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The East Tennessee

Catholic

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December 7, 2014

Volume 24

Number 2



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Richard
F. Stika

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6 Harvest Mass Agriculture workers gather to celebrate end of season

8 Ministries Day Parish leaders share ideas

Celebrating the consecrated life

For the next year, the Catholic Church is recognizing those who lead lives as men and women religious

By Dan McWilliams

Pope Francis proclaimed 2015 as the Year of Consecrated Life, and the Diocese of Knoxville's newest delegate for consecrated life said the special designation is key for the diocese's men and women religious.

"It's very important in the sense that it's a real opportunity for them to make their apostolates known, to be

"It's been a long-standing tradition for religious to be in schools and in health care, and so it's a great opportunity for them to let the world know that they're present and doing works of charity. And doing works is really essential in all our lives." — Sister Mary Charles Mayer, RSM, associate chancellor for pastoral services and delegate to religious for the Diocese of Knoxville

more in the public eye if they use this opportunity," said Sister Mary Charles Mayer of the Religious Sisters of Mercy of Alma, Mich.

"In some places there are very few religious, so a lot of people won't even know this is happening . . . It's been a long-standing tradition for religious to be in schools and in health care, and

so it's a great opportunity for them to let the world know that they're present and doing works of charity. And doing works is really es-

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DAN MCWILLIAMS

Sisters in Christ Dominican Sisters of St. Cecilia process into the Cathedral of the Sacred Heart of Jesus for Solemn Vespers for the consecrated religious last February. Pope Francis has declared that 2015 will be the Year of Consecrated Life, and the Diocese of Knoxville will hold events to celebrate those in religious life.



He dwells among us by Bishop Richard F. Stika

The journey to Bethlehem

'The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light,' and St. Joseph is our sure guide

With the beginning of Advent, the Church marks the start of a new liturgical year, a full month before we celebrate the beginning of a new calendar year. And this seems fitting for it is exactly when the days begin growing darker and colder that the Church holds up a lantern of light and hope to help guide us through the uncertainties of life's journey.

Particularly during Advent I find comfort in contemplating St. Joseph, who the Church honors and recommends to us as our special protector and guide.

I remember very clearly celebrating my first Mass the day after my ordination to the priesthood on Dec. 14, 1985, and how I felt a special closeness to St. Joseph.

As I pronounced for the very first time those words of consecration, I held in my hands under the appearance of bread and wine the very one whom St. Joseph had held in his arms in Bethlehem. And particularly since my ordination and installation as bishop of this wonderful diocese on the feast of St. Joseph on March 19, 2009, I have frequently sought his intercession in helping me to guide

Follow Bishop Richard Stika on Twitter @bishopstika and his blog for news and events from the diocese.

and protect the souls of those entrusted to my care—and I invite you to do the same.

Just as St. Joseph was entrusted with God's two most precious gifts—Jesus and Mary—so we too through our baptism are entrusted in a special way with their care. For as the Church is a mother that bears Christ into the world, so also we are mothers when we allow the Holy Spirit to form Christ in our hearts, giving birth to him in our actions of love. We become mothers when we are the face, the hands, the feet and the heart of Christ to others, and St. Joseph is our special guardian and helper.

So often in life's journey we experience weariness, hardships and even dangers. In these days leading up to Christmas, I invite you to contemplate the image of St. Joseph with the light of an oil lamp in one hand, and in the other the reigns of the donkey that Mary sat upon in

the last days of her pregnancy as he guided her safely through the darkness to Bethlehem. As he illuminated the way to Egypt and led Mary and the infant Jesus out of harm and then back to Nazareth when it was safe, so too will he help you in your life's journey.

As Mary bore Jesus in her womb, St. Joseph bore in his heart the name that God had entrusted to him—"you are to name him Jesus for he will save his people from their sins" (Matthew 1:21). My prayer for you in this Advent season is that St. Joseph will help keep the name of Jesus always in your heart so that you might make a gift of Him to all in need.

Though the Gospels record no words of St. Joseph, we have only his silent testimony of love and obedience. But silence is its own unique song of adoration before the mystery of God. Let us then bring ourselves to be still before God and to quiet ourselves in silent adoration, praying with the Church, "Come Lord Jesus!" May this Advent season be a time of preparation for the "tidings of great joy" that St. Joseph is guardian of! ■

Bishop's schedule

These are some of Bishop Stika's public appointments:

Dec. 1-3: Province meeting in Nashville

Dec. 4: 10 a.m., visit to St. Mary School in Johnson City

Dec. 4: 2 p.m. Bishop's Appeal training at St. Mary Church in Johnson City

Dec. 5: 9:30 a.m., Finance Council meeting at the Chancery

Dec. 5-7: Frassati Fellowship of Young Adults retreat

Dec. 9-10: Papal Foundation meeting in Baltimore

Dec. 11: 10:30 a.m., Bishop's Appeal training at the Chancery

Dec. 12: Day of Recollection for Chancery staff

Dec. 13: 2:30 p.m., DYMAC Snack and Chat at the bishop's residence

Dec. 14: 10 a.m., Mass at All Saints Church in Knoxville

Dec. 16: 10 a.m., visit to Our Lady of Perpetual Help School in Chattanooga

Dec. 16: 2:30 p.m. Bishop's Appeal training at St. Stephen Church in Chattanooga

Dec. 18: 5 p.m., Music prelude and St. Mary School Advent Family Mass in Oak Ridge

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Diocesan policy for reporting sexual abuse

Anyone who has actual knowledge of or who has reasonable cause to suspect an incident of sexual abuse should report such information to the appropriate civil authorities first, then to the bishop's office, 865-584-3307, or the diocesan victims' assistance coordinator, Marla Lenihan, 865-482-1388. ■



The East Tennessee Catholic

805 S. Northshore Drive • Knoxville, TN 37919

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The East Tennessee Catholic (USPS 007211) is published bi-monthly by The Diocese of Knoxville, 805 S. Northshore Drive, Knoxville, TN 37919-7551. Periodicals-class postage paid at Knoxville, Tenn. Printed on recycled paper by the Knoxville News Sentinel. The East Tennessee Catholic is mailed to all registered Catholic families in East Tennessee. Subscription rate for others is \$15 a year in the United States. Make checks payable to The Diocese of Knoxville.

Postmaster: Send address changes to The East Tennessee Catholic, 805 S. Northshore Drive, Knoxville, TN 37919-7551
Reach us by phone: 865-584-3307 • fax: 865-584-8124 • e-mail: webmaster@dioknox.org • web: dioknox.org

Tennesseans vote yes on 1 as constitutional amendment passes

East Tennessee Catholic faithful instrumental in passage of pro-life measure as state's churches get out the vote **By Jim Wogan, Bill Brewer**

In a constitutional battle watched closely by pro-life and pro-abortion groups around the country, Tennessee voters approved Amendment 1 on Election Day, Nov. 4, giving state legislators the ability to better regulate facilities that perform abortions.

The amendment to Tennessee's constitution was identified as a critical moral and life issue by the dioceses of Knoxville, Nashville and Memphis, as well as other religious denominations around the state.

Support for the measure from the Catholic Church and other churches around the state was cited by political analysts as a key reason Amendment 1 passed.

Supporters of the new amendment say it will neutralize the extreme interpretation taken by the Tennessee Supreme Court in 2000 in which it declared that the state constitution guarantees abortion rights above and beyond what the U.S. Constitution provides in the *Roe v. Wade* decision. Supporters also maintain that passage of Amendment 1 restores to voters the "life" decision taken from them by the state Supreme Court decision.

The amendment had widespread support from religious leaders, including Bishop Richard F. Stika of the Diocese of Knoxville.

"Tennessee voters made the right decision on Nov. 4 when they showed their overwhelming support for life by approving Amendment 1," Bishop Stika said in a statement.

"As leader of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Knoxville, I am grateful that a vast majority of Tennessee voters agreed that Amendment 1 was a moral issue of the greatest magnitude," Bishop Stika added.

The amendment passed with



DAN MCWILLIAMS

Broad base of support Father John Orr, center, associate pastor of Holy Ghost Parish, is joined by Father Adam Kane, left, associate pastor of Sacred Heart Cathedral, and several other pastors in the Knoxville area during a press conference on Oct. 23 to voice support for Amendment 1.

52.6 percent support, or 728,751 votes, versus opposition of 47.4 percent, or 656,427 votes.

To become law, the amendment had to be approved by 50 percent of the voters casting ballots in the governor's race plus one, so it required 676,305 votes to pass.

While the measure failed in the state's four largest metropolitan areas — Shelby, Davidson, Hamilton, and Knox counties — it passed in every other county in Tennessee, due in large part, according to observers, to people of faith voting.

"I was proud to join religious leaders of all faiths in the Volunteer State, encouraging prayerful reflection and education on a matter that protects the unborn and their mothers from an industry that, until now, was largely left unregulated and without proper oversight," Bishop Stika said. "Please join me now in prayer that state lawmakers understand the responsibility they have to their voters — and the unborn lives that

they also represent."

Brian Harris, president of Tennessee Right to Life and state coordinator of the Yes on 1 campaign, gave special credit to clergy and religious leaders throughout the state who made support for the amendment a priority.

"In the end this could be characterized as pastors and pulpits in opposition to Planned Parenthood's abortion-profiteering. We owe a debt of gratitude to men and women of faith who refused to accept Tennessee's designation as an abortion destination and who actively used their influence to promote the protection of innocent human life," he said.

Stacy Dunn, executive director of the Knox County chapter of Tennessee Right to Life and East Tennessee regional coordinator for the Yes on 1 campaign, praised faith-based voters across the state and the three Catholic bishops, including Bishop Stika, for helping lead the effort to get Amendment 1 approved.

"God granted us a miracle with the passage of Amendment 1, and we are grateful. Despite being outspent by abortion activists by more than two to one with millions spent to flood our airwaves with deceptive ads, the people of Tennessee held firm and voted for life," said Mrs. Dunn, who is a member of Holy Ghost Parish.

"Much of the credit for this victory has to go to the Yes on 1 county coordinators who worked to raise awareness across the state through the churches and civic organizations in their communities. Their hard work and dedication made the difference in this campaign," she added. "The overwhelming support of churches and faith communities of a variety of denominations carried the amendment to victory. We are extremely grateful for the strong stand that was taken by many of Tennessee's pastors and church leaders, including the support of all three Tennessee bishops.

Mrs. Dunn said Tennessee Right to Life now will work with pro-life legislators to accomplish important legislation debated throughout the campaign: restoring common-sense protections that were stricken by activist, pro-abortion judges, including:

- Informed consent for women and girls considering abortion;
- Hospitalization requirement for late-term abortions;
- Required inspection and licensure of abortion facilities;
- Waiting periods for those considering abortion.

"With the support of Tennessee Right to Life, our pro-life majorities will now be able to again enact and enforce these safeguards for the protection of abortion-vulnerable women in our state and their unborn children," Mrs. Dunn said. ■

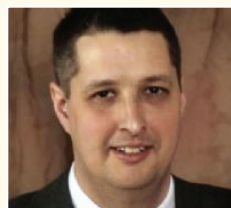
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Chattanoogans for Life inspired by Chet McDoniel's personal story

Renowned speaker is joined by dad for program to celebrate the pro-life mission, shows attendees he remains unbroken

By Paul Schulz

On Jan. 5, 1980, Chet McDoniel emerged from his mother Judy's womb breech, with shortened legs and no arms.

"My parents tell me that immediately after my birth I was placed in a corner of the room after having the customary post-birth suction, etc. done," Mr. McDoniel said. "I was left alone in that corner and, for lack of a better way to put it, I was given a chance to die. A doctor made the decision that my life may not be worth living. That doctor decided that if my body was as mangled on the inside as it was on the outside, I would be better off dead.

"Having lived a wonderful life, including getting married, getting pregnant and seeing the birth of two baby girls, running two businesses, and most importantly, serving my God, I wonder what that same doctor would think now. We cannot use our own judgment in matters where only God should reign."

With that heart-wrenching story as background, Mr. McDoniel and his father, Dr. Jim McDoniel, shared their 34-year life journey together during a moving appearance at the 11th annual Chattanooga for Life banquet Oct. 16.

The banquet, attended by more than 140 people, was held at Pier 2 at the Southern Belle riverboat on Chattanooga's riverfront. Members of the Diocese of Knoxville Chattanooga Deanery Youth and Young Adult group, directed by Donna Jones, organized and hosted the event. Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish business manager Ralph Christiana served as emcee.

"It was very difficult," said Dr. McDoniel, a Church of Christ minister. "What do we do with a baby without arms? How do you teach him? What can he learn? What can he be? Who will take care of him when we are gone? There were plenty of nights when we just stood



PAUL SCHULZ

The meaning of life Chet McDoniel, left, is shown with his father, Dr. Jim McDoniel, at the Chattanooga for Life banquet on Oct. 16 aboard the Southern Belle riverboat. Chet McDoniel, a nationally known speaker on pro-life issues, was the featured speaker at the banquet.

"I believe that each and every life is not perfect. Every person has something they wish was different. But every life is worth it. Every life is worth fighting for. Every life is worth living." — Chet McDoniel

over his bed and cried. Eventually, we decided that wasn't going to help anyone. We decided we would rear him just like our first two children, teach him that his life was his, he could do whatever he wanted and go wherever he wanted to go."

No one has mastered those lessons better than Mr. McDoniel.

"I live what I term to be a very happy life," he said. "I have a wife (Joni) and two kiddos (Hannah, 6, and Olivia, 2) at home. I own my own business (Off to Neverland Travel, Disney specialists). I'm on staff as a worship minister. I go around the country speaking. I live the life I choose to live. I live it for God and in defense of everyone else's life because if my life is worth it, then every life is worth it."

Indeed, the McDoniel men related stories that drew laughter — a tattletale that clocked Chet going 25

miles per hour in his wheelchair on the way to school — and provoked deep thought.

"One time, when Judy was crying and just couldn't get control, I said he may not have everything he needs for this life, but he has everything he needs for heaven," Dr. McDoniel said. "She quit crying, so I returned to that several times. I said it so much that he said, 'I want that to be the title of your book,' when I wrote *All He Needs for Heaven*.

Soon thereafter, Mr. McDoniel penned his own book, *I'm Not Broken*, to share his philosophy about choosing to lead a happy and productive life. He shared some of those thoughts with the banquet guests.

"To truly live, we need to stop the blame game," said Mr. McDoniel, who stands and walks short distances though his leg bones are not

attached to his hips. "If tomorrow I got a phone call and they said we know why you were born this way, it would mean nothing. It wouldn't change the way I live. I don't focus on that because I would miss out on how to truly live."

Case in point: the college math study group Mr. McDoniel formed to prove wrong the professor who predicted half the class would fail. No student received lower than a C.

"I could have kept my mouth shut and coasted, but I choose to focus on how I can fix things. We need to do that in life," said Mr. McDoniel, a magna cum laude graduate of the University of North Texas.

Turning to the pro-life cause, Mr. McDoniel drew a parallel.

"So often, we look at situations of a life that's about to come into the world, and it's turned abnormal, something's wrong. We like to ask, 'What caused this? Who's to blame?' when we should be saying 'How can we love on these brand new parents about to have a child that's going to throw them for a loop?'"

"And how can we love that baby just like we love the other children," Dr. McDoniel added.

Make no mistake; Mr. McDoniel freely admits the struggle of reconciling the fact he had physical abnormalities. He admits he never wanted his father to write his book and he never wanted to speak to crowds because he didn't want to draw attention to himself.

"My story was worth telling, but I didn't want the attention," he said. "I fought my whole life to not be the guy in the room without arms."

So to support the books, the McDoniels hit the speaking trail — with the Lord, beginning with Dr. McDoniel's church.

"The first people who approached us afterward were a mission couple that had been run off the mission

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Outdoor Mass marks end of growing season for migrants

More than 250 contract workers, their families and friends gather for liturgical celebration

By Jim Wogan

Tomato crates were stacked for walls and the floor was concrete, but brilliant sunshine and a warm autumn breeze filled a makeshift outdoor chapel at Scott Farms in Unicoi on Oct. 26 as more than 250 agricultural contract workers, their families and friends gathered for a special Mass to celebrate the end of the growing season.

After working six months harvesting fruits and vegetables at Scott and other farms in upper East Tennessee, many of the workers will return home to Mexico for the winter.

“Even though they are so far from home, they are an important part of our diocese,” said Father David Boettner, vicar general of the Diocese of Knoxville and the principal celebrant of the Mass.

“I think it’s great for me or anybody that represents the diocese to be able to come and be present so they know that they are important and that their presence here is noticed and valued,” Father Boettner added.

The Mass was organized by St. Michael the Archangel Catholic Mission in Erwin and celebrated in Spanish.

Joining Father Boettner as concelebrants were Father Tom Charters, GHM, pastor of St. Michael the Archangel; Father Peter Iorio, pastor of St. Mary Church in Johnson City; Father Francisco Peñaflor, and Deacon Mike Jacobs.

Father Peñaflor, who made the trip from Guanajuato, Mexico, delivered the homily.

“Today’s Gospel was about love of God and love of neighbor,” Father Boettner said. “One of the things Father Peñaflor talked about was that to love our neighbor we have to first start by loving our family, and he was encouraging these families to love each other and to take good care of each other as they’re preparing to head home



JIM WOGAN

Giving thanks Father David Boettner, pastor of the Cathedral of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, celebrates Mass at Scott Farms in Unicoi for more than 250 agricultural contract workers, their families and friends to mark the end of the growing season in East Tennessee. Many of the workers return home to Mexico for the winter once the crops have been harvested.

back to Mexico.”

Most of the men who work at Scott Farms arrived in May and live in dormitories located next to fields where they spend the summer harvesting tomatoes and strawberries.

There is a chapel located on the farm, built more than 20 years ago by Wayne Scott, a Methodist businessman who owned the company and was concerned for the spiritual life and wellbeing of the contract workers he employed.

Because of the good weather and the high attendance, the Mass was celebrated outside.

“It really, really meant a lot, especially back then because we were basically the only Hispanic people in this area,” said Lorena Reynoso,

whose perfect English belies the fact that she is a self-described “migrant child.”

“It really meant a lot that Mr. Scott went out of his way to build that for us and then that the priests from St. Mary’s came over here to give us Mass. They’ve always tried to give us Mass in Spanish — so that meant even more. It’s very special,” Ms. Reynoso added.

Ms. Reynoso was born in Mexico but traveled with her parents as they worked farms in the United States. It was a life she lived until she was 18. Ms. Reynoso now lives in Erwin, where she and her family attend St. Michael — a mission church that serves many of the Hispanic families living in the area.

“It gets very quiet from (the feast of our Lady of) Guadalupe until mid-January because a lot of our families who live here are legal, have papers, so they can go home, said Kathy O’Brien, the pastoral assistant at St. Michael.

“They go home for Christmas and all the celebrations. It gets very quiet at St. Michael’s for Christmas. But the children have got to be back for school so they are back mid-January,” Ms. O’Brien said with a smile.

The Oct. 26 Mass was attended by many of the Hispanic families living in the area — but the focus was on the contract workers, men who stay at the farm all summer and will now

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sential in all of our lives.”

The Year of Consecrated Life began Nov. 30, the first Sunday of Advent, and will conclude Feb. 2, 2016, the World Day of Consecrated Life. The year marks the 50th anniversary both of *Perfectae Caritatis*, a decree on religious life, and *Lumen Gentium*, the Second Vatican Council’s constitution on the Church, which has a chapter concerning religious life.

As part of his ministry, Bishop Richard F. Stika has greatly expanded the role of religious in the Diocese of Knoxville.

Since coming into the diocese in 2009, Bishop Stika has led efforts to increase the number of religious orders represented in the diocese to more than a dozen.

