

The National Catholic Register's
 Last-Minute
Christmas
 Gift Guide '13

The wait for Christ is almost over. To prepare for Jesus' birthday, the Register offers more Christmas gifts for everyone on your list. Enjoy the selection of presents compiled by Register staff writer Joseph Pronechen. (Prices subject to change.)



UNDOER OF KNOTS MUG
 This colorful mug designed and printed in Steubenville, Ohio, pictures the grace and beauty of Our Lady as the "Undoer of Knots." It features the prayer to Our Lady under this title composed by Pope Francis himself during his time as archbishop of Buenos Aires. Dishwasher-safe with lifetime color guarantee. Item: MUG-927B, \$9, from CatholictotheMax.com or (800) 895-6267.

MARY, UNDOER OF KNOTS ART
 This fine giclee print image of Mary under premium glass in a solid wood frame is handcrafted in Steubenville, Ohio. The original image was discovered and expanded into a Marian devotion in the 1980s by then-Father Jorge Mario Bergoglio; it remains a favorite devotion of Pope Francis. 7 1/2 inches by 10 1/2 inches. Item: NW-927A17, \$24, from CatholictotheMax.com or (800) 895-6267.



MEET BERNADETTE
 Author Emily Ortega introduces young readers to a girl from a Catholic family who attends a Catholic school. Bernadette doesn't know what to do when the principal announces that the school will celebrate All Saints' Day with saint costumes. Follow her dilemma in this kid-friendly read. For Catholic girls ages 6-10. 116 pages, paperback. \$7.99, from HalfMoonBayBooks.com.

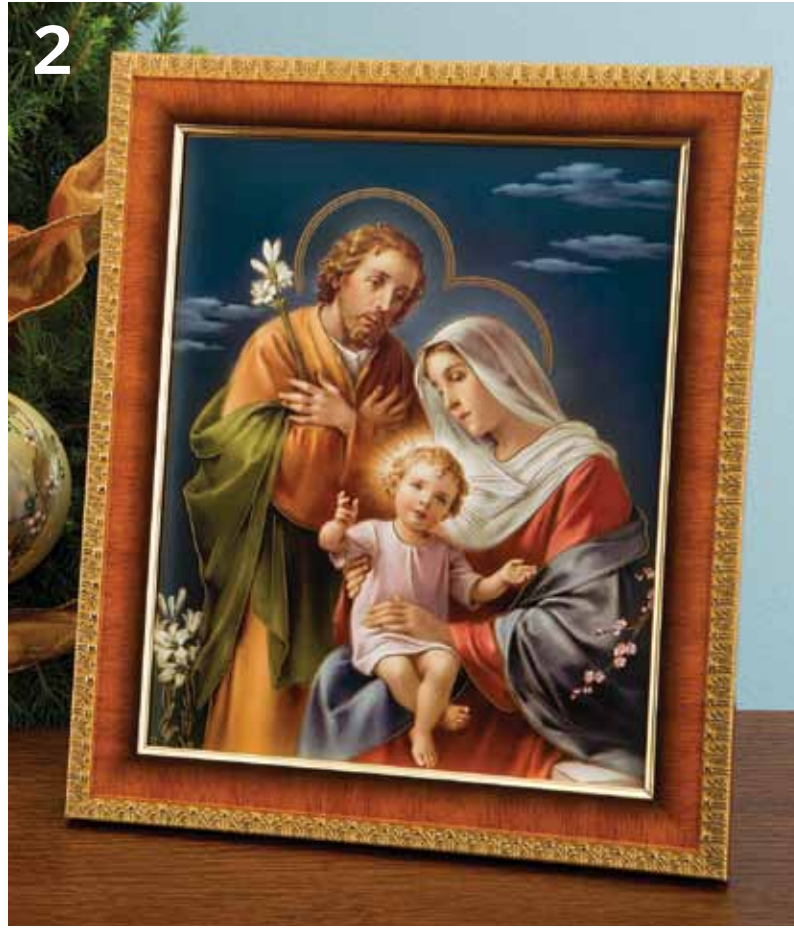


OUR LADY OF FATIMA STATUE
 This beautiful statue made in Portugal is a constant reminder of the importance Pope Francis has placed on Our Lady of Fatima and our devotion to her. It features three doves at Mary's feet. Made of resin and sitting on a brown base, it measures 15 inches high. Item: 28015, \$55, from EWTNReligiousCatalogue.com or (800) 854-6316.

