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## Students to pray for life Jan. 24

**Laura Keener**  
*Assistant Editor*

On Jan. 24 about 10,000 students in Catholic schools throughout the Diocese of Covington will pray in common for the end of abortion in the U.S. Their prayers are part of the diocese's third annual Day of Prayer and Penance for Life promulgated by Bishop Roger Foys last month.

It is one of several observations that day commemorating the 38th anniversary of the Roe vs. Wade Supreme Court decision legalizing abortion-on-demand in the United States, a decision that has opened the way to ending the lives of more than an estimated 50 million unborn children.

On that day hundreds of high school students and adults from the diocese will join with thousands of people from across the nation in Washington, D.C., for the annual March for Life. Here in the diocese Bishop Foys has directed that all churches be open for individual prayer and that each parish set aside time for adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. Also on that day Bishop Foys has designated that 10 regional churches hold a Holy Hour for Life beginning at 7 p.m. He encourages all members of the Diocese of Covington not able to participate in the March for Life in Washington to attend the Holy Hour at one of the regional churches.

Bishop Foys asked the diocesan Office of Worship and Liturgy to develop a prayer service for the Catholic schools in the diocese. It is to be said at the same time and by all students on Jan. 24. Father Ryan Maher, director, and Father Daniel Schomaker, associate director, turned to the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops' website and adapted materials available from their Department of Pro-Life Activities. As

in previous years, the prayer service is a rosary for life reflecting on the Joyful Mysteries.

Father Schomaker said that the joyful mysteries show Christ himself becoming man beginning with his annunciation, which is actually his conception, continuing with the visitation, his developing in the womb, his birth and his growing up.

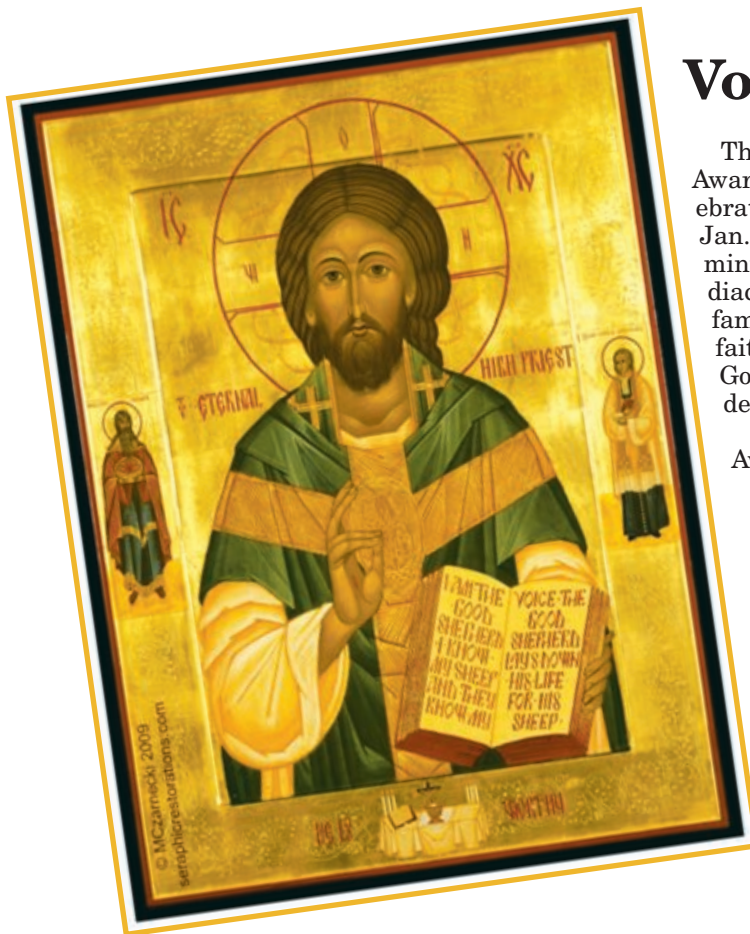
"It's a reminder that Christ shares our humanity and shares our experiences even at the beginning of his conception, to show the children the importance of life," Father Schomaker said.

Praying in common — all of the students coming together at a common time, praying a common prayer — not only shows students the power of a unified voice but also reinforces one of the marks of the Catholic Church — that the Church is one, school principals and staff members agreed.

*(Continued on page 16)*



**The Day for Prayer and Penance for Life inspires students at St. Thomas School, Ft. Thomas, to participate in the diocesan Spiritual Adoption program.**



## Vocations Awareness Week

The Catholic Church in the U.S. celebrates National Vocation Awareness Week, Jan. 9–15. The week begins on the Church's celebration of the feast of the Baptism of the Lord, which falls on Jan. 9 in 2011. The feast marks the beginning of Jesus' public ministry. Vocations week celebrates vocations to the priesthood, diaconate or consecrated life in particular. During these days families and the parish community are urged to nurture the faith of their children to prepare them to respond to whatever God's call is for them. Visit [www.foryourvocation.org](http://www.foryourvocation.org) for more details.

Next week's *Messenger* will feature a special Vocations Awareness supplement.

### Prayer for Vocations

God our Father, we thank you for calling men and women to serve in your Son's Kingdom as priests, deacons, religious, and consecrated persons. Send your Holy Spirit to help us respond generously and courageously to your call. May our community of faith support vocations of sacrificial love in our youth. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God for ever and ever. Amen.

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# Catholic Conference of Kentucky affirms life in abortion-related bills

**Beth Dotson Brown**

Not many people can test themselves for a medical condition at home with a kit available from a pharmacy. In addition, few patients can arrange for medical treatment without an in-person consultation with a physician. Yet this is what happens for some women who are seeking an abortion in Kentucky.

Kentucky law presently defines adequate informed consent for an abortion as a patient hearing a recording about the procedure no less than 24 hours prior to the abortion.

The Catholic Conference of Kentucky (CCK) is urging Kentucky lawmakers to pass an in-person informed consent law. They cite the Kentucky Board of Medical Licensure in advocating for this requirement. In its Fall 2004 newsletter the board expressed how important it is for patients to meet face-to-face with health care professionals, saying: "The Board feels a valid physician/patient relationship cannot be established without an initial face-to-face evaluation by a health care professional."

Polly Duncan Collum, director of the peace and justice office for the Diocese of Lexington, affirms that statement, noting that every case is unique, so a uniformly used recording doesn't always allow for a person's individual needs. "You need to sit down with the provider and look into the specifics of your particular case ... ask questions," she says. "I think any woman needs to be able to make a judgment based on every bit of information about what's happening in her body and about any options available to her, including adoption."

"It offends me sometimes, when I hear people who are pro-abortion, pro-choice seeming to limit women's access to information and to really know what options are out there. To me, that's really paternalistic. Let her know the full range of what exactly is in her body. She has the right to as much information as possible and to have a

**Catholics@TheCapitol**

Jan. 29, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

Blessed Sacrament Church, Undercroft, Ft. Mitchell

Meet Ky. state representatives and senators and learn about issues including proposed legislation on:

- Informed consent for women considering abortion
- Elimination of death penalty for mentally ill
- Payday lending practices
- Immigration issues

Sponsored by the Catholic Conference of Kentucky (CCK) and Catholic Charities Diocese of Covington. Call (859) 581-8974 or e-mail [bjones@covingtoncharities.org](mailto:bjones@covingtoncharities.org).

medical professional look her in the eye and tell her what's going on."

In past years, the informed consent bill has included a requirement that women see an ultrasound of the baby. Father Patrick Delahanty, the newly named executive director of CCK, says this year that requirement will be introduced in a separate bill. He notes that studies have shown that in-person counseling has done more to prevent abortions than ultrasounds, although more comprehensive studies could be forthcoming. Counselors have talked with people who said it was after they saw an ultrasound that they realized the developing child wasn't just a mass of tissue.

Father Delahanty is optimistic about the in-person informed consent bill, because, in the past, it was the ultrasound requirement that prevented some from voting for it. There have also been two bills pre-filed related to excluding abortion coverage for health insurance exchanges.

*Ms. Brown is a Lexington, Ky.-area freelance writer and editor.*

## ANNUAL COLLECTION January 15-16, 2011



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### Bishop's Schedule

- Jan. 7**  
Individual meeting, 10 a.m.  
Priests' gathering, noon
- Jan. 9**  
Mass and baptisms, Cathedral Basilica, Covington, 10 a.m.
- Jan. 10**  
Buildings and Property meeting, 10 a.m.  
Individual meeting, 2 p.m.  
St. Pius X Church confirmation class visit, Bishop's Office, 3 p.m.
- Jan. 11**  
Religious Superiors' meeting, 10 a.m.  
ACUE schools meeting, 2 p.m.  
Confirmation, St. Thomas Church, Ft. Thomas, 7 p.m.

- Jan. 12**  
Meeting with ACUE pastors, 10 a.m.  
Diocesan Consultors' meeting, 2 p.m.  
Confirmation, St. Pius X Church, 7 p.m.
- Jan. 13**  
Episcopal Council meeting, 10 a.m.  
Deans' meeting, 2 p.m.
- Jan. 14**  
Thomas More College Board meeting, 2 p.m.
- Jan. 15**  
Deanery Pastoral Council convocation, St. Joseph Heights, 9:30 a.m.  
Boone County Census Coordinators' meeting, St. Paul School, 1:30 p.m.
- Jan. 16**  
Mass, Cathedral Basilica, 10 a.m.

*Celebrating the blessed season*



Seventeen of the diocese's 19 seminarians returned to the Diocese of Covington over Christmas break and celebrated with Bishop Roger Foys and Father Daniel Schomaker (seated at right), Dec. 21 at the Cathedral Basilica of the Assumption rectory. The Christmas celebration followed vespers held in the Cathedral's Blessed Sacrament Chapel. Two seminarians, William Appel and Ryan Stenger, are studying in Rome and were unable to come home during the Christmas season.

Keener photo

**Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion and Lector training Feb. 8 and Feb. 19**

New norms for extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion and lectors take effect the first Sunday in Lent, March 13.

The final education sessions sponsored by the diocesan Office of Worship and Liturgy are scheduled for Feb. 8 and Feb. 19. The sessions take place on Feb. 8 at Blessed Sacrament Church, Ft. Mitchell, from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. and Feb. 19 at St. Mary Church, Alexandria, from 10 a.m. to noon.

To register call your parish office. All extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion and lectors must complete a diocesan education session.

For a complete text of the norms, please visit the Office of Worship and Liturgy (listed under "Diocesan Offices") at [www.covingtondiocese.org](http://www.covingtondiocese.org).

**Principal surprised at school assembly**

In an announcement that surprised her, Sharon Bresler, the St. Thomas School principal, found out Dec. 17 that she has been named the Southern States Region 2011 Distinguished Principal, a prestigious award from the National Catholic Educational Association. (The award will be formally presented at special ceremonies and a banquet on the opening evening of the NCEA annual convention on April 26, 2011 in New Orleans.)

Ms. Bresler is one of only 12 principals from across the United States to receive the 2011 "Distinguished Principal Award" from the Department of Elementary Schools of NCEA. The recipients represent the 12 geographic regions that comprise the NCEA's Department of Elementary Schools. These principals were chosen from a possible pool of more than 6,000 principals. The Southern States Region is comprised of Alabama, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi and Tennessee.

Ms. Bresler has been a Catholic educator for 26 years — the last 12 as principal of St. Thomas. Under Ms. Bresler's leadership St. Thomas has been recognized as a National Blue Ribbon School of Excellence (2006). In addition, St. Thomas received the national Jefferson Award for community service, and has been named a Service Learning School of Contribution for the past three years.

Bishop Roger Foys, Msgr. Roger Cooney, pastor, and Michael Clines, superintendent for Catholic schools, participated in the surprise

announcement at an all-school assembly.

"Ms. Bresler is a strong, reliable leader who is quietly yet firmly in control in both educational theory and practice, and we are very proud of her," said Mr. Clines.

The NCEA is the largest private professional educational association in the world. Founded in 1904, the association's membership represents more than 150,000 educators serving over 1.5 million students in Catholic education at all levels.



