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See more stories and photos from the 175th anniversary celebration, pages 7-18.

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## Celebrating 175 years of faith



About 25,000 Catholics gathered at Lucas Oil Stadium in Indianapolis on May 3 to celebrate the 175th anniversary of the Archdiocese of Indianapolis. Seventeen bishops, two archabbots and several priests of the archdiocese helped Archbishop Daniel M. Buechlein confirm 2,500 teenagers and 300 adults during the jubilee Mass. Also honored at the celebration were children who had recently received their first Communion, couples who had been married 50 years or longer, and men and women religious who were celebrating significant anniversaries of entrance into religious life or profession of vows. For more 175th anniversary Mass coverage, see pages 7-18. (Photo by Brandon A. Evans)

## Thank you for your witness of faith

Our Jubilee Mass in celebration of the 175th anniversary of the Archdiocese of Indianapolis last Sunday was a beautiful and impressive experience of our Church at worship. We thank God for this blessing and all the blessings showered upon the Church in central and southern Indiana over the past 175 years. It was awe-inspiring to witness 2,800 young people and adults receiving the sacrament of confirmation.



Archbishop Daniel M. Buechlein

In the name of all of us—laity, religious and clergy—I want to thank everyone who gathered at Lucas Oil Stadium for this historic occasion. What a marvelous expression of the

unity of our archdiocese. The presence of Cardinal Francis E. George, Archbishop of Chicago, and several of my brother bishops, priests and archabbots made the event all the more special.

I also want to thank the hundreds of volunteers and staff who worked so hard over the past year to make this celebration possible.

Msgr. Joseph F. Schaedel and Annette "Mickey" Lentz were co-chairs of the planning committee, and were assisted on the executive steering committee by Ford Cox, Sharon Donohue, Kevin McDowell, Father Jonathan Meyer, Roger Neal, Carolyn Noone, Greg Otolowski, Benedictine Father Julian Peters and Brenda Pfarr. Other key individuals in the planning included Father John Beitans, David Bethuram, Father James Bonke, Bob Desautels, Charles Gardner, Stephen James, Father Aaron Jenkins,

Msgr. Paul Koetter, Bill McGowan, Kathy Mears, Jim Morris, Father Rick Nagel, Ken Ogorek, Father Michael O'Mara, Jen Ross, Julie Shewmaker, Father Kenneth Taylor, Christina Tuley and Anne Wilmes.

Countless others, including the staff of Lucas Oil Stadium, provided invaluable assistance. Many people and organizations, who are listed on page 15 of this issue, also contributed with financial and technical support. Heartfelt congratulations and thank you, one and all!

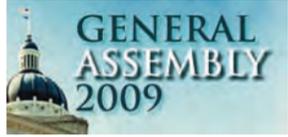
Let us pray that the next chapter in our archdiocese's history will be as blessed and fruitful as the 175 years we just celebrated. We look ahead as a family filled with hope.

Most Rev. Daniel M. Buechlein, O.S.B.  
Archbishop of Indianapolis

# Feticide law and poverty commission among legislative successes

By Brigid Curtis Ayer

April 29 marked the close of the regular session of the Indiana General Assembly, but lawmakers' work is far from over.



Gov. Mitch Daniels is expected to call the legislators to reconvene for a special session in June because they did not agree on a biennial

budget by the end of the regular session.

If no budget is agreed upon by July 1, the state will not have an operating budget.

The April 29 adjournment brought success and disappointment for many of the Indiana Catholic Conference's (ICC) legislative priorities.

Bills to enhance penalties for feticide, create a child poverty commission and adjust charity gaming rules will become law this year, and were legislative successes for the ICC.

Senate Bill 236, authored by Sen. James Merritt (R-Indianapolis), will enhance the penalty for a person who



Sen. James Merritt

commits murder or attempted murder where an unborn child is involved.

In the case of the 2008 bank teller tragedy in Indianapolis, it would have subjected the offender to an additional term of imprisonment of six to 20 years because unborn twins were lost.

"Many of my constituents are customers of the Huntington Bank and frequent the neighborhood where the hold-up and shooting occurred," Sen. Merritt said. "Plus, as the father of twins, this story really hit home with me."

Current law allows murder charges to be filed only if the fetus has reached seven months gestation. The twins carried by bank teller Katherin Shuffield of Indianapolis, who was shot during a robbery, were only five months gestation when they were killed.

Nationwide, 37 states have feticide laws, and 18 of those consider the killing of a fetus at any point in gestation to be murder, Sen. Merritt said.

"It's time [that] Indiana catches up with the rest of the country on this important issue," Sen. Merritt said.

Senate Bill 236 defines feticide as the termination of a

human pregnancy at any stage of gestation. The bill passed the Senate 40-9, and the House passed the bill 96-0.

Since the bill was amended by the House, the Senate had to vote on or concur with the House amendments. Senate members concurred, and Governor Daniels is expected to sign the bill into law.

Lawmakers also passed a measure to create a commission to conduct an in-depth study of childhood poverty in Indiana. The 23-member panel will be composed of child poverty experts from governmental agencies, non-profit advocacy groups, faith-based community groups, and area academia from Indiana University, the University of Notre Dame and Purdue University.

Sen. Dennis Kruse, (R-Auburn), author of the proposal which passed the Senate, said that the purpose of the bill is to seek ways to reduce childhood poverty in the state by 50 percent by 2020.

"I think we have an obligation for our generation to do what we can do to reduce childhood poverty," he said.

Sen. Kruse said that Indiana ranks 30th of the 50 states in childhood poverty and that 20 states have similar commissions.

A bill to adjust a charity gaming regulation also passed this year thanks to the efforts of three Catholic lawmakers—Reps. Mark Messmer (R-Jasper), Matt Bell (R-Avilla) and Sen. Jean Leising (R-Oldenburg), who authored a proposal to allow festival workers to participate in activities other than the game they are working.

Senate Bill 414 passed the House unanimously on April 15. The bill allows charity gaming workers at festivals to participate in gaming activities. Current charitable gaming law does not allow workers who work for only part of an event to partake in any activities at multi-day or multi-game events like church festivals.

"The bill does nothing to expand gambling in our state," Rep. Messmer said. "It merely clears up an oversight in existing code that didn't allow these volunteer workers to take part in gaming activities."

Though some of the ICC's legislative priorities passed in the General Assembly, others failed to become law.

Senate Bill 89, a proposal that would require abortion doctors to obtain hospital privileges for better follow-up care for post-abortive women, failed in conference committee when lawmakers were unable to reconcile differences between the House and Senate version of the bill.

Sen. Patricia Miller (R-Indianapolis), author of

Senate Bill 89, was "very encouraged that the House passed the bill," but knew there would be challenges if the bill went to conference committee.

One of the challenges was a proposal to fund breast and cervical cancer screenings offered by Rep. Craig Fry (D-Elkhart), which was passed by the House.

"Senate conferees would not agree to this provision because of the estimated \$23 million price tag [of the screenings], and the issue was ruled as not germane to the original bill," said Glen Tebbe, ICC executive director

When the General Assembly reconvenes in June, ICC officials will work on getting other priorities passed.

"The Indiana Catholic Conference will be actively lobbying for the scholarship tax credit, which was amended into the budget bill, and we hope will be part of the final budget plan," Tebbe said.

"We have had an overwhelming response from our Indiana Catholic Action Networkers [I-CAN] this year on the scholarship tax credit, and I encourage everyone to continue contacting lawmakers on this issue," he said. "While the regular session has adjourned, we still have a chance for the scholarship tax credit proposal to be added into the budget."

The proposal, Senate Bill 528, would offer a 50 percent tax credit incentive to corporations or individuals for donations made to qualified Scholarship Granting Organizations (SGO's). The SGO's would then provide grants to lower-income families for school tuition or other school related costs at the public or private school of the parents' choice.

The tax credit would allow individuals and corporations who contribute to a qualified scholarship program to deduct 50 percent of the amount of that donation from their state tax liability.

Tebbe said that another unresolved issue related to the failed budget is the sales tax exemption for energy assistance.

The effort to extend this program was cut short when House Bill 1081 did not get a hearing in the Senate. The program, which provides a sales tax exemption for heating assistance for low-income households, will expire on July 1 unless it is added to the new budget bill.

"I am hopeful that this too can be included in the final budget plan," Tebbe said.

(Brigid Curtis Ayer is a correspondent for The Criterion. For a complete report on the fate of the ICC's legislative agenda, go to [www.indianacc.org](http://www.indianacc.org).) †

## Notre Dame won't give 2009 Laetare Medal

WASHINGTON (CNS)—The University of Notre Dame announced on April 30 that it will not award its prestigious Laetare Medal during the May 17 commencement ceremony after Mary Ann Glendon, former U.S. ambassador to the Vatican, turned down the honor.

Instead, the Catholic university announced that its 1984 recipient of the medal—Judge John T. Noonan Jr.—will deliver an address during the school's 164th commencement ceremony.

This year will mark the first time the Indiana university has failed to bestow the Laetare Medal—presented to an American Catholic for outstanding service to the Catholic Church and society—since it was established in 1883, said Notre Dame spokesman Dennis Brown.

Glendon told Holy Cross Father John Jenkins, Notre Dame's president, in an April 27 letter that she had decided not to participate in this year's graduation ceremony because of the university's decision to give Obama an honorary degree.

She described Obama as "a prominent and uncompromising opponent of the Church's position on issues involving fundamental principles of justice," and

said the decision to present him with an honorary degree violated the U.S. bishops' 2004 request that Catholic institutions not honor "those who act in defiance of our fundamental moral principles."

Obama supports legal abortion and his administration recently proposed new regulations that would expand the use of federal funds for embryonic stem-cell research. Both are in direct conflict with Church teaching.

"In thinking about who could bring a compelling voice, a passion for dialogue, great intellectual stature and a deep commitment to Catholic values to the speaking role of the Laetare medalist—especially in these unusual circumstances—it quickly became clear that an ideal choice is Judge Noonan," Father Jenkins said in an April 30 statement.

"Since Judge Noonan is a previous winner of the Laetare Medal, we have decided, upon reflection, to not award the medal this year," he added.

A former professor at Notre Dame, Noonan was appointed to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 9th Circuit in 1985 by President Ronald Reagan, and has been a consultant for several governmental bodies and non-profit foundations. †

## 175th Mass programs available

Do you want a keepsake or memento from the 175th anniversary Mass?

There are copies of the Mass program available to the general public.

Anyone interested in obtaining copies of the program is asked to contact *The Criterion* at 1400 N. Meridian St., Room 202, Indianapolis, IN, 46202. You can also e-mail [rmassey@archindy.org](mailto:rmassey@archindy.org).

We are asking people to cover the mailing costs, which will be approximately \$1.45.

For more information, call 317-236-1454 or 800-382-9836, ext. 1454. †



## Correction

A caption in the May 1 issue listed the wrong date for the feast of the Ascension. In the archdiocese, Ascension is observed on Sunday, May 24, instead of Thursday, May 21. Most U.S. dioceses have transferred observance of the feast to replace the seventh Sunday of Easter. †



5/8/09

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# Father Theodore Heck, 108, was world's oldest Benedictine monk

By Sean Gallagher

Benedictine Father Theodore Heck, a monk of Saint Meinrad Archabbey in



Fr. Theodore Heck

St. Meinrad, died on April 29. He was 108, and was the world's oldest Benedictine monk.

The Office of the Dead was prayed for him on May 1, and the Mass of Christian burial was celebrated on May 2 at the Archabbey Church of Our Lady

of Einseideln. Burial followed at the Archabbey Cemetery.

Starting in 1935, Father Theodore spent half a century teaching and serving as an administrator of Saint Meinrad's minor and major seminaries. He was rector of Saint Meinrad School of Theology from 1956-66 and served as rector of Saint Meinrad College for three years during that span.

Archabbot Justin DuVall, the leader of Saint Meinrad Archabbey, praised him for his longstanding ministry in the seminary. He also said that Father Theodore showed what it meant to be a monk by his "fidelity to prayer" and by becoming a well-rounded person through constant reading.

Archabbot Justin also noted that Father Theodore, who came to Saint Meinrad in 1918 to its seminary, was a good source of its history.

"He was sort of the living memory of a good part of the history of this community," Archabbot Justin said. "But not only that, he had a tremendous memory for keeping at least the facts straight of where the men were and what they were doing who were in

school here while he was rector. He would keep up with them."

Because of his decades of ministry in priestly formation at Saint Meinrad, he helped form a generation of priests of the Archdiocese of Indianapolis, including Archbishop Daniel M. Buechlein.

"Father Theodore was a quiet and unassuming monk and priest, and was a steady administrator," said Archbishop Buechlein. "Everyone I know respected his integrity and unpretentiousness."

Archabbot Justin said Father Theodore was modest throughout his life despite his accomplishments in priestly formation.

"Even in his later years, he was always the first to volunteer for the smallest things, whether that was stuffing envelopes in the development office or cleaning up around the house," Archabbot Justin said. "It didn't matter to him. Nothing was beneath him in that sense."

Msgr. Harold Knueven, who spent 12 years in priestly formation at Saint Meinrad and was ordained a priest in 1958, praised Father Theodore for his kindness.

"He was a gentle, gentle man," said Msgr. Knueven, administrator of St. Mary Parish in Greensburg. "He wouldn't hurt a soul. He was very kind and compassionate, just a jewel."

Father James Bonke, defender of the bond for the archdiocesan Metropolitan Tribunal and associate pastor of Christ the King Parish in Indianapolis, was a seminarian under Father Theodore from 1962-66.

He commended him for seeing the need for the seminary to be accredited like any other institution of higher education.

"He thought that if seminary education was going to be deemed credible that the schools needed to be accredited both by secular accrediting agencies as well as the proper ecclesiastical agencies," Father Bonke said.

"He saw that need and pursued it.

"Having come through Saint Meinrad, I think we respect a good education."

Father Bonke said that Father Theodore provided steady leadership during the sometimes tumultuous years of Vatican II by "being a good monk and being faithful to the Church, which he was above all things."

"I think his approach was that if this is what the Church wishes and intends and desires at this point in time, then that's the way it should be," Father Bonke said.

Father Theodore was born in Chariton, Iowa, on Jan. 16, 1901, to Henry Heck Sr. and Margaret (Steinbach) Heck. He received the name Henry John at baptism.

After attending elementary school in Missouri and three years of high school in West Terre Haute, Father Theodore enrolled in the minor seminary at Saint Meinrad in 1918. He entered the novitiate in 1922, professed simple vows on Sept. 8, 1923, and was ordained a priest on May 21, 1929. He would have celebrated his 80th anniversary as a priest this month.

After his ordination, Father Theodore taught in the minor seminary. In 1932, he began graduate studies at The Catholic University of America, earning a Ph.D. in education in 1935. He returned to Saint Meinrad and, for more than 50 years, taught in the minor and major seminaries, and held a variety of administrative positions in the Saint Meinrad schools.

Father Theodore also taught during the summers at the former St. Benedict College in Ferdinand, Ind., from 1936-43 and at the



Benedictine Father Theodore Heck gives the sign of peace to Benedictine Archabbot Justin DuVall during a Mass at the Archabbey Church of Our Lady of Einseideln on Jan. 21, 2005. During the liturgy, Archabbot Justin, who was elected the leader of Saint Meinrad Archabbey on Dec. 31, 2004, was ritually blessed and took office. Father Theodore died on April 29 at the age of 108. He was the oldest Benedictine monk in the world.

former Dubuque, Iowa, branch of The Catholic University of America from 1944-58.

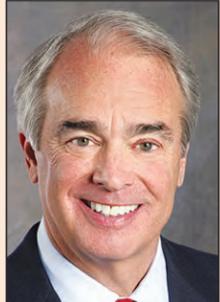
For 17 years, he served as subprior (third in leadership) in the monastery and, for three years, as prior (second in leadership). He was a founding member of the American Benedictine Academy, serving as its first president from 1947-57.

At the age of 70, he began 17 years of pastoral service as vicar of St. John Chrysostom Parish in New Boston, Ind., in the Evansville Diocese. During these years, he continued to teach on the college faculty. When he retired, he was named emeritus professor of the college and pastor emeritus of St. John Chrysostom Parish. †

## Commencement speaker invites others to help him give advice to college grads

By John Shaughnessy

After Jim Rogers was invited to give the commencement speech at Marian College on May 9, he made an unusual invitation of his own.



Jim Rogers

Writing on his Internet blog, Rogers asked people to share their thoughts about what advice he should offer to the 422 students who are graduating this year from the Indianapolis college.

"Commencement addresses are always given, but many are seldom remembered," wrote Rogers, the president, chairman of the board and chief executive officer of Duke Energy, a North Carolina-

based electric power company that is the largest electricity provider in Indiana. "In cooperation with Marian College, I'm using this tool to obtain advice on what you think I should tell students entering the next chapter of their lives."

Rogers soon had a wealth of wisdom he could use for the speech that he will give during the college's commencement beginning at 10 a.m. in the Allen Whitehill Clowes Amphitheater on campus.

Here are some of the insights about life that people shared with him, and hoped he would share with the school's Class of 2009. (Many of the blog's contributors didn't post their names so names aren't included in this story.)

### Don't leave a doubt about love

"Say 'I love you' to the people you love every chance you get. You never know when your number is up, so don't leave anyone guessing."

### Be careful what you share

"Be careful what you put on YouTube, MySpace, etc. It will appear where you least expect it, like at the rehearsal dinner for your wedding or your 40th birthday."

### Be positive, part one

"As a former Marian College graduate, I understand how scary it can be to walk across the graduation stage, and suddenly be 'grown up' and 'on my own.' It's certainly a shock at first. You feel as though you have a million things to do because you're a college grad now. The next step is to get a job, a house or apartment, and find a way to fully support yourself.

"Finding work in the current economy can certainly be a challenge. Remember to keep a positive attitude and do not

be discouraged if you don't nail your dream job the first trip out of the gates. It sometimes takes a few years before you find work you can really thrive in as an adult."

### Keep an open mind

"I was a genius when I graduated from college and had all the answers. However, the older I get, I find out the less I know. Every day, I learn something new from someone, somewhere."

### Follow your dreams

"Get started now on what you want to accomplish. It might not seem like it right now, but the years do indeed pass by quickly. Don't find yourself filled with regret over what you could have done. Don't let anything stand in your way of accomplishing your dreams."

