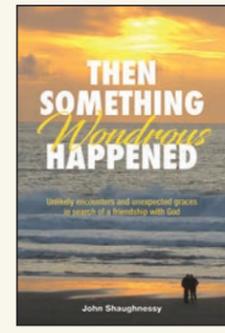




The

Criterion

Serving the Church in Central and Southern Indiana Since 1960



Something Wondrous

Gift of friendship, human and divine, focus of new book by John Shaughnessy, page 15.

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‘Something I never had before’



Cassandra Guerra, far right in the front pew, listens intently during the Easter Vigil Mass on April 20 at St. Thomas the Apostle Church in Fortville. During the Mass, she was baptized, confirmed and received her First Communion. (Submitted photo by Gary Potts)

New Catholics from Bright, Fortville, Greencastle and Indianapolis share their journey to the Catholic faith

By Natalie Hoefler

As the Church marks the resurrection of Christ at Easter, it also welcomes new members who enter into their own new life as Catholics.

The Archdiocese of Indianapolis welcomed 849 souls into the full communion of the Church on Easter weekend through the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) in parishes throughout central and southern Indiana.

Each new member brings a rich story of their call to Catholicism. Each bears the touch of God calling them closer to him in union with the one, holy, Catholic and apostolic Church founded by Christ.

Four of these special stories begin here:

‘I finally learned the truth’

If life is a series of peaks and valleys, Cassandra Guerra found herself in the lowest of valleys two years ago. So low,

in fact, that she attempted to take her own life.

Guerra, 20, survived. She stayed a week in a stress center hospital—and there met someone who helped her journey not just out of the valley, but toward the highest peak of faith.

“I met a nurse there named Joe,” she recalls. “He was Catholic. And he asked me what was really bothering me. I was

obsessed I was going to hell, not heaven.” She says her fear was grounded in messages she gleaned from her faith experience.

“In the Baptist church, we got a lot of those sermons that if you don’t do this, this and this, you’re probably going to hell,” Guerra says. “That used to terrify me.”

Joe listened. Then, she says, “He

See CATHOLIC, page 7

See a list of all our new Catholics, pages 8-10.

Bishops meet to vote on policies regarding sexual abuse crisis

WASHINGTON (CNS)—As the U.S. bishops gathered in Baltimore starting on June 11, the centerpiece of their agenda focused on items dealing with the investigation of abuse claims against bishops themselves, or accusations they have been negligent in handling or covering up cases of wayward priests and other Church workers.

As *The Criterion* went to press this week, the bishops had just begun to consider the items on their agenda for their spring general assembly. Full coverage of the results of their meeting will be in our issue next week.

These proposals were before the bishops at the fall general assembly last November, but the Vatican requested they delay action on them until after the Vatican held a February meeting for presidents of bishops’ conferences worldwide to discuss the abuse crisis.

The items in question are contained in Pope Francis’ *motu proprio*, released on May 9 that went into effect as of June 1. The document, titled “*Vos estis lux mundi*” (“You are the light of the world”), is a new universal law from the pope to safeguard anyone from abuse and hold Church leaders accountable. The law governs complaints against clergy or Church leaders regarding the sexual abuse of minors or vulnerable adults. The U.S. bishops will vote on directives for implementing this Church law.

See BISHOPS, page 2



Bishop W. Shawn McKnight of Jefferson City, Mo., pictured here on Feb. 1 said he’s “hopeful we will have some progress made in moving the football” on the Church’s response to the abuse crisis by approving several proposals to hold the bishops accountable.

(CNS photo/Ralph Alswang, courtesy Leadership Roundtable)

BISHOPS

continued from page 1

The full texts of the pope's *motu proprio* and the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' (USCCB) "Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People," as well as the new reforms to be discussed in Baltimore, are available on a new website the USCCB launched on June 7: www.usccbprevention.org.

The pope's new juridical instrument calls for a "public, stable and easily accessible" reporting system for allegations; clear standards for the pastoral support of victims and their families; timeliness and thoroughness



Bishop Edward J. Weisenburger

of investigations; whistleblower protection for those making allegations; the use of "proven experts from among the laity"; and the oversight of the metropolitan archbishop for such investigations in his ecclesiastical province. The

Church in the U.S. has 32 metropolitans, including Archbishop Charles C. Thompson.

An ecclesiastical province is made up of an archdiocese and other dioceses in the region around it. The Province of Indianapolis, for example, is made up of the Archdiocese of Indianapolis and the dioceses of Evansville, Fort Wayne-South Bend, Gary and Lafayette. Bishops in a province, including an archbishop, have authority only in their own dioceses.

"For me the critical element in the effort to respond to the crisis is the necessity of lay involvement," Bishop W. Shawn McKnight of Jefferson City, Missouri, told CNS. "I am grateful the document allows for the metropolitan to use lay experts."

Just as dioceses have a lay board to assess allegations against priests and other Church workers, the same lay-led review is needed for bishops for two reasons, Bishop McKnight said. "First, for transparency to build credibility in the process so people know it is not just miters and collars but mothers and fathers [looking at these allegations] as well."

"Second, as a bishop myself, if there was ever a false allegation made against me, I would want an independent lay assessment of the investigation to build credibility [in the finding] that the claim is not credible."

Two other prelates interviewed by CNS ahead of the bishops' spring assembly, Bishop Edward J. Weisenburger of Tucson, Ariz., and Archbishop Alexander K. Sample of Portland, Ore., also strongly emphasized the need for lay involvement in reviewing claims against bishops.

"I cannot imagine there not being a majority of lay involvement," Bishop Weisenburger said. "The current model of diocesan review boards owes a substantial part of their success to the fact that they are lay-led and lay-driven. That

fact is not lost on any bishop."

In the Tucson Diocese, "we have had tremendous success in working with our Diocesan Review Board," he noted.

"I feel certain that my brother bishops will strive to create regional lists of experts that are composed in majority of lay experts in the fields of law, law enforcement, psychology, education, canon law and social work," Bishop Weisenburger added.

Said Archbishop Sample: "Clearly the cry for more lay involvement is not just among laity but priests and bishops [too] ... For my part, I will do everything I can—and I am just one bishop among many—to ensure that there will be an adequate role for the laity to be involved in these investigations within these Church processes. The *motu proprio* certainly opens the door [to this]."

"Quite honestly I hope this is one of the areas we can strengthen. ... I hope we will be able to enshrine within our own [structures] an active and significant role for the laity," he said.

Going into the assembly, "my hopes and expectations are optimistic," the archbishop added. "I wouldn't say super-high, but I'm very optimistic the bishops will be able to complete what we tried to begin at our November meeting in light of the new *motu proprio*, [which is] further guidance on what we should be doing to take responsibility for this crisis in the Church and respond to it."



Archbishop Alexander K. Sample

"I hope that there will be some good modifications and amendments to the documents" he said, to strengthen them especially with regard to "transparency and accountability, the two words that resonate most with me right now going into this meeting."

The bishops must have effective protocols that enable them to hold each accountable, which is "really what Christ asks of us as shepherds of the Church," Archbishop Sample said. "We also need accountability before the people of God."

As for the proposal for metropolitan oversight, the archbishop said that as a metropolitan himself, he takes this charge "extremely seriously."

"I think the Holy Father's intention in the *motu proprio* he issued is that the Church use her own structures which are already in place to really address these issues in a significant way, and the role of the metropolitan archbishops is a grave responsibility," he said.

Since the November meeting, when the metropolitan "option" surfaced, "I've given it a lot of reflection, and I'm overwhelmed a little bit to receive this responsibility ... and I pledge that I will do everything I can do to ensure there is full accountability in my realm of influence," Archbishop Sample said.

"To the eyes of some it looks like the bishops are investigating themselves



Public Schedule of Archbishop Charles C. Thompson

June 15 – 25, 2019

June 15 – 10 a.m.

Mass and Certification Ceremony for Spiritual Direction and Leadership programs at St. Andrew the Apostle Parish, Indianapolis

June 15 – 6:30 p.m.

Mass at Holy Trinity Church, Edinburgh

June 17-18

Priesthood Days at Fourwinds Resort and Marina, Bloomington

June 19 – 10 a.m.

Department heads meeting at Archbishop Edward T. O'Meara Catholic Center, Indianapolis

June 19 – 7 p.m.

Confirmation at Our Lady of the Most Holy Rosary Church, Indianapolis

June 20 – 10 a.m.

Leadership team meeting at Archbishop Edward T. O'Meara Catholic Center

June 20 – 4:30 p.m.

Mass for Missionary Disciples Institute at Marian University, Indianapolis

June 22 – 5 p.m.

Mass at St. John the Evangelist Church, Enochsburg

June 23 – 10 a.m.

Mass at St. Ambrose Church, Seymour

June 23 – 3 p.m.

Dedication of The Chapel of Divine Mercy at St. Joseph Church, Shelbyville

June 25 – 11 a.m. (CST)

Installation of Bishop Donald J. Hying at Saint Maria Goretti Church, Madison, Wis.

June 25 – 9 p.m.

Mass for Alliance for Catholic Education at University of Notre Dame, Notre Dame, Ind.

(Schedule subject to change.)

again and that this is what has gotten us into this mess in the first place," he remarked.

However, it is important for people "to know and understand" that "using the Church's own structures is what the Holy Father intends," he explained, and the Church's way of dealing with allegations—"within the Church law and structures"—is carried out "without any prejudice" to civil authorities doing their own investigation.

"Both of these tracks have to run parallel, because in the end the Church still has to deal with the status" of its own members, he said. "We need our own structure to deal with them" but this does not "hamper" what civil authorities must do on these abuse cases.

Bishop Weisenburger called the metropolitan option "an excellent model."

"On the one hand it's true to our history, who we are as a hierarchic Church," he said. "On the other hand, it's a somewhat new adaptation which I think will allow general principles of investigation to be applied in a healthy local manner. The time limits related to the various steps are especially helpful as it prevents a critical investigation from being delayed."

When he looks at his region, whose metropolitan is the archbishop of Santa Fe, N.M., he said: "I trust that we have a wealth of experts who could come together and undertake an investigation in a timely and professional manner. I think something good for the Church is unfolding before us."

Last fall, when the Vatican asked the bishops to postpone voting on these critical abuse protocols, many felt the Church was just stalling on the need to address issues of the hierarchy's accountability, but Bishop Weisenburger feels "the November delay proved beneficial."

"There was tremendous pressure for the bishops to create an immediate response to the situation—I felt that pressure myself—but in retrospect I'm not sure we make the best decisions when we move that fast," he told CNS. "I think the Vatican summit helped clarify some of the critical issues. I now think it's time for the U.S. bishops to come to a consensus on a procedure that can be undertaken easily when a report needs to be made about an allegation against a bishop."

Bishop McKnight told CNS the laity in his diocese have given him "a consistent message" about the abuse scandal in listening sessions he has held, both this spring in preparation for his *ad limina* report to Rome and last fall ahead of the bishops' November meeting: That message is to "get it all out now," rather than this piecemeal approach to revelations about abuse, past or present.

One of his big questions about the McCarrick scandal, he said, is why haven't members of the hierarchy "who were knowledgeable and complicit in his promotion" just come forward on their own and take responsibility?

"This does not require an investigation or special adjustment of canon law," Bishop McKnight said. "I understand and feel the frustration of the laity." †

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Giving offers opportunity 'to say thanks' and 'do thanks'

By Leslie Lynch

Special to *The Criterion*

FLOYD COUNTY—"How can we not give back?"

Susan Isaacs' six-word question captured the tone and spirit of the Circle of Giving celebration at southern Indiana's St. Mary-of-the-Knobs Parish on May 16. The gathering of nearly 90 people from Dearborn County to St. Meinrad celebrated the generosity of those who gave \$1,500 or more to the United Catholic Appeal or who contributed to the future of the Church in central and southern Indiana through the Catholic Community Foundation.

"It [giving] doesn't seem optional," said Isaacs, a member of St. Mary Parish in Lanesville. Her husband Dean added, "We've been given an opportunity to use the gifts God has given us, and also an opportunity to give back. We are very thankful that we can."



Archbishop Charles C. Thompson

In his remarks to those who attended a Mass and dinner afterward, Archbishop Charles C. Thompson reminded those present that our faith calls us to be good stewards of our resources.

"We are called not only to say thanks to God," he said, "but to do thanks as well. The mercy of God is not some beautiful idea, but rather a concrete action. There is no mercy without being concrete. Mercy is getting involved where there is something wrong, where there is illness, where there is hunger, wherever there is exploitation."

He added, "The mission drives the resources, not the other way around."

Jolinda Moore, executive director of the archdiocesan Office of Stewardship and Development, also thanked those in attendance.

"One hundred percent of gifts to United Catholic Appeal directly supports ministries, services and programs in

the archdiocese that benefit everyone in our Church and in our surrounding communities," she stated. She noted that the annual United Catholic Appeal has resulted so far in pledges of nearly \$5.5 million.

Miter Society members contribute \$1,500 or more to the United Catholic Appeal, which meets the present needs of the Church in central and southern Indiana. Legacy Society members focus on the future with planned gifts contributed through the archdiocesan Catholic Community Foundation—providing for the Church in their wills, for example, or by starting an endowment.

Moore referenced a basket of prayer intentions returned with pledge cards.

"Roughly 1,000 prayer intentions came in from across the archdiocese for Archbishop Thompson to offer up in personal prayer," she said. "As we read through each of these, we started to notice that many of the prayer requests are actually answered thanks to [archdiocesan ministries supported by] generous donors. You are supporting ministries and programs that in turn answer prayers for others. Isn't that beautiful?"

Generosity transcended generations through some families in attendance. Wilbur Richmer and his son, David, both members of St. Mary Parish in Lanesville, share a habit of giving.

"I'm glad to be able to help out a little bit," said Wilbur. "Priests' formation and retirement are important to me, but I support the United Catholic Appeal because of the good it does, whatever the needs are."

"Education and Catholic schools are important to me," said David. "Trying to bring people back to the Church, bring the young people in. I give because I was taught to give back."

David Gasper of St. Ann Parish in Jennings County agreed.

"Giving to the United Catholic Appeal reaches outside what we can do ourselves and helps those in need," he said. "It gives us more than one way to help."

One such way he noted is through the appeal's support of seminarians. Seminarians of the archdiocese receive

substantial financial support in order to complete their formation at Bishop Simon Bruté College Seminary in Indianapolis and at Saint Meinrad Seminary and School of Theology in St. Meinrad.

Gasper said his family knows several archdiocesan seminarians, "some who I went to high school with, and others through [parish pastor] Father [Jerry] Byrd. He's always got seminarians at our parish, and knowing them touches me."

The United Catholic Appeal also supports the archdiocese's deacon formation program. Deacon Martin Ignacio of St. Mary Parish in New Albany expressed his genuine gratitude "to all the people who provided funds for my diaconate formation. I couldn't have done it without your help."

Sometimes that monetary help can be difficult to give. Lori Hamilton of Our Lady of Perpetual Help in New Albany noted that one year, during a time of financial difficulty, her husband Greg "insisted that we continue giving to the Church ..., and that taught me to trust God."

"Every year I grow more in my desire to give back. We are called to generosity. There is so much need in the world."

"We can't give directly to all the needs of the archdiocese, so we give to United Catholic Appeal," added Greg, noting a special place in the couple's hearts for the appeal's support of retired priests and St. Elizabeth Catholic Charities in New Albany, which helps vulnerable young women, children and families.

"We give because we receive," he continued. "We acknowledge all the great gifts God has given us. We are blessed, and blessed even more in returning them to God."

In his homily during the Mass, Archbishop Thompson spoke about creating a culture of giving through developing a culture of life, of vocations and stewardship—all Christ-centered.



Jess, left, and David Gasper of St. Ann Parish in Jennings County said supporting the annual United Catholic Appeal is important to them. They were among the 90 people who attended the Circle of Giving Mass and dinner on May 16 at St. Mary-of-the-Knobs Parish in Floyd County.

(Photo by Leslie Lynch)

"By cultivating that culture, we bring about the kingdom of God in southern Indiana."

(Leslie Lynch is a freelance writer and member of St. Mary Parish in Lanesville. For more information about supporting the United Catholic Appeal or the Catholic Community Foundation, contact Jolinda Moore at 317-236-1462, 800-382-9836, ext. 1462, or e-mail jmoore@archindy.org. Online resources for the United Catholic Appeal can be found at www.archindy.org/uca; Catholic Community Foundation resources are available at www.archindy.org/ccf.) †



'You are supporting ministries and programs that in turn answer prayers for others. Isn't that beautiful?'

