

Vincent Van Gogh, *Iris*, 1889, Oil on canvas, detail; The J. Paul Getty Museum, Los Angeles; Public Domain

SINCE YOU
WERE FAITHFUL IN
SMALL MATTERS,
I WILL GIVE
YOU GREAT
RESPONSIBILITIES.
COME, SHARE YOUR
MASTER'S JOY.

MT 25:23



NATIVITY OF OUR LORD | NOV 19, 2023

**33RD SUNDAY
IN ORDINARY TIME**

NOOL.US | (303) 469-5171

MASS TIMES

MONDAY-FRIDAY

7:00 am
9:30 am (livestreamed)
School Mass: Wednesday, 8:15 am

SATURDAY

9:30 am (livestreamed)

VIGIL MASS

4:30 pm

SUNDAY

7:30 am
9:30 am (livestreamed)
11:30 am
5:00 pm

CONFESSION

THURSDAY

5:00-6:00 pm

SATURDAY

8:00-9:30 am
3:00-4:30 pm

SUNDAY

30 min before Masses

PARISH OFFICE HOURS:

MONDAY-FRIDAY: 8 am-5 pm

FRONT DESK:

MONDAY-FRIDAY: 8 am-8 pm

SATURDAY: 8 am-3:30 pm

Phone: (303) 469-5171

Fax: (303) 469-5172

School: (303) 466-4177

900 W. Midway Blvd.
Broomfield, CO 80020



SACRISTY LAUNDRY

Carol Dankey

COLLECTION COUNTERS

Mon, Nov 20 | 10 am

Steve Moser
Susan Martinez
Cathy Suppes
Bob Johnson

EUCHARISTIC ADORATION

IN THE CHURCH:

THURSDAY

12:00-6:00 pm
SOLEMN HOLY HOUR:
5:00-6:00 pm with *Confession* and *Vespers*
Benediction: 5:55 pm

IN THE CHAPEL:

FOR SCHEDULED ADORERS,
SEE AVAILABLE HOURS AND SIGN UP AT

www.nool.us/adoration

OPEN FOR WALK-INS

MONDAY-FRIDAY

8:00 am-5:00 pm



The adoration chapel will
be closed Thursday through
Saturday, Nov 23-25.



Scan to
sign up for
adoration

VISITING THE SICK AND HOMEBOUND

Do you know or do you have someone in your family who is sick or homebound, cannot attend Sunday Mass regularly, and desires to receive sacraments of penance and Eucharist? Please do not hesitate to contact Nativity to schedule a visit of a priest or Eucharistic minister at (303) 469-5171.

GOING TO THE HOSPITAL

If you are going to the hospital and need a visit from a priest or deacon, please call the front desk at (303) 469-5171.

PRAYER REQUESTS

If you have any prayer requests, please contact Joanne Farver at (303) 466-8859 or at joannefarver@comcast.net.

MASS INTENTIONS

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 18

9:30 am MaryAnn Reyes Birthday
Wishes by Bette Dean
4:30 pm † James, Betty, and Elisabeth
Doyle by Sally Fitterer

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 19

7:30 am Linda Yanklowski
by Laurie Armstrong
9:30 am People of the Parish
11:30 am In Thanksgiving to the Holy
Family by Ozwen & Coelho
Families
5:00 pm Bryce Buderus by Liz Buderus

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 20

7:00 am Ken Spohnholz by Aaron Rask
9:30 am † Deceased members of the
Sheathelm family by Leo and
Carmen Albiniak

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 21

7:00 am Howard (Howie) Ehrlich
by Chris Waters
9:30 am † Deceased members of the
Albiniak family by Leo and
Carmen Albiniak

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 22

7:00 am † Bruce Howe by Dawn Howe
9:30 am Alex Gutierrez

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 23

7:00 am NO MASS
9:30 am † Matthew Suppes
by Suppes family

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 24

7:00 am Kenneth Moore
by Maria and Charles Graham
9:30 am † Bill Chapman
by Kathy Chapman