Michael Clines (left), superintendent for Catholic schools, and Bishop Roger Foys, with Sharon Bresler at the surprise school assembly Dec. 17.

**Official Assignments**

**Rev. John H. Kroger**

**Rev. Gerald E. Twaddell**

To: Presbyteral Council  
Term: Jan. 1, 2011 to Dec. 31, 2013

**Very Rev. Mark A Keene, V.F.**

**Rev. James M. Ryan**

To: Priests' Retirement Committee  
Term: Jan. 1, 2011 to Dec. 31, 2013

*By order of the Most Rev. Roger J. Foys, D.D.  
Bishop of the Diocese of Covington*

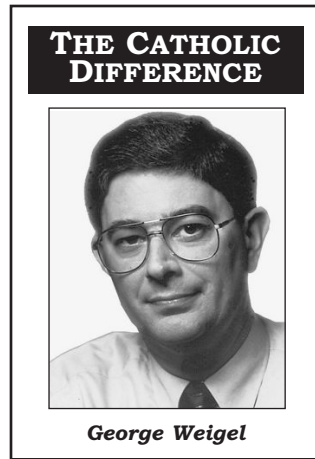
*Margaret M. Schack*

Margaret M. Schack, Chancellor

## Reaffirming Catholic identity

Throughout his recently completed three-year term as president of United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, Cardinal Francis George, OMI, gently but firmly led his brother bishops through a reflection on their duties as defenders of the integrity of the Catholic "brand." A deeper commitment on the bishops' part to being the stewards of Catholic identity in their dioceses was, one may speculate, one factor in the election of Archbishop Timothy Dolan of New York — a robust defender of Catholic truth — as Cardinal George's successor in the president's chair at the USCCB. Not everything that is labeled "Catholic" warrants that label, the bishops have come to understand; and if anyone is to do something about that, the bishops are going to have to be the principal agents of change.

The debate about the Catholic identity of Catholic institutions of higher education has been underway for decades, and may well take some interesting turns in the years ahead. At the moment, however, the hottest of hot buttons on this front involve health care institutions that call themselves "Catholic" but which have acquiesced to practices approved by an increasingly aggressive secular culture — and to the lure of government dollars. On that new front in the campaign to reaffirm Catholic identity, Bishop Thomas Olmsted of Phoenix has become an important leader.



**THE CATHOLIC DIFFERENCE**

George Weigel

Bishop Olmsted inherited a terrible situation in Phoenix: the previous bishop had been disgraced; the local legal authorities had stated publicly that they could not trust the Church to police its own house in matters of sexual abuse, and proposed to take over that function themselves. Bishop Olmsted didn't squawk, nor did he deny that serious problems existed. Rather, he quietly and decisively set about fixing what needed fixing, so that the public authorities were soon content to revert to a more normal Church/state relationship.

Then, in 2009, a "therapeutic" abortion was performed at Phoenix's St. Joseph's Hospital, a part of the Catholic Healthcare West system. When Bishop Olmsted wrote the president of CHW, asking what on earth was going on, CHW attempted to justify what had happened through arguments advanced by M. Therese Lysaught, who teaches theology at Marquette University. Bishop Olmsted was not impressed, and informed CHW that it was his duty, as the local bishop, to be the authoritative interpreter of the moral law in his diocese and the authoritative interpreter of the hospital guidelines adopted by the USCCB. And the bishop went on to state that, on Dec. 17, 2010 (the day after this is being written), he would declare that St. Joseph's Hospital is no longer to be considered a Catholic institution — unless CHW admits that the 2009

abortion that happened there violated the U.S. bishops' norms and unless CHW pledges that such an abomination will not happen again.

However the Phoenix/CHW situation eventually sorts out, an important marker has been laid down by a bishop known for both his integrity and his personal sanctity. Bishop Olmsted will undoubtedly be criticized by those for whom "dialogue" is the holy grail of Catholic life. But in our current cultural situation (and given the pressures that the Obama administration and unsympathetic state governments are likely to increase on Catholic health care facilities), the call for "dialogue" too often amounts to a prescription for slow-motion surrender, with the Catholic identity of Catholic institutions being slowly whittled away while the "dialogue" partners carry on.

The Catholic integrity of Catholic educational and health care institutions was at stake when those institutions were segregated in the 1950s and early 1960s; brave bishops like Joseph Ritter in St. Louis, Joseph Rummel in New Orleans, and Lawrence Shehan in Baltimore took a lot of heat, but did what they had to do to bring the conduct of Catholic institutions into sync with the Church's teaching on human dignity. No less ought to be expected of the Church's ordained leaders today, when the stakes are just as high, although the issues have changed. So full marks to Cardinal George for putting the issue of Catholic identity on the bishops' plates, and full marks to Bishop Olmsted for giving that new commitment real teeth.

*George Weigel is Distinguished Senior Fellow of the Ethics and Public Policy Center in Washington, D.C.*

## Lay role in renewing society

"Since the laity ... live in the midst of the world and its concerns, they are called by God to exercise their apostolate in the world like a leaven, with the ardor of the spirit of Christ."

These words of the Second Vatican Council in its Decree on the Apostolate of the Laity were echoed in a recent message to laypeople by Pope Benedict XVI.

The pope said lay Catholics have a responsibility to promote social justice and charity in a world often marked by injustice and inequality.

Calling for "renewed evangelization of the Church's social doctrine," he said that lay men and women, as "free and responsible citizens," are invested with "the immediate task of working for a just social order."

In a message Nov. 4 to the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace, Pope Benedict acknowledged that Catholics have their work cut out in striving to give hope to victims of injustice and inequality. But he added that only through acts of charity, "sustained by hopes and illuminated by the light of faith and reason," can the objectives of humanity's liberation and universal justice be reached.

Pope Benedict also cited another responsibility of lay Catholics in speaking to the Pontifical Council for the Laity earlier this year. In this message he appealed for a renewal of politics in which citizens are inspired by Christian values of solidarity and working for the common good.

"Authentically Christian politicians are needed" — laypeople who are witnesses to Christ and the Gospel in civil and political areas, he said.

Politics need to be renewed by "authentic political wisdom," which is open to dialogue and collabora-

tion with all sectors of society and is not restricted by an ideological viewpoint or utopian assumptions, he said. Lay men and women should demonstrate through their personal, social and political lives how Christian faith and values can effectively address current issues.

Both examples mentioned by Pope Benedict underscore what the Second Vatican Council said more than 40 years ago: "The laity must take up the renewal of the temporal order as their own special obligation."

Led by the light of the Gospel and the mind of the Church and motivated by Christian charity, they must act directly and in a definitive way in the temporal sphere."

Questions some might ask are: "Just how can Catholic lay men and women bring about this renewal in society? What are some things individuals can do?"

Several U.S. bishops' pastoral messages on Catholic social teaching have mentioned particular things people can do. A 1993 document on the social mission of parishes noted that in living their faith there is "no substitute for the everyday choices and commitments of believers — acting as parents, workers, students, owners, investors, advocates, policymakers and citizens."

The document mentioned these things as examples:

- "Building and sustaining marriages of quality, fidelity, equality and permanence in an age that does not value commitment and hard work in relationships."

- Raising families with Gospel values in a culture in which "materialism, selfishness and prejudice

still shape so much of our lives."

- "Being a good neighbor, welcoming newcomers and immigrants, treating people of different races, ethnic groups and nationalities."

- Seeing "themselves as evangelizers who recognize the unbreakable link between spreading the Gospel and work for social justice."

- Bringing "Christian values and virtues into the marketplace."

- Treating "co-workers, customers and competitors with respect and fairness, demonstrating economic initiative and practicing justice."

- "Bringing integrity and excellence to public service and community responsibilities, seeking the common good, respecting human life and promoting human dignity."

Similar suggestions were mentioned in the U.S. bishops' 1998 pastoral statement on "Everyday Christianity: To Hunger and Thirst for Justice." This document said: "Unless the Church's social teaching finds a home in the hearts and lives of Catholic women and men, our community and culture will fall short of what the Gospel requires. Our society urgently needs the everyday witness of Christians who take the social demands of the faith seriously."

It is through this witness that lay men and women become the "leaven" in society envisioned by Vatican II. This witness includes the actions we take and the choices we make in our everyday lives as parents, workers, consumers, citizens, and business and political leaders. It means living our faith and Gospel values in everything we do.

*Joseph Duerr is editor of the Record, newspaper of the Archdiocese of Louisville, Ky. His commentary has been provided by Catholic News Service.*

### GUEST COMMENTARY

Joseph Duerr

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## Please grow up

**The readings for the Baptism of the Lord — Cycle “A” are: Isaiah 42:1-4,6-7; Acts 10:34-38; and Matthew 3:13-17.**

There comes a time when every child must grow up. We must leave childhood behind and proceed on the course of discipleship to which the Father has called us.

With this Sunday’s celebration of the baptism of the Lord we leave behind the child Jesus and the Christmas season. The Lord himself stands before us today as a model of how this transition takes place.

We witness in today’s Gospel his own leaving behind his former way of life to embrace more fully the mission to which he has been called by the Father.

At his baptism, Jesus begins a deliberate course of events. “John tried to refuse him with the protest, ‘I should be baptized by you, yet you come to me!’” (Today’s Gospel) But Jesus responds with a certain insistence that tells us of his

desire to accept full responsibility for his role in the Father’s plan. “Give in for now. We must do this if we would fulfill all of God’s demands.”

Jesus’ sense of resoluteness is echoed in the language Matthew uses to describe Jesus’ behavior after his baptism. “...He came directly out of the water.” Even the words describe a person who acts with conviction and commitment to a purpose.

Having begun to act in this decisive way, the Father now bestows his Spirit. “Suddenly the sky opened and he saw the Spirit of God descend like a dove and hover over him.” Peter, in today’s reading from the Acts of the Apostles, describes these same events. “I take it you know what has been reported all over Judea about Jesus of Nazareth, beginning in Galilee with the baptism John preached; of the way God anointed him with the Holy Spirit and power.”

It is no longer the child Jesus, but the mature Christ, empowered with the Holy Spirit by his Father, who now begins to live his vocation, the work of salvation.

Jesus is our model in leaving behind our Christian childhood and moving on to accept more responsibility in our vocation, our role in God’s plan for salvation. As in the case of Jesus, our vocation too is rooted in baptism. We too are empowered by the Spirit in our Christian initiation — that same Spirit described by Peter in today’s second reading that enabled Jesus when he “went about doing good works and healing all who were in the grip of the devil.”

The Church today challenges us to reflect on our own baptism and the fact that it has called us to that same sort of ministry to which Christ’s called him. “Keep us, your children born of water and the Spirit, faithful to our calling.” (Opening Prayer)

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

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

*Father Daniel Vogelpohl is pastor of Blessed Sacrament Church, Ft. Mitchell.*

## Dreams of heaven on earth

Our friend Ed Colina sent an e-mail Dec. 10 from Kenya saying, “Happy Thomas Merton Day!” Ed Colina is a former diocesan elementary school principal who several years ago moved to Kenya, Africa, to begin mission work. Dec. 10 is the anniversary of Thomas Merton’s death in 1968.

He also sent along a daily meditation from Father Richard Rohr, O.S.F., of the Center for Action and Contemplation. “Jesus clearly says the kingdom of heaven is among us” (Luke 17:21) or “at hand” (Matthew 3:2, 4:17). Father Rohr then relates that to the price of transformation: “It means that we have to change our loyalties from power, success, money and control (read: “our kingdoms”) to the Lordship of Jesus and the kingdom of God.”

This has been a seemingly random, recurring theme in my experiences and conversations lately. On a recent Sunday, Father Eugene Contadino, the Marianist pastor at St. Francis de Sales Church on Madison Road in East Walnut Hills, spoke in his homily about what it really means to be Catholic. “We dare to be dreamers, to live our dreams out every day by making Heaven on Earth. It means we are different. We stand up, against what is popular, for what is right.”

Then, I was looking through last year’s yearbook for the picture of a student who had sent me an e-mail from college, and I came across this senior quote by Therese Scheben, Class of 2010, who is now a first-year business major at Thomas More College: “Why are you trying to fit in, when you were born to stand out?”