—Jolinda Moore, executive director of the archdiocesan Office of Stewardship and Development



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Editorial



Pope Francis greets a baby as he arrives for his general audience in St. Peter's Square at the Vatican on Feb. 27. The pontiff recently reiterated the Church's promotion of the dignity of unborn life and its opposition of abortion, noting that "abortion is never the answer" and that "human life is sacred and inviolable ..."

(CNS photo/Yaraara Nardi, Reuters)

Unborn children, the most vulnerable members of society

Abortion has once again become "front-page news" with states such as Alabama, Missouri and Georgia enacting laws that restrict access to abortion, and other states such as New York, California and Illinois seeking to remove virtually any limitations on abortion.

Earlier this year, the Indiana General Assembly passed a bill, which Gov. Eric Holcomb signed into law, that bans dismemberment abortion in the state, although it did not make national headlines like the newly passed laws in other states.

Our Church considers abortion to be the most serious of all the challenges to life we face today, including end-of-life issues, capital punishment, HIV/AIDS, war, poverty, embryonic stem-cell research, immigration issues, homelessness and more. This is because unborn children are the most vulnerable members of society and the most in need of our protection. They are innocent victims who must rely completely on the care and protection of others.

All crimes against the dignity of human life are horrible and must be vigorously opposed. But abortion stands out as an unspeakable evil that we must work to eradicate with all the resources at our disposal. As long as abortion remains legally and socially acceptable, our Church must speak out. We must pray and teach. We must protest and work to change our laws. We must help women in crisis pregnancies, and we must help "unwanted" children find good homes and loving parents.

In his final address as president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops in 2010, Cardinal Francis E. George, then archbishop of Chicago, made the following statement: "Consistently, and ever more insistently since the sin and crime of abortion was legalized in the United States, our voice has been that of bishops of the Catholic Church ever since the first Christians condemned the abortion practices of ancient Romans. The act is immoral; and the laws that have permitted now 50 million children of our country to be killed in their mothers' wombs are also immoral and unjust; the laws are destroying our society." These are strong words that must be spoken—over and over again—until abortion becomes a thing of the past here in our archdiocese, in our country and throughout the world.

Pope Francis recently reminded us that a fetus is not just "biological material." An unborn child is a new living being, dynamic and marvelously ordered, a new individual of the human

species. "No human being can ever be incompatible with life," the Holy Father said recently. Every child is "a gift that changes the history of a family ... and this child needs to be welcomed, loved and cared for."

"Abortion is never the answer," the pope says. "Human life is sacred and inviolable and the use of prenatal diagnosis for selective purposes must be strongly discouraged, because it is the expression of an inhuman eugenic mentality, which deprives families of the possibility of welcoming, embracing and loving their weakest children."

The pope also reminds us that threats against the dignity of human life do not end with birth. Violence, especially toward children, can be found everywhere in our society. We must work to change our hearts, our culture, our laws and our social practices. We must end abortion and, with it, all forms of violence and abuse against those members of our society who are vulnerable and in need of our protection and care.

As long as abortion is legal and socially acceptable, we Christians (and all who believe in the dignity of human life) must work to overturn laws that are anti-life. We must reach out to women who may be considering abortion and help them find better, life-giving ways to deal with crisis pregnancies.

We believe that every human life is sacred. We proclaim the human person to be the foundation of human society. Nothing is more important to our Christian way of life than the defense of innocent and vulnerable unborn children. Nothing is more important to our spiritual lives than our prayers for life. Nothing is more important to our practice of the Catholic faith than our work to protect and defend life in Jesus' name.

As Cardinal George said, "If the poor are allowed to be born, then the voice of Christ continues to speak to the homeless and the jobless, the hungry and the naked, the uneducated, the migrant, the imprisoned, the sick and the dying. Our ministry is consistent because the concerns of Jesus Christ are consistent. He is at the side of the poor." To oppose abortion is to oppose all forms of violence against the dignity of human life. As the cardinal reminded us, "Ours is a consistent ethic of Christ's concerns for all his people, especially the poor."

Let's pray for the most vulnerable members of our society. Let's work to defend our unborn children who are most in need of our protection and care.

—Daniel Conway

Making Sense of Bioethics/Fr. Tad Pacholczyk

Modern-day corpse raiders

Most people recognize the importance of obtaining consent before retrieving organs from the bodies of deceased persons. They also understand the necessity



of showing respect for those bodily remains following death.

Recent news stories have chronicled the troubling story of a funeral home in Colorado clandestinely taking body parts out of corpses and selling them to medical supply companies.

One family was horrified to learn that their mother's head, arms, pelvis and parts of her legs had been harvested without their knowledge or consent. They and others are now suing the company. The funeral home had been selling body parts to places as far away as Saudi Arabia, and returning containers of ashes to the families that did not contain any actual trace of their loved ones.

The public outcry following these revelations, and the subsequent FBI investigation and legal prosecution of the funeral home directors, reminds us how easy it is to transgress important moral boundaries when we fail to respect the remains of the deceased.

Indeed, legal measures can remind us of our duties toward the dead, whether through laws that criminalize grave robbing, for example, or those forbidding the use of executed persons' bodies for research.

A few years ago, Chinese officials were timing the capital punishment of their prisoners in order to harvest their organs as soon as well-paying foreigners had arrived in Chinese hospitals to receive those transplanted body parts. International pressure quickly mounted to ban the practice.

While it is clear that we shouldn't kill others for the purpose of obtaining their organs or body parts, it should be equally clear that when an intentional act of killing has already taken place and a cadaver is available, valid informed consent is still required prior to harvesting bodily tissues.

All ethically sound research involving human subjects is predicated upon informed consent, which needs to be given either by the donors themselves before subjects die, or by their duly appointed proxy, acting on behalf of, and in the best interest of, the deceased individual.

When it comes to extracting cells or organs from the corpse of a deceased child after an abortion, however, these ethical requirements for consent cannot legitimately be satisfied.

Some have been tempted to argue that aborted children "would have consented" to organ donation if they had been given the chance, since those organs are no longer needed by them after death. But if the justification for harvesting fetal organs

is alleged to be the implied consent of the child, this has to be characterized as a false, even violent, presumption.

The activity of harvesting tissues under these circumstances would only exacerbate the original evil act that terminated the child's life. Taking cells or tissues without consent would be a callous extension of the original desecration of his or her bodily life. Additionally, it is important to recognize that even if the mother of an intentionally aborted child were to sign the dotted line saying she granted her permission for the baby's cells and organs to be donated, that consent would necessarily be null and void. Because she arranged for the taking of the child's life, she already categorically demonstrated that she does not have the child's best interests in mind. From the ethical vantage point, she disqualifies herself from being able to provide valid consent on behalf of her now-deceased child by the very decision to have the abortion in the first place.

While the action of taking bodily tissues without consent would be a lesser evil than the act of killing, this does not lead to the conclusion that we can therefore permit or encourage fetal corpse raiding at abortion centers simply because we have some good use in mind, like pushing forward the frontiers of biological knowledge, or producing a new vaccine or even developing an important therapy for a serious disease.

Wherever cells from directly aborted fetuses are used in research or product development, alternative and ethically non-controversial cell sources should instead be pursued, using, for example, cells obtained from routine surgeries like the removal of an appendix, or foreskin removal during newborn circumcision, or fetal remains following a spontaneous miscarriage, after valid informed consent is able to be properly obtained from the parents. Consent given after the natural loss of a pregnancy would be analogous to granting permission for an organ donation from a couple's naturally deceased newborn.

Even though significant scientific breakthroughs may have occurred in the past using illicitly gained cells and tissues from direct abortions, this cannot ethically sanitize this approach to tissue procurement, nor justify the continuation of the practice in the future.

In fact, outlawing the use of the remains of abortion victims by scientists and researchers would be a small but highly important first step toward showing proper societal respect for the many unborn children who unjustly perish in abortion clinics today.

(Father Tadeusz Pacholczyk, Ph.D. earned his doctorate in neuroscience at Yale University and did post-doctoral work at Harvard University. He is a priest of the Diocese of Fall River, Mass., and serves as director of education at The National Catholic Bioethics Center in Philadelphia. See www.ncbcenter.org.) †

Be Our Guest/Tim Winn

Teen's tragic death a reminder that some family histories are similar

Recently, I read the story of Juan de Leon Gutierrez, a 16-year old boy from Guatemala who died after making the journey to the United States from his home country.

Juan decided to come to the U.S. and try to work to support his family back home which has been living on one meal a day due to a devastating drought that has kept farming to a detrimental minimal.

Here is a boy who had enough watching his family suffer, who decided to do something about it, but who ultimately suffered the loss of both his childhood and his life.

The story is a sad tale that, unfortunately, is more common than we would like to think in our modern world. But it also hits closer to home for me and is a familiar story.

I come from a big family, as many of us do a generation or two ago, and some of us in the family have been interested in our genealogy. But also like many other families who have deep roots in the rural areas of this country, it can be difficult to discover family lineage when fathers and mothers died young back then, severing our ability to have questions about the past answered.

One day my family was talking about our family history, and we asked my grandpa where his family came from. His

See GUEST, page 10



Christ the Cornerstone

Mystery of Trinity reveals breadth, depth of God's love

“When the Lord established the heavens I was there, when he marked out the vault over the face of the deep; when he made firm the skies above, when he fixed fast the foundations of the Earth; when he set for the sea its limit, so that the waters should not transgress his command; then was I beside him as his craftsman, and I was his delight day by day, playing before him all the while, playing on the surface of his Earth; and I found delight in the human race” (Prv 8:27-31).

This Sunday, we celebrate the Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity. This is a feast that calls our attention to the most profound mystery of our faith—the three individual persons who make up the one God we are called to know, love and serve.

Throughout Church history, many commentators, and homilists, have tried to “explain” the mystery of the Blessed Trinity without success. As St. Augustine famously said, trying to understand the three persons in one God is like trying to drain the ocean one small bucket at a time. It simply cannot be done.

And yet, we baptized Christians are

called to profess our faith in God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit—and to proclaim this great mystery with the confidence that comes from faith, is sustained by love, and blossoms in hope for the future. We don't have to “explain” God, but we do have to invite others to encounter him in prayer, in the sacraments and in communion with our brothers and sisters in the one family of God.

The fullness of who God is was not revealed until the Lord ascended into heaven to sit at the right hand of the Father, and the Holy Spirit was given to the Apostles—and us—at Pentecost. There are, of course, many hints throughout the Scriptures that God does not act alone even when he is the only actor in the scene.

“When the Lord established the heavens, I was there,” the Book of Proverbs tells us in Sunday's first reading (Prv 8:27). “When he fixed fast the foundations of the Earth; when he set for the sea its limit, so that the waters should not transgress his command; then was I beside him as his craftsman” (Prv 8:29-30).

Understandably, we ask: Who was with God before the universe was

created? Who was beside him as a craftsman? And who was it who claims “I was his delight day by day, playing before him all the while, playing on the surface of his Earth; and I found delight in the human race”? (Prv 8:30-31)

In the Gospel reading for Trinity Sunday (Jn 16:12–15), Jesus says to his disciples—and to us—“I have much more to tell you, but you cannot bear it now” (Jn 16:12). He understands the limits of our human minds, but he assures that once we have received the gift of the Holy Spirit, our minds and hearts will be opened and we will understand by faith what reason alone cannot comprehend.

As women and men of faith, we embrace the wondrous mystery that God is so full of love and goodness that he cannot be contained by our human categories of individuality and separateness. As St. John's Gospel says, even the Holy Spirit does not speak or act alone. God always acts as a communion of persons, a divine unity-in-diversity that is totally beyond our comprehension even as it demands our complete acceptance in faith.

We celebrate the Blessed Trinity not because we understand the mystery, but because we have encountered it in the merciful love of God the Father, in the saving grace of Jesus the Son and in the inspiration we have received through the power of the Holy Spirit.

Belief in the Triune God is not an academic exercise. It is not an abstract teaching or a lifeless dogma or creed. The mystery of the Holy Trinity reveals the depth and breadth of God's love. It's simple, really. The Trinity is both who God is and how God shares his divine life with others. Yes, it's a mystery, but it's also a great gift to us and to all creation.

God is love and love must be shared. The way God shares his love is by giving himself to us, and to all of creation, totally and without reservation in the three persons who are perfectly united with one another in the Holy Trinity which is God.

May our observance of this great feast bring each of us closer to God. May we encounter the Father, Son and Holy Spirit as we pray, celebrate the sacraments and serve one another in love. †



Cristo, la piedra angular

El misterio de la Santísima Trinidad revela la amplitud y la profundidad del amor de Dios

“Cuando Dios cimentó la bóveda celeste y trazó el horizonte sobre las aguas, allí estaba yo presente. Cuando estableció las nubes en los cielos y reforzó las fuentes del mar profundo; cuando señaló los límites del mar, para que las aguas obedecieran su mandato; cuando plantó los fundamentos de la tierra, allí estaba yo, afirmando su obra. Día tras día me llenaba yo de alegría, siempre disfrutaba de estar en su presencia; me regocijaba en el mundo que él creó; ¡en el género humano me deleitaba!” (Pr 8, 27-31).

Este domingo celebramos la solemnidad de la Santísima Trinidad que destaca el misterio supremo de nuestra fe: las tres personas que conforman el Dios que conocemos, amamos y servimos.

A lo largo de la historia de la Iglesia muchos comentaristas y predicadores han intentado “explicar” el misterio de la Santísima Trinidad, sin mucho éxito. Tal como lo expresó ingeniosamente san Agustín, intentar comprender las tres personas en un solo Dios es como tratar de drenar el océano a baldazos. Es sencillamente imposible.

Y sin embargo, los cristianos bautizados estamos llamados a profesar nuestra fe en Dios como Padre, Hijo

y Espíritu Santo, y a proclamar este enorme misterio con la confianza que proviene de la fe, se apoya en el amor y florece en la esperanza del futuro. No tenemos que “explicar” a Dios sino invitar a otros a encontrarlo en la oración, en los sacramentos y en la comunión con nuestros hermanos y en la familia de Dios.

La plenitud de la persona de Dios no fue revelada hasta que el Señor ascendió al cielo para sentarse a la derecha del Padre y los apóstoles recibieron al Espíritu Santo (al igual que nosotros) en Pentecostés. Por supuesto, en las Escrituras hay muchas pistas de que Dios no obra por su cuenta, aunque sea el único actor en una escena en particular.

“Cuando Dios cimentó la bóveda celeste y trazó el horizonte sobre las aguas, allí estaba yo presente” (Pr 8, 27) nos dice el libro de Proverbios en la primera lectura de este domingo. “Cuando estableció las nubes en los cielos y reforzó las fuentes del mar profundo; cuando señaló los límites del mar, para que las aguas obedecieran su mandato; cuando plantó los fundamentos de la tierra, allí estaba yo, afirmando su obra” (Pr 8, 28-30).

Con toda razón nos preguntamos: ¿Quién estaba con Dios antes de la

creación del universo? ¿Quién estaba a su lado como artesano? ¿Y quién era aquél que afirmaba: “allí estaba yo, afirmando su obra. Día tras día me llenaba yo de alegría, siempre disfrutaba de estar en su presencia; me regocijaba en el mundo que él creó; ¡en el género humano me deleitaba!”? (Pr 8, 30-31).

En la lectura del Evangelio del domingo de la Santísima Trinidad (Jn 16, 12–15), Jesús les dice a los discípulos (y a nosotros) “muchas cosas me quedan aún por decirles, que por ahora no podrían soportar” (Jn 16, 12). Él comprende los límites de nuestras mentes humanas, pero se asegura de que en cuanto recibamos el don del Espíritu Santo, nuestras mentes y corazones se abran y comprendamos por virtud de la fe aquello que la razón por sí sola no puede entender.

Como hombres y mujeres de fe, aceptamos el maravilloso misterio de que Dios es puro amor y bondad, por lo que no puede limitarse a nuestras categorías humanas de individualidad y separación. Tal como lo dice el Evangelio según san Juan, ni siquiera el Espíritu Santo habla o actúa por sí solo. Dios siempre actúa como una comunión de personas, una divina unidad diversa que está totalmente fuera de nuestra

comprensión aunque requiere nuestra entera aceptación en la fe.

Celebramos a la Santísima Trinidad, no porque entendemos el misterio, sino porque lo hemos vivido en el amor misericordioso del Dios Padre, en la gracia salvadora de Jesús el Hijo, y en la inspiración que hemos recibido a través del poder del Espíritu Santo.

Crear en el Dios trino no es un ejercicio académico, ni una enseñanza abstracta, ni un dogma o un credo estático. El misterio de la Santísima Trinidad revela la amplitud y la profundidad del amor de Dios. En verdad es muy sencillo. La Trinidad es quien Dios es y como comparte su vida divina con los demás. Sí, es un misterio, pero también es un enorme regalo para nosotros y toda la creación.

