January 11, 2013 In This Issue

MESSENGER

Serving the Diocese of Covington, Kentucky since 1926



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Jesus is present in common prayer

Father Ryan Maher Messenger Contributor "Where two or three are gathered together in my name, I am in the midst of them." (Mt 8:20) Jesus promises that He is present when people gather in His name. This is especially true when people gather to pray. Prayer unites us in a shared concern for the Lord's help and intervention in human affairs. In

Christ, prayer unites people in different locations. This year marks the 40th anniversary of the Roe v. Wade decision of the United States Supreme Court that legalized abortion in our country. The upcoming Day of Prayer and Penance for Life in our diocese on Jan. 25 will coincide with the March for Life in Washington, D.C. This Day of Prayer and Penance for Life is a chance for us to be united in prayer with each other and with all people who pray for an end to abortion.

On Jan. 25 our Catholic schools will be united in a common prayer of the rosary. In the evening people of the diocese will gather at various designated churches to pray during a Holy Hour. Churches will be open during the day so people can go there to pray.

In times of great need people often turn to the Lord in prayer. Amidst our own struggles and needs we ask people to pray for us. The more people we know that are praying for us and our needs, the better we can feel about our situation.

In the wake of the terrorist attacks on our country on Sept. 11, 2001 many people turned to prayer, to their faith and to one another as a way to deal with the shock and grief of that terrible tragedy. People turned to prayer as individuals as well as a community. At that time people all across the country and throughout the world turned to prayer and faith for comfort. Churches were more crowded than usual in the weeks that followed the tragedy. People find comfort when they pray together.

After the recent school shooting in Connecticut many people turned to prayer. A Mass was celebrated the very evening of the shooting at the local parish. The church was filled and hundreds of people prayed outside of the church during the Mass. People throughout our country offered prayers to God for the families affected by the shooting. Prayer in Christ unites us together as children of God and strengthens our identity as disciples of the Lord. Prayer makes us aware of the needs and concerns of others. When we gather together to pray in common we draw strength and courage from the Lord.

Common prayer strengthens us and binds us together more closely as members of the Mystical Body of Christ on earth. When we pray together in common we are assured by the Lord Jesus of His presence and we become a visible sign of the workings of grace in society.

On Jan. 25, the 40th anniversary of the legalization of abortion in our country, we continue to pray as individuals, but especially as a community of faith for an end to abortion and for the healing of all people affected by it. It is a time of great need and a time for all God's people to turn to the Lord in prayer. And as we gather in prayer in Jesus' name for the defense and protection of the most innocent of victims, the child in the womb, Jesus will be with us ... He promised.

Father Ryan Maher is pastor of St. Benedict Parish, Covington, and diocesan director for the Office of Worship and Liturgy.

Holy Hour Locations Day of Prayer and Penance for Life Friday, Jan. 25, 2013, 7 p.m.

Cathedral Basilica of the Assumption, Covington Blessed Sacrament Parish, Ft. Mitchell Divine Mercy Parish, Bellevue Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish, Burlington St. Edward Parish, Cynthiana St. John the Evangelist Parish, Carrollton St. Mary Parish, Alexandria St. Patrick Parish, Maysville St. Patrick Parish, Taylor Mill St. Paul Parish, Florence



Day of Prayer and Penance for Life

Eucharistic Adoration

On Jan. 25 Bishop Roger Foys has called for a Day of Prayer and Penance for Life throughout the Diocese of Covington. Each church is to be open for prayer and to schedule at least one hour of Eucharistic Adoration.

All Saints (Perpetual Adoration)	
Blessed Sacrament	7 p.m.
Cristo Rey	
Holy Cross	10 a.m.–1 p.m.
Holy Spirit	
Immaculate Heart of Mary	
Mary, Queen of Heaven	
Mother of God	
St. Agnes	1–3 p.m.
St. Barbara	10:30 a.m.–5:30 p.m.
St. Benedict	8:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m.
Sts. Boniface & James	2–6:30 p.m.
St. Cecilia	
St. Edward, Cynthiana	
St. Henry	8:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m.
St. John, Carrollton	
St. John, Covington	1:45–2:30 p.m.
St. Joseph, Camp Springs	
St. Joseph, Cold Spring	
St. Mary, Alexandria	
St. Patrick, Taylor Mill (Perpetual	Adoration) All day
St. Paul	I
Sts. Peter and Paul	
St. Pius X	
St. Therese	
St. Thomas (Perpetual Adoration)	
St. Timothy	
St. William	



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Catholics@TheCapitol event on Jan. 19

A Catholics@TheCapitol event is scheduled for Jan. 19 in the Diocese of Covington, as Kentuckians prepare for the 2013 General Assembly's short 30-legislative day session scheduled to begin Jan. 8 and conclude March 26.

The Jan. 19 session is one of nearly 20 such events scheduled in the four (arch)dioceses of Kentucky in November, December and January. The local session is organized by Catholic Charities-Diocese of Covington. State senators and representatives from Northern Kentucky have been invited to attend, speak and answer questions.

Bishop Roger Foys will lead prayer and offer a welcome to begin the program. Father Patrick Delahanty, executive director of the Catholic Conference of Kentucky, will lead the information session. Father Delahanty will describe the mission, structure and workings of the CCK as well as principles of Catholic social teaching as presented in the U.S. Bishops' "Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship: A Call to Political Responsibility."

"These sessions provide us with an opportunity to meet with and talk to our various state representatives about issues of concern and interest," Bishop Foys said. "I am grateful to all our state senators and representatives who take time from their already busy schedules to join us and enter in the discussion with us.

"I encourage priests, deacons, religious and lay faithful to take advantage of this opportunity."

The program will focus on Catholic social teaching as it relates to pending or possible legislation in the General Assembly in the following areas: the sanctity of life, the centrality of family and social justice. Other issues likely to be discussed are immigration reform;

Reproductive health advocate to headline Jan. 31 event

Five Northern Kentucky medical professionals -Dr. Gene Burchell, obstetrics/gynecology; Dr. Nancy Shaughnessy, obstetrics/gynecology; Dr. Kelley Young, pediatrics; Dr. Bill Wehrman, emergency medicine; and Clare Ruehl, registered nurse - have teamed up to bring Mercedes Wilson, founder and president of the Family of the Americas Foundation and internationally recognized women's reproductive health advocate, to the Diocese of Covington.

Ms. Wilson will speak about the benefits of Natural Family Planning, specifically the Ovulation Method, and about the benefits of fertility awareness Jan. 31, 7 p.m. at St. Joseph Heights, Park Hills. This educational event on reproductive health is open to the public at no cost. St. Elizabeth Hospital and the Diocese of Covington are also co-sponsoring the event.

Contact Faye Roch at the Diocese of Covington Pro-Life Office for registration and information, (859) 392-1545 or e-mail froch@covdio.org.



Jan. 11 DPAA taping, 10 a.m. Priests' gathering, noon

Jan. 12 **Diocesan Deanery Pastoral**

Council Convocation, St. Ioseph Provincial House

Jan. 14 Pontifical College Josephinum Executive Committee Conference Call, 10 a.m.

Priests' gathering, noon Jan. 15 Individual meeting, 9:30

Jan. 16 Confirmation, St. Pius X Parish, Edgewood, 7 p.m.

Jan. 17 Diocesan Staff Directors' meeting, 9:30 a.m.

Episcopal Council meeting, 1:30 p.m.

human trafficking; Catholic social teaching principles that govern tax reform; and informed consent and ultrasound for women considering abortion.

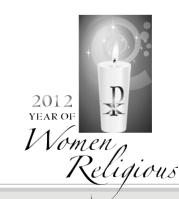
The Catholic Conference of Kentucky (CCK) is an agency of the Catholic Bishops of Kentucky. The Bishops of the four (arch)dioceses of Kentucky constitute CCK's Board of Directors. CCK speaks for the Church in matters of public policy, serves as liaison to government and the legislature, and coordinates communications and activities between the church and secular agencies. There are about 400,000 Catholics in the Commonwealth out of 4,339,000 residents.



Can register now and pay at the door.

Registration no later than Jan. 15 to the attention of Vicky Bauerle:

- Online: www.covingtoncharities.org
- E-mail: vbauerle@covingtoncharities.org
- Phone: (859) 581-8974, ext. 116
- Fax: (859) 581-9595
- Mail: Catholic Charities, 3629 Church St., Covington 41015



Most Reverend Roger J. Foys, D.D. Bishop of Covington requests the honor of your presence at

The closing Mass of The Year of Women Religious

Saturday, Feb. 2, 2013 at 10:30 a.m. Cathedral Basilica of the Assumption, Covington

Jan. 19

Catholics@TheCapitol, **Blessed Sacrament Parish** Hall, 9:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.

Jan. 20 Mass, Cathedral Basilica, Covington, 10 a.m.

Martin Luther King Service, Cathedral Basilica,

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Park Hills, 9:30 a.m.-noon

Jan. 13 Mass, Cathedral Basilica, Covington, 10 a.m.

Blessing of Provincial Center, Sisters of Divine Providence, Melbourne, 2 p.m.

Building Commission meeting, 10 a.m.

a.m., 2 p.m

Confirmation, Holy Cross Parish, Latonia, 7 p.m.

Confirmation, St. Joseph Parish, Crescent Springs, 7 p.m.

Jan. 18

Individual meetings, 9 a.m., 10 a.m., 10:30 a.m.

Covington, 7:30 p.m.

Martin Luther King, Jr.'s dream: Together as One

Monica Yeamans Editorial Assistant

All parishioners in the Diocese of Covington are invited to take part in two events being held to celebrate and remember the life and message of Martin Luther King, Jr. Both events take place the Saturday and Sunday before the Martin Luther King, Jr. national holiday Jan. 21.

Our Savior Parish, Covington, is sponsoring its annual Martin Luther King discussion breakfast Jan. 19 from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. Divine Providence Sister Janet M. Bucher, parish life collaborator at Our Savior Parish, told the *Messenger*, "The object is to bring people together who would not normally come together to sit down and talk about things that need to change in our world or discuss how was [Martin Luther King, Jr.'s] dream fulfilled or not fulfilled. The idea is just to get people to talk together."

People are encouraged to sit with people they do not know. One person from each table will present a onesentence synopsis of what was discussed at their table. There is no cost and the event is open to everyone in the diocese.

On Sunday, Jan. 20th beginning at 7:30 p.m. an interdenominational evening prayer service will be held at the Cathedral Basilica of the Assumption. Bishop Roger Foys will preside. The Outreach to African Americans Committee has organized this diocesan annual prayer service.

"The diocesan-sponsored Martin Luther King prayer service has taken place for about 25 years," Sister Janet said. "Attendance has decreased but this year we are trying to get the youth involved. Instead of a speaker we had asked all the high schools and junior high schools in the diocese to participate in an essaywriting contest about changes Martin brought into the country, what changes might need to be done today and how they [the students] can be part of today's change."

Sister Janet said that a committee chose three students — one junior high student (St Pius School, Edgewood) and two high school students (Notre Dame Academy and Covington Catholic High School) —to read their essays at the ceremony.

"Martin was not just a leader for the black community — he was a leader for the down-trodden, the poor and anybody who was violated in any way. He was totally against violence in any way," said Sister Janet.

Jamie Schroeder, assistant director of the diocesan Department of Catechesis and Formation, said that the monthly Together As One program for teens will be attending the Martin Luther King prayer service.

"In these days when, amidst so many other forms of injustice, our religious liberty is being threatened, it is more appropriate than ever for our young people to stand with their brothers and sisters in Christ to pray for the right to life, freedom, justice and peace for all people, the dream for which Martin Luther King gave his life," Mrs. Schroeder said.

> + See page 6 for 'A Year in the Life of the Diocese'

Catholic Charities celebrates Christmas

This year Catholic Charities-Diocese of Covington was able to provide Christmas gifts for 58 families consisting of 77 adults and 126 children. Of course they were not able to do this on their own; they had the support of many members in the community including Von Lehman CPA & Advisory Firm, West Latonia Neighborhood Association, Latonia Business Association, Ft. Mitchell Fire Department, Northern Kentucky Area Planning Commission of Kenton County, Dorning Supply, Hasbro Inc. partnering with the Congregation of Divine Providence of Kentucky, Blessed Sacrament Parish, Ft. Mitchell; St. Barbara Parish, Erlanger; St. Catherine Parish, Ft. Thomas, as well as many families and individuals who "adopted" a family.

"Catholic Charities is very blessed to have the support in the community so that we can to provide a

Christmas celebration to those we serve," said Vicky Bauerle, institutional advancement manager for Catholic Charities-Diocese of Covington.

Catholic Charities also celebrated the Christmas season with a Christmas party with the residents from St. Joseph Apartments, Elsmere. St. Joseph Apartments are owned and operated by Catholic Charities and serve families at risk of homelessness because of disability.

