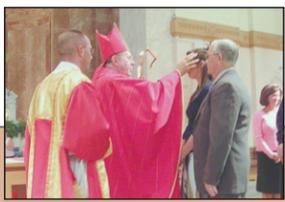


THE CRITERION'S Youth Supplement

Editor's note: Once a year, the Archdiocesan Youth Council writes stories for The Criterion as a way to show readers some of the activities, concerns and interests of young people who share the Catholic faith.

This year's Youth Supplement features stories that range from putting their faith into action to sharing experiences that help young people grow in their faith.

Members of the youth council represent deaneries across the archdiocese. Their goal is to share their gifts with the Church and encourage others, particularly youths, to become more active in their faith. If you are a high school student who wants to apply to serve on the youth council, contact the Youth Ministry department in the Office of Catholic Education and Faith Formation at 317-236-1477 or 800-382-9836, ext. 1477. †



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DANCING with their hearts to give HOPE

By Cassie Caccavo Special to The Criterion



For seven hours on a recent Sunday, nearly 300 high school students stayed on their feet and danced with their hearts to give hope to all the children who come to Riley Hospital for Children in Indianapolis. And when the Dance Marathon ended, the students from Bishop Chatard High School in Indianapolis didn't think about how sore or tired they were. Instead, they roared with delight when they learned they had raised more than \$29,000.

Just call it another example of youths putting their Catholic faith into action.

Bishop Chatard was one of the first high schools in Indiana to start a Dance Marathon

that benefited Riley, according to Claire Lucas, a senior who co-chairs the promotions committee for the school's annual event.

"Dance Marathon is a seven-hour dance party," Claire said. "In return for the donations, dancers learn a line dance, play games, and listen to Riley kids and their families talk. None of the 300 dancers are allowed to sit unless they are eating."

The fundraiser has also become a successful effort at Roncalli High School and Cathedral High School, both in Indianapolis.

"When I found out about Dance Marathon last year, I felt too passionate to not let it happen," said Jake Ezell, a 2007 Roncalli graduate who started the event at the Indianapolis South Deanery high school. "I decided that I was going to put together a South Deanery Dance Marathon."

That first effort raised about \$10,000, similar to what Cathedral raised this fall.

"We had 200 dancers participate in the actual marathon," said Quinn Ketterman, a senior at Cathedral and president of the school's Dance Marathon. "The students come because they want to have fun for a good cause."

Cathedral held their marathon on a Saturday night. While local school bands played during the five-hour marathon, students danced and played games through the night.

"We had a mini-dancing contest with some teachers who came and performed at our marathon," Quinn said.

The student-run Dance Marathon at Bishop Chatard

has raised more than \$121,000 for Riley since the North Deanery high school started the event in 2000. Nearly half of the school's students danced this year, earning almost \$5,000 more than last year's total.

"Our goal is to always raise one dollar more than the year before," Claire Lucas said.

At Roncalli, Jake felt the importance of getting involved in Dance Marathon.

"I had been given so much, and there are children whose lives have yet to be lived and I had the ability to help out those children," said Jake, now a freshman at Wabash College.

Teens say they get involved in these events because they want to make a difference and improve lives.

"The kids are what make me help out with the marathon," Claire said about her involvement at Bishop Chatard. "I have been to Riley and have seen what these kids are dealing with. The marathon gives me a chance to help the kids who might not have had a chance."

During the marathon, students have the opportunity to listen to children and parents whose lives have been touched at Riley.

Students at Bishop Chatard, Cathedral and Roncalli have raised more than \$185,000 for Riley through the years. Anyone who wants to donate to Riley should visit its Web site at www.rileykids.org.

"It's an incredible experience to see kids and their families raising money for other children and their families," Claire said. "Getting involved in a cause I feel passionately about has inspired me to do more, and I know my classmates feel the same way."

(Cassie Caccavo is a senior at Bishop Chatard High School and a member of St. Simon the Apostle Parish in Indianapolis.) †

A sponsor's gift

Sharing the path to a stronger faith

By Peter Jansen

Special to *The Criterion*

Who is your confirmation sponsor? It's a question that many of us have heard as we start the process to be confirmed in the Church, a question that is often taken too lightly.

