:30 p.m. Information: 317-872-6420.

### December 24

The Catholic Choir of Indianapolis will sing at the Christmas Eve Mass at St. Patrick Church, 950 Prospect St. The concert begins at 4 p.m. with Mass following at 4:30 p.m. Information: 317-216-5588.

### December 24-25

Sacred Heart Parish, 1530 Union Street, Indianapolis, will celebrate a Family Christmas Mass at 5:30 p.m. and a Midnight Mass preceded by an 11:30 p.m. concert. A 10 a.m. Mass is on Christmas Day. Information: 317-638-5551.

St. Rita Parish, 1733 Andrew J. Brown Ave., Indianapolis, will celebrate a Children's Christmas program at 7 p.m. and Mass at 9 p.m. 10 a.m. Mass on Christmas Day. Information: 317-632-9349.

### December 27-28

The Oldenburg Franciscan Motherhouse will host tours of rooms decorated with different Christmas themes. Tours on

Sunday from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. and Monday from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Information and directions: 812-933-6401.

### December 31

The Catholic Charismatic Renewal will gather at Marian College St. Francis Hall Chapel, 3200 Cold Spring Road, Indianapolis, with fellowship at 9 p.m. and Mass at 11 p.m. Information: 317-927-6900.

St. Joseph Hill, Sellersburg, will host an exposition of the Blessed Sacrament following 6 p.m. Mass to 12:30 a.m. St. Mary, New Albany, will also have the exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Benediction from 9 p.m. to 12:30 p.m. Information: 812-944-5304.

### January 2-3

The New Albany Deanery will sponsor a Young Adult Retreat to help college-age kids get in touch with God. Information: 1-800-588-2454.

### January 4

St. Lawrence Church, Lawrenceburg, will host a Healing Mass directed by Rev. Al Lauer, a Cincinnati pastor, author and founder of Presentation Ministries. Information: 513-662-5378.

### January 5

St. Anthony Parish, 379 Warman, Indianapolis, will host an evening of recollection for men from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. led by Father Jerome Jung, a chaplain at the University of

Illinois. Registration and Information: 317-266-9956.

### January 6

St. Augustine Home, 2345 W. 86th St., Indianapolis, will host a day of recollection for the St. Augustine Ladies Guild led by Father Jerome Jung, a Diocese of Peoria expert in canon law. Registration is at 8:30 a.m. Information: 317-872-0997.

### January 7

Martin University, 2171 Avondale Pl., Indianapolis, will present Quarter of Sax and the Phillips Brass Consort in the Performing Arts Center at 7:30 p.m. Open to the public. Information: 317-767-5259.

### January 13

Starting at 3 p.m., the St. Francis Hospital and Health Centers will present a bereavement and support group for those who have lost loved ones at St. Francis South Campus; also at 6:30 p.m. at St. Francis Hospice Office. Information and directions: 317-865-2092.

### Recurring

#### Daily

Our Lady of the Greenwood Parish, 335 S. Meridian St., Greenwood, hosts perpetual adoration 24 hours a day in the parish center.

Holy Rosary Parish, Indianapolis, 520 Stevens St., celebrates a Tridentine (Latin) Mass. Call for times. Information: 317-636-4478.

### Weekly

#### Sundays

Holy Rosary Parish, Indianapolis, 520 Stevens St., celebrates a Tridentine (Latin) Mass, 10 a.m. (formerly held at St. Patrick Parish).

St. Anthony of Padua Parish, Clarksville, holds "Be Not Afraid" holy hour from 6-7 p.m.

St. Anthony Church, 379 N. Warman, Indianapolis, holds a rosary and Benediction for vocations at 2 p.m.

#### Mondays

Our Lady of the Greenwood Parish, Greenwood, 335 S. Meridian St., hosts a prayer group, 7:30 p.m. in the chapel.

#### Tuesdays

Our Lady of the Greenwood Marian Prayer group at Our Lady of the Greenwood Parish, 335 S. Meridian St., Greenwood, meets from 7-8 p.m. in the chapel to pray the rosary and Chaplet of Divine Mercy.

St. Joseph Parish, Sellersburg, 2605 St. Joe Rd. West, Shepherds of Christ Associates prays the rosary and other prayers following 7 p.m. Mass.

St. Louis de Montfort Parish, Fishers, 11441 Hague Rd., offers adult religious education classes from 7 p.m. until 9:30 p.m. There is a minimal fee. Information: 317-842-5869.

—See ACTIVE LIST, page 27



**St. Athanasius the Great Byzantine Catholic Church**  
1117 Blaine Ave. (West Indianapolis)  
317-632-4157

### Special Liturgical Services Through Theophany of Our Lord

- 24 December, 1998: 7 p.m. Vespers with Divine Liturgy of Saint Basil the Great
- 25 December, 1998: 10 a.m. Divine Liturgy
- 31 December, 1998: 7 p.m. Vigil for New Year's Day
- 1 January, 1999: 9 a.m. New Year's Day
- 5 January, 1999: 7 p.m. Vespers with the Divine Liturgy of Saint Basil the Great with the Solemn Blessing of Water
- 6 January, 1999: 7 p.m. Theophany of Our Lord with the Simple Blessing of Water

## Locations throughout the city of Indianapolis!

### WHAT IS PERPETUAL ADORATION?

The Blessed Sacrament is exposed in a monstrance 24 hours a day for adoration, silent prayer & reflection.

### WHAT SORT OF COMMITMENT IS NEEDED?

1. One hour each week on a regular basis. For example: 6:00 P.M. every Tuesday.

### WHAT HAPPENS IF ONE CANNOT KEEP THEIR SCHEDULED HOUR?

There is a system in which all committed adorers can notify their coordinators or guardians and request for coverage.