"We had food catered by Hot Heads Burritos, desserts made by the Blessed Sacrament St. Vincent de Paul Society, crafts provided by Lisa Bezold and friends, a special visit from Santa Claus and lots of help from VolunTEENS from Covington Catholic High School and St. Henry District High School," Ms. Bauerle said. "It was a huge success."

Submitted by Catholic Charities-Diocese of Covington, with editing by the Messenger staff.

Christmas break



featuring highlights of *Messenger* coverage from 2012.

In celebration of the Christmas season the diocese's seminarians gathered with Bishop Roger Foys for vespers, Dec. 21, in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel at the Cathedral Basilica of the Assumption. Following vespers a reception was held at the Cathedral rectory. The seminarians returned to their seminary studies Jan. 7.

Keener photo

Messenger

In safer hands than ours

One of my jobs as a priest is to preside and preach at funerals. Never an easy task. The deep truths of our faith which can be so consoling at other times often don't spin their magic when death is still raw. Later on

they can do their work; but, at a funeral, the pain is often too all-absorbing for the words of faith to effectively break through and do much in the way of real consolation. Their full effect will take place in a way and in a time that respects the rhythm of human grief.

One sentence of consolation that I do often offer at a funeral is this one: He is now in hands safer than ours. She is now in hands much gentler than our own.

The truth of those words can be particularly consoling when the deceased is a young person, someone who we feel still needs the hands of an earthly mother and father and with whom we would want to trade places because we feel that he or she is too young to have to leave us and go off in death, alone.

That is also true in the case of someone who dies in a far-from-ideal manner. suicide or a senseless accident. Our unspoken fear is always that there should have been more time, that we should have done something more, been more vigilant, been more supportive, and we worry about a loved one departing this earth in so unfortunate a way.

Finally, we have this same anxiety about someone who dies and has had a life that somehow never seemed to be free of extraordinary bad circumstance

It's the time of year when we have become more focused on children. Perhaps as a culture we are not focused on the Child who gives a name to this season, but we certainly are aware of the excitement of young ones experiencing the sights and sounds

of the Christmas season.

At its root, what does it mean to be a child? Can adults learn something from watching the innocence, enthusiasm and wonder of children?

To be a child is to be given. We didn't simply appear on the earth unrelated to anyone. We were created as a gift – given by God to ourselves. To be a child is to be a gift given by another, not because we demanded to be created, conceived and born, but because we were desired and given everything without asking for anything.

A child is loved, welcomed and entrusted to the care of another. We

aren't solely responsible for our welfare, happiness and existence. The mother and the father who hold their newborn child rejoice in his existence. The child in turn rejoices in being cared for and loved.

Somewhere in between two months and 20 years of age we begin to develop a radically independent streak. We start to grasp for our own happiness instead of receiving it from others. We are determined to be loved and cared for on our own terms. We view our identity in terms of strength and independence, not in the relationships that were given to us at birth.

and frustration, and we wish we could somehow do something to make things better. In each of these cases, nothing can be more consoling than to believe that our loved one is now in far safer and gentler

hands than our own.

But is this simple wishful thinking, whistling in the dark to keep up our courage? Fudging God's justice to console ourselves?

Not if Jesus can be believed! Everything that Jesus reveals about God assures us that God's hands are much gentler and safer than our own. God is the father of the prodigal son and, as we see in that parable, God is more understanding and more compassionate to us than we are to ourselves. We see too in that parable how God does not wait for us to return and apologize after we stray and betray. God runs out to meet us and doesn't ask for an apology.

We see too in the stories just preceding the story of the prodigal son how God does not leave us on our own after we sin, to come to our senses and return repentantly to him. Rather, he leaves the 99 others and comes looking for us, anxious, longing and ready to carry us home, in spite of our sin.

Jesus gives us too the assurance that God does not give us just one chance, but 77 times seven chances, infinite chances. We don't ruin our lives forever by making a mistake or even by making that mistake inexcusably again and again and again.

Finally, in St. Paul's farewell message to us in his

To be a child

Certainly it's good and necessary to grow and mature. If children didn't become responsible adults then new children would have no one in the world to welcome them. But Jesus told us that unless we

> become like children we cannot enter heaven.

How do we cultivate childhood in our hearts, even while heading out to work, making dinner or changing our own children's diapers?

To be a child is to radically surrender. Children are masters of handing everything over. They surrender their wellbeing, their activities and their happiness to their parents. How do we live radical surrender as adults? By opening our hands to the Lord in prayer and offering him everything we have, everything we need, every desire we have, and jumping into his secure arms.

To be a child is to trust and hope. Children don't have doubts that dinner

will be waiting or that the world will not end tomorrow. They don't have worries. They have absolute confidence that they will be fine because they are loved. Do we have this same confidence in God's love and care for us?

To be a child is to love without counting the cost. Young children are known for giving away items that don't belong to them, as if everything were "give-able." They trust that there will be more tomorrow so they can share today. As adults we grow in childlikeness

Letter to the Romans, he assures us that, even though we can't ever get our lives fully right, it doesn't matter because in the end nothing, absolutely nothing, can separate us from God's love and forgiveness. We are, in this life and the next, in hands far safer and gentler than our own.

God is not a God of punishment, but a God of forgiveness. God is not a God who records our sins, but a God who washes them away. God is not a God who demands perfection from us, but a God who asks for a contrite heart when we can't measure up. God is not a God who gives us only one chance, but a God who gives us infinite chances. God is not a God who waits for us to come to our senses after we have fallen, but a God who comes searching for us, full of understanding and care. God is not a God who is calculating and parsimonious in his gifts, but a prodigal God who sows seeds everywhere without regard for waste or worthiness. God is not a God who is powerless before evil and death, but a God who can raise dead bodies to life and redeem what is evil and hopeless. God is not a God who is arbitrary and fickle, but a God who is utterly reliable in his promise and goodness. God is not a God who is dumb and unable to deal with our complexity, but a God who fashioned the depth of the universe and the deepest recesses of the human psyche.

Ultimately, God is not a God who cannot protect us, but is a God in whose hands and in whose promise we are far safer than when we rely upon ourselves.

Oblate Father Ron Rolheiser, theologian, teacher, and award-winning author, is President of the Oblate School of Theology in San Antonio, Tex.

when we are able to give to others without strategizing what we will get in return or how much of our time, talent or treasure we should keep for the future.

To be a child is to be grateful. Certainly little ones often forget to say "please" and "thank you," but everything is a gift to them. They can't get things for themselves and they are grateful for all of the gifts given to them — both the necessities of life and the extra treats. We grow in childlikeness when we stop trying to deserve something and stop looking at the world as owing us something. Instead, we learn to simply say, "Thank you!" to God, to our family, to our friends, to complete strangers. When we are grateful, we are able to enjoy the gift of the world around us.

To be a child is to look at the world with wonder. For little children everything is new – a bug on the sidewalk, the sound of a train, the tomato growing in the backyard, the smell of a Christmas tree. They stop, they observe, they ask questions, and they get to know the gift of the world around them. When we see the world around us – the rose, the Christmas tree, the train, the smile of a friend — we realize that there is someone bigger than us. That someone is God our Father. Our Father's love for us is so great that he wants to share with us little treasures during our day. We just have to be childlike enough to stop and notice.

As we enter a new year and make our resolutions to live more fully, let's consider cultivating a childlike heart.

Emily Macke serves as Theology of the Body Education Coordinator at Ruah Woods in Cincinnati. She blogs at unshakeablehope.blogspot.com.



IN EXILE



Emily Bissonnette Macke

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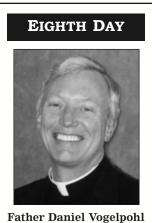
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COMMENTARY

You can't remain a child forever

The readings for the Baptism of the Lord — Cycle "C" are: Isaiah 42:1–4,6–7; Acts 10:34–38; and Luke 3:15–16, 21–22.

There comes a time when every child must grow up. Since Christmas Eve we as a Church have focused on the child/infant Jesus. With this Sunday's celebration of the Baptism of the Lord we leave behind the



Messenger

child Jesus and the Christmas season.

We witness in today's Gospel his own leaving behind his former way of life to embrace more fully the mission to which he has been called by the Father. In all four of the Gospels, the public ministry of Jesus begins with his baptism in the Jordan by John. It is the decisive event that separates the so-called "hidden life" of the child Jesus from his adult public ministry that will

lead to his eventual death and resurrection.

Today's Gospel relates none of the details of Jesus' baptism. It only recounts what happened after the event. The events of the Father's plan of salvation are, through the working of the Spirit, going to take shape in the life and ministry of Jesus. "When all the people were baptized, and Jesus was at prayer after likewise being baptized, the skies opened and the Holy Spirit descended on him in visible form like a dove." A voice from heaven was heard to say, 'You are my beloved Son. On you my favor rests.""

Peter, in today's reading from the Acts of the Apostles, describes these same events. "I take it you know what has been reported all over Judea about Jesus of Nazareth, beginning in Galilee with the baptism John preached; of the way God anointed him with the Holy Spirit and power."

It is no longer the child Jesus, but the mature Christ, empowered with the Holy Spirit by his Father, who now begins to live his vocation, the work of salvation. Jesus is our model in leaving behind our Christian childhood and moving on to accept more responsibility in our vocation, our role in God's plan for salvation.

As in the case of Jesus, our vocation too is rooted in baptism. We too are empowered by the Spirit in our Christian initiation — that same Spirit described by Peter in today's second reading that enabled Jesus when he "went about doing good works and healing all who were in the grip of the devil."

The Church today challenges us to reflect on our own baptism and the fact that it has called us to that same sort of ministry to which Christ's called him. The Prayer after Communion of today's liturgy reminds all Christians that their baptism not only gives them light and God's favor, but also empowers them "to be [God's] children in name and in truth."

In today's first reading Isaiah spoke of God's servant. Isaiah often spoke of the whole nation of Israel as "the servant" of God. Later, Isaiah's various prophecies about this servant came to be applied to Christ. That is why today's Gospel quotes from the first reading when we hear the voice of the Father say, "This is my beloved son. My favor rests on him."

We who are baptized in Christ are also the "servant" of God. The words of the first reading apply as much to us as they did to Israel and to Jesus: "I, the Lord have called you for the victory of justice, I have grasped you by the hand; I formed you and set you as a covenant of the people, a light for the nations, to open the eyes of the blind, to bring out prisoners from confinement, and from the dungeon, those who live in darkness."

Reflections on the Year of Faith

Catholic Charities' presence in the community as a ministry of the Diocese of Covington is an encounter between our faith and the people we serve. The hospi-

tality shown, from the first moment a person or family walks through our doors through the completion of the service we provide, witnesses to the love of God and love of neighbor rooted in our faith. Though we don't necessarily use theological language the presence of Jesus and his message permeate all our endeavors.

The early disciples witnessed each day to the encounter with Jesus that changed their lives. This daily contact empowered them to go share the Gospel, the "Good News" of God's abundant life and salvation. Their faith challenged and comforted them in their encounters with others. They "called the church together and reported what God had done with them

and how he had opened the door of faith." (Acts 14:27) We at Catholic Charities know our mission to be Gospel and especially good news to the poor.

This passage from Acts opens Pope Benedict XVI's Apostolic Letter "Porta Fidei," which calls the Church to a Year of Faith that commenced Oct. 11, 2012 and concludes on Nov. 24, 2013. The Holy Father reminds us that as Jesus opened the doors of faith to the newly formed Church, so too today, God has "opened the door of faith for each one of us and invites us to step

through the threshold into a deeper relationship with ..." Jesus. We, like the disciples, are called upon to be witnesses to our faith. That witness, that faith, infuses our work in Catholic Charities.

Why should we in Catholic Charities be interested in this Year of Faith? The Church's deepest nature is expressed in her three-fold responsibility: proclaiming the word of God, celebrating the sacraments and exercising the ministry of charity. These duties are inseparable. "For the Church, charity is not a kind of welfare

In this age of ruthless bottom-line efficiency, of a libertarian ethos that celebrates the strong individual and scorns the weak, there is a need to recover the Catholic sensibility of communio.

We are not alone, nor are we meant to be alone. Instead, we are called to support and sustain one another. In the Acts of the Apostles, we are introduced

to this sense of communio in the early Christian community, and we see it in its more radical forms today in monastic communities and some ecclesial movements.

Perhaps Newtown, Conn., will serve as a reminder that we as a community are called to stand with those who are hurting, those who are grieving, those who have no voice.

Out of the darkness that descended on America at 9:30 in the morning on Dec. 14, we have seen signs of communio in action. The tremendous outpouring of solidarity for the victims and the families of Newtown is as heartening as the massacre itself was devastating.

People streamed into town to offer consolation, song and support. Gifts of food and money were sent by total strangers. With all of the distractions of fiscal cliffs and Christmas preparations, we still felt the need to express our solidarity, our communion, with the people of Newtown.