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 25

9:30 am † Rosa Fattore
by Breakfast Club
4:30 pm † Tillie, Edward, and Marlene
Fitterer by Sally Fitterer

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 26

7:30 am † John David Coogan
by Maryann Reyes
9:30 am People of the Parish
11:30 am † All souls in the D'Silva and
Coelho families by D'Silva and
Coelho families
5:00 pm † Rosa Fattore by Aiello Family

PRAY THE ROSARY WITH US

SATURDAY

8:50 am | Pro-Life Rosary

SUNDAY

11:00 am | Parishioners' Rosary

In the prayer of the Rosary we turn to the Virgin Mary so that she may bring us ever closer to her son Jesus, so as to know him and to love him more and more. —Pope Francis

A WEEKEND IN ROME IN THE COMPANY OF A GROUP OF YOUNG FAMILIES BECOMES THE OCCASION TO BE ACCOMPANIED ON THE ROAD TOWARDS SANCTITY

WE DO NOT BECOME SAINTS ALONE



A few months ago, we hosted a fraternity group composed of young families in the House of Formation. The number of children far exceeded the number of adults, and what's more, they were almost all of kindergarten and elementary school age. For three days, the usual silence of our house gave way to the vitality and joy of the young and old.

Leading up to the visit, we had thought about how to use the time, and what to visit in the beautiful city of Rome. In the end, we opted for the "classic but ever new" downtown tour on the trail of some saints such as Matthew, Augustine, Monica, Ignatius and Aloysius Gonzaga. Aided by Caravaggio's beautiful canvases and the many relics in the Eternal City, some mothers explained the stories of these saints to the 20 or so children (who were all attentive!).

It was a beautiful day, in which both the young and the old looked towards Heaven, beyond those rare gray clouds which, that day, covered the magnificent blue sky of Rome.

The next day, Francesco, a seminarian, explained the mosaic which adorns our chapel to the group. On the part to the right, there are the saints Andrew and John depicted in the moment, which Fr. Giussani loved so much, when they asked the Teacher: "Where are you staying?". The particular detail of our mosaic is that the faces of the saints, which are shown walking towards Jesus, are extremely close, almost fused one into the other, so as to represent a progressive unity given by following the same Ideal. One of the mothers, after returning home, sent me an email in which she wrote: "The other thing that I bring home with me from these days is the image of John and Andrew from the mosaic, who are walking together, where the one is almost

the extension of the other, because we cannot become saints by ourselves."

These words made me think about what I had seen the day before while going around Rome: a group of friends following the traces of the saints, in which the parents showed their children the treasure hidden in those lives and, at the same time, present today in theirs.

This is the true task of every parent, but also of every priest and consecrated person: to show Heaven with their own life. How? Seeking it and discovering it in the depth of other lives.

If it is true that the vocation contained in every vocation is sanctity and that it is absolutely personal, it is equally true that "we do not become saints by ourselves," but together.

The personal path is always sustained by those who went before us, those who accompany us and those who, in some way, follow after us.

These three aspects of the companionship of the Church are all necessary in every step we take towards Christ.

But the opposite is also true.

We cannot truly be together without saying our personal "yes" to Christ.

What does this mean though? Saying "yes" to Christ means accepting His invitation to follow Him through the circumstances that He gives us. Therefore, above all, it is accepting to walk, that is, to change our position and outlook on reality, trying to conform ourselves to Him. It means being ready to risk: in every step, there is a moment of instability, of risk, of launching forward. And all of this embracing our circumstances, which are made up of events but mostly of faces to follow, accompany, guide.

This is the task of every family, of every one of our houses in the world, of every vocational companionship. *Where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there with them* (Mt 18:20). Which is to say, where there are men and women decisively walking behind Christ on the road of sanctity one can already begin to experience paradise.