*"Praying before the Blessed Sacrament provides a most helpful focus for personal prayer. Pursuing a personal relationship with Christ is paramount. Time spent in front of the Blessed Sacrament is the premier way. If we spend time in prayer with Christ in the Blessed Sacrament, it becomes more likely and easier to seek and recognize Christ on the path of everyday life. Time spent before Jesus Christ present in the Eucharist strengthens our eyes of faith!"*

**For further information, please contact: Mary Ann Schumann, 3356 West 30th Street, Indianapolis, IN 46222, 317-926-1963.**

### Yes, I'm interested!

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

(Mail to Mary Ann Schumann at address above)



## Daily Readings, continued from page 25

**Saturday, Dec. 26**  
Stephen, first martyr  
Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59  
Psalm 31:3cd-4, 6, 8ab, 16bc-17  
Matthew 10:17-22

**Sunday, Dec. 27**  
The Holy Family  
Sirach 3:2-6, 12-14  
Psalm 128:1-5  
Colossians 3:12-21 or  
Colossians 3:12-17  
Matthew 2:13-15, 19-23

**Monday, Dec. 28**  
The Holy Innocents, Martyrs  
1 John 1:5 - 2:2  
Psalm 124:2-5, 7b-8  
Matthew 2:13-18

**Tuesday, Dec. 29**  
Thomas Becket, bishop and martyr  
1 John 2:3-11  
Psalm 96:1-3, 5b-6  
Luke 2:22-35

**Wednesday, Dec. 30**  
1 John 2:12-17  
Psalm 96:7-10  
Luke 2:36-40

**Thursday, Dec. 31**  
Sylvester I, pope  
1 John 2:18-21  
Psalm 96:1-2, 11-13  
John 1:1-18

**Friday, Jan. 1**  
Mary, Mother of God  
Numbers 6:22-27  
Psalm 67:2-3, 5-6, 8  
Galatians 4:4-7  
Luke 2:16-21

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

John 1:19-28

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

**Monday, Jan. 4**  
Elizabeth Ann Seton, married woman, religious foundress and educator  
1 John 3:22 - 4:6  
Psalm 2:7-8, 10-11  
Matthew 4:12-17, 23-25

**Tuesday, Jan. 5**  
John Neumann, bishop, religious, missionary and educator  
1 John 4:7-10  
Psalm 72:2-4ab, 7-8  
Mark 6:34-44

**Wednesday, Jan. 6**  
Blessed André Bessette, religious  
1 John 4:11-18  
Psalm 72:2, 10-13  
Mark 6:45-52

**Thursday, Jan. 7**  
Raymond of Penyafort, priest and religious  
1 John 4:19 - 5:4  
Psalm 72:2, 14, 15bc, 17  
Luke 4:14-22a

**Friday, Jan. 8**  
1 John 5:5-13  
Psalm 147:12-15, 19-20  
Luke 5:12-16

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

**Sunday, Jan. 10**  
The Baptism of the Lord  
Isaiah 42:1-4, 6-7  
Psalm 29:1a, 2, 3ac-4, 3b, 9b-10  
Acts 10:34-38  
Matthew 3:13-17



**The Active List, continued from page 26**

◆◆◆  
Holy Name Parish, Beech Grove, 89 N. 17th St., holds prayer group from 2:30-3:30 p.m.

**Wednesdays**

Marian Movement of Priests cenacle prayer group from 3 to 4 p.m. at 3354 W. 30th St., Indianapolis, behind St. Michael Church. Information: 317-271-8016.

**Thursdays**

St. Lawrence Parish, Indianapolis, hosts adoration of the Blessed Sacrament in the chapel from 7 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Mass.

◆◆◆  
St. Mary Parish, New Albany, Shepherds of Christ Associates gather at 7 p.m. to pray for lay and religious vocations.

◆◆◆  
St. Patrick Parish, Salem, Shelby St., holds a prayer service, 7 p.m.

◆◆◆  
St. Malachy Parish, Brownsburg, celebrates Liturgy

of the Hours, evening prayer at 7 p.m. 317-852-3195.

**Fridays**

St. Susanna Parish, Plainfield, 1210 E. Main, holds adoration of the Blessed Sacrament from 8 a.m.-6:30 p.m.

◆◆◆  
St. Lawrence Parish, Indianapolis, hosts adoration of the Blessed Sacrament in the chapel from 7 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Benediction and Mass.

◆◆◆  
A pro-life rosary is recited at 10 a.m. in front of Affiliated Women's Services, Inc., 2215 Distributors Dr., Indianapolis.

**Saturdays**

A pro-life rosary is recited at 9:30 a.m. in front of the Clinic for Women, E. 38th St. and Parker Ave., Indianapolis.

**Monthly**

**First Sundays**

St. Paul Parish, Sellersburg, prayer group meets in the church from 7-8:15 p.m.

Information: 812-246-4555 or 812-246-9735.

**First Mondays**

The Guardian Angel Guild holds its board meeting, Archbishop O'Meara Catholic Center Benedictine Room, 1400 N. Meridian St., Indianapolis, 9:30 a.m.

**First Tuesdays**

Divine Mercy Chapel, Indianapolis, 3354 W. 30th St., between St. Michael Church and Cardinal Ritter High School, holds Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament at 7:30 p.m. Confession is at 6:45 p.m.

◆◆◆  
St. Joseph Hill Parish, Sellersburg, 2605 St. Joe Rd. W., will hold Holy Hour for religious vocations with Benediction and exposition of the Blessed Sacrament following the 7 p.m. Mass.

**Third Thursdays**

Sacred Heart Parish, Indianapolis, 1530 Union St., holds family rosary night at 7 p.m.

◆◆◆  
Our Lady of Peace Chapel/Mausoleum, Indianapolis, 9001 Haverstick

Rd., Mass at 2 p.m.

**Third Fridays**

The Catholic Charismatic Renewal of Central Indiana gathers for Mass and healing service at the chapel in St. Francis Hall, Marian College, 3200 Cold Spring Rd., Indianapolis, at 7 p.m.