This manifestation of communio is the hint of what we need going forward. While much of the discussion right now is focused on specific pieces of legis lation — more gun control or more funding for mental health programs — the larger issue is individual isolation and the lack of concern for the other that ultimately are symptoms of the culture of death. As Blessed John Paul II wrote in "Evangelium Vitae" ("The Gospel of Life"): "This reality is characterized by the emergence of a culture which denies

activity which could equally be left to others, but is a part of its nature, an indispensable expression of its being." ("Deus Caritas Est," 25 a.) When Catholics and

other Christians experience Christ in word and sacrament, they are empowered to go forth to love and serve the Lord. The experience of Christ infuses a divine spark which burns for charity. As organized practitioners of the Church's "deepest nature," we at Catholic Charities are fully engaged in the Church and community providing many opportunities for fellow Christians to live out their faith commitments in the world.

In Pope Benedict's apostolic letter announcing this Year of Faith he writes: "The Year of Faith will also be a good opportunity to intensify the witness of charity." As St. Paul reminds us: "So faith, hope, love abide, these three;

but the greatest of these is love." (1 Cor 13:13) With even stronger words, which have always placed Christians under obligation, St. James said: "... faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead ..."(Jas 2:14-18)

"As you did it to one of the least of these my brethren, you did it to me." (Mt 25:40) It is faith that enables us to recognize Christ and it is his love that impels us to assist him whenever he becomes our neighbor along the journey of life. "Supported by faith, let us look with hope at our commitment in the world, as we await 'new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells." (2 Pet 3:13; cf. Rev 21:1).

As a faith-filled people, we are commissioned to witness to the rich traditions of our faith. Take the opportunity of this Year of Faith and of this time of Epiphany to proclaim your encounter with the Lord. God will continue to richly bless you, your family and your neighbor.

William R. (Bill) Jones is the executive director for Catholic Charities-Diocese of Covington.

We are not alone

solidarity and in many cases takes the form of a veritable 'culture of death.' This culture is actively fostered by powerful cultural, economic and political currents which encourage an idea of society excessively concerned with efficiency. Looking at the situation from this point of view, it is possible to speak in a certain sense of a war of the powerful against the weak: a

life which would require greater acceptance, love and care is considered useless, or held to be an intolerable burden, and is therefore rejected in one way or another."

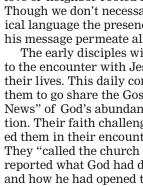
Considering what is best for society, what benefits those who are weakest or most troubled, and most of all, to live in solidarity with others, this is ultimately what the culture of life, in fact the Gospel of life, calls us to.

There was a time when this sense of community was reflexive. Parents looked out for other families' kids. But for many years, we have been a society that has been splintering. People don't want to get involved.

Perhaps Newtown will serve as a reminder that we as a community are called to something more. We are called to be in solidarity with the weakest and most troubled among us, to stand with those who are hurting, those who are grieving, those who have no voice.

We may never be able to fully answer the question why this horror happened. What is most important, however, is that we realize that resisting the culture of death is a task each one of us is called to, and each one if us is capable of.







We, like Christ, must answer the Father's call. Father Daniel Vogelpohl is pastor of Blessed Sacrament Church, Ft. Mitchell.

This editorial was written by the editorial board of Our Sunday Visitor, a national Catholic newsweekly based in Huntington, Ind., and has been provided by Catholic News Service. The views or positions presented in this or any guest editorial are those of the individual publication and do not necessarily represent the views of Catholic News Service or of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops.

2012 — A year in the life of the diocese

As reported in the *Messenger*, how the local Church lived its faith in the last year

Items are listed in the month they occurred; in a number of cases, the news appeared in the *Messenger* the following month.

January

Bishop Roger Foys proclaims a Year of Women Religious, from Feb. 25, 2012 to Feb. 2, 2013, to honor women religious and express gratitude for the decades of contributions to the diocese; "Each successive Bishop, including myself, has relied on these Sisters and Sisters from many other congregations to assist in answering the needs of the Diocese of Covington," Bishop Foys says. "I look forward with great anticipation to this Year of Women Religious and ask you to join



me in praying for and thanking those who work so selflessly for our needs as the bridesmaids of Jesus Christ."

For the fourth year, Bishop Foys has called for a Day of Prayer and Penance in the diocese to coincide with the annual March for Life in Washington, D.C., on the 39th anniversary of the infamous Roe v. Wade Supreme Court decision; the March draws about 1000 teens and adults from the diocese, who join with hundreds of thousands of other marchers from across the country.

The finance office of the Diocese of Covington publishes in the *Messenger* its annual financial report for fiscal year ending June 30, 2011.

Bishop Foys presides at an ecumenical prayer service marking the Martin Luther King, Jr. national holiday.

Bishop Foys institutes 29 men into the Ministry of Acolyte, including eight from the Diocese of Covington (a ninth will participate in a similar ceremony later in the year); the men, students at the Athenaeum in Cincinnati, are aspirants for the permanent diaconate.

At the annual Catholic Schools Mass celebrated by Bishop Foys, three educators are named "Teachers of the Year" by the diocesan Association of Elementary School Administrators; Patricia Reams (St. Anthony School, Taylor Mill); Dave Schlachter (St. Catherine School, Ft. Thomas); and Carol Simon (Prince of Peace School, Covington) are honored.

The diocesan Young Adult Advisory Board, assisted by the diocesan Department of Catechesis and Formation, hosts its first faith and social gathering at St. Barbara Parish, Erlanger.

February

In a front-page letter in the *Messenger*, Bishop Foys decries the mandate of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services that religious-affiliated institutions provide contraceptive coverage in employee health insurance plans.

Shortly thereafter, Kentucky's four bishops issue a statement protesting the HHS mandate, based on the mandate's inherent violation of the religious freedom

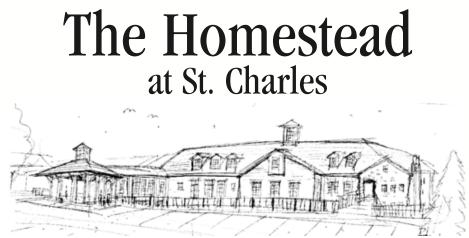


January —Pope Benedict XVI greeted Bishop Roger Foys during the bishop's "ad limina" visit to Rome beginning in late January.

clause of the First Amendment; similarly, the U.S. Catholic Bishops issue a statement on behalf of all bishops.

Thomas More College announces an increase in its tuition guarantee program called "Parochial Promise" to \$11,000, available to unconditionally admitted gradu-

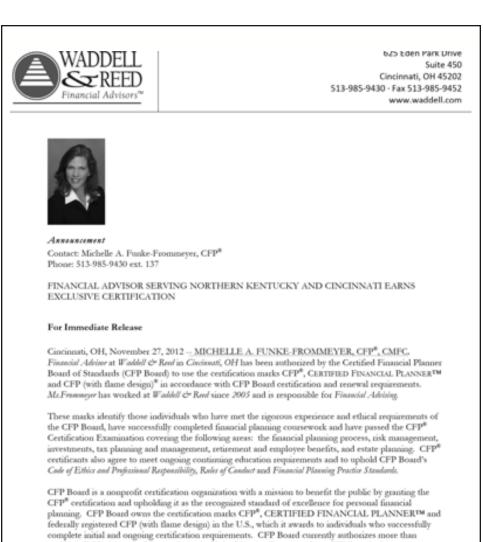
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ates from Catholic high schools in the diocese.

Planning begins by the Department of Catechesis and Formation for the next World Youth Day, in July 2013 in Rio Janeiro, Brazil.

At their quarterly day of prayer and education Bishop Foys and the priests of the diocese welcome the leaders of women religious orders serving in the diocese who, in anticipation of the beginning of the Year of Women Religious, each described her order's charism, history, spiritual and liturgical life and apostolic works and ministries.

A first-time participant in this year's Catholics@TheCapitol event, sponsored by the Catholic Conference of Kentucky, describes her impressions of the session held in Frankfort; Faye Roch, director of the diocesan Pro-Life Office, learns of the Catholic viewpoint on proposed legislation before the Kentucky General Assembly.

Bishop Foys officially inaugurates the Year of Women Religious with a Mass in the Cathedral.

Candidates and catechumens are presented to Bishop Foys in ceremonies in the Cathedral; they will enter the Church (or in the case of candidates, enter into full communion) in ceremonies at their parishes in April, at the Easter Vigil.

March

Violent storms tear through counties in the Diocese of Covington March 2, causing dramatic damage to one parish (Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary in Morningview) and widespread damage to other parishioners' homes and property, especially in southern Campbell and Kenton counties; Bishop Foys establishes the 2012 Storm Relief Fund to gather funds to help those affected with short- and long-term needs.

Knights from the diocese's 14 Knights of Columbus councils make their annual donations to Bishop Foys to assist each seminarian with his personal needs.

Bishop Foys meets with pastors, deacons, parochial

Deaths

Father Robert Vater — March 6
Deacon James Sweigart — March 30
Deacon Joseph Cleves — April 16 Msgr. Ralph Beiting — Aug. 9 Father Leroy Smith — Oct. 11 Deacon David Flynn — Nov. 25

administrators and parish life collaborators of the parishes and missions who will be leading the census effort in the remaining 11 counties of the diocese; phase three of the census will begin the fall of 2012. The 2012 Diocesan

Parish Annual Appeal begins with kick-off dinners in Cynthiana and Erlanger; the DPAA, with a goal of \$2.3 million, provides funds to support a wide

variety of diocesan programs, priests' retirement and charitable efforts.

A special report in the *Messenger* features details, interviews and photos of Bishop Foys' "ad limina" visit to Rome last month; Bishop Foys and other bishops from the U.S. formally report to the pope and Vatican officials on Catholic life in their (arch)dioceses.

In collaboration with other Bishops in the U.S., Bishop Foys designates Good Friday (April 6) and every subsequent Friday as special days of prayer and penance as reminders to parishioners and citizens of the importance of religious freedom in the American way of life.

In an annual event Bishop Foys presents awards to dozens of Scouts (Boy, Girl, Cub, Brownie) and American Heritage Girls; the religious emblems and citations are awarded by the diocesan Catholic Committee on Scouting. A special award, the Quality Diocese Award, given by the Boy Scouts of America's National Catholic Committee on Scouting, was presented to Bishop Foys on behalf of the Diocese of

April

April marks the 10th anniversary of the U.S. Bishops' "Charter for the Protection of Youth and Young People" detailing steps to create a safe environment for all in the care of Church employees and volunteers; in Covington more than 16,000 priests, deacons, men and women religious, employees, teachers, volunteers and community members have been trained in the diocese's VIRTUS safe environment program.

Three school teachers in the diocese are awarded "Golden Apples" at the 2012 Excellence in Education Conference; they are Elaine Goetz (St. Augustine School, Covington); Notre Dame Sister Ethel Parrott (Notre Dame Academy); and Janet Schmidt (St. Augustine and Holy Family schools, Covington).

The U.S. Bishops release a new statement on reli-

gious liberty titled "Our First, Most Cherished Liberty"; it calls for a special period in June, a "Fortnight for Freedom," for prayer, study, catechesis and public action in response to the HHS mandate requiring all employers, including many Church institutions such as hospitals and colleges, to include contraceptive medicines and services in their employee health insurance plans.

Prince of Peace School, Covington, an ACUE school, takes first place in Division 1 of the Odyssey of the Mind state tournament; the six-member team will progress to the World Finals in May.

St. Joseph School, Cold Spring, receives an award at the National Catholic Educational Association convention in Boston; the award, sponsored by Today's (Continued on part page)

(Continued on next page)



 or most, having a will and other estate planning documents is a chore which no one enjoys.
 Once completed, there is a feeling of great satisfaction in completing the arduous task. And then, the documents are placed in a special place for safe keeping and soon forgotten.

When should you review your estate plan?

I am often asked this question. The technical response would be whenever personal situations change, assets change substantially in nature or value, or when there is a significant change in applicable laws. However, many people lack the tools to judge whether such changes actually warrant a revision of documents. So my normal suggestion is to pull out the documents annually at tax time and think about them in light of what has changed in terms of beneficiaries, named executors or guardians, assets, life insurance and other beneficiary designated assets.

Is your plan up to date with tax law changes?

If it has been more than a few years since you reviewed your estate plan, you ought to do so now in light of federal estate tax law changes. Perhaps your estate plan documents were originally drafted to take advantage of the \$1 million federal estate tax exemption. Since the exemption is now \$5 million (\$10 million for married couples), the formula in your will or trust may be totally inappropriate.

Will Washington balance the budget on your estate plan's back?

The campaign to reduce our national deficit puts significant pressure on Congress to find additional revenue sources, which could very well end up reducing the federal estate tax exemption, scheduled to expire on December 31, 2012. Such pressure may also negatively impact the current gift and generation tax exemptions and exclusions. Accordingly, you may want to review your situation now to try to take advantage of the current exemptions before they are eliminated.

Is there more you need to know? Call DBL.



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Covington.