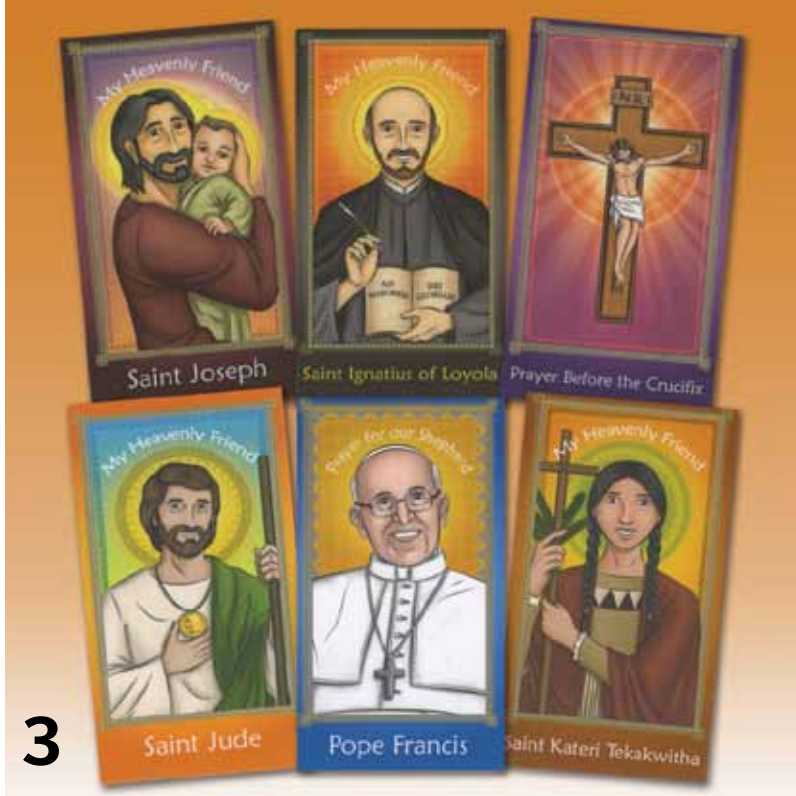
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Items are available from EWTNReligiousCatalogue.com or (800) 854-6316, unless otherwise noted.



FOOD FOR THE POOR GIFTS

Help the poor this Christmas. The Holy Family's donkey was present at the King's birth. Poor families benefit greatly from the gift of a donkey, which can help haul products to the village market. Chicks provide families with a sustainable source of protein from eggs and also with supplemental income from selling extra eggs. The gift of school supplies in developing countries will help children learn how to read. Poor families can raise pigs to provide a self-sustaining source of income as well as food. Donate a donkey for \$150. A gift of \$25 provides 20 chicks; \$125 provides 100. A donation of \$20 provides school supplies for a child for a year. Donate three pigs for \$100. All from FoodforthePoor.org/gifts or (800) 487-1158. (More gifts are listed in Food for the Poor's insert in this issue.)

THANK YOU JESUS FOR YOUR HELP

A Wonderful gift for Christmas "THANK YOU JESUS" is a true story about a Palestinian author who survived a deadly cancer through JESUS' help, and the miracles that she and her twin sister had experienced. The book is available at Amazon.

Love GOD Do you want to place **GOD First** in your life?

Read and be instructed and guided by the always wise, sometimes witty homilies given by Reverend Monsignor Edward Peter Browne, a holy and humble priest who placed God above all else.

Sermons of the Time is a collection of beautiful and inspiring lessons in faith that open the mind and heart to a stronger love of God. These timeless messages of God's promise of salvation will surely encourage the reader to follow the path of Christ and believe, as Monsignor Browne believed, **GOD FIRST!**

An excellent gift for Christmas

To Order: godfirstsermons.org
Or Call: The Paschal Lamb
703-273-5956



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1. PEARL WEDDING ROSARY

This rosary from the Vatican Library Collection is made of crystal and pearl beads. The crucifix and center medal are silver-plated. The center features Mary, Queen of Heaven on one side and a marriage symbol (two connected rings with a cross) on the reverse. The Vatican Library Collection contains authentic recreations inspired by the masterpieces within the Vatican Library and is made in America. Item: P6090, \$48.

2. HOLY FAMILY ART IN CHERRY FRAME

This beautiful print of the Holy Family appears under glass in a cherry finish frame with carved gold edges. Measuring 10 inches x 12 inches, it has a hook for hanging and a black velvet easel back for tabletop display. Item: 22362, \$20.

3. HOLY CARD SET

This holy card set makes a great stocking stuffer for kids. The child-friendly art is inviting, reverent and helps to build solid prayer habits for children as it introduces them to positive role models. There are more than 30 subjects available, divided among six sets. Six cards per set. Item: 27884, \$4.95 per set, from LeafletOnline.com or (800) 328-9582.

4. 'GOD BLESS OUR HOME' ART

The beautiful images of the Sacred Heart of Jesus and the Immaculate Heart of Mary are adorned with roses. A banner contains the blessing, and two little angels hold a prayer. It is framed under glass in an ornate gold frame with a black velvet easel back. With hook for hanging, it measures 14 1/4 inches x 12 1/4 inches overall. Item: 15385, \$30.

5. LOURDES ROSARY

This rosary features a heart-shaped centerpiece holding water from France's Our Lady of Lourdes Shrine and a pewter crucifix. Item: 365DF, \$39.