### Always remember your value

"Above all, realize that the struggles you are facing, most everyone has faced in the past and survived. Always know that even in times of trouble, 'this too shall pass' and greater days are yet to come. Keep in contact with college friends, hold strong to faith and family, and remember that whatever challenges the future may hold, you hold worth and value,

See ROGERS, page 24



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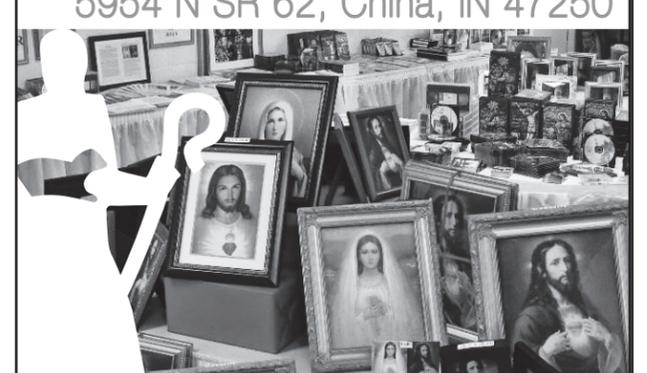
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Editorial



An invitation card for Pope Benedict XVI's upcoming Mass in Amman is displayed near a row of candles during a Mass in Amman, Jordan, on May 2. The pope is scheduled to visit Jordan, Israel and the Palestinian territories during his May 8-15 trip to the Holy Land.

# The pope in the Holy Land

Pope Benedict XVI faces many challenges as he ventures into the Holy Land for a week beginning today, May 8.

The politics of the Holy Land are always dangerous, and the pope won't be able to avoid them even if he wished to do so.

The secular media probably will cover this visit closely, especially for its political ramifications.

Perhaps it would be nice if the pope could simply make a pilgrimage to the places revered by Christians because the Holy Land is where Jesus lived, died and rose again, and part of the trip will be a pilgrimage. He will visit the Basilicas of the Nativity in Bethlehem, the Annunciation in Nazareth and the Holy Sepulchre in Jerusalem.

But just a list of the people with whom he will meet shows that this visit is far more than a pilgrimage. In Jordan, he will meet with King Abdullah. In Israel, he will have separate meetings with President Shimon Peres and Prime Minister Ehud Olmert, who will soon be succeeded by Benjamin Netanyahu. On the West Bank, he will meet with Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas.

Besides those political leaders, he will also meet with Catholic, Orthodox and Armenian patriarchs as well as Muslim and Jewish religious leaders. He will visit the King Hussein Mosque in Amman, Jordan. He has a very full agenda.

The Holy See and Israel have had full diplomatic relations since 1994. The Holy See has also had a "permanent and official" relationship with the Palestinian Authority since 1994.

Pope Benedict will be the third pope to visit the Holy Land—not counting St. Peter. Pope Paul VI visited in 1964 and went away concerned that the Holy Land was quickly becoming a Christian museum because Christians were leaving in droves.

After his return to Rome, Pope Paul asked the Christian Brothers to establish Bethlehem University and Holy Cross Father Theodore Hesburgh, then president of the University of Notre Dame, to establish the Pontifical Institute for Ecumenical Studies in Jerusalem. Both continue to function today.

Pope John Paul II's visit in 2000 was

seen as a tremendous success in improving relations between the Catholic Church and Jews. He visited both the Yad Vashem Holocaust Memorial and the Western Wall, where he placed a prayer expressing sadness for the wrongs that Christians have done to Jews.

Pope Benedict will visit those same places, and the world will be watching to see what he says and does there.

Relations between the Church and Jews have deteriorated somewhat since Pope John Paul's visit, which is one of the reasons why Pope Benedict wanted to make this trip. His lifting the excommunication of four traditionalist bishops, including a Holocaust denier, almost derailed the trip until the pope said that Catholics must recognize and remember the Holocaust.

Just the fact that Pope Benedict is a German has caused him to be viewed with suspicion. It is sometimes pointed out that he was in the Nazi youth movement as a boy and in the German military during World War II. Of course, all German youth had to be in the Nazi youth movement, and he deserted from his military post at the risk of his life.

There was also the Vatican's criticism of Israel when it invaded Gaza. Cardinal Renato Martino, head of the Vatican's Council for Justice and Peace, compared Gaza to a concentration camp.

It doesn't seem likely that the pope will get involved in discussions concerning the Israeli-Palestinian problem since his meetings with the Israeli and Palestinian leaders are mainly courtesy calls. However, just the fact that he will meet with Abbas and not go to Gaza to meet with the Palestinian faction there has political implications.

He is likely to observe the same problem that Pope Paul noticed—the decline in the number of Christians in the Holy Land. Perhaps that will come to his attention while he is in Jordan, where some of the hundreds of thousands of Chaldean Catholics who have fled from Iraq have relocated.

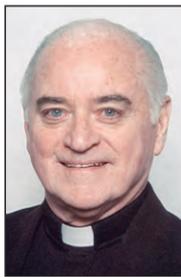
It wouldn't be surprising if Pope Benedict alludes to this problem during his meeting with Muslim leaders in Jordan. This pope is not shy about demanding freedom of religion for Christians in Muslim countries.

—John F. Fink

## Spirituality for Today/Fr. John Catoir

# Why Catholics leave the Church

There are many reasons why Catholics leave the Church.



More than 90 percent leave because of the human element of the Church. The other 10 percent probably never believed in the divine element in the first place.

Faith is a gift.

If you try to bring

back lapsed Catholics, be careful. As a rule, they don't like any kind of pressure.

For instance, if you say jokingly, "When are you coming back to the Church?" you might hear, "Back to what, the same old stuff?"

Many of them have been hurt, offended or scandalized by priests and bishops. Some may have had a scrupulous parent who smothered them.

Better to "speak more to God about them, than to them about God." This was the advice that St. Ambrose gave to St. Monica, the mother of St. Augustine, when he lapsed into heresy as a young man. She persevered in her prayers, and he eventually became a saint.

Many estranged Catholics are totally indifferent to Mary, the mother of Jesus.

Jesuit theologian Father Karl Rahner once said, "For too many people, Christianity has become another 'ism,' an ideology, an abstraction, and abstractions have no need of a mother."

Those who do return after years of estrangement often tell us that they did not come back because of prodding or intellectual arguments. Rather, they found themselves looking for something that was missing in their lives—namely, a spiritual home.

This is where Mary comes in to play; a home needs a mother in it.

When people experience hard times, they often say a Hail Mary and, when their prayers are answered, the seeds of faith begin to bloom again. The contempt they once felt for the institutional Church seems to become inconsequential. They soon realize that the Catholic Church is the only organization

in the world that truly honors the mother of Jesus as he wants her honored.

Mary is the mother of the mystical body of Christ, and therefore our spiritual mother.

"Honor thy mother" is a divine commandment, and Mary had a two-fold vocation; namely, to receive Jesus into her body, and then to give him away to the world for our salvation.

This is essentially our vocation, too.

After the Second Vatican Council, some priests began preaching that the council eliminated our so-called "exaggerated devotion" to Mary, but what they failed to explain was all that Mary really means to us.

To the objection of our Protestant brothers—namely that Christians do not need Mary because Jesus alone is Lord—we have this answer from the pen of Cardinal Leo Jozef Suenens: "It is true, Mary plays no role in the transmission of sacramental grace, i.e., she never interferes in the priest's absolution; however, in Lourdes and elsewhere, she gently urges the pilgrims to go to confession and receive holy Communion."

In Scripture, Mary says, "Do whatever he tells you" (Jn 2:5).

Far from getting in the way, she points us to Jesus.

The cynicism of disbelievers does not affect the truth.

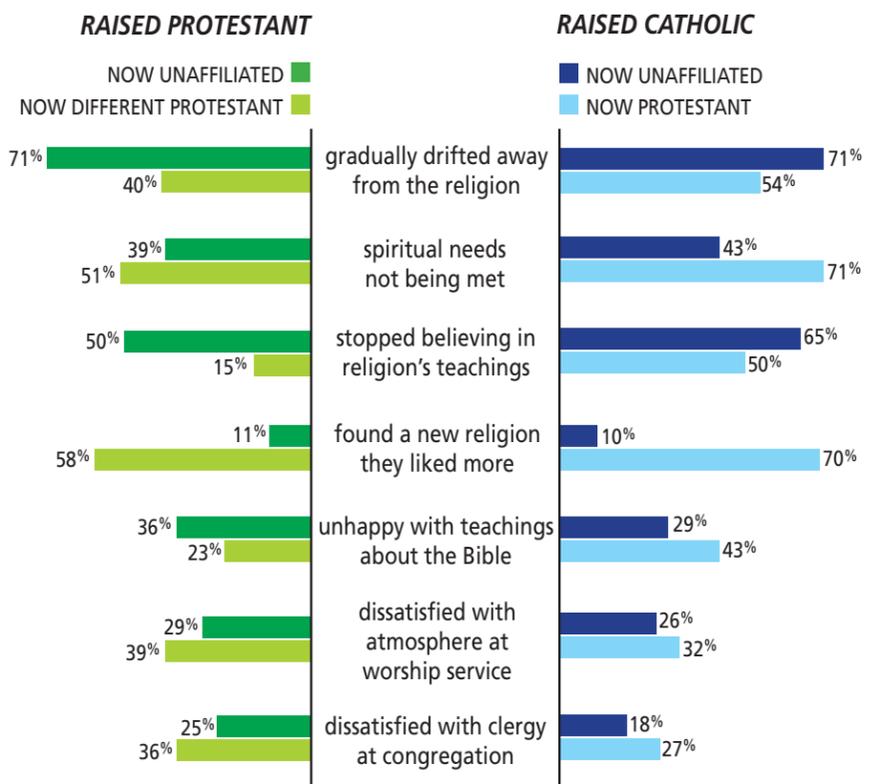
I have been broadcasting 30-second radio spots on more than 1,000 radio stations carried on the Westwood One radio network for about 20 years. My sole purpose in creating this ministry called St. Jude Media is to tell my listeners from Maine to Hawaii that God loves them and that they can trust him, especially when he says, "Be not afraid." This is the good news of the Gospel.

Jesus said, "There will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over 99 righteous people" who never strayed (Lk 15:7).

I take him at his word.

(Father John Catoir writes for Catholic News Service.) †

## CATHOLICS AND PROTESTANTS ALIKE site gradual drifting away as a main reason for leaving their childhood religion.



Respondents could answer "yes" to more than one reason. Telephone interviews conducted from Oct. 3-Nov. 7, 2008, with a national sample of 2,867 adults.

Source: Pew Forum on Religion & Public Life

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ARCHBISHOP/ARZOBISPO DANIEL M. BUECHLEIN, O.S.B.



# SEEKING THE FACE OF THE LORD

## BUSCANDO LA CARA DEL SEÑOR

### Like St. Theodora and Bishop Bruté, let's live our faith courageously

After a truly impressive celebration of our 175th anniversary of the establishment of the Catholic Church in Indiana last Sunday, gratefully our thoughts turn to the future.

When I think about the challenges we face in carrying forward the mission of Christ in our local Church, I think often about our holy founders. It seems to me they epitomized the missionary teaching of Jesus.

One of many striking features about the life of Mother Theodora Guérin is the courage of her faith.

She put her life on the line for what she believed. She didn't have to risk her life crossing the stormy Atlantic Ocean several times on ships that were minimally seaworthy. She admitted that she was petrified all the while on ship.

Nor, at the time, did she have to establish her community in the woods of primitive western Indiana. She did not have the money and teachers to establish schools for the poor, but she started them with conviction and prayer. She truly embodied the beatitude: Blessed are you who are poor, you who are weeping and you who are hungry.

Mother Theodore risked much. She compensated for what she lacked with hard work and prayer even while in very poor health. We and countless others are the beneficiaries of her courageous faith and action.

The Servant of God Bishop Simon Bruté

had been offered the position of physician of the French imperial court by Napoleon. He turned it down. Later, as a new priest, he was offered the position of court chaplain by Napoleon.

Instead, Father Bruté chose to become a missionary in the new world. He could have lived a life of material comfort, but he chose rigorous missionary life in the most difficult circumstances. He, too, exemplifies the beatitude: Blessed are you who are poor.

He also did so in poor health. It is likely that he already suffered from tuberculosis when he sailed down the Ohio River to take up his mission as bishop of the new Diocese of Vincennes.

Under his leadership, the Catholic Church in Indiana took root. He had not wanted to become a bishop. Yet, we and countless others are the beneficiaries of his courageous faith and humble obedience.

It is important for all of us to accept our respective roles to contribute to the leadership in our faith communities, and to reflect on the fact that the vast majority of us Catholics enjoy worship and the availability of the sacraments, religious education and other aspects of parish life in facilities we did not pay for.

Even if at present we happen to be members of a new or expanding parish and have contributed to the Legacy for Our Mission: For Our Children and the Future campaign, we were probably reared in a parish where the facilities and services were handed down from past generations.

We enjoy the fruit of the blood, sweat, tears and money of past generations; we have a responsibility to hand on to future generations the fruit of our generosity. In doing so, we acknowledge that everything comes from the hand of God and belongs to him.

St. Theodora Guérin and Bishop Simon Bruté risked their lives so that the mission of Christ's Church could take root and eventually flourish in our archdiocese. Our courageous pioneers of faith knew very well that the Church and her mission live in the real world. We can do no less.

The circumstances of our day make our ministries difficult to maintain, to foster and to develop with the faith and vision of our holy founders.

We have many advantages and blessings which they never had or could even envision. But with these advances have come contemporary forms of poverty. We do well to pray to our founding patrons, asking them to help us be courageous in faith as they were—and to work hard for the benefit of our children and generations to come.

If we truly place our confidence in Christ our hope, we can be the faithful who proclaim the Gospel of Christ for our times and for the future. We can especially offer the

compassion of Christ, and welcome others to experience authentic charity in our communities of faith.

We have a pattern that we can follow in pursuing our part in the mission of our local Church. I suggest that we look to our founders for guidance.

St. Theodora and Bishop Bruté could never have known how the seeds of faith they planted would take root and prosper through the years. I suspect they didn't think in those terms.

They proclaimed their faith and lived with hope in Christ, and reached out as best they could in charity to those in need, leaving to Divine Providence the fruit of their ministry.

We can do that. †

Do you have an intention for Archbishop Buechlein's prayer list? You may mail it to him at:

Archbishop Buechlein's  
Prayer List  
Archdiocese of Indianapolis  
1400 N. Meridian St.  
P.O. Box 1410  
Indianapolis, IN 46202-1410

#### Archbishop Buechlein's intention for vocations for May

**Seminarians:** that they will be faithful to prayer and study, and persevere in their desire to serve God and the Church as priests.

### Vivamos nuestra fe con valor al igual que Santa Theodora y el Obispo Bruté

Después de la magnífica celebración del aniversario número 175 de la fundación de la Iglesia Católica en Indiana el domingo pasado, nuestros pensamientos se vuelven hacia el futuro.

Cuando pienso acerca de los retos que enfrentamos para continuar con la misión de Cristo en nuestra Iglesia Local, a menudo recuerdo a nuestros santos fundadores. Me parecen la personificación de la enseñanza misionera de Jesús.

Uno de los tantos rasgos impactantes de la vida de la Madre Theodora Guérin es el valor de su fe.

Arriesgó su vida por aquello en lo que creía. No tenía por qué poner en peligro su vida cruzando el tempestuoso Océano Atlántico varias veces, en barcos que eran escasamente aptos para la navegación marina. Admitió que todo el tiempo que pasaba en el barco estaba aterrada.

Ni tampoco tenía por qué establecer su comunidad en los bosques primitivos del occidente de Indiana en aquella época. No contaba con el dinero ni con las maestras necesarias para fundar escuelas para los pobres y sin embargo empezó a trabajar en pos de ello con la fuerza de la convicción y la oración. En verdad encarnaba la beatitud: benditos sean ustedes los pobres, los que lloran y los que tienen hambre.

La Madre Theodora arriesgó mucho. Pese a su mal estado de salud, compensaba sus carencias con su ardua labor y sus oraciones. Nosotros al igual que muchos otros, somos los beneficiarios de su fe y sus acciones valerosas.

Napoleón había ofrecido al Siervo de Dios, el Obispo Simón Bruté, el cargo de médico de la corte imperial francesa el cual descartó. Posteriormente, como nuevo

sacerdote, Napoleón le ofreció el cargo de capellán de la corte.

En lugar de ello, Bruté eligió convertirse en misionero en el nuevo mundo. Pudo haber tenido una vida de comodidades materiales, pero escogió la rigurosa vida misionera, en medio de las circunstancias más difíciles. Él también ejemplifica la beatitud: benditos sean ustedes los pobres.

También lo hizo en mal estado de salud. Es probable que ya hubiera padecido de tuberculosis cuando navegó por el Río Ohio para asumir su misión como obispo de la nueva Diócesis de Vincennes.

Bajo su guía, la Iglesia Católica en Indiana echó raíces. No había querido convertirse en obispo. Sin embargo, nosotros y muchos otros, somos los beneficiarios de su fe valiente y su humilde obediencia.

Resulta importante que todos aceptemos nuestras respectivas funciones para contribuir al liderazgo en nuestras comunidades de fe y que reflexionemos sobre el hecho de que la gran mayoría de los católicos disfrutamos de la posibilidad de rendir culto y tenemos a nuestra disposición los sacramentos, la educación religiosa y otros aspectos de la vida parroquial, en instalaciones que no construimos nosotros y por las cuales no pagamos.

Aunque en el presente pertenezcamos a una parroquia nueva o en expansión y hayamos contribuido a la campaña Legado de nuestra Misión: por nuestros niños (Legacy for Our Mission: For Our Children), y en la campaña del Futuro, probablemente crecimos en una parroquia cuyas instalaciones y servicios fueron heredados de generaciones anteriores

Disfrutamos del producto de la sangre, el sudor, las lágrimas y el dinero de las

generaciones anteriores y tenemos la responsabilidad de entregar a las generaciones futuras el fruto de nuestra propia generosidad. Al hacerlo, reconocemos que todo proviene de la mano de Dios y le pertenece a Él.

Santa Theodora Guérin y el Obispo Simón Bruté arriesgaron sus vidas para que la misión de la Iglesia de Cristo pudiera echar raíces y eventualmente florecer en nuestra arquidiócesis. Nuestros valientes pioneros de fe sabían muy bien que la Iglesia y su misión habitan en el mundo real. Nosotros no podemos quedarnos atrás.

Las circunstancias de nuestros tiempos hacen que los ministerios sean difíciles de mantener, fomentar y desarrollar con la fe y la visión de nuestros santos fundadores.

Contamos con muchas ventajas y bendiciones que ellos nunca tuvieron ni pudieron siquiera concebir. Pero estos adelantos han venido acompañados de formas contemporáneas de pobreza. Nos viene bien rezarles a nuestros patronos fundadores pidiéndoles ayuda para ser tan valientes en la fe como ellos lo fueron, y para trabajar arduamente en pro de nuestros niños y las generaciones venideras.

Si realmente ponemos nuestra confianza en Cristo, nuestra esperanza, podemos ser los fieles que proclaman el Evangelio de Cristo en nuestra época y en el futuro. Podemos ofrecer especialmente la compasión de Cristo e invitar a otros a que experimenten la caridad auténtica en

nuestras comunidades de fe.

Tenemos un patrón que podemos seguir para ir en pos de la parte que nos corresponde en la misión de nuestra Iglesia Local. Sugiero que procuremos la orientación de nuestros fundadores.

Santa Theodora y el Obispo Bruté jamás se imaginaron que las semillas de fe que plantaron echarían raíces y prosperarían con los años. Sospecho que no pensaban en esos términos.