Bishop Foys ordains five seminarians to the Order of (Transitional) Deacon in ceremonies at the Cathedral; the five — Allan Frederick, Michael Hennigen, Michael Norton, Luis Leon and Jacob Straub — are scheduled to be ordained to the priesthood in the spring of 2013. (A sixth seminarian, Ryan Stenger, is ordained in June.) Cincinnati • 513.241.4110 subscribe at dbilaw.com/blog

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(Continued from previous page)

Catholic Teacher magazine and named the Catholic Schools for Tomorrow Award for Innovation in Curriculum and Instruction, recognizes the school's Book of the Month program.

The new Corporate Appeal in support of the elementary schools in the Alliance for Catholic Urban Education celebrates a very successful inaugural effort, having raised \$58,000.

The Diocese of Covington hosts the national convention of the Conference for Catholic Facility Management; representatives of 125 (arch)dioceses and religious organizations meet in Covington to discuss their service to the Church in real estate, construction and facility management. Bishop Foys is the organization's episcopal moderator.

David Maher announces his retirement from Catholic education after 45 years as teacher and administrator, effective at the end of this school year; for the last 27 years he has served as principal of St. Paul School, Florence.

Bishop Foys blesses and dedicates a new multi-purpose building at the Diocesan Catholic Children's Home, Ft. Mitchell; the structure, the first element of a \$3.8 million construction and renovation project, features a gym, classrooms, offices, welcome center and space for the agency's new outpatient program.



March — Violent storms tear through counties in the Diocese of Covington, causing dramatic damage to the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish in Morningview.

May

More than \$208,000 has been collected for the 2012 Storm Relief Fund established by Bishop Foys in March to assist individuals and families impacted by the storms and tornadoes that ravaged large parts of the diocese; the diocesan Finance Office makes the announcement.

The Office of Catechesis and Formation hosts the annual Catechetical Reception and honors veteran catechists and teachers for their contributions; recognized are Michelle Alley, Andrew Barczak, Jay Buckley, Mary Easterling, Divine Providence Sister Dolores Gohs, Jennifer Ledonne, David Maher and Terese Meeks.

Bishop Foys announces details of the local observance of the Fortnight for Freedom, an effort called for by the U.S. Bishops to bring attention to the federal government's mandate that Church-sponsored agencies, such as hospitals and colleges, offer health insurance coverage for birth control drugs, sterilization and abortion services to their employees.

The Catholic Theatre United group, a collaboration of theater departments in high schools in the diocese,

completes its inaugural season with an end-of-year showcase at which favorite scenes and musical selections from this school year's high school drama productions are performed.

Bishop Foys approves a proposed expansion project to benefit Bishop Brossart High School; with the approval, the Alexandria high school will begin the public phase of fundraising. Groundbreaking is anticipated in the spring of 2013.

June

Bishop Foys presides at an annual event, the Alliance for Catholic Urban Education Awards and Recognition Dinner; recognized are outstanding volunteers at the six ACUE elementary schools as well as eighth-grade students receiving scholarships to continue their education in a Catholic high school.

The Faith Community Pharmacy (formerly known as St. Vincent de Paul Community Pharmacy) celebrates its 10th anniversary, with Bishop Foys presiding at a blessing and dedication of remodeled space.

For the seventh year the diocesan Pro-Life Office sponsors a "Cross the Bridge for Life," a peaceful procession across the Purple People Bridge between Newport and Cincinnati; the procession is led by Bishop Foys, priests and seminarians.

Bishop Foys ordains Deacon John Michniuk to the priesthood to serve the Diocese of Covington; "I know that Father Michniuk will be a fine priest, dedicated to his ministry and his ordination vows," Bishop Foys says at the ceremony.

Seminarian Ryan Stenger is ordained by Bishop Foys to the order of deacon; he joins five other seminar-



ians ordained in March.

A panel of speakers, analyzing the religious liberty issue from practical, theological and legal perspectives, addresses an audience of 600 at a special conference sponsored by Bishop Foys and the Diocese of Covington; the conference coincides with the start of the "Fortnight for Freedom" called for by the U.S. Bishops in response to the federal Health and Human Services ruling requiring contraceptive medicines and services be included in employee health insurance plans.

Father Mario Tizziani, pastor of St. Cecilia Parish, Independence, is named the 2011-2012 Knights of Columbus State Council Chaplain of the Year for the Diocese of Covington.

July

A number of parishes throughout the diocese hold prayer services, information sessions and other events to participate in the "Fortnight for Freedom" nationwide observation, encouraging people to "pray, learn and act" in response to the HHS contraceptive insur-

ance mandate.

Bishop Foys announces that the proceeds of this year's Mission Co-op Collection will stay in the diocese's designated "mission area," urban areas in the diocese; the collection will assist the six elementary schools in the diocesan-sponsored Alliance for Catholic Urban Education.

A *Messenger* special edition celebrates Bishop Foys' 10th anniversary as Bishop of Covington; "I thank God for the

many, many graces He has bestowed on me throughout my life, but on this occasion, especially in these last 10 years," Bishop Foys writes in a letter in the special edition. "These years have been years of challenge, growth and grace for me. To all those who, in any way, have walked this road with me, thank you from the bottom of my heart."

Benedictine Sister Dorothy Schuette is honored for her years of ministry to the incarcerated and their families with the Kentucky Department of Corrections' Lucille Hurt Roebuck Award; Sister Dorothy was appointed by Bishop Foys to lead the diocesan jail ministry program.

The Serra Club hosts a picnic for sisters serving the Diocese of Covington in observing the Year for Women Religious called for by Bishop Foys.

August

Help for those affected by the March tornadoes continues; almost \$225,000 has been donated so far to the 2012 Tornado Relief Fund, with funds dispersed by a special committee chaired by Msgr. Michael Due, vicar general.

Bishop Foys announces that the Diocese of Covington will purchase St. Anne Convent from the Congregation of Divine Providence and use the facilities and grounds in Melbourne as the site of the diocesan retreat program.

Two Sisters of Notre Dame, Sister Maria Christina Hennig and Sister Mary Judie Lambert, profess their final vows.

In ceremonies in the Cathedral Bishop Foys accepts the candidacy of four of the diocese's 28 seminarians as the four enter the next stage of their preparation, formal admittance to the study of theology; the seminarians are Jason Bertke, Ross Kelsch, Thomas Picchioni and James Schaeper.

Covington Catholic High School establishes a scholarship fund in honor of Bishop Foys on his 10th anniversary, with proceeds to help a needy student meet tuition costs; school officials and the Student Senate also unveil a granite marker to be installed near the Grotto of the Blessed Mother with an inscription thanking Bishop Foys for his support of Covington Catholic and all Catholic education in the diocese.

Pastors installed by Bishop Foys

Father Joseph Gallenstein, St. Mary Parish, Alexandria — July

Father James Egbers, St. Paul Parish, Florence — July

Father Michael Comer, St. Patrick Parish, Maysville, and St. James Mission, Brookville — September

Holy Land: Apr. 1-11, Apr. 8-18, Apr. 15-25, Apr. 22-May 2	
Holy Land/Italy: Apr. 1-14, Apr. 8-21, Apr. 15-28, Apr. 22-May 5	
Italy South: Apr. 27-May 9, May 4-16, May 11-23, May 18-30	
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Service grants to 45 schools, parishes and agencies in the diocese are announced; the annual grants are funded by a portion of the proceeds from the 2012 Diocesan Parish Annual Appeal.

The diocesan Pro-Life Office invites the Pro-Life Ambassadors to the Curia for a back-to-school Mass celebrated by Bishop Foys; the 29 ambassadors represent

high schools in Northern Kentucky and three parish youth groups.

September

In its most recent report the diocesan Stewardship and Mission Office reports that donors have contributed 33,019,936 to this year's DPAA, more than \$700,000 above the goal of \$2.3 million.

In the annual National Blue Ribbon Schools program, two of the six private schools in the nation honored this year call the Diocese of Covington home; Notre Dame Academy, Park Hills, and St. Henry District High School, Erlanger, are "Exemplary High named Performing Schools" by the U.S. Department of Education.

Parishes and missions in the 11 remaining counties in the diocese begin their participation in the census.

Bishop Foys leads preparation for Year 6 of Synod implementation (July 2013-June 2014); he reminds Curia directors and staff that Synod goals should take direction from the designation by Pope Benedict XVI of a "Year of Faith."

The diocesan Vocations Office and the Office of Catechesis and Formation host events for high school students featuring Steve Angrisano, a prayer-filled, energizing musician; a youth rally open to the public and a session for high school juniors at St. Henry District High School attract more than 1100 teens.

At the second "Life's a Ball!" celebration, Bishop Foys and Faye Roch, director of the diocesan Pro-Life Office, announce the recipients of this year's Face of Pro-Life awards, six people who have devoted many hours over the years to the "Cemetery of Innocents" display of 4000 white crosses; recognized are Larry and Kay Sendelbach, Dick and Jean Von Handorf, Mary Wigger and Marvin Wigger (posthumously).

Bishop Foys announces that Laura Keener, assistant editor of the Messenger for the past 13 years, will become editor as of Jan. 1; the current editor, Tim Fitzgerald, will retire from full-time work and has been appointed as part-time director of communications for the Diocese of Covington.



Bishop Foys presides at ceremonies at the Cathedral in which he invests 50 Knights of St. John International with the Noble Degree, the highest level attainable; three of the Knights are members of the Diocese of Covington. Bishop Foys is himself

Jubilee priests 2012 Father Charles Rooks — 60th Father David Gamm — 40th Father Thomas Barnes — 25th Msgr. Donald Enzweiler — 25th Father William Hinds — 25th

Retired

Msgr. Thomas Sacksteder after 40 years' service

presented with a Knight of the Noble Degree honor. For the first time, Thomas More College, the diocesan Department of

Schools and the principals of the nine high schools in the diocese award the Thomas More College-Diocesan Excellence in Teaching Award to five teachers at five high schools (the other four high schools will participate in 2013); the award celebrates "teachers whose examples inspire other teachers within the diocese to excel in the education profession." Awardees are: Bishop Brossart High School, James May; Covington Catholic High School,

Jack Kaelin; Covington Latin School, Dennis Whitehead; Holy Cross District High School, Douglas Graham; and Newport Central Catholic High School, William Morgan.

Bishop Foys and the Diocese of Covington host this year's Greater Cincinnati Red Mass, a Mass of the Holy Spirit praying for courage and guidance for judges, lawyers, law enforcement officials and others responsible for the ethical administration of justice.

Michael Clines, superintendent for Catholic schools. announces a restructuring, approved by Bishop Foys, of the administration of and fund-raising efforts for the six elementary schools in the Alliance for Catholic Urban Education; ACUE becomes a part of the Department of Catholic Schools; the diocesan Stewardship and Mission Office will oversee ACUE fund-raising efforts; the diocesan Finance Office will set and manage budgets.

October

With Bishop Foys as main celebrant and Father Michael Comer as homilist, the diocese celebrates the annual Pro-Life Mass in the Cathedral; "Human life is sacred not only because it is created by God but also because it is loved by God," Father Comer says in his homily.

Bishop Foys presides at a vespers service at which the permanent deacons serving the diocese reaffirm their promises made to their bishop at ordination.

The president of Thomas More College, Divine Providence Sister Margaret Stallmeyer, announces her decision to retire from her position effective June 30, 2013; President Stallmeyer has served as president of the diocesan college since June 1, 2004.

YOUTH 2000 attracts hundreds of teens, parents and chaperones to its eighth annual Eucharistic retreat at St. Henry District High School.

The women's religious communities in the diocese host open houses in celebration of the Year of Women Religious at their mother house or provincial house; people from across the diocese are invited to come and discover the life, history and ministries of women religious.

During the Year of Faith Thomas More College hosts three rare, fine art Heritage Edition volumns of the St. John's Bible, the first handwritten (using calligraphy), illuminated Bible in more than 500 years.

Bishop Foys presides at Solemn Vespers officially inaugurating the Year of Faith in the Diocese of Covington; Pope Benedict XVI has proclaimed a Year of Faith for the universal Church from Oct. 11, 2012 to Nov. 24, 2013.

Over 350 attend the third annual Seminary Ball; proceeds from the event support the education and formation of the 28 seminarians who are preparing to serve the diocese as priests.



December — Bishop Roger Foys blessed and dedicated the Mary, Seat of Wisdom Chapel on the campus of Thomas More College.

November

The Alliance for Catholic Urban Education announces that Daniel Groneck will serve as general chairperson for ACUE's 2012-13 annual appeal in support of the diocese's six Catholic urban elementary schools.

St. Elizabeth Healthcare announces that it has become the newest member of the Mayo Clinic Care Network, the first such membership arrangement in Greater Cincinnati with the Rochester, Minn.-based medical facility; "This collaboration puts the power and expertise of Mayo Clinic in the hands of the physicians at St. Elizabeth, making it easier for patients with the most complex conditions to get the care they need, close to home," said John Dubis, president and CEO for St. Elizabeth Healthcare.

The diocesan Finance Office releases figures showing that of the \$224,000 donated to the diocesan Tornado Relief Fund, \$179,000 has been distributed so far.