I don't know if it was for this reason or for the grounds of our house with many soccer goals, but one of the children before getting in the car to return home said to me: "I don't want to leave; I want to stay here forever." ■

Fr. Donato Contuzzi, FSCB
Rome, September 2023

Source: www.sancarolo.org/en/non-si-diventa-santi-da-soli



PARISH CALENDAR

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 18

8:00 am | Marian Movement of Priests Cenacle
8:15 am | School of Community (CL)*
8:50 am | Pro Life Rosary
5:00 pm | School of Community (CL)*

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 19

8:30 am | School of Community (CL)*
11:00 am | Parishioners' Rosary
11:00 am | RCIA
6:00 pm | GS/High School Youth
6:15 pm | Catholic Young Adults Group

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 20

10:30 am | ENDOW
6:30 pm | Catechetical School Class
6:30 pm | New Springtime Charismatic Prayer Group
6:30 pm | Spanish Prayer Group
7:30 pm | St. Joseph Men's Group

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 21

1:00 pm | Adult Tuesday Bible Study:
The Bible Is a Catholic Book
4:00 pm | Children's Choir Rehearsal
6:30 pm | Adult Catechism Study

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 22

5:30 am | St. Joseph Men's Group

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 23

THANKSGIVING
PARISH OFFICE/FRONT DESK ARE CLOSED

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 24

PARISH OFFICE/FRONT DESK ARE CLOSED

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 25

PARISH OFFICE/FRONT DESK ARE CLOSED

8:50 am | Pro Life Rosary
5:00 pm | School of Community (CL)*

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 26

8:30 am | School of Community (CL)*
11:00 am | Parishioners' Rosary
11:00 am | RCIA
6:00 pm | GS/High School Youth
6:15 pm | Catholic Young Adults Group

*(CL) Communion & Liberation

For programs, events, and faith formation at Nativity, please visit:

www.nool.us

THANKSGIVING SCHEDULE

THURSDAY-SATURDAY NOVEMBER 23-25, 2023

On Thanksgiving day, Thursday, Nov 23, there will be **only one Mass**, at 9:30 am. There will be no Mass at 7:00 am.

There will be no adoration or Holy Hour on Thanksgiving Day in the church.

The adoration chapel will be closed Thursday through Saturday, Nov 23-25.

Front Desk/Office will be closed on those days as well. Any events scheduled during this time will be canceled.

DAILY READINGS

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 18

Reading 1: Wis 18:14-16; 19:6-9
Psalm: 105:2-3, 36-37, 42-43
Gospel: Lk 18:1-8

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 19

Reading 1: Prv 31:10-13, 19-20, 30-31
Psalm: 128:1-2, 3, 4-5
Reading 2: 1 Thes 5:1-6
Gospel: Mt 25:14-30

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 20

Reading 1: 1 Mc 1:10-15, 41-43, 54-57, 62-63
Psalm: 119:53, 61, 134, 150, 155, 158
Gospel: Lk 18:35-43

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 21

Memorial of the Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary
Reading 1: 2 Mc 6:18-31
Psalm: 3:2-3, 4-5, 6-7
Gospel: Lk 19:1-10

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 22

Memorial of Saint Cecilia, Virgin and Martyr
Reading 1: 2 Mc 7:1, 20-31
Psalm: 17:1bcd, 5-6, 8b and 15
Gospel: Lk 19:11-28

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 23

Reading 1: 1 Mc 2:15-29
Psalm: 50:1b-2, 5-6, 14-15
Gospel: Lk 19:41-44

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 24

Memorial of Saint Andrew Dung-Lac, Priest, and Companions, Martyrs
Reading 1: 1 Mc 4:36-37, 52-59
Psalm: 1 Chr 29:10bcd, 11abc, 11d-12a, 12bcd
Gospel: Lk 19:45-48

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 25

Reading 1: 1 Mc 6:1-13
Psalm: Ps 9:2-3, 4 and 6, 16 and 19
Gospel: Lk 20:27-40

YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS AT WORK: CATHOLIC CAMPAIGN FOR HUMAN DEVELOPMENT

NOVEMBER 18-19, 2023

This weekend, there is a special collection: Catholic Campaign for Human Development dedicated to breaking the cycle of poverty by funding community programs that encourage independence and lasting changes: access to affordable housing, job and educational opportunities, and rights for immigrants. The parish will be giving to this collection as part of our tithe. Nativity contributes 10% of our offertory collection each year to support ministries, charities, and special needs. We are able to support these because of the generous stewardship of our parishioners.