**Third Saturdays**

The archdiocesan Pro-Life Office and St. Andrew Parish, 3922 E. 38th St., Indianapolis, celebrates Mass for Life, 8:30

a.m., followed by a walk to the abortion clinic at 2951 E. 38th St. to pray the rosary, returning to St. Andrew Parish for the Benediction.

**Bingos**

TUESDAY: K of C Council 437, 1305 N. Delaware, 11 a.m.; St. Michael, 6 p.m.; Msgr. Sheridan K of C Council 6138, Johnson Co., 6:15 p.m.; St. Pius X K of C Council 3433, 6 p.m.; K of C, 1040 N. Post Rd., 9 a.m.-noon. WEDNESDAY: St. Anthony, 6:30 p.m.; St. Roch Parish, St. Roch School, 3603 S.

Meridian, 6:00 p.m. THURSDAY: K of C Council 437, 1305 N. Delaware, 5:45 p.m.; Holy Family K of C, American Legion Post 500, 1926 Georgetown Rd., 6:30 p.m.; FRIDAY: St. Christopher, Indianapolis, 6:30 p.m.; Holy Name, Beech Grove, 5:30 p.m. SATURDAY: K of C Council 437, 1305 N. Delaware, 4:30 p.m. SUNDAY: St. Ambrose, Seymour, 4 p.m.; Cardinal Ritter High School, 6 p.m.; Msgr. Sheridan K of C Council 6138, Johnson Co., first Sunday of each month, 1:15 p.m.

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*the pastor and parishioners of*  
*SS. Peter and Paul Cathedral*  
  
*to celebrate*  
*Christ's coming in Christmas.*  
  
*11:20 p.m.*  
*Vigil service of scripture and song*  
*Presider: Fr. Rick Ginther, pastor*  
  
*12:00 a.m.*  
*Midnight Mass*  
*Presider: Archbishop Buechlein, O.S.B.*



# News briefs

## U.S.

### YMCA gives nation D grade for poor support of families

WASHINGTON (CNS)—YMCA of the USA has given the nation a grade of D for its poor support of U.S. families. At a Dec. 9 press conference in Washington, David R. Mercer, YMCA national executive officer, released the organization's first "Nation's Report Card: Assessing the Risk to the American Family." Despite years of economic growth, said Mercer, "more and more Americans are facing an increasingly difficult task of providing for their families—not just economically, but in education, health

and safety issues in a society with a shockingly high level of violence."

### Catholic Church pledges \$500 million to rebuild Central America

MIAMI (CNS)—In a move larger in size and purpose than any other in its history, the Catholic Church's global charities network has pledged a half-billion dollars to help rebuild the infrastructure of Central America and to reshape unjust social structures that network leaders say vastly increased the damage wrought by the hurricane. They envision no less than the creation of an entire region that promotes justice and dignity of the people, a project never before attempted by the Church. At a press conference Dec. 8 at the Archdiocese of Miami Pastoral Center, members of the Caritas network of Catholic relief agencies worldwide announced a long-term rehabilitation strategy that will contribute \$500 million to the region over the next five years.

## World

### Oceania Synod may have been 'heavy cross' for pope, says bishop

VATICAN CITY (CNS)—The Synod of Bishops for Oceania might have been a "heavy cross" for Pope John Paul II, said Bishop James Foley of Cairns, Australia. The 78-year-old pope "was faithfully there and attentively listening," even when it seemed "physically painful" and when bishops were being critical of the Church and of the Vatican, Bishop Foley said. At times the synod "seemed to be a bit of a whine session," with bishops mentioning everything that is going wrong in the Church, their region and their dioceses, he said.

### Catholic observer to assembly says Church may join WCC someday

HARARE, Zimbabwe (CNS)—A Catholic observer to the World Council of Churches' eighth assembly in Harare said it was possible that the Catholic Church might one day join the WCC. The council is considering a "consensus" model of decision-making in a new structure that emphasizes participation in rather than membership in the world body. Paulist Father Thomas Stransky, an observer to the assembly, told journalists that times might have changed since 1972, when the Vatican decided not to seek membership in the council "in the immediate future." The WCC has 332 member-churches in more than 100 countries.

### Philippine bishops says rights commemoration 'almost farcical'

MANILA, Philippines (CNS)—The Philippine bishops said seemingly endless violations of human rights make the commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights "almost farcical." The bishops cited "a long litany of injustice against civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights, including the right to development." Despite significant progress toward restoring civil and political rights lost during martial law from 1972 to 1986, human rights violations remain a reality in many Filipinos' lives.

### Pope: Mary continues her cooperation with Holy Spirit

VATICAN CITY (CNS)—The Blessed Virgin Mary cooperated with the Holy Spirit in bringing Christ to birth on Earth, and she continues cooperating with the Holy Spirit in her maternal concern for all believers, Pope John Paul II said. "The consent she expressed at the Annunciation 2,000 years ago represents the point of departure for a new history of humanity," the pope said Dec. 9 at his weekly general audience. The pope said that when Christians deepen their devotion to Mary, they open the way for the Holy Spirit to work more powerfully in their lives.

## People

### Pope praises dedication of late Chilean cardinal

VATICAN CITY (CNS)—Pope John Paul II praised the dedication of Chilean Cardinal Carlos Oviedo Cavada, who died Dec. 7 at age 71. In a telegram to Archbishop Francisco Javier Errazuriz Ossa of Santiago, Chile, the pope said Cardinal Oviedo "served his people and his Church with much prudence and pastoral charity." "His generous and intense ministerial work" were "testimony to a great dedication to the cause of the Gospel, at the same time giving proof of his deep love for the Church and of the qualities with which he was blessed," the pope wrote in the telegram, released at the Vatican Dec. 9.