December

Bishop Foys and Msgr. Michael Due, vicar general, welcome current and new members of the Legacy Society to the annual brunch; the 800 members have remembered the diocese, its agencies and institutions in their wills or estate plans.

The Diocese of Covington school system is named to the "Advanced Placement (Test) District Honor Roll," one of only 10 school districts in Kentucky (and the only diocese) to be accorded the honor.

Bishop Foys dedicates new Mary, Seat of Wisdom Chapel on Thomas More College campus; in his homily Bishop Foys says, "This chapel is more than just one building on campus. This chapel is the heart and soul of the campus. It tells us ... that this is a Catholic college."

The Mary Rose Mission in Florence moves one step closer to opening a soup kitchen in Boone County after a blessing and dedication ceremony led by Bishop Foys, with assistance from Father Leo Schmidt, the group's spiritual director.

The chairs for the 2013 DPAA are introduced by Michael Murray, director of the diocesan Stewardship and Missions Office; Andy Von Lehmen is the general chair; Clare Ruehl, the leadership gifts chair. The theme for the 2013 campaign is "Do Not Be Unbelieving But Relieve "

August — St. Anne Convent, Melbourne, and its wing, connected by the chapel (above), is a readymade retreat/conference center that can accommodate up to 150 retreatants at a time

With Bishop Foys concelebrating, Msgr. Christopher Schreck is formally installed as 16th rector of the Pontifical College Josephinum seminary in Columbus, in which 12 of the diocese's 28 seminarians are enrolled; Bishop Foys is the vice chair of the Board of Trustees.

Joy Boothby receives a standing ovation for her 40 years of service to Catholic Charities-Diocese of Covington at the annual Curia Advent service awards luncheon; Bishop Foys recognizes 10 others for their years of service to the people of the diocese.

> — *Compiled by Timothy Fitzgerald,* Diocesan Communications Director

Annual report of the finances of the Diocese of Covington – June 30, 2012

he annual report of the Diocese of Covington is intended to show the financial position and results of operation of the Diocese for the years ended June 30, 2012 and 2011. The financial statements of the Diocese of Covington are audited by the certified public accounting firm of Barnes, Dennig and Co., Ltd. The auditors' report on the financial statements includes an unqualified opinion that the statements fairly present, in all material respects, the financial position of the Diocese of Covington and the related affiliates. An unqualified opinion is the highest level of assurance given by a public accounting firm.

The financial information presented herein includes the Diocese of Covington Curia offices, which are fiscally responsible to and under the direct control of the Bishop of the Diocese. This includes the central administrative offices, program offices and departments of the Diocese, its cemeteries and retreat center, the Diocesan/Parish



My Dear Friends in Christ, Each year at this time it has been our custom to present a financial report of the Diocese to you through our Diocesan newspaper, the Messenger. At

the end of every fiscal year, the finances of the Diocese are audited by an independent public accounting firm. Once again, the auditors have issued an unqualified opinion on the financial statements of the Diocese. This is the highest level of assurance attainable. Once the audit is complete, the financial statements are presented to the Diocesan Finance Council for their review and acceptance. That review and acceptance occurred in October 2012. Accordingly, I am pleased to present to all parishioners of the Diocese the financial statements of the Diocese of Covington as of June 30, 2012.

We are all called to return a portion of that with which God has blessed us. Let us always remember that God will provide for our needs. Jesus taught us to pray to the Father to "give us this day our daily bread," (Luke 11:3) thereby reminding us that our daily needs will be attended to by God. During this "Year of Faith," let us have the faith to continue to share our blessings with Him and each other.

God has blessed, and continues to bless, us abundantly. Everything we have comes from Him, for He is the source and giver of every gift that is good. When we give back to the Lord we give, not to a need, but rather because we have a need to give. Even in these difficult economic times, we have a need to give back some of what the Lord has given us.

As I present this financial report to you, I thank God for His many good gifts and I thank you for sharing those gifts. Your generosity will allow the work of the Church, which is nothing less than the mission Jesus entrusted to His disciples, to continue and flourish. I am likewise grateful to the staff of our Diocesan Finance Office and to the Diocesan Finance Council for their guidance and assistance.

Your prayers, your commitment of time and your financial support will ensure the future vitality of our Church. Be assured of my gratitude and my daily prayers. Please, pray for me.

Yours devotedly in the Lord,



Annual Appeal, seminarian recruitment and education, the care for elderly and infirmed priests, the Diocesanwide secondary school support program, the Alliance for Urban Catholic Education (ACUE) school operations, and the Diocesan-wide self-funded health insurance program. Various religious orders, lay societies and religious

organizations which operate within the Diocese, parishes, parish elementary schools, secondary schools and other related institutions are not included in the accompanying financial information.

Results of Operations

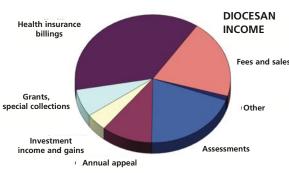
During this past fiscal year, total revenues decreased from the prior year by 3.5 percent – due mainly to reduced investment income. The Diocese's investments posted a net gain of just over \$1.0M for the year, which is 3.2 percent of the total investment value at year-end.

Total expenses decreased slightly, with the largest reduction being associated with employee health insurance costs (down \$500k). All other expense items closely matched the prior year amounts.

Operating Revenue

During the fiscal year ended June 30, 2012 the Diocese received operating revenue from the following sources, which it used to fund its various ministries and services.

444,021	9	sessments
391,791		nual Appeal
573,227		ants and special collections
434,593		alth insurance billings
482,605		s and sales
993,767		estment income/losses
259,727		ner
579,731	\$	Fotal
57	\$	l'otal



— Health insurance billings are premiums the Diocese and its entities charge themselves to fund the self-insured medical fund. This fund pays for the health insurance claims from doctors, hospitals and prescription drugs for Diocesan employees and covered dependents.

— Assessments are comprised of two differing taxes on the parishes of the Diocese. A 6.75 percent tax on the income of parishes provided \$2,558,526 of income to fund the administrative offices of the Diocese. A 5 percent tax on the parishes of Kenton, Campbell, Boone and Mason counties provided \$1,885,495 of support for the secondary and urban schools of the Diocese.

— The Diocesan/Parish Annual Appeal for 2011 (ended on March 31, 2012; adjusted to fiscal year ended June 30, 2012) raised an amount totaling \$3,015,050. Of this amount \$623,258 was returned to parishes for use in the local ministries.

— Investment income is the accumulation of interest, dividends, realized and unrealized gains/(losses) on investments held by the Diocese.

— Grants, special collections and contributions represent: 1) grant monies received which are distributed to Diocesan parishes and missions, 2) the seminary collection used to pay for seminarian education and 3) bequests received by the Diocese. — Fees and sales represent the following for the 2012 fiscal year:

ACUE tuition and fees	\$ 2,451,872
Cemetery fees and sales	882,246
Retreat Center fees and sales	215,087
Newspaper ads and subscriptions	255,180
Education office fees	216,095
Departmental fees and fundraising	462,125
Total Fees and Sales	\$ 4,482,605

Operating Expense

During the fiscal year ended June 30, 2012 the Diocese incurred programmatic costs, grant-making and departmental expenses as follows:

Health insurance claims/administration Program expenses Administration expenses Secondary school grants Grants Priest post-employment benefits	\$ 7,918,327 7,705,546 1,349,297 1,339,999 1,113,592 497,737
Findraising expenses Interest expense Depreciation expense Other expenses	497,737 390,161 380,991 372,356 1,229,471
Total operating expense	\$ 22,297,477

— Health insurance claims and administration are the hospital and doctor bills and the prescription drugs costs for employees and their dependents who receive coverage under the Diocesan self-insured health insurance plan.

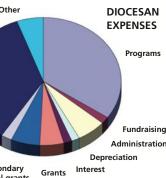
— Program expenses represent expenditures for carrying out the various ministries for the Diocese. These expenses include personnel salaries and benefits as well as direct expenses of the ministry. Program expenses are categorized as follows: Health insurance claims Priest postemployment benefits Secondary school grants

ACUE expenses	\$ 3,350,260
Seminary studies, vocations	
and deacon formation	1,322,653
Cemeteries	967,744
Education and formation	691,370
Messenger	613,194
Marydale Retreat Center	369,532
Properties and residences	228,983
Community and pastoral services	121,387
Other ministries	40,423
Total program expenses	\$ 7,705,546

— Secondary school grants are made to the Diocesan urban and secondary schools for operating, scholarship and capital purposes from the secondary school assessment of parishes.

— Grants are made to various parishes, school and other Diocesan institutions from the Annual Appeal and from other Diocesan revenues as follows:

une 30	2012	2011
Assets	\$ 5,094,223	\$ 3,623,20
Cash and cash equivalents Accrued investment income	5 5,094,223	\$ 3,623,20
Accounts receivable	1,425,235	2,202,07
Contributions receivable	1,653,631	1.606.89
Notes receivable	4,139,142	4,698,91
Cemetery property held for sale	493,174	545,91
Investments	32,629,737	31,043,08
Property and equipment, net	3,630,207	3,201,94
Other assets	674,856	561,35
Total assets	49,751,282	47,493,99
iabilities		
Accounts payable and accrued expenses	1,500,203	1,666,17
Reserve for incurred but not reported health insurance claims	653,612	693,66
Special collections payable	418,339	346,62
Pledges Payable	504,348	604,44
Deposits payable	9,731,026	7,199,69
Notes payable Advances and deferred receipts	3,968,146	4,193,93 2,725.88
Priest postemployment benefit liability	2,457,257 4,080,455	2,725,66
Assets held for others	4,000,455	4,58
Total liabilities	23,317,623	21,342,58
let Assets		
Unrestricted		
Undesignated	2,595,094	2,198,68
Designated for parish and school support	7,879,235	8,214,88
Net investment in property and equipment Legally restricted for cemetery endowed care	3,630,207 2,455,137	3,201,94 2,381,01
Legally restricted for cemetery endowed care Legally restricted by class action settlement	2,455,137 3,254,712	2,381,01
	19,814,385	19,178,88
Temporarily restricted	3,119,594	3,472,84
Permanently restricted	3,499,680	3,499,68
Total net assets	26,433,659	26,151,40
Total liabilities and net assets	\$ 49,751,282	\$ 47,493,99



Priest Retirement Fund
Catholic Charities
Inner city grants
Cathedral operations
Parishes and schools
Holy See
Mission outreach
Thomas More College
Total

\$ 275,000
243,000
224,000
186,989
125,867
22,000
27,660
9,076
\$1,113,592

— Priest post-employment benefits are the actuarially calculated cost of insurance for all retired priests as well as the costs of nursing care and assistance to infirmed priests.

— Administration expenses represent salaries and benefits of Curia office personnel who deliver administrative services as well as direct administrative costs. Administrative expenses are categorized as follows:

Chancery, Tribunal and priests' council	\$ 877,084	
Administrative offices	443,280	
Priest and religious personnel	28,933	
Total administrative expenses	\$ 1,349,297	

Endowed Funds

At June 30, 2012 the Diocese holds net assets, which are endowed. For these assets, only the income may be used for the intended purpose of the endowment, the principal may not be expended. Endowed funds are classified for the following purposes:

Educational Cathedral maintenance
Diocesan Annual Appeal programs
Social concerns ACUE
Total endowed funds

\$ 2,485,216 942,386 52,504 16,374 3,200

\$ 3,499,680

Designated Funds

At June 30, 2012 the Diocese holds net assets, which are designated for specific purposes. These assets are to be used for the intended purpose of the designation. Designated funds are classified for the following purposes:

-	
Health insurance claims	\$ 4,459,754
Offertory Program	1,492,838
Secondary schools	1,409,879
Parish and school loans	373,049
Inner city needs	139,813
Annuity funds	3,795
Other	107
Total designated funds	\$ 7,879,235

Special Collections

The people of the Diocese of Covington have been extremely generous with their support of various agencies and relief efforts in our country and around the world. The following table is a listing of these Special Collections.

