The Diocese of Nashville is implementing a new Safe Environment training program and system of background checks for all employees of the diocese, its parishes, schools and institutions, and volunteers who work with young people.

The diocese implemented the Safe Environment Program, including training, background checks, and procedures for reporting suspected abuse, in 1995. In 2019, the diocese updated its Safe Environment policies and procedures to ensure that the required training and background checks are completed.

The Diocese of Nashville has been in compliance with the requirements of the Charter since its adoption. The diocese encourages anyone who knows of or suspects that abuse has taken place to report it to the appropriate authorities.

The CMG Connect system makes it easy to update background checks for employees, which is required every five years, and to track when the required background checks and training have been completed by all employees and volunteers.

The requirements for the training and background checks will be linked, said Stejskal. "Not until the required training is completed is the background check automatically launched. This is the reverse of how it used to be done."

"With CMG Connect, we have complete certainty that for any employee or volunteer that a background check has been conducted, the required training has been successfully completed," Stejskal said.

Among the Committee’s goals for this fiscal year, Stejskal said, are: to improve background checks; and to improve the processes to ensure that the required background checks and training are completed.

"The CMG Connect Safe Environment tool gets us a good way down that road," said Stejskal.

In June 2002, the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops adopted the Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People, which outlined a comprehensive set of procedures for addressing allegations of sexual abuse of minors by Catholic clergy, including guidelines for:

- Creating a safe environment for children and young people.
- Healing and reconciliation of victims and survivors.
- Making a prompt and effective response to allegations.
- Cooperating with civil authorities.
- Disciplining offenders.

The Diocese of Nashville has been in full compliance with the requirements of the Charter since its adoption.

The diocese encourages anyone who knows of or suspects that abuse has taken place to report it to the appropriate authorities.

For more information on the program, click on the Safe Environment link on the diocesan website, www.diocesennashville.com.
December 17
• Diocesan Review Board, Catholic Pastoral Center, 9:30 a.m.
• Christmas Party for Priests and Deacons, Catholic Pastoral Center, 6 p.m.

December 18
• Nashville Diocesan Council of Catholic Women (NDCCW) Breakfast with Seminarians, Catholic Pastoral Center, 9 a.m.

December 19
• Seminarian VIP Dinner, Cathedral of the Incarnation, 6 p.m.

December 20
• Finance Board Meeting, Catholic Pastoral Center, 8:30 a.m.
• Seminarian Open House, Bishop’s Residence, 6 p.m.

December 22
• Mass, Cathedral of the Incarnation, 11 a.m.
• Simbang Gabi Mass, Catholic Pastoral Center, 4 p.m.

December 24
• “Midnight” Mass, Cathedral of the Incarnation, 10 p.m.

December 31
• Vigil Mass for Solemnity of Mary, Cathedral of the Incarnation, 4 p.m.

Follow Bishop Spalding on Twitter: @bpspalding


The conference will prepare catechists for using the methodology with children ages 7-11 but with principles that can be applied to children and youth of all ages. Come, Follow Me has received the imprimatur for catechetical use. The program has also received the stamp of approval of the French Episcopal Commission for Catechesis and the Catechumenate.

Developed by members of the Notre Dame de Vie Institute in France, the Come, Follow Me program will be presented by Sister Hyacinthe Defos du Rau, O.P. of the Dominican Sisters of St. Joseph of Lymington, England.

“We are thrilled to have Sister Hyacinthe back in the United States for the Come, Follow Me Catechetical Formation Conference,” said Sister Mary Johanna Mellody, O.P., organizer of the Aquinas event.

“The conference in March will be presented in Spanish and English. We hope many catechists from our Hispanic communities will attend,” Sister Mary Johanna leads formation classes for Hispanic catechists in the Diocese of Nashville.

“The Come, Follow Me program was first introduced to catechists in the United States by Sister Hyacinthe at the St. John Bosco Conference in 2015,” said Jason Gale, Director of the Center for Evangelization and Catechesis. Since that time there has been growing American interest in the program.

“The Center for Evangelization and Catechesis at Aquinas College is proud to host this catechetical formation conference,” Gale said.

The Center supports the work of catechists and leaders by providing workshops, retreats, and directed study of the Catholic Faith.

The conference will be held 6-9 p.m. Friday, March 20, and 8 a.m.-4 p.m. Saturday, March 21, at St. Cecilia Academy on the Dominican Campus in Nashville. Limited overnight accommodations are available at Aquinas College Siena Hall, also on the Dominican Campus.

Registration is open on the Aquinas College website. For more information contact Jason Gale at 615-257-7545 or visit www.aquinascollege.edu.

Aquinas College to host Come, Follow Me catechetical conference
First year of #IGiveCatholic proves success for diocese

Andy Telli

The Diocese of Nashville’s first participation in the #IGiveCatholic national online giving campaign on Tuesday, Dec. 3 was a success, raising more than $73,000 for 26 schools and ministries, said diocesan Stewardship Director Ashley Linville.

“I definitely think it was a success,” Linville said. “It goes to show what generous people we have in the diocese that care about the mission of these organizations.”

The online and other gifts totaled $73,519 from 270 donors. The gifts were designated for 26 schools and ministries in the diocese.

The top two recipients were two of the smallest schools in the diocese; St. Patrick School in McEwen received $21,481.60 in online gifts and St. John Vianney School in Gallatin received $15,710. Each had 32 online donors.

“It’s exciting to see some of the smaller schools do well,” Linville said.

At St. Patrick School, the staff worked hard to promote the giving campaign to the parents of their students, asking them to share the link with their extended family, friends and others, explained Sister Mary Grace Watson, O.P., St. Patrick’s principal.

The school also promoted the campaign on its own social media outlets and placed announcements in the bulletins at St. Patrick Church and St. Christopher Church in Dickson, the two parishes where most of St. Patrick’s students belong, Sister Mary Grace said.

“We tried to engage as many people as we could,” she said.

The school also listed three capital improvements the money raised would be used for. “They were very concrete,” Sister Mary Grace said. “When people gave, they knew exactly how they were helping us.”

The three needs were to put up a sign at the front of the school, to paint the school’s exterior doors, and to put down a new layer of wood chips on the school playground. The school picked simple projects, but ones that it would be easy for donors to see how their money was used, Sister Mary Grace said.

The cost of the three projects totaled $10,000, and the school received more than twice that amount in donations.

“The remainder of the money will be used as a kickstart to our annual fund drive, which goes to offset the difference between our tuition and the cost of education,” Sister Mary Grace said.

St. John Vianney also heavily promoted the giving campaign to its school community and listed specific needs to be funded.

Lara Schuler, the assistant superintendent of schools for the diocese and the interim principal at St. John Vianney, started talking to the school board and parents about the campaign. She also sent parents a letter and asked them to share the link for making a donation with their extended family and friends.

The school also made three videos featuring students holding placards with the needs to fund and shared them through social media. Schuler said. And the school created a competition among the classes to see which would raise the most.

“I put it on Facebook a gazillion times,” she added.

“You have to promote it,” Schuler said. “People have to know what it is and what it’s going to go for.”

The items the school was raising money for were: visual aids, new Chromebooks, updating the technology infrastructure, purchasing the Quaver Music Program, purchasing a subscription for the IXL curriculum for online enrichment in various subjects; and bringing back Spanish classes to the school.

“We needed about $15,000” to meet all those needs, and exceed it, Schuler said.

The involvement of the school’s families helped make the campaign a success, Schuler said. “We had a really strong response from the families,” she said. “I think they did a fabulous job.”

The giving portal opened about two weeks before the actual day of the campaign so people could make an early gift. Schuler said. “Parents started getting excited when they could go online and watch as the donations came in.”

The #IGiveCatholic campaign was the school’s own social media outreach.

St. Cecilia Academy Alumnae Classes of 2013-2019 Brunch, 11:30 a.m., the White House, 4210 Harding Pike, Nashville. You and your mother are invited back to campus to reminisce with classmates and teachers. Class of 2019 bring yearbooks to sign. Info/RSVP: stcecilia.edu/alumnae.