### Man carves nativity sets in memory of daughter killed as child

HAZELHURST, Wis. (CNS)—Vern and Erma Reigel's six adult children have a pretty good idea what they'll be getting for Christmas each year, but there's still great anticipation before the packages are opened. Four years ago Vern Reigel began carving intricate nativity sets for each of the children and their families, and every year they receive additional figures. His work is now almost complete, with just a few Wise Men and some angels still waiting to take shape. While he wanted to make something that will stay in the family for generations, he said that the nativity sets are also a way of remembering their daughter Rolinda, who was hit by a car when she was 6 years old. †

(These briefs were compiled from reports by Catholic News Service.)



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**\$1,798.00**



### CHINA

Fr. Steve Pholman  
Glen Carbon, IL  
12 days in April to one of the earth's oldest civilizations. Fly from the U.S. to Beijing. See the Forbidden City, Great Wall of China, Tiananmen Square, terra cotta warriors, cruise Li River, city tour of Shanghai. All meals, first class hotels and guides.  
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### IRELAND

Fr. Nathan McNally  
Dittmer, MO  
10 days in May with flight to Shannon, Ireland. Includes meals, Shrine of Our Lady of Knock, Taum, Lillarney, Galway Bay, Blarney, Cliffs of Moher. Lodging is in bed & breakfasts.  
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- IRELAND, 10 DAYS IN MAY '99.....\$1,512
- ALASKA CRUISE, 8 DAYS IN SUMMER '99 .....FROM \$1,852
- SWITZERLAND, 9 DAYS IN OCTOBER '99 \$1,698
- ENGLAND, 10 DAYS IN NOV. '99.....\$1,638

- HOLY LANDS, 10 DAYS IN MAR. '99 & NOV. '99.....\$1,488
- GREECE, 9 DAYS IN NOV. '99.....\$1,488
- BALTIC SEA CRUISE, (GERMANY, NORWAY, DENMARK) 9 DAYS IN JUNE '99.....FROM \$2,388
- CANADIAN MARITIME PROVINCES CRUISE, 8 DAYS IN OCT. '99 .....FROM \$1,638
- BALTIC SEA CRUISE, (DENMARK, SWEDEN, RUSSIA, FINLAND, ESTONIA, NORWAY), 16 DAYS IN JULY '99 .....FROM \$2,984

- FRANCE, 11 DAYS IN OCT. '99 .....\$1,796
- PORTUGAL, 9 DAYS TO FATIMA & COIMBRA IN NOV. '99.....\$1,528
- VENICE & ROME, 11 DAYS IN NOV. '99 ....\$1,982
- FLORENCE, PISA & ROME, 11 DAYS IN NOV. '99 .....\$1,968
- SICILY & ROME, 11 DAYS IN NOV. '99 .....\$1,872
- EGYPT, 9-DAY CRUISE ON THE NILE IN NOV. '99.....FROM \$2,288
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# Announcements of WEDDINGS

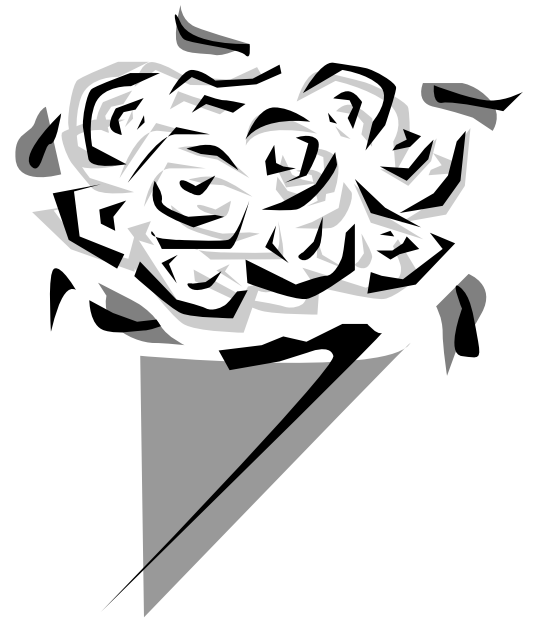


## Parents/Grandparents!

Send us your daughter's, son's, or grandchild's wedding announcement with a picture of the couple to be published free in The Criterion's Feb. 5, 1999 wedding supplement!



Free gifts to the first 25 announcements received with a picture!



To be published in the February 5, 1999, issue of *The Criterion*

If you are planning your wedding or have had your wedding between Feb. 1 and July 30, 1999, we invite you to submit the information for an announcement on the form to the right.

**Photographs**

You may send us a photo of the bride-to-be, a picture of the couple or a photo of the bride and groom. Please do not cut the photograph. The photo must be wallet-size and will be used as space permits. Black & white photos are preferred; we cannot guarantee the reproduction quality of a color photo. Please put name(s) and return address on the back. Photos will be returned if a stamped, self-addressed envelope is enclosed.

**Deadline**

All announcements with photos must be received by Wednesday, Jan. 13, 10 a.m. (No photos can be accepted after this date). All announcements without photos must be received by the same date.

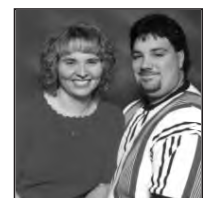
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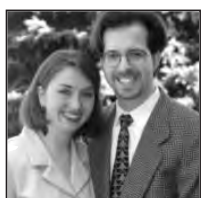
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City		State		
BRIDEGROOM	First	Middle	Last	
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City		State		
Wedding Date	Church	City	State	
<input type="checkbox"/> Photo Enclosed	Signature of person furnishing information		Relationship	Daytime Phone
<input type="checkbox"/> No Photo				

Below is an example of how your listing will appear in *The Criterion*.



**Bedel - Calabrese**  
 Susan Marie Bedel and Christopher Michael Calabrese will be married June 27 at St. Maurice, St. Maurice. The bride is the daughter of Robert and Janet L. Bedel. The groom is the son of Jeff and Rebecca Calabrese.