Storm Relief Fund (Spring 2012)	\$ 224,217
International and domestic needs	179,072
Religious Retirement	141,135
Support of missionaries (Mission Co-op)	95,828
African Drought	63,910
Holy Father collection for worldwide	
charities (Peter's Pence)	45,613
Statewide pregnancy counseling	
(Opportunities for Life)	41,522
Other special collections	4,368
Total special collections	\$ 795,665

Dale Henson, CPA Chief Financial Officer, Diocese of Covington

Roman Catholic Diocese of Covington CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

	2012			2011	
Year Ended June 30	Unrestricted	Temporarily Restricted	Permanently Restricted	Total	Total
Revenues, Gains and Other Support					
Parish assessments	\$ 4,444,021			\$ 4,444,021	\$ 4,384,883
Diccesan annual appeal	+ .,, .	2,391,791		2,391,791	2,194,716
Dividends and interest	800.049	49,774		849,823	793,571
Grants & special collections	58,762	222,906		281,668	365,772
Realized gains/(losses) on investments	69.877	33,376		103,253	(91,003
Unrealized gains/(losses) on investments	88,250	(47,559)		40,691	1,533,924
Contributions and beguests	984,930	306,629		1,291,559	1,360,513
Self-insurance premium retention	256,477			256,477	261,585
Fees and sales	4,482,605			4,482,605	4,407,795
Health insurance billings	8,434,593			8,434,593	8,175,117
Other	3,250			3,250	22,266
Net assets released from restrictions	3,310,164	(3,310,164)		-	
Total revenue, gains and other support	22,932,977	(353,247)	-	22,579,731	23,409,139
xpenses					
Programs	7,705,546			7,705,546	7,655,633
Fundraising	390,161			390,161	371,258
Management and general:					
Episcopal administration	1.349.297			1.349.297	1.288.922
Settlements, legal fees and counseling					
related to sexual abuse	35.694			35.694	17.297
Grants & special collections	1,113,592			1,113,592	1,138,434
Interest	380.992			380,992	307,972
Priest postemployment benefits paid	497,737			497,737	592.854
Depreciation	372,355			372,355	360.041
Secondary school grants	1,339,999			1.339.999	1,578,493
Health insurance claims/administration	7,918,328			7,918,328	8,442,668
Contributions and assessments	327,042			327.042	142,982
Other	866,734			866,734	511,521
Total Expenses	22,297,477			22,297,477	22,408,075
hange in Net Assets	635,501	(353,247)	-	282,254	1,001,064
let Assets, Beginning of Year	19,178,884	3,472,841	3,499,680	26,151,405	25,150,341

Roman Catholic Diocese of Covington STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

	2012	2011
Operating Activities		
Change in net assets	\$ 282,254	\$ 1,001,064
Items not requiring (providing) operating activities cash flows		
Bad debt expense	212,950	69,747
Depreciation	372,355	360,041
Realized (gain)/loss on investments	(103,253)	91,003
Unrealized (gain)/loss on investments	(40,691)	
(Gain)/loss on sale of property and equipment	(664)	
Interest credited directly to deposits	153.784	75.392
Changes in:	100,101	10,004
Accrued investment income	(477)	3.360
Accounts and contributions receivable	517,159	51,153
Cemetery property held for sale	52.740	81.921
Other assets	(113,500)	
Accounts and collections payable and reserves	(290,106)	
Reserve for incurred but not reported benefit claims	(40,049)	45,740
Net cash provided by operating activities	1,002,502	537,048
nvesting Activities		
Purchases of property and equipment	(827,456)	(314,581
Proceeds from disposition of property and equipment	27,500	23,500
Purchases of investments	(4.350,488)	
Sales and maturities of investments	2,907,781	777,112
Payments received on loans	598,664	381,552
Funds disbursed for new loans	566,004	(330,549
Funds withdrawn from Diocesan custody	(347)	(39,660
Net cash used by investing activities	(1,644,346)	(3,274,393
Not coal and by interesting accurate	(1,011,010)	[0,214,000
inancing Activities		
New deposits received	4,119,316	3,789,686
Withdrawals of deposits	(1,741,772)	(1,169,904
Payments on loans	(264,684)	(253,977
Net cash provided by financing activities	2,112,860	2,365,805
let Increase/(Decrease) in Cash and Cash Equivalents	1,471,016	(371,540
Cash and Cash Equivalents, Beginning of Year	3,623,207	3,994,747
Asir and Gash Equivalents, Deginning of Year		\$ 3,623,207

See notes to consolidated financial statements



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Newsworthy

Happy birthday to **Father Niby Kannai, C.M.I.**, parochial vicar, St. Henry Parish, Elsmere, Jan. 20; **Deacon Timothy Britt**, St. Mary Parish, Alexandria, Jan. 23; **Father Joseph Gallenstein**, pastor, St. Mary Parish, Alexandria, Jan. 23; and **Father Raymond Hartman**, pastor, Mother of God Parish, Covington, Jan. 23.

Forensic Team Members at Villa Madonna Academy came in first, second and third in the Public Forum Debate category in the "Before the Blizzard" tournament at Boone County High School. Seniors **Molly Stoddart** and **Megan Barton** captured first place; sophomores **Nick Boucher** and **Monica Spritzky** placed second; and **Maddie Clabough** (senior) and **Mary Wurtz** (freshman) placed third.

Covington Catholic High School and Catholic education supporters Gerald and Andrea Hardcorn have established a scholarship at Covington Catholic for tuition assistance. The scholarship was announced at an all-school Mass on Dec. 18, 2012. Jerry Hardcorn is a 1962 graduate of Covington Catholic.

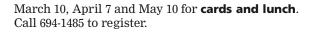
TV Mass. The cathedral's 5:30 p.m. Mass will be shown on ICN 6 on analog channel 99; digital channel 422.

Catholic Charities needs volunteers: Receptionist full-time and substitute receptionists; Pre-Service, varying shifts open throughout the week, collecting money and inputing data for new clients; and Office Support, including filing, data input, record retention and other various duties. Call Lauren Young at 581-8974, ext: 136, or e-mail lyoung@covingtoncharities.org.

St. Elizabeth is seeking a group of community volunteers to serve on its first-ever **patient advisory board**. Preferably, the board will consist of former patients and family members during the past two years who are willing to talk about their most recent encounter with the healthcare system. The advisory board will meet in the evening at least six times a year (every other month). Dinner will be provided. Individuals willing to make a 12-month commitment and attend the meetings are welcome to apply. All meetings will be held in Edgewood. Visit www.stelizabeth.com/patientadvisoryboard.

The Catholic Charismatic Community of Northern Kentucky invites you to join us each third Tuesday of the month at St. Joseph Heights, Park Hills, for a **Bible teaching and/or a witness**. Meetings are 7:15–9 p.m. at the Sisters of Notre Dame Provincial House (please enter through the rear of the building). Call 341-5339.

Attention all card players — join St. Catherine of Siena Seniors at 12:30 p.m. in the St. Catherine of Siena Parish Church Hall, 12:30 p.m. Jan. 13, Feb. 17,



Financial Peace University, a nine-week video curriculum taught by financial expert Dave Ramsey, is returning to St. Joseph Parish, Crescent Springs, Jan. 15. Call 409-0020 or e-mail tony.aloise@hotmail.com to sign up or preview at www.daveramsey.com/fpu/preview/.

Catholics@theCapitol, Jan. 19, 9:30 a.m.-1 p.m. at Blessed Sacrament Parish Hall, Ft. Mitchell. Father Patrick Delahanty, executive director for the Catholic Conference of Kentucky (CCK), will describe the mission and workings of the Catholic Conference as well as principles of Catholic social teaching as they relate to the formation of conscience in the areas of human life, the common good, social justice and solidarity. Northern Kentucky state senators and representatives have been invited and will have an opportunity to respond to the following issues: immigration reform, human trafficking, tax reform, and informed consent and ultrasounds for women considering abortions. Register by Jan. 15. Contact Vicky Bauerle, Catholic Charities, at 581-8974 or vbauerle@covingtoncharities.org or visit www.covingtoncharities.org.

Youth participating in January **Together As One** (TAO) event will attend the Martin Luther King, Jr. Prayer Service, Jan. 20, 7:30 p.m. at the Cathedral Basilica of the Assumption, Covington. For information call 392-1533.

Newport Central Catholic High School will host its annual **"stag"** Jan. 20 in the NCC gymnasium. This major fundraiser supports all extra-curricular student activities. Doors open at 1 p.m., with the stag running from 2–6 p.m. Admission \$20.

Enjoy Chef Brian's homemade dessert and let Beth Steel, certified senior advisor and owner of First Light Home Care, educate you on the **physiological changes of aging**, Jan. 23, 6:30 p.m. at Madonna Manor, Villa Hills. Topics include common changes of aging (hearing, sight, taste, smell, skin, sleep, muscles/bones, cognitive change, sexual changes, etc.); the difference between aging and disease; and communication strategies. RSVP at 426-6301.

St. Mary Seniors group is planning a **casino trip** Jan. 23. Cost \$20 which includes driver's tip, a \$10 play card and transportation. Call 635-2354.

Mercedes Arzú Wilson, founder and president of Family of the Americas Foundation, a foundation dedicated to teaching and training instructors in the Ovulation Method of **Natural Family Planning**, will speak Jan. 31, 7 p.m. at St. Joseph Heights, Park Hills. Call the Pro-Life Office at 392-1545 or e-mail froch@covdio.org.

The Mustard Seed Community, Catholic Charismatic Community of Northern Kentucky, Diocese of Covington invites you to **first Friday Mass** at Mother of God Church, Covington, every first Friday of the



The Department of Catechesis and Formation of the Diocese of Covington is hosting the following courses for adults during this Year of Faith. Each course is \$25. Open to any adult Catholic. To register visit www.religiouseducation.covingtondiocese.org to download a course registration form, e-mail catechesis@covingtondiocese.org, or call 392-1533.

■ "Bioethics" with Mo Woltering, Jan. 7, 14, and 28, 6–9:45 p.m. at Covington Latin School, Covington. Learn about Church teaching on human dignity, the beginning of life, the meaning of suffering and the end of life. Topics to be discussed include abortifacients, IVF, cloning, stem cell research, organ transplants and euthanasia.



■ "John's Gospel" with Father Timothy Schehr, Jan. 8, 15, and 22, 6–9:45 p.m. at St. Timothy Parish, Union. Learn about Jesus, the Son of God, as represented in the Gospel of John.

■ "Justice and Peace" with Suzette Glaab, Jan. 12 and 26, 9 a.m.–2 p.m. at St. Mary Parish, Alexandria. Learn more about the basic principles of justice established by our Holy Mother Church.

month. Mass begins at 7:15 p.m. with praise and worship music by the Sacred Heart Praise Band. Prayer for healing follows Mass. Call 341-5339.

The 14th annual Jack McGarr euchre tournament will be Feb. 2 at Bishop Brossart High School, Alexandria. Entry fee is \$25 plus an optional "skins games" for an additional \$10. Proceeds benefit the Jack McGarr Memorial Scholarship fund. Call Debbie Kuntz at 635-3651.

The Bishop Brossart High School baseball program is hosting its annual Kathy Luschek Memorial Super **Bowl party** Feb. 3 at the Alexandria Community Center. Doors open at 5:30 p.m. Tickets are \$25 single; \$40 couples. Call 635-1373 or e-mail kverst@fuse.net.

Sponsor a student for the March for Life by making a donation to the Chris Rice Memorial Fund. The Chris Rice Memorial Fund provides scholarships to high schools unable to afford the trip to Washington, D.C. for the March for Life. Send donations to: Diocese of Covington, Pro-Life Office, P.O. Box 15550, Covington 41015.

Newport Central Catholic High School is proud to announce its 13th class of inductees into its Athletic Hall of Fame: Tom Ryan '46 (posthumously), Jim Minshall '66, Rick Muench '68, Lisa Brewer '84, Greg Kremer '85 and Steve Battershell '88. Also being honored as the "Team of Distinction" is the 1984 State Champion Football Team. The induction ceremony is Feb. 16, 6 p.m., in the Newport Central Catholic Gymnasium. Tickets are \$25. Call 292-0001 before Feb. 8.

Father Benedict O'Cinnsealaigh, rector and president of Mount St. Mary's Seminary, will direct a retreat for **all men** at the Our Lady of the Holy Spirit Center in Norwood, Ohio, Feb. 22-24. Fr. O'Cinnsealaigh will discuss "Becoming a Man of Faith during this Year of Faith." Register before Feb. 19 at http://2013Lentenretreat.eventbrite.com or call (513) 321-4879 or e-mail LTracy1@cinci.rr.com.

God's peace, Jan Bucki

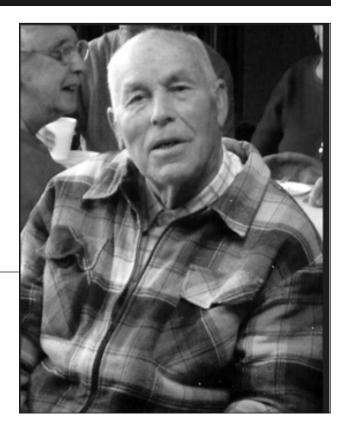
Parishioners at St. Henry Church, Elsmere, celebrated the 92nd birthday of beloved long-time parishioner Jan Bucki Dec. 18. Mr. Bucki was born and grew up in Poland. As a child he even played with John Paul II. Mr. Bucki comes from a large family but all were either killed during the war or died in German prison camps. Mr. Bucki himself spent time in prison camp. Mr. Bucki could be seen walking around Erlanger/Elsmere, sometimes several miles a day. One of those daily walks included an early morning stop at St. Henry Church to open the doors for his fellow parishioners. On Dec. 27 the Lord called Mr. Bucki home.

The National Catholic Youth Choir is seeking high school students to audition for the 2013 camp and multi-state concert tour. The choir is led by conductor, Dr. Axel Theimer, and founding director, Benedictine Father Anthony Ruff. Applications due March 18. Apply online at www.CatholicYouthChoir.org.