Proclamaban su fe, vivían con esperanza en Cristo y llegaron a nosotros de la mejor forma que podían hacerlo: a través de la caridad para con los necesitados, y dejando a la Divina Providencia el fruto de su ministerio.

Nosotros podemos hacerlo también. †

¿Tiene una intención que desee incluir en la lista de oración del Arzobispo Buechlein? Puede enviar su correspondencia a:

Lista de oración del Arzobispo  
Buechlein  
Arquidiócesis de Indianapolis  
1400 N. Meridian St.  
P.O. Box 1410  
Indianapolis, IN 46202-1410

Traducido por: Daniela Guanipa,  
Language Training Center, Indianapolis.

#### La intención de vocaciones del Arzobispo Buechlein para mayo

**Seminaristas:** ¡Que ellos sean fieles a la oración y estudien, y continúen en su deseo de servir a Dios y la Iglesia como sacerdotes!

# Events Calendar

**May 8**  
Northside Knights of Columbus Hall, 2100 E. 71st St., Indianapolis. **Cathedral High School, football social**, \$35 per person includes dinner. Information: 317-826-1139.

The Cathedral of the Assumption, 433 S. Fifth St., Louisville, Ky. (Archdiocese of Louisville). **Organ recital**, Paul Thornock, organist, 7:30 p.m., no charge. Information: 502-582-2971.

**May 9**  
Cardinal Ritter Jr./Sr. High School, 3360 W. 30th St., Indianapolis. **"Where Dreams Come True," ball**, 6 p.m., \$1,000 table of 10. Information: 317-924-4333.

St. Roch Parish, Family Center, 3603 S. Meridian St., Indianapolis. **Single Seniors**, meeting, 1 p.m., age 50 and over. Information: 317-784-4207.

**May 10**  
Saint Meinrad Archabbey, 200 Hill Drive, St. Meinrad. **Monte Cassino pilgrimage, "Mary Mother of the Poor,"**

Benedictine Father Noël Mueller, presenter, 2 p.m. Information: 800-682-0988 or e-mail [news@saintmeinrad.edu](mailto:news@saintmeinrad.edu).

MKVS, Divine Mercy and Glorious Cross Center, Rexville, located on 925 South .8 mile east of 421 South and 12 miles south of Versailles. Mass, noon, on **third Sunday holy hour and pitch-in**, groups of 10 pray the new Marian Way, 1 p.m., Father Elmer Burwinkel, celebrant. Information: 812-689-3551.

**May 11**  
Benedict Inn Retreat and Conference Center, 1402 Southern Ave., Beech Grove. **"Hatha Yoga,"** six-week class, 7-8:30 p.m., \$45 per person, bring a friend and save \$5. Information: 317-788-7581 or [www.benedictinn.org](http://www.benedictinn.org).

**May 12**  
Bishop Chatard High School, 5885 N. Crittenden Ave., Indianapolis. **Catholic Business Exchange, "Business After Hours,"** Mass, 5:30 p.m., social, 6:15 p.m., \$10 members,

\$15 non-members, registration due May 11. Information: [www.catholicbusinessexchange.com](http://www.catholicbusinessexchange.com).

Benedict Inn Retreat and Conference Center, 1402 Southern Ave., Beech Grove. **Ave Maria Guild meeting**, 1 p.m. Information: 317-885-5098.

St. Nicholas Parish, 6461 E. St. Nicholas Drive, Sunman. **Pro-life Mass**, 7 p.m., discussion on pro-life matters following Mass. Information: 812-623-8007.

**May 14**  
Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish, 14598 Oakridge Road, Carmel, Ind. (Diocese of Lafayette). **Catholic Professional Business Club**, Mass, 6:30 a.m., breakfast, "Professing Your Faith in the Workplace: You Shouldn't Have to Say a Word!" Jim Caldwell, Indianapolis Colts head coach, presenter, RSVP by May 11. Information: [www.cpbcc-ld.org](http://www.cpbcc-ld.org).

**May 15-17**  
St. Rita Parish, 1733 Dr. Andrew J. Brown Ave., Indianapolis.

**90th anniversary celebration**, Fri., "Remember When," fish fry, noon-7 p.m., Sat., youth activities, games, food, 9 a.m.-5 p.m., Sun., Mass and reception, 10 a.m.-noon. Information: 317-632-9349.

**May 15-20**  
Saint Mary-of-the-Woods, St. Mary-of-the-Woods. **"Make a Difference Week,"** women 20-35 years old, week of service, prayer, personal and group reflection, no charge to participate, housing and meals provided without cost, registration due May 9. Information: 800-860-1480 or [jhoward@spsmw.org](mailto:jhoward@spsmw.org).

**May 16**  
Our Lady of the Greenwood Parish, 335 S. Meridian St., Greenwood. MOMS Ministry, **children's clothing and equipment sale to benefit the Diocese of Port-au-Paix in Haiti**, 8 a.m.-2 p.m. Information: 317-319-5012.

Saint Meinrad Archabbey, recreation field, 200 Hill Drive, St. Meinrad. Tri-parish youth group **TAC annual 5K run/walk, "Runnin' with the Lord,"** 6:30 a.m. registration, 7:30 a.m. race,

\$15 per person. Information: 812-431-7038.

St. Michael the Archangel Church, 3354 W. 30th St., Indianapolis. **Helpers of God's Precious Infants Pro-Life Mass**, Father Robert Robeson, celebrant, 8:30 a.m., followed by rosary outside abortion clinic and Benediction at church. Information: Archdiocesan Office for Pro-Life Ministry, 317-236-1569 or 800-382-9836, ext. 1569.

**May 16-17**  
Kokomo High School, 2501 S. Berkley, Kokomo, Ind. (Diocese of Lafayette). **Indiana Holy Family Catholic Conference, "Building the Domestic Church through God, Family and Love,"** \$30 teen (not registered with family), \$50 adult, \$90 married couple, \$115 per family. Information: 765-865-9964 or [www.holyfamilyconference.org](http://www.holyfamilyconference.org).

**May 17**  
Holy Cross Parish, Kelley Gymnasium, 125 N. Oriental St., Indianapolis. **13th annual Health Fair,**

blood drive, 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Information: 317-637-2620, ext. 406, or [jerlenbaugh@holycrossindy.org](mailto:jerlenbaugh@holycrossindy.org).

St. Rita Church, 1733 Dr. Andrew J. Brown Ave., Indianapolis. **90th anniversary Mass and brunch**, 10 a.m. Information: 317-632-9349.

St. Paul Parish, 798 N. Dearborn Road, New Alsace. **Ladies Sodality, hot breakfast bar buffet**, 7:30 a.m.-noon, free-will donation. Information: 812-623-2349.

Richmond Catholic Community, 701 N. "A" St., Richmond. **Charismatic prayer group**, 7 p.m. Information: [dicksoncorp@parallax.ws](mailto:dicksoncorp@parallax.ws).

Saint Meinrad Archabbey and School of Theology, 200 Hill Drive, St. Meinrad. **Organ concert**, Frederick Hohman, organist, 3 p.m., no charge. Information: 800-682-0988 or [news@saintmeinrad.edu](mailto:news@saintmeinrad.edu). †

## Retreats and Programs

**May 8-9**  
Monastery Immaculate Conception, Kordes Center, 841 E. 14th St., Ferdinand, Ind. (Evansville Diocese). **"A Tour through the Castle,"** Benedictine Sister Geraldine Hedinger, presenter, 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., \$35 includes continental breakfast and lunch. Information: 812-367-1411 or [spirituality@thedome.org](http://spirituality@thedome.org).

**May 8-10**  
Saint Meinrad Archabbey, 100 Hill Drive, St. Meinrad. **Retreat, "St. Paul: Apostle, Preacher, Human Being,"** Benedictine Father Eugene Hensell, presenter. Information: 800-581-6905 or [MZoeller@saintmeinrad.edu](mailto:MZoeller@saintmeinrad.edu).

**May 13**  
Our Lady of Fatima Retreat House, 5353 E. 56th St., Indianapolis. **"A Celebration of the Feast Day of Our Lady of Fatima,"** Father Jim Farrell, presenter, 8:30 a.m.

registration-2:30 p.m., \$35 per person includes continental breakfast and lunch. Information: 317-545-7681.

**May 15-16**  
St. Bernadette Parish, Retreat Center, 4838 Fletcher Ave., Indianapolis. **Office for Pro-Life Ministry, retreat for youths 14 years of age and older, "Change We Can Believe In,"** Father James Heyd, presenter, \$25 per student. Information: 317-236-1521, 800-382-9836, ext. 1521, or [www.archindy.org/prolife/index.html](http://www.archindy.org/prolife/index.html).

**May 15-17**  
Mount St. Francis Center for Spirituality, 101 St. Anthony Drive, Mount St. Francis. **"Women's Retreat,"** Information: 812-923-8817.

Saint Meinrad Archabbey, 100 Hill Drive,

St. Meinrad. **Retreat, "Come, Holy Spirit: The Pentecost Liturgy,"** Benedictine Father Vincent Tobin, presenter. Information: 800-581-6905 or [MZoeller@saintmeinrad.edu](mailto:MZoeller@saintmeinrad.edu).

**May 22-24**  
Saint Meinrad Archabbey, 100 Hill Drive, St. Meinrad. **Retreat, "Six Roads to Inner Peace,"** Benedictine Archabbot Bonaventure Knaebel, presenter. Information: 800-581-6905 or [MZoeller@saintmeinrad.edu](mailto:MZoeller@saintmeinrad.edu).

**May 28**  
Our Lady of Fatima Retreat House, 5353 E. 56th St., Indianapolis. **Silent, non-guided retreat, "Come Away and Rest Awhile,"** 8 a.m.-4 p.m., \$25 per person includes continental breakfast and lunch. Information: 317-545-7681 or [spasotti@archindy.org](mailto:spasotti@archindy.org). †

## Eagle Scout project



Above, James Woolridge, at far right in front row, a member of St. Pius X Parish in Indianapolis, stands in the Client Choice Food Pantry operated by the Indianapolis chapter of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul on April 11 with volunteers he recruited to bag and deliver the non-perishable foods he collected for the pantry as part of a service project to become an Eagle Scout. The other volunteers are, from left in the front row, Spencer Willem and Austin Scheer; in the middle row, Abbey Eichholtz and Harrison Hensley; and in the back row, Scout leader Bill Beckman, Marissa Collier, Brian Gamache and Clarence Hirsch, a volunteer coordinator at the food pantry.

Left, 201 bags filled with non-perishable food items collected through James Woolridge's efforts are lined up in the cafeteria of St. Pius X School in Indianapolis on April 11. A donation of \$170 was also given to the St. Vincent de Paul Client Choice Food Pantry in Indianapolis.



## VIPs



Donald and Emma (Meiman) Bramlage, members of St. Nicholas Parish in Sunman, will celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary on May 9 with a Mass at their parish church. The couple was

married on May 9, 1959, at Holy Cross Church in Covington, Ky. They have five children: Susan Brock, Linda Coyne, Donna Moore, Diane Shopman and Father Gregory Bramlage. They also have 10 grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. †

## Marian Field Day Mass is May 17

A Marian Field Day Mass will be celebrated at noon on May 17 at Mary's King's Village Schoenstatt Center and the Divine Mercy and Glorious Cross Center in Rexville, located on 925 South approximately a mile east of U.S. 421 South and 12 miles south of Versailles.

A holy hour and pitch-in dinner will follow the Mass.

An effort is also being made to construct a Marian shrine at Rexville modeled after the original Schoenstatt shrine near Koblenz, Germany. This shrine would be one of more than 200 similar "sister shrines" around the world.

For more information, call 812-689-3551. †

## Cathedral High School hosts play about life of St. Catherine of Siena

Cathedral High School, 5225 E. 56th St., in Indianapolis will host a one-woman play about "The Life of St. Catherine of Siena" at 7:30 p.m. on May 9 in the school's performing arts center.

Adrian Dominican Sister Nancy Murray, the sister of actor Bill Murray, stars in the presentation about the medieval Italian saint.

The two-hour play is based on recent translations of 400 letters written by St. Catherine during the 14th century.

(Tickets are \$25 for adults, \$15 for women and men religious, and \$15 for children. For more information, call Cathedral High School at 317-968-7352.) †

# 'A message of hope'

## History celebrated, future mission embraced at 175th anniversary Mass

By Sean Gallagher and John Shaughnessy

Singing from the heart, Diana Torres let her voice resound with the nearly 25,000 other worshippers who came to Lucas Oil Stadium in Indianapolis on May 3 to thank God for the blessings he has bestowed upon the Church in central and southern Indiana for 175 years.

As she joined in the singing of "Come and See the Many Wonders"—the special hymn for the 175th anniversary of the Archdiocese of Indianapolis—Torres felt a surge of joy as her voice blended in harmony with an archdiocesan-wide gathering that represented generations of faith-filled people who have immigrated to Indiana from around the world.

Torres also felt another rush of emotion later in the Mass when she saw men and women wearing the garb of their homelands proclaim readings and prayers in 10 languages: English, French, German, Igbo, Italian, Korean, Latin, Latvian, Spanish and Vietnamese.

"It's amazing to see this many people in one area for God," said Torres, a member of St. Anthony Parish in Indianapolis, who came to the anniversary celebration as a confirmation sponsor for her niece, Jazmine Rodriguez, one of the more than 2,800 youths and adults who were confirmed during the Mass.

"You don't realize how many Catholics and how many different cultures there are. It means unity, family and community. There are no barriers here."

Torres' words echoed the song of celebration that marked the nearly 2½-hour-long anniversary Mass, which reflected the stunning transformation that has been created in the archdiocese since the Servant of God Bishop Simon Bruté arrived in Vincennes in 1834.



See Archbishop Buechlein's homily, page 15.

At the time, Indiana was a rugged, undeveloped land on the American frontier with 25,000 Catholics—the same number that participated in

the May 3 Mass. They were mainly from northern Europe, and spread across the whole state and the eastern third of Illinois.

Today, there are 225,000 Catholics in just central and southern Indiana, a land filled with large cities, small towns and farming communities.

But no matter what setting in which the Church finds itself, the message it proclaims remains the same.

"Sisters and brothers, for 175 years in our part of the world, the message of Christ, the Good Shepherd, has been a message of hope," said Archbishop Daniel M. Buechlein at the start of his homily at the Mass.

That hope was embodied during the Mass in the celebration of the sacrament of confirmation and in other ways. About 200 couples were honored for 50 or more years of married life. And religious jubilarians were praised for their many decades of faithful ministry and consecrated life.

In comments after Communion, Cardinal Francis E. George of Chicago said the Church's history was ultimately a "history of holiness."

He noted that this history in the archdiocese is



Transitional Deacon Jermy Gries places incense in a bowl held by Reji Mathen, a member of St. Monica Parish in Indianapolis. Mathen, wearing Indian garb, was one of several worshippers at the Mass highlighting the archdiocese's cultural diversity.

highlighted in Bishop Bruté and St. Theodora Guérin, Indiana's first saint, both immigrants who were formed in the faith in homelands far away.

Cardinal George then turned his focus to the future, challenging those who had just been confirmed to become saints "so that in the next 100 years, the Church will recognize how the Holy Spirit has transformed the people of Indiana ... through the work of the Church here."

Cardinal George's challenge echoed the words of Archbishop Buechlein in his homily.

"In imitation of the Good Shepherd, now it is our turn to be pioneers in the spiritual growth and hope and compassion our Church promises to all peoples of central and southern Indiana," Archbishop Buechlein said. "Dear candidates for confirmation, you are a witness and a pledge of the hope Christ offers."

At the start of the Mass, Archbishop Buechlein invited the confirmation candidates to consider a special way to carry on their mission.

"On this Good Shepherd Sunday, Vocations Sunday, pray that the Holy Spirit will inspire our youth to join us as priests, deacons and religious in the beautiful vocation that is ours," he said.

The opening procession of the Mass that stretched from one end of the floor of Lucas Oil Stadium to the other included scores of religious, deacons, priests, and 18 bishops and two Benedictine archabbots.

They were joined by boys and girls dressed in white from across the archdiocese who recently received their first Communion. Representatives from several Catholic fraternal organizations in the archdiocese also processed.

The procession also reflected an ecumenical spirit. Representatives of various Christian communities and non-Christian faiths participated, offering a sign of how the Church in Indiana has sought good relations with people of all faiths since its beginnings.

The liturgy's cultural diversity impressed K. P. Singh, an immigrant from India and a member of the Sikh Satsang of Indianapolis.

"Just imagine how many nationalities, how many ethnic groups, how many languages, how many lineages and heritages were represented here under this one roof," Singh said. "A little slice of all of humanity was under this roof. How beautiful was that?"

Rev. Rick Spleth, the regional minister in Indiana for the Christian Church, Disciples of Christ joined other Christian ministers at the anniversary Mass.

"I was honored to be included in this celebration," he said. "And I celebrate this great milestone with the Archdiocese of Indianapolis that is on the way, we know and we pray, for even more significant things in the future."

The future of the Church and the archdiocese resides in the commitment of its young people to the faith—a future that glowed with promise as teenager after teenager stepped forward at the anniversary Mass to receive the sacrament of confirmation.

"This means I'm now an adult in the Church's life," said Meghan Sandlin, 16, a member of American Martyrs Parish in Scottsburg. "I'll strive to be more Christ-like."

Meghan's words reflected key lyrics in the anniversary hymn composed by Benedictine Father Harry Hagan of Saint Meinrad Archabbey: "Go and live as Christ's disciples. Go and be his face and hands. And proclaim in every parish that God's love is Christ's command. Raise a song of glad thanksgiving. Let it ring that all may hear. For the Father, Son and Spirit have blessed us through these years."

The spirit of the anniversary celebration touched people in many ways.

"The Holy Spirit is present among us," said Marty Schmidt, a member of St. Patrick Parish in Terre Haute.

Schmidt spent the better part of the weekend in Indianapolis. He attended the Mass for Vocations on May 1 at St. John the Evangelist Church in downtown Indianapolis, and returned on May 3 to take part in the 175th anniversary Mass.

"My brother and cousin are being confirmed today as part of the celebration," he said.

Schmidt, 30, who is discerning a possible vocation to the priesthood, said he couldn't miss this once-in-a-lifetime celebration.

Osi Okonkwo added his own lyrical view of a memorable day.

"It's definitely a special day," said Okonkwo, a member of St. Andrew the Apostle Parish in Indianapolis. "There's definitely a steadfastness here, not only in the archdiocese, but in the children being confirmed. It's a blessing every time we have an opportunity to gather as Christians. It's a special day to be part of the Body of Christ."

(Editor Mike Krokos contributed to this story. To read the text of Archbishop Buechlein's homily, the remarks of Cardinal George and for more photos from the 175th anniversary Mass, log on to [www.CriterionOnline.com](http://www.CriterionOnline.com).) †



A portion of the entrance procession, made up of priests, bishops and members of the Knights of Columbus, fills the length of Lucas Oil Stadium at the start of the 175th anniversary Mass on May 3.