Dios es amor y el amor se debe compartir. Dios comparte su amor entregándose a nosotros y a toda la creación, totalmente y sin reservas en las tres personas que están perfectamente unidas entre sí en la Santísima Trinidad que es Dios.

Que la conmemoración de esta gran festividad nos acerque más a Dios y que encontremos al Padre, al Hijo y al Espíritu Santo mientras rezamos, celebramos los sacramentos y servimos al prójimo con amor. †

Events Calendar

For a list of events for the next four weeks as reported to The Criterion, log on to www.archindy.org/events.

June 17
St. Mark the Evangelist School, Door #1, 541 E. Edgewood Ave., Indianapolis.
Caregiver Support Group, sponsored by Catholic Charities Indianapolis, 5:50-7 p.m. Information: Monica Woodsworth, 317-261-3378, mwoodsworth@archindy.org.

June 17-20
Mount St. Francis Center for Spirituality, Loftus House, 101 St. Anthony Dr., Mount St. Francis. **Art and Nature Camp**, for ages 11-16, 9 a.m.-noon, \$100 per child (\$50 deposit due upon enrollment; balance due on first day of camp). Information and registration: 812-923-8817, www.mountsaintfrancis.org/retreat-offerings.

June 18
Mount St. Francis Center for Spirituality, 101 St. Anthony Dr., Mount St. Francis. **“Abide” Adoration Service**, sponsored by Catalyst Catholic, 7-8 p.m., every third Tues. of the month, featuring guest speaker, praise band, silence and confessions, child care available. Information and child care reservations: Chris Rogers, chris@nadyouth.org, 812-923-8355.

June 19
Mission 27 Resale, 132 Leota St., Indianapolis. **Boutique Night**, 6-8 p.m., light appetizers and beverages, ministry supports Indianapolis St. Vincent de Paul Society Food Pantry and Changing Lives Forever program. Reservations asked by June 17: mark.white@svdpindy.org. Information: 317-687-8260.

June 20
St. Joseph Church, 1401 S. Mickley Ave., Indianapolis. **Third Thursday Adoration**, interceding for women experiencing crisis pregnancy, 11 a.m.-7 p.m., with Mass at 5:45 p.m.

Archbishop Edward T. O’Meara Catholic Center, Assembly Hall, 1400 N. Meridian St., Indianapolis. **World Refugee Day Breakfast**, food, coffees and teas from around the world, cultural villages, ethnic music and entertainment, refugee artwork, children’s activities, 7:30-10:30 a.m., \$15 suggested donation, walk-ins welcome. Reservations and information: www.helpcreatehope.org, 317-236-1592.

June 21
St. Thomas the Apostle Parish, 523 S. Merrill St., Fortville. **Third Friday Book Club**, parishioner led discussion of the book *Being Mortal: Medicine and What Happens in the End* by Atul Gawande, 7-9 p.m. Information: 317-485-5102, secretary@stthomasfortville.com.

Knights of Columbus Hall, 2100 E. 71st St., Indianapolis. **Catholic Business Exchange**, Indiana State Police Superintendent Doug Carter presenting on “Life as a Public Servant through Faith,” Mass 7 a.m., buffet breakfast and program following, \$15 members, \$21 non-members. Register by noon on June 20. Information and registration: www.catholicbusinessexchange.org.

St. Charles Borromeo Parish, 2222 E. 3rd St., Bloomington. **Hog Roast and Beer Garden Fest**, benefitting St. Vincent de Paul Society in Monroe County, 4:30-8 p.m., bar-b-que dinner, silent auction, wine and Sun King beer, live music featuring “Justin Case,” face-painting, 50/50 raffle. \$10 presale adults at www.bloomingtonsvdp.org, \$12 adults, \$6 children ages 6-12, 5 and younger free at the door. Information: 812-339-5561.

June 21-22
Christ the King Parish, 5884 N. Crittenden Ave., Indianapolis. **Summer Social**, 6 p.m.-midnight, children’s area, food booths, live music, beer garden, casino, \$1 entrance charge. Information: 317-255-3666.

St. Gabriel the Archangel Parish, 6000 W. 34th St., Indianapolis. **International Festival**, 5 p.m.-midnight, food, live music, carnival rides. Information: 317-291-7014.

June 23
Bluff Creek Golf Course, 2710 Old State Road 37 N., Greenwood. **St. Elizabeth/Coleman Pregnancy and Adoption Agency 18th Annual Golf Scramble**, noon registration, 1:15 p.m. shotgun start, dinner and prizes to follow, \$60 per person includes green fees, cart and dinner, sponsorship available. Register: www.givingbirthtohope.org. Information: 317-236-1411 or Cheri Bush, cbush@archindy.org. †

Father Clement Davis to receive human rights award in Columbus on June 20

Father Clement Davis, pastor of St. Bartholomew Parish in Columbus, will receive the William R. Laws Human Rights Award at the 2019 Columbus Human Rights Commission Annual Dinner Meeting at The Commons, 300 Washington St., in Columbus, at 6:30 p.m. on June 20.

The award is given to a local individual, group or organization who has made a substantial contribution to the community of Columbus in any

area(s) of human equality.

The event will also include a panel discussion on immigration.

Tickets for the event are \$30 per person or \$240 for a table of eight; advance purchase is required.

Tickets can be purchased online at www.columbus.in.gov/human-rights/annual-dinner, by calling 812-376-2532, or at the Columbus City Hall, 123 Washington St., in Columbus.

For more information, e-mail humanrights@columbus.in.gov. †

VIPs

Announcements for couples celebrating 50, 55, 60, 65, 70 or more years of marriage are accepted. Go to bit.ly/2M4MOms or call 317-236-1585.



James and Helen (Fritz) Welter, members of St. Barnabas Parish in Indianapolis, will celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary on June 20.

The couple was married in St. Thomas More Church in Mooresville on June 20, 1969.

They have two children, James II and Mark Welter.

The couple also has one grandchild. †



Kenneth and Kathy (Willey) Jensen, members of St. John the Evangelist Parish in Indianapolis, will celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary on June 21.

The couple was married in Traders Point Christian Church in Indianapolis on June 21, 1969, and was received into full communion of the Church in 2002.

They have five children: Priscilla Jackson, Jessica Kersey, Jolene Knee, Mary Kathleen Ozment and the late Mercy Angela Jensen.

The couple also has seven grandchildren, two step-grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. †



All Saints Eagle Scout honors life

John Lake, a member of All Saints Parish in Dearborn County, poses with his pastor, Father Jonathan Meyer, on May 12 at one of four identical pro-life monuments that were installed on each of the parish’s campuses as part of his Eagle Scout project. Lake, 18, a member of Boy Scout Troop #646 in New Alsace and the son of Roger and Donna Lake, raised \$8,000 to purchase and install monuments at the campuses of St. John the Baptist in Dover, St. Joseph in Leon, St. Martin in Yorkville and St. Paul in New Alsace. The monuments were dedicated at the May 11-12 weekend Masses. (Submitted photo)

Nominations sought for Respect Life and Pro-Life Youth awards through Aug. 31

The archdiocesan Office of Human Life and Dignity is accepting nominations for the Archbishop O’Meara Respect Life Award and the Our Lady of Guadalupe Pro-Life Youth Award through Aug. 31.

The Archbishop O’Meara Respect Life Award honors an adult or married couple who demonstrates leadership in promoting the dignity and sanctity of human life from birth to natural death in the parish community and in the archdiocese.

The Our Lady of Guadalupe Pro-Life Youth Award honors a high school student who demonstrates leadership in promoting the dignity and sanctity of all human life in the parish community, school community and in

central and southern Indiana.

The awards will be presented at the Respect Life Mass to be celebrated at SS. Peter and Paul Cathedral, 1347 N. Meridian St., in Indianapolis, at 10:30 a.m. on Oct. 6.

Printable nomination forms can be found at www.archindy.org/humanlifeanddignity, then scroll down and select “Annual Respect Life Mass.”

Completed forms should be mailed to the Office of Human Life and Dignity, 1400 N. Meridian St., Indianapolis, IN 46202, or e-mailed to beichhorn@archindy.org.

For more information, call Keri Carroll at 317-236-1521 or e-mail kcarroll@archindy.org. †

Helpers of God’s Precious Infants Mass and pro-life prayer ministry to start on June 15

All are invited to join the Helpers of God’s Precious Infants, a pro-life ministry in Indianapolis, for Mass at St. Michael the Archangel Church, 3354 W. 30th St., in Indianapolis, at 8:30 a.m., on the third Saturday of each month, starting on June 15.

After Mass, participants are invited to either remain in the church or drive to the Clinic for Women

abortion facility, 3607 W. 16th St., in Indianapolis, to pray for the protection of life. Prayers at the abortion facility conclude between 10:30-10:45 a.m.

The dates for the Helpers of God’s Precious Infants Mass and prayer in 2019 are June 15, July 20, Aug. 17, Sept. 21, Oct. 19, Nov. 16 and Dec. 21.

For more information, contact Peggy Geis at peggygeis@att.net. †

'Never felt so much love'

By Natalie Hoefler

GREENCASTLE—As a child raised in the Buddhist faith by immigrant parents from Vietnam, Phil Chung “always felt at a disadvantage.”

“My goal from childhood was to catch up socially,” says the 20-year-old student of DePauw University in Greencastle, who just completed his sophomore year.

He modeled his life after a fictional character in a story told to Buddhist children, “a kid in a village who set his mind to never give up. I made that my mindset.”

So Chung filled his life with sports and leadership roles in high school, and he no longer had time for the Buddhist temple.

He continued that approach at DePauw. Chung attends the university on a scholarship from The Posse Foundation, an organization that recruits and trains young adults with leadership potential from diverse backgrounds and places them on college campuses to initiate change.

He is also president of the university’s Association of Asian, Pacific Islander and Desi American Club (AAPIDAC), and chairs his fraternity’s social committee.

Despite all his efforts and apparent success, Chung felt no peace.

“Some nights, I hated being so alone,” he admits. “I look back now, and I see how God didn’t pull me until I was in a position of needing help.”

That pull started last fall when he met Brandon Pangan, a Fellowship of Catholic University Students (FOCUS) missionary at DePauw.

“I invited him to come to AAPIDAC,” Chung recalls. “He said he would, if I

came to one of the FOCUS meetings.”

Chung had become interested in learning about religion that summer, so he accepted.

He admired the Catholics he met, and joined the Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults at St. Paul the Apostle Parish in Greencastle.

“I just wanted to improve myself,” he admits. “I’m super skeptical, so I didn’t come to believe in God at first.”

Then Chung attended FOCUS’ SEEK conference in Indianapolis in January.

“SEEK was my first experience with adoration,” he says. “That was when I knew that God will always love me and forgive me. I wanted that. I broke down and accepted his love. It’s a reckless love. I’d never felt so much love in all my life.”

Chung was baptized into that love when he was received into the full communion of the Church during the Easter Vigil Mass at St. Paul the Apostle Church on April 20.

And he did succeed in learning more about how faith could improve his life.

“I have more empathy, I’m kinder, more caring, and I made a tremendous jump in being able to understand others,” Chung says.

He now spends time every day reading Scripture and praying, “the most important thing, to me, to really fall into my relationship with God.

“At first I asked God for things. But the deeper part of prayer is, ‘How can I serve you?’ That was a big turning point for me.”

And along the way, God healed Chung’s wound of loneliness.

“I was alone all my life, in high school, in college,” he says. “I was all alone until that moment when I accepted God. And I wasn’t alone anymore.” †



Phil Chung poses with his friend, Maria Johnson, after being welcomed into the full communion of the Church at the Easter Vigil Mass at St. Paul the Apostle Church in Greencastle on April 20. (Submitted photo)

CATHOLIC

continued from page 1

talked to me for an hour and a half about God. I really feel like he led me to the Lord that day.

“Every day he told me that God loved me and wasn’t going to leave me. He made me a folder of Bible verses and quotes—I still have it. He really got me through that tough time.

“After that, I wanted to go to a Catholic church.”

But Guerra struggled with another message she received growing up: “I was told that Catholics weren’t true Christians.”

She says it took her a year and a half to build up the courage to go to a Mass. When she did, she chose a church she’d driven by frequently: St. Thomas the Apostle in Fortville.

“I fell in love with it,” Guerra says. “I knew that was where I wanted to go and felt comfortable enough to worship.”

She called the parish to find out how she could become Catholic.

“I thought if they got enough people together, they’d just baptize us together, like in my Baptist church. I didn’t know it was a process,” she recalls of learning about the Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults (RCIA). “I’m glad it is [a process]. I learned so much. It made me a stronger Christian, better than just being baptized and done.”

Through RCIA, Guerra learned more about God’s unconditional love and desire for her to live eternally with him in heaven.

“I felt like at St. Thomas, I finally learned the truth,” she says. “Before that, I really didn’t believe God loved me.

Through St. Thomas, my relationship with Christ grew into something I’d never had before.”

Guerra says the Easter Vigil Mass on April 20 when she was received into the full communion of the Church “is a bit of a blur.”

One of her favorite moments, she says, was being baptized, “feeling the water pour over my head. I felt at peace.”

And now Guerra looks forward to receiving the Eucharist at Mass.

“I really like that we [receive] Communion every time we go to Mass,” she says. “I like the feeling of God being present there, [that] I’m actually worshipping the living God.”

As Guerra, a sophomore at Anderson University in Anderson, Ind., moves forward on her journey of life and faith, she says she does so while holding an image in mind, something that the Catholic nurse Joe told her.

“He told me to see my walk with God as having peaks and valleys,” she recalls. “Now I imagine me and Jesus walking through peaks and valleys together. It makes my journey more real for me.” †

'Together in the journey toward Christ'

By Natalie Hoefler

When Bridget Hornbach of St. Teresa Benedicta of the Cross Parish in Bright would tell parishioners she was being received into the full communion of the Church this Easter, the response was often surprise.

“Honestly, they thought I was Catholic—even my priest,” she says with a chuckle.

“That’s because she’s always here!” says Kim Sprague, parish director of religious education and youth ministry. “She’s been a member with her family since 2000, when the parish began. She attends Mass regularly with her husband and two daughters [and] she’s a youth volunteer.”

Hornbach was raised in a Protestant faith tradition. But when she married her husband Doug, a Catholic, she fully supported him in raising their children in the faith.

“I have always been a firm believer that you go to church as a family unit,” she says. “I [assisted] in first Communion and confirmation for both of our girls. I volunteered as a chaperone for the school outings to nursing homes, I work the fish fry every year, and the summer picnic.”

Yet Hornbach’s call to be received into the full communion of the Church did not come entirely through her family.

“My friend Jane passed away a little over a year ago,” she shares. “She was Catholic. I used to work with her, and we became close. When her daughter in eighth grade asked me to be her confirmation sponsor, what could I say? ‘No, because I’m not Catholic?’

“But joining the Church had also been a thought on my mind, so this was my opportunity to do so.”

Hornbach was confirmed and received Communion for the first time at her parish’s Easter Vigil Mass on April 20.

“I’m not going to lie—it was



Standing next to her sponsor and husband Doug, Bridget Hornbach is anointed with chrism oil by her pastor, Father Randall Summers, as part of the Rite of Confirmation during the Easter Vigil Mass at St. Teresa Benedicta of the Cross Church in Bright on April 20. (Submitted photo by Larry Strange)

emotional,” she admits. “My family was excited that I would be with them receiving the body and blood of Christ. Now we four are together in this journey toward Christ.”

But the loss of her friend Jane and Jane’s daughter’s request for Hornbach to be her confirmation sponsor added much to the emotion of the evening, she says.

For her own confirmation patron, Hornbach chose St. Jane.

“It was my friend’s name, and that was healing for me,” she explains.