6. SHAMROCK ROSARY WITH PRAYER CARD

With green glass beads with a shamrock detail imprinted on each side, this rosary features a Celtic crucifix and a Miraculous Medal silhouette center. Included is a St. Patrick holy card with the "Irish Blessing" on the back; a small Celtic cross medal is embedded in the card. Item: PK574, \$17.

7. OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE ROSARY

This rosary has speckled turquoise glass beads, a silver-plated crucifix and a center featuring Our Lady of Guadalupe. As patroness of the Americas and the pro-life movement, Our Lady of Guadalupe is a powerful intercessor for unborn babies. Item: 31265, \$8.50.

8. HOLY FAMILY ART IN GOLD FRAME

This picture is a beautiful reproduction of the original painting by renowned religious artist Simeone, exclusive to the studios of Cromo NB in Milan. It is printed on fine textured art board with gold enhancements and framed in a gold 2-inch composite frame with speckled copper details. It is ready to hang and measures 16 1/4 inches x 20 1/4 inches. Item: 75101G, \$50.

9. FATIMA FOR TODAY

Father Andrew Apostoli's exceptional book on Fatima explains this urgent Marian message of hope. Our Lady's call to prayer and penance for the salvation of souls and peace in the world is as relevant now as when it was first delivered to three Portuguese children in 1917. Paperback. 310 pages. Item: 4910, \$17.

10. POPE FRANCIS HOLY CARD

Introduce children to Pope Francis with this new holy card. Item: 27091, 95 cents each, from LeafletOnline.com or (800) 328-9582.

11. 'SACRED COMMUNION' DIPTYCH

Keep the Christ Child close to your heart just as the Blessed Mother did by displaying this image and poem-prayer on a mantle, shelf or bedside table. With allusions to both the bread and wine of the Eucharist, as well as the Sacred Heart, Nellie Edwards' diptych conveys truths while warming one's heart toward the infant Savior. 8 inches x 6 inches. Item: DIP-NE19, \$20, from Catholic-totheMax.com or (800) 895-6267.

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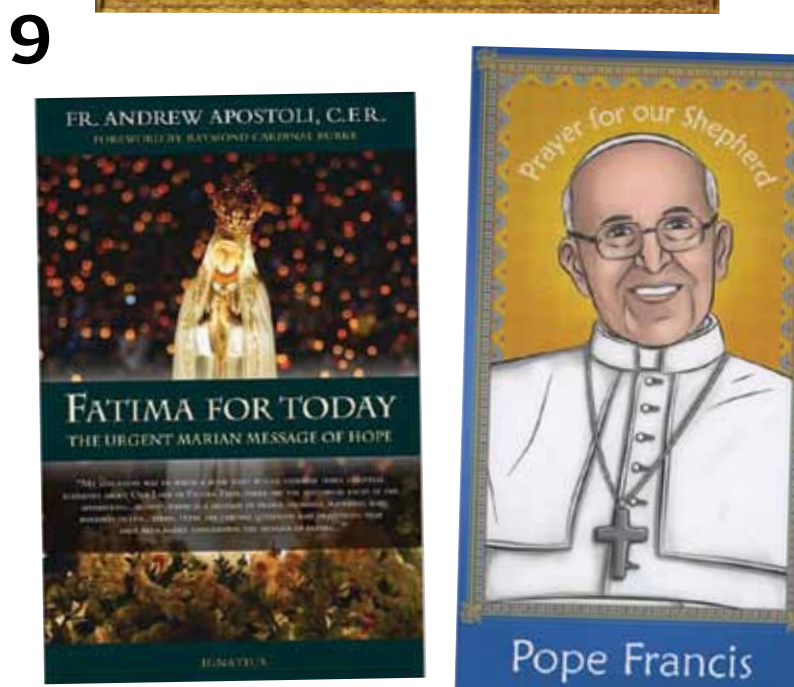
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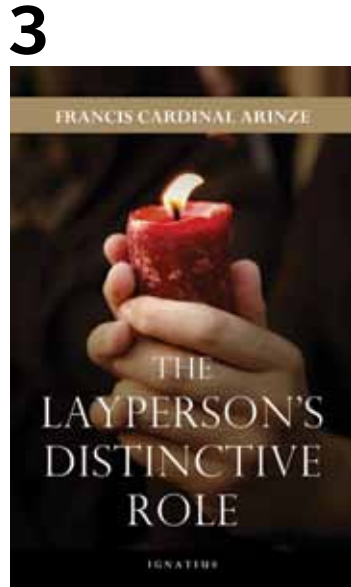
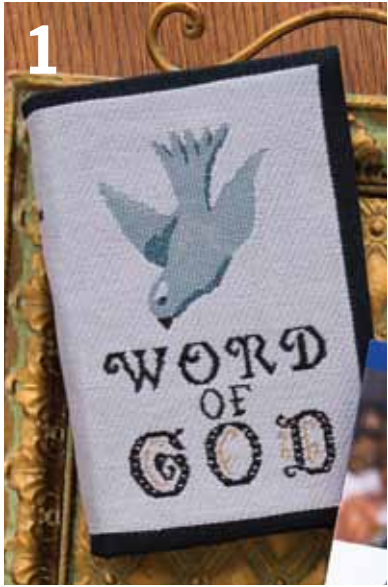