Covington Cursillo upcoming events: Monthly ultreyas at St. Therese Parish, Southgate, third Thursday of each month at 7 p.m.; St. Pius X Parish, Edgewood, fourth Thursday of each month 7 p.m. Visit www.covingtoncursillo.org.

Catholic Charities needs volunteer mentors. Be part of something special. Have a positive impact in the lives of others. Make our communities safer. Provide mentoring services to people who are incarcerated and will be returning to our communities. A small stipend and mileage reimbursement is provided. Contact David Phillips, 581-8974, ext. 117 or dphillips@covingtoncharities.org.

Father Kavungal Davy will lead a Bible study on Tuesday evenings, 7 p.m. at St. John Parish Hall, Carrollton. All are welcome.



Parish Kitchen is in need of homemade desserts like cookies, brownies and cupcakes. The guests at the kitchen really appreciate these little luxuries that provide a feeling of home. Drop items off at Parish Kitchen any day, 8-11 a.m. or call 581-7745.

Notre Dame Urban Education Center, Covington, now has a waiting list of **children needing volunteers** to help provide educational support services. Tutors and physical education monitors are greatly needed. Call 261-4487 or e-mail nduecvolunteer@sndky.org.

Euchre every Friday night at St. Philip Church parish center starting at 7:30 p.m. \$10 buy-in.

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If you or someone you know is behind on the home mortgage, don't lose your home to foreclosure. Take advantage of my extensive short sale and foreclosure training. It's imperative to employ an agent who knows the intricate process.

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Give me a call so we can discuss your options. You will be under no obligation, but I'll help you understand the differences between a loan modification,

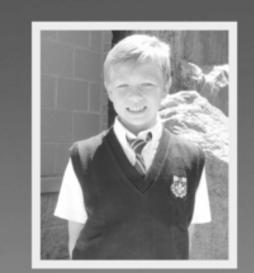


short sale and foreclosure. Note that on a short sale, there is no money required from the homeowner for my services.

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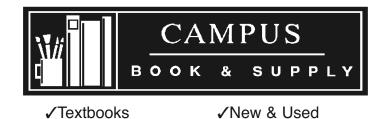
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CNS photo/Paul Jeffrey

Sister Suzan Kuku, a member of the Sisters of the Sacred Heart, comforts a patient in September 2012 at St. Daniel Comboni Catholic Hospital in Wau, South Sudan. In a message for the 2013 World Day of the Sick, Pope Benedict XVI called on everyone to be a good Samaritan and concretely help those in need.

Be like Good Samaritan, help those in need, pope says in message

Carol Glatz

Catholic News Service VATICAN CITY — In a message for the 2013 World Day of the Sick, Pope Benedict XVI called on everyone to be a good Samaritan and concretely help those in need.

Thanking those who care for the sick and elderly, the pope underlined the Church's fundamental role in "lovingly and generously accepting every human being, especially those who are weak and sick."

The World Day of the Sick is celebrated annually Feb. 11, the feast of Our Lady of Lourdes. The Vatican released the text of the papal message Jan. 8.

Pope Benedict expressed his affection for all those "undergoing a time of trial due to illness and suffering," and he prayed that they remember they are not alone, marginalized, forgotten or useless.

"You have been called by Christ and are his living and transparent image," he said, quoting from a message delivered by the fathers of the Second Vatican Council in 1965 "To the Poor, the Sick and the Suffering." ples to behave toward others, especially those in need, the pope said.

Through prayer, people can draw strength from God's infinite love in order to "live day by day with concrete concern, like that of the Good Samaritan, for those suffering in body and spirit who ask for our help, whether or not we know them and however poor they may be," Pope Benedict wrote.

Those who are sick and suffering also are called to help others, finding meaning and healing in accepting one's own suffering by looking to Christ, "who suffered with infinite love," he said.

The Year of Faith is an occasion for the Church to intensify its charitable services "so that each one of us can be a good Samaritan for others, for those close to us," the pope said.

The history of the Church offers today's men and women many models of encouragement, the pope said, including Blessed Teresa of Kolkata and the Blessed Virgin Mary, who "does not lose hope in God's victory over evil, pain and death."

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The Gospel parable of the Good Samaritan is just one of many accounts that show how Jesus expected his disciMary's trust in God's power, together with Christ's resurrection, offer "hope to the suffering" and renew "the certainty of the Lord's closeness and consolation," he said.

Pope completes 'ad limina' visits with world's bishops — almost

Cindy Wooden

Catholic News Service VATICAN CITY — The Vatican announced that after more than seven years in office, Pope Benedict XVI had hosted the formal visits of bishops from every country in the world and would begin the cycle all over again by meeting the heads of Italy's 227 dioceses in 2013.

The only problem is the Vatican overlooked the bishops of the Netherlands who made their last visits "ad limina apostolorum" ("to the threshold of the apostles") with Blessed John Paul II in 2004.

Archbishop Lorenzo Baldisseri, secretary of the Congregation for Bishops, which coordinates the visits, said his office was informed by the Prefecture of the Papal Household, which schedules audiences with the pope, that when the last group of French bishops met Pope Benedict in November "the cycle was complete."

"But now it seems that with the Netherlands, something happened," the archbishop told Catholic News Service Jan. 8.

A spokesman for the Dutch bishops said Jan. 8 that the heads of the seven dioceses of the Netherlands expect to make their visits either late this year or early in 2014.

Also missing from the list of Pope Benedict "ad limina" visits are the bishops of communist-controlled mainland China, but that is because government restrictions prevent them from making the visits. However, the bishops of Hong Kong and Macau had their meetings with Pope Benedict in 2008.

The Code of Canon Law calls for the heads of every diocese in the world to make their "ad limina" visits every five years, but there are now almost 2,900 dioceses in the world and the 85-year-old pope also has other obligations as well. Archbishop Baldisseri told CNS, "the firm principle is that the pope must meet the bishops of the whole world regularly." The five-year rhythm set by canon law provides concrete guidance but is not always possible to follow because of the number of bishops in the world, the pope's schedule and the schedules of the bishops.

The order in which bishops' conferences make the visits is not strictly set, which means that although the French bishops were making their first "ad limina" visits with Pope Benedict late in 2012, the bishops of Papua New Guinea already had made two: one in June 2005 and the second in June 2012.

Archbishop Baldisseri told *L'Osservatore Romano*, the Vatican newspaper, that the importance of visiting and consulting with the pope, the successor of St. Peter, goes back to St. Paul's description in the Letter to the Galatians of returning to Jerusalem for consultations with St. Peter.

However, the archbishop said, it wasn't until 743 that Pope Zachary made it a universal rule. The rule was reconfirmed by Pope Sixtus V in 1585.

"The bishops are invited periodically to come to Rome to see Peter, make a pilgrimage to the tombs of the apostles Peter and Paul — founders of the Church of Rome — and to express and reinforce the unity and collegiality of the Church," he said.

The visits are not just "a simple juridical-administrative exercise," he said, but "an experience of pastoral communion, participating in the concerns and hopes" of the Church on the local and universal levels.

The relationship between the bishops and the pope, he said, "cannot simply be sporadic or spontaneous, but must be regular and ordered because we are dealing with the life of the Church in its universal and particu-

JOB CHANGE

at retirement.

lar dimensions."

The Italian bishops made their first and only "ad limina" visits with Pope Benedict from November 2006 to April 2007, which means their second visits are coming six or seven years later. Bishops from Mexico, Austria, Poland and other countries that had "ad limina" visits in 2005, the first year of Pope Benedict's pontificate, will have to wait until 2014 or beyond.

The special Year of Faith calendars of Pope Benedict and of local bishops, together with the size of the Italian bishops' conference, "will not permit the visits of other episcopal conferences" this year, Archbishop Baldisseri said.

2.3 million people joined pope for Vatican events in 2012

VATICAN CITY — More than 2.3 million pilgrims and visitors joined Pope Benedict XVI for an audience, liturgy or prayer at the Vatican or Castel Gandolfo in 2012, the Vatican said. The Prefecture of the Papal Household, the Vatican office that coordinates the audiences and distributes the free tickets to papal audiences and liturgies, said its figures were calculations based on the number of tickets requested and estimates of crowd size. The total of 2,351,200 people at papal events included those attending the pope's 43 weekly general audiences at the Vatican or at the papal summer villa in Castel Gandolfo; special audiences for particular groups; Masses and other liturgies; and a rough estimate of the size of the crowds in St. Peter's Square or the courtyard of the papal villa for the pope's recitation of the Angelus or "Regina Coeli" prayer on Sundays and major feast days. The 2012 total was down by about 200,000 from the number of visitors reported in 2011.

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January Bulletin: posted Jan. 6; due Feb. 5

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"Django Unchained" (Weinstein) Vengeance tale written and directed by Quentin Tarantino about a brutalized slave (Jamie Foxx) in the antebellum South who



the antebellum South who is first purchased, then liberated by a Germanborn bounty hunter. Together the pair conspires to rescue the exslave's wife, who was sold away from him. But

her current owner (Leonardo DiCaprio) is tipped off to their plans by a treacherous house slave. Tarantino unleashes the same hyper-violence against those participating in, and profiting from, the evil enterprise of slavery as he previously launched against Nazis in his 2009 historical wish-fulfillment fantasy "Inglourious Basterds." Additionally, the horrific physical degradations endured by the victims of America's "peculiar institution" are depicted with careful attention to historical detail. Not for the casual moviegoer or the easily jarred. Revenge theme, pervasive and explicit bloody violence, a glimpse of full male nudity, fleeting upper female nudity, frequent profanity, constant rough language and racial slurs. CNS: L; MPAA: R.

"Jack Reacher" (Paramount) Tom Cruise as the title character sets out to clear a former military sniper accused of five murders in Pittsburgh. He is aided in his sleuthing by the veteran's lawyer (Rosamund Pike). Writer-director Christopher McQuarrie has adapted a reasonably compelling detective story from Lee Child's novel "One Shot." But his protagonist turns out to be an amoral avenger. Pervasive violence including gunplay, implied drug use, frequent profanity. CNS: L; MPA: PG-13.

"Parental Guidance" (Fox) Family comedy stars Billy Crystal and Bette Midler as grandparents babysitting for — and trying to connect with — a trio of grandchildren they've barely seen before. Though they obviously mean well, director Andy Fickman and screenwriters Lisa Addario and Joe Syracuse produce some very stale and predictable situations. Childish scatological humor. CNS: A-I; MPAA: PG.

"Promised Land" (Focus) Reasonably entertaining message movie about the environmental dangers of drilling for natural gas using a method called hydraulic fracturing — fracking for short. Matt Damon and Frances McDormand play a duo of energy company executives out to convince down-on-their-luck farmers in a rural Midwestern town to sell their land to the corporation, glibly promising them instant wealth. When they encounter opposition from a retired science professor and from a personable environmentalist, who launches a fervent campaign to thwart them, Damon's character begins to have second thoughts. His change of heart is also driven by his attraction to a local teacher

whose regard he comes to value. A gifted cast and smooth direction by Gus Van Sant help to disguise the simplistic perspective and unmistakable anti-business bias underlying Damon and Krasinski's script. And moviegoers committed to scriptural values will, of course, appreciate the prioritizing of stewardship over greed. But the proper balance between the two may appear quite different when viewed from a failing Iowa homestead rather than a Malibu beach house. About a dozen uses of profanity, much rough and crude language. CNS: A-III; MPAA: R.

"Silver Linings Playbook" (Weinstein) Off-kilter romantic comedy that manages to address mental illness with fresh sensitivity while delivering laughs and uplifting emotion. Eight months after catching his wife (Brea Bee) cheating on him, and being confined to a psychiatric hospital because of his violent reaction, a Philadelphia man (Bradley Cooper) checks out of the institution and moves in with his parents. He meets and is drawn to — one of their neighbors, a widow who has psychological issues of her own. Writer-director David O. Russell doesn't shy away from awkwardness or feel-good sentiment as he guides a superb ensemble through a character-driven story about hope — and the sometimes fine line between normal and crazy. Brief glimpses of a violent assault, fleeting rear and partial female nudity, some profane language, frequent crude and crass terms, sexual innuendo. CNS: A-III; MPAA: R.

"Texas Chainsaw 3D" (Lionsgate) Desultory sequel to the low-budget 1974 gorefest, "The Texas Chainsaw Massacre." In updating Tobe Hooper's original, director John Luessenhop provides little to no shock value, but a high body count and splatter factor. Dan Yeager plays Jed Sawyer, aka Leatherface, a chainsaw-wielding loony who's out to avenge his family's long-ago liquidation at the hands of a mob and to protect his cousin, the only other survivor of the slaughter. A vengeance theme, extensive gruesome violence, including killings by chainsaw and axe, drug use, pervasive profane, rough and crude language, sexual banter. CNS: O; MPAA: R.



