After 30 years of abortion, pro-lifers insist: Women deserve better

WASHINGTON (CNS)—Cathy Cleaver was in grade school when the U.S. Supreme Court overturned most state restrictions on abortion in its Jan. 22, 1973, twin decisions—Roe vs. Wade and Doe vs. Bolton.

But if the experiences of her generation have taught her anything, it’s that women deserve better than the “choice” abortion offers them.

As the director of planning and information for the U.S. bishops’ Secretariat for Pro-Life Activities looked back over 30 years of legal abortion in the United States, she said the more than 40 million abortions since 1973 are “not a measure of our society’s success in meeting the needs of women, but of its failure.”

“According to statistics provided by abortion advocates themselves, the vast majority of women who ‘choose’ abortion do so precisely because they believed they had no other real choice,” said Cleaver. “The reasons women most often cite for their abortions are a lack of financial resources and emotional support.”

“We Women Deserve Better” is the theme of an ad campaign in the Washington area on subway trains, buses and commuter trains and in the print media during January. The campaign is co-sponsored by the bishops’ pro-life secretariat and the Knights of Columbus.

New St. Agnes church in Brown County to be ready for worship in the fall

By Mary Ann Wyand

NASHVILLE—A new chapter in the history of St. Agnes Parish in Nashville begins this fall when the 310-household faith community moves into a much larger church that will accommodate parishioners and Catholic tourists visiting scenic Brown County.

It is fitting that the parish is moving from the small log chapel and social hall on Highway 135 into a new wood and stone church at the intersection of Helmsburg and McLary Roads during the height of the tourism season because the parish’s longtime mission has been to experience the beauty of nature in the wooded hills and at the scenic Brown County.

The Brown County Presbyterian Fellowship, a 60-member Protestant congregation, purchased the original St. Agnes property on Oct. 17, so the chapel will be ready for worship in the fall.

Founded in 1940 with six families, St. Agnes Parish currently offers Masses at 5 p.m. on Saturday and at 7:30 a.m. and 9 a.m. on Sunday.

Kentucky bill would end priest-penitent privilege for child abusers

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (CNS)—A bill that challenges the sacramental seal of confession in the Catholic Church was filed in the Kentucky House of Representatives as it opened its 2003 session on Jan. 7.

The proposal seeks to amend the clergy-penitent privilege to say that the “priest shall not extend to any communication relating to the neglect or abuse of a minor child.”

The clergy-penitent privilege, somewhat comparable to the attorney-client privilege, currently allows clergy to refuse to disclose any information communicated to them while they are acting in the role of spiritual advisor or confesser.

The bill, supported by Rep. Susan Westrom of Lexington, would require all members of the clergy—“minister, priest, rabbi, Christian Science practitioner or other similar functionary of a religious organization”—to report information disclosed to them under any circumstances if it relates to the abuse or neglect of a minor child.

The Catholic Conference of Kentucky, public policy arm of the state’s bishops, said it will oppose the bill.

The proposal would also amend the state’s child abuse and neglect reporting law, which currently requires all people to report information regarding child abuse or neglect except when that information is learned by an attorney from a client or by a member of the clergy from a penitent.

The bill would strike the clergy-penitent privilege from that law while leaving the attorney-client privilege intact.

Westrom, a therapist who has worked with sexually abused children, said she is thankful the reporting law requires her to disclose any knowledge she has of abuse or neglect.

“It is a monumental burden for the clergy to deal with, to feel...
In “A Matter of the Heart,” their statement marking the 30th anniversary of Roe vs. Wade, the U.S. bishops said legal abortion “promised what it could not give,” when its supporters in 1973 said it would bring an end to poverty and abuse. “It promised women a freedom to participate more fully in society, but it took their children and broke their hearts,” they said. “Many contemplating abortion believe they have no other choice.”

In the January issue of Life Issues Forum, a publication of the pro-life secretariat, Cleaver described the legalization of abortion as “a social experiment using the lives of women and children as its primary subjects.

“The reality is that women turn to abortion because they feel alone and helpless, or abandoned, or pressured by boyfriends or family members,” she added. “Abortion is not the act of empowerment it was promised to be.”

In addition to being the 30th anniversary of Roe vs. Wade, 2003 marks the first year that U.S. Catholic dioceses are obliged to observe Jan. 22 liturgically as a day of penance for violations to the dignity of the human person committed through acts of abortion, and of prayer for the full restoration of the legal guarantee of the right to life.

Celebrities of all Masses that day are to wear violet vestments, according to changes to the General Instruction of the Roman Missal approved by the bishops in November 2001 and ratified by the Vatican in February 2002.

In his speech to the diplomats, the pope also for the first time personally denounced Russia’s expulsions last year of a bishop and three other Catholic clergy, which he said were “a cause of great suffering for me.”

“The Holy See expects from government authorities concrete decisions which will put an end to this crisis, and which are in keeping with international agreements subscribed to by the modern and democratic Russia,” he said.

Turning to the Middle East, the pope deplored the “constant degeneration of the crisis” and said Israelis and Palestinians are called “to live together by-side, equally free and sovereign, in mutual respect.”

“The solution will never be imposed by recourse to terrorism or armed conflict, as if military victories could be the solution,” he said.

He cited the threat of “insidious terrorism capable of striking at any time and anywhere,” war in the Middle East and the threat of war in Iran, social turmoil in South America, famine and conflicts in Africa, the spread of fatal diseases, and “the irresponsible behavior concerning the depletion of the planet’s resources.”

“Never at the beginning of this millennium has humanity felt how precarious is the world which it has shaped,” he said. “Yet everything can change,” he added. “It depends on each of us.”

He listed certain “requirements” that must be met “if entire peoples, perhaps even humanity itself, are not to sink into the abyss.”

First among them was a “yes to life,” particularly in the case of unborn children in attacks on pregnant women, make it a federal crime to take a minor out of state to circumvent the state’s laws regarding parent notification before an abortion, and allow health care providers and institutions to refuse to perform, pay for or counsel for abortion on grounds of conscience.

Douglas Johnson, legislative director for the National Right to Life Committee, said he expected “a number of these bills” to receive consideration in both houses of Congress. “It won’t happen all at once, but bills will be taken up at the appropriate times during the course of the Congress.”

Bush has signaled his own willingness to up the anti-abortion pace with a Jan. 7 decision to resubmit to the Senate the nominations of Charles Pickering of Mississippi and Priscilla Owen of Texas as candidates for federal appeals court judges. Both were rejected by the Senate Judiciary Committee last year in part because of their pro-life views.

Perhaps the most cheering words for pro-lifers in 2003 come from Kate Michelman, president of the National Abortion and Reproductive Rights Action League, which on Jan. 1 changed its name to NARAL Pro Choice America.

“We have never had an environment as hostile as this since Roe vs. Wade was decided by the Supreme Court 30 years ago,” she said. “This could really result in more losses than we have experienced in the past.”

The pope said world leaders must recognize that the independence of states “can no longer be understood apart from the conditions of freedom, justice and peace.”

“All states are interconnected both for better and for worse,” he said.

In this regard, the pope said, two conditions must be met “if we are to avoid descending into chaos”—rediscovery of the “paramount value” of “natural law” as the source of inspiration for civil and international law and professionally competent politicians who are honest, selfless and have strong moral convictions.

VATICAN CITY (CNS)—At least 25 priests, religious and lay missionaries, including 10 in Columbia—were killed in mission territories during 2002, said Fides, the Vatican’s missionary news agency.

Most of the killings took place in Latin America, where 13 Church workers died, and in Africa, which counted 10. In Asia, a Chaldean Catholic priest was killed in August in Baghdad, Iraq.

The annual “martyrology,” released on Jan. 2, includes the first indigenous priest of the Solomon Islands in the South Pacific. Father Augustin Geve was killed in August during an attempt to mediate peace in his home island of Balabacan.

Colombia, where Church leaders have been targeted by guerrillas and drug lords, led the list of martyrs with one bishop, seven priests, one nun and one seminarian. Among the others on the list, Fides identified three as victims of violent rob- bers. They included an Irish Salesian priest in Johannesburg, South Africa, where he worked among the poor; an Angolan seminarian; and a Uruguayan Focolare movement lay missionary in Brazil.

The list covers not just missionaries in the strict sense but also Church workers “killed in a violent way or who sacrificed their lives knowing the risk they were running and yet did not abandon that which was entrusted to them,” Fides said.

The list is compiled by the society of the expression of Pope John Paul II,” it said. †
St. Vincent opens new children’s hospital

By Mary Ann Wyand

Bright colors and whimsical decorations welcome youngsters to the new St. Vincent Children’s Hospital at 2001 W. 86th St. in Indianapolis.

The $24 million pediatric health care facility opened on Jan. 14 and will provide a broad range of medical services for newborn babies through 18-year-olds.

The 72-bed children’s hospital includes a 15-bed pediatric intensive care unit, a 17-bed pediatric emergency department, a children’s heart center, a pediatric rehabilitation center, a neuroscience institute and a center for treatment of children with cancer and blood diseases.