“The Diocese of Knoxville is greatly enriched by all the consecrated men and women who come from a variety of religious congregations and serve Christ so faithfully and joyfully in our schools, our parishes, our hospitals and Mobile Clinic, our missions, our Chancery and our communities,” Bishop Stika said. “It is truly a blessing for us to know these men and women are being the hands, face and heart of Jesus in the communities they serve, also knowing the power of prayer and the Handmaids of the Precious Blood, our contemplative community, are supporting them all in their good work.”

Sister Mary Charles believes the Holy Father called for the special year “because vocations, I would say, are diminishing in some communities. There are vocations out there, but people don’t know that the religious exist in a lot of places—they’ve never even seen a religious, and I think people need to know that it’s a legitimate vocation as married life is a legitimate vocation, and he wants people to be able to identify and kids to be



DAN MCWILLIAMS

A special blessing Father Christopher Manning gives a blessing to Sister Mary Gretchen Hoffman, RSM, MD, following Father Manning’s 2013 ordination.



BILL BREWER

Making an impression Sister Mary Marta Abbott, RSM, superintendant of diocesan schools, connects with a young student.

able to see religious and see more youth enter religious orders.”

Sister Mary Charles said she

hopes the Year of Consecrated Life will help religious “to revitalize their own religious communities and their own faith life, because Pope Francis talks about joy being an aspect of the religious vocation, which is definitely out there. He believes that religious are joyful and they need to share that joy, so it’s a great opportunity to do that. If you’re not joyful, then become joyful, so it’s a challenge to all religious.”

Sister Mary Charles also said she hopes the Year of Consecrated life will result in “an increase in the members of their orders” for women religious “and for men as well, for brothers and priests. We’ve got the Glenmary Missioners, we’ve got the Apostles of Jesus, we’ve got the Paulists, we have the Alexian Brothers, there are CMIs (Carmelites of Mary Immaculate).”

Bringing attention to religious life can help adults, children, young men, and young women “see that this vocation exists in the Church” and respond to God’s will, Sister Mary Charles said.

“God’s not out to make your life miserable,” she said. “He’s calling us to be joyful in following him, and some people can and some people can’t accept that call because it means leaving family, entering an order, living in community life, and doing things and having someone tell you what to do, so your life is not your own anymore. But it can be a very joyful and fulfilling life, and it’s a life called to the love of God, so to the degree that we can surrender our own will and do God’s will, that’s what’s going to really make the difference for us.”

Sister Albertine Paulus of the Sisters of Mercy of the Americas, formerly the diocese’s longtime director of evangelization, reflected on her 65 years in religious life.

“When I entered the convent, my mental image was I was 19 years old, I was giving God a blank check with my life on it, and he could do whatever he wanted with it,” she said. “It’s been amazing what he’s done. I’ve had experiences, opportunities, education, met people in ministries beyond anything I could have imagined, and now in my old age and retirement, it’s mostly just, ‘Wow, God you’ve done this wonderful thing. How can I ever thank you?’ So now it’s praise and thanks.”

Fellow RSM Sister Mary Martha Naber said that “it’s been an honor and privilege to be able to be called by God to service to others every day.” She serves as the liaison for mission at Physicians Regional Medical Center, formerly St. Mary’s Medical Center, in Knoxville.

“As I’m in ministry at the hos-

Consecrated continued on page 21

Ministries Day brings leaders from across diocese together

More than 200 people take part in daylong conference that provides information for parish programs

By Bill Brewer

More than 200 parishioners from around the Diocese of Knoxville took part Oct. 18 in Ministries Day, a daylong event where diocesan ministry leaders gather with fellow Catholics from the various churches to share ideas on how to more effectively spread the faith.

Thirty presentations in English and Spanish were held for parishioners, many of whom are involved in parish ministry, with each presentation concentrating on some aspect of Catholic family life and offering thought-provoking material on the family in the new evangelization.

"Many people commented that they didn't want the day to end, and that the seven or eight choices offered in the four breakout sessions were outstanding and that it was difficult to choose among them," said Sister Mary Timothea Elliott, RSM, director of the diocese's Office of Christian Formation.

"Ministries Day is always an important day for the diocese because it brings people together from all parts of the diocese for enrichment in our common faith. Some presentations provide stimulating ideas for leadership in various parish ministries; others deepen spirituality; and all of them provide opportunity to meet and exchange ideas and reflections with people concerned with the same questions and issues," Sister Timothea added.

Mass was held at Sacred Heart Ca-



BILL BREWER

Celebrating our ministries Bishop Richard F. Stika addresses parishioners from around the Diocese of Knoxville who took part in Ministries Day on Oct. 18 at Sacred Heart Cathedral School. The daylong conference was an opportunity for parish leaders to learn best practices in leading parish ministries.

thedral to begin the day, and Bishop Richard F. Stika began the conference with an opening address to the participants in the Sacred Heart School gym.

Bishop Stika related his recent trip to the Vatican and his visit with Pope Francis in late September and early October as the Synod on the Family began.

"I have a question for all of you. What's the whole topic of the synod?" Bishop Stika asked the attendees, with several responding "families."

"You're wrong," Bishop Stika said. "It's Jesus, isn't it? Isn't that why we're gathering together here today? This is all about Jesus and the Father and asking the Holy Spirit to give us guid-

ance and wisdom and openness in our hearts today. But it's especially about Jesus.

"In fact, every topic that will be discussed today in one way or another will be connected to Jesus, whether it's youth ministry or catechetical instruction, whether it's dealing with culture,

Ministries continued on page 21

Bishop Stika celebrates the saints with students at St. Joseph School

Bishop Richard F. Stika took the opportunity to discuss one of his favorite subjects — saints — with a school full of eager students during a visit to St. Joseph School on Nov. 3.

Bishop Stika celebrated Mass at the North Knoxville school on the

first school day after All Saints Day, which was Saturday, Nov. 1.

Many of the students were dressed as their favorite saints to mark the occasion.

Bishop Stika also toured the school with Father Chris Michelson and principal Andy Zengel. ■



STEPHANIE RICHER

Talking about saints Bishop Richard F. Stika visits with a class at St. Joseph School on Nov. 3 to mark All Saints Day.

Pope Francis to visit Philadelphia for World Meeting of Families

By Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY — Pope Francis said he would attend the World Meeting of Families in Philadelphia in September, making it the first confirmed stop on what is expected to be a more extensive papal visit to North America.

The pope made the announcement Nov. 17 in a speech opening an interreligious conference on traditional marriage.

"I would like to confirm that, God willing, in September 2015 I will go to Philadelphia for the eighth World Meeting of Families," the pope said.

The announcement had been

widely expected, since Pope Benedict XVI had said before his retirement that he hoped to attend the Philadelphia event. Popes typically fulfill their predecessors' publicly known travel plans, as Pope Francis did in July 2013 when he attended World Youth Day in Rio de Janeiro.

Philadelphia Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, who was in Rome for the families meeting, told Catholic News Service the announcement was "a surprise in the sense that it was announced so early; you know usually they don't make these announcements — four months out is the typical and here we are 10

months away, and the Holy Father said he is coming to Philadelphia."

Catholicphilly.com reported the archbishop noted that Pope Francis has focused "on the many challenges that families face today globally. His charisma, presence and voice will electrify the gathering.

"As I've said many times before, I believe that the presence of the Holy Father will bring all of us — Catholic and non-Catholic alike — together in tremendously powerful, unifying and healing ways. We look forward to Pope Francis' arrival in Philadelphia next September, and we will welcome him joyfully with

open arms and prayerful hearts."

In August, Pope Francis told reporters accompanying him on the plane back from South Korea that he "would like" to go to Philadelphia. The pope also noted that President Barack Obama and the U.S. Congress had invited him to Washington, D.C., and that the secretary-general of the United Nations had invited him to New York.

"Maybe the three cities together, no?" Pope Francis said, adding that he could also visit the shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe in Mexico on the same trip -- "but it is not certain."

Pope continued on page 20

Chet continued from page 5

field in Africa because a witch doctor had tried to kill their baby that was born with a deformity. It was their first day back in the states and God had used my lack of arms and a few words we said that night to heal them."

Five years later the father-son team is going strong. The pair has crisscrossed the country speaking to churches, schools, corporations and national conferences. They even spoke to the employees of a Social Security Administration office that had lost six family members in a six-week period.

"You told me I couldn't say Jesus or God," said Mr. McDoniel, remembering saying that to the person in charge. "I can't do this without Scripture."

"Say whatever you want. This office needs to be healed," the person in charge replied.

"I finally realized that if I get out of the way, God can heal people, God can restore people, not because of my words, not because my words are great, but because He's so great," Mr. McDoniel said.

Finally, he offered one more piece of advice.

"We need to learn how to see peo-

ple instead of labels," he said. "The pro-choice community would love us to call babies fetuses or clumps of cells. ... They should be called a baby from moment No. 1. If we constantly reinforce that, I think the other side would have a lot harder time with its case."

So why does he do what he does?

"The fact of the matter is, in today's day and age, with a different set of parents, I would not have made it, and neither would they have," Mr. McDoniel said, motioning to a picture of his family that is about to grow to five with the joyous anticipation of a third child in May.

"I could sit back in life and society would say that is OK because something's not right, I didn't come with everything I need," he said frankly. "But I did come with everything I need. ... I was put on Earth to worship God. If I needed arms to do that, He would have given them to me in the first place."

Chet McDoniel is anything but broken.

Proceeds from the Chattanooga for Life banquet support Chattanooga's youth trip to Washington, D.C., for the annual March for Life. ■

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1. PRAYER AND FASTING

2. PEACEFUL VIGIL

Stand for life in a peaceful public witness outside of Planned Parenthood on 710 N. Cherry St. in Knoxville from 7am – 7pm from Ash Wed, February 18 through Palm Sunday, March 29

3. COMMUNITY OUTREACH:

Bring a positive pro-life message to every corner of our city through media efforts, advocacy and public visibility.

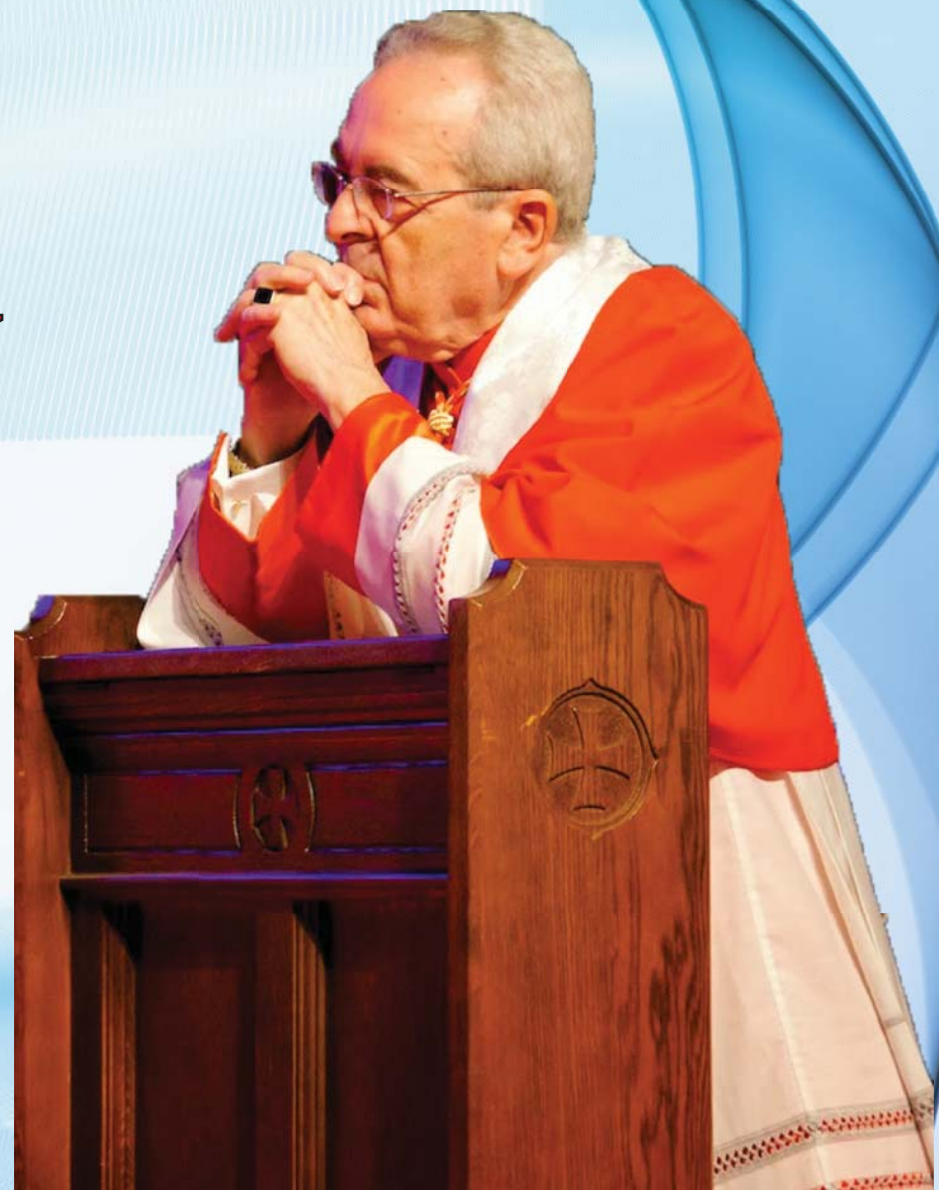
Paul Simoneau 865-584-3307 or Lisa Morris, 865-567-1245...information@40days.com

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JANUARY 10, 2015

10:00 AM IN FRONT OF PLANNED PARENTHOOD
710 N. CHERRY STREET, KNOXVILLE TN

THE 2015 ROSARY FOR LIFE



LED BY CARDINAL JUSTIN RIGALI

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT PAUL SIMONEAU
PSIMONEAU@DIOKNOX.ORG OR 865.584.3307

St. Mary's Legacy Clinic moves into permanent facility

Mobile medical vehicle will be stored, maintained at storage site on campus of Church of Divine Mercy

By Bill Brewer

The St. Mary's Legacy Clinic now has a permanent residence – a 40-by-60-foot warehouse that can house the mobile clinic when it isn't on the road delivering free medical care to those in need across East Tennessee.

The facility was dedicated Nov. 13, with Cardinal Justin Rigali blessing the building located on the Church of Divine Mercy campus at 10919 Carmichael Road in Knoxville. Deacon Sean Smith, Diocese of Knoxville chancellor, and Sister Mariana Koonce, RSM, MD, led the dedication.

They thanked those involved in the mobile clinic ministry, including volunteers, diocesan leaders, the communities served by the clinic, and Bishop Richard F. Stika, who led efforts to get the mobile clinic ministry off the ground.

Among those attending the dedication were Religious Sisters of Mercy, officials with building contractor Merit Construction, and the directors of Remote Area Medical and the Free Medical Clinic of America, which also offer free medical care to people in East Tennessee.

"Bishop Stika offers his thanks to all of you. He is very grateful for the work that has gone into this wonderful ministry led by Sister Mariana. She is the sister of multiple hats. She is a physician, but she also drives this mobile clinic," Deacon Smith said as he introduced Cardinal Rigali, calling His Eminence a prince of the Church who we are blessed to have living in our midst.

Before blessing the mobile clinic storage facility, Cardinal Rigali pointed out that the dedication was occurring on the feast day of St. Frances Xavier Cabrini, who founded the Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart of Jesus and was sent to America in 1889 by Pope Leo XIII to assist immigrants and who was the first American citizen to be



DAN MCWILLIAMS

Taking the ribbon off Cardinal Justin Rigali, center, is joined by, from left, John Geppi, chief financial officer of Covenant Health and a St. Mary's Legacy Clinic board member; Sister Mary Martha Naber, RSM, with the St. Mary's Legacy Clinic; Sister Mariana Koonce, RSM, MD, who is medical director of the St. Mary's Legacy Clinic; Diocese of Knoxville Chancellor Deacon Sean Smith; Bruce Bosse of Merit Construction; and Tom Greer, diocesan facilities manager, in cutting the ribbon to dedicate the clinic's new permanent storage facility.

canonized a saint.

Cardinal Rigali said St. Frances Xavier Cabrini worked in the name of serving the people of God, the immigrants and their needs.

"It's wonderful that the Sisters of Mercy — they've been involved since the very beginning in the beautiful title of mercy, that's their job — show mercy, which is God's love in the face of need, all kinds of need. So here we are celebrating this wonderful work by Sister Mariana, who is the head of it, but also on this particular occasion of St. Frances Xavier Cabrini, showing that this is what the Church is all about," Cardinal Rigali said.

"You know this is a work of the Catholic Church, but the reason that we do it is because we're Catholics. But it's not to serve the Catholics; it's to serve all of God's people.

That's what it is and we're so delighted that we can be of service, and we're so delighted that we have the Sisters of Mercy to make this project work. This is in the tradition of the Church and very much what Jesus had in mind because Jesus, in the New Testament, went around doing good, helping people in need. He preached the Gospel, he spoke about his Father in heaven, he told us how to get to heaven, and part of the way of getting to heaven was to help people in need," Cardinal Rigali added.

Following Cardinal Rigali's blessing of the new facility, he joined Sister Mariana, Deacon Smith, Sister Mary Martha Naber, RSM, diocesan facilities manager Tom Greer, Bruce Bosse of Merit Construction, and John Geppi, who is chief financial officer of Covenant Health and a St.

Mary's Legacy Clinic board member, for the ribbon-cutting.

Sister Mariana also thanked Father Hoan Dinh, Church of Divine Mercy pastor, for his assistance with the mobile clinic ministry.

As the clinic serves people in Washburn, Crab Orchard and Athens on a weekly and biweekly basis, Sister Mariana hopes the clinic can expand to additional sites soon.

"Everything is in one place and now we can spend our time focused on getting out and serving people and not running around Knoxville figuring out where things are, so that's what this building means to us today," she said. "In many ways, this building completes the start-up phase of the mobile clinic, and now we're really ready to launch and get out there and start serving people more robustly." ■

St. John XXIII parish to hold Christmas Mass for those grieving

A special Christmas Mass for those who are alone, sad, or grieving will again be said on Dec. 24 at St. John XXIII Parish and University Center on the University of Tennessee campus.

The 8 p.m. Blue Christmas Mass will be a liturgy of hope for those experiencing pain and loss, according to Father Rich Andre, CSP, associate pastor at St. John XXIII, who held the first Blue Christmas Mass in the Diocese of Knoxville last year.

"Christmas can be a challenging time for people who are grieving or alone. And people who are alone sometimes don't feel comfortable," said Father Andre, who will preside at the Mass.

Father Andre said U.S. churches began holding services about 20 years ago for members who were lonely or sad, noting that the winter solstice can have adverse affects on people who are feeling blue.

Approximately 60 people attended the diocese's first Blue Christmas Mass in 2013, coming from a number of parishes in the diocese.

"The people who came were experiencing different sorts of loss: death of a loved one, recent divorce, and

other forms of loneliness. Almost everyone stayed afterwards for fellowship and conversation," Father Andre said.

He noted that planning of the Blue Christmas Mass brought together a diverse group of St. John XXIII parishioners "to create a beautiful celebration."

"I have been a priest for two-and-half years. The Blue Christmas Mass last year was probably the most special liturgy at which I've presided as a priest. Praying together with all these people, bathed in the light of God's love, as we struggled with elements of sadness in our lives... reflecting on it still gives me goosebumps. It was an honor and a privilege," Father Andre said.

He said the Paulist Fathers have been offering a Blue Christmas Mass at Ohio State University for about a decade, and that the St. John XXIII Mass will be a similar liturgy intended for people experiencing pain or loss. He noted that the music has a more muted tone and the Mass emphasizes a message of hope more than a message of joy and is especially for those experiencing sadness.