CHRISTMAS
GIVING
TREE



Nativity's Giving Tree is up in the gathering area! You are invited to take a tag, purchase the requested gift, and bring the item to Nativity as soon as possible. Our parish is providing gifts for a variety of needs including families of Marisol Health Women's Services, the elderly at Broomfield Skilled Nursing (Adara), adults with intellectual disabilities at Imagine!, and children within our own community whose family is experiencing hard times.

All gifts must be brought in no later than December 3. Thank you!

GivingTree@nool.us

POSTER CONTEST

FOR ALL PARISH CHILDREN

"Keep Christ
in Christmas"

SPONSORED BY KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS
AND NATIVITY: FAITH & REASON SCHOOL



GRADES: **K-8**

ART DIMENSIONS: **11"x17"**

DEADLINE: **DECEMBER 1**

SUBMIT TO:

SCHOOL FRONT DESK

The artwork should be signed *in pencil* with a name and contact information on the back side. The submission sheet should be attached to the artwork with a paper clip. No staples, please.

The submission sheets with contest details are available at the Parish and School front desks.

QUESTIONS? Contact:
Jane Proulx, Art Teacher at
j.proulx@nool.us

PARISH BOOKSTORE EXTENDED HOURS

MONDAY-FRIDAY
8 AM-8 PM

SATURDAY
9 AM-2 PM

UNTIL DEC 10, 2023

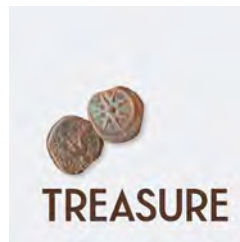
SUNDAY
8:30-11AM

STEWARDSHIP: A WAY OF LIFE

This week, we celebrate Thanksgiving, a favorite holiday for many. We offer Mass at 9:30 am. What a beautiful way to start Thanksgiving celebrations! Being thankful points directly to thanking God for all his blessings.

Thanksgiving can be a great benchmark on our journey to making stewardship a way of life. When we trust God and return to Him our tithe as a sign of our thankfulness, let us consider how God has blessed us in the last year because we made that leap of faith!

If you haven't yet made your pledge of treasure for 2024, allow me to encourage you to do so. Pledging (or making a vow) is—for the person making it—an act of trust that grows your faith. Take that leap, and next year at Thanksgiving, see how God cannot be outdone in generosity.



www.nool.us/stewardship

LEARN HOW TO SING
MISSA DE ANGELIS ON
NATIVITY'S WEBSITE AT
www.nool.us/music



FIAT FRIENDS IN ALL TIMES

Making motherhood a place to find friendship and help, and to build friendship among mothers of the parish at each stage, from mothering littles to school age children. Join us anytime!

UPCOMING FIAT DATES:

FRIDAY, 12/1/2023

12 PM | COMMUNITY PARK
Near tennis courts and library, blue and white. Picnic and play date. Nativity has a noon dismissal.

FRIDAY, 12/8/2023

9:30 AM MASS AT NATIVITY
FOLLOWED BY RECEPTION
AND MEETING TO FOLLOW
AT FRASSATI HOUSE

Immaculate Conception celebration. Bring broken rosaries! Tricia Fankell will be showing us easy fixes—mainly for those of us who don't have choking prone children. We'll donate the extra rosaries to a Nativity ministry that is always short on rosaries.

