

# Holy Radio begins broadcasting in South Bend on 1580 AM

BY MICHELLE DONAGHEY

MISHAWAKA — Catholic radio will be coming to the airwaves of South Bend area. At 12:01 a.m., Dec. 8, the solemnity of the Immaculate Conception, WHLY, 1580 AM, will go on the air using programming from EWTN (Eternal Word Television Network), a Catholic satellite television and radio network based in Birmingham, Ala.

"We've been looking for our big project, and this is it," said Robert Kloska, director of the station and a member of the board of directors for the St. Thomas More Foundation.

Kloska noted that five years ago the foundation looked into the possibility of acquiring a station in Niles, Mich. The group looked hard at the option, but decided not to go forward with it.

"Throughout this process, we are thankful for the prayers and support provided by Bishop D'Arcy, along with the people at Redeemer Radio, WLYV, 1450 AM in Fort Wayne," Kloska added. Just as Redeemer Radio in Fort Wayne, WHLY will have no business ties

with the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend and is a laity driven communications vehicle.

The board of directors of the St. Thomas More Foundation is developing a business plan, so as to expand the capabilities of the radio station. As Mother Angelica of EWTN proclaimed, "new Catholic radio stations are based on faith." Since we have not traveled this path before, your prayers for our success will be appreciated," noted the board in a press release.

"The station acquired has the call letters of WHLY — you look at that and it says Holy Radio. Hence the station will be called Holy Radio," said Dick Peterson, general manager who noted that this will be the station's identification.

Kloska pointed out that eventually they hope to have WHLY billboards placed at locations at the far east and west on the tollway.

"According to research, 40,000 a day people listen on the tollway and no one gets off the tollway much," said Kloska who noted that the station will help to "inspire and evangelize" all who are listening.

To start, the station's program-

ming will be strictly EWTN as currently the station is set up in an office at a board member's business. The station hopes to expand to local programming once funds are raised for a studio location. Kloska said, in order to do that, they may hold a fund-raising dinner for the station in early 2007.

The station does not have full time staff members to handle a fund-raising drive similar to Fort Wayne's Redeemer Radio Share-a-thon, but they are hoping that a volunteer coordinator will come forward to help with fund-raising efforts. Anyone who might be interested in such a volunteer position or are interested in helping WHLY financially can contact Dick Peterson at rdpdiamond@qtm.net.

"In the near future, we will require more volunteers and public and financial support," said Peterson.

"I can't say that I am any more amazed at how God works. I know it is God's work and God's will because he placed us here, but we're so overwhelmed now with getting things done," said Kloska who says that someday soon they will celebrate that a Catholic radio station broadcasts in South Bend.

## TRIP

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

Benedict's positive encounters with Muslims stole the headlines. Even the Turkish papers, initially lukewarm to the idea of a papal visit, were impressed.

The daily *Hurriyet* reported Dec. 1: "The pope, who earned sympathy with words in the spirit of an apology to Muslims, continued to surprise the world."

The paper, like much of the world, particularly was struck by his prayer alongside a Muslim cleric in the mosque.

*Hurriyet* reported the pope "turned toward Mecca and prayed like a Muslim."

The Dec. 1 English-language *Turkish Daily News* headline read: "The pope is winning hearts and minds."

And the article described the pope's visit as "a moment of reconciliation" with the country's majority Muslim population.

As he was setting off from Rome Nov. 28, the pope had told reporters traveling with him that they should not have exaggerated expectations of such a short trip.

"The value (of the trip) I would say is symbolic, the fruit of the encounters themselves, of encoun-

ters in friendship and respect."

When the trip was over Dec. 1, one would only have to look at photographs of the pope with government officials, Muslim representatives and leaders of the Orthodox churches to see that a connection was made.

**"It seems we've gone well beyond expectations."**

FATHER FEDERICO LOMBARDI

After a 30-minute free-flowing discussion Nov. 28 with Ali Bardakoglu, the country's top Muslim official, the two appeared before reporters grasping both of each other's hands.

And after attending Patriarch Bartholomew's celebration of the Divine Liturgy at the Orthodox cathedral, the two blessed a small crowd together before the patriarch took the pope's hand and held it aloft as they waved.

Even some of the obligatory gifts given during the trip seemed to conspire to carry a positive message, particularly when they were coincidentally similar, as they

were at the Blue Mosque.

Jesuit Father Federico Lombardi, Vatican spokesman, pointed out that doves — the symbol of peace — were the main feature on the blue tile Istanbul's grand mufti gave to the pope and on the mosaic Pope Benedict gave to the mufti.

And, before leaving Istanbul Dec. 1, the pope released four white doves from the courtyard of the Catholic Cathedral of the Holy Spirit.

Father Lombardi told reporters late Nov. 30, "It seems we've gone well beyond expectations."

Not only were there no confrontations with Muslims over what the pope said in Germany in September, but the Germany speech seemed to give way to a new look at "the theme of relations between Christians and Muslims with serenity and depth, seeking to make important clarifications on both sides," Father Lombardi said.

"With this visit, this particular act in the mosque, I think we have taken significant steps forward," he said.



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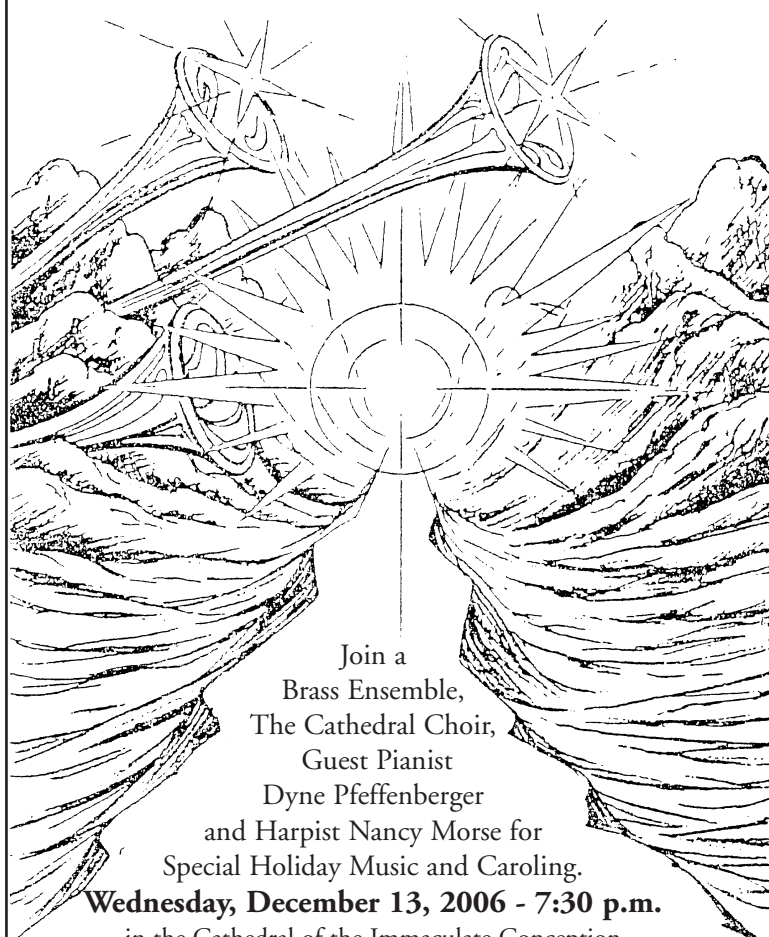
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