

THE GOOD NEWS LETTER

SEPTEMBER 28, 2020



FROM THE PEN OF THE PASTOR:

Here for those who are interested is a brief biography of myself. My mother, Kathy, and father, Bill, were born, raised, and married in Massachusetts. I have an older brother, Mark, and a younger sister, Maeghan. I also have three nephews as well, Liam, Quinn, and William. I was born in Springfield, MA and spent time living in Worcester, MA and Carmel, IN. I grew up and was confirmed at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel. I attended Indianapolis Cathedral High School and the University of Michigan where I majored in Psychology and English. I attended the Pontifical College Josephinum in Columbus, OH for my Philosophy degree, and I graduated in May 2013 with my theology degree at St. Meinrad Seminary.

After college I was a writer and editor at the Hudson Institute Think Tank in Indianapolis, IN. Following that opportunity, I worked in ecommerce logistics in Indianapolis. My interests include photography, writing, and hiking.

My great uncle was a priest, Fr. Edward Kroyak and so at an early age I got to use to being around priests. Every Sunday he would come to my Grandmother's house for dinner, and the family would congregate and spend time with him and each other. I received a personal view into the Church at an early age with very intimate masses and baptisms done with my great uncle. His funeral in my teen years made a dramatic impact in my understanding of the priest's role in his parish; it was truly a sad and joyous event to see how beloved and respected he was in his diocese in Massachusetts. After college, I

became more involved at OLMC. Gradually over time, especially during Eucharistic adoration, I realized that the call to priesthood was still very present in my life, and I started to actively discern again; after some time discerning, I ultimately responded to the call and joined the seminary in 2007.

Now after seven years as associate pastor, I am looking forward to the many learning and serving opportunities I will have as pastor of St. John's, St. Mary's, and Holy Family. It has been a pleasure already to meet many of you and I look forward to meeting many more of you in the future. Please always know of my prayers for you all.

In Christ, Fr. Hurley



St. Mary's Meet & Greet for Fr. Hurley

Members of St. Mary's met for a meal Saturday September 26th after 5pm Mass to visit with and welcome Fr. Hurley.

St. John's meet and greet will take place on Sunday, October 4th, 2-4pm. Sandwiches and light refreshments will be available as you mingle with one another and Fr. Hurley. Come and go as your afternoon allows.

Gas City is planning a welcome carry-in for Fr. Hurley on Sunday, October 18 after 11am Mass. Parishioners are welcome to attend whichever event fits their schedule.

AT HOME RELIGIOUS ED RESOURCES

We ended the last catechetical year with many parishes asking parents to work with their children at home on faith formation because of the pandemic. Our hopes were, of course, that we would soon see a return to normalcy and that, come fall, young people and catechists could once again resume in-person sessions of faith formation at the parish. Alas, those hopes have been dashed in many parts of the country where the pandemic lingers or has even worsened. As a result, many parishes are once again planning on asking parents to take responsibility for much of their children's faith formation at home in lieu of in-person sessions at the parish.

We want to empower them to have some special family time with our Lord. You may want to send this out to families in your parish to help and support parents in their efforts to bring their children closer to Jesus Christ.

Here are links to a number of resources mentioned in the video to assist parents:

- [3-Minute Retreats](#)
- [Sunday Connection](#)
- [Finding God curriculum and resources](#)
- [Parent Quick-Guide for Families with Multiple Children in Different Grades \(Finding God\)](#)
- [Christ Our Life curriculum and resources](#)
- [Parent Quick-Guide for Families with Multiple Children in Different Grades \(Christ Our Life\)](#)
- [Pop-Up Catechesis](#)
- [Wanderlight: A Pilgrim's Adventure](#)

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<https://catechistsjourney.loyolapress.com/>

FORMING CONSCIENCES FOR FAITHFUL CITIZENSHIP

"We need to participate for the common good. Sometimes we hear: a good Catholic is not interested in politics. This is not true: good Catholics immerse themselves in politics by offering the best of themselves so that the leader can govern." --Pope Francis 9/16/13

Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship is our teaching document on the political responsibilities of Catholics. This statement represents our guidance for the Catholic faithful in the exercise of their rights and duties as participants in our democracy. Read the document and learn more at uscgb.org

ALL SAINTS DAY PRAYER

Why are more and more people interested in the saints? Well, the saints inspire us to lead joyful lives; they serve as role models; they teach us that holiness means being who you are; and—as an added benefit—they pray for us from their posts in heaven.