Coming in January, FIAT will start discussing *In This House of Brede* by Rumer Godden, a reading with timely and timeless themes of friendship, womanhood, and vocation. The book is thick, however we will read it slowly. It is a page turner once you get into it!

Join us anytime!

QUESTIONS? Contact:
Anne Gray, 303-910-4521 or
Rachel Bradley, 303-242-6932
Join our Flocknote mailing list for
upcoming events and updates:
nool.flocknote.com/fiat



ACCOUNTING MANAGER POSITION OPENS AT NATIVITY

Nativity is currently accepting applications for an Accounting Manager. This full-time position is responsible for managing and performing a variety of accounting functions for both the Church and the School. Primary responsibilities will include:

- Payroll and Benefit Administration
- School Tuition Management including contracts, billing, tuition assistance, and grant administration
- Accounting Operations consisting of:
 - › Oversee accounts payable & revenue accounting
 - › Preparation of periodic financial and account analysis reports
 - › Assist in annual budgets
 - › Cash management including bank reconciliations
 - › General ledger administration including review and reconciliation of balance sheet and income statement accounts and budgets

A qualified applicant should have previous senior level experience as either an Accounting Manager or Controller in a Parish or general business environment. Prior experience with Paycom payroll services and ParishSOFT accounting software would be advantageous. As a leader in the business office a candidate must have excellent interpersonal and organizational skills.

Compensation includes a base salary, an employer funded pension plan, paid time off, and excellent medical, dental, vision, and disability benefits.

Resumes and cover letters should be sent to k.hubbart@nool.us.

A SIMPLE WAY TO SUPPORT NATIVITY: FAITH & REASON

LONGMONT MILK CAPS COLLECTION

The parish and school collect Longmont dairy milk caps as a fundraiser for the school. We get five cents for each milk cap. Please bring in any Longmont Dairy milk caps and give them to the school or parish office. Thank you!

FROM ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY

*"God of the harvest, once again
Our joyful tones we raise,
For all Thy goodness, day by day,
We give Thee thankful praise."*

Stanza from Thomas Frederick Young's poem "Thanksgiving Day."

On Thanksgiving we gather to give thanks for our faith, our family, and our freedoms. We also celebrate the American spirit that reaches out beyond self. Examples abound of this generosity—from restaurateur George Dallas and his wife who fed thousands of needy Clevelanders on Thanksgiving Day throughout the Great Depression, to servicemen such as General John Wright Jr., who piloted a helicopter in thick fog on Thanksgiving Day 1969 to deliver 25 turkey dinners to Sgt. William A. "Bill" Martin and his men who were dug into a high ridge in Vietnam.

At Nativity of Our Lord parish, we give thanks for our priests, staff, and multiple ministries that enrich our faith. At St. Vincent de Paul's Nativity chapter, we also give thanks for our hardworking officers as well as our dedicated coordinators and visitors who reach out to help the poor. We gratefully acknowledge our members who share their special talents in computer programming, accounting, research, and fundraising. A special thanks is given to Jeff Graham and the Knights of Columbus (Council # 10961) who put on the annual Holy Rollers Charity Car Show at Nativity to benefit our St. Vincent de Paul Society. This amazing charity car show grows bigger and better each year, and tremendously helps our society in our mission to help our neighbors in need. We also gratefully acknowledge our fellow parishioners who donate to our society.

As we celebrate Thanksgiving, we wish you and yours many blessings. We also remember those who are away from home defending our nation. We pray God will keep them safe. For more information on our Nativity of Our Lord St. Vincent de Paul chapter, see our FLOCKNOTE site at nool.flocknote.com/svdpvol.

ADULT BIBLE STUDY FOR ADVENT A THREE-WEEK MEDITATION ON THE MYSTERY OF THE EUCHARIST



In conjunction with the National Eucharistic Revival, this Advent we are offering a three-week meditation on the mystery of the Eucharist. Take a break from the commercial Christmas preparations and feed your soul in no-homework, no-cost, one-hour gatherings in December to contemplate God With Us ("Emmanuel").