"Teens will choose a certain sponsor because they're afraid they'll hurt that person's feelings [if they don't]," said Father Rick Ginther, a former director of liturgy and worship for the archdiocese who is now the pastor of St. Patrick and St. Mary Margaret parishes in Terre Haute.

The duty of a confirmation sponsor requires more serious consideration.

"Ever since the beginning of Christianity and of the sacraments, people have always had someone to be a model for them," said Msgr. Mark Svarczkopf, pastor of Our Lady of the Greenwood Parish in Greenwood.

Father Ginther noted, "Having a companion to be there with you and to answer all your questions truly brings fullness of the Spirit. Fullness of the Spirit enriches oneself."

Many sponsors likely approach this honor and responsibility with a mixed reaction: "I want to be a good sponsor, but I don't know what I'm supposed to do for them or how to act."

The responsibility starts with practicing your faith. It's the sponsor's duty to be knowledgeable about Christianity. A sponsor should also be a person of prayer. For it is through prayer that we are brought closer to God and come to know him better.

Being a sponsor also requires

listening to the person who will be confirmed. A sponsor should take to heart their questions, concerns, problems, joys and trials. They should be their spiritual stability in times of internal struggle. Trials will come, and it's only through facing them that one grows stronger.

A person preparing for confirmation may ask, "Why do I need to be confirmed if I was already baptized?"

In confirmation, it is the person being confirmed who says, "It is I who wish to enter further into the divine life of Christ." It's not the parents saying those words.

Some people also wonder about the difference between a sponsor and a godparent. The godparent is present during the entire childhood of the godchild and is charged with being a spiritual role model to them. A sponsor is to be open to a youth during a very specific and very special walk of faith of their own choosing. This more intense time of growth leads the two to a deeper spiritual relationship with God and one another.

How should a teen choose a sponsor?

"A sponsor should be someone that you trust, someone you admire as a person of faith, not someone with little connection to their faith or the Church," Father Ginther said.



Archbishop Daniel M. Buechlein anoints Cassie Caccavo while her sponsor, Jim Clark, stands by her during the sacrament of confirmation at SS. Peter and Paul Cathedral in Indianapolis. Cassie and Clark are members of St. Simon the Apostle Parish in Indianapolis.

Cassie Caccavo had that approach when she was confirmed.

"I chose my sponsor because I knew he had experience and knew about Christianity, and was comfortable talking about his faith," said Cassie, a senior at Bishop Chatard High School and a member of St. Simon the Apostle Parish in

Indianapolis. "He knows how important confirmation is and why it's so important."

Teens should spend time and think about who their confirmation sponsor should be.

(Peter Jansen is a member of Our Lady of the Greenwood Parish in Greenwood.) †

'Infinite' possibilities will mark high school rally

By Rebecca Totten

Special to *The Criterion*

Dave Gehrich enjoys seeing hundreds of young people get together for high school games, plays and musicals. He appreciates it even more when young people join together for faith-related events.

"We seem to have a desire to share exciting or entertaining moments in our life with a crowd of our peers," said Gehrich, the youth minister at St. Vincent de Paul Parish in Shelbyville. "So why not feel the same way about sharing our excitement for the One who provided all of these gifts and talents to us? We may not be able to return the infinite type of love that Christ offers, but we can certainly offer an infinite amount of praise for it."

High school students in the archdiocese will have that faith-filled opportunity with the Archdiocesan High School Youth Rally 2008 on March 2 at Bishop Chatard High School in Indianapolis.

The theme that the Archdiocesan Youth Council has selected for the rally is simple but profound—INFINITE. God's love and mercy are infinite.

The theme will focus on the second person of the Trinity, Jesus Christ, and the Incarnation where the Father's infinite love is given in human flesh to be our salvation. The youth council said, "This will be the focus: the infinite love that God the Father has for his people, found in his son, Jesus Christ."

The entire day is planned by the youth council, a group of 15 young people from across the archdiocese. The teenagers plan the theme, topic, design the T-shirt, and develop and implement skits.

Many young people know that the youth rally is a fantastic way to spend the day with friends while worshipping God.



A participant at the March 3-4 Archdiocesan High School Youth Rally held at Our Lady of Providence Jr./Sr. High School in Clarksville raises his hands in prayer while joining others in eucharistic adoration.