Nashville Diocese Catholic Committee on Scouting Meeting, 6:30 p.m., Parish Council Room, Christ the King, 3091 Belmont Blvd., Nashville. Info: www.ndccos.org.

New Year’s Eve Party, after 8 p.m. St. Philip, 113 Second Ave. S., Franklin, 7 p.m., 615-794-8588.

St. Lawrence, 5565 Clarkson Hwy, Joelton, 7 p.m., 615-876-2127.

St. Ann, 5101 Charlotte Ave., Nashville, 7 p.m., 615-298-1782.

Cathedral, 2015 West End Ave., Nashville, 8:30 p.m., 615-459-9672

Catholic & Diocesan Calendar

December

St. Philip, 113 Second Ave. S., Franklin, 7 p.m., 615-794-8588.

St. Lawrence, 5565 Clarkson Hwy, Joelton, 7 p.m., 615-876-2127.

St. Ann, 5101 Charlotte Ave., Nashville, 7 p.m., 615-298-1782.

Cathedral, 2015 West End Ave., Nashville, 8:30 p.m., 615-459-9672

St. Stephen, 14544 Lebanon Rd., Old Hickory, 7-8 p.m., 615-758-2424.

Our Lady of the Lake, 1729 Stop 30 Rd., Hendersonville, 7-8 p.m., 615-824-3276.

St. Anthony, 1900 Huntville Highway, Fayetteville, 7 p.m., 931-433-6525.

St. Joseph, 1225 Gallatin Pike S., Madison, 3:30-6 p.m., 615-865-1071.

For more information about services in your parish, contact your parish office.

St. Mary’s Bookstore

wishes you a Merry Christmas & Happy New Year 2020

By: Gabrielle Bossis

Do Something Beautiful for God: The Essential Teachings of Mother Teresa

By: Mother Teresa, with Biography and Introduction by Matthew Kelly

Jesus Speaking: Heart to Heart with the King

A daily devotional taken from the classic, “Jesus Speaking: Heart to Heart with Jesus”

365 Daily Reflections

$10,000, and the school received more
Vigils held as Tennessee executes Lee Hall

Theresa Laurence

St. Henry Church in Nashville hosted one of several prayer vigils across the state on Thursday, Dec. 5, to oppose the death penalty and remember all victims of violence.

As the state of Tennessee executed Lee Hall around 7:30 p.m. for the murder of Traci Crozier, death penalty opponents offered a prayerful response.

This was Tennessee’s third execution in 2019, and the sixth in 16 months.

“Though Tennessee continues to execute, death sentencing and public support for the death penalty are at record lows. Gallup just released a poll showing 60 percent of Americans now prefer life without parole to the death penalty. A majority of jurors in Lee Hall’s trial opposed his execution because they did not have life without parole as a sentencing option,” said the Rev. Stacy Rector, executive director of Tennesseans for Alternatives to the Death Penalty.

Hall, who became functionally blind while in prison, was convicted and sentenced to death in 1991 for the murder of his estranged girlfriend Traci Crozier. According to news reports, Hall threw a lit container full of gas into Crozier’s car after she’d left him because of his physical abuse. Crozier’s family members had spoken out in recent weeks with strong support for Hall’s execution.

The state’s three Catholic bishops, Mark Spalding of Nashville, Richard Stika of Knoxville and David Talley of Memphis, have issued several statements opposing the death penalty.

Their letter in April said, “Rather than serving as a path to justice, the death penalty contributes to the growing disrespect for human life and continues a cycle of violence in society … Even when guilt is certain, the execution is not necessary to protect society.”

In August 2018, building on his predecessors’ opposition to capital punishment, Pope Francis ordered a revision of the Catechism of the Catholic Church, which now says that “the Church teaches, in the light of the Gospel, that ‘the death penalty is inadmissible because it is an attack on the inviolability and dignity of the person,’ and she works with determination for its abolition worldwide.”

At Madrid climate talks, Catholics work to provide ‘moral perspective’

Jonathan Luxmoore CNS

OXFORD, England. Catholic campaigners at U.N. climate talks welcomed support from Pope Francis and vowed to bring a “firm moral perspective” to international negotiations.

Chiara Martinelli, a senior adviser to CIDSE, a network of 17 Catholic development agencies in Europe and North America, noted the importance of Catholic organizations at the talks.

“Change has to start with us, moved by our values, and we have to inspire and empower each other toward the ecological conversion urged by the pope, beginning with daily life and behavior,” she said.

COP25 is expected to agree to new rules for carbon markets under Article 6 of the Paris Agreement. Organizers hope to lay the groundwork for stronger climate pledges in 2020 to bring emissions and temperatures back into line with 2015 commitments.

“Though Tennessee continues to execute, death sentencing and public support for the death penalty are at record lows. Gallup just released a poll showing 60 percent of Americans now prefer life without parole to the death penalty. A majority of jurors in Lee Hall’s trial opposed his execution because they did not have life without parole as a sentencing option,” said the Rev. Stacy Rector, executive director of Tennesseans for Alternatives to the Death Penalty.

Hall, who became functionally blind while in prison, was convicted and sentenced to death in 1991 for the murder of his estranged girlfriend Traci Crozier. According to news reports, Hall threw a lit container full of gas into Crozier’s car after she’d left him because of his physical abuse. Crozier’s family members had spoken out in recent weeks with strong support for Hall’s execution.

The state’s three Catholic bishops, Mark Spalding of Nashville, Richard Stika of Knoxville and David Talley of Memphis, have issued several statements opposing the death penalty.

Their letter in April said, “Rather than serving as a path to justice, the death penalty contributes to the growing disrespect for human life and continues a cycle of violence in society … Even when guilt is certain, the execution is not necessary to protect society.”

In August 2018, building on his predecessors’ opposition to capital punishment, Pope Francis ordered a revision of the Catechism of the Catholic Church, which now says that “the Church teaches, in the light of the Gospel, that ‘the death penalty is inadmissible because it is an attack on the inviolability and dignity of the person,’ and she works with determination for its abolition worldwide.”

“Change has to start with us, moved by our values, and we have to inspire and empower each other toward the ecological conversion urged by the pope, beginning with daily life and behavior,” she said.

COP25 is expected to agree to new rules for carbon markets under Article 6 of the Paris Agreement. Organizers hope to lay the groundwork for stronger climate pledges in 2020 to bring emissions and temperatures back into line with 2015 commitments.
Pope, council of cardinals discuss greater role for lay men and women

JUNNO AROCHO ESTEVES CNS

VATICAN CITY. Pope Francis and the Council of Cardinals reviewed aspects of the draft of the apostolic constitution that would govern the Roman Curia, including a greater role for lay men and women.

The Vatican press office issued a statement Dec. 4 saying the council also discussed the relationship between the Curia – the Church’s central administrative offices – and the bishops’ conferences around the world.

“The activity of the council was aimed at deepening two aspects of importance pertaining to the draft of the new apostolic constitution,” the Vatican said.

It included, “the relations between the Curia and the episcopal conferences and the presence of the lay faithful, men and women, in decision-making roles in the offices of the Curia and in other bodies of the Church, and to study the theological-pastoral basis of these aspects.”

The council members met Dec. 2-4, and Pope Francis was present except when he had a scheduling conflict.

Additionally, the council also listened to “some considerations” offered by Cardinal Sean P. O’Malley of Boston, on the “elaboration of the postsynodal document.”

With regard to the proposed apostolic constitution, provisionally titled “Prædicate evangelium” (“Preach the Gospel”), the council continued to receive “suggestions” on the new document.

Beatification for Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen postponed

TOM DERMODY CNS

PEORIA, Ill. Supporters of the canonization cause for Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen have been invited to take part in a novena starting Dec. 12 to “petition God unceasingly to remove all obstacles” for the beatification of the media pioneer, author and evangelist.