Catholics still largest denomination in Congress

Patricia Zapor

Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON — The 113th Congress includes some slight shifts in religious makeup over the previous session, with a few more Catholics, the first Buddhist in the Senate and the first Hindu to serve in either chamber.

It's a historic high for the number of Catholics in Congress, with 163, although that's just two more seats than the previous high point, when there were 161 Catholics in the 111th Congress of 2009-10.

That's an increase of seven seats over the 156 Catholics had in the 112th Congress.

Since at least the 1960s, Catholics have been the single largest denomination in Congress. Although when Protestant denominations are counted together, they still constitute the largest number of members, at 56 percent The new Congress, which opened Jan. 3, includes 136 Catholics in the House of Representatives, 75 of whom are Democrats and 61 of whom are Republicans. The 27 Catholic senators are comprised of 18 Democrats and nine Republicans.

Pew counted 31 freshman members of Congress as Catholics, about 37 percent of the class.

The next largest denomination in Congress is Baptists, with 9 percent of freshmen and 15 percent of incumbents. Overall, Baptists account for 14 percent of the 113th Congress, with 73 total seats, up from 68 seats in the previous session.

Fifty-eight members of Congress listed their affiliation as "other" or "unspecified," the same number as in the 112th Congress, but only one, newly elected Rep. Kyrsten Sinema, D-Ariz., described herself as "unaffiliated."

The Pew data notes that Catholics, Protestants and Jews are disproportionately represented in Congress in comparison to their percentage of the overall adult population. But even with fewer than five members in Congress, Buddhists, Muslims, Hindus and Orthodox are represented in about equal proportion to their number in the country. The same goes for Mormons, who have 15 members in Congress, just under 3 percent, and represent about 2 percent of the U.S. population.

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Another analysis finds that alumni of Jesuit colleges and universities account for nearly 10 percent of all members of Congress.

According to data compiled by the Pew Forum on Religion & Public Life, Catholics now make up slightly below 31 percent of Congress, while they account for about 22 percent of the U.S. population.

Bishops must stand firm in truth to lead people to Christ, pope says

Carol Glatz

Catholic News Service VATICAN CITY — In their task of leading people to the light of Christ, bishops must have the courage to face opposition and peacefully stand firm in the truth, Pope Benedict XVI said.

Meeting the approval of the wider public "is not the criterion to which we submit. Our criterion is the Lord himself," the pope said Jan. 6 as he celebrated the feast of the Epiphany of the Lord with a Mass in St. Peter's Basilica.

"The fear of God frees us from the fear of men. It liberates," he said.

During the three-hour ceremony, the pope also ordained four new archbishops, including his longtime secretary, Archbishop Georg Ganswein, 56, who became prefect of the papal household, a job that involves organizing the pope's daily round of audiences and meetings.

The four men swore their fidelity to the Gospel and to the Church and laid prostrate on an ornate rug on the floor of St. Peter's Basilica as the Litany of Saints was chanted. Then they knelt before Pope Benedict, who laid his hands on their heads and ordained them bishops.

He anointed their heads with chrism oil, gave them the book of the Gospels, slipped a ring on their fingers and gave each a miter and pastoral staff.

In his homily at the Mass, the pope looked at the figure of the Three Kings, the wise men who set out from the East in search of Jesus; the pope drew comparisons between them and the mission to which the new bishops are called.

Like the Magi, he said, the bishop, too, must not be content with his position, but want to be "seized by God" and "gripped by God's concern for men and women."

Prayer, in fact, helps "detach us from our false sense of security, from our being enclosed within material and visible realities" and gives "us a restlessness for God and thus an openness and concern for one another."

Like the wise men, who probably were scorned or ridiculed for following a star in search of the promised king, a bishop must know that seeking the truth is more important that "the taunts of the world, so apparently clever."

"The humility of faith, of sharing the faith of the

Church of every age, will constantly be in conflict with the prevailing wisdom of those who cling to what seems certain," he said.

But a bishop, who must guide today's men and women to the way of faith, hope and love, must have "the courage to contradict the prevailing mindset" of agnosticism, which is "extremely intolerant regarding anything that would question it and the criteria it employs."

However, "this courage or forcefulness does not consist in striking out or in acting aggressively, but rather in allowing oneself to be struck and to be steadfast before the principles of the prevalent way of thinking."

"We are not provocative; on the contrary we invite all to enter into the joy of that truth which shows us the way," the pope said.

By defending the Lord's cause, the Church inevitably will stir up opposition, but it also will "constantly gain others to the way of the Gospel," he said.

In his midday Angelus address to thousands of people in the square, the pope offered special prayers for Eastern Christians celebrating Christmas Jan. 7 in accordance with the Julian calendar.

He also tweeted a message from his eight different @Pontifex Twitter accounts saying, "The Wise Men followed the star and reached Jesus, the great light that illuminates all of humanity."



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National/World US high court justice denies HHS injunction; lower court grants one

WASHINGTON — Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor denied two companies' request for an injunction while they challenge part of the Department of Health and Human Services' contraceptive mandate in court. In an order filed Dec. 26, Sotomayor ruled that the owners of the Hobby Lobby craft store and the Mardel Christian bookstore chains did not qualify for an injunction while they challenge requirements of the Affordable Care Act. The law takes effect Jan. 1. On Dec. 30, a federal District Court judge in Michigan granted a temporary restraining order to Tom Monaghan, the founder of Domino's Pizza, allowing him to decline to provide contraceptive coverage to the employees of his current business. Domino's Farms Office Complex. The company's website lists offices for lease, a petting farm, an art gallery, a hair salon, a fitness center, a Catholic chapel and Our Lady of Grace Bookstore among the entities on the property. It's unclear how many people are employees of Domino's Farms. Monaghan no longer has any financial interest in the pizza company. District Court Judge Lawrence P. Zatkoff issued the Dec. 30 temporary restraining order, saying there would be little harm to the government in delaying possible implementation of the law at the company and that there was enough evidence of a possible valid religious rights claim by Domino Farms to justify further court proceedings. At the Supreme Court, Sotomayor ruled on the bookstore chain's petition because she oversees the federal circuit where Hobby Lobby filed suit challenging the HHS mandate. The companies' Oklahoma City-based owners contend that the mandate violates their religious beliefs because some of the drugs they are required to cover can lead to abortion. The family-owned companies have said they have no moral objection to "the use of preventive contraceptives" and will continue to cover those for employees.

Peace impossible without openness to God, pope tells diplomats

VATICAN CITY — Deploring war, civil conflict and poverty around the world, Pope Benedict XVI told foreign ambassadors assembled at the Vatican that peace-building requires charity, religious liberty, a proper understanding of human rights and openness to divine love. Pope Benedict made his remarks Jan. 7 in his annual address to members of the Vatican's diplomatic corps, presenting a survey of global troubles including "endless slaughter" in civil war-torn Syria, terrorist attacks on Christians in Nigeria and the impact of Hurricane Sandy on the East Coast of the United States. He also warned about the international spread of legalized abortion and growing inequality between rich and poor. "Peace is not simply the fruit of human effort, but a participation in the very love of God," Pope Benedict told the envoys. "Without openness to the transcendent, human beings easily become prey to relativism and find it difficult to act justly and to work for peace." The pope pointedly distinguished true religion, which he said aims at "reconciling men and women with God" and hence with each other, from a "baneful religious fanaticism which, again in 2012, reaped victims in some countries represented here."

Migration Week brings revived interest in letter, legislation push

WASHINGTON — The Catholic Church's observance of National Migration Week Jan. 6-12 this year comes at a time when the outlook seems promising for improving migrants' legal situations in the United States. The annual observance of Migration Week this year focuses on encouraging Congress to approve comprehensive immigration reform and marking the 10th anniversary of a joint pastoral letter by U.S. and Mexican bishops: "Strangers No Longer: Together on a Journey of Hope." The January 2003 letter said migration policies had created a new underclass in the United States, and called for changes in law and policy in the U.S. and Mexico. The bishops promised to do more themselves to educate Catholics and political leaders about the social justice issues involved in migration and to do more to address migrants' needs. The 50-page letter said the governments of both countries must change policies, including making it easier to legally immigrate to the United States, better protecting the civil rights of migrants in both countries and addressing the root causes of migration poverty and lack of employment options in Mexico and Central America. It discussed the theological roots of the Church's support for immigrants and laid out steps to be taken by Church and public authorities. It notes that "misperceptions and xenophobic and racist attitudes in both the United States and Mexico contribute to an atmosphere in which undocumented (people) are discriminated against and abused." The letter urged both governments to "abandon the type of (law enforcement) strategies that give rise to smuggling operations and migrant deaths" and to restore due process rights.

Budget deal defined by what it does and what's left undone

WASHINGTON — The American Taxpayer Relief Act of 2012 — and 2013, considering when the House of Representatives passed it — will be known as much by what it doesn't include as what it does include. The legislation, among other things, puts off until March 1 all of the elements that could have been part of a "grand bargain" on budget and deficit issues to avert the so-called fiscal cliff but were cast aside in the interest of nailing down a last-minute deal. "We're glad they were able to come together and we didn't go over the cliff, but we're still at the edge of the cliff," said Kathy Saile, the U.S. bishops' director of domestic social development. The call, she added, is for "Congress and the (Obama) administration and both parties — particularly leadership — but both parties to work together with the White House." As for the March 1 deadline, "we'll have to wait and see," Saile said before quickly correcting herself: "Not wait and see, because we're going to be active in that." It does remain to be seen, she added, whether the next deadline brings forth a comprehensive accord or "just another temporary extension." The bishops' interests in the upcoming round of budget negotiations? We're worried that the only thing left are the cuts, and they're being pitted up against the debt limit," Saile told Catholic News Service Jan. 3. "We have to be sure we have a circle of protection that helps poor and hungry people at home and around the world." The March 1 deadline has implications, she added. "Once you get into March and April, you're into the budget season for fiscal 2014 and you head into appropriations. So at this point, the budget's like a year-round activity," Saile said, chuckling.

German bishops criticize country's growing arms industry

BERLIN — Germany's Catholic bishops criticized the country's growing arms industry and urged greater commitment to settling the world's armed conflicts. The message was included in a 24-page bishops' conference brochure for the Jan. 1 World Day of Peace. "Peace isn't just a job for politicians," said the conference president, Archbishop Robert Zollitsch of Freiburg. "It must shake us awake when we realize arms exports are such a flourishing business, as military and paramilitary demands increase," he said. "Images from the world's conflict zones show how far we are from peaceful coexistence. Archbishop Zollitsch said 2012 had witnessed "worldwide terrorism, devastating wars in Africa and escalating conflict in the Middle East." He said economic globalization required a "further development of international order," which took account of "the global common good as a horizon for local actions. Although world peace is generally recognized as a political goal, it often lacks the necessary commitment of power, especially when entrenched economic interests and ideological blindness fuel warlike confrontation," he said. "Every individual can and must contribute to a more peaceful world, benevolently embracing families, neighborhoods, schools and workplaces. Where conflicts erupt, every means should be used to help them de-escalate." As demands from the German army decreased, German arms exports increased and now account for three-quarters of national arms production

French bishops back plans for rally against same-sex marriage

PARIS — France's Catholic bishops are backing plans for a national demonstration against same-sex marriage legislation, which is expected to be approved by lawmakers later in January. "I won't be participating — not because I don't agree with the demonstration, but because I don't think I need to march when I have to make something known to the government and president," Cardinal Andre Vingt-Trois, president of the bishops' conference, told France's Le Figaro daily. "But I've invited Catholics and everyone else with something to say on this matter to demonstrate," he added. "We're not under a dictatorship." A coalition of 30 French family groups, "Manif Pour Tous" (Demo For All), plans a Jan. 13 Paris rally against a bill allowing same-sex marriage, introduced Nov. 7 by the Socialist government of President Francois Hollande under the slogan, "Marriage for All." In a Jan. 2 report, the Catholic La Croix daily said 4.5 million leaflets had been printed for the Jan. 13 rally, converging on the capital's Champ de Mars, and special trains would be provided by organizers. The Paris archdiocesan website said a "prayer vigil for marriage and the family" would be held at the city's St. Nicholas Church before the event, during which Catholic groups would be providing help.

thing individuals must work tirelessly to build, he said. The pope celebrated Mass in St. Peter's Basilica Jan. 1, which the Church marks as the feast of Mary, Mother of God and as World Peace Day. In his homily, the pope quoted from the peace day message he had sent to government leaders around the globe. Despite the "tension and conflict caused by growing instances of inequality between rich and poor, by the prevalence of a selfish and individualistic mindset which also finds expression in an unregulated financial capitalism," as well as terrorism and crime, "I am convinced that 'the many different efforts at peacemaking which abound in our world testify to mankind's innate vocation to peace.""



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Despite evil, human beings are hard-wired for peace, pope says

VATICAN CITY — Welcoming in the new year, Pope Benedict XVI said that despite the injustice and violence in the world, every human being yearns for and is made for peace. "Man is made for peace, which is a gift of God," but also someLicensed in Kentucky, Ohio & Indiana

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