During the ribbon-cutting ceremony on Jan. 9, Vincent Caponi, chief executive officer of St. Vincent Health, praised the dedicated doctors and nurses who will provide pediatric medical services in the new state-of-the-art children’s wing attached to the main hospital.

More than 80 pediatricians and 50 pediatric specialists will treat patients with common childhood conditions as well as acute medical problems.

Caponi introduced Dr. Harry Laws, a former senior clinical research physician with Eli Lilly and Co. in Indianapolis, as the new administrator. Laws will be responsible for both administrative and medical operations at the children’s hospital.

“As we open our doors to the community, it is my great honor to accept stewardship of St. Vincent Children’s Hospital,” Laws said. “I’m delighted to work with you and continue to realize the dream that has become St. Vincent Children’s Hospital.”

Reflecting on the founding of St. Vincent Hospital in Indianapolis by the Daughters of Charity in 1881, Laws said the sisters proclaimed, “We have a mission, a reason for being here, to keep health care human…. The poor will come and the rich will come if they know they will be treated as human beings.”

Laws promised to “always serve the best interests of the physicians, associates, children and families who come through these doors. “Combining our existing [pediatric] services into this wonderful building will greatly help us treat those who have entrusted us with their care,” he said. “I am very pleased to accept a responsible part in that process. The staff and I are thankful for the vision that led to this building, and are appreciative of those whose will and determination have resulted in St. Vincent Children’s Hospital. It’s a wonderful pediatric home where we can provide extraordinary care.”

Colorful walls, floors and play areas throughout the hospital welcome children and are intended to make them feel comfortable during examinations and treatments. Rooms are private and feature overnight accommodations for parents.

Children selected the icons used to decorate the hospital, which include a gear, handprint, swirling circle and star. There are several indoor play areas and an outdoor play space on the rooftop.

Architectural elements designed by Karlsberger Healthcare Group of Ohio include a four-story atrium, an interactive waterfall feature on a lobby wall and windows in every patient room. A simulated slide descends from the building’s roof, and a gear-shaped staircase and shimmering circles decorate an exterior wall.

“This building allows us to deliver a broad scope of services in pediatric care to our patients in a non-threatening environment,” Laws said. “From the moment children arrive at the hospital and see the exciting components of the exterior to their interior, they will feel comfortable.”

St. Francis Xavier Home Mission Fund applications are due Jan. 31

By Brandon A. Evans

Parishes in the archdiocese have until Jan. 31 to apply for available funds from the St. Francis Xavier Home Mission Fund.

The money to be awarded—about $77,000—is in reserve for the United Catholic Appeal and is intended for any parish that has a need for it. This allocation is especially intended for those parishes or schools that have an unexpected or minor expense.

Each parish in the archdiocese has a specific goal for the United Catholic Appeal, and the parish can choose to direct some or all of the additional money raised to the

St. Francis Xavier Home Mission Fund. The money in the fund is then given to parishes in need twice each fiscal year.

The first allocation, made last summer, awarded $309,000 to 10 parishes and two schools.

St. Peter Parish in Brookville received $5,000 to help parents in the parish pay for about $3,500 and a few a little higher. The money was requested for a variety of needs, including financial assistance due to a drop in school enrollment and the purchase of a new copying machine.

One way for the archdiocese to begin to address the needs of certain parishes and schools is through grant applications for financial assistance from the St. Francis Xavier Home Mission Fund. The application describes a parish’s needs in simple terms and can be either mailed or completed by e-mail. This application is due by the end of the month.

The allocations committee, chaired by Msgr. Joseph F. Schaedel, vicar general, and made up of the pastors from parishes that gave the most money in each deanery to the home mission fund, reviews the applications from parishes and schools to determine need.

Archbishop Daniel M. Buechlein has said that the home missions, which cannot support themselves, require the financial help of everyone in the archdiocese. He said these parishes and schools are places of ministry that are needed where they are.

(For more information on how to receive an application for parishes or schools requesting money from the St. Francis Xavier Home Mission Fund, call Bonnie Vollmer at 800-382-9836, ext. 1410, or e-mail bvollmer@archindy.org)

A Child Needs Your Love

Caring individuals needed to provide foster care to the youth of Indiana.

Must be able to:

Love

Understanding

Commitment

Stability

Training, 24-hour staff support and compensations provided to all foster homes.

Contact:

Indiana Youth Advocate Program, Inc.
1-800-471-4795
(State of Indiana)

Let It Snow…
Let It Snow…

Chad

Jennifer

Some things never change

As an independently-owned firm, we take special care to assure that every detail is perfect. That’ll never change. We take pride in our community because it is our family. And families respect and care for each other. You know we won’t let that change.

Leppert & Hensley
MORTUARY/CREMATORY
Two convenient locations
Nora Chapel • 740 East 86th Street • Indianapolis
317.844.3966
Smith Carmel Chapel • 900 N. Rangeline Rd. • Carmel
317.846.2091

Photos by Mary Ann Wyand

The new St. Vincent Children’s Hospital opened on Jan. 14 at 2001 W. 86th St. in Indianapolis.

Dr. Harry Laws, administrator of the new St. Vincent’s Children’s Hospital, (right) addresses the gathering during the Jan. 9 ribbon-cutting ceremony. Daughter of Charity Sister Sharon Richard, vice president of mission services, and Vincent Caponi, chief executive officer of St. Vincent Health, also spoke during the ceremony.

The Criterion Friday, January 17, 2003 } Page 3
Modern-day martyrs

The more of you kill, the more we are. The blood of Christians is seed." ("Plures efficimur quotiens seminum; vobis semen est sanguis Christianorum.")

So wrote the great Church Father Tertullian in A.D. 197 in one of his major works, Apologeticum, a defense of the Christian faith against the unreasonable criticism of unbelievers. Tertullian was speaking of the persecution that, according to the Romans and points out to his intended audience, the provincial governors of the Roman Empire, that the murder of Christians only enhances their witness to the love and lordship of Jesus Christ, and, through the authenticity of that witness, more people are drawn to belief in the Christian Way.

Two millennia later, the Church continues to see the blood of its martyrs soaking into the ground around the world, enriching the soil, as it were, in order to bring forth new life, as unbelievers experience conversion to Jesus Christ.

Fides, the news agency of the Vatican’s Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples, reports that last year 25 Catholic missionaries—an archbishop, priests, religious and laity—offered the supreme witness of their faith—as they were assassinated, tortured to death or killed outright. And there were fewer deaths last year than in the last seven years. For example, in 1997, 68 deaths were tallied; in 1998, 46; in 1999, 40.

According to Fides, during the decade 1990-2000, 604 (including 248 victims of genocide in Rwanda in 1994) missionaries died. In 2002, the 25 missionaries who lost their lives included

archbishop, 18 priests, two religious sisters, one religious brother, two seminarians and one layman. Nine of the deaths occurred in Colombia; the others, in Uganda, Congo, Argentina, Madagascar, Brazil, Panama, Cameroon, Burundi, Iraq, Guadalcanal, Angola, South Africa, Nigeria and the Central African Republic.

Christianity as lived in the United States can be remarkably comfortable. Often, membership in the Church is not much different than membership in any other organization the Rotary, the Lions, the Tuesday Night Bridge Club, or the Southtown Neighbors Gourmet Club. There’s nothing wrong with those groups, but membership in the Church ought to demand much more of us. In many ways, we can thank God that we live in a country where it is safe to be a Christian. But let’s beware of the complacency our situation can encourage.

We are not often asked to join Jesus on the cross and literally give up our lives because of our belief in him. But many brothers and sisters in this world are asked to do just that. Let’s keep them in our prayers, especially the 53 or so missionaries with a special connection to our own archdiocese.

And before we begin to feel too comfortable and safe here in the United States, we should all keep in mind that it is not completely beyond the realm of possibility that some day—either here or abroad—you or I might be called upon to give our lives for the love of Christ. Will we be willing to do so? Will we be able? Let us pray to God that we, too, might be seed for the Church.

— William R. Bruns

Praying the rosary

Recently, someone sent me a touching photograph of Pope John Paul II taken at the end of his August 2002 visit to his Polish homeland. The photo shows an emotional Holy Father wiping away a tear just as he was to board his flight from Krakow to Rome.

I thought of the photo when I read the statement that he made at an audience on the 24th anniversary of his election as pope: “During my recent trip to Poland, I prayed to Our Lady: ‘Most Holy Mother, ... obtain also for me strength in body and spirit, so that I may carry out to the end the mission given me by the Risen Lord. To you I give back all the fruits of my life and my ministry, to you I entrust the future of the Church ... in you I trust and once more to you I declare: Totus tuus, Maria! Totus tuus. (Totally yours, Mary! Totally yours!) Amen.’” (“You may recognize the latter words as the papal motto chosen by John Paul II on the day of his election.”

The Holy Father continued, “Today I repeat the same words giving thanks to God for the 24 years of my service to the Church in the Chair of Peter. On this special day, I entrust anew into the hands of the Mother of God the life of the Church and that I may endure the last day strong in faith. To you I entrust my future. I put everything in your hands so that with a Mother’s love you may present it to her Son, ‘for the praise of his glory’ (Eph 1, 12)’ (Osservatore Romano, 43 – 23 October 2002).”