Archbishop Daniel M. Buechlein elevates the paten and Transitional Deacon Christopher Wadelton lifts the chalice during the eucharistic liturgy commemorating the 175th anniversary of the archdiocese on May 3 at Lucas Oil Stadium in Indianapolis.



Cantor Patty Brown, the music director at St. Jude Parish in Indianapolis, leads 25,000 Catholics from central and southern Indiana in song at the start of the archdiocese's 175th anniversary Mass on May 3 at Lucas Oil Stadium in Indianapolis.

# Confirmation candidates take next step in faith journey

By John Shaughnessy

The two teenagers have known each other for most of their young lives, developing the kind of friendship that lets them know they can count on each other through the good times and the tough times.

It's a friendship that has been nurtured by sharing classes together, playing sports together, and even receiving the sacraments of reconciliation and first Communion together.

So it seemed only natural to Kaitlin Sims and Kayla Wagoner that they would share another one of the most defining moments in their lives as Catholics—receiving the sacrament of confirmation.

The two eighth-grade students at Our Lady of Lourdes School in Indianapolis even chose to make their confirmation a year early so it would coincide with the 175th anniversary celebration of the archdiocese on May 3.

So Kaitlin and Kayla were in awe as they joined more than 2,800 people from across the archdiocese who were

confirmed during the anniversary Mass at Lucas Oil Stadium in Indianapolis.

"It's neat to be part of such a large group," Kaitlin said.

"We've done it all together," Kayla said. "We wanted to do this together, too."

The best part, they said, is that their choice to be confirmed this year also brought them closer to their Church, to other young Catholics and to God.

The 14-year-old youths shared how their faith and their friendships deepened with the 38 other youths from their parish who were receiving the sacrament. They also glowed when they mentioned the Archdiocesan Confirmation Retreat they attended in April.

"We got to make so many new friends from different parishes," Kayla said. "And it was inspirational."

Yet perhaps the most moving part of the preparation for confirmation was the way it drew the two friends even closer to God.

"When I went through first Communion and reconciliation, I felt that God was there," Kaitlin said. "Now that I've gone through confirmation, I see God in a different way. He's there with me, I can talk to him, and he's not going to judge me. I know I can rely on him."

That feeling connected many of the young people from across the archdiocese who received the sacrament, whether they were from small parishes such as St. Bridget of Ireland Parish in Liberty and Our Lady of the Springs Parish in French Lick, or large groups from such parishes as St. Jude Parish in Indianapolis and St. Louis Parish in Batesville.

"It's amazing," said Meghan Sandlin, 16, a member of American Martyrs Parish in Scottsburg. "This means I'm now an adult in the Church's life. I'll strive to be more Christ-like."

That deepening relationship with God is at the heart of confirmation, said Sharon Meier, the religious education coordinator at

Photo by John Shaughnessy



Kayla Wagoner, left, and Kaitlin Sims chose to make their confirmation a year early so it would coincide with the 175th anniversary celebration of the archdiocese on May 3. The two eighth-grade students at Our Lady of Lourdes School in Indianapolis pose for a picture before the anniversary Mass at Lucas Oil Stadium in Indianapolis.



Photo by Mike Kockas

Miranda Kessens, a member of St. Louis Parish in Batesville, receives the sacrament of confirmation from Bishop Joseph L. Imesch, bishop emeritus of the Diocese of Joliet, Ill., on May 3 at Lucas Oil Stadium in Indianapolis.

St. Michael Parish in Brookville and at Holy Guardian Angels Parish in Cedar Grove, both in the Connorsville Deanery.

"Confirmation is a great gift from God, especially with all the challenges we face in today's world," Meier said. "The [young people] have had the opportunity to get reintroduced to their rich Catholic faith and the responsibilities of being a Catholic. With the help of the Holy Spirit, they will be able to fulfill their mission that God has intended for them."

Kim Sprague already has witnessed the difference in the high school students who were confirmed last year at St. Teresa Benedicta of the Cross Parish in Bright in the Batesville Deanery. She says that many young women in that class now wear dresses to Sunday Mass while the young men even wear ties.

"There is a new surge of excitement amongst our teens," Sprague says.

"Witnessing the Holy Spirit grabbing hold of our youth is such a blessing."

That same reaction was experienced by Kay Scoville, the director of youth ministry for the archdiocese. It was an emotional time for her as she watched more than 2,800 people be confirmed during the anniversary Mass.

"It's overwhelming to think of all these people committing to our faith," Scoville said. "We have people of many different ages who are taking this step together. It's awesome that they are saying 'yes' to our faith."

For good friends Kaitlin Sims and Kayla Wagoner, "yes" is the only answer they can see giving to God.

"I know I'm ready to be with God," Kayla said. "I know I can turn to him. He's one of my best friends."

Kaitlin added, "I'm closer to him than I've ever been before." †

# Excitement is evident for family and friends of confirmation candidates

By John Shaughnessy

One after another, more than 2,800 youths and adults stepped forward, publicly and humbly committing themselves to their Church and the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

And for each person who received the sacrament of confirmation during the 175th anniversary celebration of the archdiocese on May 3 at Lucas Oil Stadium in Indianapolis, there was at

least one friend or family member who beamed as a loved one made that commitment.

Emilio Catalan glowed with love and pride as he watched his wife, Mirna, take her place among the rows and rows of people who waited to be confirmed.

"This is good for a lot of people," said Catalan, a member of Holy Spirit Parish in Indianapolis. "I love the Church, and I'm really excited for my wife. She's

See CONFIRMATION, page 16

Photo by John Shaughnessy



Lucy Rocha, left, and Mirna Catalan pose for a picture before the anniversary Mass at Lucas Oil Stadium in Indianapolis. Rocha was the confirmation sponsor for Catalan, one of 35 Hispanics from Holy Spirit Parish in Indianapolis who were confirmed during the 175th anniversary Mass on May 3.



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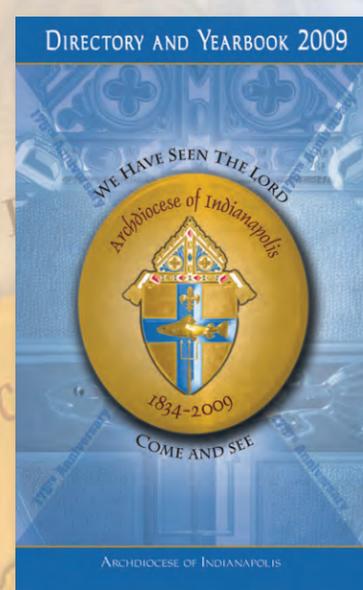
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# Mass volunteers excited to be a part of Church history

By Mike Krokos

They came from Bloomington and Brownsburg and parishes throughout the archdiocese.

There was even a student from Ball State University in Muncie, Ind., in the Lafayette Diocese, who grew up near Warsaw, Ind., in the Fort Wayne-South Bend Diocese, who felt compelled to assist at the once-in-a-lifetime celebration.

Of course, there was a contingent from Indianapolis, too.

The nearly 300 people who served as volunteers for the 175th anniversary Mass at Lucas Oil Stadium in Indianapolis were happy to be a part of Church history, and they did everything from serving as ushers to assisting with the collection.

Others directed people to Communion, and helped the confirmands and their sponsors get where they needed to be on the main floor of the stadium. Some volunteers assisted priests. And others carried placards and chrism oil during the confirmation rite, and led bishops and priests to their appropriate places.

"We had people covering all the bases," said Stephen James, director of the archdiocesan Office of Purchasing, who coordinated the recruiting of volunteers.

"We always get nervous ahead of time and, somehow, it always comes together," he added.

Volunteers Christopher Breen and Michael Hussey, both members of St. Malachy Parish in Brownsburg, were stationed above the south end zone assisting Mass-goers.

They seemed to answer one question countless times before the Mass: "Where do we go?"

Most of the people, Breen said, wanted to know "where are all the different churches [parishes] on the floor."

"It just keeps getting busier," Breen noted.

Julie Carr and her daughter, Kristina, were among the crowd seeking assistance.

"My son [Michael] is making his confirmation, and my parents are here for their 50th [wedding] anniversary," said Julie Carr, a member of St. Malachy Parish in Brownsburg.

While his wife, Kimberly, handed out programs before the Mass, Trent Engbers and the couple's 4-month-old daughter, Reagan, sat in the stands taking in all that the special day had to offer.

"My wife is giving out programs at the east gate while I watch Reagan, and I am going to be an usher at Communion," said Engbers, who is a member of St. Charles Borromeo Parish in Bloomington.

"It's not very often that you have a 175th anniversary, and they needed volunteers and we were happy to help," he added.

For Dale Schaeffer of St. Monica Parish in Indianapolis, the volunteer effort was a family affair as well.

Schaeffer assisted people before the Mass and was a Communion usher. His wife, Teresa, sang in the archdiocesan choir.

"It's a great way to be involved," Dale Schaeffer said.

Young people like Christopher Sindelar were happy to help, too.

The Ball State University freshman, who grew up at St. Francis Xavier Parish in Pierceton, Ind., in the Fort Wayne-South Bend Diocese, "jumped at the opportunity" to volunteer at the Mass when a friend extended the invitation.

"It's a huge event, it's a chance to celebrate Mass at Lucas Oil Stadium," said Sindelar, who served as an usher. "Coming down here early, seeing everyone gather for the Lord, is just incredible.

"You can definitely feel an energy," he added. "I am Catholic first and foremost, and to see thousands of people getting confirmed is uplifting. To see them complete their baptismal vows by getting confirmed and being sealed with the Holy Spirit is something that is very special." †



Julie Carr, a member of St. Malachy Parish in Brownsburg, gets assistance from volunteers Christopher Breen and Michael Hussey before the start of the 175th anniversary Mass at Lucas Oil Stadium in Indianapolis on May 3. Breen and Hussey are also members of St. Malachy Parish in Brownsburg.



Mass volunteer Trent Engbers, a member of St. Charles Borromeo Parish in Bloomington, enjoys time with his 4-month-old daughter, Reagan, before the start of the 175th anniversary Mass. Engbers was a Communion usher.

## The 175-year history of the Archdiocese of Indianapolis

(Taken from the Archdiocese of Indianapolis Directory)

The Diocese of Vincennes—now the Archdiocese of Indianapolis—was established by Pope Gregory XVI on May 6, 1834. The territory then comprised the entire state of Indiana and the eastern third of Illinois. The latter was separated from the Diocese of Vincennes upon the establishment of the Diocese of Chicago on Nov. 28, 1843.

By decree of Pope Pius IX, on Jan. 8, 1857, the northern half of the state became the Diocese of Fort Wayne, the boundaries being that part of the state north of the south boundaries of Fountain, Montgomery, Boone, Hamilton, Madison, Delaware, Randolph and Warren counties.

The remaining southern half of the state made up the Diocese of Vincennes, embracing 50 counties. It covered an area of 18,479 square miles extending from the north boundaries of Marion and contiguous counties to the Ohio River and from Illinois on the west to Ohio on the east.

The second bishop of Vincennes was permitted by apostolic brief to establish his residence at Vincennes, Madison, Lafayette or Indianapolis; Vincennes was, however, to remain the see city. This permission, with the subtraction of Lafayette, was renewed to the fourth bishop.

Upon his appointment in 1878, Bishop Francis Chatard, the fifth bishop of Vincennes, was directed to fix his residence at Indianapolis.

Although the site of the cathedral and the title of the see were continued at Vincennes, Bishop Chatard used St. John the Evangelist Parish in Indianapolis as an unofficial cathedral until the Cathedral of SS. Peter and Paul was completed in 1907.

St. John the Evangelist Parish, established in 1837, was the first parish in Indianapolis and Marion County. By apostolic brief dated March 28, 1898, the title of the diocese was changed to that of "Diocese of Indianapolis," with the episcopal see in the city of Indianapolis.

Although the bishop's official residence was changed, the patron of the diocese remained St. Francis Xavier, the title of the Old Cathedral at Vincennes.

An apostolic decree of His Holiness Pope Pius XII, creating the Archdiocese of Indianapolis, was issued on Oct. 21, 1944. On Dec. 19, 1944, by executorial decree of the papal delegate, the Most Reverend Amleto Giovanni Cicognani, apostolic delegate to the United States, the papal decree of Pope Pius XII was solemnly proclaimed in SS. Peter and Paul Cathedral, elevating Indianapolis to the status of an archdiocese, the state of Indiana becoming the metropolitan area.

The dioceses of Evansville and Lafayette-in-Indiana were created by the same decree and, along with the Diocese of Fort Wayne, made suffragan sees of Indianapolis. Upon establishment of the Diocese of Gary on Feb. 25, 1957, it too became a suffragan see.

The current size of the Archdiocese of Indianapolis is 13,757.7 square miles, according to 1990 measurements from the Indiana State Library Reference Division, and comprises the counties of Bartholomew, Brown, Clark, Clay, Crawford, Dearborn, Decatur, Fayette, Floyd, Franklin, Hancock, Harrison, Hendricks, Henry, Jackson, Jefferson, Jennings, Johnson, Lawrence, Marion, Monroe, Morgan, Ohio, Orange, Owen, Parke, Perry, Putnam, Ripley, Rush, Scott, Shelby, Switzerland, Union, Vermillion, Vigo, Washington and Wayne, and the township of Harrison in Spencer County, in the southern part of Indiana. †

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Dale Schaeffer



Christopher Sindelar

# Cardinal reflects on anniversaries, the Church in the U.S.

By Sean Gallagher

Cardinal Francis E. George of Chicago was among the 17 bishops and two abbots who came to Indianapolis on May 3 to celebrate the 175th anniversary of the founding of the Diocese of Vincennes.

As the current president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops and the archbishop of Chicago, he is a prominent leader of the Church in this country.

He was interviewed by *The Criterion* via e-mail a few days before the anniversary Mass.

**Q: When the Diocese of Vincennes was erected in 1834, it included the eastern third of Illinois and a small village on the shores of Lake Michigan called Chicago.**

**In light of those historical beginnings, what will it be like for you to come to Indianapolis and worship with tens of thousands of Catholics from across central and southern Indiana to celebrate 175 years of the Church, not**

**only here, but, in a sense by extension, in Chicago as well?**

**A:** We live lives of habit, and every once in a while the curtain of ordinary living is drawn back to reveal the greater significance of what our lives are about.

Coming to Indianapolis for the anniversary of the Diocese of Vincennes will be a moment to recognize how God's Providence guides the Church through the centuries, strengthening the structures needed for us to live each day in faith and love.

**Q: The tens of thousands of Catholics that will gather for worship on May 3 in Lucas Oil Stadium in Indianapolis will be a dramatic manifestation of how God has blessed the Church in this area of the country over the past 175 years. The Archdiocese of Chicago has experienced even more tremendous growth over that time.**

**How is coming together in this way to celebrate the ways that God has blessed us an important thing for Catholics in**

See **GEORGE**, page 16



Cardinal Francis E. George of Chicago confirms Alisha Webber, a member of Holy Family Parish in Oldenburg, during the May 3 Mass at Lucas Oil Stadium in Indianapolis that celebrated the 175th anniversary of the Archdiocese of Indianapolis.

## Bishops and abbots show Church's universality at May 3 Mass

By Sean Gallagher

The celebration of the 175th anniversary of the Archdiocese of Indianapolis on May 3 at Lucas Oil Stadium in Indianapolis involved more than just the Church in central and southern Indiana.

The archdiocese is in communion with the broader universal Church. Those ties were displayed at the anniversary Mass through the presence of 17 bishops and two Benedictine abbots from around the Midwest.

Archbishop Joseph E. Kurtz of Louisville led his local Church last year in the celebration of its 200th anniversary.

It was originally the Diocese of Bardstown, Ky., one of four dioceses created in 1808 out of the Diocese of Baltimore, the first local Church in the United States.



Archbishop Joseph E. Kurtz

Archbishop Kurtz said the 175th anniversary of the Diocese of Vincennes (now the Archdiocese of Indianapolis) following closely on the heels of his own local Church's anniversary gave him a broader view of its history.

"It helps to continue to expand our horizons," he said. "It's very easy for us in the Archdiocese of Louisville to picture our present territory and say, 'Well, this once was the Diocese of Bardstown.'

"It's not as easy for us to picture the vastness of the territory and pioneer nature of all the faithful, the priests and especially of Bishop [Benedict] Flaget."

Bishop Flaget was the first bishop of Bardstown. He was also the principal consecrator in the episcopal consecration of the Servant of God Bishop Simon Bruté, the first bishop

*'It's not as easy for us to picture the vastness of the territory and pioneer nature of all the faithful, the priests and especially of Bishop [Benedict] Flaget.'*

—Archbishop Joseph E. Kurtz

of Vincennes.

Archbishop Kurtz also said that diocesan anniversaries are important in that they help us consider history and not just geography in thinking about the Church's universality.

"It's not just a matter of looking at the local Church over space, but also over time," he said.

The Diocese of Vincennes was formed out of territory taken from the Diocese of Bardstown. Bishop Gerald A. Gettelfinger of Evansville leads a local Church that was formed in 1944 out of land taken from the then Diocese of Indianapolis at the time it was raised to an archdiocese.

Bishop Gettelfinger's connections to the archdiocese go even deeper. He grew up as a member of St. Bernard Parish in Frenchtown in the New Albany Deanery and was ordained a priest of the archdiocese in 1961.

"My roots are there," Bishop Gettelfinger said. "I spent 28 years [as a priest] in the Archdiocese of Indianapolis. That was my home for so many years, especially my family home in the southern part



Bishop Gerald A. Gettelfinger

I'm very much a part of the fabric of that territory.

"It's a great joy to be a son of the archdiocese and come back and celebrate."

He served as a chancellor and vicar general of the archdiocese.

For more than 150 years, the local Church in central and southern Indiana has had a close relationship with the Benedictine monks of Saint Meinrad Archabbey.

The monks have staffed many archdiocesan parishes over the years. And the monastery's seminary has been the primary place where archdiocesan seminarians have been formed for the priesthood.

Archabbot Justin DuVall, the current leader of Saint Meinrad Archabbey, spoke about the importance of the anniversary Mass in the days leading up to it.

"When we gather to celebrate [God's] blessings on May 3, I will carry with me the gratitude of the monks for blessings past, present and yet to come," he said. "It is an honor for me to represent the Archabbey at this joyful celebration."

Archabbot Justin said he was also looking forward to hearing tens of thousands of people singing a hymn text written especially for the occasion by one of his own monks, Benedictine Father Harry Hagan.

"I already heard the hymn sung at the chism Mass this year, and it was quite moving then," Archabbot Justin said.

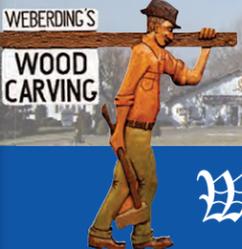
"Father Harry has captured so well the people, places and events that play a significant role in the history of the archdiocese, and for the Church in Indiana and in the United States as well." †



Right Rev. Justin DuVall, O.S.B.