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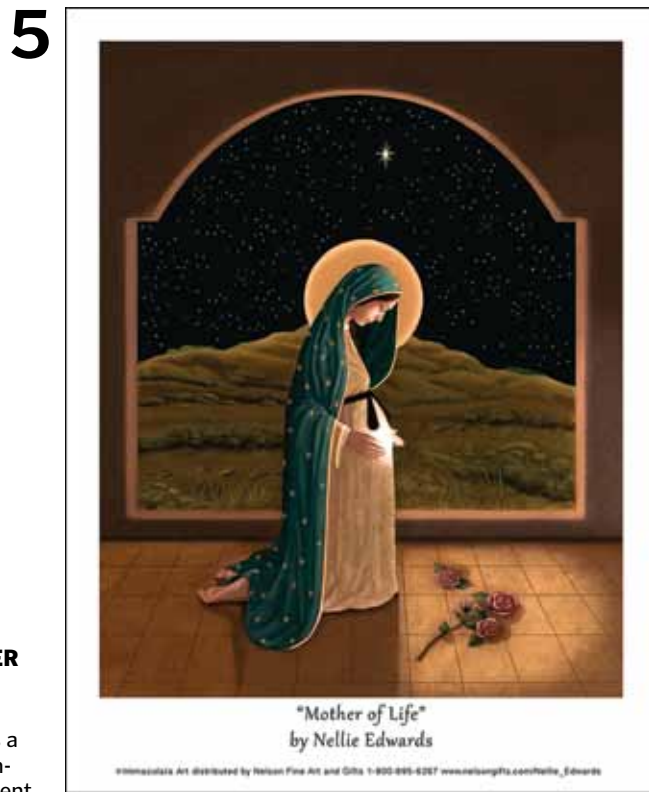
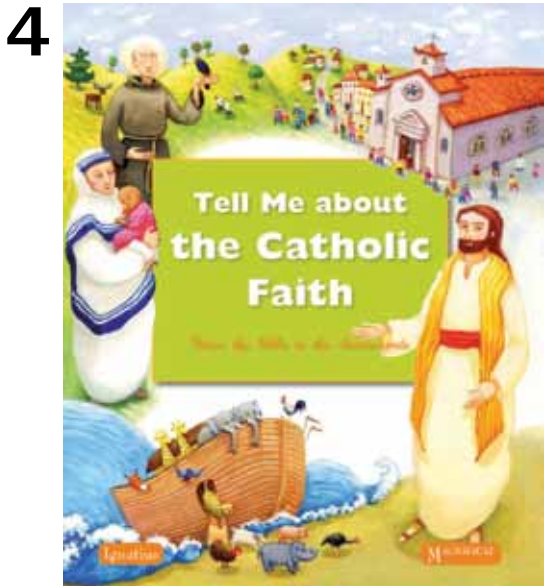
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FAIR-TRADE GIFT BASKET
This deluxe assortment of fair-trade goodies (at left) includes two pounds of organic coffee, four 3.5-oz. chocolate bars, one can of hot cocoa and one box of tea, all neatly nestled inside a custom printed gift box. Item: SKU 50117M, \$45, from EqualExchange.coop or (774) 776-7366.

AFRICAN GIFT BOX
This box of fair-trade items (shown below) helps build East African economies through income generation and supports women affected by violence at Panzi Hospital in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Equal Exchange provides a \$2 donation to the Panzi Foundation for each gift box sold. Each box contains a pound of Congo Coffee Project coffee, scented shea butter soap, a handmade brightly colored Musana bangle bracelet and peppermint lip balm. Item: SKU 50130M, \$30, from EqualExchange.coop or (774) 776-7366.



1. JERUSALEM BIBLE WITH TAPESTRY BIBLE COVER
Set includes the Jerusalem Bible with the "Word of God" Bible cover designed to look like Mother Angelica's Bible cover. The tapestry cover is made of poly/cotton and has a satin lining. The Bible is the 1966 English translation, considered by many to be the best interpretation of the ancient texts. It is Mother Angelica's favorite teaching Bible. Hardcover, with limited footnotes. 1,679 pages. Item: 63TB, \$50, from EWTNReligiousCatalogue.com or (800) 854-6316.

2. CHRISTMAS-GIVING FILM
America is in the midst of the Great Depression, and the Kamp siblings expect to have a Christmas without presents. But when they scrape together a dollar in coins to use only for Christmas gifts, they learn the true meaning of Christmas giving. Item: NCR691, \$19.99, from PaulistPress.com or (800) 218-1903.