The pope noted that at the beginning of this new millennium when he invited believers to contemplate unceasingly the face of Christ, “I desired that for everyone the care of a teacher of such contemplation be Mary His Mother.”

And so, on his 24th anniversary he expressed this desire with two symbolic gestures. He signed an Apostolic Letter Rosarium Virginis Mariæ (The Rosary of the Virgin Mary) and he named October 2002 to 2003 as the “Year of the Rosary.”

While 2003 is still young, I want to highlight the Year of the Rosary in a genuine spirit with the Holy Father.

He asked, “For the rigorous but very rich work of contemplating the face of Christ along with Mary, is there a better way than praying the rosary? However, we need to rediscover the mystical depth contained in the simplicity of this prayer, so much loved by popular tradition. This Marian prayer in its structure is in effect above all meditation on the mysteries of the life of Christ. Repeating the invocation of the Hail Mary, we can deepen our comprehension of the essential events of the mission of the Son of God on earth, that we have passed down to us by the Gospel and by Tradition.” (ibid.)

In order that the synthesis of the Gospel might be more complete, the pope added another set of five mysteries to the long-standing 15 “joyful, sorrowful and glorious mysteries.” He calls the new set the “mysteries of light.” They cover the public life of Christ from his baptism in the Jordan to the beginning of his Passion. Inserted between the joyful and sorrowful mysteries, the new set of five are: 1) The Baptism at the Jordan; 2) The Marriage Feast at Cana; 3) The Proclamation of the Kingdom and Call to Conversion; 4) The Transfiguration and 5) The Institution of the Eucharist.

As one who prays the rosary frequently, at first I was surprised at the pope’s announcement of the new set of the “mysteries of light.” But I prayed them in sequence for more than two hours, I now agree, they are a natural fit in contemplating the mysteries of the life of Christ.

Those who have read my columns over the years know that I had framed my own extra set of mysteries, because when I jogged (now walk) for an hour 15 mysteries weren’t enough. I called my unofficial set the “priestly mysteries of Christ,” i.e. Christ the Teacher, Christ the Healer, Christ the Prayer, Christ the Obedient One and Christ the Chaste Lover of the Many.” My walks are getting longer!

I don’t believe there is a more practical way to contemplate the face of Christ than to pass events of his life as we were able to do so in the previous year, especially the Holy Theophany. Theophany is the Greek word for ‘manifestation.’

Our Lord, at that time, was recognized as Deity and as God's manifestation, as Son of God and Christ. Theophany is the day we commemorate the Incarnation of Christ. To acknowledge Jesus as God in human form is one of the great mysteries of the faith, and it is the reason why we are celebrating today as the Incarnation of Christ.

I do not believe there is a more practical way to contemplate the face of Christ than to pass events of his life when we celebrate the feast of the Epiphany. The Epiphany is the day we commemorate the Incarnation of Christ. To acknowledge Jesus as God in human form is one of the great mysteries of the faith, and it is the reason why we are celebrating today as the Incarnation of Christ.

I do not believe there is a more practical way to contemplate the face of Christ than to pass events of his life when we celebrate the feast of the Epiphany. The Epiphany is the day we commemorate the Incarnation of Christ. To acknowledge Jesus as God in human form is one of the great mysteries of the faith, and it is the reason why we are celebrating today as the Incarnation of Christ.

I do not believe there is a more practical way to contemplate the face of Christ than to pass events of his life when we celebrate the feast of the Epiphany. The Epiphany is the day we commemorate the Incarnation of Christ. To acknowledge Jesus as God in human form is one of the great mysteries of the faith, and it is the reason why we are celebrating today as the Incarnation of Christ.
Buscando la Cara del Señor

Hace poco alguien me envió una foto conmemorativa del Papa Juan Pablo II tomada en agosto de 2002, al final de su visita a su tierra natal, Polonia. La foto muestra a un Santo Padre sentimental, dejando una lagrima al abrazar su vuelo de Cracovia a Roma.

Pensé en la foto cuando lei la declaración que hizo al público en el aniversario número 24 de su elección: “Durante mi viaje más reciente a Polonia le sugerí a la Señora ‘Divina Madre… condenamos también la fortaleza en cuerpo y espíritu para cumplir la misión que me ha sido encomendada por el Señor de las almas. A ti te entregó todos los frutos de mi vida y mi servicio; a ti te encargo el futuro de la Iglesia en el mundo.”

El Santo Padre continuó, “Hoy repito las mismas palabras como el lema escogido por Juan Pablo II el día de su elección.)” Amén.” (Tal vez usted pregunta “¿Por qué no se dice ‘Total tuus, Maria! Todo tuyo!’? Aunque en el Catecismo de la Iglesia se dice ‘Total tuus, Maria! Todo tuyo!’ (Todo tuyo, María! Todo tuyo!) Aún no lo entiendo.)” (Tal vez usted reconozca estas palabras como el lema escogido por Juan Pablo II el día de su elección.)

El Papa observó durante todos estos años que se ha creado un misterio de la vida y la muerte de Cristo. Aquellos de ustedes que han leído mi columna durante estos años saben que hay un conjunto adicional de misteriosos 15 “misterios gozosos, dolorosos y gloriosos.” El llamado a este nuevo conjunto de misterios luminosos comprenden la vida pública de Cristo desde su bautismo en el Jordán hasta su incesante de su Pasión. El nuevo grupo de cinco misterios se encuentran integrados entre los misterios gozosos y dolores, y son: 1) El bautismo en el Jordán; 2) Las bodas de Caná; 3) El anuncio del Reino de Dios, invitándolo a la conversión; 4) La transfiguración; y 5) Institución de la Eucaristía.

Como alguien que reza el rosario frecuentemente, al principio me sorprendió el anuncio del nuevo conjunto de “misterios luminosos.” Pero luego de haberlos rezado en secuencia durante ya más de dos meses, estoy de acuerdo; evidentemente constituyen una inclusión natural en la contemplación de los misterios de la vida de Cristo.

La intención del Arzobispo Buechlein para vocaciones en enero:

Ten años ago, I interviewed many men and women about women in the wave of downsizing that hit the U.S. economy. Now it is happening again. As a New York Times headliner last month it put labor, friends, and associates paid for a full-page ad in The New York Times to reprint a poem attributed to Ralph Waldo Emerson that says “Rosés carried as his talisman”.

Looking Around/ Fr. William J. Byron, S.J.

Putting mid-career derailments back on track

Most displaced workers conclude that it makes little difference for the advanced, but they have trouble getting rid of the anger. For some, the anger and resentment are lifelong.

When Steven J. Ross, the controversial chairman of Time-Warner, died in 1992, he was buried with a sign that said, “White-Collar Jobless Losing Faith in the Future.” In talking with managers in transition from one job to another, I learned that a variety of principles operate as guide lines to help them make their way through the “no-job land” of unemployment. Sometimes these principles function as “guardrails” to help keep the job search on an even keel.

A Philadelphia banker, for example, took to heart advice given by a friend: “Don’t make the same mistake I did; don’t waste time trying to get even.”

Many guiding principles will be negative. There is a positive purpose. On a negative note, this same person told me he would advise others “to take time to understand who you are, not what you do.” That principle is operative within his own family where he reports, “the members are appreciated for who they are, not for individual achievements; we are not afraid of failure, nor do we hide from it.”

Many job seekers borrow principles articulated by others and hold them up for their own reflection. John Henry Newman’s often-quoted reflection appeals to some: “In a higher world it is otherwise, but here, who live in progress to change, and to be perfect is to have changed often.”

Many job seekers give up too soon”.

Letters to the Editor

Class warfare and abortion

I have discovered that the reason many people refuse to take a pro-life stance is class envy. For the last couple of generations, the pro-abortion political party has been using class envy to get votes. It proclaims itself as the party for the workingman and the poor. When the pro-life party is portrayed as the party of the fat cats—the greedy rich.

So many people voting pro-abortion is to vote for the good guys who are looking for the poor and downtrodden, and to vote pro-life is to vote for the evil guys who help the fat cats take advantage of the poor and workingman. If their party is the good guys, they can’t be the bad guys for taking a pro-abortion stand. Thus, many voters believe that it is true that abortion is wrong, we just do not have the right to obstruct their right.

All of our laws are meant to protect the right to life and property. The Pope is a new law protecting the life of the unborn than it is to have a protective law to extend life elsewhere. It is, however, being judgmental to view a person as evil simply because he/she is not wealthy. We have an opportunity to do a lot of good in the world.

Sandra Dudley, Summam
Check It Out . . .

The second annual Indianapolis West Deanery Catholic Men’s Conference, “A Catholic Approach to Living a Moral Life,” will be held from 8 a.m. to 3:45 p.m. on Feb. 8 at St. Monica Parish, 6131 N. Michigan Road, in Indianapolis. The conference will feature cupcakes Father Phil Keane, a moral theologian, as the keynote speaker. There will also be five discussion sessions. The cost is $25 and includes lunch. For more information, call David Burkhard, conference chairman, at 317-241-6314, ext. 126, or e-mail dburkhard@christophercourier.org or log on to www.catholicmensconference.net.