As we draw closer to All Saints Day, let us strive to learn(teach), pray, innovate and imitate the saints.

**Bless the many parted souls
who lived their lives with grace.
Bless the saints in heaven,
gathered in that special place.**

**May we tell their stories
and remember all the ways
they lived their faith
and spent their days.**

**There is glory and reward,
even if at first there's strife.
Oh, blessed saints, you help us see
a path that's to eternal life.**

**May we always hold them dear
and know their life and place.
May we know their inspiration
and aspire to their grace.**

**"Keep to the ancient way and custom
of the Church, established and confirmed by
so many Saints under the inspiration of the
Holy Spirit. And live a new life. Pray, and get
others to pray, that God not abandon His
Church, but reform it as He pleases, and as
He sees best for us, and more to His honour
and glory."**

— St. Angela Merici

ALL SOULS DAY MASSES

Each of our three parishes will be able to celebrate All Souls' Day Mass for their departed loved one. A schedule will soon be available in the bulletin, but Fr. Hurley will celebrate Mass at each location for this holyday. One of our Works of Mercy is to pray for the dead, please plan to join us in this effort.

**St. Mary Parish and
St. John the Evangelist Parish**

209 S. Spring St., Hartford City, IN 47348

PASTOR - Rev. Kevin Hurley

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Dunkirk: 765.768.1283 stmaryjohn@att.net

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Lord's Day Liturgy

SATURDAY: 5:00 pm at St. John's

SUNDAY: 8:30 am at St. John's

10:30 am at St. Mary's

- Weekday Liturgy: Please consult inside the bulletin. -

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE: Oct. 23, 2020

Editor: Diana Holsten

**ONE SUNDAY FOR THE WHOLE
WORLD**

Every year, something special happens on the next-to-last Sunday of October. World Mission Sunday joins all Catholics of the world into one community of faith. At Mass that Sunday, we commit ourselves to our common vocation, through Baptism, to be missionaries, through prayer, participation in the Eucharist, and by giving generously to the collection for the Society for the Propagation of the Faith.

In his message for World Mission Sunday this year, Pope Francis asks us to respond to our baptismal call to mission by saying, "Here I am, Send Me." This is the mission that all Christians have received, and God give us the grace to live it out wherever we may be.

As we pray and respond on World Mission Sunday here at home, we share in those celebrations taking place in every parish and school throughout the world. Together, through our prayers and financial support, we bring the Lord's mercy and concrete help to the most vulnerable communities in the Pope's missions.

In a world where so much divides us, World Mission Sunday rejoices in our unity as missionaries by our Baptism, as it offers each of us an opportunity to support the life-giving presence of the church among the poor and marginalized in more than 1,111 mission dioceses.

With Grateful Hearts for your Mission solidarity!



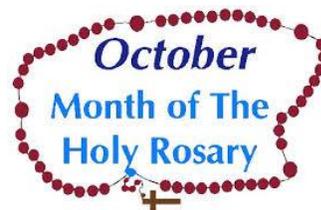
The Lord's Day Weekend Mass Schedule:

Saturday Vigil Mass 5:00pm at St. Mary's,
Dunkirk

Sunday Mass 9:00am at St. John's, Hartford City

Sunday Mass 11:00am at Holy Family, Gas City

Please continue to pray for our diocesan leadership, our priests, and each of us as parishioners as we embark on this Uniting in Heart 2030 Pastorate Plan. May we truly unite in hearts to be missionary disciples to share the Gospels and the love of Christ Jesus.



Join together at St. John's each Sunday in October at 8:30am prior to the start of Mass to pray the rosary. October is the month of the Holy Rosary and all are invited to pray this powerful prayer to Mary our Mother of our nation and all nations in support and solidarity for the many needs of our society.

ME, MYSELF AND THE CATHOLIC MASS

By: Gerald Korson

Coronavirus certainly has changed the way we participate in the Mass. It's different than it used to be because of safety measures undertaken by our dioceses and local parishes. It might seem a bit strange even now with the limitations still in place. But is there something good that we can derive from the experience? I believe there is.