As I fly through my days here at St. Henry District High School (SHDHS) writing stories about our students, talking to teachers about projects, meeting alumni and reading correspondence about what a difference SHDHS made in their lives, I can’t help feeling struck by the meaning behind being Catholic and how extraordinarily our students here choose to live out their visions of “heaven on earth.”

I am working on a story about our student, Blake Barlow, who just returned from a very intense trip to Cuba where he served in a leper colony and an

orphanage. It took a lot of courage for him to go, as he was very apprehensive and really didn’t have much information about what was going to happen once he got there. Also, soon after I had the chance to witness a different kind of outreach by accompanying a group of our students, including Evan Otte, Jake Fessler, Nathan Gutzheit and Chase Hughes, who traveled with their teacher, Matthew Wahlert, to Adath Israel, a Jewish temple in the Amberly neighborhood of Cincinnati. They spent an hour talking with the temple’s youth group and their teacher, Rabbi Daniel, exploring the differences between Catholicism and Judaism.

In both of these instances, these students traveled to “a far away place,” literally or figuratively, to reach out to complete strangers of very different cultures and beliefs. Without really thinking about it, the students naturally sought out common ground with the new people they have met, and discovered the large number of things they share with one another. Their dreams of a united and peaceful world of mutual understanding played out right there in front of them. It indeed was their vision of heaven on earth.

This doesn’t happen in big ways in our daily lives. In fact, it usually happens behind the scenes in the places where we quietly say no to what is easy, convenient, or simply makes us feel good. In the case of these students, as teenagers, this can be a very difficult thing to do on a day-to-day basis given the opposing forces of popular culture and peer expectations that work against them. One of my favorite Thomas Merton quotes says it best: “We are living in a world that is absolutely transparent and God is shining through it all the time. God manifests Himself everywhere, in everything — in people and in things and in nature and in events ... The only thing is, we don’t see it. ... I have no program for this seeing. It is only given. But the gate of heaven is everywhere.”

Happy Thomas Merton Day.

*Maureen Donnellan is director of Development and Community Relations for St. Henry District High School, Erlanger. Follow the SHDHS blog at [shdhscrusaders.blogspot.com](http://shdhscrusaders.blogspot.com).*

## Thoughts on the Martin Luther King observation

As we come again toward the celebration of the Martin Luther King holiday, let us pause to look at our world today — beyond “black and white,” beyond the past sense of racism, which is indeed still alive and well, often more hidden.

Dr. King’s holiday reminds us that without a spiritual and moral reawakening we shall destroy ourselves. Is this what is happening in our nation and world today, so full of unrest? We can only look at our national and individual greed and exploitation often causing poverty. In so many ways we are destroying our Mother Earth and its natural resources.

Lack of respect for all life is at an all-time low. Hatred, discrimination, injustice, abortion and violence exist here and throughout the world. Dishonesty, immorality and greed are prevalent even in our national leaders. We criticize, ostracize and oppress

those who look or think differently. Jesus, echoed by Dr. King, calls us to love (and this does not mean to always like a person or what he does) even our enemies. “Our generation cannot escape the question of the Lord, ‘What shall it profit a person if he gain the whole world of externals — and lose the internal — eternal life!’”

“Probably,” Dr. King said, “no admonition of Jesus is more difficult to follow than the command to love our enemies! And yet this kind of love alone is

absolutely necessary for our survival” and for any kind of peace.

We are called to come together, to pray for a deeper sense of love, justice and respect for all people.

We invite and encourage you to take part in the upcoming Martin Luther King celebrations in Northern Kentucky, reminding us of Martin’s dream of peace, justice respect and equality for all God’s people:

Jan. 15, 2011, 9:30 to 11:30 a.m., “Can We Still Dream?” discussion breakfast at Our Savior Church, 246 E. 10th Street, Covington.

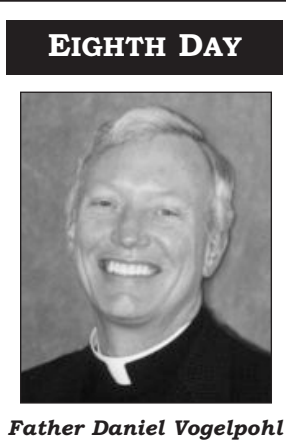
Jan. 16, 2011, 7:30 p.m. Music and prayer for the “Dream of Respect and Justice” at the Cathedral Basilica, 12th St./MLK Blvd. and Madison Ave., Covington.

Jan. 17, 2011, “Convene for the Dream”: NAACP luncheon at 11:30 a.m. at the Syndicate, Newport (tickets

necessary); MLK March at 5 p.m. beginning at 12th St./MLK Blvd/Jillian Way; and community program at 6 p.m. at the Carnegie Arts Center, Robbins and Scott Sts., Covington.

For information on the Jan. 15 and 16 events, call (859) 491-5872; for the NAACP luncheon call (859) 442-7476; for the other Jan. 17 programs call (859) 441-5348.

*Sister Janet Bucher, C.D.P., is parish life collaborator at Our Savior Church, Covington.*



Father Daniel Vogelpohl



Maureen Donnellan



Sister Janet Bucher

# 2010 — A year in the life of the diocese

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

*Except where noted, events took place in the months they were reported in the Messenger.*

## January

For the second year a Day of Prayer and Penance for Life is observed throughout the diocese, in parishes and schools; parishes are open for prayer and Eucharistic adoration, and a Holy Hour for Life is scheduled at 10 parishes.

People of the diocese respond to the suffering of Haitians whose lives and homes have been destroyed by an earthquake.

Bishop Roger Foys announces that Msgr. Gilbert Rutz, vicar general and moderator of the Curia, will retire from active ministry July 1, after 40 years of service in diocesan leadership, education and spiritual ministries.

The diocesan Office of Catechesis and Formation announces plans to organize pilgrims from the diocese to participate in the 2011 World Youth Day in Madrid, Spain.

Bishop Foys leads the Diocese of Covington delegation to Washington, D.C. for the annual March for Life; the day begins with Bishop Foys celebrating Mass for local marchers in St. Dominic Church in downtown Washington.

## February

The Catholic Conference of Kentucky hosts a "Catholics@TheCapitol" program to inform Catholics from across the state about legislation of concern to the Church that will likely come before the Kentucky General Assembly.

Robert (Bob) Schneider resigns after 44 years as head football coach at Newport Central Catholic High School.

Bishop Foys announces a Day of Prayer for Priests to be observed in March throughout the diocese in every parish and school.

Bishop Foys celebrates a Mass of Rededication at St. Paul Church, Florence, as the community marks the completion of a major renovation and rededication of a new altar.

Bishop Foys presides at the celebration of Mass for the annual Catholic Schools Week, whose theme this year is

"Catholic Schools — Dividends for Life: Faith, Knowledge, Discipline, Morals." Four "teachers of the year" are honored: Nancy Kelly (St. Catherine of Siena School); Martha Schmeing (St. Henry Elementary); Mary Carol Levermann (St. Therese); and Jan Dooley (Immaculate Heart of Mary).

Rose Garden Home Mission, dedicated to upholding the dignity of all human life, moves into its new home, at 2040 Madison Ave., Covington; Bishop Foys presides at the blessing ceremony.

St. Barbara Church, Erlanger, dedicates the completion of its church building, more than 40 years after the original church was dedicated. Bishop Foys applauds the accomplishment of the pastor, Father John Sterling, and the parishioners, saying, "Congratulations on having built a fitting house in which the Lord may dwell and where His people may come to worship."

## March

In accord with recommendations of the Synod, Bishop Foys announces that a census will be taken in Boone County conducted by the pastors and volunteers from six parishes, with support from Curia offices; Bishop Foys says the Boone County census will be a prototype for a future census of the diocese's 13 other counties.

Student councils from the high schools in the diocese work together to organize a fund-raising dance to assist the Haitian earthquake sufferers; representatives present the proceeds to Bishop Foys.

On March 4, throughout the diocese, the faithful celebrate the Year for Priests by joining in prayer services in parishes and schools.

Megan Hamberg of St. Joseph School, Cold Spring, is recognized for writing the first-place essay in the annual Pro-Life Essay Contest; Hanna Sullivan of St. Paul School and Jessica Lankheit of St. Pius X School wrote the second- and third-place essays. All three receive scholarships to a diocesan high school.

Bishop Foys presides at the ceremony during which a new Franciscan Daughter of Mary, Sister Ann Mary of the Sacred Heart of Jesus Russell, professes her first vows; in his homily Bishop Foys thanks the Franciscan Daughters, a Public Association of the Faithful, for their ministry to the people of the diocese.

Within days of President Obama's signing of a new health care bill into law, the U.S. Catholic Bishops issue a statement expressing their concerns that the bill, as enacted, is seriously flawed in three areas: abortion funding, conscience protection and inclusion of immigrants; Bishop Foys issues a similar statement published on the front page of the *Messenger*. The bishops call for more prayer

### Episcopal Visits 2010

St. Paul Church, Florence — January and February

St. Timothy Church, Union — March

Divine Mercy Parish; St. Bernard Church — August

Sts. Peter and Paul Church, California — October



**January** — Bishop Foys leads the Diocese of Covington delegation to Washington, D.C. for the annual March for Life.

and vigilance.

Bishop Foys is concelebrant and homilist at the annual "Answer the Call" men's conference in Cincinnati; 13 parishes in the Diocese of Covington sponsor men's fellowship groups.

The 2010 Diocesan Parish Annual Appeal (DPAA) begins; Jeanne-Marie Tapke and Daniel Groneck (general chair and leadership gifts chair) are leading the campaign, which hopes to raise \$2.2 million to support a variety of diocesan ministries and programs.

## April

Seminarian Nicholas Rottman is ordained to the transitional diaconate by Bishop Foys. (Took place in March); Deacon Rottman is scheduled to be ordained to the priesthood in May 2011.

Bishop Foys ordains seven men to the Order of Permanent Diaconate in ceremonies at the Cathedral; they are Steven Alley, Timothy Britt, Charles Hardebeck, Hudson Henry, Charles Melville, Lawrence Kleisinger and William Theis.

Father Gregory Bach, diocesan vocations promoter, hosts another in a series of information sessions for men interested in learning more about the priesthood.

Mary, Queen of Heaven School, Erlanger, receives an "Innovation in Education" award from Today's Catholic Teacher magazine; recognized are two successful marketing and fund-raising programs supporting the school.

St. Charles Care Center in Covington, sponsored by the Sisters of Notre Dame, announces a new program serving the needs of senior adults; a new addition to the Lodge will provide home-like living arrangements for up to 30 seniors in a licensed health care setting.

Father Joseph Boschert, a priest serving the Diocese of Covington for 50 years, dies at age 74.





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**May**

The new Notre Dame Urban Education Center in Covington announces the opening of its first offering, a summer enrichment program for elementary students in Catholic and public urban schools.

As Synod implementation continues, Curia office and ministry directors, preparing goals for Year III, meet with Bishop Foys to respond to comments submitted by the five deanery pastoral councils about the goals.

Two women religious in the diocese are among the seven honorees in the 2010 Outstanding Women of Northern Kentucky program; they are Divine Providence Sister Janet Bucher (Our Savior Church) and Notre Dame Sister Jean Marie Hoffman (Diocesan Catholic Children's Home).

The St. Paul School community honors David Maher for his 25 years of service as principal of the Florence elementary school.

Notre Dame Sister Mary Shauna Bankemper, president of Notre Dame Academy, announces the appointment of Dr. Laura Koehl as the next principal (and first lay principal) of the Park Hills all-girls school, succeeding Notre Dame Sister Elaine Marie Winter.

Bishop Foys promulgates new norms governing the appointment and training of extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion and lectors; the norms, to take effect the first Sunday of Lent 2011, are called for by the Synod and will require training through diocesan and parish programs.

**June**

Catholic Charities in the Diocese of Covington join the other 170 members of the Catholic Charities-USA network, as they celebrate the CCUSA's 100th anniversary; Bishop Francis Howard established the local Catholic Charities (first known as Catholic Social Service) in the diocese in 1932.

Father James Ryan, pastor, announces the appointment of Susan Greis as the new principal of St. Henry elementary school in Elsmere, succeeding longtime principal Philip Gessner.