There will be an ecumenical celebration of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity at 7 p.m. on Jan. 24 at Northwood Christian Church, 4550 Central Ave., in Indianapolis. There will be fellowship at 8 p.m. Rev. Paul Crow, past president of the Disciples of Christ Council on Indianapolis, will share his experience in the ecumenical movement. The event is sponsored by the Disciples of Christ and the Focolare Movement. For more information, call Julie and John Mundell at 317-844-5914 or Rev. Kris Wranen at 317-283-1532.

Archbishop Daniel M. Buechlein has given permission for the Triduum Latin Mass to be offered at St. Patrick Parish, 1807 Poplar St., in Terre Haute, on a trial basis each month. Father Norbert Kieferle, a retired priest, will offer the special Mass at 5 p.m. on Jan. 26, then on every fourth Sunday of the month after that. For more information, contact Mgr. Lawrence Moran, pastor of St. Patrick Parish, at 812-232-8518 or Mike Mozon at 812-486-5566.

There will be a memorial service for the victims of abortion from 2 p.m. to 3 p.m. on Jan. 26 at the Indiana War Memorial, 431 N. Meridian St., in Indianapolis. The event, sponsored by Right to Life of Indianapolis, will commemorate the lives of unborn babies that were denied the freedom and dignity of life through abortion since January 1973. Mgr. Joseph F. Schaede, vicar general, will speak at the memorial service. Following the service, all are invited to participate in a prayerful walk around Monument Circle. The event is free. For more information, call Right to Life of Indianapolis at 317-582-1526.

Two Worldwide Marriage Encounter weekends are scheduled in February and March. The weekends are powered by a marriage that has lasted more than 20 years. Call or write for information. The archdiocesan Birthline ministry, coordinated by the Office of Pro-Life Activities, needs donations of maternity clothing, all types of baby clothing and accessories, cribs, strollers, car seats, playpens and infant formula. The Birthline ministry helps pregnant women in crisis and young mothers who have recently given birth and need assistance. Donations that are in good condition should be brought to the Archbishop O’Meara Catholic Center, 1400 N. Meridian St., in Indianapolis. For more information, call Servants of the Gospel of Life Sister Diane Carollo, director of the archdiocesan Office of Pro-Life Activities, at 800-382-9836, ext. 1521.

The archdiocesan Bithline ministry, coordinated by the Office of Pro-Life Activities, needs donations of maternity clothing, all types of baby clothing and accessories, cribs, strollers, car seats, playpens and infant formula. The Birthline ministry helps pregnant women in crisis and young mothers who have recently given birth and need assistance. Donations that are in good condition should be delivered to the Archbishop O’Meara Catholic Center, 1400 N. Meridian St., in Indianapolis. For more information, call Servants of the Gospel of Life Sister Diane Carollo, director of the archdiocesan pro-life office, at 317-236-1521 or 800-382-9836, ext. 1521.

Theology on Tap, a series of programs designed to help Catholics in their 20s and 30s understand the faith, will meet at 7:30 p.m. on certain Wednesdays at The Rathskeller, 401 E. Michigan St., in Indianapolis. On Jan. 29, Shawn Conway, founding chairman of Civitas Dei, will present “It’s More than the Economy, Stupid! The Courage to be Catholic in the Marketplace.” On Feb. 5, Gene Monterastelli from APEX Ministries in Washington, D.C., will present “‘Sports and Spirituality: Keeping Sports in Perspective’ at 7:30 p.m. on Jan. 23. F. Clark Power, University of Notre Dame psychology professor and associate director of the Center for Sports, Character and Community, will speak from his own personal perspective on the demands that sports make on family time and resources. Coaches and parents of youth involved in school sports may find the presentation particularly worthwhile. For more information, call the parish office at 317-255-4534.

There will be an afternoon of reflection titled “A Retreat with St. Peter” from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. on Feb. 2. The afternoon is a chance to pray and reflect on what St. Peter has brought to the Church and continues to bring to the people of God. For more information, call the parish office at 812-623-3670.

Rebecca’s Confidence is a confidential, Catholic spiritual support group for those dealing with abuse by clergy or in need of healing. For more information, call Servants of the Gospel of Life Sister Diane Carollo, director of the archdiocesan Office of Pro-Life Activities, at 800-382-9836, ext. 1521. For more information, call the parish office at 317-255-4534.

The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops’ Office for Film and Broadcasting movie ratings:

**Antwone Fisher (Fox Searchlight)**
Rated A-III (Adults) because of some violence including depiction of child abuse, an implied sexual encounter and minimal rough language and profanity. Rated PG-13 (Parents are Strongly Cautioned) by the Motion Picture Association of America (MPAA).

**Drumline (20th Century Fox)**
Rated A-II (Adults and Adolescents) because of a few sexual references and coarse expressions. Rated PG-13 (Parents are Strongly Cautioned) by the MPAA.

**The Hot Chick (Touchstone)**
Rated O (Morally Offensive) because of a benign view of teen promiscuity, brief violence, drug references, racist and anti-Catholic slurs, homosexual activity and immorality, brief nudity, gross bodily fluid and constant crude language. Rated PG-13 (Parents are Strongly Cautioned) by the MPAA.

**Just Married (20th Century Fox)**
Rated A-III (Adults) because of a live-in relationship and many sexual references, some comically inclined violence, occasional crude humor and minimal profanity. Rated PG-13 (Parents are Strongly Cautioned) by the MPAA.

**25th Hour (Touchstone)**
Rated A-IV (Adults, with Reservations) because of sporadic violence, a character’s angry anti-Catholic remarks, crude sexual references and situations, and recurring rough language and profanities. Rated R (Restricted) by the MPAA.

Join the Society for the Propagation of the Faith

**Membership Sunday February 2, 2003**

We all exist as sisters and brothers, reach out to strengthen the bonds with your family in need around the world by your membership in The Society for the Propagation of the Faith.

**YOUR CHOICE**

For a SIMPLE, SACRED WAY

- **Rectangular Casket, $3,975**
  Handcrafted wooden caskets inspired by those used by Saint Meinrad’s Benedictine monks for nearly 150 years. Call or write for free information.

- **Cremation Urn, $175**

**Abbey Bixby Caskets**

200 Hill Drive
St. Meinrad, IN 47577
(800) 987-7380
www.abbeybixbys.com
E-mail: info@abbeybixbys.com

**Catholic Supply House**

- **Shaped Casket, $1,750 (Natural or cherry finish)**
- **Rated A, 1997**

**R (Restricted)**

**Drumline**
Rated PG-13 (Parents are Strongly Cautioned) by the Motion Picture Association of America (MPAA).

**The Hot Chick**
Rated O (Morally Offensive) because of a benign view of teen promiscuity, brief violence, drug references, racist and anti-Catholic slurs, homosexual activity and immorality, brief nudity, gross bodily fluid and constant crude language. Rated PG-13 (Parents are Strongly Cautioned) by the Motion Picture Association of America (MPAA).

**Just Married**
Rated A-II (Adults and Adolescents) because of a few sexual references and coarse expressions. Rated PG-13 (Parents are Strongly Cautioned) by the Motion Picture Association of America (MPAA).

**25th Hour**
Rated A-IV (Adults, with Reservations) because of sporadic violence, a character’s angry anti-Catholic remarks, crude sexual references and situations, and recurring rough language and profanities. Rated R (Restricted) by the Motion Picture Association of America (MPAA).
Students in Aurora learn that Christmas doesn’t end Christmas day

By Jennifer Lindberg

Although most people had already taken down their Christmas decorations, students at one Catholic school were still very much in the Christmas spirit. Students at St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception School in Aurora came back from the winter break eager to keep the spirits of Christmas alive.

Gov. George Ryan

“Christmas during their retreat day after the long holiday break,” said Tim Stawick, a freshman math major at the university. “It’s nice way to get back into school.”

St. Mary School students make Epiphany cards for nursing home residents as part of the retreat day.

‘Urban Plunge’ immerses Notre Dame students in poverty

By Jennifer Lindberg

Helping those in need was the goal of seven University of Notre Dame students who visited various social service agencies in the Archdiocese of Indianapolis last week.

Called the “Urban Plunge,” students visit a city for 48 hours to volunteer at homeless shelters, soup kitchens or jails.

“I’ve noticed that there is more need than I expected,” said Tim Stawick, a freshman math major at the university.

Notre Dame started the experience 20 years ago to help students explore the problems in society that include poverty, homelessness and crime.

Holy Cross Father Don McNeill developed the program to help students think about how they will incorporate Christian action and service into their professional work, regardless of their career.

Danielle Finley, a senior education and sociology major, said she wanted to see how poverty affects people.

After graduation, she’ll be teaching in an inner-city school in Baltimore.

“I know a lot of the kids I will work with have a lot of poverty. A lot of my students will be living this way,” she said.

“My eyes have been opened to how much more poverty there is than I thought.”

Students also visited Holy Family Shelter in Indianapolis where they spent the night, helped residents and organized linen closets.