"Our hope is for people who

would feel comfortable attending their own parishes to celebrate Christmas there. But the idea is for people who are alone across the diocese to come to our service," he said. "The Diocese of Knoxville, the Paulist Fathers, and Pope Francis all emphasize outreach to those on the

margins. The Blue Christmas Mass is another ministry for that outreach."

Father Andre asked that any Diocese of Knoxville parishioners who know of someone who would be interested in attending the Blue Christmas Mass contact St. John XXIII Parish at 865-523-7931. ■

Lord Jesus Come

In the midst of pain,
I seek your love.

Blue Christmas Mass

A liturgy of hope
for those experiencing pain and loss

Christmas Eve, December 24th, 8 p.m.

St. John XXIII Parish
1710 Melrose Place, Knoxville, TN 37916

Learn more at: <http://www.john23rd.org/liturgy/blue-christmas-mass>

Funeral Mass held for Father Dorn

A Mass of Christian Burial for Father Jerry Dorn, GHM, was celebrated Nov. 14 at St. Matthias Church in Cincinnati.

Father Dorn, a Glenmary Home Missioner, died at his home in Kingsport. He was 70.

During his long career in ministry, he served in a wide range of roles — from parish brother and mission pastor to vocation director and Glenmary president — and was also deeply connected to the Glenmary Group Volunteer Program.

In his last official assignment, he served as director of Glenmary's candidacy and postnovitiate programs



in St. Meinrad, Ind. He took senior membership in 2013.

"Father Dorn was a Glenmarian to the core and was willing to serve in whatever ways needed to help," said Glenmary president Father Chet Artysiewicz. "He possessed a tremendous amount of energy, love for life, and total dedication and commitment to Glenmary. And he left a powerful, lasting impression on people." ■

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Diocesan calendar

by Margaret Hunt

Cardinal Justin Rigali will lead the annual **Rosary for Life** at 10 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 10, in front of the Planned Parenthood Clinic located at 710 N. Cherry St. in Knoxville. For more information, call Paul Simoneau at 865-584-3307.

Chattanoogaans for Life and the diocesan Youth and Young Adult Ministry Office are sponsoring a **trip to the annual March for Life** in Washington, D.C., Jan. 21-23. The group will leave from OLPH School in Chattanooga around 9 p.m. on the 21st and arrive in time for the march. The group will return to Chattanooga around midnight on Jan. 23. The cost is \$150 per person, which includes one night in a hotel, bus fare, most meals, and Metro passes. Registration is now open with a limit of 108 people. A payment of half of the cost will reserve a seat if paid by Dec. 8. Flyers, medical release forms, and other pertinent information is available on the Diocese of Knoxville youth ministry page at dioknox.org. For more information, call Donna Jones at 423-718-4387.

The 40 Days for Life campaign will begin on Ash Wednesday, Feb. 18, and will run through Palm Sunday, March 29. Last year, 19 diocesan parishes as well as a number of Catholic organizations adopted days of vigil to help cover each day of the campaign. Please have your parish or organization pro-life representative contact Paul Simoneau at psimoneau@dioknox.org or 865-862-5753 in order to begin planning for this year's coming campaign.

Las Posadas will be held from 6:30-9 p.m. Monday, Dec. 15, at the Emporium Center in Knoxville. The free event is a reenactment of Joseph's and Mary's journey to Bethlehem. Children dress as angels and shepherds. The group will parade through downtown Knoxville, with the event ending back at the Emporium Center with snacks and a piñata for the children. For more information, call Casa Hola at 865-335-

3358 or the diocesan Office of Hispanic Ministry at 865-637-4769.

La Pastorela, a Mexican traditional Christmas story organized by the Emmanuel Group, will take place at 2 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 21, in the gym at St. Joseph School in Knoxville. The play will be in Spanish with English narration. For more information, call 865-386-9610.

In observance of the USCCB National Migration Week, Jan. 4-10, there will be a **bilingual Stations of the Cross of the Migrant Christ** at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 6, at Holy Ghost Church in Knoxville.

St. Mary's Legacy Clinic volunteer orientation will take place from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Friday, Jan. 30, at the Church of Divine Mercy, 10919 Carmichael Road in Knoxville. Volunteer applications may be found at www.stmaryclinic.org.

Catholic Charities needs volunteers for several of its programs. The Pregnancy Help Center needs Spanish-speaking volunteers to assist with the "Earn While You Learn" program for parents-to-be, giving them the opportunity to learn about pregnancy-related concerns and parenting tips while earning needed supplies for their infants. Contact Sandi Davidson for more information at 865-776-4510 or sandi@cctn.org.

The Children's Emergency Shelter is also in serious need of volunteers to care for and prepare meals for the residents of the program. Fingerprinting and a background check are required to participate. Contact Jackie Fleming at 865-544-0578 or jackie@cctn.org for more information.

The next **Picture of Love engaged couples retreat** is scheduled for 7-10 p.m. Friday, Feb. 6, and 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 7, at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church in Chattanooga. The retreat is to supplement couples' marriage formation process with their parish priests. The cost is \$135 per couple, which includes a certificate

good for \$60 off a marriage license. Couples must attend the entire program to receive the certificate. Mass will be celebrated during the event. For more information, contact Marian Christiana at 423-892-2310 or mchristiana@dioknox.org.

The Office of Marriage Preparation and Enrichment is planning a **pilgrimage to the World Meeting of Families** in Philadelphia Sept. 23-27. Space is limited. Contact Marian Christiana at mchristiana@dioknox.org or 423-892-2310, or Lisa Morris at lccte@bellsouth.net or 865-567-1245 for details and trip information.

An Engaged Encounter weekend is scheduled for Feb. 13-15 at the Holiday Inn Express in Lenoir City. For more information, contact Jason or Carmen Jeansonne, weekend registration couple, at 865-377-3077, or Tom and Maggie Slankas, local coordinators, at 483-7896 or ceeknoxville@yahoo.com.

An RCIA conference for those who participate in faith-formation activities with catechumens and candidates in the Diocese of Knoxville is scheduled for 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 17, at Immaculate Conception Church in Knoxville. Registration forms are available online at dioknox.org/offices-ministries/christian-formation/. For more information, contact Sister Mary Timothea Elliott, RSM, at 865-584-3307 or Chris Kite at ckite@dioknox.org.

Knoxville Catholic High School is holding a placement test from 8 a.m. to noon Saturday, Dec. 6, in the KCHS administration building. To obtain further information, contact Nichole Pfohl, dean of admissions, at 865-560-0502 or npfohl@knoxvillecatholic.com.

Mass in the extraordinary form ("traditional Latin") is celebrated at 1:30 p.m. each Sunday at Holy Ghost Church in Knoxville; at 3 p.m. on first and third Sundays at St. Thérèse of Lisieux Church in Cleveland; at 3 p.m. on second and fourth Sundays at St.

Joseph the Worker Church in Madisonville; at 11 a.m. on most Sundays at St. Francis of Assisi Church in Townsend; and at 3 p.m. on the first and third Sundays at St. Mary Church in Johnson City. Visit www.knoxlatinmass.net for updated information.

The traditional Latin Mass of Christmas will be offered at Holy Ghost Church (Knoxville) at 1:30 p.m. on Christmas Day. At 1 p.m. preceding the Mass, the Knoxville Latin Mass Schola will present a program of traditional Christmas music. The Mass itself will be accompanied by the variable proper parts sung in Gregorian chant and the fixed ordinary parts (Kyrie, Gloria, etc.) in a polyphonic setting (Missa de Beata Virgine Maria) by the Portuguese renaissance composer Manuel Cardoso, plus motets in sacred polyphony composed by Palestrina, Byrd, and Victoria. **Christmas Mass in the extraordinary form** will also be offered at midnight Christmas, Dec. 25, at St. Francis of Assisi Church in Townsend.

A Missa Cantata (sung high Mass) in the ancient form of the Roman Rite will be celebrated by Father David Carter at the Basilica of Sts. Peter and Paul in Chattanooga at 2:30 p.m. on Christmas Day, Dec. 25. Prelude music begins at 2:15 p.m. Music will be sung by adult and youth scholae cantorum. All are invited.

The St. Thomas the Apostle Eastern (Byzantine) Catholic Mission has moved to 2304 Ault Road, Knoxville, TN 37914. Divine Liturgy times remain the same. All services are in English. Call Father Richard Armstrong at 865-584-3307 or visit www.saintthomas-knoxville.org for details.

Holy Resurrection Ruthenian Byzantine Catholic Mission has **Divine Liturgy celebrations** at 9:30 a.m. Sundays at the old Holy Ghost Church, 1031 N. Central St. in Knoxville. For times of holy-day services or for more information, visit www.knoxbyz.org or call Father Thomas O'Connell at 865-256-4880. ■

Chattanooga Deanery calendar

The Channel of Peace Secular Franciscan Order at Holy Spirit Church in Soddy-Daisy is hosting a **"Greccio Christmas at Holy Spirit"** at 3 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 14. The group will reenact the first Christmas manger scene in the spirit of St. Francis of Assisi, credited with starting the popular tradition of the Christmas crèche. Call the parish for more information at 423-332-5300.

ChattiGras 2015 is scheduled for 7 p.m. Feb. 14 at the Chattanooga Convention Center. The evening will include dinner, dancing to music from the Love, Peace, and Happiness band, a casino, and a silent auction. Tickets are \$75. Sponsors and auction donors are needed. Proceeds from the dinner will support Chattanooga Catholic schools. For more information, visit www.chattigras.com. ■



COURTESY OF DENNIS LOWE

St. Stephen holds parish picnic

St. Stephen Parish in Chattanooga held its annual parish picnic after the 11 a.m. Mass on Oct. 12. Hamburgers and hot dogs were provided and cooked by Knights of Columbus Council 6099. Also provided were dishes prepared by the parishioners, including baked beans. There were also inflatable games, a petting zoo, and pumpkin painting for the children.



COURTESY OF DENNIS LOWE

Thanksgiving cards to give thanks

The kindergarten students at St. Stephen in Chattanooga made Thanksgiving cards for those in the parish who are shut in to let them know they were not forgotten during the holiday season.

Parish notes: Chattanooga Deanery

Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Chattanooga

The Family Promise Interfaith Homeless Network needs volunteers to host families the week of Dec. 28, 2014, to Jan. 4, 2015. Call Lisa Kosky at 423-877-5982 to register, or sign up on the poster in Holy Family Hall.

St. Augustine, Signal Mountain

The annual children's Nativity play will take place at the 5 p.m. Christmas Eve Mass. All children grades kindergarten through fifth grade who would like to participate in the play are invited to three practices from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. Sundays, Dec. 14 and 21, and a dress rehearsal at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 23. Middle and high school students are also needed to narrate the play. For more information, contact Heather Wilson at heather@staugustinecatholic.org.

St. Jude, Chattanooga

The Chattanooga Deanery Pen Pals for Prisoners Ministry is seeking volunteers to correspond with new inmates who have requested a pen pal. There are currently 42 inmates participating in the program and 31 volunteers. For more information, contact Deacon Tom McConnell at brendaandtom@comcast.net or 423-209-5485, or Emily Knoch at Emily@livingstoncompany.com or 785-6156.

St. Stephen, Chattanooga

Knights of Columbus Council 6099 honored Ron Schleifer as Knight of the month and Bob and Karen Adney as family of the month.

Newcomers: Juan and Maria Flores, Mary Rivera, Casimir Wanczyk, and Sara Bergin ■



ELIZABETH CONWAY

Bible study at Holy Spirit

Monsignor Al Humbrecht, pastor of Holy Spirit Parish in Soddy-Daisy, recently kicked off the fall session to begin the four-year Catholic Biblical School Program, a complete study of the Bible. Participants can attend the study either on Thursday afternoons at 2 p.m. or Thursday evenings at 7 p.m.

Parish notes: Cumberland Mountain Deanery

All Saints, Knoxville

Members of All Saints Parish are scheduled to volunteer at Second Harvest Food Bank from 9 a.m. to noon Saturday, Dec. 13. Each hour worked is credited as \$1 to the Ladies of Charity food bill. Parishioners ages 10 and older are welcome to assist. For details, contact Ginger Henderson at gkgovols@gmail.com.

Blessed Sacrament, Harriman

The parish is celebrating a healing Mass with the anointing of the sick at 6 p.m. Friday, Dec. 5. All those who wish to pray for physical, spiritual, or emotional healing are encouraged to attend. The evening will close with Benediction at 7:30 p.m. For more information, call the parish office at 865-882-9838.

St. Francis of Assisi, Fairfield Glade

The St. Francis Council of Catholic Women hosted three local authors Nov. 12. Tom Edwards, Girard Etzkorn, and JoAnne Bunyak spoke about their writing at the event.

The parish CCW will host a silent auction at its Wednesday, Dec. 10, meeting.

Anniversaries: Steve and MaryLou Knowles (67), Lyle and Kathryn Flahaven (61), Edwin and Grace Johnson (61), Jack and Marilyn Alderton (60), Ron and Terry Gleusner (58), Fred and Laura Reed (58), Ron and Mary White (56), Fred and Sharon Henkel (53), Robert and Janice Cahill (53), Vern and Marianne Parrish (52), Mike and Susan Spitler (52), Tom and Mary Dega (51), John and Elizabeth Mosior (51), Frank and Nancy Drabek (50), Eugene and Janet Standaert (50), Philip and Rosalie Poynter (50)

St. John Neumann, Farragut

The St. John Neumann Church Christmas children's liturgy will take place at 4:30 p.m. on Christmas Eve. Children in grades kindergarten through sixth grade who would like to participate in the Christmas pageant are invited to attend three practices at 1 p.m. Sundays, Dec. 7, 14, and 21. Children who want to participate in the choir should arrive at noon on those three days. Middle and high school students who would like to lector, usher, or narrate the play should come to practice at noon Sunday, Dec. 7. For more information, contact Lydia Donahue at lydonahue@hotmail.com.

The parish is collecting Christmas gifts for children in Appalachia including underwear, jeans, shoes, and toys or games for children and teens ages 1-18. Unwrapped items should be placed in the narthex of the church by the week of Sunday, Dec. 14.

Sister Restituta Nyinoweitu, pastoral associate at St. John Neumann, will facilitate a series titled "Your Child 6-12: Your Last Great Chance," which addresses how to fully appreciate and nurture preteen children, instill virtues, and discuss vocations. The class will meet Wednesday evenings in the St. John Neumann School library from 7-8:15 p.m. Dec. 3, Dec. 17, and Jan. 7; or Sundays from 9:40-10:20 a.m. Dec. 7, Dec. 14; Jan. 11, Jan. 25; and Feb. 1. Child-care will be provided with prior arrangement. For more information, contact Sister Restituta at 865-777-4319 or srresty@sjnknox.org.

Cumberland Mountain continued on page 16

The Frassati Fellowship for Young Adults for those age 18-39 meets at the Chancery in Knoxville at 7 p.m. Thursdays. For more information, call Elijah Martin at 828-606-2961.

The Knoxville Comprehensive Breast Center Mobile Mammography Unit will be at St. John Neumann Church on Tuesday, Jan. 13. For details, call the parish office at 865-966-4540. ■



COURTESY OF CAPOLO-ADAMS

Blessing of the pets at St. Francis

Father Albert Sescon, pastor of St. Francis of Assisi in Fairfield Glade, presided at a blessing of the pets Oct. 4 in honor of the parish patron's feast day.

St. Mary student advances in Punt, Pass & Kick

Anne Marie Carter, an eighth-grader at St. Mary School in Oak Ridge, has advanced to the team championship level for the NFL's Punt, Pass & Kick Competition.

Anne's journey began in her PE class the week of Sept. 22 as she won for 12-13-year old girls. As a school champion, she advanced to the Knoxville-area championship, known as the sectional championship, in October. Anne won this competition as well.

Anne will compete at the Tennessee Titans game on Dec. 7 in Nashville. She is one of four girls in her age group in the four-state region of Alabama, Arkansas, Kentucky, and Tennessee to advance to this level of competition.

The NFL Punt, Pass & Kick (PPK) program is a national skills competition for boys and girls between the ages of 6 and 15 to compete separately against their peers. Established in 1961, the PPK program is the oldest NFL youth football program.

Girls and boys in five separate age divisions compete against each other in punting, passing and place kicking. The PPK program is free – both to organizers who host a local competition and to every youngster who wants to participate. With thousands of boys and girls from around the country taking part in PPK competitions every year from May through January, it is one of the world's largest youth sports participation programs. ■



COURTESY OF JANE WOLFE

Parish notes: Five Rivers Deanery

Holy Trinity, Jefferson City

The parish collected 106 shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child during November.

Father Patrick Resen will present “Intimate Conversations with God,” an Advent day of reflection, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 13, in Whitman Hall. Lunch will be provided. For more information, call the parish office at 865-471-0347.

The parish held a reception for Deacon John and Shirley Riehl on Nov. 30. The Riehls will be moving to Hendersonville, N.C.

Anniversary: Dean and Barbara Adams (20)

Notre Dame, Greeneville

The eighth annual Madrigal Dinner will be held at Notre Dame Church the evenings of Dec. 4-6. Doors open at 6:30 p.m., and dinner will be served at 7. Each evening 15th- and 16th-century carols will be sung by the madrigal court, and a four-course dinner will be served. Call 423-639-9381 for advance tickets.

St. Dominic, Kingsport

The Martha and Mary group is hosting a cookie exchange at 3 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 14, in the parish life center. Bring three dozen cookies, copies of the recipe used, and a container to hold the cookies. Most of the cookies will be delivered to Hope Haven, a homeless shelter for men. For more information, call the parish office at 423-288-8101.

St. Patrick, Morristown

The St. Patrick youth group is hosting a parents’ night out from 6:30-10:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 5, in the parish hall for children 18 months and up. The evening will include games, crafts, movies, and snacks. The cost is free, but donations will be accepted. Contact Colleen Jacobs at 423-748-2423 or ColleenMJacobs@gmail.com.

The quilting group, Paddy’s Piecemakers, as part of the National Quilts of Valor Foundation, made quilts for veterans who attend St. Patrick Church. Fourteen parishioners received quilts from the group. ■



Cumberland Mountain continued from page 15

“Boots, Bowties, and Blessings” will be the theme of the St. John Neumann School fundraising silent auction and dinner scheduled for Saturday, Jan. 31, at The Reserve at Bluebird Hill in Lenoir City. For more information, call the school office at 865-777-0077.

St. Therese, Clinton

The parish Christmas potluck will take place from 5-8 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 14. Each family should bring a dish or dessert. For more information, contact Fran Pisano at fppmd2@gmail.com or call 865-482-6879. ■

Forty-nine take part in day of reflection at Notre Dame Church

Notre Dame Parish in Greeneville hosted a Woman’s Day of Reflection on Oct. 4: “Women All, Created with Love and Called by Name.” This retreat was sponsored by the Five Rivers Deanery Council of Catholic Women and the Notre Dame Parish CCW. Suzanne Erpenbach, director of leadership and development for the National Council of Catholic Women and past president of the Diocesan Council of Catholic Women, presented a day of reflections and discussions. Forty-nine participants from nine parishes in the Five Rivers and Cumberland Mountain affiliates attended, including Father Dan Whitman, spiritual moderator to the Diocese of Knoxville CCW, the Five Rivers Deanery CCW, and the Notre Dame Parish CCW.



COURTESY OF SUE HINDERLIDER

All Souls’ Day ceremony

Father Peter Iorio, pastor of St. Mary in Johnson City, presided at a cemetery blessing on All Souls’ Day Nov. 2.

Parish notes: Smoky Mountain Deanery

Holy Ghost, Knoxville

Holy Ghost Parish formed a new St. Vincent de Paul conference in October. The group has hosted several fundraising events, started a blessed shawls project, and maintains a basket for food donations. The group will work closely with the Ladies of Charity to serve the needy in the Holy Ghost neighborhood. Deacon Mike Gouge and Leigh Chagnon were responsible for starting the chapter at the church.