The fifth annual "Cross the Bridge for Life" gathering draws more than 3000 participants; the event is co-sponsored by the Diocese of Covington Pro-Life Office.

St. Philip Church, Melbourne, celebrates its 100th anniversary; Bishop Foys says, "For 100 years the people of this parish have never lost faith. It is that faith we celebrate today."

A procession marking the feast of Corpus Christi is hosted by the Cathedral parish and Msgr. William Neuhaus, rector, for a second year; the observation has been resumed after many years.

Father Kevin Kahmann and Father Ian McDole are ordained by Bishop Foys to the priesthood in a solemn and joyful ceremony in the Cathedral.

Bishop Foys presides at a blessing and dedication of a building in Covington to be used by the Sisters of Divine Providence as the new El Centro de la Divina Providencia, a place of learning for Hispanic adults.

Deacons ordained 25 years ago, members of the first class of permanent deacons in the diocese, cele-



**May** — Thomas More College President Margaret Stallmeyer, C.D.P., points out to Bishop Roger Foys features of the new chapel proposed for the college's Crestview Hills campus.

brate with a prayer service in the Cathedral; five of the 14 classmates attend.

**July**

Bishop Foys honors retiring Msgr. Gilbert Rutz with the title "vicar general emeritus"; Msgr. Rutz, ordained in 1966, leaves behind a legacy of service and devotion to the Church. (Took place in June)

Faye Roch is named by Bishop Foys as director for the diocesan Pro-Life Office; "I am pleased that Faye accepted the position," Bishop Foys says. "This office and the pro-life movement are a crucial part of our Curia and of our diocesan pastoral program."

A fire in the west bell tower damages St. Benedict Church, Covington; authorities believe fireworks ignited the blaze in the early morning hours of July 5.

**August**

Bishop Foys accepts the candidacy of two who proclaim their intention to continue their preparations for ordination to the priesthood; William Appel and Allan Frederick will pursue their studies in Rome and at St. Vincent Seminary in Pennsylvania, respectively.

Bishop Foys presides at a ceremony in which the newest Sister of Notre Dame, Sister Deborah Marie Wischmeyer, makes her final vows.

The Diocesan Catholic Children's Home in Ft. Mitchell breaks ground for a new multi-purpose facility and enters the public phase of a capital campaign; the new addition will keep pace with services for children ages 6-14 in the home's residential treatment program.

Thomas More College, beginning its 89th year, welcomes more than 1900 full- and part-time students to a new school year, including 300 freshmen, one of the largest freshmen classes ever.

**Priests celebrating jubilees in 2010**

Father James McHugh — 50th

Father John Reisenberg — 50th

Msgr. Roger Cooney — 40th

Father John Sterling — 25th

**September**

Bishop Foys honors City of Covington firefighters for their efforts in combating a fire at St. Benedict Church in early July; "If it were not for your prompt response, your ingenuity and your fierce dedication, St. Benedict Church would not be standing today," Bishop Foys says.

Catholic Charities-Diocese of Covington announces its participation in a program to support about 50 refugees as they resettle in Northern Kentucky; most will arrive in the first half of 2011.

The Pro-Life Office hosts "Life's a Ball!" social event celebrating the 20th anniversary of the establishment of the Pro-Life Commission, now an advisory board of the Pro-Life Office; the first recipients of the "Faces of Pro-Life Award" are Vera Amann, Ruth Reinermann (accepting on behalf of her husband Paul Reinermann), and Robert Greene.

Bishop Foys approves a proposal to transition Prince of Peace School in Covington from an education program offering both traditional and Montessori programs to the diocese's first Catholic school based exclusively on the Montessori learning method; full implementation will take about three years.

Father Joseph Rueter, a priest for the Diocese of Covington for 64 years, primarily as a pastor and teacher, dies at age 87.

A four-page supplement in the *Messenger* contains the full text of the new norms for extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion and lectors; the new norms, an outgrowth of the Synod, take effect on March 13, 2011, the first Sunday of Lent.

Bishop Foys announces that the Diocese of Covington has scheduled a Vigil for All Nascent Life, in compliance with a request of Pope Benedict XVI.

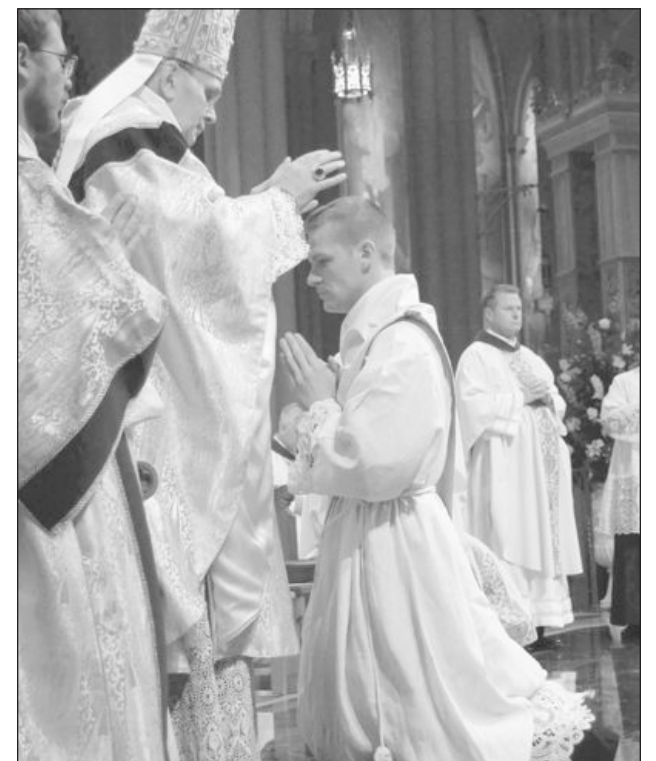
St. Benedict Church concludes its yearlong observation of the 125th anniversary of its founding; in his homily Bishop Foys says, "May the good Lord who began this work in you 125 years ago bring it to fulfillment."

**October**

Covington Latin School receives an "investment" of \$1 million towards the cost of its new expansion and renovation project; the school announces the new building will be named the Eva Farris Science Building, honoring the wife of Oakley Farris, the donor. (Announced in September)

Bishop Foys blesses the new home of Faith Community Pharmacy, formerly known as St. Vincent de Paul Pharmacy; the facility is at 7033 Burlington Pike, across from Boone County High School.

*(Continued on next page)*



**June** — Father Kevin Kahmann and Father Ian McDole are ordained by Bishop Foys to the priesthood in a solemn and joyful ceremony in the Cathedral.

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## Year in review

*(Continued from previous page)*

Teams of volunteers, inspired to be the “face of Christ” in the community, fan out across Boone County to conduct the first phase of a diocesan-wide census.

The annual YOUTH 2000 retreat attracts more than 400 teens, young adults and their chaperones to a weekend spiritual experience; the event takes place at Notre Dame Academy.

The health ministry sponsored by the Franciscan Daughters’ Rose Garden Home Mission celebrates its first anniversary; the ministry offers basic medical screenings to the needy.

### November

Divine Providence Sister Janet Bucher is inducted into the Kentucky Civil Rights Hall of Fame in ceremonies in Louisville. (Took place in October)

The first Seminary Ball in 28 years is held at the



**October** — Teams of volunteers fan out across Boone County to conduct the first phase of a diocesan-wide census.

Cincinnati Marriott in Covington; “The event brought home the importance of preparing for the future of our Church and (that) we as a community need to come together to support these men in formation,” says Michael Murray, director of the Stewardship and Mission Office. “I am grateful to all who accepted our invitation,” says Bishop Foys. (Took place in October)

The Alliance for Catholic Urban Education sponsors its annual gala, “Remembering Our Roots”; proceeds are used to defray tuition costs at the six urban Catholic elementary schools in ACUE.

The Legacy Society, organized by the diocesan Stewardship and Mission Office, holds its annual appreciation brunch and recognizes new members; more than 700 members have made provisions in their wills or estate plans to remember the Church and its ministries.

A Vigil for All Nascent Life is hosted by St. Agnes Church, Ft. Wright, with a capacity congregation; Bishop Foys presides at the service which includes Vespers, a Marian Procession, and exposition and adoration of the Blessed Sacrament on the eve of the first Sunday of Advent.

Thomas More College announces the name of the new chapel planned for a central location on the Crestview Hills campus; President Margaret Stallmeyer, C.D.P., says that Bishop Foys has selected the name Mary, Seat of Wisdom Chapel. Groundbreaking is expected in the spring of 2011.

The chairs for the 2011 Diocesan Parish Annual Appeal are named; Daniel Gronck is the general chair; Marna Meier Zalla, the leadership gifts chair.

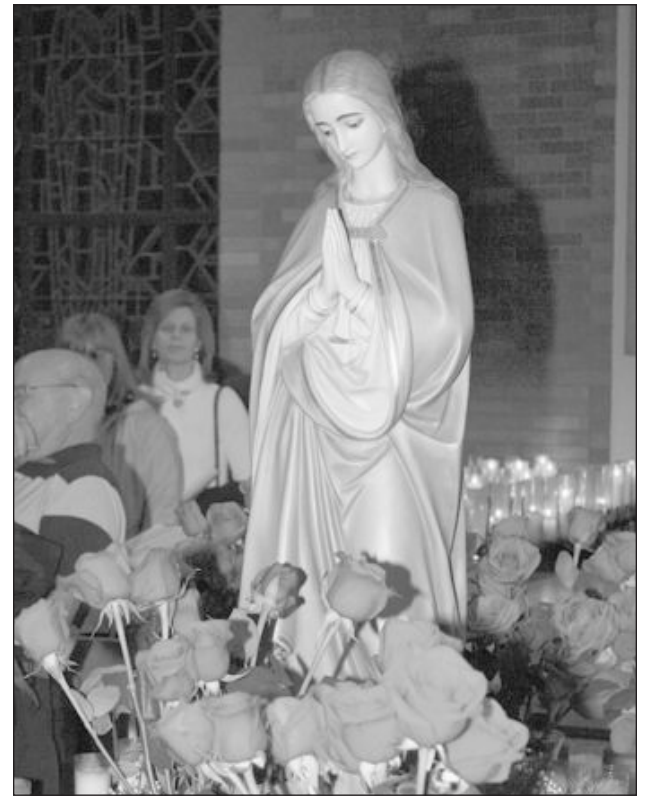
Bishop Foys presides at a Mass celebrating St. Cecilia Church’s 130th anniversary.

### December

The Sisters of Notre Dame announce that Sister Mary Shauna Bankemper, current president of Notre Dame Academy, has been elected as one of five General Council members helping the superior general administer the worldwide religious congregation; Sister Mary Shauna will move to Rome and take up her new responsibilities in February 2011.

Bishop Foys designates Jan. 24, 2011 as a Day of Prayer and Penance for Life in the Diocese of Covington, coinciding with the annual March for Life in Washington, a peaceful demonstration marking the 38th anniversary of the infamous Roe v. Wade U.S. Supreme Court decision.

A new Curia office, the Office of Buildings and Property, and its first director, Donald



**November** — Bishop Foys presides at the Vigil for All Nascent Life, hosted by St. Agnes Church, Ft. Wright.

Knochelmann, are profiled in a *Messenger* article.

Bishop Foys accepts the candidacy of nine men who wish to continue their studies and eventually be ordained as permanent deacons; they are Stephen Bennett, Benton Clift, Sr., James Fedor, Ralph Grieme, Jr., Thomas Kathman, Richard Malsi, James Philbrick, R. David Profitt, and Gary Scott.

More than 300 priests, deacons, directors of religious education, religious order representatives, Curia staff members and others attend a day-long session devoted to learning more about the Mass and the new translation of the Roman Missal; Bishop Foys and the diocesan Office of Worship and Liturgy host the event presented by scholars from the Liturgical Institute at the University of St. Mary of the Lake near Chicago.

Bishop Foys celebrates Mass at Cristo Rey Parish, Erlanger, as parishioners observe the feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe.