“We are confident in the power of prayer,” Peoria Bishop Daniel R. Jenky said in a video message released Dec. 9, the 40th anniversary of Archbishop Sheen’s death. The video and prayers for the nine-day devotion are found at www.celebratesheen.com.

“I know how deeply saddened we all are about the postponement of the beatification of Fulton Sheen,” said Bishop Jenky, speaking in front of Archbishop Sheen’s statue at St. Mary’s Cathedral in Peoria. “But in these turbulent times facing adversity, keep the faith!”

“A focus on prayer was the hallmark of observances of the 40th anniversary of Archbishop Sheen’s death at age 48 Dec. 9. A grassroots effort launched in the days prior to the anniversary aimed to have a million Masses said all over the world on that day to pray that the beatification would go forward.

The novena is an "established pattern" by the Diocese of Rochester in trying to block the cause.

“I am confident that Sheen’s beatification will eventually take place,” wrote Msgr. Kruse. "Regrettably, certain forces are now inexplicably causing its delay. "But do not lose heart,” he continued. "Follow Sheen’s example: Even when facing adversity, keep the faith!"

A focus on prayer was the hallmark of observances of the 40th anniversary of Archbishop Sheen’s death at age 48 Dec. 9. A grassroots effort launched in the days prior to the anniversary aimed to have a million Masses said all over the world on that day to pray that the beatification would go forward.

The novena announced by Bishop Jenky continues a united prayer effort until Dec. 21.

“Please join me beginning on Dec. 12, the feast day of Our Lady of Guadalupe,” invited Bishop Jenky on the video, “so under her immaculate mantle we can begin a special nine-day novena asking God to please raise up Fulton Sheen and pour out His blessings on his cause for beatification and canonization.”

Subsequent videos of Bishop Jenky leading the novena prayers will be posted at celebratesheen.com, which also has a link to download the text of the novena, including the prayer for canonization to be recited daily. Each day’s text begins with a quote from Archbishop Sheen, followed by a related prayer on topics such as devotion to Mary, the need for confession, and humility.

“How God will judge my life I know not,” begins the Archbishop Sheen quote, “…but I trust he will see me with mercy and compassion. …When the record of any human life is set down, there are three pairs of eyes who see it in a different light. As I see it, as others see it, and as God sees it.”

The videos of the novena also will be shared via social media and Catholic media.

Tom Dermody is editor of The Catholic Post, newspaper of the Diocese of Peoria.
Call me ‘Father’: Pope’s priestly vocation is his favorite gift

By Carol Glatz CNS

VATICAN CITY. In Caravaggio’s painting of Matthew, the sinful tax collector being called by Jesus to “Follow me,” Pope Francis sees the same unexpected, grace-filled moment found in his own call to the priesthood.

A 17-year-old Argentine student headed to a school picnic on Sept. 21, 1953, the feast of St. Matthew, Jorge Bergoglio felt compelled to first stop by his parish of San Jose de Flores.

It was there, speaking with a priest he had never seen before and receiving the sacrament of reconciliation, he was suddenly struck by “the loving presence of God,” who, like his episcopal motto describes, saw him through eyes of mercy and chose him, despite his human imperfections and flaws.

This gift from a “God of surprises,” a God who offers unexpected, unlimited and unmerited mercy, would change the young man’s life.

Four days before Pope Francis celebrates his 83rd birthday Dec. 17, he will celebrate 50 years as a priest—a ministry he sees as being a shepherd who walks with his flock and yearns to find those who are lost.

Even though he served as auxiliary bishop, then archbishop of Buenos Aires, Argentina, for more than 20 years, was elevated to the College of Cardinals in 2001 and elected pope in 2013, he has said, “What I love is being a priest,” which is why of all the titles he could have, “I prefer to be called ‘Father.’”

So much of what Pope Francis experienced in life and his vocation—with its many ups and downs—was influenced what he says today about the priesthood, what it means and what it should be for the Church.

The main and overriding source of inspiration of who a priest must be is rooted in the figure of Jesus in the Gospels. What did he do? How did he react? What did he feel and say? Jesus was always on the road and always attentive to the people he encountered, the pope told priests of Rome in 2014.

Like Jesus and the early apostles, the priest is a missionary, and this was part of the reason a 21-year-old Bergoglio chose to enter the Society of Jesus. “I was attracted to its position on, to put it in military terms, the front lines of the Church, grounded in obedience and discipline. It was also due to its focus on missionary work,” he said in a 2010 book-length compilation of interviews with Sergio Rubin and Francesca Ambrogetti.

But there is a balance the priest must juggle that incorporates Jesus’ compassion and that strong discipline, qualities he needed to do well both at school and at work, beginning with part-time jobs at the age of 13.

He swept floors in a factory, did administrative tasks, worked in a laboratory while specializing in applied chemistry in high school, and worked briefly as a bouncer.

The vocation of a priest, on the other hand, would be the exact opposite for Father Bergoglio; it would be drawing people close, not tossing them out, and not worrying about getting dirty in the process.

“Priests who are – allow me to say the word, ‘aseptic,’ those ‘from the laboratory,’ all clean and tidy – do not help the Church,” the pope told Rome’s priests in 2014.

“Today we can think of the Church as a ‘field hospital,’” he said, because “there are so many people who are wounded by material problems, by scandals, also in the Church. People wounded by the world’s illusions. We priests must be there, close to these people,” immediately treating those wounds with mercy before delving into the details.

A priest will reflect on and learn from his own mistakes, the pope has said, and pray for the grace and courage needed to do what God wants, not what a closed, cold or proud heart desires.

In his many interviews, the pope has acknowledged his failings as a priest. Jesuit provincial, bishop and pope.

But within Christianity, there is “a theology of failure,” according to a 1974 book with the same title written by U.S. Jesuit Father John Navone.

The book and its theology, which emphasized God’s patience, had an important impact on the future pope, who was going through a difficult, dark time after ending a six-year term in 1979 as a young provincial superior who struggled with stark divisions among his confreres.

“There was a blessed juncture between my theology and his crisis,” Father Navone has said. “It was a kind of light in the darkness to him.”

It is only by recognizing and admitting one’s failures, the pope has said, then seeing that God still awaits, still offers mercy and forgiveness like the father of the prodigal son, that a priest will be able to see familiar wounds in others and share, in turn, that same undeserved mercy.

It’s a form of “pastoral suffering” he told priests in Rome in 2014, “it means suffering for and with the person. And this is not easy! To suffer like a father and mother suffer for their children.”

At a time when the priesthood continues to suffer, most visibly with the scandal of abuse and negligence by its members, the pope has continually offered priests a hopeful understanding of their vocation.

Change, transformation and holiness are painful, but “the Lord is purifying his bride and is converting all of us to him. He is making us experience the trial so that we may understand that without him we are dust. He is saving us from hypocrisy, from the spirituality of appearances. He is blowing his Spirit to restore beauty to his bride,” he told Rome’s priests in 2019.

In a letter to priests in 2019, he said, “Our age, marked by old and new wounds, requires us to be builders of relationships and communion, open, trusting and awaiting in hope the newness that the kingdom of God wishes to bring about even today. For it is a kingdom of forgiven sinners called to bear witness to the Lord’s ever-present compass. For his mercy endures forever.”

Pope Francis celebrates morning Mass in the chapel of his residence, the Domus Sanctae Marthae, at the Vatican Dec. 3, 2019.
Bishop Spalding brings blessings from ‘ad limina’ visit back to diocese

Theresa Laurence

Bishop J. Mark Spalding returned to Nashville Dec. 10 from his “ad limina” visit to Rome and brings back a personal message from Pope Francis to the people of the Diocese of Nashville.

“He gave us a very simple message,” Bishop Spalding said. “Go back and tell your people that God loves them, Jesus loves them, the Spirit is working with them and in them. Through the intercession of the Blessed Mother, all things can work out in God’s will.”