We will watch the FORMED production *Presence: The Mystery of the Eucharist* and discuss it in small groups. Although the Eucharist appears to be simple bread and wine, it is actually the "source and summit" of the Christian life. *Presence: The Mystery of the Eucharist* explores the truth and beauty of Christ's real presence in the Eucharist, from its origins in Sacred Scripture to its profound role in the life of the Church and her members. It is the crescendo of the entire story of salvation. Sign up for either

WEDNESDAYS DECEMBER 6, 13, 20 1-2 PM

facilitated by Theresa Cooley and Debbie Jones OR

THURSDAYS DECEMBER 7, 14, 21 6:30-7:30 PM

facilitated by Steve Moser

Questions:
CooleyRickTherese@msn.com or
svmoser55@gmail.com

SIGN UP LINK:
nool.ccbchurch.com/goto/forms/116/responses/new

FORMED®

SIGN UP





NATIONAL Eucharistic Congress

DISCOUNTED TICKETS

For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them. Mt 18:20

Join our fellow Catholics in Indianapolis for a moment in history to revive our love of the Eucharist at the first National Eucharistic Congress in 83 years. Come back to our community on fire with a mission to spread the love of Christ.

The Archdiocese of Denver is offering a limited number of discounted passes for the Congress so receive them now (link below). Feel free to attend on your own. **If you have interest in going with fellow Nativity parishioners, contact Ilene DuBey, i.dubey@nool.us.** Upon purchase, you will be directed then to register with your personal info through the national congress site.

Dates: July 17 - 21, 2024
Discounted Ticket Price: \$200
(Regular individual price is \$375)

What's included:

- Entry to Lucas Oil Stadium for all five days of the Congress
- Access to general sessions, breakouts, liturgies, vendor hall, Catholic makers market, and unique tracks

What's not included:

- Housing
 - Transportation
 - Meals
- (Estimated: \$1200-\$1500)

Purchase ticket link:

www.archden.org/revival



General congress info:

www.eucharisticcongress.org



MOUNT OLIVET CEMETERY

“I have had these cremated remains of my mother in my house for years; what should I do with them?” Too many people ask this question after a loved one is cremated and remains are brought home. While it is the teaching of the Church that individuals, whether full body or cremated, should be placed in a cemetery, this does not happen as often as it should. There are many different reasons people elect to bring their loved one’s cremated remains home- financial, difficulty in making the transition, convenience, etc. Typically, this is not a healthy choice for the grieving process or the spiritual growth of the survivor. In the end, many struggle as to how to respectfully place their loved one in a cemetery.

On All Souls Day this year, Catholic Funeral & Cemetery Services (CFCS) offered individuals the opportunity to inter the cremated remains of their deceased loved ones in the ‘Crypt of All Souls’ in Ascension Mausoleum at no cost to the family. Thirty-nine individuals were brought home this year. Some of the individuals passed away this year. Others passed away decades ago.

If you have a loved one’s ashes that you’ve been meaning to bury but you cannot afford it, you can give them a dignified resting place. On the third Wednesday of each month, a loved one’s cremated remains are interred into the *Crypt of All Souls* with a Committal Service. The number of interred ranges from 10-20 per month.

FUTURE DATES OF THE COMMITTAL SERVICES:

December 20, 2023 | January 17, 2024 | February 21, 2024 | March 20, 2024
April 17, 2024 | May 15, 2024 | June 19, 2024 | July 17, 2024

CALL 720-684-5270 | www.cfcolorado.org

QUESTIONS? Contact: Deacon Marc Nestorick at deacon.nestorickm@archden.org.