Our return was surreal, but ultimately joyful. After weeks of no Mass, highly unusual conditions prevailed. Everything seemed a little tentative. There was a sense of reclaiming our church after a crisis, and perhaps that is an apt description. On the television screen at home, we could follow the action, hear the Scripture readings and homily, recite the prayers, and make a spiritual communion. But there was something we could never do from home, and that is to receive the body and blood of Christ in the Eucharist. The word *eucharist* means "thanksgiving," and it was a profound experience to once again enjoy the privilege of partaking in the sacrament that had been denied us for so long. It was a wonderful morning.

Thought: *Do I take the Mass and Eucharist for granted? Do I sometimes go through the motions, neglecting the wonderful gift that Our Lord provides in this sacrament? Do I truly appreciate the relatively easy availability of Mass and the sacraments in my area, something lacking in mission areas of the world?*

Social distance is awkward. Ropes cordon off every other pew. We were urged not to socialize before or after Mass.

Thought: *Do I value the other members of the faithful in my parish community? Do I see them as true brothers and sisters in Christ, sharers with me in the one true faith? Do I pray for their strength and well-being during these trying times?*

The crowd is smaller. There were, and remain, far fewer of us at Mass than attended in the pre-pandemic days. That's partly due to health concerns, and partly perhaps due to the dispensation: there's no obligation to be here. We pass no judgment there. But we come voluntarily, for our spiritual good, for the Eucharist. We need the grace and strength it provides us.

Thought: *What is my attitude toward the Mass under normal circumstances: do I view it primarily as an obligation, or do I yearn for the Eucharist? If the latter, then should I make more of an effort to attend Mass more frequently on weekdays?*

Music promotes meditation. My parish went to instrumental music only — no cantor, no choir, no congregational singing. It eliminates certain distractions, to be sure: But something else interesting happened: as the organist played the familiar hymns, I found myself "singing" the lyrics with my heart. It became a prayerful experience, perhaps even more so than when I sing aloud, too focused on trying to hit the right notes.

Thought: *Do I ordinarily participate in congregational singing at Mass? When I do, do I recognize it as prayer and "sing with my heart"? Will I try to do so when congregational singing returns to my parish?*

Silence is sacred. With less music and fewer people, there seems to be more silence, which for me adds to the sense of reverence. Sometimes in our non-pandemic liturgies it seems there is little time allowed for silent prayer, even after the Communion Rite. I have a renewed appreciation for sacred silence and how precious it is, within or outside the Mass.

Thought: *Does my prayer life suffer from a lack of silence? Will I seek out more opportunities for sacred silence on a regular basis as an aid in deepening my experience of prayer and contemplation?*

Missing his Presence. We encounter the real presence of Christ in the Eucharist at Mass. We also can encounter his real presence in Eucharistic adoration. Our parish is blessed to have a perpetual adoration chapel. Before it was closed due to the pandemic, I would stop to pray there on an irregular basis. Recently it reopened with social-distancing restrictions in place. I've missed that occasional time of prayer before the exposed Blessed Sacrament.

Thought: *Do I take advantage of opportunities to pray before the Blessed Sacrament regularly — in a perpetual adoration chapel if available, or else before the tabernacle in church? Might I at least arrive at Mass 15-30 minutes early so as to spend some time in quiet prayer in Christ's Eucharistic presence as preparation to receive him in holy communion?*

Originally published in a weekly edition of Knightline, a resource for K of C leaders and members.

FATIMA ROSARY RALLY AT COURTHOUSE

The Fatima Rosary Rally is Saturday, October 10 at Noon at the south-East corner of the Blackford County Court House. Everyone is encouraged to come pray one Rosary for the conversion of America to a devotion to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. We will start at Noon. Rosaries and prayer cards will be available. Bring a lawn chair if you will need to sit. It is a windy corner, but hopefully, not freezing! In case of heavy rain, we will gather at St John's in the parish hall at the school.