And just a few weeks after her own confirmation, she stood as a sponsor by Jane’s daughter’s side, witnessing to the faith of the young woman, a faith Hornbach now calls her own. †

St. Catherine of Siena

PARISH FESTIVAL

JUNE 30, 2019

ST. MAURICE, IN

JOIN US FOR MASS @ 10:00AM

PEDAL TRACTOR PULL

LIVE MUSIC

BEER+WINE GARDEN

SERVING CHICKEN

+ ROAST BEEF DINNERS

TURTLE SOUP

10:30 - 4:00

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WELCOME, NEW CATHOLICS

Batesville Deanery

St. Louis, Batesville

Gavin Ertel, David Rodriguez, Isabela Rodriguez, Leilan Rodriguez, Emily Schmidt, Michael Schmidt, Samson Walmsley, Teresa Zuno-Luna, Brian Zuno-Luna (catechumens)

St. Teresa Benedicta of the Cross, Bright
Bridget Hornbach (candidate)

St. Michael, Brookville

Daniel Bertsch, John Joseph Murray, Raegan Phillips, Mallory Simmermeyer, Cassandra Summey, Megan Veeneman (catechumens); Bethany Bolser, Cody Summey, Betty Wyatt, Samuel Wyatt (candidates)

All Saints, Dearborn County

Cohl Franks (catechumen); Melanie Beetz, Elizabeth Bodenberg, Meg Cross, Mary Evans, Casey Gilmour, Sandy Ritzi, Tom Vanover, Ashley Walters, Jake White (candidates)

St. Peter, Franklin County

Margaret Ripperger (candidate)

St. Mary, Greensburg

Jalen Lopez, Brianna Parsons, Andy Tran (catechumens); Julie Hamner, Jessica Harmeyer, Lucas Hichstedler, Hunter Natole, Cassandra Santillan, Brad Whittaker, Wayne Wiley, Chloe Williams, Cooper Williams (candidates)

St. Lawrence, Lawrenceburg

Lisa Hartman, Emily Holt, Anita Morel, Lauren Redmon, Dee Thomas (catechumens)

St. Charles Borromeo, Milan

David Leinberger (catechumen); Cherokee Powell, Elizabeth Powell (candidates)

St. Anthony of Padua, Morris

Tresa Simon (candidate)

Holy Family, Oldenburg

Melissa Batchelor, Justin Black, Susan Harmeyer, Kent Schirmer (candidates)

St. Nicholas, Ripley County

Carter Moore, Laney Moore, Ann Marie Roark, Hunter Roark, Madison Roark, Thomas Roark, Jr., Thomas Roark, Sr. (catechumens); Amber Cotter, Taylor Johnson (candidates)

St. Vincent de Paul, Shelby County

Kay Box Huntsman (candidate)

St. Joseph, Shelbyville

Lisbet Aguilar, Luis Aguilar, Samuel Charpentier, Nicholas Jaeger, Payton Johnson, Ashley Labra, Edwin Yutdiel Labra, Kevin Lancaster, Erika Marlem Martinez Luis, Roy Labra Moreno, Joselyn Salazar, Maribel Sinibras, Bradley Woehler (catechumens); Jeanie Chandler, Steven Dudley, Hailey Gonzalez, MaryBeth Merrick, Mari Prior, William Williams (candidates)

Bloomington Deanery

St. Vincent de Paul, Bedford

Gracie Flinn (catechumen); Nicole Owens, Sara Williams (candidates)

St. Charles Borromeo, Bloomington

Lucy Bowling, Emily Ginn, Liam Hutchins, Abbie Lucas, Molli Lucas, Makayla Radu, Mary Radu, Ra' Nadia Radu, Ryan Radu, Vito Radu (catechumens); Leslie Ginn, Stephen Hammock, Tara Mendoza, Erika Radu, Jeff Sudbury (candidates)

St. John the Apostle, Bloomington

Jacob Druding, Susan Miller, Travis Sutherland (catechumens); Carole Downs, Anna Ferguson (candidates)

St. Paul Catholic Center, Bloomington

Beverly Buick, Leo Delaqua, Nicholas Honeycutt Walter, Fernandez Mayge, Martin Paxton, Deyanira Pulido Arenas,

We welcome the new Catholics who have been received into the full communion of the Church since last Easter. Most of the people listed here received sacraments of initiation during the Easter Vigil on Saturday, April 20. The names listed here were provided by religious education leaders in local parishes.

The 434 catechumens listed are people who have never been baptized and—within the past year—were

baptized, confirmed and received their first Eucharist. The 415 candidates listed were baptized in other Christian traditions and were received into the full communion of the Church with a profession of faith, confirmation and first Eucharist during the past year.

Most people are listed in the parishes where they received their religious formation and the sacraments of initiation. †

St. Joan of Arc

Ryan Butz, Andrew Edgington, Wes Hoffman, Andrea Wallace, DeAsia Womack (catechumens); Ash Amos, Lori Jean Baughn-Zoller, Doug Canull, Natalie Canull, Meredith Foster, Miles Murray (candidates)

St. Lawrence

Alexander Emmanuel Cabrera-Alejo, Kevin Zuriel Cabrera-Alejo, Jermiah Moore, Brandon Ocelotl, Evelyn Ocelotl, Raymond Ocelotl, Majd Watson, Max Wilson (catechumens); Ann Delehanty, Lisa Hitchens, MacKenzie Mangus, Thomas Seidel (candidates)

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, Richmond

Adair Cabellero-Velasco, Angel Cabellero-Velasco, Christopher Cabellero-Velasco, Isabella Cabellero-Velasco, Mariana Perez-Orduno, Dawn Smith (catechumens); Derrick Barker, Danny Barron, Jr., Amanda Coyner, Paul Hellwarth, Amanda Helton, Lucas Helton-Moore, Bob McFarland, Linda McFarland (candidates)

St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception, Rushville

Caitlyn Cole, Jen Hannefey, Alex Miller (catechumens)

Indianapolis East Deanery

Holy Spirit

Liam Albers, Eva Ambrosio Merlos, Amalia Cuatlatl, Carlos Cuatlatl, Elizabeth Cuatlatl, Alejandro Dionicio, Alexis Escobedo, Kelsey Hauth, Joseph Hernandez, Juan Angel Isidoro, Diana Jaimes, Jayden Jaimes, Ricardo Juarez, Victor Juarez, Daniel Malvaes, Brian Mejia, Onorio Mejia, Bryan Obispo, Estefani Obispo, Jenifer Ramirez, Maria Ramirez, Stephanie Ramirez, Ashley Violeta Ramirez, Charlie Soukup, Maya Velasquez (catechumens)

Our Lady of Lourdes

Jillian Schleicher (catechumen); Christina Adkins, Michael Allen, Jillian Okray (candidates)

SS. Peter and Paul Cathedral

Gregory Braun, Mary Bush, Carolyn Rogers (candidates)

St. Mary

Dalton Kloeker (catechumen); Jane Fox, Owen Jones, Daniel Samons, Kaitlin Whiteside (candidates)

St. Philip Neri

Angel Solano Ascencion, Leobardo Solano Ascencion, Jose Leonel Canales, Osiel Alejandro Cervantes, Adelaido Garcia Contreras, Edward Garcia Contreras, Uziel Ramon Cortes, Luis Alberto Davila, Bryan Davila-Rodriguez, Andrew Miyoky De Los Santos, Bianca Delgado Morales, Stephanie Sarahi Flores Arambula, Donovan Adelaido Garcia-Calleja, Andrew Sebastian Jimenez, Alexa Montoya-Olmedo, Jose Orozco, Mia Sofia Ortega Hernandez, Richard Cuatle Perez, Karla Vanessa Ramirez, Jennifer Solano Ascencion, Kelly Johana Zelaya (catechumens)

St. Therese of the Infant Jesus (Little Flower)

Geovanny Flores, Mary Janek, Emily Smith (catechumens)

St. Michael, Greenfield

Layla Avery, Aiden Bear, Gavin Bear, Levi Johnson, Alec Rivera, Olivia Rivera, Clarissa Thompkins (candidates)

Indianapolis North Deanery

Christ the King

Kristin Kniesley, Gary Levy (catechumens); Megan Cromwell, George Morrison (candidates)

Immaculate Heart of Mary

Ben Albrecht, Gabi Ambrose, Malcolm Gilchrist, Kelli Glassley, Krista Roseberry, Josh Taylor (candidates)

St. Simon the Apostle

Seth Holan (catechumen); Colby Cope, Kellie Holan, Chandra Lozano, Maxine Sauer, Aleasha Shipman, Akeshia Wilson (candidates)

St. Thomas Aquinas

Brandon Butcher, Elise Mulholland, Sarah O'Keefe (catechumens); Becky Ashton, John Barrow, Richard Brendan, Patti Brown, Chris Collins, William Steiner (candidates)

Indianapolis South Deanery

Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ

Michelle Burris, Angelina Fisher, Anna Fisher, Molly Fisher, Vesta Fisher, Jason Klee, Stephanie Koers, Troy Nordmeyer (catechumens); Philip Beckman, Tracy Bruner, Darlene Crafton, Kathy Massengale (candidates)

St. Barnabas

Daniel Goodman, Macy Lewis, Douglas Sant, Nicholas Saxton, Collins Tetrick, Lilly Winscott (catechumens); Ben Dowden, Mary Kubelsky, Jeff Tetrick, Jennifer Tetrick (candidates)

St. John the Evangelist

Sage Calhoun, Morgan Cook, Christopher Elbrecht, Douglas Fivecoat,

St. Gabriel the Archangel

Gabriela del Carmen Sotelo, Brenda Feria, Jazmin Feria, Luis Feria, Dulce Fernandez Robles, Katherine Guerra Aguilar, Andy Jimenez, Britney Jimenez, Jessica Jimenez, Katie Jimenez, Anthony Zeledon Meza, Lesly Olmedo, Francisco Chalchi Ramirez, Maria Rios, Natalie Saldivar Ventura, Emily Santiago, Gisela Santiago, Jacquelin Santiago, Perla Santiago, Rolando Jose Sotelo, Antonella Zeledon Meza, (catechumens); Jader Joseph Membreño Arauz, Enrique Aguilar Arellano, Guillermina Garcia, Alfredo Rosas Gutierrez, Cruz Rosas Gutierrez, Sherlyn Orta, Guadalupe Rosas Gutierrez (candidates)

St. Michael the Archangel

Dante Hardin (catechumen); Abigail Fralich, Kori Garland, Donna Rae (candidates)

St. Monica

Uzziel Maza Barrios, Alexa Becerril Lovera, Andrea Becerril Lovera, Brian Jowel Bonilla, Kelvin Yanel Bonilla, Daniela Bravo Trejo, Eric Castro, Aylin Contreras, Laura Felix Hernandez, Angeles Garcia Perez, Jennifer Garcia Perez, Ashley Gonzalez Riano, Melky Diaz Grijalva, Borys Guerra, Diana Hernandez, Enrique Hernandez, Gustavo Hernandez, Jair Castro Holguin, Crystal Jimenez, Lynn Kurtz Morales, Alan Pichardo Lopez, Katharine Lucero, Emily Manzanarez, Andrea Maza Barrios, Ana Meyo, James Napier, Hency Ovando, Henny Ovando, Elizabeth Riano, Mirely Ruiz Meyo, Pablo Huerta Sanchez, Nancy Vasquez, Isaias Ventura, Virginia Ventura (catechumens); Chantal Aguilar-Felix, Johan Mauricio Alvarez Alejo, Jonathan Alexis Alvarez Alejo, Yosgart Santiago Alvarez Alejo, Jennifer Alpizar, Estrella Alpizar-Felix, Jocelyn Alpizar Herculano, Abigail Alvarado-Lopez, Marilyn Alvarado-Lopez, Sean Paul Anaya-Gutierrez, Jim Apolonio Antonio, Linda Azucena Benitez, Erick Barrios-Romero, Jasmin Barrios-Romero, Kayle Marie Barrios-Romero, José Perez Benitez, Pablo Ernesto Benitez, Magali Adilene Canela, Amanda Carter, Juan José Martínez Castañeda, Aracely De Leon, Angel De Leon, Ludyvett Diaz, Sergio Diaz-Pineda, Jose Alberto Diaz-Villa, Alexis Estanislao Juarez, Cynthia Estanislao Juarez, Cristian Fichtner, José Francisco Flores, Brisa Lizbeth Francisco, Jasmine Francisco, Valerie Francisco, Melissa Galarza, Yanira Yoselin Galarza-Olvera, Ryan Garcia-Ocaña, Cristian Ronaldo Madrid Grajeda, Yasmin Gutierrez-Mendez, Jonathan Alpizar Herculano, Fernando Alpizar Herculano,

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St. Pius X

Mollie Louret, Jacob Polackin (catechumens); Lorie Miller, Eric Pecenka, Ward Walker, Andrea Welsh (candidates)

St. Pius X

Mollie Louret, Jacob Polackin (catechumens); Lorie Miller, Eric Pecenka, Ward Walker, Andrea Welsh (candidates)

Lindsee Stewart, Maxwell Stewart, Cheryl Young (catechumens); Laura Cain, Richard Cain, Jeffrey McLinn (candidates)

St. Mark the Evangelist

Donald Shockey (catechumen); Daniel Allen, DonicaKueker, Mary Kathryn Nicholas (candidates)

St. Patrick

Kevin Emmanuel Mendoza (catechumen)

St. Roch

Joseph Fox, Mark Viktor McGuire, Bryan Rountt, Kyndel Shephard, Tyler Shoaf, Mia Thornburg, Sarah Wilson (catechumens); Lindsey Conover (candidate)

Holy Name of Jesus, Beech Grove

David Baker, Christian Faulds, Marty Hutcheson, Gary Moore, Kathy Rinks, Victor Rinks (candidates)

Our Lady of the Greenwood, Greenwood

Ana Sofia Alcantara, Paola Berenice Alcantara, David Antonio, Chloe Alexander Ellison, Yaquelin Rubi Florencio, Craig Foster, Tony Garcia, Elizabeth Higginbotham, Chris Horton, Elias Jackson, Stephen Jackson, America Michelle Martinez, Lizbet Joana Martinez, Stacy Mariana Martinez, Yamilette Martinez, Bryan Mendoza, Ryan Patrick, Britney Perez, Jennifer Perez, Angel Pineda, Austin Senteney, Leslie Tepehua-Castillo, Korrie Whitten, Larry Whitten (catechumens); Victoria Lucchese, Michelle Pippenger, Brian Sims, Joshua Welk, Jeremy Williams (candidates)

SS. Francis and Clare of Assisi, Greenwood

Audrey Alvey, Claire Alvey, Lucy Alvey, Lydia Alvey, Thurman Alvey, Sanjiv Gollakota, Cathy Palmer, Elnora Rogers, Chuck Wimp (catechumens); Bonnie Foster, Brett Metcalf, James Purcell, Jennifer Purcell, Leemarie Purcell, Matthew Purcell, Norah Purcell, Ron Wheeler (candidates)

Indianapolis West Deanery

St. Anthony

Maria Barriga, Gregorio Benitez, Fabian Carlos, Blanca Isabel Chirinos Ponce, Mathew Huestis, Rubaldino Velasco Julian, Maria Magdalena Montiel-Cardoso, Candida Ramos, Kayla Romero (candidates)

St. Christopher

Kim Eacret, Vivien Emmanuel, Jeff Endres, Robert Hodge, Amivi Sewodo, Janet Wolf (catechumens); Carolyn Schlake (candidate)

St. Gabriel the Archangel

Gabriela del Carmen Sotelo, Brenda Feria, Jazmin Feria, Luis Feria, Dulce Fernandez Robles, Katherine Guerra Aguilar, Andy Jimenez, Britney Jimenez, Jessica Jimenez, Katie Jimenez, Anthony Zeledon Meza, Lesly Olmedo, Francisco Chalchi Ramirez, Maria Rios, Natalie Saldivar Ventura, Emily Santiago, Gisela Santiago, Jacquelin Santiago, Perla Santiago, Rolando Jose Sotelo, Antonella Zeledon Meza, (catechumens); Jader Joseph Membreño Arauz, Enrique Aguilar Arellano, Guillermina Garcia, Alfredo Rosas Gutierrez, Cruz Rosas Gutierrez, Sherlyn Orta, Guadalupe Rosas Gutierrez (candidates)