The experience also earns the students one college credit. It was sponsored by the Notre Dame Club of Indianapolis.

Chicago representatives praise a decision by outgoing Church representatives hail Ryan for clearing Illinois death row

They will incorporate Christian action and homelessness and crime. Holy Cross Father Don McNeill developed the program 20 years ago to help students explore the problems in society that include poverty, homelessness and crime.

The Notre Dame Club of Indianapolis honored “Urban Plunge” participants for their efforts.

Martin J. Armbruster, CPA/PFS, CFP

■ Knowledgeable and Trustworthy

■ Experienced

■ Individuals and Businesses

■ Convenient Appointments

■ Including Evenings and Weekends

■ Personal Attention

■ Responsive

■ For FREE PICK-UP, CALL

881-6670

317-876-3793

www.pcinside-indy.com

For “We Three Kings of Orient Are,” students made Epiphany cards for nursing home residents. Other songs included “The Twelve Days of Christmas,” and “O Christmas Tree.”

Haas said the school has been doing a retreat day for students for three years. Sometimes it’s after Advent, but usually it’s after the long Christmas break.

“It’s a nice way to get back into school,” she said. “The kids are tired and they end up enjoying the projects.”

Church representatives praise a decision by outgoing Church representatives hail Ryan for clearing Illinois death row

CHICAGO (CNS)—The Illinois Catholic Conference and a nationwide Catholic group that opposes the death penalty praised a decision by outgoing U.S. governors to consider using their clemency powers to spotlight the most obvious flaws in this discredited system of punishment, and, in doing so, encourage legislators to abolish it completely.

McNeirney quoted Chief Justice William Rehnquist’s comment in a 1993 case that “clemency is deeply rooted in the best traditions of American jurisprudence.”

The members of Catholics Against Capital Punishment pray “that other U.S. governors will consider using their clemency powers to spotlight the most obvious flaws in this discredited system of punishment, and, in doing so, encourage legislators to abolish it completely,” McNeirney said.

The Illinois Catholic Conference, which represents the state’s bishops in public policy matters, said Ryan’s action is consistent with Catholic principles of opposition to the death penalty.

“The death of the murderer cannot bring back the one who has been killed,” said the Jan. 11 statement. “nor does revenge help to heal the hole in the heart of the grieving loved ones.”

The statement said the death penalty cannot suppress “the inalienable dignity of those who have committed great evil.”

Although those who commit crimes...
confer-}

cially stores in Nashville.

Benedicente Sister Mildred Wannemuehler, parish life coordina-

tor, said between 800 and 900 people attended four weekend Masses throughout the year, often with standing room only. From late May through October, the parish offers an outdoor Mass at the Nature Center in nearby Brown County State Park in addi-
tion to three liturgies at the church.

During weekend Masses, people seated in the chapel watch the televised Mass on a large screen above the altar while Father William Stumpf, priest min-
ister and moderator, celebrates the eucharistic liturgy in the crowded social hall. Pews in the chapel face north and metal folding chairs in the social hall are arranged facing a newer altar at the west end of the hall, so people are seated in two directions during liturgies.

The new $1.8 million church, which seats 300 people and can be expanded to accommodate 400 people, will enable parishioners and guests to worship together in the same room.

“It’s a very exciting time for St. Agnes Parish,” Father Stumpf said. “We expect to be worshipping in the new church around Labor Day, depending on the weather and unforeseen construction delays. But it’s also a bittersweet time because we have to leave a worship space that has been our parish home for over 60 years.”

Eighty-two percent of St. Agnes parishioners supported the capital cam-

paign, he said. Tourists from throughout the United States and three foreign coun-
ties contributed about $60,000 for the new church.

“I am very pleased with how support-

ive our parishioners have been to the campaign and to the move, even though it’s been difficult and painful for people,” Father Stumpf said. “The fact that we had an 82 percent participation rate for the campaign says, I think, that by and large the majority of our people are behind the move and see it as a necessity that is important for the future of the parish. They realize that we need to leave a legacy for future generations.”

The new parish property, a former farm named Stillpoint, is located on McLary Road less than a mile from St. Agnes Church. The wooded land on 20.6 acres just west of Nashville was pur-

chased for $460,000 in 1999 with funds raised in the archdiocesan Legacy of Hope from Generation to Generation cap-

ital and endowment campaign.

Sister Mildred said it was an answer to prayers when the Brown County Presbyterian Fellowship bought St. Agnes Church last fall.

“We’re happy that people will still be worshipping in the church,” Sister Mildred said. “We’re really grateful that the church property was purchased by another Christian community.”

Construction work began shortly after the groundbreaking ceremony on Sept. 22.

The Stillpoint property also includes a farmhouse, which is Sister Mildred’s resi-
dence, as well as office space, a renovated cottage that is now the rectory, a summer kitchen for weddings and a horse barn with four stalls.

Parishioner Tom Tuley, who co-chaired the building campaign with parishioner Greg Harter, said St. Agnes Parish will still need to raise about $50,000 to meet the capital campaign goal, but he is confident that “we’ll go a little bit beyond that.”

St. Agnes parishioners have been very generous, Tuley said. “A lot of people are making a real sacrifice, and are paying their pledges on a monthly basis.”

The new church will be built with wood and Brown County stone, he said. A large multipurpose room in the basement will have movable walls for a variety of uses.

“We want the church to not only look like Brown County, but also to feel like Brown County,” Tuley said. “After the architectural drawing was done, St. Bartholomew Parish in Columbus gave us a beautiful stained glass window from the former St. Columba Church.”

Future building plans include the con-

struction of an exact replica of the log chapel, Father Stumpf said, which will be built adjacent to the church and fur-

nished with the original altar, pews and statues.

Funding for that project is currently underway, he said, which pleases many parishioners who will miss their old spiri-
tual home. ♦

According to the publication, Texas excludes even the attorney-client privi-

lege. States that explicitly exclude all forms of professional-client privilege except attorney-client include New Hampshire, North Carolina, Rhode Island and West Virginia. Statutes of several other states make no reference to a clergy-penitent exemption.

The clergy-penitent privilege is also formally recognized, although that privi-

lege may be strictly limited to confes-

sional communications, or in some cases, denied altogether,” it says.

Confession

that they, as the front-line to God, cannot protect a child from further abuse.

Westrom noted that several states have similar legislation.

A publication on state child abuse and neglect reporting states by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services says the most widely recognized exemp-

tion from mandatory reporting laws is that they, as the front-line to God, cannot

interfere with church-state relations,” he said.

“There is also the problem that no child ever ought to have to suffer,” she added.

“Westrom, who serves on the House Health and Welfare Committee, said revela-

tions of clergy sexual abuse of minors in the Catholic Church influenced her in intro-

ducing the bill.

“I think the time is right. We need to face the reality of what has gone on in our society for too long,” she said. ♦

THREE CONTINENTS, 10 COUNTRIES, 15 PORTS INCLUDING: ROME, PORTO SANTO, PORTO, RABAT, MADEIRA; AND THE BAHAMAS.

HOLDEN AMERICA LINE SPECIAL

Repositioning Cruise Gives Travelers
26-Day Mediterranean Cruise Bargain

Vacationers can visit the best of Italy and Southern Europe on a 26-day repositioning cruise departing November 11, 2003. Holland America Line’s 5-star ms Noordam will visit three continents, 10 countries and 15 ports including: Rome (shore excursions include the Colosseum and Pantheon), Michelangelo’s dome for St. Peter’s, the Vatican and Sistine Chapel), Naples, Livorno and Sicily; Italy; Malta; Corsica; France; Barcelona, Cadiz (Seville), and Alicante Spain; Gibraltar; Portugal (Lisbon, Tavira, Morocco; Madeira; and 18 Falklands.

Passengers will fly into Rome, sail through the Mediterranean, across the Atlantic to the Bahamas, then to Tampa for a flight home. Imagine no cooking, no cleaning for 26 days and being pampered by Holland America Line’s 5-star staff, with all your meals and shipboard entertainment included! And what better way to visit southern Europe than from the comfort of your 5-star ship? Prices (per person, double occupancy) including airfare from Indianapolis, and the 26-day deluxe cruise start at only $5857 complete, including all taxes and port charges.

For information, reservations and brochures call:

Your Man Tours (open 7 days a week) 1-800-736-7300

First Amendment issues. “You’re starting to interfere with church-state relations,” he said.

“I can appreciate and respect the desire here of reporting,” he added. “But I don’t know if this is the way to go on this issue.”

The Rev. Nancy Jo Kemper, executive director of the Kentucky Council of Churches, also underscored the importance of the distinction between casual conversa-

tion and information shared in a penitential situation.

Without that distinction, faith traditions that have penitential rites will have prob-

lems with the bill, she said.

“But there is also the problem that no child ever ought to have to suffer,” she added.

Church law absolutely prohibits a priest-
What should parents say to children about war?

By Mary Jo Pedersen

Talk of war surrounds us. Seldom does news coverage on television, the Internet, radio or in the print media lack photographs or live coverage of matters related to war. Talk of war and reports on war are in our family rooms, our kitchens and even our bedrooms. Like coverage of weekend sporting events, there is always talk of the “game plan” and “our chances of winning.”