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After

# Married couples honored for commitment to faith and family

By Mary Ann Wyand and John Shaughnessy

For Bob and Susie Kirkhoff, the archdiocese's 175th anniversary Mass on May 3 at Lucas Oil Stadium in Indianapolis was an opportunity to celebrate a powerful combination in their lives—their faith and their family.

As the couple from St. Jude Parish in Indianapolis marked 50 years of marriage at the Mass, they also rejoiced in knowing that two of their 12 grandchildren were receiving the sacrament of confirmation at the same time.

Their two grandchildren who were confirmed are Brad Fey and Maryann Kirkhoff, both students at Roncalli High School in Indianapolis. Brad's sponsor was Mark Kirkhoff, one of Bob and Susie's five children.

In another family connection, Father Gerald Kirkhoff, Bob's brother and the pastor of St. Pius X Parish in Indianapolis, was a concelebrant for the anniversary Mass.

"It's an honor to be recognized for our 50 years together," Susie Kirkhoff said. "It's an exciting time for us, and it's exciting because of all the ways our family is involved. This is very meaningful."

St. Gabriel parishioners Louis and Phyllis Glaub of Connersville, who will be married for 54 years on May 21, were also excited about the opportunity to receive a nuptial blessing with nearly 200 other golden wedding anniversary couples during the historic liturgy.

"We're just very pleased that we were able to make it this far," Louis Glaub said. "We're happy with one another yet, and still able to get up in the morning and enjoy the day together."

He said the secret to their happy marriage is love.

"You have to make sure that your No. 1 crossroad is that you and your wife go down the same path together and enjoy life," he explained. "Love one another

every day, and tell each other that."

Honesty is an important part of marriage, Phyllis Glaub explained. "You have to always be truthful to each other, tell each other that you love each other every day, and keep your faith in the good Lord."

Their son, Philip, died of several health complications at age 29 in 1991.

"It was heartbreaking," Louis Glaub said. "You never get over it. You never get over it."

But they are happy that their daughter, Melody, and her husband, Bill Crawford, also St. Gabriel parishioners, attended the anniversary Mass with them.

"I'm just so pleased that they have been married this long," Melody Crawford said, "and that we had that pleasure of taking them there and sharing that joy of a once-in-a-lifetime moment, especially celebrating all the other sacraments [during the Mass]. It was very inspiring to my husband and me. We've been married for 31 years. ... It's very inspiring to me to have parents that have been married this long, and also the values they have taught us by going to church."

Crawford said she also enjoyed the multicultural parts of the liturgy and music.

"I was touched by all the nationalities that were [represented] there," she said. "That was amazing to me that we could all unite like that."

Eugene and Betty Ripberger, members of St. Elizabeth of Hungary Parish in Cambridge City, celebrated 51 years of marriage during the Mass.

"It's a great opportunity to celebrate our [marriage] vows and 52 years [together] in October," Eugene Ripberger said as they arrived at Lucas Oil Stadium for the Mass.

They were married on Oct. 5, 1957, and began their married life in the farmhouse where they still live in the northeast corner of Rush County.

"Our house is full of artifacts," he said, laughing. "We're the first generation to have the farm, and we're passing it on to our [five] children."

The huge football stadium, which is the home field for the Indianapolis Colts, doesn't seem overly large, they said, because they farm 2,500 acres of land.

"It's just great being here on this beautiful day after all the rain," Betty Ripberger said. "We're farm people, and we're praying that the Lord will turn off the faucet for a little bit. We usually start planting in mid-April. We haven't got any corn or soybeans in the ground, and it's getting past time. We're retired, and our sons and grandsons farm the land. Our big enterprise is hogs."

During the Mass, they planned to



James and Pauline Petroviak of Lawrenceburg share a kiss for the sign of peace during the archdiocese's 175th anniversary Mass on May 3 at Lucas Oil Stadium in Indianapolis. They are members of St. Teresa Benedicta of the Cross Parish in Bright. Nearly 200 couples married for 50 years or more received a nuptial blessing from Archbishop Daniel M. Buechlein during the historic liturgy.

thank God for three generations of Ripbergers farming their land as well as for the love they have shared there for half a century.

Marilyn Hess, associate director of the archdiocesan Office of Family Ministries, said 193 couples married for 50 years or more were honored during the Mass that united the Church in central and southern Indiana.

"Together, they have been married 10,492 years," Hess said. "They have 850 children, 1,789 grandchildren and 362 great-grandchildren. ... It is the grace of God, first of all, to even live long enough to be married for 50, 60 and almost 70 years, but it also takes God's grace to be able to be faithful to their commitment."

The longtime married couples renewed their marriage vows by participating in the nuptial blessing from



St. Elizabeth of Hungary parishioners Eugene and Betty Ripberger of Cambridge City pose for a photograph before the 175th anniversary Mass on May 3 next to the painting of Servant of God Simon Bruté, the first bishop of the Diocese of Vincennes, which later became the Archdiocese of Indianapolis.

Archbishop Daniel M. Buechlein. "There also was the unique opportunity to witness the sacrament of marriage for the young people of our archdiocese who were confirmed and for the larger community," Hess said. "Not very often do you get that many people in a space where you can have that kind of a witness and be part of the larger Church." †



St. Jude parishioners Bob and Susie Kirkhoff of Indianapolis pose for a photograph before the 175th anniversary Mass.

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# Celebrating 175 years of faith

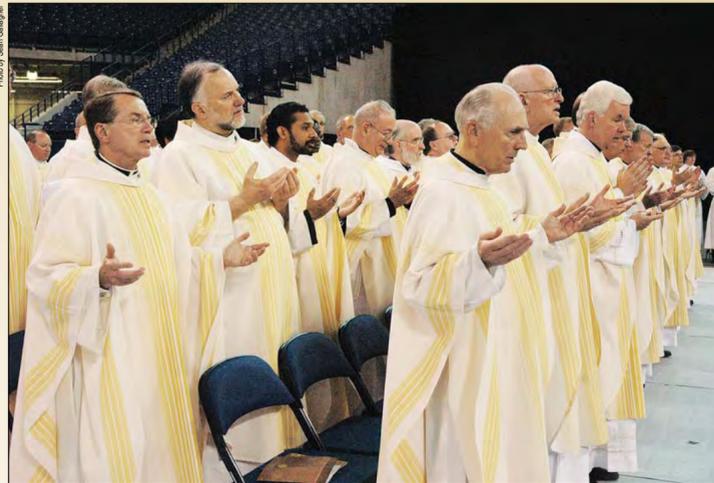


Photo by Sean Gallagher

Concelebrating priests at the Mass pray during the eucharistic prayer.



Photo by Mary Ann Wynn

Archbishop Daniel M. Buechlein prays the eucharistic prayer during the archdiocese's 175th anniversary Mass on May 3 at Lucas Oil Stadium in Indianapolis. Transitional Deacon John Hollowell, right, assisted the archbishop during the liturgy.



Photo by Sean Gallagher

Mass-goers get their photo taken outside Lucas Oil Stadium before the Mass.



Photo by Sean Gallagher

Immanuel Buntin, left, and Imani Buntin, members of Holy Angels Parish in Indianapolis, walk in the opening procession with a group of children who recently received their first Communion.



Photo by Sean Gallagher

Dozens of patens filled with Communion hosts sit on a table near the altar during the Mass. Communion was later distributed throughout the stadium.



Photo by Sean Gallagher

Members of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem walk in the opening procession. The order works to preserve Catholic sanctuaries and the presence of the Church in the Holy Land.



Photo by Sean Gallagher

Cardinal Francis E. George of Chicago confirms Joseph Kaiser, a member of St. Paul the Apostle Parish in Greencastle, during the Mass while live video of the confirmation is broadcast on a giant video screen in Lucas Oil Stadium. Joseph's confirmation sponsor, at left, was Richard Burkett.



Photo by Sean Gallagher

Lucille Elsener, a member of Our Lady of the Greenwood Parish in Greenwood, receives Communion from Father Robert Hanke, pastor of St. Maurice Parish in Napoleon and sacramental minister of Immaculate Conception Parish in Millhouse and St. Denis Parish in Jennings County.



Photo by Mary Ann Wynn

Holy Angels parishioner Alex Ogbuh of Indianapolis, a native of Nigeria, reads a petition in Igbo, an African language, during the prayers of the faithful for the archdiocese's 175th anniversary Mass on May 3 at Lucas Oil Stadium in Indianapolis. Petitions were read in nine languages.



Photo by Mary Ann Wynn

Archdiocesan seminarians Gregory Lorenz, left, and Winston Fitzgerald carry a portrait of St. Theodora Guérin during the procession for the 175th anniversary Mass. They are students at the Bishop Simon Bruté College Seminary in Indianapolis. Lorenz is a member of St. Roch Parish in Indianapolis. Fitzgerald is a member of St. Luke the Evangelist Parish in Indianapolis.

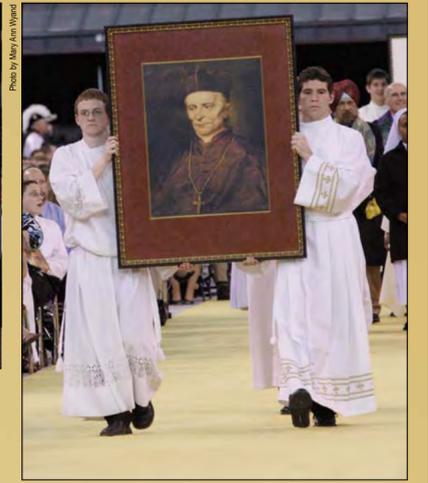


Photo by Mary Ann Wynn

Seminarian Mitch Strange from Our Lady of Hope Parish in Washington, Ind., in the Evansville Diocese, and archdiocesan seminarian Nicholas Welch from Our Lady of the Greenwood Parish in Greenwood carry a portrait of the Servant of God Bishop Simon Bruté during the procession for the 175th anniversary Mass. They are students at the Bishop Simon Bruté College Seminary in Indianapolis.



Photo by Mary Ann Wynn

Minh Nguyen Sr., a member of the Vietnamese Apostolate in Indianapolis, reads a petition in his native language during the prayers of the faithful for the 175th anniversary Mass. Petitions were also offered in Latin, Spanish, Igbo, Korean, German, French, Italian and Latvian.



Photo by John Shugart

Members of Holy Spirit Parish in Indianapolis gather inside Lucas Oil Stadium in Indianapolis on May 3 before the 175th anniversary Mass.

# Choirs at Mass show musical diversity in archdiocese

By Sean Gallagher

Lucas Oil Stadium in Indianapolis echoed on May 3 with music performed by Catholics young and old from across the archdiocese that represented a broad spectrum of musical and ethnic traditions.

Charlie Gardner, archdiocesan executive director of spiritual life and worship, worked for more than a year to arrange music for the 175th anniversary Mass.

He was glad that it was both prayerful and representative of the archdiocese's cultural diversity.

"They go together because the prayer of the Church is representative," he said. "The musical expression is so important—from Latin in our roots and different styles of music."

Before the Mass began, a choir made up of more than 100 students from five Catholic high schools in Indianapolis sang several selections. The students came from Cardinal Ritter Jr./Sr. High School, Bishop Chatard, Roncalli, Father Thomas Scecina Memorial and Cathedral high schools.

Eddie Guanajuato, who directs bands and choirs at Cardinal Ritter, helped organize the choir, and spoke about it while the students were singing.

"It's wonderful to hear this sort of sound coming out," he said. "We have a huge task. We have to make Lucas Oil Stadium a holy place. That's kind of hard."



Reginald Temple, a member of Holy Angels Parish in Indianapolis, plays a saxophone while his parish's Gospel Choir sings during the Mass.

"But, you know what? If you're listening to them, they're pulling it off."

A student who helped "pull it off" was Cardinal Ritter senior Chelsea Beecher, a member of St. Gabriel the Archangel Parish in Indianapolis.

"I felt like our music that we sang calmed a lot of people down and made them really ready to experience Jesus for themselves," said Chelsea. "... It was really, really amazing. I loved the fact that all these high schools came together to produce one sound. I love how it sounded in there. I love big, loud, exciting sounds."

During the Mass, a 200-member choir sang that was made up of Catholics from nearly all of the archdiocese's 11 deaneries and from 53 parishes. Also adding their artistry was a choir of students from Marian College in Indianapolis, the Gospel Choir of Holy Angels Parish and the Spanish Choir of St. Monica Parish, both in Indianapolis.

"It's an honor for us even to be selected for this," said Vincent Howard, director of Holy Angels' Gospel Choir, shortly before the Mass. "We're really excited, and are going to get up here and do a good job and praise and honor the Lord. That's what we're here for."

Carolyn Sylvester, a member of the choir for more than 25 years, was excited about the opportunity to sing for Catholics from across the archdiocese.

"This is just amazing," she said. "As a Gospel choir, we don't normally get to sing [before most] ... of the Catholic Church. So this is going to be a new experience."

Leona Marino, a member of St. Michael Parish in Brookville in the Connersville Deanery, was a member of the 200-member Mass choir.

"It was a wonderful, uplifting day," Marino said. "The whole day was beautiful. ... I hadn't been in a choir for probably about 10 years. I had actually forgotten how uplifting that was to be with that kind of group. But it was so beyond the choir."

Marino said she was impressed by the messages shared by Archbishop Daniel M. Buechlein and Cardinal Francis E. George of Chicago, and the various multicultural aspects of the Mass.

"It was a day that I will never forget," she



Members of a high school choir made up of students from Cardinal Ritter Jr./Sr. High School, Bishop Chatard, Roncalli, Father Thomas Scecina Memorial and Cathedral high schools, all in Indianapolis, sing prior to the start of the 175th anniversary Mass at Lucas Oil Stadium in Indianapolis on May 3.

said.

Jose Ochoa played the mandolin and was part of St. Monica's Spanish Choir that sang before and during the Mass.

"It was a new experience. It was great," he said. "I'm proud to share the music from Mexico with all the people that are from different countries that gathered here today."

After the Mass, Gardner reflected on the fact that he helped lead the music ministry 25 years ago at the archdiocese's 150th anniversary Mass.

"What is also special is to see how we've grown," Gardner said.

Later, he smiled and said, "I was here 25 years ago. In 25 more years, someone else can do it."

Sitting near Gardner after the Mass was a young man who wasn't even born at the time



Ismel Nieto, left, and Alejandro Nicolas accompany the St. Monica Spanish Choir during the Mass.

of the 150th anniversary Mass.

Diamond Price is a 17-year-old percussionist in Holy Angels' Gospel Choir and is a junior at Cardinal Ritter.

"It was amazing," Diamond said. "I've never been in front of this many people. I was doing it for God, and I was doing it for the people and I was doing it for Archbishop Daniel. It was really a great experience." †



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# We are all called to be witnesses of simple faith, hope and love

(Editor's note: Following is Archbishop Daniel M. Buechlein's homily from the 175th anniversary Mass on May 3.)

Sisters and brothers, for 175 years in our part of the world, the message of Christ, the Good Shepherd, has been a message of hope.

Our ancestors were courageous pioneers who left behind families and often possessions to cross the Appalachians or to ride the river boats down the Ohio to come west.

Like the Good Shepherd, our first bishop, a missionary bishop true, Bishop Simon Bruté laid down his life, even borrowing money to come to the Indiana territory to eastern Illinois, and your Eminence, [Cardinal Francis E. George], Chicago.

This afternoon, as we thank God for many blessings, we also honor the memory of generation after generation of faithful Catholic laity, faithful priests, consecrated religious and holy people like St. Theodora Guérin and Bishop Bruté.

In imitation of the Good Shepherd, now it is our turn to be pioneers in the spiritual growth and hope and compassion our Church promises to all peoples of central and southern Indiana.

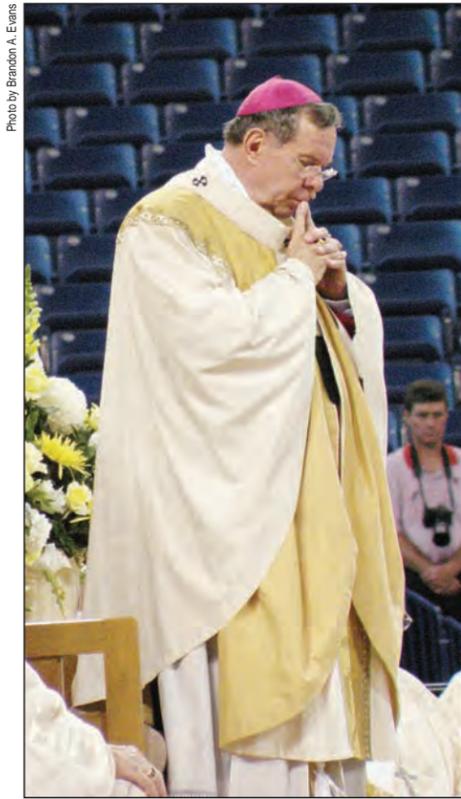
Dear candidates for confirmation, you are a witness and a pledge of the hope that Christ offers.

You golden jubilarians of marriage bear witness to our youth and young adults that we can hand on the faith, the gift of faith that is ours.

You valiant consecrated religious women and men who are jubilarians image for us the Gospel hope that is ours in the Kingdom of Heaven where every tear shall be wiped away.

Dear first Communicants, you remind us of the special love Jesus has for you and for all our children. Jesus points to you as examples of how all of us are invited to love him.

I have a threefold simple message for you confirmation candidates—and for all of us really. We share a fundamental vocation to love God and our neighbor. Pope Benedict XVI has reminded us in his



Archbishop Daniel M. Buechlein prays during the 175th anniversary Mass on May 3 at Lucas Oil Stadium in Indianapolis.

first encyclical that we cannot neglect the service of charity any more than we can neglect the sacraments and the Word of God.

So my first point: Love of God and family and neighbor often means sacrifice. Sacrifice and love go together.

At one of the rites of election of our catechumens and candidates to be received into the Church, I was touched by a family whom I greeted after the ceremony.

As they approached, the family reminded me that we had exchanged messages a year ago while I was undergoing chemotherapy for Hodgkin's lymphoma. Well, I remembered immediately: The Dad I was meeting also had Hodgkin's, and was undergoing therapy at the same time, but

there was a difference.

Because he had to provide for his family, he had to keep on working even while undergoing chemo and radiation.

His wife and family of five beautiful children were with him at the rite of election. I suggest that family exemplifies for our generation the sacrifice parents make to live the faith and to take care of family. Love and sacrifice go together. May our families bear witness to sacrifice and love.

My second point: Trust and love go together. A few weeks earlier, we had the annual presentation of religious Scout awards in a packed cathedral.

Afterward, I greeted folks and was photographed with many parish groups and individuals. At the end of the line, a dad asked if I would pose for one more photo.

Before I could answer, a little disabled Cub Scout abandoned his walker on wheels and literally dove at me. He embraced me; he really didn't want to pose for a photograph. I don't think the young guy even gave me his name, but he is etched in my memory, that scene, and in my prayer. He and his family with him wanted to celebrate the religious award for which he had worked.

Even at his young age, faith is obviously important to that boy. He is a witness that trust and love go together. And it begins with trust in God. With a handicap, that boy is a witness of hope.