Bishop Spalding and other bishops from five Southeastern states made their “ad limina” visit to Rome Dec. 1-7 to report on the status of their dioceses to Pope Francis and officials from the various Vatican offices.

According to canon law, the bishop of every diocese is required every five years to make a trip — “ad limina apostolorum” — “to the threshold of the apostles” Peter and Paul. During the visit, they are required to pray at the tombs of St. Peter and St. Paul and typically celebrate Mass at all the major basilicas in Rome.

The other purpose of the “ad limina” visit for the bishops is to report to the pope and Vatican officials on the status of the diocese entrusted to them.

One of Bishop Spalding’s takeaways from his first “ad limina” visit was a feeling of connectedness between himself, his fellow bishops, and Pope Francis.

“There was an ecclesial and pastoral side to the visit that connected the Holy Father to me and me to the Holy Father. It connected me to his ministry for the universal Church.”

Bishop Spalding said that while the U.S. media sometimes presents U.S. bishops and the pope as divided, “my experience in that room was a very fraternal discussion. There was a feeling of communion between the pope and us.”

Not only was Pope Francis speaking to the bishops as the leader of the Church, Bishop Spalding said, but also “from the heart” as “a brother bishop and a fellow disciple of Jesus Christ.”

Bishop Spalding’s experience in Rome, spending time with his fellow bishops from Region V, which includes bishops from 18 dioceses in the states of Alabama, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, Tennessee, and U.S. Virgin Islands, West Virginia, the Archdiocese for the Military Services, Louisiana, Alabama, Kentucky, Mississippi and Tennessee.

Pope Francis greets Bishop J. Mark Spalding, during a meeting with U.S. bishops from Regions IV and V making their “ad limina” visits to the Vatican, Dec. 3, 2019. The regions include the District of Columbia, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, U.S. Virgin Islands, West Virginia, the Archdiocese for the Military Services, Louisiana, Alabama, Kentucky, Mississippi and Tennessee.

One of the positive aspects that bishops from the Southeastern region spoke about on their “ad limina” visits is that, “In the South there seems to be an appreciation of faith and religion in the culture itself still, which differs from other areas in the United States,” Bishop Spalding said. And that can help foster the faith of global Catholic immigrants in their new home.

Overall, Bishop Spalding’s first “ad limina” visit was “a good experience, a learning experience, and a supportive experience for me as a bishop.”

Pope Francis poses for a photo during a meeting with U.S. bishops from Regions IV and V during their “ad limina” visits. Bishop Spalding is on the far left.
Celebrating Our Lady of Guadalupe

Hispanic Catholics in Nashville joined others around the world in celebrating the Dec. 12 feast day of Our Lady of Guadalupe, honoring the Virgin Mary. In the Diocese of Nashville, special celebrations were held at Our Lady of Guadalupe, Sagrado Corazon and other churches Dec. 11 and 12. Photos, clockwise from top right: Bishop J. Mark Spalding celebrated Mass at Sagrado Corazon on Dec. 11, assisted by associate pastor Father Alejandro Godinez. Manuel Rios leads the “Danza Azteca” dancers as they pay homage to Our Lady of Guadalupe. Men carried a flower-adorned image of Our Lady of Guadalupe outside around the parking lot of the Catholic Pastoral Center before Mass. Javier Ovares, center, portrayed St. Juan Diego in a play about the story of the young man who saw the vision of Mary in 1531 near modern-day Mexico City. Our Lady of Guadalupe is the Patroness of the Americas.
Deacon Ron Shaw, who lived life of service, dies at 73

Andy Telli

Whether it was as a U.S. Marine, Metro Nashville police officer, social worker or deacon, the thread that wove through the life of Deacon Ronald (Ron) Richard Shaw Sr. was service.

“The love of God is about serving one another,” Deacon Shaw told the Tennessee Register in 2016. It’s all about taking care of one another and respecting one another.

Deacon Shaw died on Thanksgiving, Nov. 28, 2019, at the Veterans Administration Medical Center in Nashville. He was 73 years old. Deacon Shaw, who served at St. Ignatius of Antioch Church since his ordination as a permanent deacon in 2014, was diagnosed with cancer in March 2019.

The funeral Mass was celebrated on Wednesday, Dec. 4, with burial with military honors at Calvary Cemetery. Deacon Shaw was born in Thomasville, North Carolina on Nov. 11, 1946, the son of Richard and Ruth Shaw. He grew up in North Carolina, where he was an Eagle Scout, before moving to Nashville while a high school student. He graduated from Antioch High School and enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps at age 19. After 14 months of training, he shipped out for Vietnam in 1967, where he served as a helicopter crew chief, ferrying supplies and troops to the front, as well as carrying the wounded out of combat and participating in search and rescue missions. He earned his combat wings the same day he arrived in Vietnam.

“We were the main support for everything north of Chu Lai,” Deacon Shaw told the Register in 2016. During his time in Vietnam, Deacon Shaw was involved in 27 different campaigns, including the Battle of Hue, the Tet Offensive, and the months-long siege of the combat base at Khe Sanh. Despite being surrounded by the violence and death of war, Deacon Shaw never lost faith.

“The whole time I was in Vietnam, I was very strong in my faith,” he said. “What you realize is everything you were taught growing up is turned upside down. It’s the faith that pulled you through.”

“God had to be the center,” Deacon Shaw added. “No matter whether it was a good day, a bad day, whatever, no matter how many friends you lost, you had to hold onto your faith.”

After leaving the Marine Corps, Deacon Shaw returned to Nashville, where he eventually joined the Metro Nashville Police Department. As a police officer, Deacon Shaw spent time as a patrol officer, working in forensics, as a detective, and as a motor-cycle officer. “I loved it,” he said of his 27 years as a police officer.

He retired in 1998 after he was injured when his motorcycle was hit by a driver while he was on duty. After retiring, Deacon Shaw earned a master’s degree in social work and became a counselor. In 2010, he joined the formation program for the permanent diaconate and was ordained in 2014. He was assigned to serve at St. Ignatius, where he was a parishioner since 1982.

Deacon Shaw converted to Catholicism after marrying his wife of 46 years, Diane. “Catholics don’t know what they have their hands on. They are the Mother Church,” he said. “I love my faith…. I’ve always loved my God.”

All his experiences, both good and bad, helped him in his role as a deacon, he said in 2016. “When you go through a crisis in life we ask, Why do I have to go through this? why, why, why? The truth is God is preparing you for what’s to come.” He said, “How could I be a better crisis counselor if I hadn’t had a crisis? If you have a real relationship with God, he always answers.”

Deacon Shaw was a long-standing member of the Knights of Columbus.

“He loved serving his country, community, family, friends, as well as anyone in need,” recalled his family.

He was preceded in death by his parents, his step-daughter Tammy Wilker-son, and grandchild Joseph Wilkerson. Survivors include his wife, Diane; his sons, Ronald (Rebecca) and Michael, his daughter, Lisa (Chad); his brother, Jerry (Shirley); his sister, Trish (Alan); grandchildren Aaron (Kasey), Josh (Linda), Gavin, Halee, Katelyn, Alyn, Linda, Dylan and Landon; and great-grandchildren Gracie, Dakota, Joseph, Johney, Jenna, Jayna and Maledi.

Memorial contributions can be made to St. Ignatius of Antioch Church, 601 Bell Road, Antioch, Tennessee. Crowd Mortuary and Crematory was in charge of arrangements.

Jim Galvin, supporter of vocations, dies at 83

James Joseph “Jim” Galvin Sr., of Gallatin, the founder of Miracle Ford and Miracle Chrysler Dodge Jeep Ram in Gallatin and a member of the Serra Club and supporter of the annual Seminarium Education Dinner and Auction, died on Saturday, Nov. 30, 2019. He was 83 years old.