**Black - Hallal**  
 Julie A. Black and Jared R. Hallal will be married on July 3 at Holy Family, New Albany. The bride is the daughter of the late Barbara Aemmer Black and Mr. Richard T. Black. The groom is the son of Dr. and Mrs. Eli R. Hallal.



**Bielski - Dubois**  
 Catherine Elizabeth Bielski and John Charles Dubois will be married June 27 at Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Carmel. The bride is the daughter of Leonard and Catherine Bielski. The groom is the son of Raymond and Suzanne Dubois.



**Borse - Wheat**  
 Christina Lynne Borse and Christopher John Wheat will be married Aug. 22 at St. Matthew, Indianapolis. The bride is the daughter of Jim and Sally Borse. The groom is the son of Chris and Becky Wheat.



# Rest in peace

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

**BELDING, Charles**, 73, St. Ambrose, Seymour, Nov. 19. Husband of Louise Belding.

**BRAUN, Louis J.**, 90, St. John the Baptist, Osgood, Nov. 26.

**BURKHART, Martha**, 80, St. Gabriel, Connerville, Nov. 30. Mother of Joseph Burkhart and Carolyn Bunzendahl. Sister of Corinne Bruce. Grandmother of seven. Great-grandmother of five.

**COLLINS, Alice (Hopson)**, 66, Holy Trinity, Indianapolis, Nov. 28. Mother of Phyllis Catlett. Sister of Nettie Johnson, James Hopson Jr. and William Hopson Lopez.

Grandmother of three.

**DAY, Douglas C.**, 25, St. Mary, North Vernon, Nov. 28. Son of Norman "Butch" and Joyce (Cardinal) Day. Brother of Nad Day and Michelle Logan. Grandson of Marie Day, Charles and Bonnie Cardinal. Great-grandson of Rosie Smith.

**FULTZ, Frances (Cox)**, 77, Our Lady of the Greenwood, Greenwood, Nov. 21. Mother of Stephen Fultz. Sister of Louise Blair, Laura Bramble, Marilyn Bullis, Barbara Schober, Shirley Williams, Carl, Charles, Tom, Herbert and Joseph Cox. Grandmother of two.

**HOLLINGSHEAD, Vesta**, 86, Our Lady of the Greenwood, Greenwood, Nov. 21. Mother of Richard Hollingshead. Stepmother of Hillary Weigle. Sister of James Schneiderhan. Grandmother of one.

**KAUFMAN, Pearl**, 102, St. Ambrose, Seymour, Nov. 23.

**PILKINGTON, Lucille M.**, 90, Holy Spirit, Indianapolis, Nov. 29. Mother of Patricia

Applegate and Gini Rayman. Sister of Pauline Enkoff. Grandmother of four. Great-grandmother of one.

**ROACH, Theresa M. (Murray Baltz)**, 81, St. Michael, Indianapolis, Nov. 27. Mother of Nancy Hartman, Patricia Grimes, Susan Zook, Theresa Dinn, Mary Petree and Joseph Murray, Jr. Stepmother of Stephen and Jeffrey Roach. Sister of Dr. Davis Baltz, Theodosia Fitzgerald, Anna Maria O'Connor and Joan Shine. Grandmother of 18. Great-grandmother of nine.

**ROBBELOTH, Dorothy Mae (Haskins)**, 76, St. Michael, Bradford, Nov. 30. Mother of Patricia Simpson, Luella Starrett, Cathy Cress, Gary, Michael and Paul Robbeloth. Sister of Roger Kraus, Larry Haskins and Toni Harron. Grandmother of 13. Great-grandmother of 10.

**ROSENFELD, Carolyn**, 87, St. Vincent de Paul, Shelby County, Nov. 28. Aunt.

**SCHAFFER, Steven**, 45, St. Thomas More, Mooresville, Nov. 25. Husband of Alice (Corbin) Schaffer. Father of Kayli, Harrison and Sloan (Schaffer) Cameron. Son of Maxine Wyss Schaffer and

Stepson of Roland Cameron. Brother of Carol Laughlin, Susan and Janice Schafer.

**SCHWARTZEL, D. Marie (Coyle)**, 82, St. Mary, New Albany, Nov. 26. Wife of John Schwartzel. Mother of Sarah Schwartzel, Catherine Kochert, Alice Hart, Mary Landherr, Margaret Wells, Walter, Michael and Patrick Coyle. Grandmother of 11. Great-grandmother of four.

**SMITH, Edna Faye**, 68, St. Bernard, Frenchtown, Nov. 17. Wife of August Smith.

Mother of Phyllis Patterson, Teresa Ippolito, Lana and Vanessa Greemore, LaLisa Crecelius, Marissa Canada, August and Allen Smith. Sister of Eva Cockerham, Mary Harper, Sue Houchins, Russell and Edmond Query. Grandmother of 18. Great-grandmother of one.

**THEOBOLD, Harold**, 90, Our Lady of the Greenwood, Greenwood, Nov. 28. Father of B. Jane Clonch, Ann Vogelpohl and Stephen Theobold. Brother of Fred Theobold. Grandfather of 12. Great-grandfather of nine.

**WARREN, Charles P. "Buddy"**, 66, St. Joseph Hill, Sellersburg, Nov. 26. Husband of Doris Warren. Father of Deanna Wilder, Carla Ramser, Kevin, Mark, Paul, Chad, and Theresa Warren. Brother of William Quick, Richard Warren, Myra Titus, Sharon Floyd, Sue Denton and Judy Chastain. Grandfather of 17.

**WARTHEN, Carlos**, 64, St. Thomas More, Mooresville, Nov. 25. Husband of Adela Rosa (de la Pena) Warthen. Father of Carla Medsker, Russell and Thomas Warthen. Son of Beulah Warthen. Brother of Helen Kenworthy and Virginia Albright. Grandfather of five.