3. GUIDE FOR LAYPEOPLE
Cardinal Francis Arinze's new book describes in simple terms the laity's distinctive role in the Church and call to witness to Christ in the ordinary areas of life, such as family, work, recreation and society in general. Paperback, 118 pages. Item: LPDR-P, \$9.95, from Ignatius.com or (800) 651-1531.

4. CATHOLIC FAITH FOR KIDS
Inspiring stories will help children discover Jesus, introducing them to the great history of Christianity and explaining the Catholic faith through beautiful illustrations and simple words. Includes Bible stories from the Old and New Testaments, the sacraments and lives of important saints. Ages 6 and up. Hardcover, 176 pages. Item: M:TMCF-H, \$19.99, from Ignatius.com or (800) 651-1531.

5. 'MOTHER OF LIFE' PRINT
The "Mother of Life" image appeared on the cover of the 2012 Christmas issue of *Columbia* magazine, and many across the country are using prints of this image as visual aids in the cause for life. By artist Nellie Edwards, the unframed image is 8 inches x 10 inches on lustre paper. Item: PRI-NE1B, \$25, from CatholictotheMax.com or (800) 895-6267.

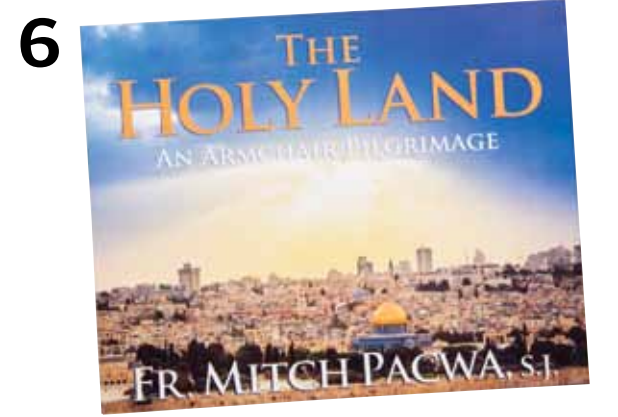


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6. THE HOLY LAND: AN ARMCHAIR PILGRIMAGE
The next best thing to going on a pilgrimage to the Holy Land with Father Mitch Pacwa is traveling with him from the comfort of your home. The holy sites come to life through the pages of this book. Stunning images and thoughtful commentary on each site are included. Also included: spiritual meditations, prayers that Father Mitch uses on his annual pilgrimages and more. Hardcover, 256 pages. Item: 36613, \$25, from EWTNReligiousCatalogue.com or (800) 854-6316.