The funeral Mass was celebrated on Friday, Dec. 6, at Our Lady of the Lake Church in Hendersonville, with interment in Hendersonville Memory Gardens. Pallbearers were Jimmy Odell, Timmy Galvin, Matthew Galvin, Michael Martini, Nick Martini and Tom Janisse.

Mr. Galvin was born in Detroit on March 24, 1936, the son of the late Dr. Paul Galvin and Veronica Dillon Galvin. He worked for Ford Motor Co. for 25 years before establishing and operating Miracle Ford and Miracle Chrysler Dodge Jeep Ram.

A resident of Gallatin, Mr. Galvin was a parishioner at Our Lady of the Lake, where he was a member of the Knights of Columbus, and ministering to the priesthood and religious life, the Knights of Columbus, and ministering to the sick. Mr. Galvin also enjoyed playing golf and was an avid sportsman, especially watching Detroit sports teams, the University of Notre Dame and Vanderbilt University.

Survivors include his wife of more than 59 years, Shella Janisse Galvin; four children, Lynn Odell (Jim), Jim Galvin Jr. (Kathy), Tim J. Galvin (Tracie), and Lori Martini-Mike); 14 grandchildren, Jimmy Odell, Pamela Wegenka (Joe), Erin Bade (Dan), Timmy Galvin, Annie Twelwell (Matthew); six children, Nelson (Kate), Odell, Sarah Galvin, Jamie Galvin, Matthew Galvin, Michael Martini, Maria Martini, Nick Martini and Ella Martini; five great-grandchildren, Annabelle and Caroline Bade, Ava Grace Galvin, Charlie Wegenka, and Emma Twelwell; eight siblings, Paul Galvin (Mickey), Pat Galvin (Ces), Mary Frances Dietz (Dr. Gerald Dietz), Bill Galvin (Lynn), Maureen Cletten, Rosemary Etue, Sharon Stokes (Bob), and Theresa Sanders (Rick), and a host of nieces and nephews.

Memorial contributions can be made to the Catholic Community Foundation of Middle Tennessee for the Serra Club of Nashville (www.ccftmn.org).

Survivors include his wife, Dianne; his daughter, Lisa (Chad); his brother, Jerry (Shirley); his sister, Trish (Alan); grandchildren Aaron (Kasey), Josh (Linda), Gavin, Halee, Katelyn, Alyn, Linda, Dylan and Landon; and great-grandchildren Gracie, Dakota, Joseph, Johney, Jenna, Jayna and Maledi.

Memorial contributions can be made to Saint Thomas Midtown Hospital. She was 93 years old.

The funeral Mass was celebrated at the St. Cecilia Chapel on Wednesday, Dec. 4, by the motherhouse chaplain, Father Mark Chrismer. Burial in the convent cemetery followed.

Born in Jackson, Tennessee, Sister Mary Benedict was the daughter of the late Frank and Marguerite Carr Ryan. She attended St. Mary’s School in Jackson, which was run by the Dominican Sisters, then was a boarder at St. Cecilia Academy in Nashville for her high school years.


Sister Mary Benedict had a great love of languages, particularly French, and a remarkable memory and agile mind which served her well all her life. Although she had a wide scope of interests, she was particularly devoted to reading spiritual works by St. Therésie of Lisieux, St. Elizabeth of the Trinity, and St. John of the Cross.

She is survived by her brother and sister-in-law, Patrick and Sue Ryan, of Jackson, and their two sons.
D\n\ning stocks and other secur-
ed to the Church and not have to give
\ns to pay capital gains taxes on the proceeds from the sale,
Budd explained. But if they donate the stocks as a gift, and the charity sells the stock, then neither the donor nor the non-profit charity are required to pay capital gains taxes, he said.

“It doesn’t have to be an individual stock,” said Budd, a parishioner at Holy Family Church in Brentwood. “It can be shares in a mutual fund. It can be any type of security. They can gift that to the Church and not have to give cash.”

Budd, whose offices are in the Cool Springs area in Franklin, has been helping families with their financial planning for 20 years.

There are a variety of situations where donating stocks or securities might be the most advantageous way for an individual to support a ministry or charity important to them, he said.

“When somebody has a lot of one stock it can cause a diversity problem,” Budd said. Donating some of the stock allows them to better balance their investment portfolio and take advantage of the tax break by making a charitable donation, he said.

“When people who are older than 70 and a half years old and under federal law have to take a required minimum distribution from their IRA accounts, they have to pay taxes on those distributions, Budd said. But if they make a qualified charitable distribution from their IRA to a non-profit charity, they can avoid the tax bill on the distribution and support a cause important to them, he added.

“It’s the same way when you get into estate planning,” Budd said. When people inherit the balance of an IRA they have to pay taxes on that money, he said. But people can name the non-profit charity as the beneficiary and avoid paying taxes on the donation, Budd added.

“Stock gifts are quick and easy to make,” said diocesan Stewardship Director Ashley Linville. All they require is a quick call to a person’s stock broker, he said.

“It’s a pretty easy process,” Linville explained. Once a person donates the stock to the diocese or the parish, the stock is sold and the proceeds go to the recipient, he said. “We don’t hold onto the stock.”

People should consider charitable donations as part of their estate planning, Budd said. As people get older and have built up their net worth, they start to think about how they can leave behind a legacy for their family and the charities they care about, he said.

“When people realize there are many options available to them, Budd said, “They go ‘wow … I can leave a legacy behind.’”

Planned giving can take many forms, the most common of which is a bequest in a person’s will, Linville said. But there are other ways, such as trusts, charitable gift annuities or life insurance policies, he added.

Each method offers a different tax advantage to the donor, depending on what their individual situation is, Linville said.

“First thing I would always recommend if somebody is interested in making a planned gift or the tax advantages of planned giving, always first talk to their financial advisor or attorney,” Linville said. “They’ll always know the person’s situation in detail and know what types of gifts are best for them so they can maximize their gifts to their loved ones and to the Church and their favorite charities.”

Donors can make a planned gift to their parish, the diocese or their favorite charity, Linville said.

For more information about remembering a parish or the diocese with a planned gift or with an end-of-year gift, contact Linville at ashley.linville@dioceseofnashville.com or 615-645-9768.

Fidelity Home Loans, LLC
Better Rates, Faster Service!
My clients tell me the rate I got them was anywhere from 25% -50% better than what their bank or other lender quoted them.
I will be glad to review what other lenders have offered you and give you a honest opinion on whether it is the best deal for you. Dare to compare.
Because I offer one on one service, your loan is only handled by me to ensure fast seamless processing of your loan.
If you are looking at buying a new home, let me get you pre-approved to buy that home. It is FREE so call me today.
Member of Holy Family Catholic Church, K of C 4th Degree
Certified Mortgage Banker
Phone 615-377-0769 • Fax 615-376-9555

Click to send this article to a colleague

#IGiveCatholic a success
Continued from page 4
after Thanksgiving. The #IGiveCatholic campaign was directed specifically at Catholic schools and ministries and has grown to now include 40 dio-
ceses.
Giving online makes supporting the parishes, schools and ministries of the diocese easy, said Schuler. “It’s quick and fast and easy,” Schuler said. “They can access it from their phone.”
St. Patrick is moving more and more to online giving, Sister Mary Grace said. “It seems like it’s an easy way for people to give.”
“Were so grateful to the diocese for giving us this opportunity,” she added.
The campaign has the potential to grow in the future, Schuler said. “This time being the first time, people hold back seeing what it is and how it works. I think if they do it again next year, more people will participate. People will understand how it works.”
“We definitely want to get feedback from everyone about how the day went,” Linville said. “The numbers look good but we really want to hear feedback … what worked well, what we can do better.”
To see how much each of the min-

How Santa and his Reindeer Came to Fly
Discover the Secret!
By local Catholic JG Matyas
Available now from
www.westbowpress.com
For more information
www.howsantacametofly.com

How Santa and His Reindeer Came to Fly
DISCOVER THE SECRET!
By local Catholic JG Matyas
Available now from
www.westbowpress.com
For more information
www.howsantacametofly.com
The true meaning of Christmas is the hope of God’s mercy

St. Joseph found peace by trusting in the mystery of God

In the television classic “A Charlie Brown Christmas,” our hapless hero searches for the true meaning of Christmas. As he wanders around, he’s called to the store to store to store, put up decorations, and cook for the big family gathering. It’s easy to forget the true meaning of Christmas. And like Charlie, we might want to throw up our hands and ask, “Does anybody know what it’s all about?”