**WESTERMAN, Snoda**, 94, St. Joseph, Shelbyville, Nov. 26. Mother of Mary Jane Oldham. Sister of Sarah Bott, Sally Van Natter and Molly Walker.

Grandmother of two. Great-grandmother of three. Great-grandmother of one.

**WILSON, Jack M.**, 77, St. Malachy, Brownsburg, Nov. 28. Husband of Dorothy Wilson. Father of Paula Dillon and Tanya Murphy. Brother of Anita Leins, Robert, William, Dale and Don Wilson. Grandfather of eight.

## Jack Albertson was DRE at St. Charles in Bloomington

Jack D. Albertson, former director of religious education at St. Charles Borromeo Parish in Bloomington, died on Dec. 8. He was 71.

On Dec. 11, a funeral Mass was celebrated at St. Charles Borromeo Church, of which he was a member.

Albertson served St. Charles from 1980 until his retirement in 1994.

He served in the U.S. Air Force from 1961 to 1979, when he retired as lieutenant colonel.

Upon his retirement, Albertson served the archdiocese by conducting workshops on the Dead Sea Scrolls. He was a Benedictine oblate with the Monastery of Immaculate Conception in Ferdinand.

He is survived by his wife, Peggy (Day) Albertson and a brother, Dale Albertson. †




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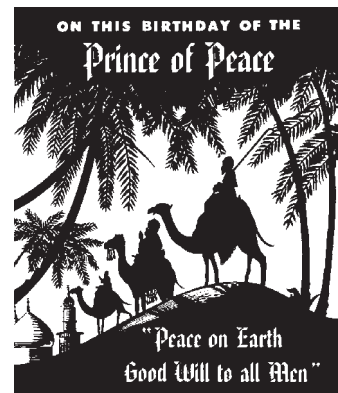


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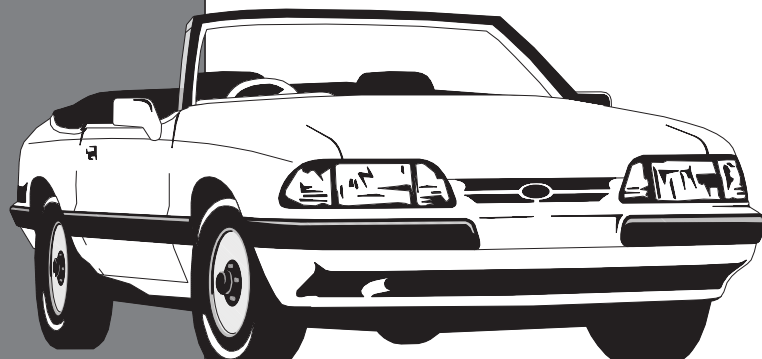
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**Prince of Peace**  
"Peace on Earth  
Good Will to all Men"



**"My car got four people off the street and on the road to recovery."**

Your used car can take someone off the street and put them on the road to recovery. If you've got an operable car, camper, or boat, consider donating them to The Salvation Army. The proceeds from your donation will then go directly to the Adult Rehabilitation Center to help men in the Indianapolis area win the battle against drug and alcohol addiction. Your donation is tax deductible, and towing is free.



Call the Salvation Army Adult Rehabilitation Center today, Monday-Friday 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.

**Don't Just Make A Donation...  
Make A Difference.**

**317-638-6585**

**Stewart Communications Announces ...**

**SALE DCS DIGITAL**

- First Incoming minute FREE
- Voice Mail FREE
- Extended battery life
- Caller ID - FREE
- Activation - FREE
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**FREE NIGHTS/WEEKENDS**  
(1200 min./mo. Sat., Sun., 4 pm-6 am M-F) (1 or 2 yr. contract)

<b>*340 Anytime Minutes</b> <b>\$24.95</b> (First 3 mos., 1 yr. contract)	<b>*340 Anytime Minutes</b> <b>\$24.95</b> (First 6 mos., 2 yr. contract)
<b>*120 Anytime Minutes</b> <b>\$19.95</b> (First 3 mos., 1 yr. contract)	<b>*120 Anytime Minutes</b> <b>\$19.95</b> (First 6 mos., 2 yr. contract)

**FREE LEATHER CASE • FREE PAGER**

**ANALOG SERVICE** 2 Year Contract  
**FREE ACTIVATION**  
**FREE PHONE**  
**FREE LEATHER CASE**  
**FREE PAGER**

**60 Bonus Minutes**  
\*120 Anytime Minutes  
**\$24.95** (First 6 mos.)

NIGHTS & WEEKENDS - 1,200 Minutes - Less than **1¢ / Minute!**

Call **317-783-5900** for **FREE DELIVERY!**

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Communications for business and personal needs  
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Hours: Mon.-Fri. 8 - 5:30  
NOW OPEN SAT. 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.



# Classified Directory

For information about rates for classified advertising, call (317) 236-1572.

## For Rent

### Shadeland Office Suites

1711 North Shadeland Avenue • Indianapolis, IN 46219  
317-351-3235 • E-mail: [imsorg@mibor.net](mailto:imsorg@mibor.net)

- Available January 1, 1999
- From 120-150 Sq. Ft.
- Short-Term Leases
- Receptionist On Duty
- Personalized Telephone Answering Service
- Free Parking
- 3 Blocks to I-70 & I-465
- 10 Minutes to Downtown
- Secretarial Service Available
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- Fully Furnished Office Equipment Is Available
- Listing On Lobby Directory & Suite Door
- Fax & Copy Machine

**New Office Suites For Lease**

## Positions Available

### Principal: Bethlehem High School, Bardstown, KY

(Less than one hour from Louisville and Lexington)

Bethlehem High School, a coed Catholic high school of 300 students, seeks a principal embodying Catholic ideals, vision and leadership beginning 1999-2000 school year. Oldest school in the state. Serves several rural counties of central Kentucky with a dedicated staff of 35+ professionals. Strong parental and community support. Ranked among top schools in the state in students pursuing and succeeding in college. A candidate must be a practicing Catholic and eligible for Kentucky principal certification. Inquiries and résumés should be submitted by February 1, 1999 to: Principal Search Committee, P.O. Box 548, Bardstown, Kentucky 40004.