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Carol Isaacs, Benjamin Jaimes, Jr., Giovanni Jaimes-Villa, Monica Ruby Jasso-Flores, Cristal Jimenez, Stephane Justiniano-Kurtz, Rosaura Longino-Agustin, Andrea Lopez Franco, Amy Celeste Loreto-Romero, Anny Celeste Loreto-Romero, Bella Celeste Loreto-Romero, Alan Maldonado-Martinez, Johan Maldonado-Martinez, Cesar Bernabe Manuel, Christian Bernabe Manuel, Marlen Manuel-Lojino, Marvin Manuel-Lojino, Stephanie Marroquin, Barbara Martinez-Castañeda, Galilea Maday Martinez-Castañeda, Sebastian de Jesus Martinez-Castañeda, Heather Ann Mock, Reyna Mondragon, Oscar Alexander Garcia Ochoa, Anahi Ochoa, José Alfredo Ochoa, Isaac Ochoa-Muñiz, Isabella Ochoa-Muñiz, Alan Galarza Olvera, Cheyenne Ortega, Justin Yuma Ortega, Matthew Ortega, Henly Ovando, Rogel Alberto Perez, Jaqueline Perez-Benitez, José Manuel Perez-Benitez, Vanessa Perez-Benitez, Juan Carlos Perez-Galindo, Dayanna Rodriguez-Brito, Blanca Rodriguez-Mendez, Perla del Sol Rodriguez-Mendez, Michelle Rodriguez-Soto, Gerardo Daniel Valencia Ronquillo, John Gaspar Ronquillo, Edwin Roberto Guiza Roque, Miriam Salcedo-Sanchez, Marlon Antonio Sanabria, Beatrice Jocelyne Sevi, Jennifer Kafui-Emeña Sevi, Alexandria Simpson, Angela Marie Josephine Smith, Alan Joshua Solorzano-Guadarrama, Kevin Jair Soto, Jade Guadalupe Soto-Guadarrama, Katherine Soto-Guadarrama, Zeus Marcelo Soto-Guadarrama, Armando Tamayo, Lily Tamayo-Tamayo, Rosalia Trejo-Quevedo, America Lizeth Valdez-Castañeda, Sofia Valdez-Castañeda, Cesar Daniel Valencia, Mariela Valladares-Dimas, Eduardo Roldan Vazquez, Kevin Roldan Vazquez, Ana Vega-Carter, Alejandro Jaimes Villa, Jissel Yamileth Vanegas (candidates)

St. Malachy, Brownsburg

Melissa Davidson, Lindsay Doty, Makayla Espinoza, Rebecca Moreland Green, Noah Helms, Blake Hillan, Christopher Lacey, Joseph Myer, Cody Pennell, Antoinette Roberson, Andrew Strain (catechumens); Jacob Boodt, Matthew Hicks, Ruth Lee, Kevin McGuire, Lindsay Meyer, Victoria Mitchell, Amy Selby (candidates)

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Mary, Queen of Peace, Danville

Kimberly Decker, Savannah Hargarten, Bill Rogers (catechumens); Emily Cuatlacual-Ramirez, Matthew Daley, Scott Garber, Allison Mills, Hannah Mills, Tiffany Mills, Hunter Webb, Maddison Webb, Paige Webb (candidates)

St. Thomas More, Mooresville

Jessica Brown (catechumen); Angie Dufour, Isabelle Sully (candidates)

St. Susanna, Plainfield

Edward Bell, Marshall Catellier, Allison Jaramillo, Gabriel Jaramillo, Beau Martin, McKenzie Martin, Tiffany Martin, Matthew Schoettmer, Jacqueline Sugg, James Voyles, Dominick Waugh (catechumens); Brandon Martin (candidate)

New Albany Deanery

St. Michael, Bradford

Angela Jackson, Jenny Leitch (candidates)

St. Joseph, Corydon

Dan McAfee, Heather Veron (catechumens)

St. Mary-of-the-Knobs, Floyd County

Travis Elble, Wes Hemp, Macauley Miller, Nicole Olson, Laura Schafsnitz, Bruce Scott, Tammy Shuffett (candidates)

St. Bernard, Frenchtown

Dan Burton (catechumen)

Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, Jeffersonville

Chase Holman, Kaleb Madden, Gabriel Popp, Sovay Popp (catechumens); Beth Hermann, Jennifer Schwab (candidates)

St. Augustine, Jeffersonville

Dottie Richey, Icelynn Richey, Kenneth Richey (candidates)

St. Mary, Navilleton

Trevor Sims (catechumen)

Holy Family, New Albany

'I finally feel like I belong'

By Natalie Hoefer

Most catechumens and candidates are received into the full communion of the Church during the Easter Vigil Mass.

But not Ward Walker. After a long journey that included a rock band, alcohol and no religion for several decades, there was one last hurdle that delayed his reception into the Church—an unexpected brush with death in late March.

Walker, a 54-year-old real estate salesman, was baptized and raised Methodist.

"I reluctantly went to church," he says. "But from high school until about age 50, I didn't set foot in a church."

Instead, he spent more than two decades as a musician, including 15 years touring a three-state area as a drummer for a rock band.

"I've been a drunken musician with long hair and tattoos who partied too much," he admits.

Walker eventually settled down and married Tina, a Catholic woman from the Bahamas. The couple has 9-year-old twins. They have gone to Mass as a family since joining St. Pius X Parish six years ago.

"I've been inspired by their reverence in church," he says of his children,

students of the parish's school since kindergarten. He also enjoyed talking with Tina as she went through the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) at St. Pius to learn more about the culture of the faith in America.

Walker even felt called to a ministry of making small wooden crosses to give to people.

"I meet members [of St. Pius] by walking up to them and giving them a cross," he says. "I get so much joy from that."

But Walker says the "*coup de grâce* was when I got invited to CRHP [Christ Renews His Parish] the fall of 2018. Hearing how important faith is in these men's lives, how it helps their struggles. The day after CRHP ended, I signed up for RCIA."

Between RCIA sessions and meetings to help conduct the men's CRHP retreat at St. Pius in February, Walker was "at the church four nights every week." He was on track to receive the sacraments of confirmation and Communion with his RCIA class members at the Easter Vigil Mass when he was given a new cross of his own.

In early April, Walker became "violently ill" after returning home from dinner at a restaurant.

"Two days later, I was lying in the hospital in a coma with spinal meningitis and encephalitis," he says. "The doctor told my wife I would either die or be brain dead if I survived."

While in a coma, Walker says he knew he was "on the brink of death, and I wasn't one bit afraid. ... I'm 100 percent convinced that was because of my newfound faith."

After five days in a coma, he recalls, "I woke up on a ventilator, and [St. Pius X pastor] Father Jim [Farrell] was holding my hand."

Walker says he was deeply touched by the care Father Farrell and the parish provided his family during his many weeks of hospitalization and recuperation.

"St. Pius Parish took care of my wife and kids for three-and-a-half weeks," he



Father James Farrell, pastor of St. Pius X Parish in Indianapolis, confers the sacrament of confirmation upon Ward Walker during Mass on May 25. (Submitted photo)

GUEST

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family, like many in the Hoosier State, came up to Indiana from areas of Kentucky and Tennessee. We pressed him and clarified that we knew he came from Tennessee, but wanted to know where his "ancestors" came from? He said with a straight face and a definitive tone, "Tennessee," as if to say, what kind of a dumb question is that?

For him, not only does such a question not interest him much, but he also grew up not knowing any of his grandparents. And he lost his father as a small boy. He grew up in the rich culture of Appalachia, in an area that more closely resembles the conditions of places like Guatemala than it does the rest of the United States.

Despite our failed efforts that day at discovering our family history "pre-Tennessee," it did invoke some great stories from grandpa that I will cherish, one of which leads me back to Juan.

My grandpa sometimes describes how poor he was as a boy, mentioning it only by accident. The family gleans traces of it from the stories he tells, and then we knit together a fuller picture of how difficult his young life must have been.

For instance, he describes that, for Christmas, the seven children being raised by his widowed mother would sometimes receive an orange for their present.

Grandpa will occasionally, though, tell a more direct story. At the young age of 14, after watching his mother day in and day out dish the children

all of whatever meal could be created from what little they had and taking no portion for herself, he decided he could no longer stand by and watch his mother go without food.

Clearly there were too many mouths to feed, his young adolescent mind reasoned. And so he saw the choice in front of him that if he left, his mother would be able to feed herself. So, one night he set out and hitchhiked his way to Indiana looking for work to send money back home. And the rest, as they say, is history.

This is the story of both my grandpa and of Juan, separated by time and distance but connected by the too often lived experience of suffering.

Many of us in the United States could probably look to our not-too-distant relatives to recall similar stories of struggle, of resilience, and of a determination to create a better life for our families. Too often, we have a case of amnesia and forget such past struggles, thinking that we cannot relate to them.

But such stories are important to remember. This familiar struggle still exists in the world today; it just might be in someone else's family this time.

So, let us look on stories like Juan's with compassion and a sense of responsibility to work toward a future where children do not have to leave their homes so that there is one less mouth to feed.

(Tim Winn is director of Immigration Legal Services for Catholic Charities Indianapolis.) †

notes. "They had meals delivered to our home every single night. And Father Jim visited me three times while I was in the hospital.

"The community feeling that my wife and kids and I felt since joining St. Pius has been profound."

After receiving the sacraments during the parish's Saturday evening Mass on

May 25, says Walker, "I raised my arms up over my head and said, 'Yes!' It felt so great, and I felt so comfortable, because I know so many people at the Saturday night Mass."

At home that evening, Tina asked him if he felt different.

"I said I feel like part of the community," Walker recalls, "like I finally feel like I do belong." †

WELCOME

continued from page 9

St. John Paul II, Sellersburg

Angela Higdon (catechumen); Heather Baird, Matthew Baird, William Baird, Kevin Bean, Mindy Bush, Alexandra

Dilger, Nathaniel Gavin, Raymond Gavin, Derek Katter, Kennedy Williams (candidate)

Seymour Deanery

St. Bartholomew, Columbus
Michelle Curry, Adalberto Desiderio,

Brier Elliot, Jhoseline Flores Gonzalez, Jose Gilberto Ventura Flores, Sandrine Focquet, Corbin Rayshell Fouts, Arturo Jaimes Gil, Luis Manuel Jaimes Gil, Jefferson Noe Juarez Gonzalez, Jonathan Gonzalez, Magdiel Gonzalez, Ariana Jaimes Gil, Rebecca Lemaire, Jonathan Desiderio Morales, Karina Moreno, Christopher Ortega-Gonzalez, Tara Schoettmer, Joel Smith, Ethelion Kazuaki Romanos Sutherland, Fingolfin Ryosuke Regulus Sutherland, Maya Sutherland (catechumens); Gilberto Ventura Arce, Duane Barker, Jonathan Bettenhausen, Valentina Cerruty, Yeri Labra Gomez, Serafin Lopez Hernandez, Tania Adriana Labra Gomez, Wesley Loxley, Linda Kay Miller, Levi Nordmeyer, Fernando Lopez Perez, Donavan Schrougham, Stephanie Schrougham, Mark Snider, Erika Vega, Felipe Vega (candidates)

St. Rose of Lima, Franklin

Cole Bowker, Daniel DeVault, Mariana Lukins, Scott McClurg, Addison Sanders, Dominick Teles, Logan Teles, Whitney Woody (catechumens); Ava Marie Chung, Dana Haggenjos (candidates)

St. Ann, Jennings County; St. Joseph, Jennings County; and St. Mary, North Vernon

Macy Brumett, Jacob Glover, Nikki Hatfield, Karlee Shepherd (catechumens); Caleb Abrell, Scott Newkirk (candidates)

Prince of Peace, Madison

Amy Ralston, Landon Ralston (catechumens); Javan Estes, Adaley Fox, Morgan Ralston, Taylor Ralston (candidates)

Tell City Deanery

St. Michael, Canneton
Cayden Roark (catechumen)

St. Isidore the Farmer, Perry County
Cole Schreiner (catechumen); Daniel Alvey (candidate)

St. Paul, Tell City

Kyla Casebolt (candidate)

Terre Haute Deanery

Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Brazil

Ryleigh Hayes, Dustin Jorgensen, Vince Marietta, Elizabeth Maurey, Mya Wools (catechumens); Mike Dwyer, Brent Jeffries, Leland Lundy, Sharelle Martin, Chuck Wetnight (candidates)

St. Paul the Apostle, Greencastle

Phil Chung, Jackson Kendall, Tammy King, David Lewis, Jeffrey Morris (catechumens); Danny Graham, Gillian Hughes, Christopher Ostack, Jamie Stuckey, Jon Stuckey (candidates)

Sacred Heart of Jesus, Terre Haute

Ronald D'Andrea (catechumen)

St. Benedict, Terre Haute

Michael Byrum, Nicole Krasean (catechumens); James Berry, Rachel Tetidrick (candidates)

St. Joseph University, Terre Haute

Zachary Payton (catechumen); Lori Crouch, Marek Gibson, Mars Harlan, Bryan Ousky, Dallas Spencer (candidates)

St. Margaret Mary, Terre Haute

Rowen Pancake (catechumen); Becky Moon, Brian Moon (candidates)

St. Patrick, Terre Haute

Max Boyer, Frederick Clark, Billy Cummins, Amanda Heffernan, Michael Jones, Austin Matherly, Abigail Pineda Giron, Valeria Pineda Giron, Kalan Ray, Ashley Taylor, Ryder Westerfield (catechumens); Rhonda Clark, Michelle Flak, Kelsey Snellgrose, Mary Jane Szabo (candidates) †

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Thank God on Father's Day for the gifts he gives through children

By Soren Johnson

"So Dad, what do you want for Father's Day?"

This annual question from my five kids is a fact of life, just as inevitable as the \$15 billion our kids and spouses will shell out this year to mark our big day with ties, cards, tools and brunches. (Guys, FYI for budgetary purposes: That's \$135 per household.)

"A simple and sincere 'thank you' from his family is all that many dads want this Father's Day," notes sociologist W. Bradford Wilcox, speaking for many of us. "It matters a lot for dads, especially in a society where fathers are often belittled or minimized in the popular culture, to have their sacrifices and love recognized and appreciated."

As I realize just how few Father's Days remain before my kids enter the world, I can't help but personalize my kids' question: "What do I want—for my kids—this Father's Day?"

After all, I've got enough ties. Reflecting on past Father's Days, I've come up with seven things I actually want: seven truths that I want to prayerfully recommit to giving my kids this day—and always.

Bedtime blessings

My teenage daughter and firstborn recently gave me a little *What I Love About Dad* booklet. "When I was little, I loved to ..." one page began, and my daughter completed the sentence with



"The blessing of fatherhood gives us a front-row seat to two miracles: first, our child's birth; and second, the development of their unique spiritual, intellectual and physical gifts."

the words, "be rocked to sleep by you."

Her bedtime memories date to the pre-Wi-Fi era, when we dads were less distracted and better at holding our precious children for long periods of time. This Father's Day, let's renew the bedrock of fatherhood by giving our kids our loving touch, bedtime rituals and our father's blessing before they drift off to sleep.

Wrestling

In an "All About My Dad" card my 7-year-old son gave me recently, he scrawled, "I love when my dad resels [sic] with me." My dad wrestled me, and now I'm getting pummeled on a regular basis.

Recent studies show that kids who roughhouse with their dads are more self-confident and self-controlled. Especially in our digital age, rough-and-tumble play needs to be part of our job description as dads. Happy wrestling, Dad!

Kissing mommy

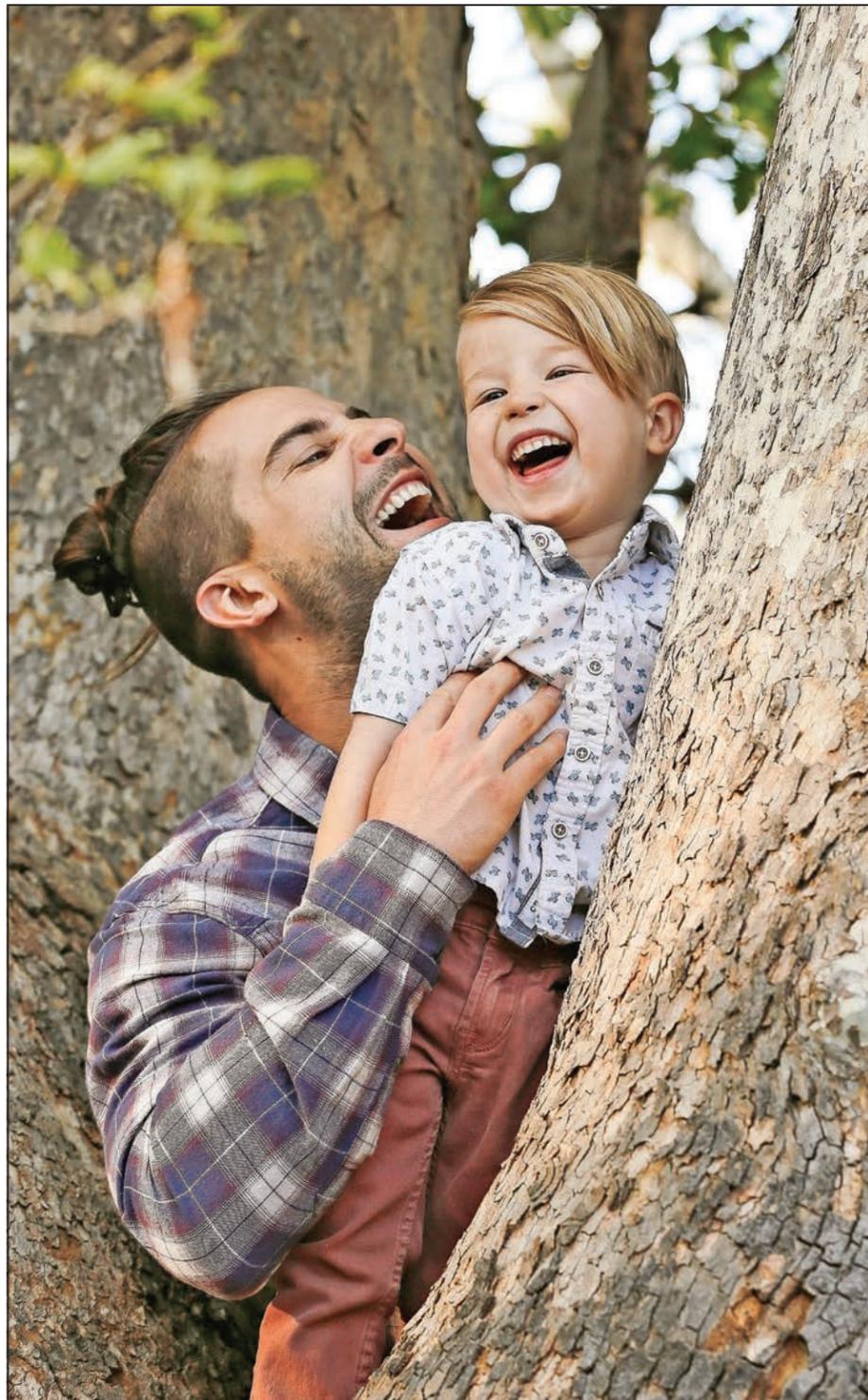
It's just a fact: Whenever I demonstrate my love for my wife with a special touch or focused attention, the kids immediately perk up, and at least one of them sprints toward us to hug our legs or leap into our laps.