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**Newsorthy**

Happy birthday to **Father Thomas Franxman, S.J.**, Blessed Sacrament Church, Ft. Mitchell, Jan. 14; **Father Albert Ruschman**, retired, Jan. 15; **Father James Ryan**, pastor, St. Henry Church, Elsmere, Jan. 17; and **Father Jiby Kannai, C.M.I.**, parochial vicar, St. Henry Church, Elsmere, Jan. 20.

**TV Mass.** The cathedral's 5:30 p.m. Mass Jan. 9 will be shown live on ICN 6 on analog channel 99; digital channel 422.

**Notre Dame Urban Education Center**, Covington, is seeking volunteers to provide educational support services to young children. Tutors are especially needed as well as artists and physical education monitors. NDUEC opened Jan. 3 for the spring semester after-school program. If you have a couple hours a week to help a child succeed call 261-4487 or e-mail Mary Gray at nduecvolunteer@sndky.org.

**St. Catherine of Siena Church Seniors** invites all persons age 55+ to a catered lunch and card games the second Sunday of each month, 12:30 p.m. For details call (513) 614-1082.

The Mustard Seed Community, Catholic Charismatic Renewal, Diocese of Covington will celebrate **first Friday Mass** at Mother of God Church, Covington, on the first Friday of each month. Mass begins at 7:15 p.m. with praise and worship. Prayer for healing will follow Mass. Visit [www.ccccovingtonky.org](http://www.ccccovingtonky.org) or call 341-5339.

A new session of **New Beginnings**, a support group for divorced and separated persons, sponsored by the Diocese of Covington and hosted by the Office of Catechesis and Formation, will begin Jan. 5. Meetings will be held Wednesdays 7-8:30 p.m. through Feb. 23. In this faith-based group, participants will find new understanding of themselves and their relationships and gain courage to discover new life. Registration required. Call 392-1533.

**Catholic Charities-Diocese of Covington needs volunteer mentors** for their second chance program. Make a positive impact in someone's life by assisting people who will be released from prison and entering the local community. All you need is good communication skills and commitment to service. Small stipend paid. Call David Phillips at 581-8974, ext. 117 or [dphillips@covingtoncharities.org](mailto:dphillips@covingtoncharities.org).



**Feast of St. Nicholas**

**Sts. Peter & Paul first graders celebrated the feast of St. Nicholas by making and wearing bishop hats.**

Married couples: if it has been awhile since you learned **Natural Family Planning** with The Couple to Couple League, you are invited to attend an upgrade class Jan. 9, and/or a pre-menopause class, Jan. 16. The classes will meet from 2-4:30 p.m. at Blessed Sacrament Church Parish Center, Ft. Mitchell. Both classes are free of charge to CCL members. Visit [www.ccli.org](http://www.ccli.org) to register or update your membership. New student guides are available online or at class. Call 341-9063.

The Covington Cathedral Basilica will resonate with festive music as the **Cathedral Concert Series** brings the season of Christmas to a close with the annual performance of "An Epiphany Epilogue" Jan. 9, 3 p.m. Members of the Basilica Brass Quintet have performed in this concert favorite for over 20 years. LeeAnn Kordenbrock, Cathedral cantor/soloist, and Associate Organist Gregory Schaffer offer unique arrangements for voice, synthesizer and organ. Dr. Robert Schaffer will play the Cathedral organ. Also adding their youthful talents will be the Cathedral Angelus Singers directed by Rebecca Wells and the choir from Covington Latin School, directed by Nell Schaffer. There is no admission charge. A freewill offering will be accepted.

**Are you trying to lose weight?** Want to strengthen your faith as well? Why not try "Light Weigh," a Catholic spiritual growth/weight loss program designed to help you attain peace with food. Twelve-week sessions begin in January at St. Therese Church, Southgate. Orientation meeting will be held Jan. 10, 7 p.m. in the Rectory Meeting Room. Call 442-7610.

Holy Cross District High School will host an **open house** for prospective students and their parents on Jan. 12, 7 p.m. in Alumni Hall, located in the "old" high school building in Latonia.

The St. Catherine School, Ft. Thomas, junior high students present "**Godspell Jr.**" Jan. 14, 15, 16, 21 and 22. Friday and Saturday shows are at 7 p.m.; Sunday is 3 p.m. All performances will be held in McCrystal Hall at St. Catherine. Call 441-4322.

**Holy Cross District High School** Alumni Association will award two four-year, one-quarter tuition scholarships to incoming freshmen students. One scholarship will be open to all incoming freshmen and one will be awarded to a child of an alumnus. Applications are available from feeder grade school offices or call 431-1335. Deadline Jan. 14.

The Newport Central Catholic Boosters will hold their annual **stag** Jan. 16, 2-6 p.m. in the school gymnasium. Doors open at 1 p.m. Admission \$20.



**A Christmas pageant**

**Villa Madonna kindergarten classes presented a Christmas pageant for their families and friends.**

Don't miss the next **XLT (eXaLT)** at Thomas More College, Crestview Hills, in Steigerwald Hall in the Holbrook Student Center. XLT is an opportunity for youth and young adults to come together in praise and worship. The evening begins with pizza and drinks at 5 p.m. followed by the XLT program from 5:30-7:00 p.m. Admission is free, and no registration is necessary. All are welcome! Future XLT dates are: Jan. 16, Feb. 20 and April 10. Call 392-1533 or e-mail [mwest@covingtondiocese.org](mailto:mwest@covingtondiocese.org).

**The Athenaeum Chorale**, in its 31st season, will present Sunday Vespers at 7:30 p.m. Jan. 23. The chorale is under the direction of Athenaeum Music Director Anthony DiCello. Father Anthony Brausch, of the Athenaeum faculty, will preside. The Vespers will be in the Chapel of St. Gregory the Great at the Athenaeum of Ohio/Mount St. Mary's Seminary, 6616 Beechmont Ave., Mount Washington.


St. Henry School, Elsmere, **co-ed Friday night volleyball** (friendly pickup game for adults 21 and older). Gym opens at 7:30 p.m. Runs through April. Cost \$2 per night. Call 426-1390 or e-mail [st-henry-friday-night-volleyball@googlegroups.com](mailto:st-henry-friday-night-volleyball@googlegroups.com).

The Ladies' Ancient Order of Hibernians of Northern Kentucky is sponsoring a 14-day **scenic tour through Ireland** July 13-26, 2011. The land-only package is \$2,069 per person. This trip is a fundraiser for the LAOH that will allow the organization to continue giving support to charities assisting the needy in the area. Call 341-7778 or 384-2944.

The Cathedral Foundation has published "**Stories in Glass**," a book on a series of talks presented by Msgr. William Cleves, former Cathedral rector. The book features photographs of 38 of the Cathedral's stained glass windows along with a brief meditative text. Cost is \$30. Call 431-2060, ext. 17.

If you ever had an abortion, the Catholic Church wants to reach out to you and offer healing and reconciliation. **Project Rachel** is a confidential ministry for women and men who have had an abortion experience. Call the Project Rachel confidential telephone number, (859) 392-1547.

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048-1/07/11

## Pope begins new year with call for religious freedom, end to violence

Carol Glatz

Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY — Opening 2011 with a strong call for religious liberty, Pope Benedict XVI condemned deadly attacks against Christians and announced a new interfaith meeting next fall in Assisi, Italy.

At a Mass Jan. 1 marking the World Day of Peace and a blessing the next day, the pope voiced his concern about fresh episodes of violence and discrimination against Christian minorities in the Middle East.

In particular, the pope condemned an attack Jan. 1 against Orthodox Christians in Egypt, calling it a "despicable gesture of death." A bomb that exploded as parishioners were leaving a church in Alexandria, Egypt, left 25 people dead and dozens more injured.

The pope said the attack was part of a "strategy of violence that targets Christians," and which has negative repercussions on the entire population. He offered prayers for the victims and their families.

The pope also denounced the recent practice of "planting bombs close to the homes of Christians in Iraq to force them to leave." At least seven Christian homes in Baghdad were targeted in bombings Dec. 30, leaving at least 13 people wounded.

The pope said the latest attacks in Egypt and Iraq "offend God and all humanity."

Addressing pilgrims at his noon blessing Jan. 1, the pope said he planned to invite religious leaders from the world's major faiths to gather in Assisi, the birthplace of St. Francis, in order to "solemnly renew the commitment by believers of every religion to live their religious faith as a service to the cause of peace."

"Whoever is making his way toward God cannot fail to transmit peace, and whoever builds peace cannot fail to draw nearer to God," he said.

The pope said the gathering, planned for October, is meant to recall "the historic gesture" made by the late Pope John Paul II when he convoked the first World Day of Prayer for Peace in Assisi in 1986.

In his homily during the morning Mass in St. Peter's Basilica Jan. 1, the pope spoke about the theme he chose for World Peace Day 2011: "Religious Freedom, the Path to Peace."

He said religious freedom was challenged today by two extremes at work in the world: secularism that banishes religion to the private sphere and fundamentalism that seeks to forcefully impose religion on everyone.

He said religious freedom is the best path for building peace, because wherever religious freedom is guaranteed, human dignity is also respected.

Pope Benedict called on political leaders and all people of goodwill to not give up when faced with "the negative force of egoism and violence" and to not become jaded into thinking that conflict, which puts lives and the future at risk, is inevitable.

War, he said, reflects "the most horrendous and violent face of history." He called on everyone to promote and build peace, reminding people that "words aren't enough for this difficult task."

He said "a concrete and constant commitment is needed by heads of nations, but above all what's needed is that every person be inspired by an authentic spirit of peace," which is fostered by prayer and lived out in one's day-to-day activities.

Peace does not come because of "weapons, nor economic, political, cultural and media power," he said. Peace is both a gift from God and the result of a change in the human conscience, which becomes open to truth and love, he said.

The pope presided over an evening prayer service with Eucharistic adoration and the singing of a special hymn of thanksgiving to God Dec. 31 in St. Peter's Basilica.

After the prayer service, the pope went by pope-mobile into St. Peter's Square, where he visited the Vatican's Nativity scene. While choristers sang, the pope entered the grotto housing the larger-than-life-size figures of the Holy Family and knelt in prayer.

## Pope: Hold tight to God during times of trouble

Carol Glatz

Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY — In times of trouble, doubt or deep spiritual crisis, never let go of believing in God, because he will help lead people out of darkness, Pope Benedict XVI said.

"Let us always be led by God, carry out his will every day even if often it doesn't correspond to our plans, and trust in his providence that he never leaves us on our own," he said during his weekly general audience in the Vatican's Paul VI hall Dec. 29.

In his catechesis, the pope described the life of St. Catherine of Bologna, an abbess of the Poor Clares and "a woman of great wisdom and culture" who lived in the 15th century.

Despite the many centuries that separate her time and today, St. Catherine still speaks to modern men and women, said the pope.

"Like us, she suffered from many temptations — the temptations of disbelief and sensuality, she suffered from a difficult spiritual battle, she felt abandoned by God and she found herself in the darkness" of doubting her faith, he said.

However, throughout all of her struggles, St. Catherine "always held onto the Lord's hand," he said.

Because she never let go of trusting in God's will and let herself always be guided by him, "she went along the right path and found the road leading to the light," he said.

"In this way, she is also telling us 'Have courage' even when struggling with one's faith or when feeling doubt" or uncertainty, he added.

"Don't let go of the Lord's hand, believe in God's goodness and that way we will go along the right

road," said the pope.

St. Catherine of Bologna wrote the "Treatise on the Seven Spiritual Weapons" in which she describes "the many graces she received and lists the most effective means of resisting the temptations of the devil," he said.

The pope said her treatise showed how to fight temptations and deceptions, which cause doubt and uncertainty about one's faith and vocation; her writing represents "a beautiful spiritual program for every one of us even today."

The pope listed the seven spiritual weapons as the following:

- Take great care to always work for the good.
- Know that nothing truly good can ever be done by oneself.
- Trust in God and never be afraid of the battle against evil either in the world or inside oneself.
- Reflect often on the words and life of Jesus, especially on his passion and death.
- Remember that everyone must die.
- Keep firmly in mind the rewards of paradise.
- Be familiar with sacred Scripture so that it can guide all thoughts and actions.

The pope praised the way St. Catherine led a life of humility and obedience to God.