And like Linus, the Church steps forward to tell us it does. Through Scripture, liturgy and tradition the Church reminds us that God, who created all things, came into this world as a child, destined to die for our sakes and to be raised to eternal salvation. In his sacrifice, he is the hope for all humanity, across all time. Even in his name, Emmanuel, which means “God with us,” is a reminder of that hope. Through the joys and troubles of our human lives, God is with us. He will never abandon us.

Our call is to celebrate God’s mercy for us and to share it with all humanity, the rich and the poor, the powerful and the voiceless, the saved and the lost.

In his “Urbi et Orbi” message last Christmas, Pope Francis told the world, “The face of God’s mercy comes through love, acceptance, respect for this poor humanity of ours, which we all share in a great variety of races, languages, and cultures. Yet all of us are brothers and sisters in humanity!”

Let us celebrate this Christmas with our human family, of which God is our parent.

From the staff of the Tennessee Register, we wish you, our readers, a holy, joyful, merry Christmas.

| Screenshot of Charlie Brown, Linus, and the “Charlie Brown Christmas Tree.” |

St. Joseph found peace by trusting in the mystery of God

Father Herb Weber CNS

At one point in the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults program each year I ask participants a seemingly simple question: “Is it possible to know God?” There is usually discussion and then consensus that it is an impossible question to answer.

In truth, it is meant as a trick question. On one hand, God is a God of self-revelation. If you read the Scriptures, God gives messages to Abraham and his descendants. God speaks through the burning bush or in the pillar of cloud. And God’s presence is proclaimed powerfully through the words of the prophets. God is not unknown.

On the other hand, some members of the group come to a different response: to truly know God would require each of us to be equal to God. Therefore, God cannot be fully known. As in any loving relationship, the depth of God’s being cannot be fully fathomed.

It is at this point that our conversation addresses questions about God’s being. We speak of God fully and how to respond to the unknown part. Inevitably, I take the time to introduce God as mystery. A fully faithful life is lived in the mystery of God even as the faithful come to know God more and more.

As the Church contemplates the role of Joseph in the Nativity event, encountering mystery is a great place to start.

Matthew’s Gospel, which is read at Sunday Mass throughout this coming year, provides the image of Joseph facing crucial questions and ultimately entrusting himself to the plan of God, which he totally and completely cannot understand.

By faith, however, he allows himself to be drawn into the tremendous mystery of Incarnation.

Mystery, by definition, is beyond analysis and control. Mystery is attractive but beyond analysis and control. Beyond self-grasping, naming the ultimate revelation of God, God as human!

It is likely that many people, perhaps especially men, put themselves in the position of Joseph. How can someone accept the fact that the innocent and pure betrothed woman he is planning to marry is already with child. Furthermore, he knows he is not the father. Joseph’s heart must have ached.

The use of dreams in Matthew’s Gospel is a great way to convey God’s plan that intersects human understanding.

Joseph, in short, surrendered himself to the mystery. He does not understand but he trusts. Likely, trust is the more valuable attribute.

That leads to another aspect of this account, one of discernment. This is the process by which humans attempt to understand God’s will in their lives. Even if really knowing God is limited, coming to know God’s plan can be much more likely.

Over the years I have known many people who spend a great amount of time “discerning” a big decision that must be made.

Often, they go into overdrive trying to find out God’s plan for them regarding vocation choice, use of personal wealth, or even how to vote. These can be major decisions, but the real process of discernment must start way before one is confronted with big decisions.

A nun who is changing ministries recently told me that she is taking a year off after her present assignment to discern the future. Perhaps that time away can be clarifying and renewing. However, discernment doesn’t just happen when people leave their present day-to-day tasks.

Discernment, simply stated, is an awareness of God already active in our lives each day. As such, people become conscious of their strengths and weaknesses.

It is not simply what someone wants or even what that person is called to do. If a person is faithful to prayer of listening and is surrounded by honest support, God’s plan becomes clear much more easily. Joseph simply could not have decided to accept pregnant Mary because of a dream alone. There was a context for this, and that context was that Joseph was already, according to Scripture, a just and compassionate man.

He had already been allowing God to direct his life. In the New Testament he proclaims no great canicules as Mary did in Luke’s Gospel. Instead, there is quiet certitude and commitment.

In Joseph’s own prayer life, there likely already had been some sense of trust in the mystery of God. He was well versed in the Torah and would have known God to be both imminent and transcendent.

His experience would have included daily prayer and a great expectation of the promise of salvation. For this to unfold in his own married life.

Columns and letters to the editor represent the views of authors alone. No viewpoint expressed necessarily reflects any position of the publisher, of any Tennessee Register staff member, or of the Diocese of Nashville.

The Tennessee Register is published by the Diocese of Nashville and welcomes your comments and opinions. Please clearly mark letters to the editor and send to:

Tennessee Register
2800 McGavock Pike
Nashville, TN 37214

You may fax your letters or comments to the Register at (615) 783-0285. By e-mail: tnregister@dioceseofnashville.com.

For unto you is born this day in the City of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you: Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger.' And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God, and saying, 'Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.'”

When Charles Schultz, the creator of the “Peanuts” cartoon strip, was writing the script for the Christmas special, he insisted on contemplating the Scripture reading. At the time it was rare for Scripture to be read on television.

The reason the show is a classic is because it is timeless. Just as all the kids around Charlie Brown were caught up in the season’sextravagant trappings of Christmas, hoping to be showered with things and money, we too can find ourselves caught up in the buzz of activity and the stress of the season as we rush from store to store, put up decorations, and cook for the big meal.

Joseph’s simple act of accepting the power of this Incarnation once he had decided to accept pregnant Mary because of a dream alone. There was a context for this, and that context was that Joseph was already, according to Scripture, a just and compassionate man.

The true meaning of Christmas is the hope of God’s mercy.
God asks for our honest, total love, nothing more, nothing less

**Next Sunday**

**Mscr. Owen F. Campion**

**BACKGROUND.** The weekend of Dec. 22 the Church celebrates the fourth and last Sunday of Advent 2019.

For its first reading, the weekend’s liturgy offers a reading from the first section of the Book of Isaiah. This reading refers to King Ahaz of the southern Hebrew kingdom of Judah.

Ahaz reigned in the last third of the Eighth Century before Christ. To be kind, he is not regarded as having been a remarkably successful king. Prompting Isaiah’s interest was the nation’s regard as having been a remarkable success king.

St. Paul’s Epistle to the Romans provides the second reading. Introducing himself, Paul firmly states that he is an Apostle, called by the Lord to proclaim the Gospel. Above and beyond everything, he insisted, he was God’s servant.

For its last reading, the Church presents a section from the Gospel of Matthew. Only two of the four Gospels, both of them Synoptics, recount the birth of Jesus. Matthew is one of these Gospels. Luke is the other.

The weekend’s reading recalls the conception of Jesus. It says clearly, as Luke states, that Jesus had no earthly father, but the Lord was the son of Mary, a human being.

In this story, Joseph is concerned, to say the least. He first, understandably, wonders if his betrothed has been unfaithful to him. How else could Mary have become pregnant? An angel Gabriel, one of God’s messengers, relieves Joseph’s mind by revealing that the unborn child is in fact the Son of God.

It is more than simply a chronicle of the conception and birth of Jesus, divine though these events may have been.

The coming of the Messiah is a sign, perfect and penultimate, of God’s everlasting love for humankind. God never fails, is never absent from people.