"The best thing parents can do for their children is to love one another," notes one social worker on the proven long-term benefits kids experience, including healthy self-esteem. So, let's celebrate Father's Day in style, with public affection for our beautiful better halves.

Listening

"We always have the best time when we ..." my daughter's booklet began, and she wrote, "go on drives together." Referring to our drives when it's just the two of us—with no texting, screens or other interruptions—she reminds me of that endangered gift that I owe each of my children year-round: my presence and undivided attention, which can only be rooted, of course, in daily attentiveness to God in prayer.

This Father's Day, let's give thanks to our heavenly Father,



A father and son enjoy time in a park in Sedona, Ariz., on April 28. Father's Day, an annual observance honoring fathers and celebrating fatherhood, falls on June 16 this year. The secular holiday can be a time when Catholic fathers can give thanks for the gifts God the Father has given them through his children. (CNS photo/Nancy Wiechec)

the source of the best gifts that we impart to our children.

Smile lines

"Daddy, I love your ..." my daughter's booklet began, and she wrote, "smile lines." "Rejoice always," (1 Thes 5:16), St. Paul wrote, and hopefully the faces our kids behold reflect the joy of our deep and growing faith within.

"Smile!" summarizes one social science study. "It makes everyone in the room feel better because they, consciously or unconsciously, are smiling with you." So, this Father's Day, let's kick back, relax and enjoy our yearslong project of developing good smile lines.

Handshakes

"I love getting your advice on ..." the booklet began, which my daughter completed, "how to shake hands and make eye contact in a way that will get me a job." Yes! I read her words with a surge of indescribable pride.

Let's go easy on the kids on Father's Day, but starting the next day, it's back to coaching them 24/7 to prepare for effective, godly interactions in the world.

Calling forth the best

"It means so much that you show me how to ..." my daughter's booklet began, and she wrote, "be the best person that I can be." Few joys can compare with a dad's experience of nurturing and calling forth a gift or talent in his child.

The blessing of fatherhood gives us a front-row seat to two miracles: first, our child's birth; and second, the development of their utterly unique spiritual, intellectual and physical gifts. A happy Father's Day—and life—indeed!

"So Dad, what do you want for Father's Day?" I know my kids will ask.

I'll smile, and I'm not sure what I'll say. But my heart will answer with the words of Jesus that dads will fittingly hear in the Gospel reading on Father's Day: "Everything that the Father has is mine" (Jn 16:15). In Christ, I'm a dad who already has everything. All I want is to give thanks.

(Soren Johnson is director of evangelization for the Diocese of Arlington, Va. He and his wife, Ever, founded Trinity House Cafe in Leesburg, Va. Learn more about it at www.trinityhousecafe.com.) †



A father and son are framed by a small arch as they view the Delicate Arch at Arches National Park in Moab, Utah. The Gospel reading on Father's Day tells us, "Everything that the Father has is mine"

(Jn 16:15). (CNS photo/Jim West)

Joyful Witness/Kimberly Pohovey

Warm greeting has the power to transform others

The first time I encountered her, I stepped onto the elevator at the Archbishop Edward T. O'Meara Catholic Center in Indianapolis and was met with her characteristic greeting of "How are you, my precious?" I was taken aback by her humble presence and stature as she is even shorter than I. But the immediate feeling I experienced from this meeting—and every one since then—is an overwhelming sense of warmth, and the feeling that I am loved.



You probably assume I know this woman well. The truth is, I don't. I doubt she even knows my name, even though she acts as if she intimately knows me every time I see her in the hallways or again on the elevator. Each time I spy her approaching, I am immediately flooded with that same wonderful sense of warmth.

One day last summer, I asked my then 16-year-old son Ben how his day had been as I picked him up from our parish's Summer Bible Camp at which he had been volunteering. He replied the typical "good." However, he immediately became animated when he described to me someone he met that day.

His story started at the youth center when a nun entered and looked as if she was lost. She said she was there to help

with the Summer Bible Camp and did not know where she should report. Ben offered to walk her over to the school cafeteria, the epicenter of that day's activities. He told me how kind she was, asking all about him the entire walk.

"And Mom, she called me precious," he said. I could tell by his enthusiasm in relaying the story that he was affected by the chance meeting. I asked him if she wore a habit and an entirely white outfit. He replied "yes." Then I asked him if she was shorter than me. Yes again.

I told him I was sure he had just met Sister Loretto Emenogu who works at the Catholic Center, like I do. She is the archdiocesan mission educator and a member of the Nigeria-based Daughters of Mary Mother of Mercy. I told him about my encounters with her as well. We reveled in our shared experience and admitted how special she made each of us feel. My affection for her grew as I realized she could even make a teenage boy feel God's presence.

When I was in college years ago, I was similarly affected by one of the Jesuit priests on staff. When walking around campus, he would greet every student he passed with his characteristic "Hi, saint!" Jesuit Father Al Bischoff is a beloved figure on Xavier University's campus in Cincinnati. He is kind and wise. However, I believe it is his signature greeting that most endeared him to every student he met or even simply passed by.

These two possess the rare gift of exuding Christ's love with just a smile and brief greeting.

Could it really be that simple—to make people feel special and loved? The answer is yes, and no. Through just a smile, direct eye contact and a warm greeting, we have the power to change someone's attitude, their self-worth, even their whole day. But how many times do we miss the opportunity to acknowledge someone?

While their approach may come easily to them based on their personalities, or even the fact that they are religious, I believe Sister Loretto and Father Al must have initially made an intentional decision to make this effort. And somewhere along the line, it became a habit, and they adopted their signature greeting.

Maybe it wouldn't have the same effect if you or I started calling folks "precious" and "saint," but the world would surely be a better place if we each tried a little harder to concentrate on making others feel good about themselves.

Don't let another day go by without warmly greeting the people you encounter on your journey. What will be your signature greeting? I'm going to try out "Hi, beautiful!" for size.

(Kimberly Pohovey is a member of St. Jude Parish in Indianapolis. She is the director of mission advancement for Archdiocesan Education Initiatives.) †

Twenty Something/Christina Capecchi

How to accept criticism: a spiritual exercise

More than 19 million people tuned in to watch the final episode of "Game of Thrones" on May 19, making it the most viewed show to ever air on HBO.



Yet many were dissatisfied with what they saw, hurling gripe after grouse online. The finale didn't fit the ethos of the show, they insisted. It was overly sentimental. It tarnished the show's legacy. More than 1 million people signed an online petition to re-make the show's final season.

Several "Game of Thrones" actors took umbrage, including Sophie Turner, who called the criticism "disrespectful" and defended the show's writers and filmmakers.

Whether the many critiques are fair remains subject to debate, but one fact gives me pause: the petition was drafted before the show's finale aired, meaning a million people lobbied for a re-made season before seeing how it would resolve.

We live in an unfortunate era for online criticism. Critics fling insults they would never dare utter face to face. Defendants—typically privileged public figures—bristle with self-righteousness, dubbing their critics "haters," earning praise for "clapping back" in their own defense.

I wonder if we're growing too defensive. When we clap back so fiercely, do we take the time to consider the criticism? Are we cooling down enough to find the teaching moment in the hot exchange? Or are we digging our heels in and sticking our fingers in our ears?

A media executive once offered a handy guide on when to take criticism to heart. Ask yourself two questions about your critic, she said: Can you trust that this person is acting in good faith and not on some ulterior motive? Does this person have some knowledge of this particular situation that I do not?

If the answers are yes, then heed their words. If the answers are no, make like Taylor Swift and shake it off.

Lately I've been struggling to determine when to be gentle with myself and when to push myself to a higher standard. In my sleep-deprived days with an infant, it's easy to justify the former. But there are moments I look at my choices, and I know I can do better. More green smoothies, earlier bedtimes. Less binge TV, fewer donuts. I know it's all connected: sleep, sugar, the limits of my patience, the frequency of my prayer.

I used to cling to St. Francis de Sales' quote: "Have patience with all things, but chiefly have patience with yourself." It is so tender, so loving.

But I'd been missing his subsequent statement, meant to be taken as a whole, to moderate the first part: "Do not lose courage in considering your own imperfections but instantly set about remedying them. Every day begin the task anew."

This is a high bar: address a shortcoming "instantly."

St. Francis' charge is two-fold, pointing us to a middle ground: to both be patient with yourself, and to consider your imperfections.

Catholic spirituality equips us with the tools for an examination of conscience and asks us to do so bravely, honestly, daily. This may be harder to do than ever before, in this time when social media makes our personal lives feel public, and we sink in the quicksand of fearing others' judgment while too readily casting judgments of our own.

It may be harder to do than ever before, but also more important. We must learn to cast aside unfounded criticism while accepting difficult feedback from trusted sources: a sibling or spouse, a spiritual director, a confessor. And then, with courage and humility, we can "set about remedying" and find a path toward progress. Again and again, sunrise, sunset—we can begin anew.

(Christina Capecchi is a freelance writer from Inver Grove Heights, Minn.) †

Our Works of Charity/David Bethuram

Pain, perseverance and the road to wisdom and maturity

One of my favorite quotes from St. Francis of Assisi is "Where there is charity and wisdom, there is neither fear nor ignorance. ... A good deed is never lost; he who sows courtesy reaps friendship, and he who plants kindness gathers love."



The ministries of Catholic Charities strive to bring both charity and wisdom,

which are the pathways we use to accompany those in need.

I had lunch recently with a gentleman who runs his own company. As we talked, the subject of wisdom kept popping up in our conversation. We were agreeing on the value of certain qualities that cannot be learned in school—things like intuition, diligence, integrity, perception, consistency, loyalty—when he, again, mentioned wisdom.

So I asked, "How does a person get wisdom? I realize we are to be people of wisdom, but few people ever talk about how it is acquired."

His answer was quick and to the point: "Pain."

I paused and looked deeply into his eyes. Without knowing the specifics, I knew his one-word answer was not theoretical. He and pain had gotten to know each other rather well.

As he told me of the things he has been dealing with in recent months—some professional and some personal—I told him he had spent sufficient hours in receiving wisdom. A verse from the first chapter of James then came to mind:

"Consider it all joy, my brothers and sisters, when you encounter various trials, for you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. And let perseverance be perfect, so that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing" (Jas 1:2-4).

Aren't these great words? More importantly, they are absolutely true. By

accepting life's tests and temptations as friends, we become people of mature character. God invites us to let the process go on until endurance is fully developed, and we will find we have become mature in character and complete. There is no shortcut, no such thing as instant endurance. The pain brought on by interruptions and disappointments, by loss and failure, by accidents and disease, is the long and arduous road to maturity. There is no other road.

But where does wisdom come from? It comes through the back door of life when we lean out the window and yell "Help!" That's what James says in the very next verse:

"But if any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God who gives to all generously and ungrudgingly, and he will be given it" (Jas 1:5).

As I see it, it is like a domino effect. One thing bumps up against another, which, in turn, bumps another, and in the long haul, endurance helps us mature.

See CHARITY, page 14

Making A Difference/Tony Magliano

Pope Francis critical of 'meanness' toward migrants and refugees

"The signs of meanness we see around us heighten our fear of 'the other,' the unknown, the marginalized, the foreigner," and thus many migrants seeking a better life end up as recipients of this meanness, said Pope Francis in his recently released message for the 2019 World Day of Migrants and Refugees, which we commemorate on Sunday, Sept. 29.



The Holy Father warned that when we allow fears and doubts to "condition our way of thinking and acting to the point of making us intolerant, closed and perhaps even racist," there is a serious problem. For "in this way, fear deprives us of the desire and the ability to encounter the other, the person different from myself; it deprives me of an opportunity to encounter the Lord."

This wonderful idea of actually encountering the Lord, and all others, is

one of Pope Francis' major themes. He is trying to inspire us to build not personal walls, nor national walls, but instead a "culture of encounter."

There are many lies that have been spread about migrants and refugees; lies that many are murderers, rapists and criminals of all sorts. But numerous studies point to the contrary.

The vast majority are good, decent human beings who pay taxes while enjoying virtually no benefits. And they are working at jobs most citizens will not do—like the back-breaking work of picking our vegetables and fruits, washing dishes and landscaping. Furthermore, they add fresh vitality to our towns, cities and parishes. They need us, and we need them! This is what Pope Francis' "culture of encounter" is all about.

"The progress of our peoples," said the pope, "depends above all on our openness to being touched and moved by those who knock at our door. Their faces shatter and debunk all those false idols that can take over and enslave our lives; idols that promise an illusory and momentary

happiness blind to the lives and sufferings of others."

Instead of building Pope Francis' welcoming "culture of encounter," several European countries including Bulgaria, Hungary, Slovenia, Macedonia, Austria and France (funded by the U.K.) have built barriers to keep out people who are fleeing armed conflicts and terrible poverty.

And in the U.S., the Trump administration's determination to lengthen the wall at the Mexican border and his policy of "zero tolerance"—stepped-up apprehension and detention of migrants and refugees often fleeing armed conflict and drug gang violence, mass assembly-line criminal court trials, jail sentences and deportation back to the violence refugees were fleeing—is causing untold suffering.

I have been to the U.S.-Mexico border in southern Arizona, and have touched "The Wall"—the approximately 25-foot-high steel barrier blocking Mexicans from entering the U.S. It

See DIFFERENCE, page 14

The Most Holy Trinity/Msgr. Owen F. Campion

The Sunday Readings

Sunday, June 16, 2019

- Proverbs 8:22-31
- Romans 5:1-5
- John 16:12-15

The Church celebrates Trinity Sunday this weekend, and it uses the celebration to teach us about the Holy Trinity, the mystery of three persons in one God.



For its first reading, the Church offers us a passage from the Book of Proverbs. Proverbs is one of a series of books in the Old Testament called the wisdom literature. The purpose behind

the writing of all these books was to reassure pious Jews that their belief in the one God of Israel, a divinity of mercy and eternal faithfulness, was not in the least contrary to sound human reasoning.

This reading reveals the essential link between God and the quality of wisdom. Wisdom is of God. "The Lord begot me," Wisdom declares in the reading. "From of old," it continues to say, "I was formed forth ... at the first, before the Earth" (Prv 8:22-23).

God gives us wisdom, another gift of divine mercy and love. Without this wisdom, we cannot fully understand reality.

St. Paul's Epistle to the Romans furnishes the second reading. As so often appears in the writings of the Apostle Paul, the realities of Jesus and of life in Jesus are majestically presented. Through the Lord Jesus and through the sacrifice accomplished by Jesus in the incarnation and in the redemption, humans are at peace with God.

God's love comes to us through the Holy Spirit. This statement affirms the Spirit's divine identity. Love is dynamic. It is not a commodity. Love is something essential to the lover. It is not incidental.

St. John's Gospel provides the last reading. As is typical of all the parts of the fourth Gospel, the reading literally gleams with eloquence and grace.

