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CNS documentary service

The New Evangelization in the United States of America

Archbishop Kurtz

"We are called to become the saints that God has created us to be and to take the initiative to make our church and our world a better place as we journey to our heavenly home," Archbishop Joseph E. Kurtz of Louisville, Ky., president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, said in a Feb. 27 keynote address at the Mid-Atlantic Congress for pastoral leaders in Baltimore. The congress, in its third year, is co-sponsored by the Association of Catholic Publishers and the Archdiocese of Baltimore, in partnership with the National Leadership Roundtable for Church Management. In his

"By being creative and shunning the preachy and pushy, the individual and the community can reach out."

keynote address, Archbishop Kurtz focused on new evangelization in the U.S. "The new evangelization is about saying something," said Archbishop Kurtz, who called Pope Francis a "great evangelizer." The archbishop outlined the five tasks of today's evangelizer: praying, observing, reaching out, gathering and sending forth. "It is not what is said, but rather what is heard and received that is the core of the new evangelization," Archbishop Kurtz said. "Faith, like a flame, grows stronger the more it is shared. Together, let us go forth to share the good news of Jesus Christ. That's what a good catechist does." The archbishop's keynote follows.

how grateful I am to Archbishop Lori and the planners of the Mid-Atlantic Congress for this invitation. It is great to be in Baltimore! In 1808 Bardstown (now Louisville) was one of four dioceses in the newly created province of Baltimore, and two of Archbishop Lori's predecessors — Martin Spalding and Francis Kendrick — served in Kentucky, the former from birth and the latter in his early priestly life.

I must tell you of the Easter gift I gave my Aunt Mary last year. She has everything, and so I decided to splurge and give her a parrot that speaks four languages and was very expensive. On Easter morning I called. Here is the conversation:

"Aunt Mary, Happy Easter. Did you get my package?"

"Yes, it arrived yesterday morning."

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March 27, 2014
Volume 43
Number 42