SEPTEMBER CHALLENGE BY K OF C

SEPTEMBER CHALLENGE by Supreme Chaplain Archbishop William E. Lori:

“For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them.” (Gospel for Sept. 6, Mt 18:20)

There is power in numbers. It's often how we get things done. When men are united by a clear mission, they become a “band of brothers” whose whole is greater than the sum of its parts. And when that mission is given to us by Jesus, we are united in Christ, who directs and strengthens us to accomplish great things. May we, my brothers, form strong bonds of fraternity founded on Christ as we labor to build up the kingdom of heaven.

Challenge by Supreme Chaplain Archbishop William E. Lori:

This month, I challenge you to learn more about fraternity by viewing the “Brotherhood” episode of the *Into the Breach* video series produced by the Knights of Columbus. Second, I challenge you to help build bonds of brotherhood in your parish by offering the Faith in Action Into the Breach program.

Questions for Reflection:

Are you willing to “stand in the breach” with your brother Knights and fellow Catholics to serve Christ and defend the faith? Are you a good “brother” to others, forming male friendships marked by shared faith, honesty and accountability to fight the spiritual battle? How can a “band of brothers” ensure that they are gathered in the name of Jesus Christ?

--KofC.org

NOVENA FOR THE CAUSE OF LIFE - OCTOBER 4-12

The defense of life and the promotion of human dignity in every stage and condition are preeminent concerns of the Knights of Columbus and the entire Church.

From October 4-12, during Respect Life Month, Knights are called to join all Catholics in prayer with Pope Francis for an end to abortion, euthanasia and the many social ills that bring illness, broken families, unhappiness and premature death, especially for the most vulnerable.

During each unique day of the novena, you can reflect on a quote selected from the teaching of Pope Francis on the sanctity of life, pray a decade of the rosary, and conclude with St. John Paul II's prayer from *Evangelium Vitae*. By reflecting on the teachings of Pope Francis and calling upon the help of Our Lady for 9 days, we can deepen our commitment to the Gospel of Life and support the most vulnerable through prayer.

LITURGICAL MINISTERS FOR OCTOBER—ST. MARY'S

Oct. 4: Reader: Laverne Watson **Greeter:** Jane Crouch **Counter:** Kathleen Inman

Oct. 11: Reader: Ted Kolodka **Greeter:** Colleen Bicknell **Counter:** Jane Crouch

Oct. 18: Reader: Laverne Watson **Greeter:** Jane Crouch **Counter:** Kathleen Inman

Oct. 25: Reader: Ted Kolodka **Greeter:** Colleen Bicknell **Counter:** Jane Crouch

“[Jesus'] body was for Him not a limitation, but an instrument, so that He was both in it and in all things, and outside all things, resting in the Father above. At one and the same time—this is the wonder—as man He was a human life, and as Word He was sustaining the life of the universe, and as Son He was in constant union with the Father.”
—St. Athanasius of Alexandria

"THROUGH THE CHURCH YEAR"

Archangels Michael, Gabriel, Raphael, and all the Angels -- Feast day September 29.

The origins of this feast day date back to the sixth century in celebration of the consecration of a basilica in honor of St. Michael the Archangel. In ancient calendars, it was observed as a feast in honor of all the angels. After the Second Vatican Council, the three archangels were united on this one day. A special memorial of guardian angels is kept on October 2nd.

Christ clearly and frequently takes the existence of the angels for granted as recounted in various gospel passages. In addition to caring for and protecting us, the angels focus us on the greatness and wonderful power of God. In the midst of the uncertainties of human life, we can take great comfort from the truth that the very angels of God are our helpers and protectors. One important way in which the angels guard us is by assisting in the spiritual struggle in which we are all engaged. This struggle is part of our "faith vision of reality".

Thus, one great theologian has drawn out some of the practical implications of this feast:

"We should love the angels and pray to them often. God will ask an account of how we have appreciated this—among his other mercies—that he has bestowed on each of us an angel of his face—to help us on our journey back to him." –Yves Congar, O.P.

(excerpted from *Through the Church Year* by Francis D. Kelly)

Check us out at: www.stmaryjohn.org.

DISPENSATION EXTENDED TO NOV. 1

"To be dispensed from the obligation to attend Sunday Mass does not mean people should stay away from Church or fail to keep holy the Lord's Day. We continue to invite each of you to prayerfully consider attending Mass with your parish family. In this way you may more fully experience the gift that Jesus gives us in the Eucharist and the life of grace."