The bodies of the dead must be treated with respect and charity, in faith and hope of the Resurrection. The burial of the dead is a corporal work of mercy; it honors the children of God, who are temples of the Holy Spirit.
(Catechism of the Catholic Church)



NATIVITY
FAITH & REASON

WWW.SCHOOL.NOOL.US



1963-2023

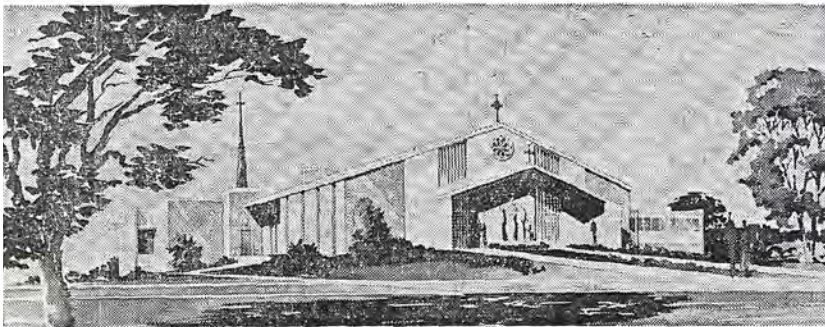
AT THE NOVEMBER 11 GALA,
WE GATHERED IN GRATITUDE.
WE LOOK FORWARD TO THE
NEXT 60 YEARS, AND BEYOND...
THANK YOU FOR BEING PART
OF OUR NATIVITY FAMILY AND
INVESTING IN OUR FUTURE.

LOOKING BACK ON OUR 60 YEARS

Nativity of Our Lord Catholic Church was established for 179 Broomfield families in 1958, with the first Mass held in the lower level of the Empire Savings & Loan building on September 7. Two years later, groundbreaking took place for the church. At midnight on Christmas Day, 1960, the first Mass in the new red-brick church was celebrated.

In September 1963, Nativity and the Sisters of Mercy opened a school for over 200 students. It was the first parochial school in Broomfield. Initially, for grades 3-8, the school expanded to include first and second grades in 1973, and in 1981, the Sisters of Mercy departed to be replaced by both Dominican and Franciscan sisters. Recently re-named, Nativity: Faith & Reason is now a thriving school and is under the pastoral care of the Missionaries of Saint Charles Borromeo.

Denver Post - March 6, 1960



Catholics Begin New Broomfield Church

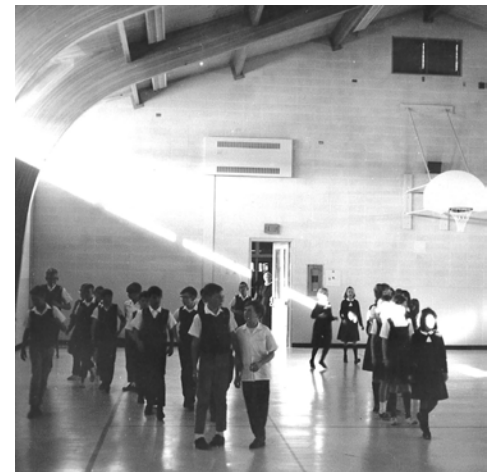
Construction is under way on a \$250,000 church-classroom building for Nativity of Our Lord Catholic parish in Broomfield Heights. The building, to be completed late this year, will accommodate 700 people and will include four classrooms, nursery, offices and storage space. The building was designed by Langhart and McGuire, Denver architects. General contractor is Wilkins and Co., Boulder. The Rev. George L. Weibel is parish pastor.

school.nool.us/enroll

CALL TODAY
303-466-4177



With questions about admission
or to schedule a tour, contact
Shannon Spinuzzi
s.spinuzzi@nool.us



DRUGS

A NEW FORM OF SLAVERY

ADDRESS OF HIS HOLINESS POPE FRANCIS
TO PARTICIPANTS IN THE MEETING SPONSORED
BY THE PONTIFICAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES ON:
“NARCOTICS: PROBLEMS AND SOLUTIONS TO
THIS GLOBAL ISSUE”

NOVEMBER, 2016

I cordially greet each of you and I thank the President of the Pontifical Academy of Sciences for his kind words.