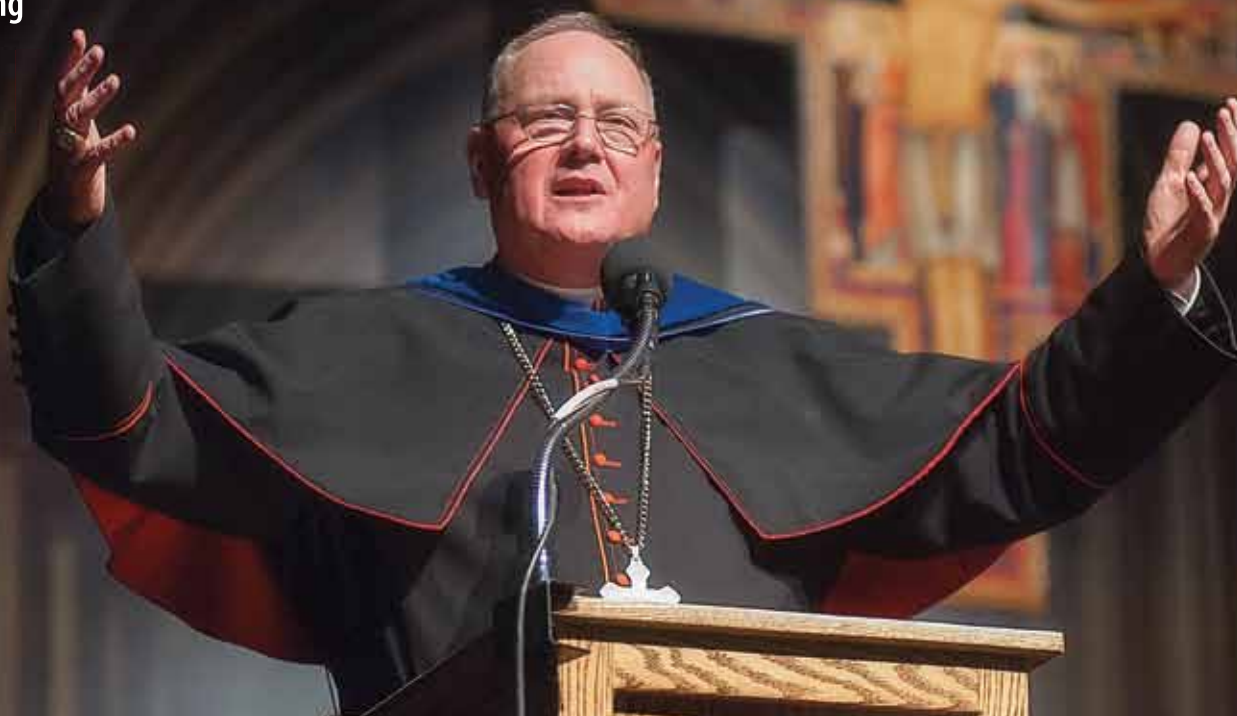
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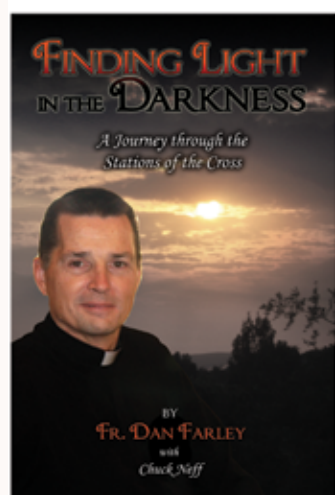
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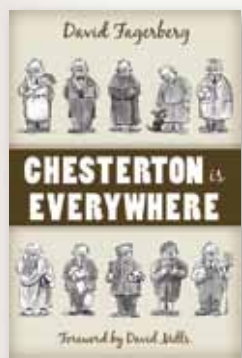
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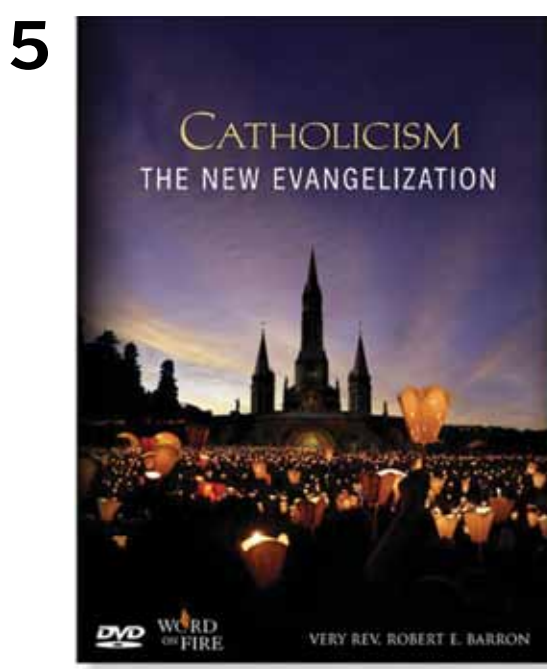
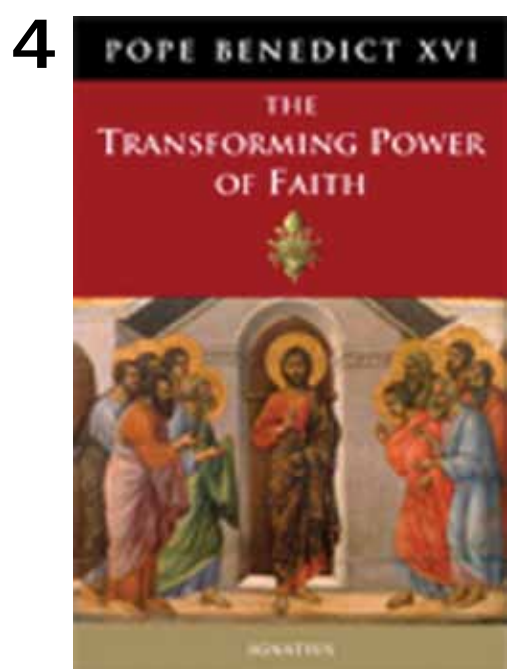
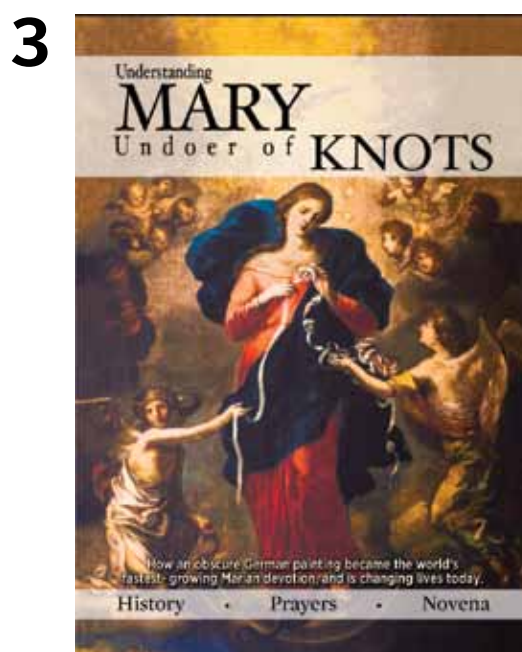
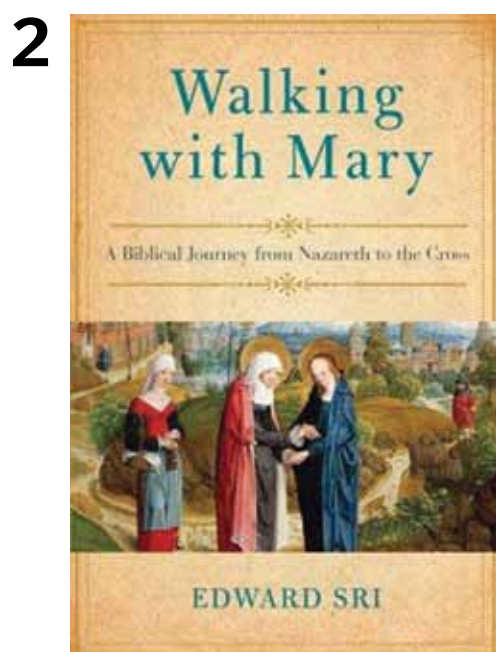
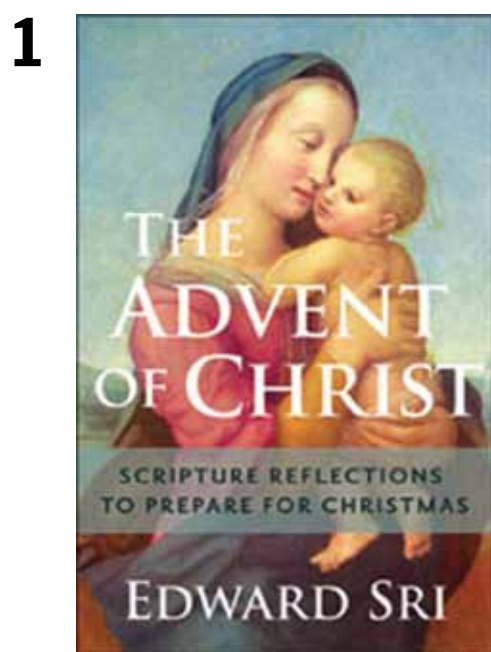
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2. WALKING WITH MARY