HEARTS ON FIRE CATHOLIC MINISTRIES APPEAL

"...I am reminded of Jesus' words in Luke, "I have come to set the world on fire, and how I wish it were already blazing". He wants us all to be part of the refining fire, even when our Catholic faith puts us further at odds with the prevailing public culture. Jesus wants our hearts to be on fire for His mission no matter what our life's vocation. By our Baptism, He has anointed us to create strong and vibrant communities of love through the witness of our faith in action. Jesus wants us to remember that all we have is a gift from God, even the very breath in our lungs.

"...What used to be the Fruitful Harvest Appeal is now the Catholic Ministries Appeal..."

"This appeal will run through the end of 2021, at which time the Catholic Ministry Appeal will become an annual appeal. Our local Church is doing the works of Christ in many ways. I humbly ask for your continued support of these diocesan efforts as we support the needs of both the people and our parishes. With gratitude for your thoughtful consideration and with hope for a generous response, I remain.

Faithfully yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Timothy L. Doherty
Bishop of Lafayette-in-Indiana"

Hopefully, these are familiar words that each have already read in the letter from Bishop Doherty. Please prayerfully consider your pledge and return your card in the envelope provided. If send a check with the pledge card, make the check out to Diocese of Lafayette-in-Indiana. Thank you for your contributions in prayer and resources.

LITURGICAL MINISTERS FOR OCTOBER—ST. JOHN'S

Sunday 9:00 am Reader & Announcements:
Bernadette Elkins

RESPECT LIFE MONTH BEGINS

We made it to autumn. Phew! What a year! But you know what? If we allow it to, this year can make us holier. Yep, that's right. If we make little sacrifices, offer up our sufferings, and accept our crosses with grace, this will all be worth it.

October is the Month of the Rosary and Respect Life Month, a great time to consider how you might increase your efforts to protect the most vulnerable members of our society—the unborn, the elderly, the sick and homeless. Let's do our part to bring Christ's love to the world!

LIFECCHAIN AGAINST ABORTION AT 3 AND 26

This year's LifeChain will take place Sunday, October 4, 2020 at the crossroads of State Roads 3 and 26, from 2:30-3:30. Signs and signup will be available at 2:00 and participation can begin immediately. As in past years, each participant is invited to take a sign and spread out from the intersection 20 steps apart and, facing the direction of the traffic, praying for those lives affected by abortion. Please feel free to bring your own water for hydration and a lawn chair if desired.

HERE'S YOUR YARD SIGN

The Pregnancy Care Center of Jay County has been blessed with a generous supply of Pray to end Abortion yard signs. They are offering these signs to our parishes as a visual way to support all babies in the womb. If you are interested in receiving a sign either contact Diana in the office or call 260-726-8636. The more signs we can place the better chances the unborn will have. Please remember to pray for all who have been hurt by the abortion industry.

If you or someone you know is struggling with post abortion syndrome, please contact the number listed above for more help and information on these resources.

“Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born, I set you apart.” Jer 1:4

FIFTEEN PROMISES OF PRAYING THE ROSARY

May is the month of Mary and Mary herself gave us the Rosary as a form of prayer. In addition to the Rosary, tradition holds that Our Lady appeared to and gave St. Dominic and Blessed Alan de la Roche fifteen powerful promises for those who pray it daily.

1. Whoever shall faithfully serve me by the recitation of the Rosary shall receive signal graces.
2. I promise my special protection and the greatest graces to all those who shall recite the Rosary.
3. The Rosary shall be a powerful armor against hell; it will destroy vice, decrease sin, and defeat heresies.
4. It will cause virtue and good works to flourish; it will obtain for souls the abundant mercy of God; it will withdraw the heart of men from the love of the world and its vanities and will lift them to the desire of eternal things.
5. The soul which recommends itself to me by the recitation of the Rosary shall not perish.
6. Whoever shall recite the Rosary devoutly, applying himself to the consideration of its sacred mysteries, shall never be conquered by misfortune. God will not chastise him in his justice; he shall not perish by an unprovided death; if he be just he shall remain in the grace of God and become worthy of eternal life
7. Whoever shall have a true devotion for the Rosary shall not die without the sacraments of the Church.
8. Those who are faithful to reciting the Rosary shall have, during their life and at their death, the light of God and the plenitude of his graces; at the moment of death they shall participate in the merits of the saints in paradise.
9. I shall deliver from purgatory those who have been devoted to the Rosary.
10. The faithful children of the Rosary shall merit a high degree of glory in heaven.
11. You shall obtain all you ask of me by the recitation of the Rosary.
12. All those who propagate the holy Rosary shall be aided by me in their necessities.
13. I have obtained from my divine son that all the advocates of the Rosary shall have for intercessors the entire celestial court during their life and at the hour of death.
14. All who recite the Rosary are my sons and brothers of my only son Jesus Christ.
15. Devotion to my Rosary is a great sign of predestination.