"I love seeing my friends from all across the archdiocese gathered in one place," said Sean Scott, a member of St. Joseph Parish in Shelbyville.

This year's keynote speaker is Steve Angrisano, according to Father Jonathan Meyer, the director of Youth Ministry in the archdiocesan Office of Catholic Education and Faith Formation.

"He is a talented musician, and young people really respond, not only to his music, but to his stories and the sharing of his faith," Father Meyer said.

The only question that remains is, "What are you doing on March 2, 2008?"

The answer is simple. It's INFINITE, the Archdiocesan High School Youth Rally 2008. Talk to your youth minister today.

(Rebecca Totten is a member of Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish in Indianapolis and a senior at Roncalli High School in Indianapolis.) †

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One Bread, One Cup provide nourishment for growing youth interest

By Emily Perkins

Special to The Criterion

What started as a small leadership conference almost 13 years ago has now grown into a nationally-recognized youth liturgical leadership conference.

Saint Meinrad School of Theology's One Bread, One Cup (OBOC) has become one of the most popular summer conferences for youths across the country.

It is also growing in popularity within the archdiocese. In 2007, young people from 21 parishes and high schools in the archdiocese participated.

For many, the trip to Saint Meinrad is something they have never experienced and it leaves a lasting impression. One Bread, One Cup is a leadership conference where they live in community with other high school students for five days.

During that time, they learn about Benedictine tradition, catechesis and liturgy. They also have the opportunity to participate in liturgical skills tracks where they learn to be a lector, an altar server, a cantor and an extraordinary minister of holy Communion.

They are taught these skills with the hope that when they return to their home parishes or high schools they can put into practice

what they have learned.

For Jacob Kraft of Holy Family Parish in New Albany, taking what he learned at One Bread, One Cup this summer was part of giving back to his parish.

"We have started a mini-OBOC for training other youths who want to participate in ministries," Jacob said. "I still lector at both the youth Mass and the regular Sunday Mass."

In 2008, there are three scheduled opportunities to participate in a One Bread, One Cup conference: June 16-20, June 27-July 1 and July 7-11.

Part of the uniqueness of One Bread, One Cup is that Saint Meinrad provides the perfect backdrop for creating an intentional community. The monks of Saint Meinrad are great examples of what living in community means. They provide the examples of gathering for prayer, sharing meals and providing support to each other.

One Bread, One Cup has been modeled after years of Benedictine tradition. The schedule is planned around morning prayer, Mass, evening prayer and night prayer. The One Bread, One Cup community also comes together to share meals. The experience made a difference to a group from St. Christopher Parish in Indianapolis.

"I believe it is important for youths to see

Church as a community, and what better place than One Bread, One Cup," said Tom Steiner, youth minister at St. Christopher. "OBOC offers such a great opportunity for the youth to truly see the Eucharist as a community gathering, and to experience that with a group of youths their age is an amazing opportunity."

The experience at One Bread, One Cup is now coming full-circle. Former college interns in the program and participants are sharing the skills they learned with the Church community. Some have become youth ministers and teachers in the archdiocese and in other dioceses across the country.

"Being an intern for two summers has helped me to solidify my calling to be a Catholic high school teacher," said Katie Ingram, a senior at Marian College in Indianapolis. "I always knew the call was



From left, Palmer Roth, Megan Faye, Eric Crockett, Joshua Isaacs and Susan Isaacs participated this summer in One Bread, One Cup, a program designed to help young people grow in their faith and their leadership skills. The five participants are members of St. Mary-of-the-Knobs Parish in St. Mary-of-the-Knobs.

there, but now I truly know."

(Emily Perkins is the coordinator of youth ministry at Our Lady of Lourdes Parish in Indianapolis. She has been involved in One Bread, One Cup as a participant and a college intern. She has been the associate director of the program the past two summers.) †

LIFE

continued from page 7

How can we decide who has the right to life and who does not?

The question remains: What can we as members of society do to stop this holocaust?

First and foremost, each of us must promote the culture of life on a personal level.

When you see people with disabilities, go out of your way to show them respect. Let others around you see your attitude so that you may be an example of the love our country should have for its most vulnerable citizens.