My third point: Love and a pure heart go together. At another rite of election as newly elected folks approached for photos, I saw a young fellow about 9 or 10 years old helping his 4-year-old disabled brother approach.

The boy was struggling to walk. Apparently, he had braces on both legs. The disabled lad fell at my feet. I tried to help him up for the photo, but he really wasn't really interested in having a picture taken. He just turned himself and looked up at me with the intensity of a radiant and pure look. He didn't say a word. I suspect that I represented the faith that he wanted to check out.

It also struck me that his family

accepts him as if there is no problem. They were there because they have divine faith, and they want to express it and to be part of our community of faith. I was thinking: "And an innocent child shall lead them."

Sisters and brothers, as I prayed about what to say at this grand celebration, I thought of these pre-Easter anecdotes. They express simple faith in the Good Shepherd, Christ, who is our hope. They inspire the hope and compassion that is the legacy handed on to us by our ancestors. Sacrificial love, trust and a pure heart go together.

The pre-Easter anecdotes tell us what it means to be witnesses of simple faith and, perhaps inadvertently, witnesses of the hope that accompanies no-nonsense faith and charity.

Our world needs the hope that is Jesus Christ, and our Catholic faith and its ritual give life and encouragement to anyone who suffers, whether physically, spiritually, emotionally or morally—that could be any of us or all of us.

Thanks to you who inspire us whether you take us by surprise or do so in ordinary ways. Your crutches and walkers, your illnesses and disabilities, are instruments of Jesus the Good Shepherd, instruments of Gospel love and compassion.

Finally, I can't let this occasion go by without reminding our youth and our young adults that the priesthood and consecrated religious life provide many opportunities to share the lives of other believers. The Holy Father designated this Sunday as Vocations Sunday. Vocations are the fruit of prayer and love from sacrificing families of faith and hope.

Sisters and brothers, today we pray for the grace to hand on Christ our hope and his compassion to generations to come.

We are a family that believes, a family that prays and a family that acts with hope.

Please God, may it be so.

(Archbishop Buechlein's homily is also available online at [www.criterionOnline.com](http://www.criterionOnline.com).) †

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# GEORGE

continued from page 10

## this part of the country to do?

**A:** Our Church is public, and God never comes to us alone. Occasions such as this remind us that the Church is global, universal, by her very nature.

**Q:** Last year, the first four dioceses created from the Archdiocese of Baltimore celebrated their bicentennial. The Archdiocese of Indianapolis is celebrating 175 years this year. Your archdiocese will be doing the same nine years from now. And many other local Churches across the country will celebrate significant historical milestones in the years to come.

**As you help lead the Church in this country at this time in its history, how do you see that it has matured over time? What do you see as areas of growth in the life of faith for the faithful as a whole in the years to come?**

**A:** Areas of growth are first of all invisible because grace depends on the action of the Holy Spirit.

Progress for Catholics means growth in holiness, and

maturity is measured by our ability to share the gifts of faith and grace with others.

Several saints and candidates for sainthood mark the history of the Church's growth in Indiana, but most of those canonized from the United States have been immigrants to this country. We should look for signs of holiness among those born here; then we'll know we've grown in the life given us by God through the Church.

**Q:** In 2004, you gave an address to Pope John Paul II on the occasion of the *ad limina* visit of the bishops of Illinois, Indiana and Wisconsin.

**At that time, you noted how the Church's mission in this country was threatened by internal divisions, by external threats to the Church's freedom from courts and legislatures, and by a public conversation that was unable to address the common good and was marked by an understanding of freedom at variance with that held by the Church.**

**Five years after giving that address, do you think the situation has changed for the better, the worse or has largely stayed the same? How?**

**A:** The situation is in flux, as it always is.

Maybe the dangers are clearer today, but the greatest danger

lies in an inability to read the signs of the times.

The Church shares the lot of the societies in which she lives; and it is arguable that the social and legal conditions of our shared life in this country have become more oppressive in recent decades.

**Q: On this occasion when the Church in central and southern Indiana is celebrating its history in this country and during a time when other local Churches will be doing the same, what are some ways that you would suggest that Catholics in America, both as individuals and as a body, can meet those threats and, in positive ways, can shape the American public conversation for the common good?**

**A:** Keep before us the proclamation of the Kingdom of God.

Don't attack people personally, but be clear on principles. Never feed the forces that work to divide the Church, whether on the left or on the right.

Protect the Church's freedom to be herself, in law and in custom. Keep in mind that the Church is universal and therefore never fits perfectly in any particular society or country, not even our own.

Trust in the providence of God. †

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**"It's your actions, your smile, your closeness. Just sitting and listening. That's what's important."**

- SISTER MARY JOHN TINTEA  
Chaplain  
St. Vincent Indianapolis Hospital

## CONFIRMATION

continued from page 8

excited, too. She's worked hard for this."

That excitement seemed to especially overflow among the contingent from Holy Spirit Parish, a group of nearly 90 members that included about 35 Hispanic adults receiving the sacrament.

"This is awesome," said Benedictine Sister Joann Hunt, the parish's director of religious education, as she considered the gathering of about 25,000 Catholics from across the archdiocese.

"This must be what heaven is like. You see all your friends, and you're going to meet the Lord."

Mirna Catalan felt that glow on her confirmation day.

"It's good," she said with a smile. "I feel very happy because I've found the way of Jesus Christ and confirmed my faith."

Her joy was shared by her sponsor, Lucy Rocha.

"I think this is the best gift God has given me, calling me to be a sponsor," Rocha said. "I have been working very hard to teach Hispanic people about our faith. It's important to me to leave something for the next generation, to help them follow in God's way."

Deacon William Jones had a similar reaction as the confirmation sponsor for Nick Shanks of St. Bartholomew Parish in Columbus.

"I think that confirmation and baptism, any time you can participate in those, and be asked to participate, it's an honor," Deacon Jones said.

Nick feels humbled and inspired after being confirmed. He believes the sacrament has built his faith for the future.

"When you're older, you're going to be faced with more responsibility, and you're going to have more problems and challenges," Nick said. "If you just have faith in God, then he's going to help you get through it."

It was the main theme of a special day. †



Photo by Mary Ann Ward

St. Bartholomew parishioner Nick Shanks of Columbus smiles as he is congratulated by Archbishop Daniel M. Buechlein as part of the sacrament of confirmation during the 175th anniversary Mass on May 3 at Lucas Oil Stadium in Indianapolis. Nick asked Deacon William Jones, right, to be his confirmation sponsor. Nick's middle name is Xavier for St. Francis Xavier, the patron saint of the archdiocese.



# Religious jubilarians have contributed much to the archdiocese

By Sean Gallagher

Through much of its 175-year history, men and women religious have contributed much to what the Archdiocese of Indianapolis has become today.

From north to south and east to west, Benedictine sisters and monks, Franciscan friars and sisters, Sisters of Providence and Carmelite nuns have become integral parts of the Church in central and southern Indiana.

During the May 3 Mass to celebrate the archdiocese's 175th anniversary, a group of religious who are celebrating their own jubilees either of entrance into religious life or profession of vows were honored with a special blessing after Communion.

Cardinal Francis E. George, archbishop of Chicago and president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, commended the religious and prayed the prayer of blessing.

The first religious he honored was Archbishop Daniel M. Buechlein, who professed vows as a monk of Saint Meinrad Archabbey 50 years ago.

"We thank you for cooperating with God's grace, for drinking deeply from the well of the Benedictine monastic tradition," Cardinal George said. "We are grateful for your prayer and work for the Church, especially as archbishop of Indianapolis and in the conference of our bishops."

Three other jubilarians honored spoke with *The Criterion* before the Mass, and have long records of ministry in the archdiocese.

Benedictine Sister Mildred Wannemuehler is celebrating the 60th anniversary of when she professed religious vows.

A past prioress of Our Lady of Grace Monastery in Beech Grove, Sister Mildred also served as the parish life coordinator of St. Agnes Parish in Nashville for 19 years.

She is also well-known for giving presentations on the faith and retreats in parishes across the archdiocese.

"I probably have given talks and things in almost half the parishes," said Sister Mildred, who is originally from Evansville, Ind. "I like the archdiocese because I've been so involved in it."

Franciscan Sister Jean Marie Cleveland, who entered religious life 50 years ago, has served as the congregational minister of the Oldenburg Franciscans.

She also ministered as the parish life coordinator of Our Lady of the Most Holy Rosary and St. Patrick parishes, both in Indianapolis, pastoral associate at St. John the Baptist Parish in Dover and St. Peter Parish in Franklin County, and principal of the Oldenburg Academy of the Immaculate Conception.

"I think to be recognized for 50 years in that large gathering is recognition for us [religious], of course," said Sister Jean Marie,

"but it's also recognition to the people that are there of stability and commitment, and that that is possible in today's age."

When Providence Sister Regina Shaughnessy looked out at the tens of thousands of Catholics from central and southern Indiana gathered at the Mass, she saw many people who likely were educated and formed in the faith in Catholic schools that were staffed by religious men and women.

"I know that our community served a lot in the educational institutions of the archdiocese for many years," she said. "The laity of today probably are what they are because of the educational background that many of them received from the parish schools."

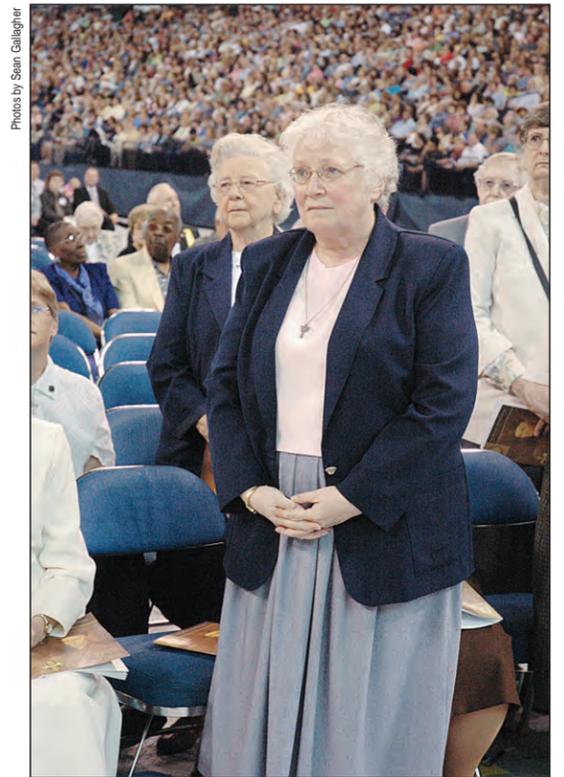
Sister Regina, who grew up in Our Lady of Lourdes and St. Patrick parishes, both in Indianapolis, is celebrating the 60th anniversary of her entrance into religious life.

"God has blessed me with long years and good health," she said, "so I'm very grateful for that. I love my congregation and hope that it has a very viable future."

After 50 years of religious life, Sister Jean Marie is now assisting the young adults at Marian College in Indianapolis discern their calling through the Franciscan school's Rebuild Our Church program.

"To be able to be a part of that at Marian is quite an honor because I see young people who really want to make that happen," she said. "They really want to be involved with youth and with the Church and with people."

Even in retirement, Sister Mildred continues to give retreats and presentations, and regularly ministers at the Indiana Women's Prison in Indianapolis and the

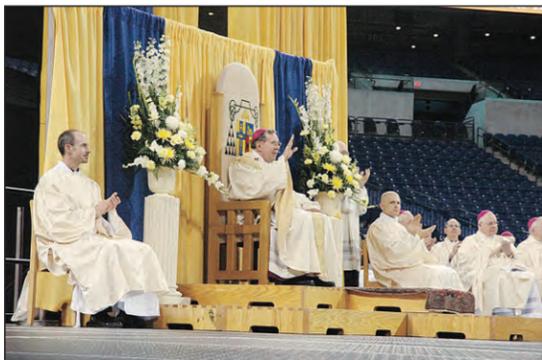


Benedictine Sister Mildred Wannemuehler, left, and Franciscan Sister Jean Marie Cleveland stand during the 175th anniversary Mass at Lucas Oil Stadium in Indianapolis on May 3 after Communion when religious jubilarians were recognized and blessed. This year, Sister Mildred is celebrating the 60th anniversary of her profession of vows and Sister Jean Marie is marking the 50th anniversary of her entrance into religious life.

food pantry of the Indianapolis chapter of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul.

But whether it is in service or in hidden, cloistered prayer, Sister Mildred said that religious are important to the life of the archdiocese.

"We're here to work with the Church even if we're a monastic group," she said. "We pray for the archdiocese very often." †



Archbishop Daniel M. Buechlein recognizes applause given to him upon being honored for the 50th anniversary of his profession of vows as a monk of Saint Meinrad Archabbey. Sitting next to him are, from left, transitional deacons Christopher Wadelton and John Hollowell.



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# Stage design for Mass combines history and holiness

By Mary Ann Wyand

Simple yet spiritual was the focus for the stage design for the archdiocese's 175th anniversary Mass on May 3 at Lucas Oil Stadium in Indianapolis.

The anniversary year theme is "We Have Seen the Lord: Come and See."

Five symmetrical pillars at the back of the five-foot-tall stage were draped in cloth in the archdiocesan colors of blue and gold.

The huge corpus, on loan from Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish in Indianapolis, was mounted on a cross built by Brandt Construction in Indianapolis.

The ambo, altar and embroidered altar cloth were borrowed from the Benedictine monks at Saint Meinrad Archabbey.

Archbishop Daniel M. Buechlein's cathedra, or bishop's chair, was transported from SS. Peter and Paul Cathedral in Indianapolis.

The historic gold chalice, which is used for the Easter and Christmas liturgies at the cathedral, dates back to the 19th century and bears the pontifical arms of Pope Gregory XVI, whose papacy lasted from 1831 until 1846. Pope Gregory established the Diocese of Vincennes—now the Archdiocese of Indianapolis—on May 6, 1834.

And the historic gold crozier carried by Archbishop Buechlein during the liturgy belonged to the late Cardinal Joseph E. Ritter, the first archbishop of Indianapolis and former archbishop of St. Louis, who was a native of New Albany.

A large paschal candle, framed pictures of St. Theodora Guérin and the Servant of God Bishop Simon Bruté, and arrangements of ferns and flowers completed the stage design.

Benedictine Father Julian Peters of Saint Meinrad, interim director of liturgy for the archdiocese, coordinated the art and

environment for the historic Mass and was assisted by Father Aaron Jenkins, associate pastor of Holy Name of Jesus Parish in Beech Grove and chaplain of Father Thomas Scecina Memorial High School in Indianapolis.

While Father Jenkins helped plan the stage design and furnishings for the anniversary Mass, he also prayed for the confirmation candidates from Holy Name Parish and Scecina Memorial High School.

It was a big assignment for the first-year priest, who was ordained by Archbishop Buechlein on June 7, 2008, at the cathedral.

"The archbishop asked me to serve on the [art and environment] committee while I was still in seminary [at Saint Meinrad School of Theology]," Father Jenkins said. "I drew the initial stage designs, and I've helped any time we needed to modify it."

Art is an avocation for Father Jenkins, who wasn't even a member of the Catholic Church when the Archdiocese of Indianapolis marked two millenia of faith with its "Celebration In the Spirit of Hope: The Great Jubilee" on Sept. 16, 2000, at the former RCA Dome in Indianapolis.

The dome was demolished last year to make room for expansion of the Indiana Convention Center so the archdiocesan Mass was held at the new football stadium, which is the home field for the Indianapolis Colts.

"The challenge was to try to make Lucas Oil Stadium look somewhat like a church," Father Jenkins explained, "to create a sacred space inside this huge complex that's normally used for sporting events."

He said the center pillar was 32 feet tall and held the large crucifix, which is 17 feet tall and weighs about 600 pounds.

"We wanted to keep the [stage] design fairly simple and straightforward," Father Jenkins said. "We were trying to



Father Aaron Jenkins works on art and environment details for the stage on May 2 at Lucas Oil Stadium in Indianapolis in preparation for the archdiocese's 175th anniversary Mass there on May 3. He is the associate pastor of Holy Name of Jesus Parish in Beech Grove and the chaplain of Father Thomas Scecina Memorial High School in Indianapolis. A group of Scecina Memorial students helped him move the liturgical furniture onto the stage.

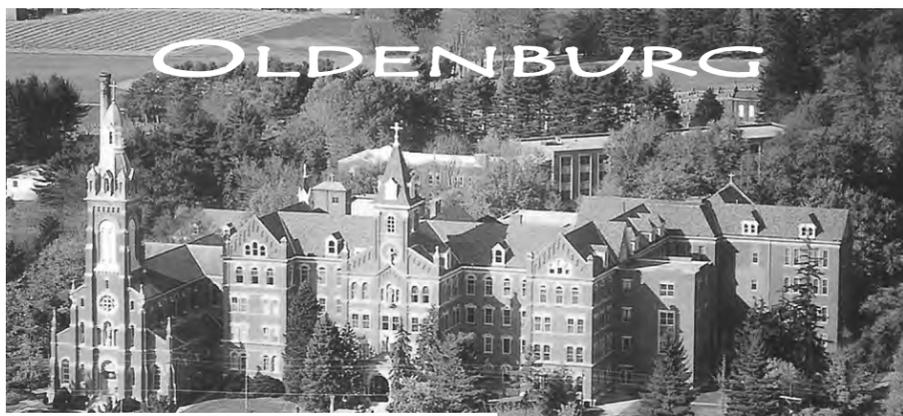
work with budget constraints so we didn't want to go overboard with decorations. But we wanted to do something that was nice and that would look more like a sacred space."

He said it took two days of work on May 1 and May 2 to build and dress the stage.

"I've been praying especially for the kids that I am teaching [at Scecina] and that I know at Holy Name [who were confirmed]," Father Jenkins said, "and then a prayer for our archdiocese that in the future we can continue to grow stronger and stay close to the Lord." †



Benedictine Father Julian Peters, right, interim director of liturgy for the archdiocese, talks with Bob Mountel, a producer with Sports Video Group in Indianapolis, on May 2 about the script and camera angles for the 175th anniversary Mass on May 3 at Lucas Oil Stadium in Indianapolis.



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## Faith and life are one for many Latin American Catholics

By Father Herbert Weber

It was a hot Sunday afternoon when Franciscan Sister Lucille Schmitmeyer, an American missionary working in Chiapas, Mexico, led me to a small shack. We were about to experience the weekly gathering of a Christian base community.

The residents of that home greeted us. I had met the husband the previous day at a group leader preparatory session at the church. About eight other adults were present.

The humble house had a dirt floor. Open windows and doors allowed dogs, cats and chickens to come and go. Nevertheless, the adults gathered that day showed fervor and reverence as they listened to the Gospel reading and explored its meaning for their lives.

That afternoon's discussion on the Scriptures was anything but just an intellectual exercise. As if hearing the sacred words for the first time, the group listened with a knowledge that Jesus was talking directly to them. They also knew it was up to them to apply the passage.