**Reflection**

The weekend of Dec. 22 the Church calls us to observe the last Sunday of Advent. The season of Advent is the careful and focused period preceding Christmas. In our culture, it is a time to prepare gifts to present to those whom we love.

The custom of gift-giving has religious origins. It mimics the Magi, who brought gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh to the baby Jesus. We give gifts to others, in whom we see Jesus, precious because the Lord died for them. Love, the very essence of God, impels us.

Advent calls us to give ourselves to God.

An old European legend has a message. Once, in a great city, it was Christmas. The people presented gifts before the Nativity scene in the cathedral. The rich and mighty vied with each other to offer the most expensive gift.

A poor orphan boy dreamed of offering a gift, but he had nothing. One day, he found an old gold button on the street. He took it, scrubbed it, and laboriously polished it. Tiny, bent and broken, it nevertheless gleamed with his unquestioning love.

Christmas came. In full view of the whole congregation, the “important” people paraded to the crib and placed their gaudy gifts before it.

This cathedral had great bells in its tower. At times, without cause, they suddenly would ring. People said that they rang when God was pleased.

Ashamed of his paltry gift, the boy knelt in the shadows until Mass ended. Then, with no one watching, he laid his little button before the image of the Christ Child. The bells rang out in a melody more beautiful than anyone could remember.

God asks for our honest, total love, nothing more, nothing less.

**Mary Margaret Lambert**

**PINCH OF FAITH**

I

n 1977, Debby Boone, daughter of crooner Pat Boone, had a hit song entitled “You Light Up My Life.” It was nominated for a Grammy award for the record of the year and was subsequently recorded by Whitney Houston and LeAnn Rimes.

I never fail to think of this song during the Christmas season when all the lights shine brightly in preparation for the upcoming holiday.

There are several places where the public can see beautiful light displays during December, but perhaps the most amazing is a large local hotel and convention center that has put on an illuminated extravaganza for the past 35 years.

People come from miles around and patiently wait in long lines of traffic just to see the amazing array of more than 3 million Christmas lights. Preparations for this huge project begin in July, and the displays are designed with countless bright colors.

Not one single strand of lights is burnt out and I marvel at the ingenuity and engineering that it must require to create this fete.

I love to decorate with lights also, but I truly believe that I am lacking the gene that enables others to drape hundreds of lights throughout their yards and on their homes, plug them in and get the thrill of seeing their hard work materialize.

A few years ago, I discovered timers. These little jewels are real game changers. No more traipsing outside in my jam-mies in the bitter cold, rain, or snow, just to turn on the lights come.

However, the timer requires some programming, so I delegate that task to my husband. After Christmas, every year, I carefully wind the lights around plastic holders designed specifically to keep the cords from tangling. When it comes time to put them out again the following December, I unpack the lights, replace the non-functioning bulb, and plug everything all connected and plugged the end plug into the timer. The lights were set to come on at 5 p.m.

I checked every 10 minutes to see if all was dark, and nothing was happening. I felt like Chevy Chase in the movie “Christmas Vacation.”

I hung everything down, tested and restrung the lights. That evening, all but one strand of lights finally blinked on. It was one of those strings of lights that clearly state on their packaging: “If one light goes out, the others will remain lit.” This, my friends, is a boldfaced lie.

I removed the defective string and replaced it with about two remaining feet of garland, so I just let the unit portion hang down until I could return to the store for another strand.

Charlie Brown’s tree would have fit right into this display. So far, this reasonably easy task had turned into a major project, and I vowed to follow the lead of the big hotel display next year and start on my lights in the summer.

Although my pitiful light display will never rival that of others, I will recall the brightness star in the heavens that led the shepherds and wise men to the stable in Bethlehem many years ago as I sing to the baby Jesus:

“You light up my life. You give me hope to carry on. You light up my days and fill my nights with song.”

**Mary Margaret Lambert**
Scouts honored for earning religious emblems

Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts in the Diocese of Nashville who have earned religious emblems and their leaders were honored at a recent Mass with Bishop J. Mark Spalding. Fifty of the more than 160 Scouts who earned the emblems were on hand to receive them at the Mass celebrated by Bishop Spalding and concelebrated by Father Pat Kibby, pastor of St. Stephen Catholic Community, and Father Dan Steiner, pastor of Holy Rosary Church, and assisted by Deacon Dominic Azzara of Immaculate Conception Church in Clarksville.

The God is Love emblem is awarded to students in kindergarten or first grade and five girls receiving this emblem: Sarah Ellers, Natalia McCullers, Maggie Pryor, Abigail Stephens, Haven Wyner and Gabriella Kolsnyk. The next group of Girl Scouts were awarded the Family of God Emblem, which is for students in the second and third grades: Sophia Ambarian, Madeline Baker, Aurora Brookman and Sydney Dean.

Girl Scouts in grades four and five receive the I Live my Faith emblem, and two girls were presented this emblem: Emma Cambrian and Pauline Juriewicz. The Marian Medal is presented to girls in the 6th through 10th grades, and there was one recipient: Alyssa White. The Spirit Alive award is for 11th and 12th graders, and there were two presented: Christina LaPorte and Madeline McDaniel.

Boy Scouts’ awards begin with the Light of Christ, which is awarded to first and second grade students. Ten were honored for earning this award during the ceremony: Jacob Bell, Zachary Lange, Brandon Schubenberg, Benjamin Berry, Jessica Gadle, Jack Hutchings, Noah Lange, Wyatt Lange, Anthony Lovett and Frank M. Sokol.

The Parvuli Dei emblem is awarded to Scouts in the third through fifth grades, and eight Scouts were honored: Noah Lange, Wyatt Lange, Benjamin Berry, Dominic Pryor, Jack Hutchings, Brandi Laporte, Daniel Lovett and Stas McConkey. Next up on the ceremony stand were those Scouts that earned the Ad Altare Dei emblem, presented to youth in the 7th through 12th grade. Eight Scouts completed requirements for presentation of the Ad Altare Dei emblem: Lance Best, Samuel Hutto, Benjamin Francis Elliott Lavelle, Benjamin Maxwell, Stephen Meier, Matthew Solarz, Jack Suderth and Will Suderth.

The Pope Pius XII emblem is presented to those Scouts that have previously been awarded the Ad Altare Dei emblem but are still in high school. One Scout was presented this award during the ceremony: Truman James McDaniel. The highest rank in Boy Scouts is the Eagle Rank, which is presented to approximately 4 percent of young men involved in Scouting. Five Scouts were recognized for attaining the rank of Eagle Scout: Daniel Farone, John “Jack” Alexander Kaley, Benjamin Francis Elliott Lavelle, Truman James McDaniel and Jayden Sturgeon.

A necessary part of the Scouting program is the adult leaders that provide the example of their faith and belief in God and their life skill of leadership. Without these women and men willing to devote their time, talent and treasure, the list of Scouts earning the religious emblems would be woefully short, so it is because of their commitment there are awards for the adults also.

Nine men and women were awarded the Bronze Pelican for their contribution to the development of Catholic youth in the program of the Boy Scouts of America: Sebastian R. Bell, Mary-Claire Bryan, Mark Cole, Harry Fisk, Mary Haynes, Megan Hutchings, Brandi Laporte, Dan Maxwell and Stephanie McDaniel.

The next award for adults was the St. Elizabeth Ann Seton emblem, created by the National Federation of Catholic Youth Ministry, presented to seven men and women: Deacon Dominic D. Azzara, Paul E. Bell, W. Harvey Carter, Jim Guschke, Mary Haynes, Terry Luckett and Stephanie McDaniel. The St. Anne emblem was created by the National Catholic Committee on Scouting to honor the outstanding service of adults contributing to the spiritual development of Catholic youth in Boy Scouts. Those honored were: Jim Guschke, Jasen Ingram, Dave Lavel and Terry Luckett.

POSITION AVAILABLE

CONTROLLER
Mary, Queen of Angels, Nashville

Mary, Queen of Angels is seeking a Controller to manage all aspects of accounting and benefit administration for three senior living organizations.