Accompany Mary from Nazareth and Bethlehem to the cross. Marian expert Edward Sri looks at the key passages in the Bible concerning Mary and offers insight into the Blessed Mother's faith and devotion that the faithful can apply in their daily lives. Hardcover, 172 pages. Item: 48034, \$21, from EWTN-ReligiousCatalogue.com or (800) 854-6316.

3. MARY, UNDOER OF KNOTS BOOK

In 1700, German painter Johann Schmittndner captured "Mary, the Undoer of Knots." Almost 300 years later, young Father Jorge Bergoglio was deeply moved by the image. This booklet takes inspiration from Pope Francis as it tells the history of the image and this burgeoning devotion, including prayers and a new novena to the Undoer of Knots. 32 pages. Item: SP-1, \$4, from CatholictotheMax.com or (800) 895-6267.

4. FAITH TALKS

Give the gift of Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI's last 16 weekly talks on the importance of faith and "the joy of walking on the path" Jesus pointed out to the faithful. Hardcover, 109 pages. Item TPT-H, \$14.95, from Ignatius.com or (800) 651-1531.

5. NEW EVANGELIZATION DVD

The latest feature from Father Robert Barron and Word on Fire ministries explores the Church's mission in contemporary culture. Item: WF-103, \$59.95, from Store.WordonFire.org.

6. WYD RIO DVD

Relive World Youth Day Rio 2013 by watching this 55-minute documentary featuring WYD highlights. Also included are 50 minutes of extras, including a photo gallery. Includes English or Spanish language options. Item: RRIO-M, \$17.95, from Ignatius.com or (800) 651-1531.

Feast on Monks' Bread and Prayer in New York State

BY CHRISTINE A. SMYCZYNSKI

Nestled in the tiny village of Piffard, among the gently rolling hills of the Genesee River Valley, about 35 miles south of Rochester, N.Y., stands the Abbey of the Genesee, a community of contemplative monks, Cistercians of Strict Observance, commonly known as Trappists. The brothers have dedicated themselves to a cloistered life of prayer and manual labor. They also observe silence, only speaking when necessary.

The 35 monks gather for prayer five times a day, beginning at 2:25am and ending in early evening. The public is invited to join them for prayer in the church, which is open daily from 2am-7pm.

On my most recent visit, I joined about two dozen other people in the church. The church is very peaceful, dimly lit on purpose, and silence must be observed. It is the perfect place to come and contemplate all the things on one's heart.

The monks slowly and silently filed in; at the appointed time, a bell rang, and they began singing hymns,



RURAL RETREAT. The rural setting of the Abbey of the Genesee and quiet church invite visitors to prayer; the bread shop — stocked with fresh-baked bread and other treats by the monks — is also a draw for visitors. Christine A. Smyczynski

which were followed by a reading and the Our Father. They then all filed out in silence.