The Advent Mitten Tree to benefit young people in the Richard L. Bean Juvenile Detention Center over the holidays has been erected. Donations of warm clothing, fresh fruit, and sweets are being accepted. There is also a collection for stuffed animals that will be distributed by Judge Timothy E. Irwin, juvenile court judge. For more information, contact Carolyn Toal at toalcarolyn@gmail.com.

The parish is sponsoring the Crazy Quilt Toy Ministry again this year. Bring a new or gently used unwrapped toy to the John Paul II Room in the church basement after Masses through Dec. 5. For more information, contact Merilee Kerwin at 865-297-2558 or oliviakerwin@yahoo.com.

Carol Lougheed will facilitate a Dave Ramsey Financial Peace University class beginning at 7 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 7. The class teaches budgeting techniques and encourages different methods of cutting family debt. For more information, contact Ms. Lougheed at carol.lougheed@gmail.com.

Immaculate Conception, Knoxville

The parish is sponsoring a Christmas Carol Festival at 6 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 10. All are welcome to join in singing Christmas carols. Refreshments will be served in the parish hall. For more information, call the parish office at 865-522-1508.

The Immaculate Conception women's group is hosting a Christmas party at The Foundry at 6 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 18. The cost is \$15 per person. Bring a wrapped gift to exchange. For more information, contact Connie Healy at 865-579-1955 or c_perella_healy@hotmail.com. Reservations must be made by Monday, Dec. 15.

Marriage: Mary Frances Wedekind and Adam Malone

St. Albert the Great, Knoxville

All women of the parish are invited to the fourth annual women's Advent tea after the 11 a.m. Mass on Sunday, Dec. 7. Dr. Ruth Queen Smith is the guest speaker. For more information, contact Loretta Walker at 865-951-2508.

Parishioner Marcy Meldahl became a Providence Associate in a ceremony at the Church of the Immaculate Conception in St. Mary-of-the-Woods, Ind., on Nov. 8, joining 21 other 2014 Providence Candidate-Associates with the Sisters of Providence in pledging "to honor Divine Providence and further God's loving plans through works of love, mercy, and justice in service among God's people." Director of Providence Associates Sister Diane Mason said the commitment ceremony brought the total number of Providence Associates to more than 200 in the United States and Taiwan. ■

Smoky Mountain Deanery calendar

Sacred Heart Cathedral School has two open houses planned: the first will be held at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 7, and the second at 10 a.m. Wednesday, Jan. 28. For more information, call 865-558-4136 or visit www.shcschool.org.

Dave Ramsey's Financial Peace University, a nine-week course designed to help participants learn how to manage money and get rid of debt, will be taught at Sacred Heart Cathedral beginning in January 2015. For more information, call Tom Shannon at 865-690-7396.



COURTESY OF PAW RHODES

Knights of Columbus ceremony Five members of Council 5207 became Third Degree Knights on Nov. 15. From left are (front row) John O'Connor, Ray Barkowski, and Michael Hickey; (middle row) Jay Meadowcroft, Greg Guyotte, Scott Elmore, and Tom Greer; and (back row) state deputy John Parks, supreme director Mike Wills, and state treasurer Tracy Staller.

Five advance to Knights' Third Degree status

In a ceremony held at Holy Ghost Church in Knoxville on Nov. 15, five members of Knights of Columbus Council 5207 advanced to the status of Knights of the Third Degree.

Through the ceremonial tradition led by state and national representatives of the Knights of Columbus, Council 5207 members John O'Connor, Ray Barkowski, Michael Hickey, Greg Guyotte, and Scott Elmore have joined the ranks of fellow Third Degree Knights of Columbus members from around the world.

With more than 2 million members, the Knights of Columbus is the world's largest Catholic lay organization. It provides members and

their families with volunteer opportunities in service to the Catholic Church, the community, families, and young people. In 2014 the Knights of Columbus at all levels of the organization raised and distributed \$170 million to charity and rendered 70 million hours of volunteer service.

Knights of Columbus Council 5207 is proud to represent and serve Sacred Heart Cathedral Parish in Knoxville and meets regularly in closed meetings every first Monday of the month. If you are interested in joining the Knights of Columbus, contact membership director Jimmy Dee at 865-809-3825 or jp.deei@gmail.com. ■

Lady Irish capture second straight state title

After a marathon victory in a shootout in the semifinals, the Knoxville Catholic High School Lady Irish captured their second straight Class A-AA state soccer championship with a 4-0 victory over rival Notre Dame on Nov. 1 at the Richard Siegel Soccer Complex in Murfreesboro.

Ashley Hickman scored a hat trick for KCHS to lead the Lady Irish, and goalkeeper and fellow senior Colleen Baker notched her third straight state-tournament shutout.

Knoxville Catholic won its last 15 games in a row to finish 19-6 for the season.

Camille Mancini opened the scoring for Knoxville Catholic in the title game with a goal in the 12th minute. In the next 12 minutes, Ashley scored twice for a 3-0 lead, and she added another goal midway through the second half for the final margin. Each

goalie had eight saves in the game, Colleen for Knoxville Catholic and Taylor Green for Notre Dame (12-6-4). KCHS outshot Notre Dame 13-6 in the contest.

In the semifinals, Knoxville Catholic and Chattanooga Christian School battled to a 0-0 tie through 80 minutes of regulation, two overtime periods, and two sudden-death overtime periods. The match went to penalty kicks, and Knoxville Catholic prevailed 10-9 in a 12-round shootout. Camille scored the deciding goal for the Lady Irish following a save by goalkeeper Colleen. KCHS outshot the Chattanooga team 15-1 in the game.

Knoxville Catholic began state-tournament play with a 6-0 win over Chester County in the quarterfinals. An own goal gave KCHS a 1-0 lead in the 16th minute. Ashley and Natalie Hermes then scored before halftime

to put KCHS up 3-0 at the break. Camille scored twice in the second half, and Sarah Rouse added a goal to close out the scoring. Colleen and Katie Whitaker each had a goalie save for the Lady Irish.

Notre Dame opened the state tournament with a 4-0 win over Spring Hill. Sofia Olenchek and Emma Higgins each scored twice, once in each half, to lead the Irish. Emma and Liz Ciabattone recorded assists in the match. Taylor made five saves in goal for Notre Dame.

In the semifinals, Emma scored early in the second half off an assist from Kelsey Barta to give Notre Dame a 2-0 lead over Jackson Christian School, and the Irish held on for a 2-1 win. Kelsey scored off an assist from Sofia early in the first half for Notre Dame. Taylor made four saves in goal. Jackson Christian entered the game with a 20-1-2 record. ■

Marsha Segal of St. Mary receives Air Force award

St. Mary School – Oak Ridge middle school science and math teacher Marsha Segal's work in preparing her students to use and excel in the fields of science, technology, engineering, and math won her the local Air Force Association chapter's Teacher of the Year Award earlier this year.

The second part of the award was presented in the form of a check from Stephen Dillenburg, chapter president of the local Air Force Association, on Sept. 24 in the St. Mary School library.

Five of Mrs. Segal's students won special awards at the Southern Appalachian Science and Engineering Fair (SASEF) on April 3. The first- and second-place winners from the high school division were also former students of St. Mary. For 11 out of the last 13 years, St. Mary's middle school students have won grand champion at the SASEF. ■

Five from KCHS sign with colleges

Knoxville Catholic High School hosted a 2014 signing-day event Nov. 12 in the school library.

Fighting Irish student athletes signing with colleges were Christen Torres with the University of Memphis in softball, MacKenzie Jackson with Lindsey Wilson College in softball, Anika Sichelstiel with Queens University of Charlotte in lacrosse, Kole Cottam with the University of Kentucky in baseball, and Ethan Elliott with Lincoln Memorial University in baseball. ■



COURTESY OF GAYLE SCHOENBORN

Rivals face off for state title Isabelle Pinzon (13) of Knoxville Catholic battles Emma Higgins of Notre Dame for a loose ball in the Class A-AA soccer state championship game, won by Knoxville Catholic 4-0.

Seven from KCHS visit Dominicans' motherhouse

Seven Knoxville Catholic High School students took the opportunity Oct. 31-Nov. 1 to travel to the motherhouse of the Dominican Sisters of St. Cecilia Congregation in Nashville.

The trip was designed to give the young women a chance to grow in faith, experience religious life firsthand, and to pray and play with the sisters. While at the motherhouse, the girls participated in the All Saints Candlelight Vigil, where they were able to view and venerate the relics of more than 20 saints. The students slept in cells used at one time by the original boarders and now used mainly by retreatants and visiting sisters.

On Saturday, they attended the All Saints Day Solemnity Mass and played various games with the sisters on the spacious convent grounds. ■

Two St. Joseph teachers honored

Two teachers at St. Joseph School in Knoxville were honored in October.

First-grade teacher Cathy Sompayrac was named the B97.5 teacher of the month, and middle school religion and language arts teacher Joe Aboumoussa was honored as the WBIR educator of the week. ■

KCHS-Webb football series coming to an end

By Dan McWilliams

The Knoxville Catholic High School football rivalry with Webb School of Knoxville is coming to an end after the Spartans decided in November to call a halt to the series.

KCHS President Dickie Sompayrac said the school community is both surprised and disappointed by Webb's decision, which was reported by local media Nov. 15. The two schools have played each other in football virtually every year since the early 1960s.

"This is disappointing for several reasons," Mr. Sompayrac said. "I believe our rivalry has been healthy with Webb School, and we were surprised to find out this information via text last Thursday [Nov. 13]."

"We have tremendous respect for their community, and so many of our kids have grown up together. The rivalry is intense, but that is part of what makes it special. I just thought we would have received a call from someone in their administration before this was made public," he added.

The series' end will also halt a major fundraiser benefiting Sec-

ond Harvest Food Bank of East Tennessee.

"It is also disheartening that our Second Harvest High School Football Challenge with Webb will end," Mr. Sompayrac said. "Over the last two years, the two schools have donated over 160,000 pounds of canned foods, creating over 240,000 meals for the needy here in East Tennessee. We will certainly still support Second Harvest; we just pray that their decision to end our rivalry does not adversely affect the thousands helped by the food drive."

Webb athletics director and football head coach David Meske said in a statement, according to news reports, that "Webb administration has decided this is not a healthy relationship for our community. It will be fun for Webb School to play other area schools in football."

Mr. Meske told the *Knoxville News Sentinel* that "the administration at Webb just decided it hasn't been a positive relationship within our community. We'll sit back and take a break and play other people for a couple of years."

Mr. Meske said Webb has not

made a decision to drop Catholic from its other sports' schedules, according to the *News Sentinel* report.

KCHS topped Webb 24-6 on Oct. 23 in the televised game of the week for the Irish's first win over the Spartans since 2008. The Irish went on to finish 10-2 after a 51-14 second-round playoff loss to defending state champion and nationally ranked Fulton. The other KCHS loss was to Alcoa.

Christian Academy of Knoxville, which played the Irish in 2013 and 2014, also dropped KCHS from its football schedule, the *News Sentinel* reported.

Mr. Meske told the *News Sentinel* that a break in the Irish-Spartan football series in the 1990s was instituted at Knoxville Catholic's request. The two schools did not meet on the gridiron from 1993 through 1996, the first hiatus in the series since 1970-71.

"At that point in time, they decided to take a break from playing us," Mr. Meske said. "We respected their decision at that time, and hopefully this time they will respect our decision to take a break from playing them." ■



KCHS cross country teams stand out at state meet

The Knoxville Catholic High School boys cross country team finished second and the girls team fourth, each against a 24-team field, in the Class A-AA state meet Nov. 1 at Nashville's Percy Warner Park. Joe Bindner of the Irish finished second in the individual standings, and teammate Johnathan Chavez placed third. For the Lady Irish, Shila Kapaya finished seventh overall and Rosa Cisneros 10th. From left are (bottom row) Johnathan Chavez, Rosa Cisneros, Grace Wyatt, Shila Kapaya, Lindsey Grillot, Nora Connelly, coach Megan Gardner, Joe Bindner, and Ginny Miller, and (top row) James Daffron, coach Sean O'Neil, Brandon Tracy, Will Doktycz, Devin Sullivan, Drew Holt, Lindsey Bruce, and Sophie Wilson.

COURTESY OF DIANNAH MILLER

Pope continued from page 9

Jesuit Father Federico Lombardi, Vatican spokesman, told reporters Nov. 17 that Pope Francis wanted to “guarantee organizers” that he would be present at the meeting in Philadelphia, “but he did not say anything about other possible stops or events during that trip. And for now I do not have anything to add in that regard.”

Although few details of the papal visit have been made public, organizers for the families’ congress expect Pope Francis to arrive Sept. 25 for an afternoon public visit with civic officials.

That would begin his first trip as pope to the United States and the second papal visit to Philadelphia in a generation; St. Pope John Paul II visited the city in 1979. He will be the fourth sitting pope to visit the United States.

During his visit, Pope Francis is expected to attend the Festival of Families Sept. 26, a cultural celebration for hundreds of thousands of people along Philadelphia’s main cultural boulevard, the Benjamin Franklin Parkway.

The announcement has prompted dioceses across the country to consider attending the families meeting. In the Diocese of Knoxville, Bishop Richard F. Stika is planning to lead a pilgrimage to the historic meeting.

Donna Farrell, executive director for the 2015 World Meeting of Families and its chief planner, said although Philadelphia has hosted St. Pope John Paul’s visit, the city has “not had anything like this unique Festival of Families. It’s really going



WORLD MEETING OF FAMILIES 2015 Philadelphia

Join Bishop Stika on a Diocesan Pilgrimage to the historic World Meeting of Families in Philadelphia and the papal visit of Pope Francis Sept. 23-27, 2015. We are waiting for more information and confirmation of costs. Space for our pilgrimage will be limited and will be on a first-come basis. For further information contact Marian Christiana at 865-584-3307 or mchristiana@dioknox.org or Lisa Morris at 865-567-1245 or lisam@select-intl.com. You also can go to www.worldmeeting2015.org/

to be something special.”

Registration for the congress opened in mid-November. The meeting will be a weeklong series of talks, discussions and activities.

Pope Francis is expected to celebrate a public Mass for an estimated 1 million people on Sept. 26 on the steps of the Philadelphia Museum of Art, in full view of the crowds arrayed from the museum down the Ben Franklin Parkway.

Archbishop Joseph E. Kurtz of Louisville, Kentucky, president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops and former bishop of the

Diocese of Knoxville, welcomed the pope’s announcement.

“The presence of Pope Francis at the World Meeting of Families in our country will be a joyful moment for millions of Catholics and people of good will. Our great hope has been that the Holy Father would visit us next year to inspire our families in their mission of love. It is a blessing to hear the pope himself announce the much anticipated news,” Archbishop Kurtz said.

After the announcement that Pope Francis will visit Philadelphia next September, the reality of the

challenges and joys of the event is sinking in for planners, civic officials and ordinary Catholics in the Archdiocese of Philadelphia.

Daniel Hilferty, chairman of the World Meeting of Families executive leadership committee, said the event will require unprecedented coordination and support.

Hilferty called on the region’s business community to contribute financial and corporate support to the event. He said the fundraising effort was “more than halfway toward the goal,” which he did not state. Philadelphia Archbishop Charles J. Chaput has said he plans to announce the status of fundraising efforts early in 2015.

That is just one of the issues facing organizers before next fall. One thorny issue had been the inability for people registering for the families’ meeting also to secure hotel rooms for the three days of the papal visit — because it was unconfirmed, the rooms were not made available. Now they can be booked.

Another challenge that Mayor Michael Nutter acknowledged was security for what he called “the largest event in the city’s modern history.” Those challenges and others stem from the immense throngs of people expected for the weeklong events.

About 15,000 people are expected to attend the families’ congress at the Pennsylvania Convention Center Sept. 22-25 in two tracks — one for adults with keynote talks and break-out discussions, and another track for children and teenagers with an emphasis on hands-on activities. ■

Mass continued from page 6

return home until next year’s growing season.

“This is such a beautiful community,” Father Boettner said. “It was the faith of the folks here that really led Mr. Scott to build that chapel be-

cause he saw their faith and wanted to build a place for them. This is a great way to gather together and celebrate the harvest, what God has brought forth from the earth and all the good things that are going on here with these folks.”

Following Mass, all in attendance celebrated as a large family would — with plenty of food. Bowls of rice, chicken, sauces and tamales filled a banquet table at the back of the makeshift Mass site.

“They say all good Mexican cel-

ebrations include three things,” Ms. O’Brien said. “Misa, música and mesa — Mass, music and tables for the food.”

The celebration at Capilla de Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe fulfilled all that — and more. ■

Consecrated continued from page 7

hospital, I'm privileged to share God's love and goodness with people who are in need," she said, "people who need support in their journey of life, and I feel like so often I'm in the right place at the right time, and it's such a blessing.

"It's so humbling to know how God uses me and uses others to reach out to people and to support them, especially when they're struggling with illness, or also for our employees when they're struggling with family issues, financial concerns. So often I find when I meet with people, so often being present to someone and just being there for them and with them and to listen to their story is such a gift that we can offer to one another."

Sister Albertine said God "puts you where he needs you."

"He gives you the opportunities and the strength to do the things



DAN MCWILLIAMS

Take this cup Sister Angela Niko of the Evangelizing Sisters of Mary receives Communion from Deacon Ben Johnston during Mass at Sacred Heart Cathedral.

you never would have dreamed of. I can't think of anything that's any better anywhere. But it's a calling.

He doesn't call everybody, but he does call people, and he knows who he needs. So the bottom line

is if he calls, listen up."

Archbishop Joseph E. Kurtz of the Archdiocese of Louisville, who also is president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, also praises the important role men and women religious play in the life of the Church.

"Our brothers and sisters in Christ living consecrated lives make great contributions to our society through a vast number of ministries," Archbishop Kurtz said. "They teach in our schools, take care of the poor and the sick and bring compassion and the love of Christ to those shunned by society; others lead lives of prayer in contemplation for the world."

Prayer intentions, prayer cards, a video on consecrated life, and other resources are available at www.usccb.org/beliefs-and-teachings/vocations/consecrated-life/year-of-consecrated-life/index.cfm. ■

Ministries continued from page 8

liturgy, no matter what it might be. It's all about Jesus," he said.

Sister Timothea described Bishop Stika's remarks as a "rousing welcome and address" that complemented the conference theme of "Families Together in Christ."

"His talk encouraged all to become engaged in the all-important mission of evangelization of the family, and the family as evangelizer," Sister Timothea said.

Following Bishop Stika's opening address, participants attended breakout sessions covering ministries of the diocese, including Christian Formation, Worship and Liturgy, Hispanic Ministry, Justice and Peace, Marriage Preparation and Enrichment, Youth and Young Adult Ministry, and Employment Services and Benefits.

Father Richard Armstrong, assistant director of the diocese's Office of Christian Formation who helped coordinate Ministries Day, said the event

went "extremely well."

"Each participant I spoke with mentioned that the workshops were very well organized and informative. I saw a lot of smiles and happy faces that day – those are pretty good indicators that the day went well. The presenters were all first-rate and are considered experts in the subjects they taught. The vast majority of presenters also live and work here in the Diocese of Knoxville," Father Armstrong said.

"The greatest asset in the diocese is our own people, and Ministries Day gives us the opportunity to showcase that. Ministries Day is also important because it gives those who work for the Church an occasion to learn more about their faith. Those involved in parish ministries are the ones serving the faithful throughout the diocese; Ministries Day is our opportunity to serve those who serve. Each time we help form one pastoral minister, he or she in turn goes out and forms countless others in the parish. Thus, what

we do at Ministries Day has a ripple effect throughout the diocese," Father Armstrong added.