This passage is a direct quotation from Jesus. In it, the Lord powerfully reassures the Apostles that the Holy Spirit will come to strengthen and empower them.

"He will guide you to all truth," the Lord tells the Twelve (Jn 16:13).

The reading establishes the place of the Apostles in the unfolding of salvation. It testifies to the esteem in which the Church holds the Apostles and their successors today.

Also, the reading reveals the Trinity, albeit obliquely. The Holy Spirit will convey to the Apostles God's truth. As with love, truth is not a commodity. It is an awareness of what actually is. Only the supremely wise, namely God, possesses this unobstructed view of what actually is.

Finally, the reading reveals the place of the Lord Jesus. The Holy Spirit of God will give glory to God in the bestowal of divine wisdom upon the Apostles. Jesus foretold the coming of the Spirit. God sends the Spirit. Guided and strengthened by the Spirit, the Apostles continue Christ's works of salvation.

The Father sent Jesus. Jesus and the Father send the Spirit. The Father, Son and Spirit are one.

Reflection

The Church teaches that the Holy Trinity is the greatest revelation of God. As such, the Church presents this reality in its teaching, its prayer and on this great feast. The Church will never compromise the teaching. It is at the root of Catholic belief.

From the moment that Catholic parents teach toddlers the sign of the cross, through extensive studies at the highest levels of institutional education, Catholics hear of the Trinity, and they know that it is basic to the Catholic tradition.

Even so, even for those who believe, it can be quite dry, an academic statement of a reality that has little relevance.

To the contrary, it is relevant to all that we are and to everything that we do. It explains creation. It explains salvation. It explains God. It explains who and what we are, and what is our purpose in life.

God is love. God is all-wise. God is with us. We belong to God. †

Daily Readings

Monday, June 17
2 Corinthians 6:1-10
Psalm 98:1-4
Matthew 5:38-42

Tuesday, June 18
2 Corinthians 8:1-9
Psalm 146:2, 5-9a
Matthew 5:43-48

Wednesday, June 19
St. Romuald, abbot
2 Corinthians 9:6-11
Psalm 112:1b-4, 9
Matthew 6:1-6, 16-18

Thursday, June 20
2 Corinthians 11:1-11
Psalm 111:1b-4, 7-8
Matthew 6:7-15

Friday, June 21
St. Aloysius Gonzaga, religious
2 Corinthians 11:18, 21-30
Psalm 34:2-7
Matthew 6:19-23

Saturday, June 22
St. Paulinus of Nola, bishop
St. John Fisher, bishop and martyr
St. Thomas More, martyr
2 Corinthians 12:1-10
Psalm 34:8-13
Matthew 6:24-34

Sunday, June 23
The Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ (*Corpus Christi*)
Genesis 14:18-20
Psalm 110:1-4
1 Corinthians 11:23-26
Luke 9:11b-17

Question Corner/Fr. Kenneth Doyle

The Church counsels that divorce should be avoided whenever possible

QI read your recent answer concerning divorced Catholics and their standing in the Church. You fail to remind Catholics that the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* (#2384-85) calls divorce a grave injustice to the abandoned spouse and the children, and also introduces disorder into society.



How can you say that someone who inflicted this can still receive Communion? In order to be forgiven in the sacrament of confession, don't people need to repair the damage they have done? Isn't the abandonment of sound Christian moral teaching the reason the Church is in the mess it is right now?

How many spouses who have abandoned their marriages would return to their families (and maybe wouldn't have left in the first place) if the Church clearly taught—as Christ did 2,000 years ago when speaking to the Pharisees—"What God has joined, no man may sever" (Mt 19:6). (Ohio)

AIn the column to which the reader refers, I was asked whether a divorced person, never remarried, may serve as an extraordinary minister of holy Communion in the Catholic Church. I responded that he or she can—and is encouraged to—participate in all aspects of parish life, including as an extraordinary minister of holy Communion.

I mentioned that sometimes it can happen that a person winds up in a divorce through "little or no fault of their own." I stand by that answer because it is the solid and consistent teaching of the Church.

But I choose to respond to this reader's question because it makes the valid point that divorce can bring considerable pain to families and should be avoided, using every opportunity for counseling, if at all possible.

Truly, as the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* points out, children can be "traumatized by the separation of their parents and often torn between them" (#2385).

It should be noted that there are certain circumstances, such as violence or abuse in a family, where the separation of spouses is important for the safety of one or more of the members. Apart from those more extreme

cases, the view of the Church on the permanence of marriage, besides having been taught by Christ, represents wise social policy.

QA follow-up question on the "crying babies" issue: I have ruined Sundays for many of my fellow parishioners. My children were very fussy during Mass and always at their worst. They would scream and wail, and there is not a "cry room" in our church.

I would go to the gathering area and stand there (there's no place to sit)—feeling more alone than ever—for the entire Mass. I felt like such a failure as a parent and as a Catholic. I had postpartum depression, and this Sunday experience only served to deepen it.

I desperately searched the Internet looking for permission to skip Mass and recover some semblance of mental health, but the only opinions I could find said that I should be able to make Mass work even with a struggling child.

I spent my Masses wondering why I should even continue to be Catholic. So my question is this: When is it acceptable for a parent to miss Mass to care for children who are healthy, but who create turmoil in church? (Missouri)

AIt seems to be that while you were going through postpartum depression, you could well have been excused from Mass while recovering—especially if your attendance needed to be compromised by bringing very active young children.

Generally, though, I would counsel a mother to seek out ways to be faithful to Sunday Mass—not only because it is a serious obligation for Catholics, but also since it provides important moments of respite and peace in the difficult job of raising children.

I know parents who attend separate weekend Masses while the other stays home with little ones; others seek out a parish with a "cry room" or—even better—with volunteers who offer baby-sitting during Mass. The Eucharist, after all, is the principal way that Jesus said he wanted to remain with us in this life, so I don't think we should feel lightly dispensed.

(Questions may be sent to Father Kenneth Doyle at askfatherdoyle@gmail.com and 30 Columbia Circle Dr., Albany, New York 12203.) †

My Journey to God

Pray Today

By John Henry

Carefully consider the direction of your life in the years ahead. With that in mind, pray today.

Give a lot of thought to your education and career options in the months ahead. And make sure you pray today.

Seek out a personal level of peace and tranquility in the weeks ahead. To aid in getting there, pray today.

Search for joy and happiness in the days ahead. That will come easier if you pray today.

Brighten your life by helping others tomorrow and the next day. And pray today.

Lovingly connect with God and neighbor before this day is out. Pray today.



(John Henry is a member of St. Christopher Parish in Indianapolis. He wrote the poem for his granddaughter's graduation. Photo: Jennifer Benitez, a graduate who received a master's degree in theological studies, waves during the May 20, 2017, commencement at the University of St. Thomas in Houston.)

(CNS photo/James Ramos, Texas Catholic Herald)

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.

BLACKWELL, Sandra (Howe), 75, St. Simon the Apostle, May 18. Wife of J. Michael Blackwell. Mother of Lorianne Blackwell Meek, Jennifer Blackwell Mungovan and Lisa Blackwell Rodriguez. Sister of Marcia Anness, Patricia Szerencse, Richard and James Davis and Stephen Howe. Grandmother of eight.

CLEGG, Patricia M., 71, St. Bartholomew, Columbus, May 24. Wife of Dale Clegg. Mother of Michele Helton and Vicky Stainbrook. Sister of Donna, Franciscan Sister Margaret and Richard Rahe. Grandmother of four. Great-grandmother of six.

CONRAD, Dr. Joseph, 71, Christ the King, Indianapolis, May 20. Husband of Jean Ford. Father of Megan Conrad Schlegel and William Conrad. Brother of Patricia Hallerbach and James Conrad. Grandfather of five.

FEY, Alice J., 89, St. Joseph, Corydon, May 27. Mother of Maureen Fey-Lawson, Malia Rose, Marcia Schroeder, Mary, Francis, Joseph and Thomas Fey. Sister of Ginnie Garbrough, Grace Gwynn, Margaret Jacobi, Amy Schneider, Ida Stilger and Rick Pflanz. Grandmother of 20. Great-grandmother of 22.

FLOCK, Carolyn J., 78, St. Joseph, Corydon, May 23. Mother of Michele Morsey and Martin Moore. Sister of Edith Caldwell, Lois Newton, Margaret Lanham, Jerry, J.L., Leon and Robert Lanham. Grandmother of seven. Great-grandmother of nine.

GOLDMAN, William J., 72, St. Jude, Indianapolis, May 13. Husband of Ellen Goldman. Father of Kevin and Robert Goldman. Brother of Marcy Goldman. Grandfather of six.

GRAHAM, Carol J., 87, St. Simon the Apostle, Indianapolis, May 3. Mother

of Barbara and F. Kevin Brady and Kathleen Zeilinga. Sister of Shirley Skelley. Grandmother of seven. Great-grandmother of eight.

HEATH, Marilyn E., 75, St. Therese of the Infant Jesus (Little Flower), May 23. Mother of Audrey Black, Kristen Hill, Darina Mikesell and Faith Heath. Sister of Jayne Copas, Debbie Dupont, Barbara Glass, Sally Sawyer and Jeff Heath. Grandmother of 13. Great-grandmother of 10.

HENDRICKSON, Judy, 71, St. Joan of Arc, Indianapolis, May 22. Mother of Brian, Jeffrey and Scott Hendrickson. Grandmother of four.

HOYO, Julio, 98, SS. Francis and Clare of Assisi, Greenwood, May 17. Father of Marina Forthofer and Marta Kliefoth. Grandfather of three. Great-grandfather of two.

JOERGER, Ralph, 81, All Saints, Dearborn County, May 29. Husband of Phyllis Joerger. Father of Jennifer Hunger and Allan Thompson. Brother of Alice Lamping and Lawrence Joerger. Grandfather of five. Great-grandfather of two.

KNAPP, John N., 86, St. Agnes, Nashville, May 27.

Husband of Barbara Knapp. Father of Mary Carter, Barbara Pavliscak, Kathleen Raasch, Carol and William Knapp. Brother of Meredith Bishop. Grandfather of 12. Great-grandfather of four.

LASZLO, Lilian M. (McHardy), 84, St. Charles Borromeo, Bloomington, May 25. Wife of Ernest Laszlo. Mother of Alejandra, Cristina, Carl and Eric. Grandmother of eight.

MCCANN, Mary L. (Cummins), 83, St. Agnes, Nashville, May 21. Mother of Mary Bose, Ann Marie and John McCann. Sister of Laurence III, Michael and Thomas Cummins. Grandmother of four. Great-grandmother of three.

MEADOWS, Clinton C., Sr., 58, St. Therese of the Infant Jesus (Little Flower) May 13. Father of Rachel Meadows and Clinton Meadows, Jr. Son of Betty Meadows. Brother of Tina Baker, David, Kevin and Nick Meadows. Grandfather of four.

PAULEY, Phyllis R., 84, St. Simon the Apostle, Indianapolis, May 17. Mother of Mark Pauley. Sister of Jerry and Patrick Schneider. Grandmother of four. Great-grandmother of

12. Great-great-grandmother of two.

PETER, Mary H. (Jacobi), 88, Holy Family, New Albany, May 23. Mother of Ivan Peter. Sister of Velma and John Jacobi, Jr.

RODDY, Robert G., 73, Holy Family, New Albany, May 29. Husband of Norma Roddy. Father of Bethany Bigelow, Jessica Hundley, Jill Webb, Erin and Shawn Roddy. Son of Mildred Roddy. Brother of Mike Roddy. Grandfather of nine.

SICCARDI, Janie (McAtee), 78, St. Therese of the Infant Jesus (Little Flower), June 1. Mother of Bobbi Siccardi. Sister of Barbara Akles, Rosie Hunter, Margy South and Joseph McAtee.

STOUGH, Marvin, 73, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, Richmond, May 29. Husband of Carol Stough. Father of Tara Thomson, Tracie and Toney Stough. Stepfather of Angela and Dewey Balthis, Carol Cottongim and Tammy Horning. Brother of Odena Houk. Grandfather of 16. Great-grandfather of seven.

STRIEGEL, Raymond E., 96, Holy Family, New Albany,

May 23. Father of Rozalyn Wolverson, Raymond, Reed, Richard, Roger and Ronald Striegel. Grandfather of 25. Great-grandfather of 50. Great-great-grandfather of 16.

TEAL, Sandra J., 41, St. Peter, Franklin County, May 24. Wife of Ian Teal. Daughter of Robert and Jane Fussner. Sister of Debbie Miller, Beth Weingart, Cindy and Doug Fussner.

TROTTE, Paul M., 87, St. Bartholomew, Columbus, May 16. Father of Martha McGillivray, Sarah, Mike and Paul Trotta, Jr. Grandfather of 12. Great-grandfather of 11.

VOWELS, Kenneth, 58, St. Agnes, Nashville, May 6. Brother of Darlene Stoddard and Rick Vowels. Uncle, great-uncle and great-great-uncle of several.

WALKER, Donald J., 43, Good Shepherd, Indianapolis, June 1. Son of Betty Walker. Brother of Linda Lanie, Candy Robinson, Teri Watters, Bob, Jim, Tom and Tony Walker. Uncle of several.

ZIEGLER, Caryl E., 68, St. Agnes, Nashville, May 10. Mother of Beth Mohr and Chris Ziegler. Sister of Dan and Thomas Vavra. Grandmother of two. †



Honoring D-Day veterans

Veterans hold the Union Jack and other ceremonial flags as they pay their respects during a ceremony marking the 75th anniversary of the D-Day landings at the Cathedral of Our Lady of Bayeux in Bayeux, Normandy, France on June 6. At left is Bishop Jean-Claude Boulanger of Bayeux and Lisieux; at right is Cardinal Marc Ouellet, prefect of the Congregation for Bishops. (CNS photo/Bertrand Guay, pool via Reuters)

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 P.O. Box 1410, Indianapolis, IN 46206-1410
317-236-1548 or 800-382-9836, ext. 1548
carlahill@archindy.org

CHARITY

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Periodically, however, we will find ourselves at a loss to know what to do or how to respond. It's then we ask for help, and God delivers more than intelligence and ideas and good old common sense. God provides abilities and insights that we have never experienced. Perhaps it might best be stated as having a small portion

of the "mind of Christ."

When we have responded as we should to life's blows, enduring them rather than escaping them, we are given more maturity that stays with us and new measures of wisdom, which we are able to draw upon for the balance of our lives.

(David Bethuram is executive director of the archdiocesan Secretariat for Catholic Charities. E-mail him at dbethuram@archindy.org.) †

DIFFERENCE

continued from page 12

looks and feels unholy. Refugees and migrants have died trying to walk far around the wall and through the unforgiving Arizona Sonoran desert.

Joanna Williams, director of education and advocacy for the Catholic-run Kino Border Initiative, located near the border in Nogales, Mexico, told me asylum seekers are turned back when they seek to turn themselves into Customs and Border Protection at U.S. ports of entry, and

have to wait for many weeks or months before they have the opportunity to even ask for asylum.

Please prayerfully read the Holy Father's World Day of Migrants and Refugees message at bit.ly/2VOWCxL. It will very likely inspire you to stand against the meanness—and stand with our desperate brothers and sisters who are knocking at nations' doors begging for Christian kindness.

(Tony Magliano is an internationally syndicated social justice and peace columnist. He can be reached at tmag@zoominternet.net.) †

Gift of friendship—human and divine—is at heart of book

Reviewed by Mike Krokos

If you've enjoyed reading John Shaughnessy's work through the years, then you will certainly enjoy his latest book, *Then Something Wondrous Happened: Unlikely encounters and unexpected graces in search of a friendship with God*.

As assistant editor of *The Criterion*, newspaper of the Archdiocese of Indianapolis, for the last 13 years, Shaughnessy has shared countless genuine, heartfelt stories of faith that have touched readers. An inspiring selection of these stories is included in



John Shaughnessy

Then Something Wondrous Happened.

As the title suggests, friendships with others and with God are at the heart of the stories in the book.

"In many ways, God makes his goodness and grace known to us in the world through our friendships," Shaughnessy writes in the book's introduction. "Our closest friends welcome us, lift us and accept us as we are, with all our faults and limitations. They stand by us when we reach the edges of life, love and faith. Our best friends also encourage, inspire and challenge us to reach for something more in our lives."

Then there is our relationship with God, the author notes. "God takes this gift of friendship to an even higher level. He offers his friendship to each of us, and he offers it unconditionally. No matter what, God accepts us with all his mercy and love," Shaughnessy writes. "He's always there for us, even in our darkest times. He invites and challenges us to deepen the purpose of our lives, our bonds with other people, and our relationship with him."