Since that day, I have started many small faith groups in parishes in the United States. But it was experiences like that in Mexico which helped me realize the power of God's word to transform people's lives.

In the last 30 or more years, the Church in Latin America has experienced both suffering and moments of great grace. There have been civil wars in Central America and numerous government changes in South America.

There have been the killings of Archbishop Oscar Romero of San Salvador, El Salvador; Sister Dorothy Stang, an American-born Brazilian of the Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur, who was outspoken on behalf of the poor and the environment; and countless catechists and others seeking justice.

Drug cartels continue to cause deaths in Colombia and Mexico. Natural disasters, such as earthquakes and hurricanes, seem to have hit almost every country.

No two countries are the same politically or in social makeup. Therefore, the role of the Church is different as well. Yet there are lessons that can be learned from the faith of those in Latin America. Interestingly, my examples usually involve the poorest and most powerless people that I have come to know. That, too, conveys a message for those of us from more affluent countries.

First of all, people's spirituality is often integrated into the rest of their lives. I first discovered this in the hills of El Salvador. The small community that I traveled to was



A woman carries a statue of St. Jude, patron of desperate situations, as people wearing masks gather for prayer outside a church in Mexico City on April 28. Most churches in the city remained closed because of the swine flu outbreak in Mexico. The Church in Latin America has experienced much suffering over the past several decades, but Catholics there continue to integrate their faith into the totality of their lives.

both beautiful and frightfully impoverished. In visiting homes, I regularly found little shrines or pictures of Jesus or Mary. The people looked at their lives through a lens of faith even though they rarely had a priest to celebrate Mass for them.

Neighbors gathered for entertainment after a long day of work. Often, someone would bring a guitar. Their songs, the only ones they knew, were Church songs like "Pescador de Hombres" ("Lord, You Have Come"). This is not to say they didn't have other interests, but their faith and devotional practices were totally intertwined with their daily activities. What I frequently witnessed in Latin America was an integration of faith into the fullness of life experiences.

That experience in El Salvador also helped me appreciate another strong aspect of the Church in Latin America. Lay leaders of the community were the ones who kept the

parish of Santa Rita active. Sunday gatherings were led by lay persons.

On my second visit, when I opened a box of Spanish Bibles I had brought, the leaders carefully handed them to selected individuals literate enough to take on the responsibility of reading the word of God to their neighbors.

Lay leadership and responsibility were taken very seriously.

Great poverty was almost everywhere I visited. Many people spent their entire day trying to survive. At the same time, the lack of material possessions tends to focus people's vision.

One woman in a very poor barrio on the outskirts of Cuernavaca, Mexico, once told a group of students I was leading, "My life is easier than yours."

These college students knew the woman wasn't even sure whether she would have something to eat that day. So they asked her what she meant.

*'The people looked at their lives through a lens of faith even though they rarely had a priest to celebrate Mass for them.'*

### Discussion Point

## Parishes welcome Latino worship styles

### This Week's Question

Have any aspects of Latin American styles of worship been incorporated into your parish's life? What are they?

"We have a large Latin American population at our [parish]. ...They bring us incredible gifts with their absolute devotion to Our Lady of Guadalupe. We have the most incredible, joyous celebration, beginning around 5 a.m. with drumming, dancing and a big breakfast before Mass." (Michelle Anderson, Boulder, Colo.)

"Not at our [parish], but one of our neighboring parishes has not only a large Hispanic congregation, but a Polish community, and they have some Masses in Spanish and others in Polish. On Easter, they had a

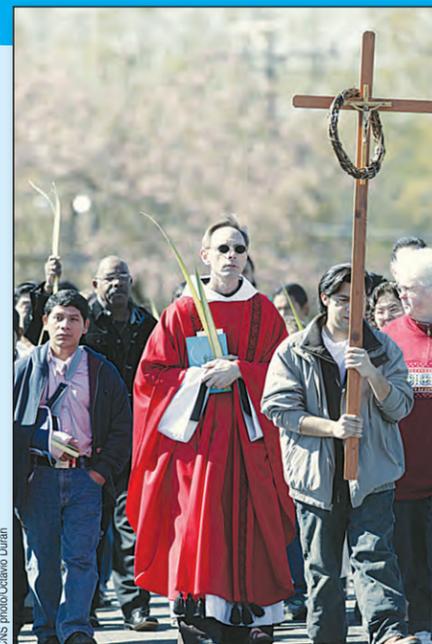
trilingual Mass in English, Spanish and Polish." (Joseph Mrazik, Tucson, Ariz.)

"Our parish is very large and we have quite a few Spanish-speaking people in our congregation. One of our vigil Masses on Saturday and one of our five Sunday Masses are in Spanish." (Monique Chambliss, Brandon, Fla.)

### Lend Us Your Voice

An upcoming edition asks: Is your home a haven for rest and regrouping, or one more endless project that never seems to get done?

To respond for possible publication, send an e-mail to [cgreene@catholicnews.com](mailto:cgreene@catholicnews.com) or write to *Faith Alive!* at 3211 Fourth St. N.E., Washington, D.C. 20017-1100. †

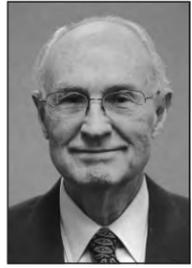


From the Editor Emeritus/John F. Fink

## Basic Catholicism: Our devotion to Mary

(Thirteenth in a series of columns)

One of the things that many Protestants don't understand about Catholics and



Orthodox Christians is our strong devotion to Mary, the mother of Jesus. Catholics, by the same token, often don't understand why Protestants don't have a greater devotion to her.

Catholics and Orthodox honor Mary because God himself did so by making her the mother of the Word, the Second Person of the Blessed Trinity.

Luke's Gospel (Lk 1:48, 49) quotes Mary in her Magnificat as saying, "From now on will all ages call me blessed. The Mighty One has done great things for me." For Protestants who claim to follow Scripture alone, you would think they would be quick to call Mary blessed and venerate her. She appears in the New Testament more than any other woman.

The objection that some Protestants have

toward devotion to Mary is that this devotion puts Mary on the same level as Jesus. If this were true, it would be heretical. But it's not true. We do not adore Mary. Mary's role is to lead us to her Son, to deepen our devotion to Jesus as the Christ, our Savior.

Here are the Catholic doctrines about Mary:

- She is the mother of God. The Council of Ephesus in 431 solemnly established that Jesus had two natures, the divine and the human, but he was one person, and Mary was the mother of that person. If Jesus was God, as Christians believe, and Mary was his mother, then Mary was the mother of God. It's a simply syllogism: Jesus was God; Mary was his mother; therefore, Mary was the mother of God.

- Mary remained a virgin all her life. Both Luke's Gospel (Lk 1:35) and Matthew's Gospel (Mt 1:20) tell us that Mary conceived Jesus through the power of the Holy Spirit, while remaining a virgin.

As for the "brethren of Jesus" referred to in Scripture, Catholics believe either that they were cousins or, along with the

Orthodox, that they were Joseph's children by a previous marriage. In this view, Joseph was an older widower who agreed to care for her. Some Protestants deny that Mary remained a virgin, although it is interesting to note that Martin Luther, John Calvin and John Wesley all held that she was ever-virgin.

- Mary was conceived without original sin. This doctrine is called the Immaculate Conception and should not be confused with the doctrine of the virgin birth. It means that, when Mary was conceived by her parents, she was preserved from the sin that, according to Christian doctrine, we are all born with.

The only biblical basis for this doctrine is the angel Gabriel's address to Mary, "Hail, full of grace," or in some modern translations, "Hail, highly favored one" (Lk 1:28). If Mary was full of grace, it meant that she did not have original sin on her soul.

- Mary was assumed, body and soul, into heaven. This doctrine, called the Assumption, was not defined as dogma until 1950, but the feast of the Assumption was being celebrated as early as the sixth century. †

Cornucopia/Cynthia Dewes

## Thank God that motherhood is a life sentence

Motherhood is a life sentence. Now, you might think that motherhood ends when



your kids are raised to adulthood, but you would be thinking wrong. Motherhood extends to, well, death.

The thing is, your kids find a spouse and produce kids themselves and lo! your maternal instincts kick in as a grandmother.

And, written biblically, this continues even unto the following generations of "greats," "great-greats," etc., or as long as ye both shall live.

Not only that, but the in-law kids become your own and soon you are getting all motherly about them as well.

Ditto the children of in-law relatives, those of your friends or your neighbors or even those of celebrities or characters in a TV series. It's like an epidemic.

This is not as dreary as it sounds. Motherhood also makes life livable, as in interesting, exciting, emotional, gratifying, grievous, tiresome, backbreaking and whatever other adjective might apply at any given point. Motherhood is a fact, a physical or psychological state, and a function of being human. It reflects the richness of our

life with God, the original parent/Creator.

Mothers have certain skills and talents unknown even to themselves until needed. For example, they have eyes in the back of their heads. That's how they know that Junior is slyly pinching his little brother or that Fido is sleeping on Junior's bed without your permission.

They also know that food carefully rearranged on the plate does not indicate that a child has eaten her dinner or that a wet toothbrush means teeth have actually been brushed.

Mothers know by feel whether their child is sick or just faking it. They recognize lies by tone of voice, shifting of eyes or just plain adult logic. They also can tell whether Junior is really scared, bored or enthused by whatever events are at hand. They know where their kids are at any given time.

Mothers can size up their children's friends with a look. They know who these friends' parents are and where they live. They are familiar with their child's teachers. They pay attention to what's going on at school without demanding unnecessary details or interfering with discipline or doing the children's homework for them. They do not expect perfection, but are happy with a show of effort, hopefully not faked.

Sometimes mothers do not have the opportunity for biological children of their

own so they adopt them. Sometimes they use morally appropriate technology so they may have them. And sometimes mothers are mothers not by biology or technology or even by adoption, but by chance and generosity of heart. Mothers are mothers by God's design. They are the ones who go on alert whenever anyone yells, "Mom!" out in public.

Mothers do not share the care of their children with serial sexual partners or boyfriends. They are obviously women who don't see promiscuous sex as an end in itself, without possibility of pregnancy. Rather, they marry men they love and respect, men whom they judge will be good husbands and good fathers. Sacramental marriage with such partners provides them with the chance to participate in God's creation, with production of babies as the culmination of God's grace.

Holy Cross Father Theodore Hesburgh, president emeritus of the University of Notre Dame, once said that the best thing a father could do for his children was to love their mother. He was right. And it's the best thing for the mothers, too.

Happy Mother's Day, you all!

(Cynthia Dewes, a member of St. Paul the Apostle Parish in Greencastle, is a regular columnist for The Criterion.) †

Our Turn/Therese J. Borchard

## Do yourself a big favor: Go out and play!

Did you know that one of the very best things you can do for your health is to have a little fun?



In a study by Salvatore R. Maddi, as reported by Gerard J. Musante in *The Structure House Weight Loss Plan*, 2,000 people who were all under stress—caused by deaths in the family, divorce,

illness, work and so forth—were divided into two groups.

The first group was more protected from stress and all of its symptoms—high blood pressure, overeating, weight problems, depression and anxiety—than the second group because they participated in active leisure, what researchers called "meaningful activity," for four to six hours a week.

And yet so many of us can't come up with those hours. Or, if we get the time, we don't know how, you know, to relax.

I fully admit that I am a relaxation moron. That is why I drank. The alcohol

functioned as a kind of babysitter in my mind, quieting all the rowdy voices that make it difficult for me to chill out. And although I have been sober for 20 years, I still haven't mastered unwinding without something.

In his diet book, Musante provides an excellent starting point for learning how to relax and play. He writes, "When people ask me how they can find something enjoyable to do during their leisure time, I often ask them to think about their childhood and the games they played or activities in which they participated. The chances are that similar activities will be fun for them to do in adulthood."

For me, this means tuning up my mountain bike and heading to the trails for several hours, and afterward treating myself to some ice cream—mint chocolate chip with chocolate sprinkles. It also means venturing into the garage and finding my sheet music from 30 years ago then trying to play it again on the piano.

If you think about it, it's no wonder we find it so difficult to play.

In her book *Finding the Deep River Within—A Woman's Guide to Recovering*

*Balance & Meaning in Everyday Life*, Abby Seixas cites some disturbing statistics: The average working couple in America spends 20 minutes together a day, "family time" has become a goal rather than a natural consequence of being a family, and too many families are caught in the vicious cycle of overwork and overconsumption.

We recognize and appreciate the role of play time in our children's lives. We intuitively know that they need it to thrive. Imagine the uproar if recess was suddenly yanked from school hours! And yet it is the first thing we toss from our schedule when our boss plops another project—with an unrealistic deadline—on our desk.

"When we do something simply for enjoyment, it replenishes us, it refills our well," writes Seixas. "It can provide balance and lighten the sense of burden that often accompanies a duty-filled schedule and a duty-filled frame of mind."

So do yourself a big favor: Go out and play!

(Therese J. Borchard writes for Catholic News Service.) †

Twenty Something/

Christina Capecchi

## Grace for the graduate: A leap of faith, a new beginning

Dear Graduate,

I know how you're feeling: lightheaded and faint-hearted.



You're trying to process the culmination of four long years that flew by, trying to smile pretty and keep it all straight—left hand takes diploma, right hand shakes, tassel flips from right to left.

You've managed to master biochemistry and the sociology of the cafeteria, Professor Martin and two inexorable roommates, and yet these simple instructions have you feeling criss-crossed.

The hard part ought to be behind you, but you suspect the greatest challenge awaits: How to properly punctuate your college career.

You're treading in the deep end of emotion, torn between a weep and a cheer. Each goodbye you extend feels sorely inadequate.

I couldn't imagine life beyond college. I hated to leave the close quarters and the strong, sustaining circle of friendship I had been living in. I was sure I would never again experience anything like it.

And I was right.

But I can assure you that the end of one good thing makes room for the beginning of another. You'll come to love your post-college life, with its new blessings and different rewards.

It, too, is deeply satisfying—perhaps more so—because you become a contributing member of society, not just a college student. You make your mark on a broader canvas.

So here is my summons to you: Instead of dreading this change, embrace it. Invite and absorb the grace of a new beginning.

"When the heart is ready for a fresh beginning," wrote the late Irish poet John O'Donohue, "unforeseen things can emerge. And, in a sense, this is exactly what a beginning does. It is an opening for surprises." Heart-stopping, soul-stirring, life-giving surprises.

They won't arrive immediately, though. You must be patient.

As you wait for your future to unfold, take heart in this month's Scripture readings.

"Beloved," St. John writes, "we are God's children now; what we shall be has not yet been revealed" (1 Jn 3:2).

It will be, he promises. "We do know that when it is revealed we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is" (1 Jn 3:2).

That is what we do know, and it is enough for today: Every change that brings an uncomfortable waiting period will result in clearer vision to see and mimic God.

St. John offers additional solace later in the month. "I have much more to tell you, but you cannot bear it now. But when he comes, the Spirit of truth, he will guide you to all truth" (Jn 16:12-13).

What a stunning promise, to leap from childhood to adulthood, from being unready to unlocking "all truth."

As you prepare to graduate, remember St. Rita, whose feast day is this month. She is the patron of impossible causes, which your job search may feel like.

St. Rita faced a terrifying crossroads when her husband and sons died. The convent she yearned to enter refused her application. But she prayed fervently and its doors swung open. Prayerful patience will open doors for you, too.

Look beyond the obvious as you assess your current state: yes, you have a paper degree and deep debt to show for the last four years, but you've also developed a broader mind and a bigger heart, which the world desperately needs.

Keep your head up as you walk across that stage. You have so much to look forward to!

(Christina Capecchi is a freelance writer from Inver Grove Heights, Minn. E-mail her at [christina@readchristina.com](mailto:christina@readchristina.com).) †

Fifth Sunday of Easter/Msgr. Owen F. Campion

# The Sunday Readings

Sunday, May 10, 2009

- Acts of the Apostles 9:26-31
- 1 John 3:18-24
- John 15:1-8

The Acts of the Apostles again this Easter season is the source of the first reading for Sunday.



This weekend's reading from Acts highlights Paul. In an earlier passage, not read in this liturgy, the intensely devoted Jew, Paul, after having persecuted Christians, experiences the presence of Jesus in a stunning

way on the road to Damascus.

Paul completely converts to Christianity. Eventually, the Christian community accepts him, although—understandably given his previous hostility to Christ—some Christians had been nervous about accepting him into their midst.

As had happened, and as would happen again, Paul's new Christian intensity made enemies for him. Fellow Christians took him for his own safety to Caesarea, the Roman capital of Palestine, a place now in ruins on the outskirts of modern Tel Aviv.

From Caesarea, a seaport, the Christians sent him home to Tarsus, again to safeguard his personal security. It would eventually be the beginning of Paul's ministry.

For the second reading this Easter weekend, the Church offers a selection from the First Epistle of John.

The epistle refers to its readers as "little children." Obviously, adults composed the epistle's audience, or most of the audience. Still, the epistle employs this term of endearment.

Those who follow Jesus indeed are God's "little children." However, it is more than a term of affection. Humans, regardless of their age, are children of God. Moreover, humans, again regardless of their age, are as naïve and inexperienced as children. It is not a foolish comparison. Humans simply are limited.

St. John's Gospel supplies the last reading.

This reading also is a gem. It was part of the long discourse by Jesus given to the Apostles at the Last Supper.

This reading has a deeply eucharistic undertone. In the sequence of events, at the supper Jesus gave the Twelve the wine that miraculously had become, through the Lord's power, the blood of Christ.

Wine, of course, then as now, is the product of grapes. Grapes grow on vines.

In this reading, Jesus says, "I am the true

vine." God placed Jesus in the vineyard that is humanity.

Jesus warns that no vine can bear fruit if it separates itself from the true vine of God. Without God, humans are subject to confusion and finally to death.

Drinking the wine that is no longer wine, but the blood of Jesus, is the source of true strength and enduring life.

## Reflection

In Acts, First John and the Gospel, the Church calls us to absolute faith in, and deep love for, God in Jesus.

Easter celebrated the resurrection of Jesus, the divinity of Jesus, and the eternal life and power of Jesus.

Jesus is the cornerstone of our faith and of our lives.

Part of the Lord's legacy is the Church. The Church does not, or should not, mean an earthly, visible entity that we can take or leave. If we are with Christ, if we follow Christ, then we are part of the Church.

As the Mystical Body of Christ, a phrase so rich in its references to Paul's own thoughts, followers of Jesus are branches of the one, divinely planted vine that is Jesus the Lord.

This Church offers us the fruit of God's vine, the wine that is the blood of Christ.

As Pope John Paul II said, the Eucharist is the heart and source of true Christian life, strength and growth.

On this weekend, the Church again invites us to celebrate the fact that Jesus overcame death. He lives!

However, Jesus lives not afar and beyond our reach. If we drink the wine that has become in the Eucharist the Blood of Christ, then we are branches, intimately and inseparable a part of the divine vine that is Jesus, the Son of God. †

## Readers may submit prose or poetry for faith column

*The Criterion* invites readers to submit original prose or poetry relating to faith or experiences of prayer for possible publication in the "My Journey to God" column.