Sister Mary Charles Mayer, RSM, the diocese's associate chancellor for Pastoral Services, encouraged parishioners to take advantage of the pastoral resources available to them through the diocese.

"By accessing the many resources available through the Pastoral Services office, you may find ways to better serve our families and help grow the Catholic faith in East Tennessee," Sister Mary Charles said. "As associate chancellor of Pastoral Services, it is a great joy as well as my primary mission to help bring these important ministerial support services to every parish in our growing diocese."

A Spanish Ministries Day program was held simultaneously for Spanish-speaking parishioners led by Alfonso and Margarita Enriquez, founders of the Hispanic Family Ministry in Houston, and Valentin Araya-Mesen,

adjunct director of the Office of Marriage and Family in the Archdiocese of Chicago.

Some 85 Hispanic parishioners took part in this session of Ministries Day, according to Lourdes Garza, director of Hispanic Ministry for the Diocese of Knoxville.

"I'm really happy with the turnout. I see a lot of new faces and a lot of interest in the topics. The speakers really hit the points on family life," Ms. Garza said.

Like Ms. Garza, Bishop Stika was pleased with the Ministries Day program and the enthusiastic attendance.

"It provides the opportunity to affirm the tremendous gifts we have in this diocese," Bishop Stika said. "The basic objective is to know Jesus, and to teach about Jesus you have to know him. And that's what this is all about."

The Paraclete Book Store provided supplemental material for the conference, with discounts, to support Ministries Day. ■

Putting a Catholic twist on the ALS ice bucket challenge

OLPH School in Chattanooga raises hundreds of dollars for research by getting students, faculty into the spirit

By Katie West

A sixth-grade student, a new principal and a generous parish recently found a way to put a Catholic twist on the ALS ice bucket challenge.

It all started when Kassidy Barta, a student at Our Lady of Perpetual Help School in Chattanooga, nominated her principal, Sam Martin, for the ALS challenge at the height of the social media craze that raises money for the ALS Association.

"I did it because I thought it would be funny," Barta said.

But Martin, only weeks into his new role at the diocesan pre-kindergarten-through-eighth-grade school, took the challenge in another direction when he accepted.

Seeking to fund the John Paul II Medical Research Institute, which advances medical research for amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, cancer and

other rare diseases without the use of embryonic stem cells, Mr. Martin told the students that any of them could douse him with a bucket of ice water in exchange for a \$20 donation. In just over two weeks, the school had collected more than \$700.

"We want to fight ALS, but ... in a way that does not include embryonic stem cell research," Mr. Martin said. "We want to make a meaningful and conscientious donation." But when the designated day arrived, things got even more interesting.

On a Thursday morning, Father Jim Vick, pastor of Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church, mentioned Mr. Martin's challenge in his 8:15 a.m. Mass homily. Father Vick wished the principal luck, but added that if students, parents and other parishioners could double what had been



KATIE WEST

Taking the challenge Father Jim Vick, pastor of Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church, left, and Sam Martin, principal of OLPH School, are showered with attention by OLPH School students during the ALS ice bucket challenge.

raised up to that point, he was willing to join in the chilly fun.

The news spread quickly among parents, and soon the school office

was flooded with calls, e-mails and parents walking in with \$20 bills in hand. Just before noon, the school

Challenge continued on page 32

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Spotlight on the Home Campaign: a visitor's generous gift

In each issue of *The East Tennessee Catholic*, important topics relating to the Home campaign will be covered.

Since the launch of the campaign in September that will raise needed funds for parishes, priest retirement, charitable programs, Catholic education, and cathedral development, parishioners throughout the Diocese of Knoxville — and visitors — have been submitting questions about the campaign and commenting on it, including this observation:

A trip through Knoxville and an unexpected visit to All Saints Catholic Church recently prompted a woman from Texas to make a financial gift to the Home campaign.

Attending Mass at All Saints Church on Sept. 27, this woman said she heard the words of Father Michael Woods, pastor of All Saints, and was moved to return an anniversary gift and donate the money to the campaign.

In a note to diocesan priests titled "A Stranger Shows Us the Way," Father Woods touched on

Dear Father Woods,

Last Saturday, Sept. 27th, my husband and I were returning from visiting my Dad in Pennsylvania. We took a driving trip hoping to catch some fall scenery along the way. We live in Texas and wanting to attend mass, we looked up your church as we came close to Knoxville.

That evening you gave a presentation on the Campaign that your diocese and All Saints was going to undertake for the coming years. It was an informative talk, and even though we are not in your diocese, it touched me deeply when you mentioned working for the Kingdom.

That day, the 27th, was our wedding anniversary – our 34th – and my husband had given me a beautiful pair of earrings to celebrate. I was so touched by the thought of being a part of building the Kingdom, that I asked him if I could return the earrings and send you the money. He is such a good man and told me to do whatever I felt called to do. So here is the check for \$238.00. I rounded it up so your accountant would not be driven crazy with 12 cents!

May the Lord continue to give you all the graces you need for your priestly vocation. Thank you for all the work you have done so far to build the Kingdom. We pray that you have a successful Capitol Campaign.

In Him,

Stephanie

Stephanie
Texas

the topic of giving and the numerous times Jesus encountered a stranger whose faith amazed Him.

"In late September, I gave a

homily that introduced my parish to the Home campaign," Father Woods said. "A week later, I received a letter from a woman whom I have never met, that touched me because of her understanding of God and Church."

Father Woods' note and the woman's letter were delivered to priests in an e-mail from Bishop Richard F. Stika on Nov. 14.

In his e-mail, Bishop Stika said he wanted to share the note because "I think it truly hits at the heart of what we are doing through the Home campaign."

"This campaign isn't about money—it's about mission and ministry," Bishop Stika said. "It's about helping build God's Kingdom. I thought this letter really personalized this important message."

In the note, Father Woods admitted he has been "climbing uphill" to get his part of the Home campaign off the ground, but said the letter has "filled me with amazement, wonder and encouragement."

We have reprinted the letter here. ■

Diocese of Knoxville members are named to Order of Holy Sepulchre

Two parishioners in the Diocese of Knoxville have been named to the Knights and Ladies of The Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem during the organization's annual meeting in Baltimore Oct. 31-Nov. 1.

Renée Marie Hamilton and Rita Mardini of the diocese were among 46 new members invested into the order.

During Vesper services at St. Mary's Seminary in Baltimore on Oct. 31, Peter McGrath was promoted to Knight Commander and Alan and Sally Sefton received Pilgrim Shells for their pilgrimage to Jerusalem. The Seftons and Mr. McGrath also are parishioners in

the Diocese of Knoxville.

The Nov. 1 investiture services were held at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary in Baltimore.

Officiating over the investiture was Cardinal Edwin O'Brien, grand master of the Order of Holy Sepulchre from Rome, and Archbishop William Lori of the Archdiocese of Baltimore, who is the grand prior of the lieutenantancy and archdiocesan host.

The pope is sovereign of the Order of Holy Sepulchre, which enjoys the protection of the Holy See and has its legal seat at Vatican City. ■



Invested in the Order Diocese of Knoxville parishioners recently attended the annual meeting of the Order of the Holy Sepulchre in Baltimore. They included (front row left to right) Dina Mardini, Sally Sefton, Renée Hamilton, Cardinal O'Brien, Rita Mardini, Archbishop Lori. Second row: Alan Sefton, Mary Jane Frederick, Melissa Smith. Third row: Antoin Mardini, Michael Ruck Sr., George Frederick, Peter McGrath.



Diocese of Knoxville Annual Financial Report

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CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ:

What an incredible blessing it is to serve as Bishop of the Diocese of Knoxville! I am truly humbled to serve the Lord in this strong, diverse and faith-filled community. As I do each Advent season, I am providing you a report in The East Tennessee Catholic on the financial health of the Diocese of Knoxville. As your Bishop, I am entrusted with ensuring the proper stewardship of all our resources. Through your generous sharing of time, talents, financial resources and prayers, the Diocese of Knoxville has been the beneficiary of your gifts, which continue to be wisely and prudently used to advance the mission of the Church. I offer my deepest appreciation for your great generosity. As good stewards of what you have entrusted to us, we strive to be fiscally responsible and transparent.

My vision for the future of the Diocese of Knoxville is one of a growing and vibrant Church that welcomes those who seek to deepen their relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ within our Catholic community of faith. My vision is one of hope and growth, of renewed faith, and of charity towards those most in need. We are in a solid financial position as a diocese today, richly blessed by your stewardship. We are a growing and vibrant Church.

With this growth also comes the challenge of carefully planning ahead to ensure a solid future for our Church. To meet the needs of our vibrant and growing Church, we recently began the journey with our Home Campaign – a capital campaign that will strengthen our parishes, accelerate our commitment to the needy, and provide for the future of the Church in East Tennessee. The Home Campaign will allow us to meet the challenges of the future as we continue our mission to worship, teach, and serve in Christ's name.

Please take this opportunity to review the financial statements of our diocese and familiarize yourself with all that has been accomplished and what is being done so graciously and generously by the Catholic faithful. Working together for the glory of God and for the good of all people, thousands of committed laity, consecrated religious women and men, and ordained deacons and priests; make this a great story of God's love in our midst.

Please know that I am most grateful for your love, care, and support as we continue to rediscover what our Catholic faith means and how we are called to live it.

With my blessings and love to you all, I am

Sincerely in Christ,

Most Reverend
Richard F. Stika

Bishop of
Knoxville

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

Most Reverend Richard F. Stika
Diocese of Knoxville
Chancery Office
805 Northshore Drive
Knoxville, TN 37919

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of Diocese of Knoxville Chancery Office (a nonprofit organization), which comprise the statements of financial position as of June 30, 2014 and 2013, and the related statements of activities and cash flows for the years then ended, and the related notes to the financial statements.

Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America; this includes the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditor's Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audits. We conducted our audits in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. Accordingly, we express no such opinion. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

Basis for Qualified Opinion

As explained in Note 14 to the financial statements, management has elected not to report actuarially determined other post-retirement employee benefit costs as expenses and the associated obligation as a liability. Accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America require that actuarially determined other post-retirement employee benefit costs be reported as expenses and the associated obligation be reported as a liability. The effects on the accompanying financial statements of the failure to report actuarially determined other post-retirement employee benefit costs as expenses and the associated obligation as a liability have not been determined.

Qualified Opinion

In our opinion, except for the effects of the matter described in the Basis for Qualified Opinion paragraph, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of Diocese of Knoxville Chancery Office as of June 30, 2014 and 2013, and the changes in its net assets and its cash flows for the years then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

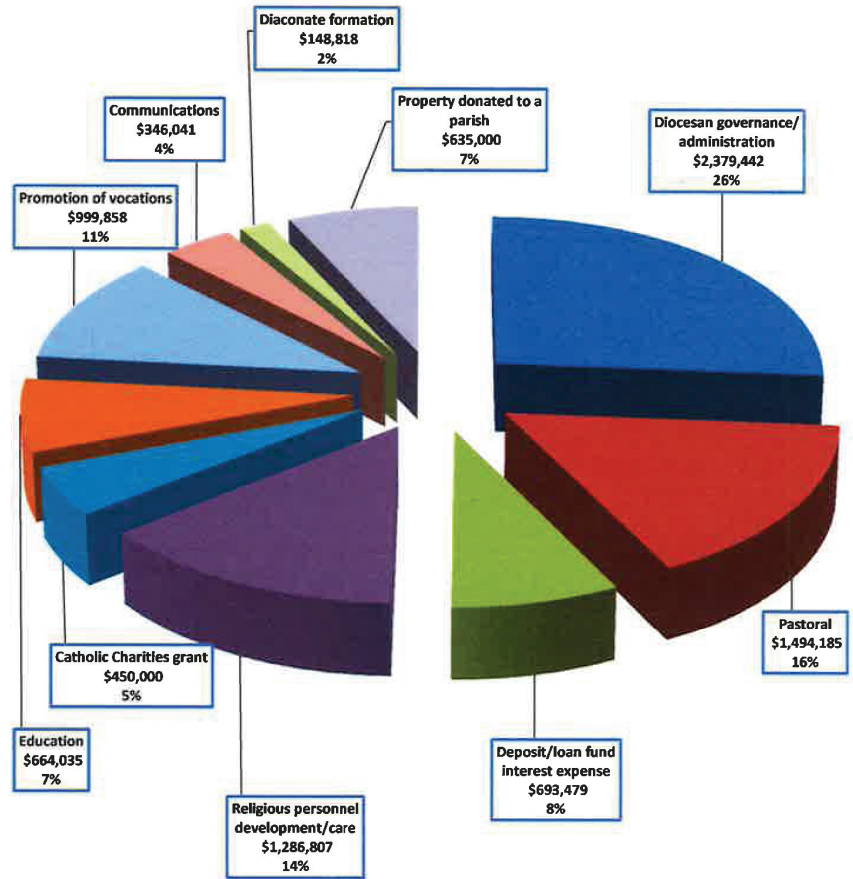
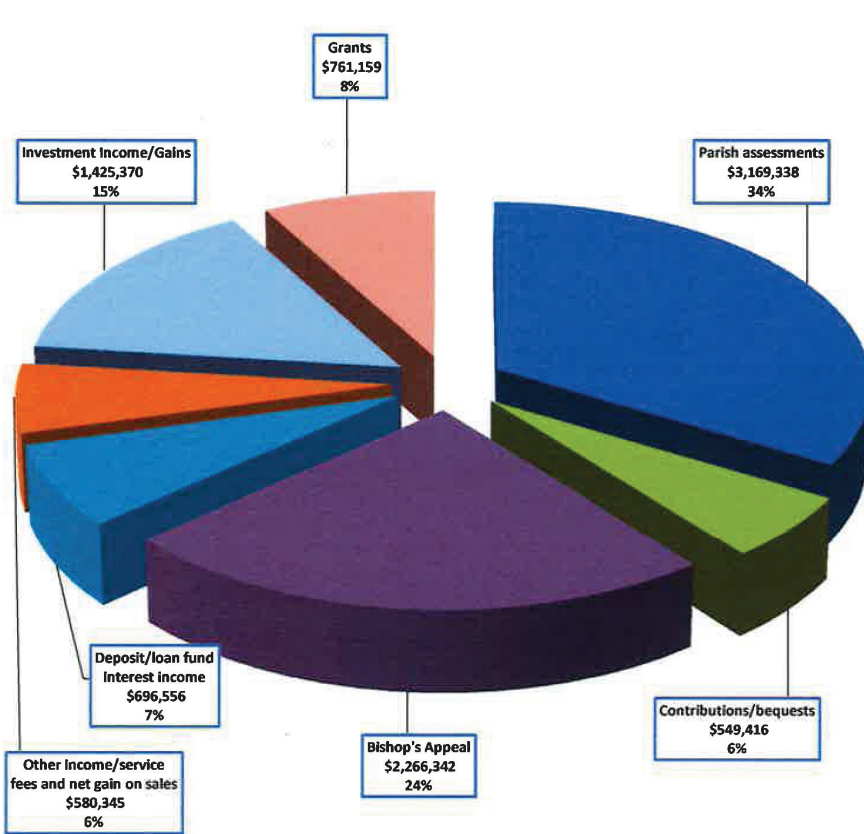
Knoxville, Tennessee
October 31, 2014

Statement of Activities

June 30, 2014

Source of funds \$9,448,526

Use of funds \$9,097,665

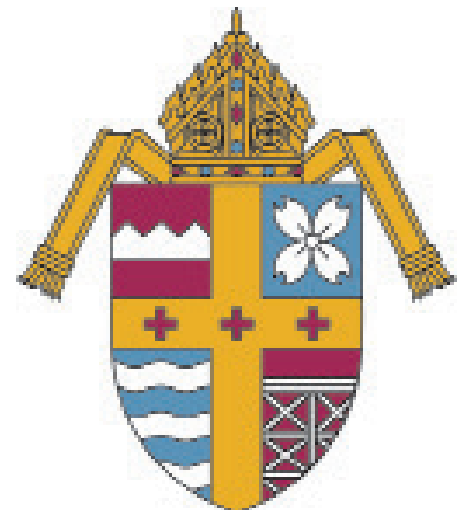


Unrealized gains/investments
Statement of Financial Accounting Standard (SFAS) No. 124 requires that investments be recorded at market value rather than at cost, and this results in the recognition of unrealized gains/losses.

Pastoral
Grants to parishes and institutions; Diocesan Council of Catholic Women grant; Youth Ministry; Hispanic Ministry; Campus Ministry; Evangelization; Justice and Peace; Marriage Preparation and Enrichment.

Parish assessments
Administrative assessment for diocesan governance/administration; seminarian assessment for vocations promotion; reimbursement for priest health insurance and retirement; communications assessment for *The East Tennessee Catholic* newspaper and online programs; school assessment for the operation of the Catholic Schools Office; assessment for the diocesan diaconate program.

Education
Religious Education and Catholic Schools offices.



DIOCESE OF KNOXVILLE
CHANCERY OFFICE

STATEMENTS OF FINANCIAL POSITION

JUNE 30, 2014 and 2013

ASSETS

	2014	2013
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 3,003,759	\$ 5,024,596
Investments (Note 2)	10,211,008	9,309,376
Accounts receivable	222,541	108,269
Unconditional promises to give (Note 3)	75,000	75,000
Loans receivable from parishes and others (Note 4)	21,501,634	21,398,912
Interest receivable	43,449	54,974
Other assets	147,220	184,013
Land, buildings and equipment, net (Note 5)	6,267,691	6,276,279
Total assets	\$ 41,472,302	\$ 42,431,419

LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

Liabilities:

Accounts payable	\$ 151,086	\$ 153,668
Note payable - bank (Note 6)	7,458,125	7,597,996
Medical claims reserve	3,350,745	4,296,482
Deferred restricted revenue (Note 7)	235,888	153,497
Deposits payable to parishes and others (Note 8)	13,613,670	13,961,519
Funds held for others	107,165	63,495

Total liabilities

24,916,679 26,226,657

Net assets:

Unrestricted -		
Designated	4,569,668	5,364,587
Other	425,045	334,644

Total unrestricted

4,994,713 5,699,231

Temporarily restricted (Note 9)	10,675,082	9,621,578
Permanently restricted (Note 10)	885,828	883,953

Total net assets

16,555,623 16,204,762

Total liabilities and net assets

\$ 41,472,302 \$ 42,431,419

STATEMENTS OF ACTIVITIES

FOR THE YEAR ENDED
JUNE 30, 2014

	Unrestricted	Temporarily Restricted	Permanently Restricted	Total
Revenues, gains and other support:				
Bishop's appeal	\$ 751,405	\$ 1,514,937	\$ -	\$ 2,266,342
Contributions and bequests	190,710	356,831	1,875	549,416
Grants	70,000	691,159	-	761,159
Service fees and revenues	24,006	-	-	24,006
Interest income - deposit and loan	696,556	-	-	696,556
Investment income	74,664	215,491	-	290,155
Net gain/(loss) - investments	69,941	536,245	-	606,186
Unrealized gain/(loss) - investments (Note 2)	-	529,029	-	529,029
Net gain on sale of building or property	1,500	-	-	1,500
Assessments:				
Parishes (governance and services offices)	1,452,960	-	-	1,452,960
Priest health and retirement	-	952,109	-	952,109
Catholic schools office	107,542	-	-	107,542
Diocesan newspaper	320,249	-	-	320,249
Diaconate program	14,353	-	-	14,353
Promotion of vocations	322,125	-	-	322,125
Other income	389,968	164,871	-	554,839
Net assets released from restrictions:				
Satisfaction of program restrictions	3,907,168	(3,907,168)	-	-
Total revenues, gains and other support	8,393,147	1,053,504	1,875	9,448,526
Expenses:				
Program services:				
Pastoral	1,494,185	-	-	1,494,185
Religious personnel development and care	1,286,807	-	-	1,286,807
Property donated to parish	635,000	-	-	635,000
Diaconate formation	148,818	-	-	148,818
Education	664,035	-	-	664,035
Catholic Charities	450,000	-	-	450,000
Communications	346,041	-	-	346,041
Promotion of vocations	999,858	-	-	999,858
Interest expense and bank service charges	693,479	-	-	693,479
General administration	1,861,248	-	-	1,861,248
Development and planning	518,194	-	-	518,194
Total expenses	9,097,665	-	-	9,097,665
Change in net assets	(704,518)	1,053,504	1,875	350,861
Net assets at beginning of year	5,699,231	9,621,578	883,953	16,204,762
Net assets at end of year	\$ 4,994,713	\$ 10,675,082	\$ 885,828	\$ 16,555,623