The Abbey of the Genesee is probably best known for the physical nourishment it offers. When the

abbey was first established in 1951, Brother Sylvester, one of the abbey's founders, began baking bread for the monks and visitors, using his own recipe. Soon, guests started asking to purchase the bread to take home. The

monks decided to start a small bakery and began making "monks bread."

The operation grew, and the monks began operating a large modern bakery, which supports the abbey financially to this day. The bread is sold at the abbey's bread store, as well as in major supermarkets in Buffalo, Rochester and Syracuse.

"The bread was made fresh this morning," Steven, the cashier at the abbey's bread store, told me. It smelled great in the store, and I had a difficult time deciding which kind to buy. Varieties include white, wheat, raisin with cinnamon, sunflower with rolled oats, maple cinnamon, 20-grain, 20-grain with golden raisins and rye. They also make a holiday bread, a sweet loaf with candied fruit peel and cinnamon, during the Christmas and Easter seasons. Because of their unique texture, the breads freeze very well, so visitors stock up.

The monks also make a variety of sweets, including brownies and fruit cakes. They also carry fruit spreads, jams and candies produced at other monasteries, as well as locally made Once Again nut butters, at the store. They even have several cookbooks,

most written by monks. Can't make it to the abbey? The bread and other items can be ordered online at MonksBread.com.

In the foyer outside the bread store, a variety of books about saints and other Catholic topics are available for purchase. Keeping up with technology, they even had "the Bible to Go" — the New Testament on a USB flash drive.

If spending an hour or two at the abbey doesn't seem like enough time, silent monastic-style retreats are offered to both individuals and groups.

"These are not themed retreats," said Father Jerome Machar, prior of the abbey. "People are encouraged to just come and pray with us."

Retreatants are encouraged to participate in the daily prayers; however, they are not obligated to. Time is allowed for quiet contemplation and walks on the grounds of the abbey. The retreats are offered throughout the year at the on-site retreat houses.

As I put the fragrant bread in my car, I knew I couldn't possibly wait to get home to have some. I sampled

both the rye and the 20-grain. Then, eyeing the nut butter I bought, I remembered that I had some plastic cutlery in the car, so I made myself a nut-butter sandwich on 20-grain slices. Delicious.

Christine A. Smyczynski writes from Getzville, New York.

Abbey of the Genesee

3258 River Rd.
Piffard, NY 14533
(585) 243-0660
GeneseeAbbey.org

Planning Your Visit

For retreat information, call (585) 243-2220 or visit AbbeyRetreats.org. The church is open daily 2am-7pm; the bread store is open Monday-Saturday, 9am-5pm, and after Mass on Sundays. See GeneseeAbbey.org for liturgy times. Bread and other food products can be ordered at MonksBread.com.

Getting There

From Rochester, N.Y., take I-390 south, exit at Genesee and head west on Route 20A through Genesee to Route 63 North. River Road is off Route 63 about five miles from Genesee.

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This Christmas Season



Christmas with Collin Raye featuring Andrea Thomas

An original EWTN special with Collin Raye and Andrea Thomas.
 December 21, 11 pm; December 22, 9 pm;
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Live from the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception

CHORAL MEDITATIONS ON THE NATIVITY
 December 25, 2 pm
SOLEMN MASS OF CHRISTMAS EVE
 December 24, 10:30 pm
SOLEMN MASS OF CHRISTMAS DAY
 December 25, 12 pm



Savoring Our Faith

Fr. Leo Patalinghug is joined by Fr. Patrick Mary, M.F.V.A. for a special Christmas Family Meal.
 December 22, 5 pm; December 27, 3:30 pm



Tajci: A Christmas Broadcast Special

Croatian singer Tajci (Tatiana) performs seasonal favorites.
 December 23, 9 pm



Mother Angelica Live Classics

Christmas
 December 17, 8 pm; December 25, 10 am
 A Very Special Christmas
 December 17, 10 am; December 24, 10 am
 What Will You Give Christ for Christmas?
 December 22, 6 pm

Martin the Cobbler

Based on Leo Tolstoy's Christmas story, and narrated by his daughter, Alexandra.
 December 12, 5 pm

San Juan Children's Choir Presents: Siempre Navidad

The San Juan Children's Choir sings Christmas songs from around the world.
 December 21, 9:30 am; December 26, 4 pm



We Are Catholic
 Christmas Special
 December 17, 4:30 pm;
 December 23, 5 pm

In Concert
 Christmas Candlelight Concert.
 December 22, 1:30 pm

In Concert :
The King Singers-Christmas
 December 27, 10 am



Live from the Vatican in Rome

SOLEMN MASS OF CHRISTMAS EVE WITH POPE FRANCIS
 Solemnity of the Birth of Our Lord: Mass with Pope Francis from St. Peter's Basilica.
 December 24, 4:30 pm

URBI ET ORBI: POPE FRANCIS' CHRISTMAS MESSAGE TO THE WORLD
 Pope Francis offers his Christmas Day blessing and message to the city of Rome and to the world.
 December 25, 6 am;
 December 25, 10 pm



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