"She saw all disobedience as a sign of that spiritual pride which destroys all virtue," he said.

Her humility showed she preferred a life of service over power.

"She wanted to serve, carry out God's will, be at the service of others and for that reason she was credible" in her position of authority, said the pope.

"You could see that, for her, authority was serving others," he said.



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# Whose 'net' is it anyway? FCC neutrality rules get heat from both sides

**Mark Pattison**

*Catholic News Service*

WASHINGTON — When the Federal Communications Commission issued rules Dec. 21 governing network neutrality — the principle that all Internet traffic should be treated the same — the commission got heat from both sides of the issue.

Opponents contend that net neutrality rules will stifle innovation and place the United States at a technological and competitive disadvantage. Supporters of net neutrality counter that the wide-open Internet that Americans have grown to appreciate over the past 15 or so years is what has spurred the innovations enjoyed on a wide scale today.

The FCC rules require transparency on the part of Internet providers about services offered to consumers. They prohibit blocking of lawful content and “unreasonable discrimination” in transmitting lawful traffic over a consumer’s Internet service.

Opponents say net neutrality is a solution in search of a problem. Backers say that without net neutrality in place, Internet service providers could charge computer users extra fees to get equal access to the Web, or charge websites a fee if they wanted their sites to be accessed at a higher speed, or block content altogether — especially if the Internet service provider started offering competing content.

But advocates have another bone to pick with the FCC: The new rules are only for “wireline” communications, such as home computers. The rules do not affect wireless communications. And that’s where the FCC fell short, they say.

Racial and ethnic minorities depend on wireless Internet service more than whites do — although Americans are increasingly turning to wireless as at least an option, if not as their primary Internet source. And if the FCC’s net neutrality policy gives wireless Internet providers carte blanche to discriminate with regard to what kind of traffic can be carried over their systems, it could, some fear, lead to the end of the Internet as we know it.

“Preserve a free and open Internet” is the final sentence of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops’ communications policy document. So how well did the FCC do in that regard?

“It’s unfortunate that on the net neutrality vote, to

treat wireless differently from any other Internet access could have unfortunate consequences,” said Helen Osman, USCCB secretary for communications, recalling what happened to Catholic Relief Services.

Osman was referring to an incident last January in which CRS sent text messages to Sprint telephone users, asking them to make a donation for Haitian earthquake relief. But three days into the initiative, Sprint told CRS, the U.S. bishops’ overseas relief and development agency, to shut down its text-to-call operation or risk losing access to all Sprint users.

In a Dec. 22 telephone interview with Catholic News Service, Osman likened the Internet to other public goods.

“Even things such as public transportation, public roadways, all of that, we need to make sure that access is available to everybody regardless of their race, creed, whatever — that they’re not able to differentiate those who can guarantee larger bandwidth or guarantee more money,” Osman said.

“The Internet is no longer a secondary means of communications. For churches, schools and other nonprofits, it becomes the primary means of reaching people. It is more and more becoming the primary access point for citizens,” she added. “It is necessary for a wholesome democracy. It is too important for it not to be regulated.”

Another denominational voice on communications policy issues is the Office of Communication of the United Church of Christ. Cheryl Leanza, who oversees the office, said of the FCC’s vote, “The characterization of a lost opportunity is a good one. We did make some progress. ... But certainly there were a number of things the FCC could have done better.”

Leanza pointed to a potential shortcoming in the way the FCC reached its decision. “The FCC’s going to be very vulnerable in court as it moves ahead on any broadband regulation” in the future, she said.

The FCC’s path toward regulation, Leanza added, is akin to the one it took in its unsuccessful court challenge to Comcast’s decision to block certain file-sharing traffic through BitTorrent. In August 2008, the FCC ruled against Comcast for blocking traffic, but a federal appeals court vacated the FCC ruling two years later.

Should Comcast purchase a majority stake in NBC Universal — the FCC has been reviewing Comcast’s bid for a year because of antitrust concerns — “Comcast is going to have a much greater incentive after the merger to favor certain content or promote certain content over other content,” Leanza said. “After the merger, Comcast is going to be much more interested than in the past that certain video programming, certain TV programming looks superior to its competition” — and that favored TV and video programming, she added, is going to come from NBC and other networks under its control.

Sen. Al Franken, D-Minn., an opponent of the Comcast-NBC merger, called the FCC net neutrality rules “worse than nothing.”

“Mobile networks like AT&T and Verizon Wireless would be able to shut off your access to content or applications for any reason,” said Franken.

Gigi Sohn, president of Public Knowledge, a policy group advocating an open Internet, said in a Dec. 21 statement: “Instead of strong, firm rules providing clear protections, the commission created a vague and shifting landscape open to interpretation.”

Republicans in Congress and on the FCC have said any regulation of the Internet is harmful. Robert McDowell, one of the FCC’s two Republicans, said in an op-ed article in the Dec. 20 Wall Street Journal, “Nothing is broken that needs fixing.”

Michael Copps, a Catholic and one of three Democrats on the five-member FCC, had threatened to vote against the regulations if they were not made stronger. In the end, he and his two Democratic colleagues voted for the rules. However, Copps said in a Dec. 21 statement that “in my book, today’s action could, and should, have gone further.”



## Obituary

**Margaret “Margee” Jean Bach**, 69, of Augusta died Dec. 3 at Meadowview Regional Medical Center in Maysville. A son, Father Gregory Bach, is vocations promoter for the Diocese of Covington and chaplain at Northern Kentucky University’s Newman Center. She was a member of St. Augustine Church, Augusta, and was born and raised in Augusta.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Robert Lynn Bach, who passed away in 1986.

Mrs. Bach is also survived by sons, Kendal Bach of Augusta and Eric Bach of Maysville; three daughters, Laura Bach Shepherd of Augusta, Kristie Parnell of

Smyrna, Tenn., and Dana Bach of Dover; and five grandchildren, Kala Combess, Mackenzie Shepherd, Morgan Bach, McKhale Bach, and Makenna Bach.

She is also survived by a sister, Roberta Haley of Berlin; a brother, Phil Howard of Colorado; and an aunt, Mary Sue Habermehl of Augusta.

A Mass of Christian burial was celebrated Dec. 8 at St. Augustine Church. Bishop Roger Foys celebrated the Mass and gave the homily. Father Bach concelebrated. Interment was Dec. 9.

Memorials are suggested to St. Augustine Church, 215 East 4th St., Augusta, Ky. 41002-1117 or to the Greater Cincinnati Alzheimer’s Association.

# Pope hosts hundreds of poor at luncheon

VATICAN CITY — Pope Benedict XVI hosted more than 350 poor people at a post-Christmas luncheon at the Vatican, an event that marked this year’s 100th anniversary of the birth of Blessed Teresa of Calcutta. The pope passed among the guests in the crowded atrium of the Vatican audience hall Dec 26, then sat down at a table with 14 others for a three-course meal that featured lasagna, roast veal with potatoes and the classic Italian “pandoro” Christmas cake — this one with melted chocolate and Chantilly cream. When the pope arrived, the guests placed a garland of white and yellow flowers around his neck, a tradition of India that was adopted by Mother Teresa and her Missionaries of Charity. Most of the guests were poor people served at soup kitchens run by the Missionaries of Charity in Rome and the surrounding area. Also in attendance were more than 100 sisters and brothers of the religious order, who sang Christmas carols and handed out small gifts. In a talk after the meal, the pope told the guests that he loved them and prayed for them. He said Mother Teresa’s life was an example of charity in action, with a preference for the poorest and those abandoned by the rest of society. “To so many men and women living in situations of poverty and suffering, she offered the consolation and the certainty that God does not abandon anyone, ever!” he said.

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■ January Bulletin: posted Jan. 2; due Feb. 1

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If you are having difficulties with the program, please call Anita Geiger at (859) 392-1565 or e-mail [ageiger@covingtondiocese.org](mailto:ageiger@covingtondiocese.org).

**"Black Swan"** (Fox Searchlight) At the behest of her ballet company's artistic director (Vincent Cassel), a shy, inhibited dancer (Natalie Portman) rebels against her overprotective mother (Barbara Hershey) and seeks to imitate a passionate rival (Mila Kunis) by embracing a hedonistic lifestyle in order to fit her for the major role in Peter Ilyich Tchaikovsky's "Swan Lake," an onstage embodiment of guile and sensuality. Though Portman turns in a striking performance, director Darren

Aronofsky's nightmarish, morally muddled drama plays on the extremes of sexual repression and debauched license and, whether read as insisting on the necessity of indiscriminate experience or as a cautionary tale, presents its heroine's experimentation with voyeuristic excess. Strong sexual content, including graphic lesbian and nonmarital heterosexual activity, as well as masturbation, drug use, a few instances of profanity, much rough and some crude language and numerous sexual references. Catholic News Service classification: O; Motion Picture Association of America: R.

**"Gulliver's Travels"** (Fox) Mediocre effort attempting to cash in on the elusive comic abilities of Jack Black, who plays a modern riff on the traveler Lemuel Gulliver, hero of Jonathan Swift's classic 18th-century novel. A lazy mailroom clerk who dreams of becoming a travel writer to impress the editor (Amanda Peet) for whom he has fallen, Gulliver cheats his way to a seaborne assignment, only to find himself transported to Lilliput, a vaguely British island populated by a race of people only 4 inches tall. Although marketed to children and families, director Rob Letterman's sour, slapped-together project features a flagrantly overplayed gross-out gag and carries a noxiously cynical message: You can plagiarize and lie without penalty and still end up with the girl — and the job — of your dreams. Skewed moral values, graphic scatological humor and some intense action scenes. CNS: O; MPAA: PG.

**"How Do You Know"** (Columbia) Cheerless romantic comedy in which a champion softball player (Reese Witherspoon), who has recently been cut from her team, worries about her future. She is also trying to decide whether she loves the good-natured but philandering major league baseball player (Owen Wilson), with whom she has been living, or a neurotic businessman (Paul Rudd) whose indictment for stock fraud threatens to land him in jail and ruin the company founded by his hard-driving dad (Jack Nicholson). With its oddly unsympathetic characters endlessly analyzing their every emotion and reaction, the few laughs and insights provided by writer-director James L. Brooks' script hardly seem worthwhile, all the more so given that subjects such as womanizing and single motherhood are played for laughs. Brief nongraphic sexual activity, a nonmarital situation, promiscuity theme, an out-of-wedlock pregnancy, a birth-control reference, at least one use of pro-

fanity, a couple of rough and a few crude words. CNS: A-III; MPAA: PG-13.

**"Little Fockers"** (Universal) Dull, tasteless comedy — the second spawn of 2000's amusing "Meet the Parents" — dominated by relatively raunchy and poorly staged gags centering on Gaylord and Pam Focker (Ben Stiller and Teri Polo), their 5-year-old twins and Pam's meddling father (Robert De Niro). Director Paul Weitz strings together a lowest-common-denominator collection of infantile set pieces. Frequent sexual banter, including references to sex toys, condoms and masturbation; some sexual situations and profanity; much crude and crass language; toilet humor; and a bruising fistfight. CNS: L; MPAA: PG-13.

**"Tron: Legacy"** (Disney) The briskly entertaining, unpretentious and prescient 1982 cult classic has been loudly updated and turned into a bloated, stultifying 3-D bore by director Joseph Kosinski, with the proceedings barely propped up by some still-enjoyable gadgetry. As the son (Garrett Hedlund) of a computer programming genius (Jeff Bridges, reprising his role in the original), searches for his mysteriously vanished father, the trail leads into the electronic alternate universe Dad created in the first outing. Scenes of intense action and some images of severed limbs. CNS: A-II; MPAA: PG.

**"True Grit"** (Paramount) Exceptionally fine second screen version of Charles Portis' 1968 novel of the Old West — first adapted by director Henry Hathaway in 1969 — in which a remarkably determined 14-year-old girl (Hailee Steinfeld) enlists the aid of a broken-down but resourceful U.S. marshal (Jeff Bridges) and a cocksure Texas Ranger (Matt Damon) in her relentless quest to bring her recently murdered father's killer (Josh Brolin) to account. Amid its archetypal characters, mythic atmosphere and amusingly idiosyncratic dialogue, writer-directors Joel and Ethan Coen's captivating drama uses its heroine's sensitive perspective — as well as a fair number of biblical and religious references — to reflect seriously on the violent undertow of frontier life while the rival lawmen strive to overcome their personal shortcomings and petty antipathy in the service of a larger cause. Considerable, occasionally bloody violence, brief gruesome imagery, a half-dozen uses of profanity, a few crass terms. CNS: A-III; MPAA: PG-13.

