“Safely, war and terrorism, accompanied by kidnapping, ethnic or religious persecution and the misuse of power, marked the past year from start to finish. In looking to the new year, I call everyone not to lose hope in our human ability not to conquer evil and to combat resignation and indifference.” — Pope Francis, World Day of Prayer for Peace

‘Mother Angelica’s life has been a life of faith, her prayer life and obedience to God are worthy of our imitation. Everything she did was an act of faith.” — Bishop of Los Angeles
VICTORY FOR THE FIRST AMENDMENT. Mother Loraine Marie Maguire (center), of the Little Sisters of the Poor, packs up to speak to the media after arguing the order’s case at the U.S. Supreme Court March 23 in Washington. On May 16, the court unanimously voted in favor of the religious order, which had asked for legal relief against the HHS mandate that would require religious groups to provide contraception, sterilization and abortion-inducing drugs as part of their health coverage, a new U.S. Supreme Court Justice Daniel D. Kwalick of Galveston-Brownsville (below) was elected to a three-year term as president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops at the bishops’ November gathering in Baltimore. Archbishop José Gomez of Los Angeles was elected vice president, and Donald Wuerl of Washington was elected treasurer.

2016 in Review

Trump Upsets Clinton, Little Sisters Win
And Mother Angelica Says Goodbye

In one of the greatest upsets in presidential election history, Republican real estate mogul Donald Trump soundly defeated the heavily favored Democrat Hillary Clinton and was elected the 45th president of the United States. Trump won on a strong message to vot- ers who felt left behind by the economy and who also were concerned about government overreach, includ- ing the Affordable Care Act, so-called Obamacare.

Catholic voters played an important role in Trump’s election, voting for him 52%-45%.

Among the more important state ballot questions, assisted suicide gained further ground. The California Legislature passed a bill legalizing assisted suicide in September 2015, and the bill went into effect in June. Colorado voters approved Proposition 166, making assisted suicide legal for those with terminal illness.

In Washington, D.C., on Nov. 1, the D.C. Council voted to advance the Death With Dignity Act by an 11-2 vote.

On May 16, the U.S. Supreme Court, which was reduced to eight members with the February death of Catholic Justice Antonin Scalia, rendered a unanimous opinion in favor of the Little Sisters of the Poor, who had asked for legal relief against the so-called HHS mandate that would require religious groups to provide contraception, sterilization and abortion-inducing drugs as part of their health coverage. In a 5-3 decision, the Supreme Court had held down a part of Texas law that required that abortion businesses meet the same building standards as ambulatory surgical centers.

The majority opinion of the court argued that the reg- ulations are medically unnecessary and unconstitu- tionally limit a woman’s right to an abortion.

Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas celebrated the 25th anniversary of his appointment to the nation’s highest court on Oct. 23.

On June 14, undercover investigator David Daleiden was charged of misdemeanor charges brought against him by Texas Harris County district attorney in the wake of the shocking revelations that Daleiden brought to light about Planned Parenthood. Daleiden and the Center for Medical Progress’ undercover investigation revealed that Planned Parenthood was engaged in the practice of selling the parts of aborted fetuses.

Mother Mary Angelica, foundress of the Eternal Word Television Network (EWTN), died on March 27, Easter Sunday, at the age of 92. The beloved Poor Clare nun launched EWTN in 1981 out of a converted garage in Birmingham, Alabama, and dedicated the next two decades to expanding the network into a multimedia global enterprise, reaching 264 million homes in 144 countries, as well as through radio, internet, Catholic News Agency and the Register. “Mother has always and will always personally EWTN, the network that God asked her to found,” said EWTN Chairman and Chief Executive Officer Michael Wurschner. “Her accomplishments and impact in evangelization throughout the world are nothing short of miraculous and can only be attributed to divine Providence and her unswerving faithfulness to Our Lord.”

On Dec. 2, Pope Francis recognized the martyrdom of Venerable Stanley Rother, a priest of the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City who was killed in Guatemala. The declaration made him the first martyr to have been born in the United States and cleared the way for his beatification. And Dec. 7 marked the 75th anniversary of the Japanese attack on the U.S. at Pearl Harbor, an act that brought America into World War II.

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In March, the Knights of Columbus and the organization In Defense of Christians submitted to the U.S. State Department a 300-page report demonstrating the ongoing genocide of the Christian community in Iraq and Syria under ISIS (the so-called Islamic State). The report included the names of more than 1,100 Christians confirmed to have been murdered by the Islamic State, as well as 125 destroyed Christian churches, schools and monasteries; evidence of the ISIS sex-slave trade and systematic rape, mass execution, beheadings and crucifixions of the Christian community. On March 9, Congress passed, by a near-unanimous 393-0 vote, House Resolution 75, recognizing the ongoing genocide of Christians, Yazidis and other religious minorities under ISIS. On March 30, Secretary of State John Kerry finally declared officially, “Genocide” (another name for ISIS) is genocide by self-proclamation, by ideology and by act. We must recognize what ISIS is doing to its victims.