In conversations with parents, I often am asked, “When talk of war becomes a national pastime and support of war is a test of patriotism, what do we say to our children?”

There is no easy answer. Whether we are in favor of war or not, I believe it is important to let children know that war is not the best way to settle disagreements. A steady diet of photographic depictions of war is unhealthy for small children, and if we cheer the use of violence, we send a message to children who already have been introduced to violent games and toys, if not at home then at a friend’s home or by television commercials.

Children will express fears and concerns about war, so parents do well to give some thought to how they will respond before the questions are upon them. I’d like to offer a few suggestions gleaned from the observations of parents who have raised their children in the midst of intensive war coverage over the last two decades.

The first observation is that the ages of one’s children will determine how much to explain to them about war. But whatever the age of children in a household, parents can give them a realistic view of war by putting a family face on it. For example, explain to children that someone’s dad, brother, son or daughter is in very great danger in the war. Talk about the human costs of war and pray daily for those involved in the war, on both sides, and for their families. Consider including a prayer for peace in family prayer time at meals or bedtime.

Second, when it comes to children of grade-school age, limiting the amount of television time spent watching war coverage is all to the good. Media and military reports have a tendency to glorify war. I didn’t want my children to buy into the glory part of war, and so I limited the amount of television time we spent watching war. Small children can get war video games mixed up in their minds with the real thing when the media shows bombing raids and successful target strategies. Adults can keep informing ourselves about current talk of war and explain some of the realities of war that we understand well, such as how families lose their homes and their jobs in a war and often can’t get food or medical care in war zones, to help children understand the seriousness of armed conflict.

A third observation encourages us to be careful how we talk about God’s will when it comes to matters of war. What message really is conveyed when we say such things as “God is on our side” or “God wanted Uncle Bill (who died in the war) to go to heaven?” God did not create war. People did. God surely wills people to live in peace. War is a last resort.

The fourth observation calls attention to the possibility of offering humanitarian support, if possible, for those involved in the war. This involves making some sacrifices at home in order to assist people whose lives are affected by war. Part of the point here is to do something intentional for peace. This may mean “seeking out ways to involve yourself and your family locally or nationally—in whatever ways are possible for you. Families can send donations to charitable groups that help people living in the midst of war or contribute in other ways to humanitarian efforts during wartime. You know what is best for your family. But consider doing something positive for peace.

The fifth observation points up the value of teaching children how to resolve conflicts without violence. Children can learn that violence and war are not the only solutions to difficult issues. Show your children that hitting and physically hurting others do not solve problems or settle differences, but just create more problems and bigger differences. It is possible, if we think things through, to teach our children how to negotiate and settle conflicts with their heads and with words rather than with violence.

The Parenting for Peace and Justice Network (Institute for Peace and Justice, 4144 Lindell, No. 408, St. Louis, MO 63108, www.jpni.org) has practical and helpful resources to help parents discuss war with their children.

(Mary Jo Pedersen is coordinator of the Leadership in Family Life Training Program for the Archdiocese of Omaha, Neb.)

What makes a war right or wrong? Who?

By Fr. W. Thomas Faucher

For 2,000 years, Catholicism has struggled with the role of war in the lives of the people of God. Pope Julius II, in the early 16th century, is remembered for his support of art and military undertakings. Contrast that with the memory of Pope Paul VI standing at a massive lectern in the United Nations headquarters in New York and proclaiming, “War no more. War never again.”

It could seem like a contradiction. The fact is that the Church in other cultural eras tried war and learned that it just is not right. This history helps to give the Church today something concrete and valuable to say about war. After the fall of the Papal States in 1870, the Church, inspired by God, fixed reality and began to whisper that war is wrong. With the courage that only comes from grace, that whisper became a speech then a proclamation.

The Church added that sometimes war, while still wrong, can be the lesser of two evils. There can be times when engaging in warfare can, reluctantly, be morally justified. The Catechism of the Catholic Church carefully explains the rare conditions when this can happen. The modern world does not like to listen to the Church on this subject. When Pope John Paul II speaks against war, people often disregard his message of peace.

As the 21st century begins, many Catholics are listening to political and religious leaders, and trying to determine what course of action is truly the way of the Gospel. Catholics do this by examining the political issues and studying the teachings of the Church. What is done by the government is done in the name of each citizen, and all share in the responsibility for those actions.

To be the Church in the modern world means to be critical-thinking Catholics who evaluate that world, ask difficult questions, search to find the God-inspired answers then act on those answers in the name of Jesus Christ.

What makes a war right or wrong, moral or immoral, good or bad? What personal criteria do you have by which to judge that the death of a son, daughter, brother or sister in a war would be acceptable? For what would he or she have died? What is a just war? What is an unjust war? Are foreign soldiers and citizens worth less than American soldiers and citizens? Would you personally go off to fight in a war? Why or why not?

(Father W. Thomas Faucher is pastor of St. Mary Church in Boise, Idaho.)

What should parents say to children about war?

By Mary Jo Pedersen

What lessons about war would you most like to communicate to the world?

“War is the last resort to settling differences between countries. War may be a necessary evil, but all war is evil. Nothing good ever emanates from war. People grieve lost homes, lives and communities destroyed and money is diverted from good causes to bad ones. Show me where Jesus advocated war, and I will follow.” (Tim Bridgman, Anchorage, Alaska)

“Sadly, that children have to fight our wars for us. Children should only know peace.” (Ann Porter-Smith, Colorado Springs, Colo.)

“Dear Mr. President: I’m sorry, my boys are not allowed to go to war. Not only do I not want their immortal souls endangered by their taking of another life, I do not want the soul of an opposing soldier, sister in a war would be acceptable? For what would he or she have died? What is a just war? What is an unjust war? Are foreign soldiers and citizens worth less than American soldiers and citizens? Would you personally go off to fight in a war? Why or why not? (Father W. Thomas Faucher is pastor of St. Mary Church in Boise, Idaho.)

Discussion Point

War should be last resort

This Week’s Question

What lessons about war would you most like to communicate to the world?

“War is the last resort to settling differences between countries. War may be a necessary evil, but all war is evil. Nothing good ever emanates from war. People grieve lost homes, lives and communities destroyed and money is diverted from good causes to bad ones. Show me where Jesus advocated war, and I will follow.” (Tim Bridgman, Anchorage, Alaska)

“Sadly, that children have to fight our wars for us. Children should only know peace.” (Ann Porter-Smith, Colorado Springs, Colo.)

“Dear Mr. President: I’m sorry, my boys are not allowed to go to war. Not only do I not want their immortal souls endangered by their taking of another life, I do not want the soul of an opposing soldier, sister in a war would be acceptable? For what would he or she have died? What is a just war? What is an unjust war? Are foreign soldiers and citizens worth less than American soldiers and citizens? Would you personally go off to fight in a war? Why or why not? (Father W. Thomas Faucher is pastor of St. Mary Church in Boise, Idaho.)

Lend Us Your Voice

An upcoming edition asks: Name some essential first steps toward healing a “rift” at home.

To respond for possible publication, write to Faith Alive! at 3211 Fourth St. N.E., Washington, D.C. 20017-1100.

The 12th of my 50 most important events in Catholic history is Athanasius' recognition of the New Testament canon in 367.

Although the Catechism believes that the Bible is the inspired word of God, the Church itself is not based on this. This is an important point to understand, because some Christians insist that they are Bible-based. But Christianity cannot be based on the Bible because Christ himself was not written about in the Bible. Furthermore, it was the Christian Church that decided what writings were to be made up the Bible.

Christianity began as an oral religion, with stories about Jesus being passed along by word of mouth. As the Apostles and the first Christian missionaries like Paul and Barnabas established new Christian communities, they kept in touch with them by writing letters. Recipients kept some of those letters. Paul’s First Letter to the Thessalonians, the oldest document in the New Testament, was written around the year 50.

Still, for about 40 years, from the time of the Apostles to the time until Mark’s Gospel appeared around the year 70, the main way that people learned about Jesus was through stories. As the Church spread, the life of Jesus had to be interpreted for different audiences. For Jews, the important thing was to prove that Jesus was the fulfillment of the Scriptures. For gentiles, missionaries had to explain how Jesus applied to them.

By the year 70, though, people who had actually seen Jesus and told stories about him were dying. The respectability of the Church preceded the Bible. Furthermore, it was the Christian Church that decided what writings were to be made up the Bible.

Christianity began as an oral religion, with stories about Jesus being passed along by word of mouth. As the Apostles and the first Christian missionaries like Paul and Barnabas established new Christian communities, they kept in touch with them by writing letters. Recipients kept some of those letters. Paul’s First Letter to the Thessalonians, the oldest document in the New Testament, was written around the year 50.

Still, for about 40 years, from the time of the Apostles to the time until Mark’s Gospel appeared around the year 70, the main way that people learned about Jesus was through stories. As the Church spread, the life of Jesus had to be interpreted for different audiences. For Jews, the important thing was to prove that Jesus was the fulfillment of the Scriptures. For gentiles, missionaries had to explain how Jesus applied to them.