For full reviews of each of these films — go to [www.covingtondiocese.org](http://www.covingtondiocese.org), visit the Messenger page, and click on [www.catholicnews.com](http://www.catholicnews.com) or call 1-800-311-4CCC.

Catholic News Service (CNS) classifications are:

- A-I — general patronage;
- A-II — adults and adolescents;
- A-III — adults;
- L — limited adult audience (films whose problematic content many adults would find troubling);
- O — morally offensive.

**Pope: Christmas is time to let God transform life**

VATICAN CITY — Christmas is not just a time to remember the past or to wallow in moralism and sentimentalism, Pope Benedict XVI said. It's a time to let God completely transform one's life so that "we might attain our ultimate human fulfillment by sharing in his glorious divine life," he said during his first weekly general audience of 2011. Celebrating the incarnation and birth of Jesus is not just about recalling an event from the past, but it is about celebrating Christ's continued presence in one's own life and the world, he told pilgrims gathered in the Vatican's Paul VI hall Jan. 5. The Christmas season sparks joy and wonder in so many people because the birth of Christ reflects "humanity's greatest aspirations and hopes," he said. However, today's consumerist attitudes can

distract people from that "inner nostalgia" of sharing in the love of the divine, he said. "But if in one's heart there is the desire to welcome that child that came to give us life to the full, then decorative Christmas lights can become a reflection of that light that was illuminated with the incarnation of God," he said. Pope Benedict said it's necessary to save the Christmas season from an attitude that is "too moralistic and sentimental." The pope asked that people be inspired by the Christmas celebrations and make Christ even more present in their lives by taking part in the liturgy and celebrating the sacraments, especially the Eucharist, where people encounter the real and living Christ.

# Pope signs new measures to guarantee financial transparency in Vatican

**John Thavis**

*Catholic News Service*

VATICAN CITY — Pope Benedict XVI has instituted a new agency to monitor all Vatican financial operations and make sure they meet international norms against money-laundering and the financing of terrorism.

The pope issued an apostolic letter Dec. 30 that established the Financial Information Authority as an independent agency to oversee the monetary and commercial activities of all Vatican-related institutions, including the Vatican bank.

At the same time, the Vatican promulgated a detailed new law that defined financial crimes and established penalties — including possible jail time — for their violation. The list of transgressions includes corruption, market manipulation, fraud and virtually any activity that facilitates or provides funding to acts of terrorism. The new law, which reflects the latest European Union regulations, takes effect April 1.

The pope's brief apostolic letter said the Vatican fully supported the international community's efforts to coordinate a response to financial crimes, which often involve more than one country.

"In our age of increasing globalization, peace is unfortunately threatened by many factors, including an improper use of the market and the economy, and the terrible and destructive violence perpetrated by terrorism, which causes death, suffering, hatred and social instability," the pope said.

The creation of such an oversight agency is

unprecedented at the Vatican, where several departments have operated with some degree of financial independence for decades or centuries.

The Vatican spokesman, Jesuit Father Federico Lombardi, described the move as a courageous step that reflects the moral requirement of "transparency, honesty and responsibility" in the Vatican's operations.

"Vatican organizations will be less vulnerable in the face of the continuous risks that inevitably arise in the handling of money. Those errors which so quickly become the cause of 'scandal' for public opinion and the faithful will be avoided," Father Lombardi said.

"In the final analysis, the Church will be more credible before the members of the international community, and this is of vital importance for her evangelical mission," he said.

The move came several months after Italian treasury police, in a money-laundering probe, seized 23 million euros (US\$30 million) that the Vatican bank had deposited in a Rome bank account. The Vatican criticized the confiscation, saying the deposit was legitimate and that the Vatican bank was committed to "full transparency" in its operations.

The Vatican has been working for some time with Italian and international authorities to comply with procedures that ensure funds are not used for terrorism or money-laundering. The new documents represent the fruit of those efforts.

In addition, the Vatican announced three new laws aimed at curbing counterfeiting of euros and currency fraud.

The Financial Information Authority will operate with full autonomy and monitor all Vatican agencies that have financial dealings or commercial transactions. That includes major institutions like the Vatican City State, the Vatican bank, the Vatican's investment agency (APSA) and the Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples, and smaller agencies like the Vatican pharmacy, supermarket and the Vatican Museums.

The authority will be headed by a president and a council of four other people, all appointed by the pope. The president will name a director and additional staff. The appointments were expected to be announced in early 2011.

In addition to investigating reports of suspicious activity, the authority is obligated to examine any new business relationships by Vatican agencies and any single transaction involving more than 15,000 euros (\$20,000). The authority has access to all financial and administrative records of the agencies; Vatican officials and employees are required to furnish all such information, an exception to the normal rules of secrecy in Vatican institutions.

All Vatican agencies are now required to verify the standing of any potential business partners, keep detailed records of all transactions and report any suspicious transactions. Anyone entering or leaving Vatican City with 10,000 euros or more in cash must now declare it in writing.

If the Financial Information Authority investigates and discovers evidence of financial impropriety, it is to report its findings to the Vatican's judicial system for prosecution. If a conviction results in a prison sentence, it would presumably be served in Italy, in accordance with an agreement between the Vatican and the Italian government.

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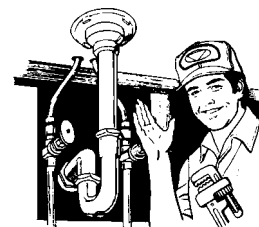
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## NEWS BRIEFS

## Local

**TMC extends charitable reach to help home makeover family**

CRESTVIEW HILLS — This fall, Thomas More College helped play a part in making a Louisville family's dream come true, the college announced Jan. 4. "Extreme Makeover: Home Edition," hosted by Ty Pennington, not only unveiled a new home for the Lampe family of eight on Oct. 28, but it also unveiled the promise by Thomas More College to provide educational opportunities for Jeff and Shelley Lampe's six children. The episode airs on Jan. 9 on ABC at 8 p.m. Thomas More College President Margaret Stallmeyer, C.D.P. said she looks forward to learning more about the family and the children who could be potential TMC students. "The show reached out to us because of the family's commitment to St. Xavier High School in Louisville and their focus on Catholic education. After learning more about the Lampes and their determination to succeed despite the odds, we decided to offer them tuition waivers if the children choose to attend Thomas More to further their education. I'll certainly be interested in seeing how the show tells the story of this deserving family." Visit [www.thomasmore.edu](http://www.thomasmore.edu).

## National/World

**USCCB committee chair praises Senate for ratifying arms pact**

WASHINGTON — The chairman of the U.S. bishops' Committee on International Justice and Peace praised the Senate for ratifying a new arms control treaty with Russia Dec. 22, saying it was important that senators "joined across party lines" to support the New START treaty. "The Holy See and our bishops' conference have long supported efforts to promote nuclear disarmament and nonproliferation based on the church's moral concern for indiscriminate and disproportionate weapons," said Bishop Howard J. Hubbard of Albany, N.Y. The Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty was signed April 8 in Prague by U.S. President Barack Obama and Russian President Dmitry Medvedev. The accord was ratified by the Senate in a 71-26 vote, and it still must be approved by Russia's lawmakers. It calls for both countries to reduce their strategic arsenals — weapons deployed on long-range missiles, bombers and submarines — to 1,550 each. Under the previous START pact, which expired in December 2009, both countries reduced their strategic arsenals to 2,200 weapons each. Sen. John Kerry, D-Mass., who as chairman of the Committee on Foreign Relations steered the pact through the Senate, said ratification "makes a statement about the United States of America as a whole, not just the president."

**President signs repeal of 'don't ask, don't tell' policy**

WASHINGTON — With the repeal of the policy that banned gays from serving openly in the armed forces, an auxiliary bishop of the U.S. Archdiocese for the Military Services said Dec. 23 that "there are no changes" to the archdiocese's ministry "and our response" to "don't ask, don't tell." Bishop F. Richard Spencer, who is currently in Iraq, told Catholic News Service in an e-mail: "I have not read what the 'new' law requires nor the timeline for implementation and the elements of implementation. I know of no restrictions nor hindrances or challenges to the ministry that we already are providing to all members and their families within the jurisdictional boundaries" of the military archdiocese. He added that "any additional policy statements will be shared" through the office of Archbishop Timothy P. Broglio, who heads the archdiocese. President Barack Obama signed the Don't Ask, Don't Tell Repeal Act of 2010 into law Dec. 22. It passed the Senate Dec. 18 in a 65 to 31 vote. The House approved it in late May. In late December the archdiocese's website referred visitors to a June statement from Archbishop Broglio, who had urged Congress not to repeal the 17-year-old policy, saying it had "the potential of being enormous and overwhelming," and that "nothing should be changed until there is certainty that morale will not suffer."

**Vatican emerges from WikiLeaks as a key player on global scene**

VATICAN CITY — If there's one clear conclusion that can be drawn from the Vatican-related WikiLeaks disclosures, it's that the United States takes the Vatican and its diplomatic activity very seriously. In memo after memo in recent years, officials of the U.S. Embassy to the Holy See have reported back to Washington on the impact of papal trips, statements and documents; on the Vatican's behind-the-

scenes efforts to head off conflicts; on Church-state tensions in Latin America; on the evolution of Catholic teaching on bioethics; and even on the international repercussions of ecumenical affairs. When a Vatican agency organized a conference on genetically modified foods, the U.S. embassy paid attention. When the Vatican condemned human trafficking, embassy officials met with Vatican counterparts to broaden areas of cooperation on that issue. And when Pope Benedict XVI said in 2007 that "nothing positive comes from Iraq, torn apart by continual slaughter as the civil population flees," the embassy quickly objected, telling a high-level Vatican official that Iraq was experiencing positive developments and that the papal comments were not constructive. Reading the cables, it's hard to imagine that before 1984, the United States did not have diplomatic relations with the Vatican. Today, the U.S. Embassy has five diplomatic officials and a support staff of 14, and is considered one of the busiest delegations accredited to the Vatican.

**Peace-building to continue after Sudan referendum**

JUBA, Southern Sudan — As Southern Sudan approaches a historic vote on independence on Jan. 9, Church leaders are recommitting themselves to continuing their work of building peace. Yet dealing with internal conflicts in what may become Africa's newest country could prove just as challenging as its work during decades of civil war with the country's North. "Whatever happens after the referendum on Jan. 9, it shouldn't make people enemies. Even if we're going to separate tomorrow, we've got to work for our land to be free of the violence that has become our trademark," said Father John Oryem, coordinator of the justice and peace commission of the Diocese of El Obeid. As the referendum approaches, Sudan's churches are ramping up efforts at peace-building — the work of resolving conflicts without violence while laying the foundations for sustainable peace. Churches have long played a peace-building role in Southern Sudan. The 1972 accords that brought an end to the 17-year First Sudanese Civil War were brokered by international church leaders. In the Second Sudanese Civil War, 1983-2005, churches took a lead role in mediating more than a score of local conflicts that contributed to the larger war. Paul Nantulya, a technical consultant on peace-building in East Africa for the U.S. bishops' Catholic Relief Services, said those local agreements were the "building blocks" that made possible the 2005 Comprehensive Peace Agreement between the government in Khartoum and leaders of the Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM). The CPA ended most of the fighting and outlined a process of autonomy that will culminate in January's referendum on independence for Southern Sudan.