The crisis in Syria, North Africa and beyond has driven hundreds of thousands of refugees into Europe and North America, continued to 2016, with more arrivals in Western countries such as Germany, France and Italy. 2016 proved the deadlest year for refugees trying to reach Europe, with more than 1,500 deaths, most in the treacherous waters of the Mediterranean, as desperate families tried to escape economic, political and religious strife. The political fallout of the crisis also began to rise in 2016, as governments in Germany and France faced voter anger over their immigration policies and the steady rise in crime and terror threats in many European cities.

The bloody and catastrophic Syrian civil war raged on throughout 2016, with the total live lost since 2011 climbing to more than 400,000. The year brought savage fighting among the forces of ISIS, rebel opposition to the regimes of Bashar al-Assad and Assad’s Russian-supported army. Even as ISIS lost territory in 2016, governments in Germany and France faced voter anger over their immigration policies and the steady rise in crime and terror threats in many European cities.

In June, the United Kingdom voted to withdraw from the European Union. The referendum to withdraw, called “Brexit” from “British exit,” was unexpectedly approved by British voters, with a majority of 52%. The “Leave” vote won every region of the country save for the areas around London, Scotland and Northern Ireland. The political fallout of the vote ended the term of Prime Minister David Cameron. According to the polls, Britain will be gone from the EU by March 2019.

Most of the leaders of the world’s Orthodox Churches met for the first time in a millennium in Kolymvari, Crete, June 19-26. Officially called the Holy and Great Council, the gathering was convened at the request of the autocephalous Churches of Eastern Christianity. The gathering was still undeclared, as most of the smaller Orthodox Churches refused to attend. Catholic cardinal Pietro Parolin, who led the 25-member Catholic delegation, said the council must “first of all” address the “urgent, burning” issues of the world today, which include terrorism, migration, the refugee crisis and the crisis of identity and values that is evident in every part of the world.

The controversy surrounding radical Islam continued to escalate in 2016, as protests and violent attacks by members of radical Islamic groups, including ISIS, Boko Haram and al-Qaeda. In all, the year saw dozens of deaths from terrorist attacks in Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Germany, Turkey, India, Pakistan, Indonesia and the United States. Some of the worst events included: the January deaths of 21 in a hotel and restaurant in Ouagadougou, the capital of Burkina Faso; the March martyrdom of four members of the Matthias family; the church bombing in Brussels airport and metro that resulted in 31 deaths and more than 100 wounded; the January massacre in a night club in Orlando, Florida, that killed 49 and injured 53; the Bastille Day massacre of 86 people and injuries to 134 others, when a white-truck. (Continued on page 34, 35)

1. **World Youth Day, a Priest’s Martyrdom and the Passing of a Tyrant**

2. **FAITHFUL SERVANT.** A man outside of the Roanoke cathedral built a prayer card bearing the image of Father Jacques Hamel in the year 2016 to commemorating his 2015 martyrdom.

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**KRAKOW, POLAND**

CRISTIAN AND CASTRO UNITE AGAIN: Above, World Youth Day pilgrims attend the arrival of Pope Francis at the Jasna Gora Monastery in Czestochowa, Poland, on July 28. Below, the large crowd of pilgrims welcomed the pontiff and his country at the World Youth Day opening Mass in Krakow.

POLAND: The young pope was welcomed by the pope with a greeting and a prayer.

**AP**

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Pope Francis made six more journeys, including to Mexico (February), Greece (April), Armenia (May), Poland (July) for World Youth Day, Georgia and Azerbaijan (September) and Sweden (October). In Poland, he made a memorable visit to the Nazi concentration camp at Auschwitz, and in Sweden he began the celebration of the Protestant Reformation (or Protestant Reforma- tion) that will culminate in 2017 with the 500th anniversary of Martin Luther’s break with the Catholic Church.

Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI celebrated the 50th anniversary of his priestly ordination on June 29. He was ordained in the cathedral of Freising, Germany. The event was commemorated in the Vatican by Pope Francis.

On Sept. 4, Pope Francis presided over the canonization of St. Teresa of Calcutta, the beloved Mother Teresa who founded the Missionaries of Charity, during a Mass in St. Peter’s Square. A crowd of more than 150,000 attended, with celebrations held around the globe. The cause of canonization for the new saint, who died in 1997, was one of the fastest in modern times.

Pope Francis continued his reform of the Roman Curia — the central government of the Church — by establishing several new dicasteries or offices, including the Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development (that merged four existing Vatican departments for justice and peace, migration, charity and health) and the Dicastery for the Laity, Family and Life. To head this new dicastery, Francis named an American bishop, the Irish-born Bishop Kevin Farrell of Dallas, who was subsequently named a cardinal. More changes are expected in 2017.

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2016 in Review
Mother Teresa, Amoris Laetitia and Mercy

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