By the year 70, though, people who had actually seen Jesus and told stories about him were dying. The respectability of the Church preceded the Bible. Furthermore, it was the Christian Church that decided what writings were to be made up the Bible.

Christianity began as an oral religion, with stories about Jesus being passed along by word of mouth. As the Apostles and the first Christian missionaries like Paul and Barnabas established new Christian communities, they kept in touch with them by writing letters. Recipients kept some of those letters. Paul’s First Letter to the Thessalonians, the oldest document in the New Testament, was written around the year 50.

Still, for about 40 years, from the time of the Apostles to the time until Mark’s Gospel appeared around the year 70, the main way that people learned about Jesus was through stories. As the Church spread, the life of Jesus had to be interpreted for different audiences. For Jews, the important thing was to prove that Jesus was the fulfillment of the Scriptures. For gentiles, missionaries had to explain how Jesus applied to them.

By the year 70, though, people who had actually seen Jesus and told stories about him were dying. The respectability of the Church preceded the Bible. Furthermore, it was the Christian Church that decided what writings were to be made up the Bible.
The First Book of Samuel provides the first reading for this weekend. The two books of Samuel, originally one volume until editors separated the book into two parts, look back into the history of God’s people. They speak of very early prophets and of figures that literally drew the people together as one nation. Samuel is the principal person in this reading. The reading is self-explanatory. Samuel is asleep and hears a voice. He assumes that the voice is that of Eli, a companion who is sleeping nearby, but it is not Eli. Rather, it is the voice of God. Eli realizes that the voice is that of God. He instructs the young Samuel to reply. Samuel’s response is that he is listening. He is ready to hear the words, and the command, of God.

The reading concerns itself with Samuel. However, it is a situation much like events experienced by other prophets. Each was called. God commissioned each prophet to reveal the divine plan to God’s people. No prophet assumed the position of his own initiative. St. Paul’s First Epistle to the Corinthians is the source of the second reading. When the Apostle Paul wrote this epistle, Corinth was one of the principal cities in the Mediterranean world. It is estimated to have had at that time a population of 200,000 persons. By the standards of that time and place, it would have been a metropolis.

Also, it was a major commercial center, astride the trade routes east to west. Like many such cities over history, and in different parts of the world, Corinth was a center of lust and immorality. In fact, it was dedicated to Aphrodite, the goddess of love, whose great temple loomed on a high hill overlooking the city.

Paul had to call the Christian Corinthians away from this immorality. He insisted upon the majesty of the human body. He preached that traffic in lust and immorality defiles the body. He also stressed that dedication to Christ is everything for the believer.

For the third reading, the Church presents St. John’s Gospel.

In this reading, John the Baptist salutes Jesus as the “Lamb of God.” It is a highly theological declaration. Coming from the holy prophet, John the Baptist, it identifies Jesus. This identification serves as a prelude to the rest of the reading. As the reading proceeds, Jesus notices that two of John’s disciples are following. One of them was Andrew. After being in the Lord’s company, Andrew sought his own brother, Simon, who came with him to Jesus. Jesus received Simon, and the Lord gave Simon a new name, “Cephas,” or Peter.

Reflection

The Church has joyfully and confidently presented us with images of Jesus in the past month. First, on Christmas, the Church proclaimed to us the birth of Jesus as the son of Mary. On the feast of the Epiphany, the Church continued its story. Jesus is the Son of God. He is God among us. The star directs wise men, earnestly seeking God, to the newborn Savior in Bethlehem.

Evil, personified in Herod, the scheming, self-serving King of Judea, is a threat. But God prevails against this evil. The infant is not harmed. The wise men reach their destination and fulfill their hopes.

With the feast of the Baptism of the Lord, the Church told us through the Scriptures that Jesus had assumed our sins. He reconciles us with God. He stands in our behalf.

This weekend, the Church tells us that Jesus did not come and go. God reaches to us, offering us the gift of salvation in the Lord. Speaking to us for Jesus, and redeeming in the name and with the divine power of Jesus, are the Apostles. Peter was chief among them.

From this event, in which Jesus admitted the brothers Andrew and Simon to the company of the disciples, calling them to be Apostles, the Church that lives here and now grew.😊

The Sunday Readings

Sunday, Jan. 19, 2003

• 1 Samuel 3:13-15a, 17-20
• John 1:35-42

The Gospels relate relevant events of Jesus’ ministry. The Gospels record the life of Jesus from birth to death, at age 33. However, the time from age 12 to 30 is omitted. Why is this? What happened during these years? (Texas)

A

The answer is basically simple. The Gospels were not written to hand down a biography of Jesus, but to give us the good news of God’s love and infinite care for our human family, as revealed in the life and teachings of Jesus.

The very first words of the first Gospel written indicate this intention. St. Mark, in Chapter 1, Verse 1, says of the person who named him, says, “The beginning of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.”

The Anglo-Saxon roots of our English word “gospel” mean the same as the Latin and Greek words for “gospel,” literally the “good news.”

Only some time after St. Mark wrote was the title “Gospel” given to the first four books of the New Testament.

In other words, those first words refer not to the book he was writing, but to the good news of the salvation God offered, and would continue to offer, to human beings in the life, death and resurrection of his Son.

In all the Gospels, therefore, it is clearly not the writers’ purpose to answer curiosity questions or to pass on merely interesting information. What was not directly relevant to our comprehension of the meaning of the life and message of Jesus was simply passed over.

This is the reason we know absolutely nothing about most of the years of Jesus’ life on earth from the Gospels themselves. We can assume a few things, for instance, that Joseph died sometime during the years in Nazareth, since he isn’t mentioned during the final three years or so of Jesus’ life. But that’s as far as we can go.

This lack of engaging information may sometimes disappoint us, but there’s a marvelous good side to appreciate. It means that all the little asides scattered through the Gospels, the apparently insignificant details that seem incidental, do, in fact, carry some message that the evangelists considered fruitful and important for their Christian readers.

The more we read and study the narratives of the passion and birth of Jesus and John the Baptist, for example, the more we realize these are not solely ten- der or warm stories. Every word and phrase reveals their own special insight and wisdom about what the Father and Son were saying about salvation through these commonplace family events.

Some other early Christian writings, the second-century Proto-evangelium (first Gospel) of James, for example, contain a variety of quaint and whimsical stories about the life of Jesus and his relatives. Some of them may be true, but they are not part of our sacred Scriptures and, of course, not a matter of faith.

Where can we send used Christmas cards? Many are too beautiful to throw away, but some religious houses and agencies who used to want them no longer do so. (Ohio)

I’ve mentioned St. Jude’s Ranch for children in this column before. It is a facility for neglected, abused and troubled children. I understand that it welcomes not only Christmas cards but other appropriate greeting cards as well. Their address is 100 St. Jude’s St., Boulder City, NV 89005.

What is the difference between forgiveness and absolution? The way the words are used often in the sacrament of penance to test, they are two different things. (Iowa)

Forgiveness and absolution are commonly used interchangeably, but there are different nuances. Absolution usually denotes a more formal action of setting one free from guilt or obligation. Someone may be said, for example, to be absolved from a financial debt. Remission of sin in the sacrament of penance by a religious authority (priest) is another example.

To forgive commonly denotes a less formal, perhaps personal, transaction. It involves giving up resentment or at least a willingness to forgive revenge against one who has offended another.😊
HOSPITAL

continued from page 3
first steps inside the brightly decorated building, we believe the children will expe-
rience less anxiety and be more relaxed about entering a hospital.”

Indiana first lady Judy O’Bannon, who participated in the groundbreaking cer-
emony 18 months ago, said she is happy to be a part of this “wonderful, exciting, hopeful day.”

When ground was broken for the hos-
pital, she said, “I had no idea what lay ahead. You have done amazing things
since I’ve seen you last here, and I don’t mean just bricks and mortar. I’ve experi-
enced what you’ve done to heal lives and to grow people.”

“I feel with great confidence that I can say I’m speaking for the community that you
have been a blessing to our place on Earth,” O’Bannon said. “You have
changed lives and healed them, and that’s what this is all about. We don’t live
isolated. We live together because we know when we live together, and we live
together under God, we do better. It’s in
caring for the little ones that we ensure a
future for this planet that God has cre-
ated.”

Mary Ann Scott, executive director of St. Vincent Children’s Hospital, said the new facility is “a very obviously a hospital that
was designed specifically for children and their families.” “This facility will allow us to provide family-centered care, hope and healing in
a new and bright environment,” Scott said. “We recognize that children need to be
treated with dignity and respect. We
know that children are not just little peo-
ples with problems, but children with very
unique situations. It was with these
thoughts in mind that St. Vincent Children’s Hospital was designed. From
the first time we put pencil to paper until
today ... as we prepare to open St.
Vincent’s newest health care ministry, we’ve always focused on the children.”

“We also know that any hospital is
more than just a building,” she said. “It’s
our staff that truly is the heart of this hos-
pital. We are very blessed with a group of
professionals who have dedicated their
work life to the compassionate care of
children. We know that we’ve assembled
the best staff available. That goes beyond
just the pediatric staff that will have the
privilege of practicing within these walls. There are literally hundreds of associates
in every department of this hospital who help us every day to care for children.”