The book includes the story of the late Macklin Swinney and the friendship he developed with Father Rick Nagel, the pastor of St. John the Evangelist Parish in Indianapolis, after the 26-year-old Swinney learned he had been diagnosed with the most severe stage of skin cancer.

After joining his grandparents at Mass one Sunday at St. John, Swinney

felt called to be received into the full communion of the Church.

As the story goes, he and Father Nagel develop a friendship, and Swinney, despite his precarious life situation, tells the priest he is "going to give up fear" during Lent that year.

Stunned and inspired, Father Nagel says, "I was struck by how God had worked so beautifully in that moment to have this young man in his wisdom say, 'I am going to give up fear.'"

Through the story of Swinney and Father Nagel, we see how overcoming fear through a life of faith serves as an inspiration for us. Their friendship provides a witness for us of how God was present in the situation and in their lives.

There is also the story of Mark Peredo and Luke Hutchins, whose lives intersected when the strangers were involved in a serious car accident in 2015 that left them both seriously injured and emotionally and physically scarred.

Through his pain and suffering, Peredo feels a need to reach out and connect with the other person involved in the crash.

When they meet in 2017, they learn of each other's difficult life situations since the accident, which was caused by Hutchins suffering an epileptic seizure while driving.

Instead of condemning Hutchins, Peredo stuns him by sharing a plan to help them both heal their brokenness: Walking the *Camino*, Spanish for "the Way," together, which Peredo had done alone in late 2016. The ancient spiritual walking pilgrimage from France to Spain takes several weeks and ends at the shrine of St. James at Santiago de Compostela in northwestern Spain.

"I knew I was still broken. I wasn't whole. I was hoping I could create a way to make something great out of something bad—and he would be a partner with me in this," Peredo says.

"Through nobody's fault, both of us had almost been killed in the accident," Peredo continues. "I wanted to do this for myself and him—to walk as brothers, to create something positive for our futures."

What follows is a beautiful story of two strangers who become spiritual brothers as they spend 40 days walking 460 miles to find peace and healing. Their friendship, too, provides a witness for us of how God was present.

These are two examples of the book's many heartfelt stories that feature friendships that begin in surprising ways and lead to unexpected graces.

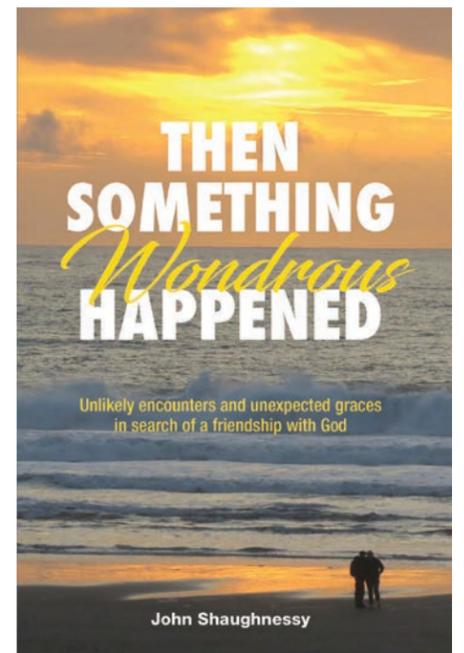
An added treasure is a chapter featuring a beautiful essay written by Shaughnessy's daughter Kathleen, who shows us how to "Rise and Soar" when life's challenges weigh heavily on us.

As you peruse the book, you will learn the gift of friendship—the human and the divine—is at the heart of *Then Something Wondrous Happened*.

At the end of each chapter is an "invitation/challenge" from Shaughnessy offering thoughts designed to help readers step outside their comfort zones, including "Laugh with God," "Put Your Life on the Line for Love" and "Do Something that Takes Your Breath Away." If readers take that leap of faith, we believe taking on those challenges may serve as a new and healthy way for them to approach life and deepen their relationships with God and others.

If you're someone looking for inspirational stories to remind you that we can all learn from others' journeys, this book is for you.

No matter where you are in life, we encourage everyone to embrace these words shared by the author at the end of one of the book's chapters: "Live abundantly while believing 'the best day of your life' is still to come."



(Mike Krokos is editor of *The Criterion*, newspaper of the Archdiocese of Indianapolis. To purchase a copy of *Then Something Wondrous Happened: Unlikely encounters and unexpected graces in search of a friendship with God*, go to www.amazon.com. The book can also be purchased at *The Celtic Cross Catholic Gift Shop* in Indianapolis. Cost is \$12.99.) †

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Employment

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St. Elizabeth Seton Catholic Church is seeking a full-time Communications & Marketing Coordinator to provide leadership for communications at Seton to help promote our mission and outreach. The coordinator reports to the Director of Parish Finance and Operations. This position is responsible for developing a comprehensive communications strategy to cast the parish's vision and priorities and effectively communicate the ministries, programs, and activities of the parish.

This person responds to the communication and marketing needs of the parish and ministry departments; supports the pastoral ministry of the parish with creative use of communications and social media. Responsibilities include, but not limited to, planning, development and implementation for Seton's marketing strategies, marketing communications, and public relations in print material, social media forms, website content and press media. Creating and daily updating digital media on numerous social media platforms and new media sites including, but not limited to: Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, LinkedIn, YouTube, etc. and weekly newsletters. This position would produce/oversee the production of weekly publications, videos, churchwide emails, letters, newsletters (including electronic/printed versions), brochures, flyers, postcards, banners, signage, annual reports, etc. while maintaining a consistent theme and message.

Minimum Qualifications

- Must be a practicing Roman Catholic in good standing with the Church
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- Experience in professional graphic or production design helpful.
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To apply email a cover letter, and resumé in confidence to:

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Director of Parish Operations
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Pope Francis names delegate for pastoral care of Lourdes pilgrims

VATICAN CITY (CNS)—Pope Francis has named a special delegate for the pastoral care of pilgrims to the French shrine of Our Lady of Lourdes.

Archbishop Rino Fisichella, president of the Pontifical Council for Promoting New Evangelization, announced at the shrine on June 6 that the pope had appointed Auxiliary Bishop Antoine Herouard of Lille, France, to the post.

An explanatory note published by Vatican News said Pope Francis had sent Archbishop Fisichella as his "special envoy" to study the pastoral situation at the shrine, which welcomes more than 3 million pilgrims a year.

Promoting spiritual and pastoral outreach at shrines around the world is one of the responsibilities of the Pontifical Council for Promoting New Evangelization.

According to the French newspaper, *Le Figaro*, the shrine has an annual budget of close to \$34 million. It relies heavily on volunteers to care for the hundreds of thousands of sick people who arrive each year seeking healing in baths filled with water from a spring near the grotto where St. Bernadette Soubirous said Mary appeared to her in 1858.

The shrine also employs 330 people, *Le Figaro* reported, but has struggled with a 30 percent decline in the number of organized diocesan pilgrimages during the past 10 years. An increase of individuals visiting Lourdes has not made up the difference.

According to the website Vatican Insider, Bishop Nicolas Brouwet of Tarbes and Lourdes, whose normal duties include caring for the shrine, hired a new business manager in 2016 to try to balance the shrine's budget given the drop in pilgrims.

While the business manager did turn the situation around, the website said, "the shrine has risked becoming almost a business and losing its identity as a center of spirituality."

Andrea Tornielli, editorial director for the Dicastery for Communication, wrote in Vatican News that Bishop Herouard's appointment is temporary and is focused on Pope Francis' desire "to accentuate the spiritual primacy over the temptation to overemphasize the managerial and financial aspect."

The pope, he said, also "wants to promote ever more the popular devotion that is traditional in sanctuaries."

In fact, Tornielli said, the pope's letter of appointment asked Bishop Herouard to investigate new ways to ensure Lourdes would "become ever more a place of prayer and of Christian witness corresponding to the needs of the People of God."

Le Figaro quoted a statement from Bishop Brouwet saying the appointment of a delegate is a demonstration of Pope Francis' concern for the shrine.

The assistance of a delegate, he said, "is welcome to help us better structure our internal organization and to make us more and more at the service of the pilgrims." †



St. Michael teacher and students on TV

In this photo, Franciscan Sister Ramona Lunsford, a teacher at St. Michael the Archangel School in Indianapolis, is shown with students who would appear with her on an episode of "Sister Says," a local Catholic television program that aired on WISH during the 1960s. The episode was part of a series titled, "A Tour Through the Roman Catholic Church." The students were all part of a boys' choir that performed during the episode. From left to right, the boys are: Jay Koffsky, Mark Haag, Duane Fricke, Mike Fleetwood, Pat Hennessy and Chris Crockett. This photo originally appeared in *The Criterion* on Oct. 29, 1965.

(Would you like to comment on or share information about this photo? Contact archdiocesan archivist Julie Motyka at 800-382-9836, ext. 1538; 317-236-1538; or by e-mail at jmotyka@archindy.org.)

Former NBA referee makes spiritual call to be permanent deacon

PHILADELPHIA (CNS)—If 30 years ago anyone told Steve Javie he would become a permanent deacon, he probably would have said, "No way."



Deacon Steve Javie

Sure, he came from a solid Catholic family with Mass every Sunday, confession every two weeks need it or not, and his uncle Msgr. Anthony Jaworowski was one of the most respected priests in the Philadelphia

Archdiocese. But all of that was ancient history as far as Javie was concerned.

Sports was really in his blood. His dad, Stan Javie, was a National Football League referee who worked four Super Bowls. Steve played baseball, football and basketball at La Salle College High School, outside of Philadelphia. At Philadelphia's Temple University, he continued with baseball, which was his first love.

After earning a degree in business administration, Javie signed on as a pitcher in the Baltimore Orioles' farm system, but his dreams of baseball stardom were cut short after one year because of an arm injury.

In college, he'd done some refereeing and umpiring to pick up a little money, which he then considered making his career. He first worked as baseball umpire but ultimately switched to basketball, which, from an officiating standpoint, has more action.

After five years officiating in the former Continental Basketball Association, Javie was hired by the National Basketball Association in 1986, and he remained there for the rest of his 20-plus-year career. Now, although he is retired, he provides commentary on NBA officiating during telecasts of games on ESPN.

His job required a lot of travel, which was how he met his wife, Mary-ellen Kennedy, who worked at Philadelphia International Airport.

After one date, he suggested they go to Sunday Mass and brunch, and on their way to the restaurant, he told Mary-ellen he didn't get much out of the liturgy.

She looked at him and asked, "What did you put into it?"

"What do you mean?" he asked.

"There's a lot of things you could do," she said. "Have you anyone you could pray for while you're sitting there?"

That got him thinking, and it got him going back to Mass on a regular basis. The couple married in less than a year.

Javie went through a rough patch in 1999 when he was one of 15 referees to be accused of tax evasion, in his case over the value of frequent-flyer miles. His worries about that got him going to Mass every day, and even though he was the only one to be acquitted on all charges, the daily Mass habit stuck.

For more than 10 years, he and his wife have belonged to St. Andrew Parish in Newtown, where Steve belongs to a "small" men's faith-sharing group with about 50-60 men in it, and he loves it.

When he retired from the NBA in 2011, he said he was looking for a way to give more time serving the Lord. "It was the Holy Spirit—the word 'deacon' just popped into my head," he told CatholicPhilly.com, the news outlet of the Philadelphia Archdiocese. He went to his pastor, Msgr. Michael Picard, who advised him to go for it.

On June 8, Javie joined six other men who were ordained as deacons for the Philadelphia Archdiocese at the Cathedral Basilica of SS. Peter and Paul. He is looking forward to ministry, especially to men, telling them, "it's OK to go make money, but you also have to go to church and love Jesus." †

Serra Club Vocations Essay

With the help of family, student uses faith, prayer as guides in life's journey

By Sophia Vincent

Special to *The Criterion*

One of the most encouraging verses from the Bible says, "And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength" (Mk 12:30).



This verse motivates me to be as faithful and Christlike as I can be. It has encouraged me to strengthen my faith and develop a better relationship with God. I have become a better

Catholic through my journey of faith thanks to the people who have helped me and encouraged me to be the best Catholic I can be every day.

Many of my classmates are very different from me and have contrasting hobbies. But it inspires me to know that God has something planned for me.

Unlike the rest of my classmates, I have zero social media accounts, and I keep to myself. I am a 13-year-old eighth-grader at St. Malachy School in Brownsburg. Reading is my favorite pastime, and I am interested in classical history, since I began reading about the Greeks and their civilizations. I strive to be the best I can be, and my interests make me unique.

My faith is of great importance to my family and is prevalent in my daily life. I pray daily to Mary and ask for her intercession, as well as praise God for all the marvelous blessings he has bestowed upon me. I work hard to not take these for granted.

I constantly strive to be grateful for simple things like having a safe place in which to be educated, because many people aren't given that. I remind myself that I am being blessed just by waking up each morning, and strive to make a small difference every day.

If I get lonely throughout my day, I usually talk to God as if he is a friend, because he is the best friend to have.

From time to time, if I am struggling to fall asleep or am overwhelmed by the looming amount of schoolwork I have to do, I pray the rosary. That usually helps to put my mind at ease and fall asleep.

My family and I try to attend Mass whenever we can, but unfortunately we cannot be there every Sunday, so we spend the night in prayer and reflection. I try to pray as much as I can, and I encourage my family members to do the same.

There are many people in my community and family who have helped me form my faith into what it is today, and I hope that they will continue to help me deepen and strengthen my faith every day.

One person who has assisted me in my journey is my grandmother. She teaches a religion class to adults with disabilities. I often help with her class and have seen how patient she is with her students. She teaches them to pray the rosary and to be a good Christian.

Another person who has helped me is my dad. He has physical restrictions and is not always able to attend Mass. He taught me prayers that I can say when I feel anxious or stressed. My dad also explained to me that, no matter how hard situations are, God is always there.

During our class retreat, I learned that I can do anything when I pray and God is always present. These are just some of the ways I have been guided in my journey and helped to become more faithful.

Recently, I have come far in my journey. Many have helped me follow God better, as well as to love to read the Scriptures. I hope in the future that my faith will continue to grow. An inspirational Bible verse says, "For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God" (Eph 2:8).

(Sophia and her parents, Tom and Ann Vincent, are members of St. Malachy Parish in Brownsburg. She completed the eighth grade at St. Malachy School in Brownsburg this spring, and is the eighth-grade division winner in the Indianapolis Serra Club's 2019 John D. Kelley Vocations Essay Contest.) †

Gender ideology is opposed to faith, reason, Vatican office says

VATICAN CITY (CNS)—Catholic schools must help parents teach young people that biological sex and gender are naturally fixed at birth and part of God's plan for creation, said the Congregation for Catholic Education.

In a document published on June 10, the congregation said the Catholic Church and those proposing a looser definition of gender can find common ground in "a laudable desire to combat all expressions of unjust discrimination," in educating children to respect all people "in their peculiarity and difference," in respecting the "equal dignity of men and women" and in promoting respect for "the values of femininity."

And while great care must be taken to respect and provide care for persons who "live situations of sexual indeterminacy," those who teach in the name of the Catholic Church must help young people understand that being created male and masculine or female and feminine is part of God's plan for them.

The document, titled "Male and Female He Created Them: Toward a Path of Dialogue on the Question of Gender Theory in Education," was signed by Cardinal Giuseppe Versaldi, prefect of the education congregation, and Archbishop Angelo V. Zani, congregation secretary.

While claiming to promote individual freedom and respect for the rights of each person, the document said, those who see gender as a personal choice or discovery unconnected to biological sex are, in fact,

promoting a vision of the human person that is "opposed to faith and right reason."

"The Christian vision of anthropology sees sexuality as a fundamental component of one's personhood," the document said. "It is one of its modes of being, of manifesting itself, communicating with others, and of feeling, expressing and living human love."

The document insisted that modern gender ideology and the idea that one chooses or discovers his or her gender go against nature by arguing that "the only thing that matters in personal relationships is the affection between the individuals involved, irrespective of sexual difference or procreation, which would be seen as irrelevant in the formation of families."

The theories, it said, deny "the reciprocity and complementarity of male-female relations" as well as "the procreative end of sexuality."

"This has led to calls for public recognition of the right to choose one's gender, and of a plurality of new types of unions, in direct contradiction of the model of marriage as being between one man and one woman, which is portrayed as a vestige of patriarchal societies," it said.

When the "physiological complementarity of male-female sexual difference" is removed, it said, procreation is no longer a natural process. Instead, recourse must be taken to *in vitro* fertilization or surrogacy with the risk of "the reduction of the baby to an object in the hands of science and technology." †