Seasonal reflections also are appreciated. Please include name, address, parish and telephone number with submissions.

Send material for consideration to "My Journey to God," *The Criterion*, P.O. Box 1717, Indianapolis, IN 46206 or e-mail to [criterion@archindy.org](mailto:criterion@archindy.org). †

## My Journey to God

# Prayer for A Loved One

Bless him sleeping, bless him waking,  
Bless him in his thoughts and making.  
Bless him when he sits and stands;  
Hold him in your keeping hands.

Bless his coming and his going,  
Bless his knowing and not knowing.  
Bless him largely, bless him small,  
Let Your Presence be his All.

Bless his wanderings, keep from harm;  
Bless his angel's sheltering arm.  
Bless his good times, and his bad,  
Bless him happy, bless him sad.

Bless him, Lord, far from this place;  
Bless him over time and space.  
Bless him fleeing, bless him near,  
Hold evermore this soul so dear.

By Linda Abner

(Linda Abner is a member of Our Lady of Lourdes Parish in Indianapolis. This statue of an angel is located in the historic Glenwood Cemetery in northeast Washington, D.C.)



CNS file photo/Nancy Wiehenc

## Daily Readings

Monday, May 11

Acts 14:5-18  
Psalm 115:1-5, 15-16  
John 14:21-26

Tuesday, May 12

Nereus, martyr  
Achilleus, martyr  
Pancras, martyr  
Acts 14:19-28  
Psalm 145:10-13ab, 21  
John 14:27-31a

Wednesday, May 13

Our Lady of Fatima  
Acts 15:1-6  
Psalm 122:1-5  
John 15:1-8

Thursday, May 14

Matthias, Apostle  
Acts 1:15-17, 20-26  
Psalm 113:1-8  
John 15:9-17

Friday, May 15

Isidore the Farmer  
Acts 15:22-31  
Psalm 57:8-12  
John 15:12-17

Saturday, May 16

Acts 16:1-10  
Psalm 100:2, 3, 5  
John 15:18-21

Sunday, May 17

Sixth Sunday of Easter  
Acts 10:25-26, 34-35, 44-48  
Psalm 98:1-4  
1 John 4:7-10  
John 15:9-17

## Question Corner/Fr. John Dietzen

# Seeing our good deeds can help other people give glory to God

Q How do people come to be atheists? So many books and articles are written today about that, but it's hard to understand.



The existence of God and his love seem so evident to us.

What makes some people refuse to believe? (Ohio)

A I don't know all the answers, and I don't think anyone does. My experience, however, suggests that some of our easy assumptions are off-track.

Before judging and categorizing "atheists," we need to ask ourselves: What God, what kind of God, are they rejecting? And why? The answer may not be as simple as we think.

Several years ago, the evening television news described a southern city in violent turmoil over an atheist couple whose son wished to join the Boy Scouts. His parents sued the local organization for mentioning God in the Scout oath.

As the child left school, a group of adults and children, their faces distorted in anger and hostility, berated him for his godlessness. He was in tears.

Could anyone not understand if his family reacts by thinking: If your God is anything like you, we want no part of it?

As the late saintly Brazilian Archbishop Helder Pessoa Camara once wrote, "Watch how you live. Your lives may be the only gospel your sisters and brothers will ever read."

We have endless evidence that people, we of Christian faith or other believers, sometimes instinctively tend to cut God down to our own size, to our own ways of thinking and acting, so that he will fit comfortably into our very limited minds and plans.

Then, in our zeal, we attempt, usually without realizing it, to impose that stunted idea of God on others. If they cannot accept our representation of God as well as what and how we feel God expects us to act, we are greatly threatened. We accuse them of being evil, enemies of God, enemies of good and enemies of life.

In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus said that by seeing our good deeds others will be moved to give glory to God. If so, then

the opposite is also true. When our actions become mean-spirited and belligerently strident, we can make it incredibly difficult if not impossible for others, especially persons with little faith background, to recognize the compassionate, merciful and faithful God we say that we believe in.

We too often lack kindness, generosity and basic charity. We may even feel a self-righteous obligation to judge, disrespect and revile persons who do not see things our way. When that happens, it is wildly foolish to expect a change of heart or conversion to our understanding of God and his Word.

This does not deny that most of us are bathed each day in evident signs of God's goodness, wisdom and beauty, but the millions of people who suffer from grinding poverty and savage genocides might not easily agree.

And we know the destructive force of intellectual pride and stiff-necked willfulness and greed for power which, as Scripture often reminds us, we all share to some degree.

It does say, however, that we need to move carefully and compassionately when we're tempted to denounce others for not accepting faith in God, or what God wants, the way we do.

Faith, a living faith that drives our lives, is vital. But we sometimes forget that the God we believe in is holy, totally "other," beyond all human comprehension.

"My thoughts are not your thoughts," God has told us, "nor are your ways my ways. ... As high as the heavens are above the earth, so high are my ways above your ways and my thoughts above your thoughts" (Is 55:8-9).

So why are "atheists" who they are? Who is at fault? Who can tell? Our lives and desires and decisions are much more interwoven than we can imagine, and the web of disbelief has many strands.

I'm happy that it is God, and not me, who must unravel the moral complications.

(A free brochure answering questions that Catholics ask about Mary, the mother of Jesus, is available by sending a stamped, self-addressed envelope to Father John Dietzen, Box 3315, Peoria, IL 61612. Questions may be sent to Father Dietzen at the same address or by e-mail in care of [jjdietzen@aol.com](mailto:jjdietzen@aol.com).) †

# Rest in peace

Please submit in writing to our office by 10 a.m. Thursday before the week of publication; be sure to state date of death. Obituaries of archdiocesan priests serving our archdiocese are listed elsewhere in *The Criterion*. Order priests and religious sisters and brothers are included here, unless they are natives of the archdiocese or have other connections to it; those are separate obituaries on this page.

**ASHCRAFT, David Edward**, 48, St. Charles Borromeo, Milan, Jan. 12. Husband of Pamela (Fraasman) Ashcraft. Father of Nichole Phillips, Aften and David Ashcraft. Son of Bob and Marilyn Ashcraft. Brother of Lori Nickell.

**BERRY, Barbara**, 67, Christ the King, Indianapolis, April 15. Mother of Tammy Jarrett, Bobby and Tiffany Berry. Sister of Marcia Hale and Beatrice Montgomery. Grandmother of seven. Great-grandmother of two.

**CERULLI, Savina B.**, 92, St. Pius X, Indianapolis, April 14. Mother of Loreta Riffle, Alfred and John Ceruli. Grandmother of five. Great-grandmother of three.

**CHANCE, Patricia A.**, 80, St. Charles Borromeo, Bloomington, April 24. Wife of Russell Chance. Mother of John, Harry, Thad and Todd Chance. Grandmother of three. Great-grandmother of one.

**COLLINS, Rosemary T.**, 81, St. Roch, Indianapolis, April 14. Wife of Walton Collins. Mother

of Eileen McCormick, Ed, Joe, Mike, Pat and Terry Collins. Sister of Al Long. Grandmother of six. Step-grandmother of three.

**DAKIN, Mary Rita (Schafer)**, 83, St. Lawrence, Indianapolis, April 4. Wife of Richard Dakin. Mother of Alan, Brian, Joseph, Kevin, Leo and Neil Schaefer. Stepmother of Michele Rhodes, Maureen Walton and Matthew Dakin. Grandmother of 16. Great-grandmother of seven. (correction)

**DIMMITT, Frederick E.**, 87, St. Gabriel the Archangel, Indianapolis, April 23. Husband of Annis Dimmitt. Father of Elizabeth Geuss, Annis Hapkiewicz, Frederick, Patrick and Richard Dimmitt. Grandfather of 13. Great-grandfather of three.

**FOERDERER, Helen M.**, 91, St. Pius X, Indianapolis, April 16. Mother of Patricia Brooks and Jane Waldon. Grandmother of four. Great-grandmother of two.

**GRITT, Joseph**, 81, Holy Name of Jesus, Beech Grove, March 26. Husband of Betty (Brothers) Gritt. Father of Debbie Adams, Jan Trimble and Jack Gritt. Brother of Mary Lashbrook, Regina O'Hara, Joan, David, George, Robert, Tom and William Gritt. Grandfather of nine. Great-grandfather of 14. Great-great-grandfather of one.

**HAMMERSMITH, Elinor (Schmidt)**, 90, St. Mary-of-the-Knobs, Floyds Knobs, April 19. Mother of Loretta Bartley, Ed, Kenneth, Leo and Ronald Schmidt. Sister of Bill Smith.

Grandmother of 10. Step-grandmother of three. Great-grandmother of nine. Step-great-grandmother of five.

**HEIM, George A.**, 74, St. Christopher, Indianapolis, April 19. Husband of Katherine Heim. Father of Laurie Eller, Patty Maves, Donna Sperring, Chrissie Wolfe, Dale, Mark and Michael Heim. Brother of Barbara Bachaus and Robert Heim. Grandfather of 19. Great-grandfather of one.

**HOWLEY, Mary**, 67, Prince of Peace, Madison, April 11. Sister of Charles and Thomas Howley. Aunt of several.

**HUME, Edna Barbara**, 89, St. Charles Borromeo, Milan, Feb. 24. Mother of Karen Hyser and Robert Knop. Sister of Thomas Underwood. Grandmother of one.

**JACOB, Leo**, 72, St. Joseph, St. Leon, April 16. Husband of Bertie Jacob. Father of Theresa and Gary Jacob. Grandfather of seven.

**KIRCH, Irvin J.**, 85, St. Roch, Indianapolis, April 10. Husband of Mildred Kirch. Father of Sandy McAllister, Cindy Winters, Julie, James, Robert and Timothy Kirch. Brother of Jeanette Brooks and Mary Gallagher. Grandfather of five.

**KOLLROS, Bernice E. (Tellman)**, 88, St. Mary-of-the-Knobs, Floyds Knobs, April 18.

Mother of June Poliseno and Mary Ann Kollros. Grandmother of two.

**LaDUKE, Patricia R.**, 80, Our Lady of Perpetual Help, New Albany, April 12. Mother of Brenda Hostetler and Phyllis McClanahan. Sister of Mary Jane Atkins, Don and James Wiseman. Grandmother of four. Great-grandmother of nine.

**McGLOTHLIN, Edward**, 86, St. Joseph, St. Leon, April 18. Husband of Jean McGlothlin. Father of James McGlothlin.

**OLLIER, Bernetta M.**, 94, St. Louis, Batesville, April 27. Mother of Audrey Blandford, Donna Delfendahl, Marilyn Distler, Rita Glassley, Ann Klein, Beth Meyer, Sheila Roell, David, Gerald and Kenneth Ollier. Sister of Emanuel Dierckman. Grandmother of 38. Great-grandmother of 40.

**PUNTARELLI, Salvatore J., Sr.**, 81, Our Lady of the Most Holy Rosary, Indianapolis, April 22. Husband of Joan (Pierle) Puntarelli. Father of Tracy Ardizzone, Salvatore and Timothy Puntarelli. Brother of JoAnn Guerrini and Tony Puntarelli. Grandfather of nine.

**SELLE, Mary Florence**, 82, Christ the King, Indianapolis, April 17. Mother of Andrea Cline, Annette Green and Scott Selle. Grandmother of five. Great-grandmother of three. †

## Providence Sister Donna O'Neill was a teacher and principal

Providence Sister Donna O'Neill, the former Sister Laurence Therese, died on April 22 at Mother Theodore Hall at Saint Mary-of-the-Woods. She was 78.

The Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated on April 27 at the Church of the Immaculate Conception at Saint Mary-of-the-Woods. Burial followed at the sisters' cemetery.

Donna Joan O'Neill was born on May 11, 1930, in Chicago.

She entered the congregation of the Sisters of Providence on July 22, 1948, and professed first vows on Jan. 23, 1951, and final vows on Jan. 23, 1956.

Sister Donna earned a bachelor's degree in education at Saint Mary-of-the-Woods College and a master's degree in education at Marygrove College in Detroit.

During 60 years as a

Sister of Providence, she ministered in education for 43 years at Catholic schools in Indiana, Illinois, North Carolina and Texas. For 11 years, she served as a principal.

In the archdiocese, Sister Donna taught at the former St. Joseph School in Indianapolis from 1953-54 and St. Joan of Arc School in Indianapolis from 1954-55.

She served as director of Providence Hall at the motherhouse from 1994 until 2001. She also served the congregation in other ways before beginning her full-time ministry of prayer with the senior sisters in 2004.

Surviving are several nephews and cousins.

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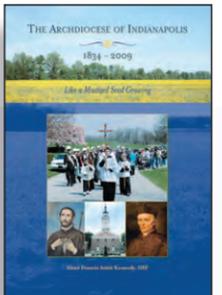
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# Pope's pilgrimage will take message of peace to land of conflict

VATICAN CITY (CNS)—

Pope Benedict XVI is set to begin a weeklong visit to the Holy Land, a pilgrimage in the footsteps of Christ and a journey through a political and interreligious minefield.

In many ways, the May 8-15 visit to Jordan, Israel and the Palestinian territories is the most challenging of the pope's foreign visits to date, one that will test his skills of communication and bridge-building in a region of conflict and mistrust.

After recent communications missteps at the Vatican, the pope can expect to find his every word and gesture under scrutiny by the world's media—especially when it comes to relations among Christians, Muslims and Jews, and the Israeli-Palestinian crisis.

Although the world may measure the success of the visit in terms of international or interfaith diplomacy, Pope Benedict is going to the Holy Land first and foremost as a religious pilgrim.

"The priority is to witness to the truth of the Incarnation by visiting, as head of the Church, the places where the events of our redemption took place. That's the point," Franciscan Father David Jaeger, an

Israeli priest and adviser to the Vatican, told Catholic News Service.

The pilgrimage has a special focus on peace. The pope, in announcing the visit, said he would be going to the Holy Land to pray for "the precious gift of unity and peace for the Middle East and all humanity."

Father Jaeger said that is extremely important at a time when hopes for peace among the population are the lowest in many years.

"The worst thing that can happen is the loss of hope for peace. So for him to speak openly of the possibility and the necessity of peace and reconciliation should thrust those values into the fore," Father Jaeger said.

"It's not a political negotiation of course; he's not going to produce a peace treaty or try to. But the fact that he keeps the value of peace in front of the people of the region, that will be a tremendous contribution by the Church," he said.

The first leg of the pope's trip will take him to Jordan for a series of carefully chosen liturgies and encounters, including a visit to a mosque in Amman. That event, and the fact that Pope Benedict is spending several days in Jordan, reflects his aim to reach a wide Muslim audience.

In 2006, Pope Benedict prayed in a mosque in Turkey, a gesture that spoke volumes to the Islamic world. In Amman, the pope will deliver a speech outside the mosque to Muslim leaders, diplomats and rectors of the University of Jordan. The audience and the setting make it likely that the pope will revisit the themes of his speech in 2006 in Regensburg, Germany, but this time making sure his remarks on reason and faith do not unintentionally offend his listeners.

For Jordan's Catholic faithful, who number about 75,000 in a population of 6.2 million, the big event will be the papal Mass in an Amman soccer stadium on May 10.

Two smaller papal events in Jordan should not go unnoticed. His first appointment in Amman is at the Regina Pacis center, a special needs facility that has inspired Christian-Muslim dialogue and collaboration. Here the pope is likely to emphasize the importance of the "dialogue of life" and social cooperation among followers of the Abrahamic faiths.

The pope also will lay the cornerstone of the University of Madaba, which is being built by the Latin patriarchate. Blessing cornerstones is a common activity in papal visits, but establishing a Catholic-run university in a predominantly Muslim country makes this one special.



Pope Benedict XVI



CNS file photo/Arturo Mari, L'Osservatore Romano

Pope John Paul II touches the Western Wall in Jerusalem on the final day of his Holy Land pilgrimage in this March 26, 2000, file photo. Israel clarified that it will allow Pope Benedict XVI to visit the Western Wall, Judaism's holiest site, with his pastoral cross visible. The pope will visit the Holy Land on May 8-15.



Franciscan Father Garret Edmunds leads an international tour group around the Dome of the Rock at the Temple Mount complex in the Old City of Jerusalem on April 6. Pope Benedict XVI will visit the Dome of the Rock during his May 8-15 visit to the Holy Land. The Islamic shrine holds significance to Muslims, Jews and Christians.

Much of the pope's itinerary follows in the footsteps of Pope John Paul II's Holy Land pilgrimage in 2000.

Pope Benedict, for example, will pray at Mount Nebo in western Jordan, where Moses glimpsed the Promised Land before dying. And, like his predecessor, he will visit the Jordan River where Jesus was baptized—the setting of the opening chapter of Pope Benedict's book, *Jesus of Nazareth*.

The pope travels to Jerusalem on May 11, and later that day visits the Yad Vashem Holocaust memorial, in what Vatican aides view as a central event of the trip. When Pope John Paul spoke at the memorial in 2000, Israelis reacted with warm appreciation. Many considered it a turning point in his pilgrimage.

Pope Benedict has spoken eloquently about the Holocaust, and as a German he recalled growing up as a witness to the brutality of the regime that targeted Jews for extermination. Vatican sources said, however, that the pope will not be going to Yad Vashem to apologize as a German, but to invoke a wider lesson on the dangers of racism and anti-Semitism.

On May 12, his first full day in Jerusalem, the pope visits sites sacred to Islam, Judaism and Christianity. He begins at the Dome of the Rock, one of Islam's holiest shrines, and proceeds to the Western Wall, sacred to Jews. The two sites lie adjacent to each other and in the past have been the scene of bitter skirmishes between Palestinians and Israelis. The same day, the pope will meet separately with the city's two chief rabbis and the grand mufti.

The pope will make a daylong visit on May 13 to the West Bank city of Bethlehem, the birthplace of Jesus and today a key administrative city of the Palestinian Authority, whose officials will welcome the pontiff at the presidential palace. The main religious event of the day is a Mass in Manger Square.

That afternoon, the pope will visit the Aida Refugee Camp, where some 5,000 Palestinians live. The visit is already politically charged. Latin Patriarch Fouad Twal of Jerusalem said recently that the camp, which has a giant key installed atop one of the camp's gates, symbolizes the "right to return," the principle that Palestinian refugees have a right to return to the homes in Israel that they have been forced to leave at various times since 1946, when the war for Israeli statehood began.

In addition, Israel has objected that the platform being built to host the Aida event is too close to the Israeli separation wall, which Israel has designed as a 400-mile-long security barrier through the West Bank and which Palestinians see as an instrument of repression.

The pope will celebrate Mass on May 14 in Nazareth, the city where Jesus grew up, and later visit the Grotto of the Annunciation and hold a prayer service with Catholic leaders of Galilee. Like his Mass earlier in the week in the Josafat Valley near the Garden of Gethsemane, these liturgies are central to the pope's pilgrimage, offering moral support to the dwindling Christian population in the land where the Church was born. †

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continued from page 3

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What advice would you give to the Class of 2009? †

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