

**Homily for the 150th Anniversary of Immaculate Conception Parish
Shelbyville, Illinois**

**The Second Sunday of Advent - Cycle C
December 9, 2012**

**+ Most Reverend Thomas John Paprocki
Bishop of Springfield in Illinois**

Father Wolford, Deacon O'Brien, my dear brothers and sisters in Christ: The subway in London, which the people there call the "Underground," is the oldest underground transport system in the world. Every day four million people use the network to get to work or to travel around the city. From early morning to late at night, trains appear from dark tunnels, stop at stations, disgorging passengers and picking up others, and then disappear into more dark tunnels, carrying the citizens of London about their daily business. All day long the trains travel along their prescribed routes and, somehow or other, people succeed in getting to their destinations.

That "somehow or other" is, in fact, the work of a great army of people, many thousands, the employees of London Underground, who, by their expertise and hard work, keep the whole system moving. A team of overseers, using closed circuit TV, monitors the flow of people and trains,