“But really our biggest blessing is the
children themselves,” she said, “who have
always been our inspiration and will con-
tinue to inspire our work every day. It is to
them that we pledge the very best of care
and that we dedicate this building to.”

Daughter of Charity Sister Sharon
Richard, vice president of mission
services for St. Vincent Hospital, said the
St. Vincent Hospital logo, which features
drives, stands for St. Vincent’s holis-
tic approach to health care—healing of
the body, mind and spirit.”

“That is the promise of St. Vincent
Children’s Hospital to the children and
families in Indiana,” Sister Sharon said.
But the mission and ministry would never
be possible without a highly competent
and dedicated staff. I am thankful to all of
you who provide the medical care and
support services that will make St. Vincent
Children’s Hospital truly a very special
place of healing.”

Before he blessed the hospital, Msgr.
Joseph F. Schaedel, vicar general, said “the St. Vincent family is an important part of
the life of our Church here in central and
southern Indiana.”

Catholic hospitals are places where “God’s work is done;” Msgr. Schaedel
said, and “the healing ministry of Jesus” is
evident in our lives. †
Please submit in writing to our office by 10 a.m. Mon. the week of publication; be sure to include in your submission the names of the archdiocese or have other connections to.


Carter, Marybelle Hines, Sherrie Father of Mariana, Tonya Rasmussen. Grandfather of six.

Carter, JoAnn Leesburg, Fla. Father of Kathy, Edward and Michael. Great-grandfather of one.

Catholic Courier CNS photo by Karin von Voigtlander, Catholic Courier

Sister Thomas of the Third Order of St. Clare in Oldenburg. In 1993, Sister Annella retired to the motherhouse at Oldenburg.
** Classified Directory **

For information about rates for classified advertising, call (317) 236-1572.

**Vacation Rentals**
- MADERA BEACH FL. beach front condos. 2BR/2BA, pool, Jacuzzi, 60 min. from Disney. Tel. 317-429-2101.
- NEW SMYRNA Beach, FL. Oceanfront condos, fully furnished, 2 BR/2 BA, 2 pools, game room, whirlpool, near Disney, Epcot, NASA. Enjoy the beach. Call 800-427-2070.
- KISSIMMEE, FL. 4BR/4BA house, fully furnished, wrap pool, hot opt., 30 min. to Disney & attractions, gulf 5-10 miles. Air airport & shopping. Photos avail. Book now. LM 812-934-1124.WE ARE NAPLES.
- PANAMA CITY Beach townhouse, 3BR. 12 mi. from beach, sleeps 6. Rent now for Spring 3117 812-934-9200.

**For Sale**
- 2001 Honda CRV 31,000 miles, excellent condition! Hunter Grove • A/C • Cruise • 4 wheel drive. 317-840-6001.

**Positions Available**

**Home Improvement**
- BURN FAT Block Cravings • Boost Energy CALL NOW! 317-594-2895 888-202-7477.

**Health**
- PATRONIZE Our Advertisers

**Real Estate**

**Employment Opportunities Available**
- Housekeeping, Food Services, Clerical, Radiology Technologist, Respiratory Therapist, Registered Nurses, Pharmacists, and more
- Job Line — 317-783-8533
- Proprietary
- Web Site — www.sfstrancisospitals.org
- Beech Grove • Indianapolis

**OFFICE HELP WANTED**
- JOB SHARE OFFICE WORK INDIANAPOLIS AREA
- GREAT PAY—CAN RESULT IN LONG-TERM PROJECT WORK
- PLEASE CALL 317-842-5580

**OPENING**
- Director of Religious Education/Pastoral Associate
  - St. Simon The Apostle Parish, a la rge parish with school in n northern Marion County, Indianapolis, is seeking ing a full-time Dir ector of Religious Education and Pastoral Associate to oversee the parish faith formation programs. Applicant must have, or be working toward a Ma sters Degree in Theology or Education.
  - Please direct inquiries/resume to: St. Simon The Apostle Parish, 8155 Oaklandon Rd. Indianapolis, IN 46236
  - ATTN: DRE Search Committee or Fax to 317-823-7336

**Certificate**
- Make The Criterion A Key Member Of Your Marketing Team
  - To reserve your ad space in The Criterion call 317-236-1572 or toll free 800-382-9836.

**Telephone Wiring**
- I wire Installation & Repair Telephone Jacks & Wiring Call for a FREE Estimate 719-392-7284.

**ILUinois**
- St. Jude and Sacred Heart of Jesus for prayers answered. M.A.M. & S.A.P.
- THANKS St. Jude for prayers answered. E.L.
- JESUS, MARY, Joseph, St. Anna, St. Jude. Thank you for answering our prayers. H.M.
- THANK YOU St. Jude, Jesus and Sacred Heart of Jesus for prayers answered. M.A.M. & S.A.P.

**Newsm Briefs**

- U.S. CAUTIONS against tax cuts that could hurt domestic programs
  - WASHINGTON (CNS)—The head of the Catholic Health Association of the United States has cautioned President Bush and the new 108th Congress against implementing broad tax cutting measures, saying new proposals could hurt domestic programs, including health care. “The respective economic stimulus packages proposed by the president and congressional Democrats could preclude adequate funding of health care expansion priorities, as well as impede just funding of Medicare and Medicaid,” said Father Michael Place, CHA president and chief executive officer.
  - On Jan. 7, Bush announced his $674 billion economic stimulus plan that would include a package of tax cuts and incentives to eliminate all federal taxes on stock dividends, provide quick tax relief for married couples, and grant a $400-per-child increase in tax credit for families with children. Democrats proposed an alternative tax-cutting plan that would expand unemployment benefits by 26 weeks and give all workers an income tax rebate of up to $300 per person or $600 per working couple.

- Researchers surprised when studying abuse experiences of nuns
  - WASHINGTON (CNS)—U.S. Catholic nuns as a group appear to have suffered less sexual abuse than the general American female population, but most of the abuse they have faced as nuns has come from priests or other nuns, says an in-depth national study conducted in 1996. The study, which just recently gained national attention, found nuns have experienced far less adult sexual harassment, exploitation or abuse from fellow Church professionals than was reportedly experienced in separate studies on harassment of female rabbits and of female Methodist ministers in their professional settings. It also found that nuns reported far less sexual abuse as children than was reported by most female groups in other U.S. child abuse studies.

- New Vatican envoy to Russia says he hopes relations will normalize
  - MOSCOW (CNS)—The new Vatican envoy to the world’s largest Orthodox country arrived at a time when local Catholic leaders are detecting the faintest signs of a thaw with the Russian Orthodox Church. In short remarks to journalists waiting at Moscow’s Sheremetyevo Airport on Jan. 11, Archbishop Antonio Mennini said he hoped that “relations between the Holy See and the Russian Federation will develop in the spirit of mutual trust and cooperation.” Since the resumption of formal diplomatic relations in 1990 after a break of 187 years, ties between the Vatican and Russian governments have yet to develop to the point where the two states exchange ambassadors and maintain full-fledged embassies. Mennini, who was named a nuncio by Pope John Paul II, was appointed to serve as “Vatican representative to the Russian Federation.”

- Former Illinois death row inmate Leroy Orange hugs his daughter, Latonya, as he talks with the media outside the federal building in the Cook County Jail in Chicago on Jan. 10. Orange and another inmate are awaiting sentences over the state’s death row were granted a moratorium by outgoing Gov. George Ryan following his unprecedented review of capital punishment.

- Former Illinois death row inmate Leroy Orange hugs his daughter, Latonya, as he talks with the media outside the federal building in the Cook County Jail in Chicago on Jan. 10. Orange and another inmate are awaiting sentences over the state’s death row were granted a moratorium by outgoing Gov. George Ryan following his unprecedented review of capital punishment.

- European commission's president José Manuel Barroso, front, and New York Times columnist Thomas Friedman, background, listen to a discussion at the 2003 Newsmaker Conference at the University of Notre Dame in South Bend, Ind., Jan. 16. (AP Photo/Bill Waugh)
Celebrate Martin Luther King Jr. Day
The Children’s Museum of Indianapolis
Free admission Monday, Jan. 20.

Museum admission will be **FREE** in honor of Martin Luther King Jr.
The museum will feature activities, music and displays designed to celebrate diversity.
Please join us in a celebration of this champion of civil rights.

**Coming this February**

**Amazing Music Studio**
Opens Feb. 1

Have you ever wanted to be a rock star? Now's your chance at this hip, new exhibit that brings out the music lover in you!

**Andy Warhol Myths Series and Studio**
Opens Feb. 22

The Andy Warhol Myths Series and Studio features six original Warhol prints and a portable silk-screen studio with pop-culture objects from the museum's collection.

The Children’s Museum of Indianapolis
An extraordinary experience in learning

Tuesday – Sunday, 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.
3000 N. Meridian St., Indianapolis
(317) 334-3322 or 1 (800) 208-KIDS
www.ChildrensMuseum.org

Official Partners of The Children’s Museum