Also, write to your congressmen and women. Tell them that you are ashamed of

your fellow countrymen. Let them know that allowing our doctors to kill innocent children is intolerable and hypocritical.

At every chance I get, I try to help others understand the value of all human life. I encourage all of you to do so as well.

We live in a country that boasts about its freedoms and liberties for all people, but a nation that kills its weak is a cowardly one. Let us not be that nation.

How can we hope to fight off the terrorists who want to eradicate our country when we cannot even respect our fellow countrymen?

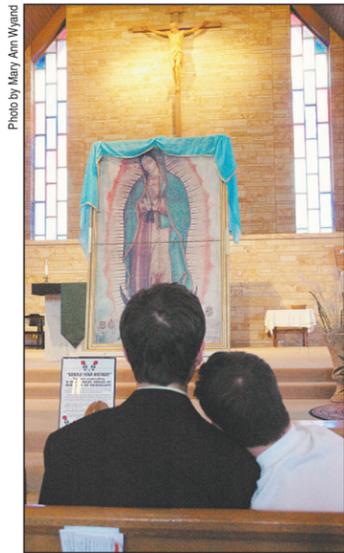
The old slogan, "United we stand, divided we fall," rings loud and clear. If America insists on being self-destructive, it has no hope.

Let those of us who realize the seriousness of this problem go out and make a difference. Let us give hope back to our country by

protecting the lives of those who cannot defend themselves.

Be an advocate for the unborn. Make the rest of America know that we will not tolerate a nation that kills.

(Robbie Steiner is a member of Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish in New Albany, a 2007 graduate of Our Lady of Providence Jr./Sr. High School in Clarksville and a freshman majoring in political science at Indiana University in Bloomington. His essay won first place in the Indiana Right to Life oratory contest and third place in the National Right to Life oratory contest in June. He presented his speech during the "I Love Life" conference on Nov. 10 at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish in New Albany.) †



Tommy Steiner, right, who has Down syndrome, hugs his brother after Robbie Steiner spoke at the "I Love Life" conference on Nov. 10 at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish in New Albany. The missionary image of Our Lady of Guadalupe was displayed near the altar for veneration. Their parents are Robert and Ann Steiner.

Sacred bond connects Scouts and Christ

By Ian Barnstead

Special to The Criterion

"On my honor, I will do my best to do my duty to God and my country . . ."

It's the Scout Oath, what every Boy Scout recites at every meeting he attends. If you ask him, he can spout it off faster than he can raise his Scout sign. It is what a Scout lives his life by, his creed.

The values that are sacred to the Scout are similar, if not the same as, those values held sacred by the Christian. Christ calls us all to serve others without regard to ourselves, one of the main precepts of the Boy Scouts. The founding of the Boy Scouts of America is based completely on service.

The Boy Scouts were founded by Lord Robert Baden Powell after he saw how experienced boys in Africa were with the wilderness during the Boer War. In 1907, he created the organization in England.

In 1910, a Chicago publisher, William Boyce, was traveling in London when he became lost in a dense fog. A boy in a uniform helped him find his way. When Boyce offered the boy a tip, he refused. This event inspired Boyce to meet with Baden Powell and the Boy Scouts of America was born.

Besides camping and other activities in the outdoors, everything in the Boy Scouts is connected to service. Advancing through the ranks of the Boy Scouts requires an amount of service for each rank. The Eagle Scout, the ultimate goal of every Boy Scout, requires the candidate to plan and carry out a substantially large service project.

This impression of service to others helps to build up to the main goal of Scouting—leadership. A good leader in the eyes of the



Archbishop Daniel M. Buechlein congratulates a Cub Scout during the Religious Emblems Presentation for Scouts on Feb. 11 at SS. Peter and Paul Cathedral in Indianapolis.

Scouts is the same as a good leader in the eyes of Christ. To be a leader, one must put himself last, behind all those he is leading, just as Christ did, just as the saints did, just as the priests and the bishops who lead our Church do. Self-sacrifice is a must for Boy Scouts.

The Boy Scouts create good Christian leaders every day, which can be seen in our community. The prestigious rank of Eagle Scout includes many notable leaders, even Archbishop Daniel M. Buechlein.

It is said that a good leader is someone who does everything for the betterment of his people. A good Christian leader leads by a Christ-like example to bring all of us to holiness. It is not a coincidence that the sacred values held dear by the Boy Scouts are the same values Christ commanded us to take up as our own.

