



The

Criterion

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Stories filled with faith, humor, heartbreak and hope mark the life of a future priest

By John Shaughnessy

As his ordination as a priest for the archdiocese nears on June 7, one of the many moments that transitional Deacon Liam Hosty is looking forward to involves a ritual that ties in with his reverence, his sentimentality, his appreciation of a good story and his love for his mother.

“There are so many beautiful actions that happen within the rite of ordination—between the laying on of hands, of being vested as a priest, of lying prostrate on the floor, of having your hands anointed with chrism oil—your hands are the hands of Christ,” Deacon Hosty says. “Another one that’s pretty neat is the custom of the maniturgium.

“While a priest is ordained, his hands are anointed with chrism oil. He then wipes his hands on this cloth. He then gives the cloth soaked in chrism oil to his mother at his first Mass. And when the mother of a priest passes away, she is buried with the cloth.

“The legend is that when she stands

See **HOSTY**, page 9

Seminarian Liam Hosty holds his hands in prayer during an April 27, 2024, Mass at St. Barnabas Church in Indianapolis in which he was ordained a transitional deacon. Pictured at left is his mother, Julie Hosty. Deacon Hosty will be ordained a priest at 10 a.m. on June 7 at SS. Peter and Paul Cathedral in Indianapolis. (Photo by Sean Gallagher)



National pilgrimage focusing on the Eucharist begins with Mass in Indianapolis

By Sean Gallagher

On the morning of May 18 at his inaugural Mass as bishop of Rome, Pope Leo XIV called Catholics around the world to “build a Church founded on God’s love, a sign of unity, a missionary Church that opens its arms to the world.”

“Together,” he said in his homily, “as one people, as brothers and sisters, let us walk toward God and love one another.”

Those were, in a sense, the marching orders for the eight young adult Catholics sent forth hours later from St. John the Evangelist Church in Indianapolis on a 36-day National Eucharistic Pilgrimage that will cross 10 states, 20 dioceses and four Eastern Catholic eparchies before concluding on June 22 in Los Angeles.

“That’s the mission of the Church, to walk with love, walk with truth and to share the good news of the Gospel,” said Charlie McCullough, the team leader of the eight “perpetual pilgrims” taking part in the pilgrimage. “We’ll get to carry out

that mission of the Church here in the United States.”

This year’s National Eucharistic Pilgrimage—in its St. Katharine Drexel Route from Indianapolis to Los Angeles—builds on the four routes of the pilgrimage last

year that started on the feast of *Corpus Christi* in northern, southern, eastern and western points in the U.S. and converged on Indianapolis at the start of the National Eucharistic Congress.

This year’s pilgrimage will conclude on the same feast in Los Angeles, which also marks the conclusion of the three-year National Eucharistic Revival.

See **PILGRIMAGE**, page 3



Charlie McCullough



Inauguration Mass of Pope Leo XIV

Story, photos, pages 12-13.

(CNS photo/Vatican Media)



Usha Vance smiles as her husband, U.S. Vice President JD Vance, presents a gift to Pope Leo XIV in the library of the Apostolic Palace at the Vatican on May 19. (CNS photo/Vatican Media)

Pope Leo meets with Vice President Vance, Secretary of State Rubio

VATICAN CITY (CNS)—The day after his inauguration Mass, Pope Leo XIV had a closed-door meeting at the Vatican with U.S. Vice President JD Vance, who gave him a Chicago Bears jersey and a letter from U.S. President Donald J. Trump.

Vance delivered the letter from President Trump and his wife Melania before the start of the meeting, according to a video edited and released by Vatican Media. The short video clip showed Vance handing a large envelope to the pope, telling him it was a letter “from the president and first lady inviting you to come” The rest of the sentence was cut.

The vice president also met on May 19 with Archbishop Paul R. Gallagher, Vatican foreign minister, after meeting with the pope, a Vatican statement said.

The Vatican press office released a communique outlining only what general themes were discussed during the “cordial talks held at the Secretariat of State” with Archbishop Gallagher. The two parties expressed their satisfaction with the “good bilateral relations” between them, and “the collaboration between Church and state was discussed, as well as some matters of special relevance to ecclesial life and religious freedom.

“Finally, there was an exchange of views on some current international issues, calling for respect for humanitarian law and international law in areas of conflict and for a negotiated solution between the parties involved,” the Vatican said.

One of the gifts from the U.S. delegation was a navy blue and orange jersey from the Chicago Bears football team with “Pope Leo XIV” written on the back. The new pope, who was born in Chicago, responded with, “Good choice,” when the vice president showed him the jersey, according to the Vatican Media clips.

Vance’s office said he also gave the

pope the books, *The City of God* and *On Christian Doctrine*, both written by St. Augustine, the founder of the religious order the pope joined when he was 21.

Among the gifts Pope Leo presented was a bronze bas-relief of a flower blossoming with an inscription, which the pope read out loud to Vance, “Peace is a fragile flower,” according to the Vatican Media video.