Drugs have inflicted a deep wound on our society and ensnared many people in their web. Many victims have lost their freedom and have been enslaved to them; enslaved by an addiction we could call “chemical.” This is undoubtedly a “new form of slavery” alongside several others that afflict individuals and society in general today.

Clearly there is no single cause of drug addiction. Rather, there are many factors that contribute to it, among which are the absence of a family, social pressures, the propaganda of drug dealers, and the desire for new experiences. Every drug addict has a unique personal story and must be listened to, understood, loved, and, insofar as possible, healed and purified. We cannot stoop to the injustice of categorizing drug addicts as if they were mere objects or broken machines; each person must be valued and appreciated in his or her dignity in order to enable them to be healed. The dignity of the person is what we are called to seek out. They continue to possess, more than ever, a dignity as children of God.

It should come as no surprise that so many people fall into drug addiction because worldliness offers us a wide range of opportunities to enjoy passing pleasures, which in the end are nothing but poisons that corrode, corrupt and kill. Step-by-step, a person begins to destroy himself and to destroy everything around him. The initial desire to flee, to seek out a moment of happiness, is transformed into the destruction of the entire person, with repercussions at every level of society.

For this reason, it is important to acknowledge the problem of drugs – that they are destroyers, they are *essentially* destroyers – and, above all, how widespread are their centres of production and how broad their systems of distribution; the networks that cause the death of a person: not a physical death, but a psychic, social death. It amounts to “throwing away” a person. These vast networks involve people who hold positions of responsibility in society, in governments and in families. We know that distribution systems, even more than systems of production, are an important component of organized crime. The challenge is precisely that of finding ways to control the circuits of corruption and forms of money-laundering. There is no other way of doing this than retracing the chain that

connects small-scale drug trade and the most sophisticated money laundering schemes.

[...] Indeed, whenever we want to shed light on and retrace the web of drug distribution, we always arrive at these five letters: m-a-f-i-a. Seriously. [...]



There is no doubt that curbing the demand for drugs requires great effort and the implementation of social programmes oriented toward health, family support, and particularly toward education, which I consider fundamental. Integral human formation is a priority; it gives people the opportunity to have tools of discernment, so that they can reject the various offers and help others. This formation is directed principally toward the most vulnerable in society such as children and young people, but it is also good to extend it to families and to those who suffer some kind of marginalization. Nevertheless, the issue of drug prevention programmes is continually thwarted by numerous aspects of governmental ineptitude, by some governmental sector here or another one there. There are practically no drug prevention programmes that really work. Once drugs have taken a foothold, once they are rooted in society, everything becomes very difficult. I think of my homeland: 30 years ago it was a transit country [for drugs]; then it became a place of consumption, and indeed a place of some production. All this in just 30 years. That is what comes about when the mafia gets involved with people who hold public office....

Even though drug prevention is a priority, it is also fundamental that we work for a full and certain rehabilitation of drug victims in our society; to give joy back to them so that they can regain the dignity that one day they lost. Until this can be guaranteed, also by the State and its legislation, recovery will be difficult for victims and they might again be victimized.

The neediest of our brothers, who seem to have nothing to give, hold a treasure for us: the face of God who speaks to us and challenges us. I encourage you to move forward with your work and to implement, to the best of your ability, the successful initiatives you have launched at the service of those who suffer most on this battlefield. It is a tough battle. Whenever someone puts himself to the task and begins this work, he runs the same risk as the magistrate I knew in my homeland who received a threatening letter. But we are defending the whole human family; we are defending young people and children. As the saying goes, “in defending the young pups, we are defending the future.” It is not only an issue that affects us here and now, but an issue with deep implications for the future.

Source:

www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/speeches/2016/november/documents/papa-francesco_20161124_seminario-accademia-scienze.html

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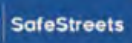



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