RCIA IS NOT REALLY A "CLASS"

It is an opportunity and process for:

- *Catholics who have been Baptized but not confirmed to receive Confirmation
- *Catholics who have been away from the Church to come back
- *a non-Catholic spouse or friend to learn about the Catholic faith
- *a non-Catholic who is searching for a Church that teaches Truth.
- *someone who feels the call to come; maybe he/she has been attending Mass occasionally (or maybe not).
- *a Catholic to share his/her faith with others.

We meet on Thursday's at 6-7:30 pm in the parish hall high school classroom at St. John's or on Sunday mornings from 10-10:45 at Holy Family

Hope to see you there! It is never too late to come as the process is on-going.

Questions? Need child care during class time? Let us know you are coming if you can.

Call or text Susan 512-627-6863 at St. John's or Pam Trees at Holy Family; or call Diana in the office at 765-348-3889.

CELEBRATING BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

ANNIVERSARIES:

None reported for October

BIRTHDAYS:

- 5 Anya Uggen
- 8 Corey Hardesty
- 15 Marilyn Blankenbaker
- 22 Kiara Shields
- 22 Shea Aulbach
- 23 Serena Merkel
- 29 Mark Aulbach

If you would like to be included in the birthday and anniversary listings, please drop us a note. We would be happy to share it through *The Good News Letter*.

If you feel you have been a victim of sexual misconduct by a cleric, contact Victim Assistance Minister, Doris May, at 765-464-4988 or report the incident at <https://dol-in.org/reporting-an-incident>.

GRAB YOUR FLASHLIGHT AND YOUR BROOM!

(An excerpt from an article published in *The Catholic Moment*, September 20, 2020)

The world has changed drastically over the past 60 years and we no longer live in a culture favorable to Christianity. In the past, families, cultural norms, and values would naturally lead individuals into the Church, but now we find it is just the opposite. Under such circumstances, we must change our approach if we are to fulfill the Great Commission Jesus left to the Church.

This is no surprise to our Church leaders. Bishops and Popes have been telling us for the past half-century that we need to transition from *maintenance to mission*. By that, the leaders of the Church are telling us that we have emphasized ministries to those already in the Church while neglecting those outside or those who have left the Church.

If the Church is going to fulfill its mission in the world today, it must reverse its approach. The *Uniting in Heart 2030 Pastoral Plan* is this diocese's vision for how to do just that. Evangelization, for both pastors and laity, is a key element of the plan and we are relying on you, the people that actually salt the earth, enter the workplace, attend the schools, and live in the community, to bring the Gospel to the lost.

As I consider the topic of evangelization, I am drawn immediately to the parables of the lost sheep and lost coin in the middle of Luke's gospel. In them, we read of a shepherd who has 100 sheep and 70 of them wander away, and a woman who has ten silver coins and loses seven of them.

What can we glean from the parables that can help us transition from maintenance to mission? For our readers who quickly recognized that in both parables Jesus mentions only one thing that was lost, good for you! That is precisely what Jesus wants us to notice. Many of us might say, "Come on, really? There are 99 of us here, it's just one little ol' sheep, what's the big deal?" That is an attitude of maintenance, not mission! Looking through the eyes of God, we should never underestimate the intrinsic value of one individual, one soul, one who just drifted away.

Some of our parishes may have lost 70 of 100, others maybe only 10. Every parish has lost one. That means we all have work to do. So, let's open up our closets and break out the broom and the flashlight. We've got some lost souls to find!
(Rob Hartley is the Director of Evangelization, Family Life and Pastoral Ministries)