### Executive Director

Gibault School for Boys in Terre Haute, Ind., is seeking an innovative executive director with vision and exceptional leadership skills. Excellent salary and benefits package.

Gibault School for Boys is a private, not-for-profit residential facility for delinquent and pre-delinquent boys between the ages of 8 and 18. Founded in 1921 by the Indiana Knights of Columbus, GSFBS has a \$10 million annual budget, a staff of more than 200, and is licensed for 147 main campus beds and an 8-bed Group Home.

The Executive Director communicates, interprets and administers the policies of the GSFBS Board of Trustees.

#### Job Requirements:

- ✓ Master's degree in social work, counseling, social work administration, or related human service degree from an accredited school.
- ✓ At least 5 years experience in serving children in a managerial role.

Submit résumé, references and salary history, postmarked by Jan. 8, 1999, to: Gibault Search Committee, P.O. Box 1324, Richmond, IN 47375. *Gibault School is an EOE*

## Gutter

**KELLY'S GUTTER SERVICE**  
Gutter Cleaning • Free Estimates  
Minor Repair  
889-2985 or  
365-0052 (beeper)  
(off duty Indianapolis Firefighter)

## Miscellaneous

**CATHOLIC CHOIR OF INDIANAPOLIS**  
Traditional music for your next celebration  
CALL 317-216-5588

## Computers

**SID II CO. Computers**  
High Quality - Low Cost  
Starting as low as \$795.00 plus tax  
(Monitor Not Included)  
1 Year Onsite Nationwide Warranty Included.  
Please call with any questions:  
812-941-9311 or visit our web site:  
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Orders taken by phone or online on our web site.  
\$25.00 off Personal Computer with this ad.  
4015 Weatherby Way, New Albany, IN 47150  
Custom Built Systems • Hardware/Software • Application Development • Year 2000 Consulting • Networking

## Pilgrimages

**Amazing Pilgrimages**

**Fatima**  
Mar 16 - 22 ..... \$1,025  
Nov 30 - Dec 6..... \$877

**Rome, Assisi, Florence**  
Mar 7 - 15 ..... \$1,475

**Holy Land**  
May 4 - 12 ..... \$1,725  
Nov 2 - 10 ..... \$1,495  
**FREE BROCHURE!**

1-800-889-HOLY (4659)

## Electrical

**HAMMANS ELECTRIC, INC.**  
- Complete Electrical -  
Installations, Service & Repairs.  
Licensed-Bonded-Insured.  
Emergency Service.  
Senior Citizens Discount.  
317-351-3670

## When you want action, you need an ad in The Criterion

Whether you're buying or selling, hiring or hunting, a classified display or line ad can work wonders.

Let Indiana's largest weekly newspaper work for you.

Call 317-236-1572 or 1-800-382-9836 or reach us by Fax at 317-236-1434.



## Activities

**HOLY ROSARY** Parish, Indianapolis, 520 Stevens St., celebrates a Tridentine (Latin) High Mass, 10 a.m. (formerly held at St. Patrick Parish).

## Tax Service

**INCOME TAX** preparation by a former IRS agent. Prepares all returns including small business corps. Very reasonable. Call 317-877-3410.

## Memorial

**SEND DALE** Lecher memorials to: Marian College/Greg Lecher Scholarship Fund, 3200 Cold Spring Road, Indianapolis, Indiana 46222.

## Want To Buy

**OLD CLOCKS** (not electric), any condition. 317-781-6901.

**We Buy: Guardianships, Estates, Antiques, Household, Tools and much more.**

**Let us help you liquidate.**

Full Auction Service Available  
John Beck at 317-796-0523.

## Daycare

**In-Home Daycare**  
Southside Christian mom accepting children 2 years and up, including before and after school children.  
7:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.  
Nutritious meals, large fenced yard, and lots of TLC.  
317-780-9249

## For Sale

**DOUBLE BURIAL** plot w/vaults, Oaklawn Memorial, Garden of Roses, consecrated. Choice of location. \$2,500 OBO. 317-241-5091.

*Use this space!*  
317-236-1572!

## For Rent

**GET AWAY** for winter! 3 bedroom furnished beach house, Panama City Beach, Florida. 3-minute walk to beach. \$595/month. 812-738-0391.

## Jeffersonian Apartments

Quiet eastside community adjacent to Holy Spirit Catholic Church. Lovely 1 & 2 bedroom apartments overlooking courtyard. Fully carpeted, kitchen appliances, gas heat and water included. On bus line, cable TV. Within walking distance of shopping & recreational facilities. Eastgate area. Shown by appointment only.  
Call 317-356-9696

## Positions Available

### Dental Receptionist

Dental receptionist needed for N.E. side perio office.  
Call 317-842-5085 for information.

## Novena

**THANK YOU** St. Jude for prayers answered. - M. J. C.

**THANK YOU** St. Jude for prayers answered. - Les & Char

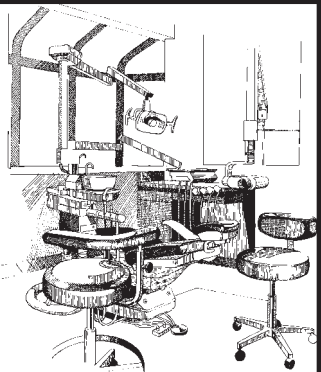
**THANK YOU** Jesus, Blessed Virgin, St. Jude, St. Anthony, St. Joseph, St. Peregrine for favors received. - C. G.