(Ian Barnstead is a member of St. Luke the Evangelist Parish in Indianapolis.) †



Music for life

St. Bartholomew parishioner Michael Padilla of Columbus plays the violin during the "40 Days for Life" prayer service on Nov. 4 at the St. Augustine Home for the Aged Chapel in Indianapolis. He is the president of the Archdiocesan Youth Council.

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Trust in God when his call to serve comes

By Kirk Meyers

Special to *The Criterion*

For almost 2,000 years, men have been called to serve the Church as representatives of Christ. Whether assigned to a parish or serving a religious order, these men have given their lives to spread God's message to his people. They have been called shepherds and fishermen, and have been role models to many people throughout time. These men are priests.

The word "priest" is derived from the Greek "presbyteros," meaning elder. This term is meant as a male person called to the immediate service of God and authorized to hold public worship, especially to offer the sacrifice of the Holy Eucharist.

As you can see from the definition of priest, the priesthood should not be taken lightly. It is a gift of God and a sacrament of the Church. This is why there is a period of discernment and studying before a man is ordained a priest.

Many spend this time in a seminary or a college associated with a seminary. A seminary is a place of study and prayer for men discerning the priesthood. They go there to learn what they need to know to be a priest. In the seminary, they learn theology and philosophy to assist them in formation with the Church in mind.

Priests also need to learn Church history, Church doctrine and Scripture. While they study for the priesthood, they can take classes and pursue majors that would educate them in other fields of interest.

Continually during this period, they ask God if they are truly called to be a priest.

The seminarians interviewed for this story are studying at the Bishop Bruté College Seminary at Marian College in Indianapolis.

Asked why he entered a seminary, archdiocesan seminarian Tim Wyciskalla said, "I have a great desire to serve the Church, especially sacramentally."

Jeff Read, a seminarian for the Evansville Diocese, said he was attracted to the priesthood because it means "acting in the person of Jesus Christ."

Most do not enter the seminary until something "calls" them toward the priesthood. Many may be called, but not all listen at first. For some, this call or discernment may be a long process. For others, it can happen in an instant.

Archdiocesan seminarian Aaron Thomas said he received help in his calling from his pastor and his family.

The question of discerning a priestly vocation may come at any age. There are saints that knew at very young ages that they wanted to be priests and serve God. One of these saints was St. Peter Claver.

Life experiences can also prompt changes of thought toward the priesthood. St. Augustine found his vocation after searching for more than 30 years.

A few seminarians said that men should be looking for their vocation at all times of their life. Others said that high school is a good place for teenagers to look toward the future and ask themselves if the priesthood is what God wills for them.

Promoting vocations to the priesthood is every Catholic's responsibility. There is a great need for priests in the United States, and there are many ways to advocate

File photo/Sean Callagher



Father Rick Nagel, associate vocations director for the archdiocese, receives offertory gifts from, at left, Patrick Durholz, a member of Annunciation Parish in Brazil, and Kevin Chambers, a member of Holy Trinity Parish in Indianapolis, during a Mass celebrated on June 14 at Bradford Woods in Morgan County. The Mass was part of Bishop Bruté Days, a retreat focused on the priesthood that was sponsored by the Bishop Bruté College Seminary at Marian College in Indianapolis.

discernment to the priesthood. All the seminarians agree that the best way to encourage the priesthood is to ask those that show promise and potential if they have ever considered the priesthood. Even if they say no, the thought will still be placed in their heart and mind. This may be all that God needs.

The seminarians also added that prayer is powerful, too. We should all take the time to pray for more men to pick up the call and follow his will.

Although the priesthood may be difficult for some, trust in the Lord will always help men to overcome any obstacle.

Asked if he was worried about becoming a priest, Wyciskalla said, "There is an element of fear, of unworthiness, in my discernment. However, I am always comforted by the fact that I can place all of my worries in Christ."

We must always trust in God in whatever we do, as it says in Proverbs 3:5-6, "Trust in the Lord with all your heart, on your own intelligence rely not; in all ways be mindful of him, and he will make straight your paths."

(Kirk Meyers is a member of Annunciation Parish in Brazil.) †

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