Overview:
• Compile and analyze financial information and reports to maintain GL and intellectual financial positions.
• Maintain accounting systems and accounting control procedures.
• Supervise management office bookkeeping staff; collaborate with facility managers to coordinate facility-based bookkeeping tasks.
• Coordinate audit preparation and government-required reporting.
• Review payables and receivables; review biweekly payroll; cross train on bookkeeper functions in order to perform back-up responsibilities.
• Reconcile bank accounts; make recommendations regarding accounting of reserves, assets, and expenditures.
• Assist in annual budget process.
• Participate in decisions pertaining to benefits; manage benefit payments; oversee new hire orientation process.
• Participate in strategic and tactical planning activities with senior management team.

Requirements:
• Bachelor’s degree in accounting or business
• 3+5 years business management experience
• Proficiency in Microsoft Word and Excel
• Experience with Sage 100 accounting software a plus
• No travel required

Benefits:
• Competitive compensation package
• Medical, dental, vision, life, and LTD insurance
• 401(k) with company match and pension
• Paid Time Off
• 35-hour work week

Interested candidates must send their resume with cover letter to: Employment@DioceseOfNashville.com.

Please send cover letter and resume to Lynn.Rochon@maryqueenofangels.com.
Four Ryan sign athletic scholarships

Four Father Ryan High School seniors recently signed scholarship offers to play their respective sports in college. Two stalwarts of the Father Ryan girls volleyball team for the last four years signed scholarship offers to play collegiate soccer on Monday, Dec. 9, at the school. Libby Rummo signed to play for Western Kentucky University in Bowling Green, Kentucky, and Hannah Morton signed to play for the University of North Carolina Greensboro, in Greensboro, North Carolina.

It’s Kind of appropriate that they are both doing this together on the same day,” said Robin Dieterich, Father Ryan’s soccer coach. “As freshmen, they made an impact as soon as they came on.”

The two four-year starters for the Lady Irish helped Father Ryan win a state championship as freshmen. In their junior and senior seasons, the team led to the state championship match, where they finished runners-up.

“We’re going to miss them,” Dietrich said. “We want to wish these two the best as they move on.”

Rummo, who was signed to play as a forward for the Hilltoppers, is the daughter of Becky and Paul Rummo and a parishioner at St. Philip Church in Franklin.

She was named the Region Most Valuable Player as a senior, was named All-Region all four years, and All-State in 2018. She also has also been named first team All-Region and All-United States.

In her high school career, she scored 41 goals and notched 48 assists.

Western Kentucky is an NCAA Division I program that competes in Conference USA. Morton, who was signed to play the midfield for UNC Greensboro, is the daughter of Nancy and Craig Morton and a parishioner at Holy Family Church in Brentwood.

She was named to the All-Region team all four years at Father Ryan and was named All-State the last three years. During her career at Father Ryan, she scored 66 goals and had 49 assists.

UNC Greensboro is an NCAA Division II program that competes in the Southern Conference.

DeTrude Morton and a parishioner at Holy Family Church in Brentwood.

Four Ryan signs athletic scholarships.

Father Ryan Coach (Mike) Mascari and his staff have been so influential in developing the Father Ryan program, and to preparing all our players to be athletes and people who would be strong contributions to a major college program,” DeTrude said. “That’s one of the reasons I have loved being part of this team. We believe in the value of hard work and we have seen that work pay off each year with ever-improving performances. I am grateful to Father Ryan and all my coaches for helping me to make this possible.”

The UT-Martin Skyhawks are an NCAA Division I program that competes in the Ohio Valley Conference.

Delana King signed to play volleyball for the Buccaneers of East Tennessee State University in Johnson City.

She played club volleyball most recently as an outside hitter/defensive specialist for Tennessee Performance Volleyball Club after playing the Irish in high school.

King is a St. Bernard Academy alumna and participates in the Social Justice Club at Father Ryan. She is the daughter of Tammy and Jeff King.

The ETSU Buccaneers are an NCAA Division I program that competes in the Southern Conference.

Pope asks Catholics to set up, be enchanted by a Nativity scene

Continued from page 2

he came into our world, but it also makes us reflect on how our life is part of God’s own life. It invites us to become his disciples if we want to attain ultimate meaning in life.”

Knowing that some families keep to the essential characters and setting while others add all sorts from across our state that represent what’s best in high school athletics.

“Being recognized for one of these awards as a school or individual should be seen as one of the highest honors in high school athletics in our state,” said Tim Ward Childress, TSSAA executive director. “Those who receive the awards truly reflect what high school athletics should be about, and that’s good sportsmanship and good citizenship.”

Yarbrough has led the Lady Bison to District and Region championships for the last three years. The team qualified for the state tournament in 2018. She has been the head coach at Station Camp for nine years.

Four Ryan signs athletic scholarships.

Father Ryan coach receives certification

C hris Foreman, an archivist at Father Ryan High School, is one of eight 2019 graduates of the Tennessee Archives Institute, earning an Archives Management Certification.

Foreman and the other graduates completed three years of course work through the institute. Tennessee Secretary of State Tre Hargett presented the Archive Management Certification to Foreman and the other graduates.

The Tennessee Archives Institute is an annual two-and-a-half day workshop on the principles and practices of archival management and records preservation, hosted by the Tennessee State Library and Archives.

This year’s institute included sessions on digital project planning, sources and sites for references, services, confidential records and the open records policy, and care and conservation of historic documents and photographs from Library and Archives conservators. Participants also took tours of the Tennessee State Library and Archives, Nashville Metro Archives, and the Nashville Public Library Special Collections and Civil Rights Room.
Dear Bishop Spalding, please accept my continued support of the 2019 Bishop's Annual Appeal for Ministries.

Parish: ____________________________________________________
Name(s):__________________________________________________
Address: __________________________________________________
Email: ____________________________________________________
Phone:. ___________________________________________________

☐ Dear Bishop Spalding, in your prayer intentions, please include: ________________________________________

To pay by credit card, please complete the following; or go to www.dioceseofnashville.com
☐ American Express  ☐ Discover  ☐ Master Card  ☐ Visa
Name as it appears on credit card ___________________________
Other Instructions: ________________________________________
Card No. ____________________  Exp. Date ____  CW/CID ______

☐ Monthly Bank Debit: I hereby authorize the Diocese of Nashville to initiate debit entries to the checking account as it appears on the attached voided check. My pledge will be deducted in monthly installments beginning February through December 31, unless otherwise instructed.

Signature _________________________________________________

☐ Total Pledge: _______________Amount Enclosed: _____________

☐ I would like to contribute:
☐ Annually with my one-time gift

Bishop's Annual Appeal Donor Societies:
☐ $15,000 or more  The Society of Bishop Miles
☐ $10,000 to $14,999 The Shepherd's Circle
☐ $5,000 to $9,999 The Society of Angels and Saints
☐ $2,500 to $4,999 The Society of Stewards
☐ $1,500 to $2,499 The Society of Apostles
☐ $1,000 to $1,499 The Society of Disciples
☐ $500 to $999 The Society of the Faithful
☐ $250 to $499 The Society of Sacrificial Giving

Check #__________ (Payable to Bishop's Annual Appeal for Ministries)

Stock Gift: Please call Ashley Linville, 615-645-9768.

☐ I/We are unable to make a contribution at this time to the 2019 Bishop's Annual Appeal for Ministries but will pray for the success of the Appeal.

☐ I have included my Church in my estate plans.

☐ Please send information on how to include the diocese in my estate plans.

To whom much is given, much will be required. —Luke 12:48

Please note that donations must be post-marked by December 31, 2019 to be included in your 2019 contributions letter for tax purposes.

To donate, go to www.dioceseofnashville.com
For more information, please contact Ashley Linville at 615-645-9768 or ashleylinville@dioceseofnashville.com

Thank you for your support!