**THANK YOU** Sacred Heart and St. Jude for prayers answered. - F. H.

**THANK YOU** St. Jude for prayers answered. - M. C.

### Prayer of Application to the Holy Spirit

*You who solves all problems; You who lights all roads so that I may attain my goal; You who gives me the divine gift to forgive and to forget all evil against me; I want this short prayer to thank you for all things and to confirm once again that I never want to be separated from you. Even in spite of all material illusions, I wish to be with you in eternal glory. Thank you for your mercy towards me and mine. Amen.* - J. F.



## Classified Coupon

### 2 Lines • 2 Weeks for \$10.00

(\$1.00 for each additional line or fraction thereof)

Write your classified ad on this coupon and send it to us with payment. This special rate applies to advertisement which are mailed in or brought in, but not to phoned-in ads. This coupon **DOES NOT APPLY** to: ANY Business ads. The coupon is for use by individuals **ONLY**. Advertisers may place ads at commercial rates by calling (317) 236-1572, or Fax: (317) 236-1434. Classification: (for sale, for rent, etc.)

Write your ad below with ONE WORD PER SPACE, including the phone number you want in your ad.

Ad: (four words per line)

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Deadline: Thursday, noon, 8 days in advance of Friday publication date.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Mail this coupon with payment to:

Classified Ads, The Criterion, P.O. 1717 Indianapolis, IN 46206-1717

Or charge my:  VISA  MasterCard

Card # \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_



## Home Repair

**HOUSEHOLD HANDYMAN**  
Painting, Kitchen & Bath  
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All Types General Home Repair  
Dependable/Insured/Family Man  
FREE ESTIMATES 317-357-8955

## Asphalt Paving

**ROWE PAVING Co.**  
• Residential Driveways  
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Call 852-0102, 844-2922,  
299-7885, 898-3373  
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## Real Estate

Buying or Selling?  
I can help!



Steve J. Sergi  
Broker/Owner

**REALTY MART**  
317-507-5883  
"YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD REALTOR"

## Plumbing

**Weilhammer Plumbing** Since 1901  
(317) 784-1870  
We sell & install  
**Water Heaters**  
**Water Softeners**  
**Toilets/Faucets**  
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**FREE ESTIMATES**



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# HEARING LOSS... or maybe just EARWAX Buildup...



## Video Ear Inspection Camera



**Comes to Glendale Vision & Hearing Center**

Where: Glendale Mall • Entrance 7, across from Houlihan's • 6101 N. Keystone Ave., Indianapolis • 317-253-1426

Dates: November 27 - December 11

Time: 10 AM - 9 PM

*Hurry, call now to schedule your appointment.*

**THIS EVENT WILL BE HELD 14 DAYS ONLY!**

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**FREE VIDEO EAR INSPECTION**  
**You'll SEE...exactly what we SEE**

We'll look into your ear canal with our New Star Med Video Ear Camera. You'll watch the TV screen and we'll explain to you what you're seeing. We'll do a complete inspection of your ear canal and your ear drum. If there is any amount of wax blockage you'll know immediately.

**SONOTONE 5 DAYS ONLY...\$395<sup>00</sup>**  
**In-The-Ear Hearing Aids**

By Sonotone, Glendale Vision & Hearing is the ONLY factory-authorized dealer in Indianapolis and offers factory direct savings to you on all models. Sonotone has been making Hearing Aids for over 70 years. Act now!

**Custom Canal**

The Custom Canal is small enough to be cosmetically appealing and still provide the size needed to accommodate today's powerful circuitry. Canal aids are possibly the most widely recommended instrument style.

**\$595<sup>00</sup>**  
 Reg. \$1,190.00

**Custom Full Shell**

The most versatile of the ITE product line. It can accommodate a wide range of amplifiers, and is available with the exclusive soft shell technology.

**ON SALE \$395<sup>00</sup>**  
 Reg. \$795.00

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**You asked for small!  
 When C.I.C. is placed in your ear canal...  
 it becomes virtually INVISIBLE!!**

**Uses Natural Ear Shape**

Combines your natural ear shape and state of the art technology



Sonotone® Completely-In-The-Ear

**Hands Free Operation**

There is no volume control adjustment for ease of handling

**Just Place It In Your Ear and Hear Better**

The benefits of hearing aids varies by type and degree of hearing loss, noise environment, accuracy of hearing evaluation, and proper fit.



Brad Stanfield, B.C. - H.I.S.  
 Senior Master Hearing Aid Specialist  
 Sonotone Factory Direct Representative  
 Over 10 years experience  
 Welcomes you to Glendale Vision & Hearing Center

**Sonotone® HEARING AID CENTER**

**BUY NOW** **50% off retail**

**SPECIAL OFFER**

<p><b>FREE BATTERIES</b></p> <p>Buy <u>one</u> package of batteries get <u>one FREE</u></p> <p><small>Limit 2 packs. Offer good thru 1/18/99</small></p>	<p><b>COMPARE &amp; SAVE</b></p> <p>Factory Direct means you'll save <b>50% off retail prices.</b> Save hundreds!</p> <p><small>Offer good thru 1/18/99</small></p>	<p><b>FREE HEARING TEST DATES</b></p> <p><small>Offer good thru 1/18/99</small></p> <p>Don't struggle with a hearing loss any longer. Bring this valuable coupon to our office right away. Don't delay...call Glendale Hearing Center today!</p> <p><small>See if C.I.C. with the dynamic EQ circuit is right for you. No one notices when you wear C.I.C.</small></p>
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COUPONS CANNOT BE COMBINED WITH ANY OTHER OFFER

If you need eye glasses check Glendale Vision's Super Product Line! Specials for quality eyewear include Varilux® lenses. 100s of frames to choose from. Stop in or call 317-253-1426 for complete details!

**Glendale Vision & Hearing Center**

Main entrance Glendale Mall  
 6101 N. Keystone Ave.  
 Indianapolis, IN 46220  
**317-253-1426**

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