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

STATEMENTS OF ACTIVITIES

FOR THE YEAR ENDED
JUNE 30, 2013

	Unrestricted	Temporarily Restricted	Permanently Restricted	Total
Revenues, gains and other support:				
Bishop's appeal	\$ 634,478	\$ 1,401,020	\$ -	\$ 2,035,498
Contributions and bequests	2,614,238	347,654	-	2,961,892
Capital campaign	-	5	-	5
Grants	50,000	795,474	-	845,474
Service fees and revenues	66,150	-	-	66,150
Interest income - deposit and loan	721,282	-	-	721,282
Investment income	77,903	225,023	-	302,926
Net gain/(loss) - investments	45,364	304,831	-	350,195
Unrealized gain/(loss) - investments (Note 2)	-	369,026	-	369,026
Net gain on sale of building or property	13,489	-	-	13,489
Assessments:				
Parishes (governance and services offices)	1,610,129	-	-	1,610,129
Priest health and retirement	-	902,792	-	902,792
Catholic schools office	105,930	-	-	105,930
Diocesan newspaper	267,438	-	-	267,438
Diaconate program	13,252	-	-	13,252
Promotion of vocations	281,099	-	-	281,099
Other income	327,747	308,784	-	636,531
Net assets released from restrictions:				
Satisfaction of program restrictions	3,795,983	(3,795,983)	-	-
Total revenues, gains and other support	10,624,482	858,626	-	11,483,108
Expenses:				
Program services:				
Pastoral	1,248,446	-	-	1,248,446
Religious personnel development and care	1,314,524	-	-	1,314,524
Property donated to parish	265,644	-	-	265,644
Diaconate formation	128,914	-	-	128,914
Education	602,135	-	-	602,135
Catholic Charities	404,200	-	-	404,200
Communications	279,364	-	-	279,364
Promotion of vocations	813,498	-	-	813,498
Interest expense and bank service charges	718,088	-	-	718,088
General administration	1,744,447	-	-	1,744,447
Development and planning	454,222	-	-	454,222
Total expenses	7,973,482	-	-	7,973,482
Change in net assets	2,651,000	858,626	-	3,509,626
Net assets at beginning of year	3,048,231	8,762,952	883,953	12,695,136
Net assets at end of year	\$ 5,699,231	\$ 9,621,578	\$ 883,953	\$ 16,204,762

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOWS

**FOR THE YEARS ENDED
JUNE 30, 2014 and 2013**

	2014	2013
Cash flows from operating activities:		
Change in net assets	\$ 350,861	\$ 3,509,626
Adjustments to reconcile change in net assets to net cash provided (used) by operating activities:		
Realized (gain) loss on investments	(606,186)	(350,195)
Unrealized (gain) loss on investments	(529,029)	(369,026)
Net (gain) on sale of building or property	(1,500)	(13,489)
Depreciation and amortization	245,957	229,493
Non-cash donation of property	-	(2,426,000)
(Increase) decrease in assets -		
Accounts receivable	(114,272)	117,377
Interest receivable	11,525	19,953
Other assets	36,793	(26,019)
Increase (decrease) in liabilities -		
Accounts payable	(2,582)	10,342
Medical claims reserve	(945,737)	(999,197)
Deferred revenues	82,391	14,890
Custodial accounts	43,670	(10,635)
Net cash provided (used) by operating activities	<u>(1,428,109)</u>	<u>(292,880)</u>

Cash flows from investing activities:		
Purchases of investments	(4,083,480)	(3,983,188)
Proceeds from sale of investments	4,317,063	4,205,548
Loans to (repayments from) parishes and institutions, net	(102,722)	1,060,490
Cash payments for the purchase of property	(237,369)	(206,322)
Proceeds from disposition of assets	1,500	27,040
Net cash provided (used) by investing activities	<u>(105,008)</u>	<u>1,103,568</u>
Cash flows from financing activities:		
Repayments of long-term loans	(139,871)	(129,151)
Deposits from parishes and institutions, net	(347,849)	(4,749,001)
Net cash provided (used) by financing activities	<u>(487,720)</u>	<u>(4,878,152)</u>
Net increase (decrease) in cash and cash equivalents	(2,020,837)	(4,067,464)
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year	<u>5,024,596</u>	<u>9,092,060</u>
Cash and cash equivalents at end of year	<u>\$ 3,003,759</u>	<u>\$ 5,024,596</u>
Supplemental disclosure of cash flow information:		
Cash paid during the year for interest	<u>\$ 625,294</u>	<u>\$ 627,731</u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

June 30, 2014 and 2013

1. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

a. Basis of Presentation

The geographical area of the Diocese of Knoxville (unincorporated) comprises the 36 counties of East Tennessee. Legal title to all church property in the Diocese is held in the name of "N. N., Bishop of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Knoxville and Successors in Office". In addition to having jurisdiction over parishes and missions, the Diocese also operates a number of other institutions, including high schools, cemeteries, etc.

The accompanying financial statements have been prepared in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards adopted by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops. Such financial statements include only the accounts maintained by and directly under the Governance and Services Offices of the Diocese of Knoxville (GSO). The accounts and properties of the parishes, missions, schools, cemeteries, and certain auxiliary enterprises, each of which maintains its own accounts, are not included. All significant interfund balances and transactions have been eliminated to the extent the respective funds are combined in one fund for purposes of this presentation.

To ensure observance of limitations and restrictions placed on the use of resources available to the Diocese, the accounts of the Diocese are maintained in accordance with the principles of fund accounting. This is the procedure by which resources for various purposes are classified for accounting and reporting purposes into funds that are in accordance with the nature and purpose of such funds. Separate accounts are maintained for each fund; however, in the accompanying financial statements, resources are reported according to the degree of donor-imposed restrictions.

Unrestricted Net Assets – includes all undesignated and designated resources available for support of Diocesan operations.

Temporarily Restricted Net Assets – includes resources whose use is limited by donor-imposed stipulations that either expire by the passage of time or can be fulfilled by actions of the Diocese pursuant to those stipulations.

Permanently Restricted Net Assets – includes resources whose use is limited by donor-imposed stipulations that neither expire by the passage of time nor can be fulfilled or otherwise removed by actions of the Diocese.

The Diocese reports receipts of cash and other assets as restricted support if they are received with donor stipulations that limit the use of the donated assets. When a donor restriction expires, that is, when a stipulated time restriction ends or purpose restriction is accomplished, temporarily restricted net assets are reclassified to unrestricted net assets and reported in the statement of activities as net assets released from restrictions.

b. Cash and Cash Equivalents

For purposes of the statement of cash flows, the Diocese considers certificates of deposit to be cash equivalents.

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

June 30, 2014 and 2013

1. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (Continued)

c. Allowance for Doubtful Accounts

The Diocese typically does not record an allowance for doubtful accounts and believes all loans and accounts receivable are collectible. The balance in unconditional promises to give is \$75,000, which consists of one bequest. The Diocese believes this bequest is appropriately valued and will be collected.

d. Investments and Fair Value Measurement

The Diocese follows the provisions of FASB ASC 820-10. This standard defines fair value, establishes a framework for measuring fair value, establishes a fair value hierarchy based on the quality of inputs used to measure fair value, and requires enhanced disclosures about fair value measurements. The Diocese accounts for its investments at fair value. Fair value is the amount that would be received to sell an asset, or paid to transfer a liability, in an orderly transaction between market participants at the measurement date (i.e. the exit price).

FASB ASC 820-10 establishes a framework for measuring fair value and a three-level hierarchy for fair value measurements based upon the transparency of inputs to the valuation of an asset or liability. The classification of assets and liabilities within the hierarchy is based on whether the inputs to the valuation methodology used for measurement are observable or unobservable. Observable inputs reflect market-derived or market-based information obtained from independent sources while unobservable inputs reflect estimates about market data based on the best information available in the circumstances.

The fair value hierarchy prioritizes the inputs to valuation techniques used to measure fair value into three broad levels:

Level 1 – Inputs that utilize quoted prices in active markets for identical assets or liabilities as of the reporting date that the organization has the ability to access.

Level 2 – Inputs that include quoted priced for similar assets and liabilities in active markets and inputs that are observable for the asset or liability, either directly or indirectly, for substantially the full term of the financial instrument as of the reporting date. Fair values for these instruments are estimated using pricing models, quoted prices of securities with similar characteristics, discounted cash flows, or other valuation methodologies.

Level 3 – Inputs that are unobservable for the asset or liability, which are typically based on assumptions on the part of the reporting entity, as there is little, if any, related market activity.

In certain cases, the inputs used to measure fair value may fall into different levels of the fair value hierarchy. In such cases, the determination of which category within the fair value hierarchy is appropriate for any given investment is based on the lowest level of input that is significant to the fair value measurement.

Realized gains and losses are determined by comparison of asset average cost, or fair value at the date of donation or at the beginning of the year, to net proceeds received at the time of disposal. Unrealized gains and losses are determined by the difference between fair value at the beginning and end of the year. These amounts are reflected in the statement of activities.

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

June 30, 2014 and 2013

1. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (Continued)e. Land, Buildings and Equipment

Land, buildings and equipment are stated in the accompanying statement of financial position at cost or fair market value at the date of the gift if acquired by donation. Depreciation is computed using the straight-line method over the expected useful life of the asset.

f. Endowment Investment and Spending Policies

The Diocese follows the provisions of FASB ASC 958-205. This standard provides guidance on the net asset classification of donor-restricted endowment funds for a not-for-profit organization that is subject to an enacted version of the Uniform Prudent Management of Institutional Funds Act of 2006 (UPMIFA). FASB ASC 958-205 also improves disclosures about an organization's endowment funds whether or not the organization is subject to UPMIFA.

The State of Tennessee has adopted UPMIFA and the Diocese has determined that its permanently restricted net assets meet the definition of endowment under UPMIFA.

The Diocese has adopted investment and spending policies for endowment net assets that attempt to provide a predictable stream of funding to programs supported by its endowment funds while seeking to maintain the purchasing power of the endowment net assets. The Diocese's spending and investment policies work together to achieve this objective. To achieve the investment goal, the Diocese establishes investment objectives and strategies of equity, fixed income, and cash within prudent risk parameters. The Diocese relies on a total return strategy in which investment returns are achieved through both capital appreciation (realized and unrealized) and current yield (interest and dividends).

The spending policy states the amount to be distributed annually from the Diocese's various endowed funds (invested in DIOKNOX). The Diocese has adopted a 5% annual spending level for distributions to be calculated based on the average of the fair value at the end of the three previous calendar years. This is consistent with the Diocese's objective to maintain the purchasing power of endowment assets as well as to provide additional real growth through new gifts and investment return.

g. Federal Income Taxes

The Diocese is exempt from federal income taxes under provisions of Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code; accordingly, no provision for income taxes has been made in the accompanying financial statements.

The Diocese follows the provisions of FASB ASC 740-10-25. Under this standard, an organization must recognize that tax benefit associated with tax taken for tax return purposes when it is more likely than not the position will be sustained. The implementation of this standard has had no impact on the Diocese's financial statements. The Diocese does not believe there are any material uncertain tax positions and, accordingly, it will not recognize any liability for unrecognized tax benefits. For the years ended June 30, 2014 and 2013, there were no interest or penalties recorded or included in its financial statements.

h. Functional Allocation of Expenses

The cost of providing the various programs and other activities of the Diocese has been summarized on a functional basis in the statement of activities. Accordingly, certain costs have been allocated among the programs and supporting services benefited.

i. Donated Services

No amounts have been reflected in the accompanying financial statements for donated services as no objective basis is available to measure the value of such services.

j. Estimates

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect certain reported amounts and disclosures. Accordingly, actual results could differ from those estimates.

2. Investments and Fair Value Measurement

Wells Fargo Advisors, a professional investment management company, manages the Diocesan investments, which are comprised of three parts: DIOKNOX, DUBUISSON TRUST and the CATHOLIC EDUCATION TRUST FUND (CETF). DIOKNOX consists of various funds currently in excess of Diocesan operating requirements. DUBUISSON TRUST is a restricted expendable trust for use by small and needy parishes. The CETF consists of funds received through the Diocesan Capital Campaign which are designated to support catholic education. Wells Fargo Advisors also manages a temporarily restricted fund relating to priest benefits.

The recorded value of the investments and related market value at June 30, 2014 are summarized as follows:

	<u>Cost Basis</u>	<u>Market Value</u>
Fixed income obligations	\$ 2,827,590	\$ 2,860,768
Common stock	5,345,329	6,906,482
Cash and cash equivalents	372,983	372,983
Mutual funds	<u>53,421</u>	<u>70,775</u>
Total investments	<u>\$ 8,599,323</u>	<u>\$ 10,211,008</u>

	<u>Cost Basis</u>	<u>Market Value</u>
Fixed income obligations	\$ 2,875,936	\$ 2,931,661
Common stock	4,953,994	5,924,398
Cash and cash equivalents	390,111	390,111
Mutual funds	<u>52,329</u>	<u>63,206</u>
Total investments	<u>\$ 8,272,370</u>	<u>\$ 9,309,376</u>

The Diocese uses fair value measurements to record fair value adjustments to its investments and to determine fair value disclosures. For additional information on how the Diocese measures fair value, refer to Note 1 – Summary of Significant Accounting Policies. The following table presents the fair value hierarchy for the balances of the investments of the Diocese measured at fair value on a recurring basis as of June 30, 2014 and 2013:

	<u>2014</u>	<u>2013</u>
Level 1	<u>\$ 10,211,008</u>	<u>\$ 9,309,376</u>

3. Unconditional Promises to Give

Unconditional promises to give total \$75,000 and are scheduled to be collected in more than five years.

4. Loans Receivable from Parishes and Others

Loans receivable from parishes and others are unsecured and generally amortize over a fifteen-year period at a variable rate of interest. The variable rate was 3.14% and 3.19% at June 30, 2014 and 2013, respectively.

5. Land, Buildings and Equipment

Land, buildings and equipment consist of the following at June 30:

	<u>2014</u>	<u>2013</u>
Land and buildings:		
Land – chancery	\$ 246,500	\$ 246,500
Building – chancery	2,259,489	2,257,476
Land – retreat center	626,000	626,000
Buildings – retreat center	1,824,572	1,800,000
Land – other	421,500	271,500
Buildings – other	1,325,506	1,325,506
Future parish sites:		
Sevierville	90,054	90,054
Grainger County	<u>429,144</u>	<u>429,144</u>
Total land and buildings	7,222,765	7,046,180
Automobiles	247,143	239,805
Furnishings	88,685	76,166
Equipment	<u>447,283</u>	<u>431,519</u>
Total property and equipment	8,005,876	7,793,670
Less: accumulated depreciation	<u>(1,738,185)</u>	<u>(1,517,391)</u>
Total	<u>\$ 6,267,691</u>	<u>\$ 6,276,279</u>

Total depreciation expense for the years ended June 30, 2014 and 2013 was \$245,957 and \$229,493, respectively.

6. Note Payable – Bank

Note payable to Regions Bank is due in monthly installments of principal plus interest at 30-day LIBOR + 150 basis points beginning March 1, 2010 through December 1, 2024. The note payable amortizes on a 20-year basis with a balloon payment on January 1, 2025.

Maturities of these notes are as follows at June 30:

2015	\$ 150,474
2016	162,963
2017	176,489
2018	191,137
2019	207,002
Thereafter	<u>6,570,060</u>
	<u>\$7,458,125</u>

The Diocese has entered into a forward rate agreement, or interest rate swap, with Regions Bank. The swap had a notional amount of \$4,460,869 as of June 30, 2014 and \$4,599,811 as of June 30, 2013. It became effective on July 1, 2008 and matures on January 1, 2025. The agreement provides, on a monthly basis, for the Diocese to pay a fixed rate of interest of 6.99% on the notional amount, which amortizes over the life of the swap, while receiving a variable rate of interest of 30-day LIBOR + 150 basis points on the notional amount.

7. Deferred Restricted Revenue

Deferred restricted revenue consists of advances from grantor agencies that were unexpended at June 30, 2014 and 2013. These advances are earned as program requirements are met. In the event such requirements are not met, these advances must be refunded to the grantor.

8. Deposits Payable to Parishes and Others

Deposits payable to parishes and others are non-collateralized and payable upon demand. Interest is paid based on a variable rate, which was 1.75% and 1.60% at June 30, 2014 and 2013, respectively.

9. Temporarily Restricted Net Assets

Temporarily restricted net assets at June 30 are available for the following purposes:

	2014	2013
Religious personnel development and care	\$ 557,566	\$ 587,929
Quasi endowment – growth	1,008,228	642,717
Missions	217,603	183,496
Restricted expendable trusts	1,806,847	1,737,767
Catholic education trust fund	5,348,107	4,946,883
Cemetery perpetual care	33,658	11,947
Seminary burses	29,101	4,465
Bishop's appeal	1,421,143	1,301,020
GiFT campaign funds	177,829	130,354
Unconditional promises to give	75,000	75,000
Total	\$ 10,675,082	\$ 9,621,578

10. Permanently Restricted Net Assets

Permanently restricted net assets at June 30 are restricted to:

	2014	2013
Cemetery perpetual care	\$ 367,858	\$ 367,858
Mass trusts	28,862	28,862
Seminary burses	489,108	487,233
Total	\$ 885,828	\$ 883,953

These net assets are comprised of all of the Diocese's endowment funds. Changes in endowment net assets are as follows:

	2014	2013
Balance, beginning of year	\$ 883,953	\$ 883,953
Contributions	1,875	-
Balance, end of year	\$ 885,828	\$ 883,953

11. Commitments

- As of June 30, 2014, the GSO, through the Deposit and Loan Fund, had made loan commitments to various parishes totaling approximately \$3,982,000 and approved projects with deposit calls for approximately \$1,944,782. It is anticipated that these loans would be made and deposits withdrawn within the next two years. As of June 30, 2013, the GSO, through the Deposit and Loan Fund, had made loan commitments to various parishes totaling approximately \$2,487,571 and had approved projects with deposit calls for approximately \$768,781.
- In June 1992, the Diocese purchased property on Cedar Bluff Road in west Knoxville for a new parish by borrowing DIOKNOX and DUBUISSON TRUST funds. In October 2003, the Diocese purchased property on Brickley Lane in north Knoxville for a new parish by borrowing additional DIOKNOX Funds. The Diocese purchased property for new parishes in Erwin, Rutledge, and Maynardville, Tennessee in September 2013, December 2013, and January 2014 respectively by borrowing additional DIONOX funds. In August 2014, the Diocese purchased land and buildings on Carmichael Road in west Knoxville, Tennessee for a new parish by borrowing additional DIOKNOX Funds. The Catholic Foundation of East Tennessee will repay these loans at the rate of \$100,000 per year or as funds are available. As of June 30, 2014, the DIOKNOX balance owed was \$795,000 and the DUBUISSON TRUST balance owed was \$500,000. This is an interest free loan. As of June 30, 2013, the DIOKNOX balance owed was \$230,000 and the DUBUISSON TRUST balance owed was \$500,000.
- The Diocese has approximately 1.5% participation interest in Catholic Umbrella Pool II (the Pool), a separate and distinct fund within The Catholic Mutual Relief Society of America, Administrator for the Pool. This entirely separate and distinct fund is a self-insurance fund providing excess liability coverage for its membership, which consists of 53 small to medium-sized dioceses. Effective July 1, 2003, the pool is responsible for 50.0% of individual casualty claims of its members that exceed \$1,500,000 to a limit of \$3,500,000 and 5.0% responsible for claims in excess of \$5,000,000 to a limit of \$15,500,000. In addition, as of January 1, 2013, the Pool had a responsibility for 20% of individual casualty claims of its members that exceed \$500,000 to a limit of \$1,000,000, a 50% participation for casualty claims that exceed \$1,500,000 to a limit of \$3,500,000, a 20% participation for claims in excess of \$5,000,000 to a limit of \$5,000,000 and 5.0% responsibility for claims in excess of \$10,000,000 to a limit of \$10,500,000. Effective July 1, 1990, the pool had a 5% participation in claims-made sexual misconduct certificates in excess of \$1,500,000 to a limit of \$3,500,000. This coverage is placed through the Society and includes both Pool and non-Pool participants. Participating dioceses are liable (in proportion to their participation interest) for any losses beyond the Pool's responsibilities to fund such losses. The Diocese has equity in the Pool of \$178,773 and \$145,249 for the years ending June 30, 2014 and 2013, respectively. Dividends receivable for the same periods were \$14,525 and \$16,389 for the years ending June 30, 2014 and 2013, respectively. As of June 30, 2014 and 2013, the Pool has established \$2,833,413 and \$2,825,086, respectively, for specific claim reserves resulting from coverage assumed by the Pool.