**Pope's faith reflection on BBC was first just for broadcast**

LONDON — Pope Benedict XVI broadcast a three-minute reflection on British radio on Christmas Eve, the British Broadcasting Corp. announced. In a Dec. 22 statement, the BBC said the pope would deliver the "Thought for the Day" at 7:45 a.m. GMT on Radio 4. "Thought for the Day" is a segment on the "Today" program that consists of a personal reflection on faith by a prominent faith leader. It has run nearly every Monday to Saturday since 1970. Pope Benedict has personally written his reflection and it was recorded in the Vatican Dec. 22. The broadcast will represent the first time a pope has contributed to the show and, according to the BBC statement, is also the first time that Pope Benedict has presented material specifically written for a radio or television audience. Gwyneth Williams, the controller of BBC Radio 4, said, "I'm delighted Pope Benedict is sharing his Christmas message with the Radio 4 audience. "It's significant that the pope has chosen "Thought for the Day" to give his first personally scripted broadcast," she said in the Dec. 22 statement, "and what better time to do so than on the eve of one of the biggest celebrations on the Christian calendar." The contents of the pope's reflections have not been released, but it has been reported that he will talk about his September visit to Britain and also about the Nativity.

**Canadian court decision could permit genetic experiments**

OTTAWA, Ontario — A deeply divided Supreme Court of Canada has delivered an opinion that could pave the way for transgenic research combining human genomes with those of other species. "It's a gross affront to human dignity, that kind of experiment," said Archbishop Richard Smith, vice president of the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops, in an interview with Canadian Catholic News from his Edmonton Archdiocese. "It's not a matter of health care but a fundamental issue of human dignity that must rest on national law." The Dec. 22 split decision, 4-4-1, also leaves a legal void that

could lead to the uncontrolled destruction of human life as embryos. At best, it may result in a patchwork of varying provincial regulations. "We're talking about a fundamental question of life itself and dignity of human life, this is a consideration that transcends provincial and national boundaries," said Archbishop Smith. The court's opinion originated in a claim by the province of Quebec that sections of the 2004 Assisted Human Reproduction Act violated provincial jurisdiction and were therefore unconstitutional. The Quebec Court of Appeal had determined aspects of the legislation were health matters under provincial control. With its split decision, the Supreme Court affirmed the appeals court.

**Anglican bishops received into Catholic Church in London**

LONDON — Three former Anglican bishops were received into the Catholic Church just hours after they officially gave up their ministries in the Church of England. Bishops Andrew Burnham of Ebbsfleet, John Broadhurst of Fulham and Keith Newton of Richborough will be soon ordained as priests for a special Anglican ordinariate that will be set up in England later in January. Their resignations took effect at midnight Dec. 31, and they were received into the Catholic Church the afternoon of Jan. 1 during a Mass in London's Westminster Cathedral. They will be ordained as Catholic deacons at Allen Hall seminary, London, Jan. 13, then as priests at a ceremony in the cathedral Jan. 15. They will be incardinated into the English ordinariate, which is expected to be formed by papal decree the second week of January, when Pope Benedict XVI is also expected to appoint an ordinary. The ordinariate will be the first to be created since the pope issued the apostolic constitution "Anglicanorum coetibus" Nov. 4, 2009, to allow the group reception of disaffected Anglo-Catholics into the Catholic Church. Similar in structure to a military diocese, it permits former Anglicans to retain much of the patrimony and liturgical practices, such as married priests. Also received into the church at the Jan. 1 Mass were Judi Broadhurst, the wife of the former bishop of Fulham, and Gill Newton, the wife of the former bishop of Richborough.

**Report says Pope John Paul miracle nears final recognition**

VATICAN CITY — A presumed miracle needed for the beatification of the late Pope John Paul II reportedly has reached the final stages of approval. The miracle — involving a French nun said to have been cured of Parkinson's disease — has been approved by a Vatican medical board and a group of theologians and is now awaiting judgment from the members of the Congregation for Saints' Causes, according to Italian journalist Andrea Tornielli. If the congregation accepts the healing as a miracle attributable to the late pope's intercession, then Pope Benedict XVI still would have to sign a decree formally recognizing it before a beatification ceremony can be scheduled. Tornielli, who covers the Vatican for the newspaper <<<Il Giornale>>, wrote Jan. 4 that the process is so far advanced that Pope John Paul could be beatified sometime in 2011. Jesuit Father Federico Lombardi, the Vatican spokesman, told Catholic News Service Jan. 4 that the final step before beatification requires the pope's approval and that the pope is free to make his own decision on the matter. According to Tornielli, at the end of 2010, the presumed miracle passed the first three stages in a five-step process that involves medical experts, a medical board, theological consultants, the members of the congregation and, finally, Pope Benedict.

**Vatican figures show number of people at papal events rising**

VATICAN CITY — More than 2.27 million pilgrims and visitors came to see Pope Benedict XVI in person at the Vatican or the papal villa at Castel Gandolfo in 2010. The crowds included people who attended a weekly general audience, a special audience with the pope, a liturgy he celebrated or his Sunday Angelus gathering at the Vatican or papal villa, said the Prefecture of the Pontifical Household, which released the annual statistics Dec. 30. The total figure for 2010 was higher than in 2009 when more than 2.24 million people came; in 2008, there were more than 2.21 million pilgrims and visitors. While those numbers show a steady rise, they are down from 2007 and 2006, when more than 2.8 million and 3.2 million visitors, respectively, came to see the pope. According to the 2010 statistics, 493,000 people attended one of the pope's 45 weekly general audiences. Another 178,150 people were part of groups that had a special audience with the pope. Pope Benedict's Masses and prayer services drew 381,500 people, and his Sunday and holy day recitation of the Angelus brought 1.22 million people to St. Peter's Square or to the courtyard of the papal summer villa at Castel Gandolfo, south of Rome.

# Day of Prayer & Penance

(Continued from page 1)

“Because Holy Cross Elementary is so connected to Holy Cross District High School just the fact that both student bodies are gathered at the same time is very impressive,” said Mary Ellen Matts, principal for Holy Cross Elementary, Covington. “As we walk to the church the high schoolers are walking to the gym. Any time such a gathering takes place to pray together, I believe it is a sign of who we are as Catholic schools.”

“Our students and faculty find this particular prayer service very moving as we gather in prayer for the dignity and sanctity of all life,” said Pamela McQueen, principal for Villa Madonna Academy, Villa Hills. “We pray and reflect, feeling in the spoken word and the silence the very presence of Jesus. Each day in our daily reflection and prayer as a high school, we are reminded to see the face of Jesus in everyone we meet, and each day we reflect upon the values of St. Benedict, especially the value of reference for all life. The prayer service on Jan. 24 brings us together in body, mind and spirit to see the face of Jesus in the unborn, the suffering, the homeless, the aged.”

“Praying the rosary as a school was a powerful experience,” said Angie Poat, campus minister for St. Henry District High School. “It unified and united the school body through prayer for the pro-life mission of the Church. ... Setting aside the time to pray communicates the importance of prayer in changing hearts and political policies.”

The Day of Prayer and Penance for Life has had another effect — inspiring teachers and students to learn more about the miracle of life and to acts of service. After last year’s prayer service Laura Dennemann, eighth-grade teacher at St. Thomas School, Ft. Thomas, decided to begin the Spiritual Adoption Program available through the diocesan Pro-Life Office.

With the spiritual adoption program students fol-

low the nine-month development of a “spiritually adopted” fetus from conception to birth. Throughout the nine months, the students pray for the mother experiencing an untimely pregnancy and the life of her baby.

Their first spiritual adoption will culminate on Jan. 17 with a celebratory baby shower. Items collected are being donated to Welcome House, Covington, a social service agency that helps homeless mothers and children.

For the first time, students at Newport Central Catholic High School will engage in acts of service on the Day of Prayer and Penance for Life after the prayer service. The addition of acts of service on Jan. 24 was inspired by previous years’ days of prayer.

“While it is not possible for all of us to be in D.C. offering a visible witness, we can all witness to the sanctity of life and the seamless garment of life through service to all of our brothers and sisters,” said Mary Ciafardini, development director. “When students return from their service experiences they will be invited to reflect on their experience and how it relates both to the Gospel call to serve others and our teachings on the sanctity of life.”

Michael Clines, diocesan superintendent for Catholic schools, has participated in previous Days of Prayer and Penance for Life with the schools and experienced first-hand its powerful witness. This year he will march in Washington.

“Bishop Foys’ unwavering support in defense and protection for the unborn has made a tremendous positive impact on the students in our diocese. I thank him for his leadership.”

“I look forward to joining Bishop Foys in Washington for the March for Life this year and in joining our prayers with our principals, faculties and students as they pray here at home. One day, God please, the right to life will once again be the law of the land in these United States.”

### Day of Prayer and Penance for Life Monday, Jan. 24

#### Holy Hour Locations

- Cathedral Basilica of the Assumption
- Blessed Sacrament Church
- Divine Mercy
- Immaculate Heart of Mary
- St. Edward
- St. John the Evangelist, Carrollton
- St. Mary, Alexandria
- St. Patrick Church, Maysville
- St. Patrick Church, Taylor Mill
- St. Paul

### Day of Prayer and Penance for Life Eucharistic Adoration

On Jan. 24 Bishop Roger Foys has called for a Day of Prayer and Penance for Life throughout the Diocese of Covington. Each church is to be open for prayer and to schedule at least one hour of Eucharistic Adoration.

- Cathedral Basilica of the Assumption . . . 7 p.m.–8 p.m.
- All Saints Church . . . . . 7 a.m.–7 p.m.
- Blessed Sacrament Church . . . . . 10:30 a.m.–1 p.m.
- Cristo Rey . . . . . noon–1 p.m.
- Divine Mercy Parish . . . . . 8:30 a.m.–noon
- Holy Cross Church . . . . . 7 a.m.–7 p.m.
- Holy Spirit Parish . . . . . 8:30 a.m.–8 p.m.
- Immaculate Heart of Mary Church . . . 10:30 a.m.–8 p.m.
- Mary Queen of Heaven Church . . . . . 8:30 a.m.–5 p.m.
- Our Savior Church . . . . . Go to cathedral
- St. Agnes Church . . . . . 9–11:30 a.m.
- St. Anthony Church . . . . . 8:30–9:30 a.m.
- St. Augustine Church, Augusta . . . . . 8:30 a.m.–6 p.m.
- St. Augustine Church, Covington . . . . 8:30 a.m.–noon
- St. Barbara Church . . . . . 10:30 a.m.–5:30 p.m.
- St. Benedict Church . . . . . 8:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m.
- Sts. Boniface and James Church . . . . . 2–5 p.m.
- St. Catherine of Siena Church . . . . . 8:30 a.m.–6:45 p.m.
- St. Cecilia Church . . . . . 8:30 a.m.–5 p.m.
- St. Charles Borromeo Church . . . . . 11 a.m.–1 p.m.
- St. Edward Church . . . . . noon–7 p.m.
- St. Henry Church . . . . . 8:30 a.m.–noon
- St. James Church . . . . . 8 a.m.–8 a.m.
- St. John Church, Covington . . . . . 1–2 p.m.
- St. John Church, Dividing Ridge . . . . . 9 a.m.–10 a.m.
- St. John the Baptist Church, Wilder . . . . . 8–9 a.m.
- St. John the Evangelist Church, Carrollton . . 7–8 p.m.
- St. Joseph Church, Camp Springs . . . . . 8:30–10:30 a.m.
- St. Joseph Church, Cold Spring . . . . . 9 a.m.–noon
- St. Joseph Church, Crescent Springs . . . . . 5–8 p.m.
- St. Joseph Church, Warsaw . . . . . 8 a.m.–noon
- St. Mary Church . . . . . noon–8 p.m.
- St. Matthew Church . . . . . noon–5 p.m.
- St. Patrick Church, Maysville . . . . . 8 a.m.–7 p.m.
- St. Patrick Church, Taylor Mill . . . . . 7–8 p.m.
- St. Paul Church . . . . . 8:45 a.m.–noon
- Sts. Peter and Paul Church . . . . . 9 a.m.–5 p.m.
- St. Philip Church . . . . . 9 a.m.–3 p.m.
- St. Pius X Church . . . . . 9 a.m.–3 p.m.
- St. Thomas Church (Providence Center) 12 a.m.–12 a.m.
- St. Therese Church . . . . . 4–5 p.m.
- St. Timothy Church . . . . . 8:30 a.m.–6 p.m.
- St. William Church . . . . . 9 a.m.–10 a.m.

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