12. Lease Obligations

The Diocese leases office equipment and automobiles under various operating leases. Future minimum payments on these leases are as follows:

Year Ended June 30:

2015	\$ 37,314
2016	24,434
2017	9,198
2018	1,200
	<u>\$ 72,146</u>

The Diocese also rented other property on a month-to-month basis. Total rent expenses for the years ended June 30, 2014 and 2013 amounted to \$42,114 and \$37,384, respectively.

13. Pension Plans

Lay Pension Plan

On January 1, 2006, the Diocese of Knoxville Lay Pension Plan was established. This Plan is a multi-employer defined benefit plan available to all full-time employees. The benefits are based on years of service and the employee's compensation during the period of employment. Contributions are noncontributory and are based on the actuarially determined rate, which is established annually by the administrator.

The following table sets forth the information related to the Diocese of Knoxville Lay Pension Plan as of the last actuarial valuation dates:

As of:	January 1, 2014	January 1, 2013
Plan assets at fair value	\$ 20,238,629	\$ 17,185,232
Benefit obligation	(21,152,936)	(19,528,269)
Funded status	\$ (914,307)	\$ (2,343,037)
Year ended:	December 31, 2013	December 31, 2012
Total employer contributions	\$ 1,226,862	\$ 886,315
Diocese of Knoxville contributions	\$ 88,545	\$ 73,543
Benefits paid	\$ 941,247	\$ 813,462

The weighted average discount rate and rate of increase in future compensation levels were 7.25% and 4.0%, respectively. The annualized long-term rate of return on the Diocese of Knoxville Lay Pension Plan assets for the five years ended December 31, 2013 was 12.1%. For additional information about this Plan, please contact the Diocesan Lay Retirement Administrative Committee, Plan Administrator.

Priest Retirement Plan

On July 1, 2005, the Diocese of Knoxville Priest Retirement Plan was established. This Plan is a multi-employer defined benefit plan available to all full-time priests. The benefits are based on years of service. Contributions are noncontributory and are based on the actuarially determined rate, which is established annually by the administrator.

The following table sets forth information related to the Diocese of Knoxville Priest Pension Plan as of the last actuarial valuation dates:

As of:	July 1, 2013	July 1, 2012
Plan assets at fair value	\$ 4,405,627	\$ 4,050,840
Benefit obligation	(6,805,067)	(6,370,929)
Funded status	\$ (2,399,440)	\$ (2,320,089)
Year ended:	June 30, 2013	June 30, 2012
Total employer contributions	\$ 271,887	\$ 306,258
Benefits paid	\$ 284,696	\$ 280,584

The weighted average discount rate was 7.5%. The annualized long-term rate of return on the Diocese of Knoxville Priest Retirement Plan assets for the ten years ended June 30, 2013 was 5.657%. For additional information about this Plan, please contact the Diocese of Knoxville, Plan Administrator.

Retirement Savings Plan

Effective January 1, 2006, the Diocese of Knoxville sponsored a Retirement Savings Plan covering all of its full-time employees and their related parishes and institutions. The Plan provides for member employers to match up to the standard percentage of payroll contributed by employees, as determined by the Lay Retirement Committee. Employees may contribute additional amounts up to the Internal Revenue Service limitations. All participants' interests in the Retirement Savings Plan are vested automatically in the Plan. The GSO made contributions to the Plans of \$44,749 and \$38,200 for the years ended June 30, 2014 and 2013, respectively.

14. Other Post-Retirement Employee Benefits (OPEB)

Accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America require the actuarial determination of the potential liability associated with post-retirement benefits provided to employees. The associated current expense and future liability are required to be recorded by the organization. Management has elected not to accrue this expense and liability. The only OPEB that exists for the Diocese relates to health care benefits provided to the Diocesan priests. In order to provide the post-retirement health care benefits, assessments are made on all parishes to fund the current and future needs of the priests. The Diocese has entered into agreements with an insurance company to provide for long-term care insurance for the priests. It is the opinion of management that these arrangements, along with the reserve in the Priest Benefit Foundation, will provide the necessary funds to cover the costs associated with the priests' post-retirement health care benefit.

15. Subsequent Events

The Diocese has evaluated subsequent events through October 31, 2014 and determined that no additional disclosures are necessary.

Weekday readings

Monday, Dec. 1: Isaiah 2:1-5; Psalm 122:1-9; Matthew 8:5-11

Tuesday, Dec. 2: Isaiah 11:1-10; Psalm 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17; Luke 10:21-24

Wednesday, Dec. 3: Isaiah 25:6-10; Psalm 23:1-6; Matthew 15:29-37

Thursday, Dec. 4: Isaiah 26:1-6; Psalm 118:1, 8-9, 19-21, 25-27; Matthew 7:21, 24-27

Friday, Dec. 5: Isaiah 29:17-24; Psalm 27:1, 4, 13-14; Matthew 9:27-31

Saturday, Dec. 6: Isaiah 30:19-21, 23-26; Psalm 147:1-6; Matthew 9:35-10:1, 5-8

Sunday, Dec. 7: Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11; Psalm 85:9-14; 2 Peter 3:8-14; Mark 1:1-8

Monday, Dec. 8: Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Genesis 3:9-15, 20; Psalm 98:1-4; Ephesians 1:3-6, 11-12; Luke 1:26-38

Tuesday, Dec. 9: Isaiah 40:1-11; Psalm 96:1-3, 10-13; Matthew 18:12-14

Wednesday, Dec. 10: Isaiah 40:25-31; Psalm 103:1-4, 8, 10; Matthew 11:28-30

Thursday, Dec. 11: Isaiah 41:13-20; Psalm 145:1, 9-13; Matthew 11:11-15

Friday, Dec. 12: Feast, Our Lady of Guadalupe, Zechariah 2:14-17; Judith 13:18-19; Luke 1:26-38

Saturday, Dec. 13: Sirach 48:1-4, 9-11; Psalm 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19; Matthew 17:9-13

Sunday, Dec. 14: Isaiah 61:1-2, 10-11; Luke 1:46-50, 53-54, 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24; John 1:6-8, 19-28

Monday, Dec. 15: Numbers 24:2-7, 15-17; Psalm 25:4-9; Matthew 21:23-27

Tuesday, Dec. 16: Zephaniah 3:1-2, 9-13; Psalm 34:2-3, 6-7, 17-19, 23; Matthew 21:28-32

Wednesday, Dec. 17: Genesis 49:2, 8-10; Psalm 72:1-4, 7-8, *Readings continued on page 31*



Living the readings by Father Joseph Brando

An epic unfolds

The Christmas story is another example of God speaking to us

Thanks to the timing of Advent, with its First Sunday in November, the message of Christmas unfolds before us as an ancient epic might. Back in antiquity, classic writers would start their stories of great events and great people in *medio res* or “the middle of things.” It’s not merely a classic form; *Star Wars* uses the same form.

Let’s look at December’s major liturgies from the point of view of a classic epic. Doing so may help us to become Christmas-centered and, thereby, learn from the three Sundays in Advent how to prepare for the feast and how to live it out for the rest of our lives from the last Sunday of the year.

So, we begin, in the middle by looking at Christmas itself. Most children would like to start there, and we are all children at heart. Once there, our hearts can delight in four different settings of Scripture readings all telling us the essence of the Christmas mystery. It’s all about the Second Person of the Blessed Trinity becoming a human being. However, that reality boggles the most superior of minds. Let’s scan the four Christmas liturgies to uncover the mystery in four dimensions.

The Vigil Mass begins with a passage from Isaiah in which the love of God for his people is described in the romantic words of a couple deeply in love with one another. That’s the way God loves us, and that is why God comes to us when we are in need. Paul, in the second reading, announces at the synagogue in Antioch that the Messiah has come and what remains is to be formed by Him into a new people. The Gospel consists of a genealogy of Jesus followed by Joseph’s view of the child’s birth. In a preview briefing on Christmas from an angel, Joseph learns of the Holy Spirit being involved and needing

This is why there needed to be a Christmas. God wanted to re-establish his original relationship with humanity.

Mary and Joseph’s capabilities to get this divine operation completed successfully. In short, God’s plan depends on our cooperation.

The Midnight Mass also starts with a passage from Isaiah. It is the message that “a people in darkness have seen a great light.” That’s why people radically change their schedule to come to Mass at midnight. They want to experience the coldest and darkest part of the day so that they may experience the warmth and love of Christ’s first coming. In the second reading, Paul writes to Titus telling us that, as a result of Christmas, we need to live “temperately, justly, and devoutly in this world and await the blessed hope...of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ.” The Gospel gives us Luke’s story of Christmas. It’s the stories of shepherds, of angels, and of Mary and Joseph journeying to Bethlehem. It touches our hearts and leads us back to Isaiah and Paul to find out our role in the saga.

The Mass at dawn also begins with a passage from Isaiah. Here, he is announcing the coming of our savior. It’s electrically exciting. Our religion is meant to be that way. The second reading follows directly after the one used at midnight. Here, Paul tells Titus that the reason for Christmas was solely God’s mercy, and not for any human deeds. Think, because to contemplate God’s mercy is exciting for us. The dawn Gospel provides us with the response of the shepherds to the angels’ message. Excitedly, they look for the infant Jesus and find him and tell Mary the message of the angels. Even Mary needed to be helped by the lowly shepherds to

comprehend God’s actions. Everyone in our lives, then, becomes valuable to us by leading us, little by little, to understand how God uses our lives to proclaim his message.

Christmas Mass during the day also employs Isaiah for its first reading. Here, the prophet encourages us to raise a cry and shout for joy. Christmas demands a strong response. We need to loosen up all that holds us back from expressing our joy. If we bottle up our Christmas joy, not only will our friends and family fail to get appropriately involved; but we, ourselves will miss one of the essential parts of Christmas, namely the joy that God gives us to proclaim his presence. The second reading is from the beginning of the Epistle to the Hebrews. This pericope shouts out to us the message that the God who created the universe is speaking to us. We need to listen and respond. The Christmas readings conclude with the introduction to John’s Gospel. “In the beginning was the Word...” He wants us to realize the immensity of the situation in which we find ourselves. The great God in heaven loves us, speaks to us, comes to us, and reveals his glory.

Christmas is awesome. But a question arises. In classic literature and in many current movies people are drawn by the original film to learn the “backstory.” And so, the Church delivers, by popular demand, the feast of the Immaculate Conception. If you only knew what the Christmas Masses told us, then you would not know the full story of Mary’s involvement with our salvation and, for that matter, with her relationship with her child, Jesus. We would not know for certain how humanity needed a savior. Nor would we know what God thinks human beings can do. The answers to these and many other questions come to us in the readings of the early Advent feast of the Immaculate Conception.

The first reading of the feast takes *Christmas continued on page 31*

Christmas continued from page 30

us, by means of the book of Genesis, to the beginning of human life. We are in the Garden of Eden together with Adam and Eve, the first human beings. Everything is perfect. There is only one thing that can negate the perfection. Humans, starting with our first parents, have free will. They have a choice. The only prohibition God gave the humans was not to eat the fruit of one tree. As we all know, they blew it. They disobeyed God and, as a consequence, lost paradise.

There is a big hint in this story we tend to miss that is essential. Adam's reaction to being called by God was to hide. At that point, God was still close to him. And so God questions how Adam could know he was naked and feel shame. What is implied here is of utmost importance. Before the fall, Adam and Eve did not see differences. They were completely one, "bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh." Both were in direct and intimate contact with God. Now, something was very wrong. The unity with God, with each other and with the animals was all broken. That is to say that the world as we know it is not like it was originally created.

That is why there needed to be a Christmas. God wanted to re-establish his original relationship with humanity. That explains the importance of Mary's dialogue with the angel Gabriel. Knowing the backstory, we can see that God was looking for a human "yes" to negate the action of Adam and Eve, which was their resounding "no" to doing God's will. Mary did say "yes." As an immediate result, she was to have the presence of the Second Person of the Blessed Trinity dwell within her. God and man are together again. Christmas starts the opportunity to accept the Christ-child into our lives. His passion, death and resurrection allow us to share in the life of Mary's child and our God.

The four Sundays of Advent help us to make the change between

the state we were in after the fall of Adam and Eve and where we should be at Christmas. Let's look at them with that intentionality.

The Second Sunday of Advent is the first Sunday in December. It takes us back to two standard-bearers of Advent, Isaiah and John the Baptist. In the first reading, Isaiah urges us to prepare the way of the Lord by crying out and yelling to all who would hear the good news that God is coming. We should have that enthusiasm as well. John, in the Gospel, shows us how. We need to look at the world not as it has been, filled with evil. We should see it redeemed and flowing with the grace of God. This is repentance – to see life differently. We open ourselves to the Holy Spirit. Or, as Peter writes in the second reading, we should see the present world as passing away and we should be awaiting "new heavens and a new earth." That means "to be eager to be found without spot or blemish before him [God], at peace."

The Third Sunday of Advent starts off with Isaiah telling us to "rejoice heartily in the Lord." In effect he's telling us to live knowing God is with us. Paul backs this up in the second reading telling us to give thanks to God, to rejoice always and pray without ceasing. That will surely prepare us not only for Christmas, but for heaven, too. The Gospel reintroduces us to John the Baptist, who protests he was not the Christ. Yet, by doing all the things Paul asks us to do, he shows us we are capable of doing them as well. Most of all, to prepare for Christmas, we need to possess what Adam and Eve once had, namely the presence of God.

The Fourth Sunday of Advent offers us a pre-Christmas way of living. The first reading teaches us God will reward us with his peace for fighting against evil. If we teach our children well, it will make a difference in the future. The second reading teaches us to live in "the obedience of Faith." That is, our lives should proclaim the

presence of God. The Gospel once again gives us the opportunity to study Mary's dialogue with Gabriel. She is everything Paul and Isaiah wanted us to be. She knows already that her Son will change the world and she acts that way. She also is obedient to the word of God even though her heart would be pierced with sorrows on several occasions. She still can be happy in the Lord.

The last part of a classic epic should have a satisfying ending along with a lesson for the future. So we look at the feast of the Holy Family to present us with a post-Christmas attitude. The passage from Genesis has God telling Abram "fear not, I am your shield; I will make your reward very great." That is the attitude we should take from Christmas. Abram and Sarah received the gift of a child in their old age. God does give gifts, even when we least expect them. The Scriptures are telling us to expect them and live happy. The second reading, from the Letter to the Hebrews, relates to Abraham as well. He became, like God, willing to sacrifice his only Son. Faithfulness can form us into an image of God. That is a great Christmas present.

The Gospel for this last Sunday in December presents two delightful characters, Simeon and Anna. Simeon was righteous and devout. Anna was "a prophetess who never left the Temple worshiping night and day with fasting and prayer." Both recognized the baby Jesus as "the glory of your people Israel" and as the "redeemer of Jerusalem." We would do well to become an Anna or a Simeon during Advent and Christmas. We would be devout, faithful, with our mind on the things of heaven and able to see Christ in the people we meet. Then we'll all have a happy and holy Christmas every day of our lives. ■

Father Brando is retired from the active priesthood in the Diocese of Knoxville.

Readings continued from page 30

17; Matthew 1:1-17

Thursday, Dec. 18: Jeremiah 23:5-8; Psalm 72:1-2, 12-13, 18-19; Matthew 1:18-25

Friday, Dec. 19: Judges 13:2-7, 24-25; Psalm 71:3-6, 16-17; Luke 1:5-25

Saturday, Dec. 20: Isaiah 7:10-14; Psalm 24:1-6; Luke 1:26-38

Sunday, Dec. 21: 2 Samuel 7:1-5, 8-12, 14, 16; Psalm 89:2-5, 27-29; Romans 16:25-27; Luke 1:26-38

Monday, Dec. 22: 1 Samuel 1:24-28; 1 Samuel 2:1, 4-8; Luke 1:46-56

Tuesday, Dec. 23: Malachi 3:1-4, 23-24; Psalm 25:4-5, 8-10, 14; Luke 1:57-66

Wednesday, Dec. 24: 2 Samuel 7:1-5, 8-12, 14, 16; Psalm 89:2-5, 27, 29; Luke 1:67-79; Solemnity, Vigil of the Nativity of the Lord, Isaiah 62:1-5; Psalm 89:4-5, 16-17, 27, 29; Acts 13:16-17, 22-25; Matthew 1:1-25

Thursday, Dec. 25: Solemnity, the Nativity of the Lord, (night) Isaiah 9:1-6; Psalm 96:1-3, 11-13; Titus 2:11-14; Luke 2:1-14; (dawn) Isaiah 62:11-12; Psalm 97:1, 6, 11-12; Titus 3:4-7; Luke 2:15-20; (day) Isaiah 52:7-10; Psalm 98:1-6; Hebrews 1:1-6; John 1:1-18

Friday, Dec. 26: Acts 6:8-10 and 7:54-59; Psalm 31:3-4, 6, 8, 16-17; Matthew 10:17-22

Saturday, Dec. 27: 1 John 1:1-4; Psalm 97:1-2, 5-6, 11-12; John 20:1-8

Sunday, Dec. 28: Feast, the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph, Sirach 3:2-6, 12-14; Psalm 128:1-5; Colossians 3:12-21; Luke 2:22-40

Monday, Dec. 29: 1 John 2:3-11; Psalm 96:1-3, 5-6; Luke 2:22-35

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

Wednesday, Dec. 31: 1 John 2:18-21; Psalm 96:1-2, 11-13; John 1:1-18 ■



Sharing stories of Christmases past

There was a time when midnight Mass was a 5 a.m. liturgical celebration

Midnight Mass hasn't always been held at midnight.

One of Pope Pius XII's last great gifts to the Church was the beginning of the restoration of Easter Vigil (time of day and language). By the time the current editions of the Roman Missal became a way of life for us in the West, the Easter rites were well settled in as the way the reforms of the Second Vatican Council were leading us.

Not many folks are still alive who remember the Vigil of Easter beginning around 6 a.m. on Holy Saturday with the next Mass being celebrated on Easter Sunday morning.

A similar evolution occurred with Christmas. For centuries a Mass was celebrated at midnight, another at dawn, and a third Mass later on Christmas morning. There were no Christmas Eve vigil Masses, nor any Christmas afternoon or evening ones. An outside circumstance, World War II, had its influence, too. During World War II, Bishop William L. Adrian directed that there would be no Masses at midnight; that the liturgical texts for midnight be used at a Mass beginning no earlier than 5 a.m. Christmas morning.

I remember those days. The Church was still warm from the penance service, which continued on Christmas Eve well after suppertime. Most churches were packed to capacity as the 5 a.m. hour drew near. People wore coats and hats and scarves and gloves to church – all of which added to the

Challenge continued from page 22

office sent a text message to Father Vick to tell him he had better be on the school playground by 2 p.m. with towel in hand because his challenge had been met.

The chairs were set up on the

Perhaps your family has a similar story about Christmas Mass. Please share it with your family as you gather to observe Christmas this year. Christmas is so very special. It would be sad if a story that could enlighten your family went untold this year. Go tell it on the mountain. Merry Christmas 2014!

temperature. The choir loft was very crowded with the various choirs – adult, men's, women's, high school girls, and elementary school children who might brave the time and the weather to celebrate Christmas.

Every altar boy in some parishes was expected to "vest out" for this principal Mass for the feast. The practices, which had begun around Thanksgiving, yielded a beautiful ceremony.

At the door of the church would be the janitor or sexton with the interior of his hat opened to the sky. The generosity of our Catholic people knew no bounds as the hat was filled to the brim again and again with pocket change and a few bills.

After the war, Mass at midnight was scheduled once again and the Mass at dawn was celebrated at 7 a.m. The organist was back, some of the choirs returned, altar boys were scheduled, and the sexton was back! John T. O'Connor II and I were privileged to serve at the 7 a.m. Mass one such Christmas. Father C. P. Murray, the pastor, was in the pulpit re-read-

ing the epistle and Gospel in English after the celebrant of the Mass had read it in Latin. The celebrant, Father Ned Elliott, the assistant pastor, was seated on the sedalia between John T. and me.

A child got loose from his mother somewhere out in the church, approached the marble communion railing, climbed through it, and tried to climb into the crib. If Father Murray was distracted (the crib was right in front of the pulpit) he didn't show it, but the rest of the churchgoers were.

Father Elliott gave the order to John to go get the child and he did. He returned across the sanctuary, holding the little boy by his arms from the rear and as he crossed in front of the assistant pastor, Father Ned managed to whisper, "get him out of here." The child had been silent until now, but when he was taken to the dark, cold sacristy, he yelled out with a blood-curdling scream. Father Murray finished the sermon, the ushers took up the collection, and Mass proceeded.

Perhaps your family has a similar story about a Christmas Mass. Please share it with your family as you gather to observe Christmas this year. Christmas is so very special. It would be sad if a story that could enlighten your family went untold this year. Go tell it on the mountain. Merry Christmas 2014! ■

playground, coolers of ice and buckets were lined up, and the students headed outside with their "I Bought a Bucket" tickets in hand. The totals came in at \$1,500 in donations and around 75 buckets of ice water — to the delight of the student body.

The students, faculty and staff participated in the event, learning about putting feet on their prayers for those who are suffering.

"I cannot hear out of my right ear," Mr. Martin said afterward with a huge grin on his face. ■

Monsignor Mankel is a vicar general and the historical archivist for the Diocese of Knoxville.

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Upcoming Virtus training sessions

The Diocese of Knoxville's program for the protection of children, youth and vulnerable adults is offered throughout the diocese. The seminars are required for parish and school employees and regular volunteers in contact with children and vulnerable adults. The following training sessions are scheduled:

- St. Dominic, Kingsport, 1 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 6;
- St. Alphonsus, Crossville, 1 p.m. CST, Sunday, Dec. 14;
- St. Mary School, Johnson City, 5:30 p.m. Monday, Dec. 15. ■

Schedule continued from page 2

Dec. 19: 11 a.m., Mass and Christmas party for Chancery staff

Dec. 20: 4:30 p.m., Mass at St. John Neumann Church in Farragut

Dec. 21: 8:30 a.m., Mass at St. John Neumann Church

Dec. 21: 10:30 a.m., Mass at St. John Neumann Church

Dec. 21: 6 p.m., Mass at St. John Neumann Church

Dec. 24: Midnight Mass at the Cathedral of the Sacred Heart of Jesus

Dec. 29: Epiphany party for priests and seminarians at the bishop's residence ■

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Diocese of Knoxville seeks HR director

The Diocese of Knoxville is accepting applications for the director of human resources position. E-mail a cover letter and resume to Deacon Sean Smith, Chancellor at ssmith@dioknox.org

The position is responsible for making sure the Diocese of Knoxville fulfills its religious and secular obligations related to employees in the areas of hiring/terminating, compensation, benefits management, training, ongoing professional development, evaluation, promotion, policy generation and establishing good rapport and trust with people, in particular the pastors, which is essential in this environment.

Essential functions of the position:

- Providing overall human resource management and proactive, on-site guidance, assistance and training to parishes, schools, and agencies to promote compliance with applicable legal requirements, best practices, and Catholic social teaching (including compliance with Employment Law, Family Medical Leave (FMLA), Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA) and the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA).
- Maintaining and enhancing the Diocese of Knoxville's human resources by planning, implementing, and evaluating employee relations and human resources policies, programs, and practices.
- Specific duties and responsibilities include:
 - Maintaining organization staff by establishing a recruiting and interviewing program; counseling managers on candidate selection; conducting and analyzing exit interviews; recommending changes;
 - Establishing and maintaining a professional development program that provides for continuous personal and professional growth for all personnel;
 - Maintaining employee benefits programs and informing employees of benefits by studying and assessing benefit needs and trends; recommending benefit programs; directing the processing of benefit claims; obtaining and evaluating benefit contract bids; awarding benefit

Director continued on page 34



Marriage enrichment by Marian Christiana

Home for Christmas

The Holy Family serves as a wonderful example of how we share our children

All of our children will be home for Christmas. We are very excited about that fact! And two of them will be bringing their spouses with them. Our son has been married for three years now and one of our daughters was married this past spring.

They are creating their own family of origins, with their own family traditions, but this year we will all be together here at home for Christmas.

When our children were very young we never really thought about or discussed that one day we would actually have to share them with anyone else, or that they might move to the far reaches of the country.

Luckily, I can say that as our children grew older we slowly adjusted to the idea of sharing them with other people and the idea that their own interests might take them far from home. Over the years we have taken each one of them to airports so they could board planes for school or work in different parts of the country, or sometimes even to different places in the world.

Those adventures for them, those moves and changes, were hard for us just as they would be for any parents, but fortunately the two children that are married and live in other states have picked wonderful spouses.

None of these events – the moves, the marriages, the careers that might require them to make decisions on where and when they would go – ever entered our minds on those beautiful days when our children were born.

This small insight into the scene of Jesus' birth strengthens my resolve to lovingly share my children and to trust in God, even though I know that they will only be with us a relatively short time this Christmas season.

While I was thinking about the upcoming Christmas holiday and how over the years we had to learn to share our children, I began to wonder how Mary and Joseph felt on that first Christmas morning. I am sure they had the same feelings for their son at His birth as we did for our own children. Feelings of wonder, happiness, gratitude, amazement and worry were on their minds at Jesus' birth, but did Mary and Joseph think about "sharing" Jesus with others?

This idea stayed with me for a few days and I decided to see if I could find a way to mentally place myself in that humble stable on the first Christmas morning.

As I looked at various Advent season prayer guides and support materials I found that certain reflections for Advent use the Ignatian tradition of prayer to contemplate Scripture.

Developed by St. Ignatius of Loyola, the founder of the Jesuits, this prayer exercise asks us to reflect on a Scripture story, ask the Holy Spirit for guidance, and use our imagination to place ourselves in the story to dig deeper into Scripture so that God might communicate with us in a more personal, profound way (my husband will be happy that I am referencing St. Ignatius since he was Jesuit-educated

in high school and college).

St. Ignatius put it this way: "The familiar story of the Nativity should allow you to more easily be present fully to the persons and places of this mystery. Whatever methods help you enter into the whole scene and to be with the persons involved you should embrace." What would we learn about the mind and heart of Mary and Joseph if we used this prayer technique to reflect on the Nativity scene?

I decided to try it and see what I might personally discover. As I reflected I realized that most Nativity scenes show shepherds surrounding the Holy Family. They were coming no doubt out of curiosity at first, to see what was happening under that bright star, but when they arrived they knew that someone special was resting in that simple manger.

For me, the presence of the shepherds shows that Mary and Joseph knew intuitively that Jesus' life was meant to be shared. They could not know exactly how this "sharing" of Jesus would unfold but they had trusted God so far and I feel sure they trusted Him at that moment to see them through whatever might happen going forward.

This small insight into the scene of Jesus' birth strengthens my resolve to lovingly share my children and to trust in God, even though I know that they will only be with us a relatively short time this Christmas season. ■

Mrs. Christiana is coordinator of the diocesan Marriage Preparation and Enrichment Office.



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Nourishing our relationship with God

Introducing the Directory on Popular Piety and the Liturgy

In my previous column I discussed the Synod on the Family's emphasis on the importance of popular piety and family devotions.

In that column I mentioned the *Directory on Popular Piety and the Liturgy* (DPPL), produced in 2001 by the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments. This directory offers a comprehensive and authoritative description of devotions for the entire liturgical year, for the veneration of the Blessed Virgin Mary and the saints, as well as prayers for the dead, shrines and pilgrimages.

The Church affirms many positive aspects of popular piety. "Its source is the constant presence of the Spirit of God in the ecclesial community; the mystery of Christ Our Savior is its reference point, the glory of God and the salvation of man its object, and its historical moment 'the joyous encounter of the work of evangelization and culture'" (61).

Furthermore, it incorporates many important values, such as "an innate sense of the sacred and the transcendent, manifests a genuine thirst for God" (61); it nourishes interior dispositions and virtues such as patience, trust in God, "a genuine desire to please God and do reparation and penance for the offenses offered to Him"; and it helps cultivate a "detachment from material things...and openness to others" (61). Finally, it is important "for the faith-life of the People of God, for the conservation of the faith itself and in inspiring new efforts at evangelization" (64).

The DPPL follows three overarching principles. The first is the primacy of the liturgy, since "every liturgical celebration...is a sacred action surpassing all others" (11). Thus, pre-eminence must be given

"to liturgical prayer and to the liturgical year over any other form of devotion" (11). However, this pre-eminence is not to be understood "in exclusive terms, nor in terms of opposition or marginalization" (11).

The second principle concerns the evaluation and renewal of popular piety. For example, authentic popular piety should reflect a biblical spirit evidenced by "direct or indirect reference to Sacred Scripture" (12). It should also reflect a liturgical spirit "if it is to dispose properly for or echo the mysteries celebrated in the liturgical actions" (12). The third principle asserts that it should be distinct from and in harmony with the liturgy. This means, for example, the prayers and actions from popular piety "should not be commingled with the liturgical actions" (12).

To get a better sense of what the DPPL offers, let's look at some examples from the section on Advent. The first practice it discusses is the Advent wreath. "Placing four candles on green fronds" is especially popular in the Germanic countries and North America and "is a recollection of the various stages of salvation history prior to Christ's coming and a symbol of the prophetic light gradually illuminating the long night prior to the rising of the Sun of justice (cf. Mt 3:20; Lk 1:78)" (98). It also praises Advent processions, such as the *posadas* in the Hispanic and Latin American traditions, which represent the Holy Family's journey to Bethlehem. As these two examples illustrate, the DPPL also teaches us about the universal dimension of our Catholic faith, the wonderful diversity of the one People of God.

The DPPL also explains how the feast of the Immaculate Conception of the Virgin Mary, "which is a fun-

damental preparation for the Lord's coming into the world, harmonizes perfectly with many of the salient themes of Advent" (102). It especially recommends the novena of the Immaculate Conception, emphasizing that it "should highlight the prophetic texts which begin with Genesis 3:15, and end in Gabriel's salutation of the one who is 'full of grace' (Lk 1:31-33)" (102).

It concludes its discussion of Advent by noting the formative power of popular piety. With its "intuitive understanding of the Christmas mystery," it can help parishes, families and individuals preserve the values of Advent that are threatened by the commercialization of Christmas.

Popular piety understands that the Lord's birth must be celebrated "in an atmosphere of sobriety and joyous simplicity and of concern for the poor and marginalized" (105). It also reminds us of "the value of life and the duties to respect and defend it from conception" (105). Finally, it also "intuitively understands" that the celebration of the birth of Jesus, who came to save us from our sins, requires us to strive to overcome sin in our lives "while waiting expectantly for Him who will return at the end of time" (105).

The *Directory on Popular Piety and the Liturgy* is available online: http://www.vatican.va/roman_curia/congregations/ccdds/documents/rc_con_ccdds_doc_20020513_vers-direttorio_en.html. I highly recommend it for pastors, catechists, families, indeed for all the faithful. ■

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contracts; designing and conducting educational programs on benefit programs; ■ Managing lay and priest benefit programs in collaboration with the Finance Officer; recommend benefit improvements as necessary or appropriate; maintain databases for benefits data and confidential benefits files for all diocesan locations;

■ Ensuring timely compliance with federal requirements of all areas of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA) including filings and establishment and implementation of current and future reporting procedures;

■ Managing immigration matters for seminarians, priests and religious personnel.

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1. Bachelor's degree and 7-10 years experience in human resources management as a generalist; or master's degree in human resource management or related field and five years experience in benefits administration, or any appropriate combination of education and experience.
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3. Has superior knowledge of benefits, retirement, employee relations; demonstrated leadership of an HR department.
4. Demonstrated interpersonal, written, and verbal communication skills, including ability to produce clear, concise reports and recommendations, and make presentations to varied groups. Ability to handle situations firmly, courteously, tactfully, and with respect for the rights and dignity of others.
5. Effective leadership management style with strong interpersonal, communication, and customer service skills.
6. Ability to handle sensitive information and exercise discretion and maintain confidentiality is essential.
7. Possess SPHR certification in Human Resources is preferred, to include annual continuing education.
8. Prior work experience in a Catholic diocese preferred, but not required.
9. Demonstrated proficiency with personal computers, software, databases, etc. Ability to pass a background check successfully. ■

Advent penance services scheduled for churches around the diocese

Here is a list of remaining Advent penance services around the Diocese of Knoxville:

Chattanooga Deanery
7 p.m. EST, except as noted. Dec. 2–St. Mary, Athens; Dec. 3–Holy Spirit, Soddy-Daisy; St. Stephen, Chattanooga; Dec. 4–Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Chattanooga, 6 p.m.; St. Catherine Labouré, Copperhill; Dec. 9–St. Jude, Chattanooga; Dec. 10–St. Bridget, Dayton; Dec. 11–Notre Dame High School; St. Therese of Lisieux, Cleveland; Dec. 16–St. Augustine, Signal Mountain; Dec. 18–Basilica of Sts. Peter and Paul, Chattanooga, 5:30 p.m.; Shepherd of the Valley, Dunlap, TBD; Our Lady of Lourdes, South Pittsburg, TBD.

Cumberland Mountain Deanery
7 p.m. EST, except as noted. Dec. 1–Knoxville Catholic High School, 10:30 a.m.; Dec. 2–Knoxville Catholic High School, 10:30 a.m.; St. Ann, Lansing; Dec. 3–Blessed Sacrament, Harriman; Dec. 5–St. Alphonsus, Crossville, 6 p.m. CST; Dec. 6–St. Christopher, Jamestown, 7:30 p.m. CST; Dec. 9–St. John Neumann, Farragut; Dec.

10–St. Joseph, Norris and St. Therese, Clinton, at St. Therese; Our Lady of Perpetual Help, LaFollette; Dec. 11–Christ the King, Tazewell; Dec. 15–Blessed Teresa of Calcutta, Maynardville; Dec. 16–All Saints, Knoxville; Dec. 17–St. Mary, Oak Ridge; Dec. 18–St. Francis of Assisi, Fairfield Glade, 6 p.m. CST.

Five Rivers Deanery
7 p.m. EST, except as noted. Dec. 1–Good Shepherd, Newport; Dec. 2–St. Michael the Archangel, Erwin; Dec. 4–St. John Paul II, Rutledge; Dec. 9–St. Mary, Johnson City; Dec. 15–St. Patrick, Morristown; St. Henry, Rogersville, 6 p.m.; Dec. 16–St. Dominic, Kingsport; Dec. 18–St. Anne, Bristol; Friday, Dec. 19–Holy Trinity, Jefferson City.

Smoky Mountain Deanery
7 p.m. EST, except as noted. Dec. 2–St. John XXIII, Knoxville, 7:30 p.m.; Dec. 3–Holy Cross, Pigeon Forge; Dec. 4–Holy Family, Seymour; Dec. 9–Cathedral of the Sacred Heart of Jesus; Dec. 11–St. Joseph the Worker, Madisonville; Dec. 16–Holy Ghost/Immaculate Conception, at Holy Ghost; Dec. 18–St. Mary, Gatlinburg. ■



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Pope Francis uses newly simplified rite to canonize six saints

By Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY — Using a newly simplified rite, Pope Francis proclaimed six new saints and praised them for the love and self-giving with which they served God and built up his kingdom by serving the poor and needy.

Creating the two Indian and four Italian saints Nov. 23, the feast of Christ the King, the pope said, "They responded with extraordinary creativity to the commandment of love of God and neighbor," dedicating themselves, "without holding back, to serving the least and assisting the destitute, sick, elderly and pilgrims."

The Mass in a St. Peter's Square still damp from an early morning rain began with the canonizations using an even briefer formula than what had become standard with St. John Paul II. The formula had been expanded by now-retired Pope Benedict XVI in 2012.

The new rite did away with the three "petitions" used by Pope Benedict; the cardinal prefect of the Congregation for Saints' Causes would ask the pope three times to canonize candidates and the pope would respond by asking God to "sustain with his grace" the act of canonization and not allow the church to err in such an important matter. In response to the third petition, the pope would recite the formula for canonization.

Instead Nov. 22 Cardinal Angelo Amato, congregation prefect, requested Pope Francis canonize the six candidates and the pope responded by introducing a litany of the saints, praying that through their intercession God would "sustain with his grace the act which we now solemnly undertake."

After singing the litany, Pope Francis read the canonization formula, proclaim the new saints:

■ Kuriakose Elias Chavara, the Indian founder of the Carmelites of Mary Immaculate, a Syro-Malabar Catholic order. Born in 1805, he died in 1871.

■ Euphrasia Eluvathingal, a member of the Carmelites founded by St. Chavara. She lived 1877-1952.

■ Nicholas of Longobardi, an Italian friar of the Minim order, who lived 1650-1709.

■ Giovanni Antonio Farina, an Italian bishop of Vicenza and the founder of the Teaching Sisters of St. Dorothy. He died in 1888.

■ Ludovico of Casoria, the 19th-century Italian founder of the Grey Franciscan Friars of Charity and the Grey Franciscan Sisters of St. Elizabeth.

■ Amato Ronconi, a 13th-century Italian lay Franciscan and founder of a hospice for the poor, which is now a home for the elderly in Rimini, Italy.

In his homily at the Mass, Pope Francis focused on the feast of Christ

the King and the description in the day's first reading (Ezekiel 34:11-12, 15-17) of how God shepherds his people.

"These verses," the pope said, "are interwoven with verbs which show the care and love that the shepherd has for his flock: to search, to look over, to gather the dispersed, to lead into pasture, to bring to rest, to seek the lost sheep, to lead back the confused, to bandage the wounded, to heal the sick, to take care of, to pasture."

Thousands of Catholics from India traveled to the Vatican to celebrate St. Chavara and St. Eluvathingal. Meeting the pilgrims briefly Nov. 24, Pope Francis said the two Indians "remind each of us that God's love is the source and the goal and the support of all holiness, while love of neighbor is the clearest demonstration of love for the Lord." ■

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