As he presented a large book of colored photographs to Vance, the pope explained one photo of the apostolic palace saying, “Pope Francis did not live [here] and I may live [there], which is right upstairs from here.”

Vance also told the pope, “The United States people are extremely excited about you,” to which the pope responded with an “oh,” a smile and a nod.

According to the office of Vice President Vance, U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio was present for a portion of the closed-door meeting with the pope after Vance’s one-on-one.

Vance and Rubio were in Rome to represent the United States at Pope Leo’s inaugural Mass in St. Peter’s Square on May 18. They were accompanied by their spouses and senior White House aides at the Mass, which drew more than 150,000 people.

Later on May 18, Vance and Rubio also met with Ukraine President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, who also was in Rome for the pope’s inaugural Mass.

In a post on X, Vance said, “Our countries share the goal of ending unnecessary bloodshed in Ukraine, and we discussed updates on the ongoing negotiations for a ceasefire and lasting peace.”

A move to hold talks between Ukraine and Russia at the Vatican appeared to gain momentum on May 19, following a call between Trump and Russian President Vladimir Putin.

Rubio earlier confirmed that the Vatican could be a meeting venue for Russia-Ukraine peace talks before



Public Schedule of Archbishop Charles C. Thompson

May 25–June 3, 2025

May 25 – 9 a.m. Mass at Indianapolis 500, Trackside Garage 19	May 29 – 10 a.m. Leadership Team meeting at Archbishop Edward T. O’Meara Catholic Center
May 25 – TBD Invocation for the 109th Indianapolis 500	May 29 – 7 p.m. Confirmation Mass for the youths of Holy Spirit and St. John the Evangelist parishes, Indianapolis, at SS. Peter and Paul Cathedral
May 27 – 1 p.m. Council of Priests meeting at Archbishop Edward T. O’Meara Catholic Center, Indianapolis	May 30 – 7 p.m. Graduation at Cardinal Ritter High School, Indianapolis
May 28 – 1 p.m. Virtual Catholic Prison Ministries Coalition Bishops Advisory Committee meeting	June 1 – 2 p.m. Adult Confirmation Mass at SS. Peter and Paul Cathedral
May 28 – 7 p.m. Confirmation Mass for the youths of St. Malachy Parish, Brownsburg, at SS. Peter and Paul Cathedral, Indianapolis	June 3 – 7 p.m. Confirmation Mass for the youths of St. Philip Neri and St. Mary parishes, Indianapolis, at SS. Peter and Paul Cathedral

Parishes change Mass times due to Indianapolis 500 race

Several parishes in the Indianapolis West Deanery will change their Mass schedule for the Memorial Day weekend on May 24-25 due to the annual Indianapolis 500 race on May 25.	11:30 a.m. in English on May 25.
Holy Angels Parish/St. Rita Parish in Indianapolis: There will be Mass at 4 p.m. at Holy Angels Church, 2810 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. St., on May 24. There will be no Mass at Holy Angels on May 25. There will Mass at St. Rita Church, 1733 Dr. Andrew J. Brown Ave., at 6 p.m. on May 24 and a joint Mass for both parishes at St. Rita at 11 a.m. on May 25.	St. Christopher Parish , 5301 W. 16th St., in Indianapolis: Mass will be celebrated at 4 p.m. and 5:30 p.m. on May 24. No Mass will be celebrated on May 25.
St. Anthony Parish , 337 N. Warman Ave., in Indianapolis: Mass schedule remains the same. It will be celebrated in English at 4 p.m. and Spanish at 6 p.m. on May 24, and at 8:30 a.m. in Spanish and	St. Gabriel the Archangel Parish , 6000 W. 34th St., in Indianapolis: There will be Mass in English at 5 p.m. and in Spanish at 7 p.m. on May 24. There will be no Masses on May 25.
	St. Michael the Archangel Parish , 3354 W. 30th St., in Indianapolis: Mass will be celebrated at 4 p.m. and 5:30 p.m. on May 24. Mass will be celebrated at 7 a.m. on May 25. Parking for the Indy 500 is available for \$10.
	For information about Mass changes at other parishes in the area, call the parish offices. †

Correction

In the May 16 article in *The Criterion* about the Mass of Thanksgiving for the Election of Pope Leo XIV, the parish of Sara Cabrera and the Cabrera family was incorrect. They are members of Our Lady of the Most Holy Rosary Parish in Indianapolis. †

meeting on May 17 with Cardinal Matteo Zuppi. As the archbishop of Bologna, Italy, Cardinal Zuppi has served as a papal peace envoy between Ukraine and Russia since 2023.

“I think it’s a place that both sides would be comfortable going,” Rubio told reporters in Rome. †

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PILGRIMAGE

continued from page 1

Sharing gifts gratefully received

Perpetual pilgrims Cheyenne Johnson and Rachel Levy grew in their faith as college students respectively at Butler University in Indianapolis and at Indiana University in Bloomington.

For the past two years, each have begun to give to others the gift they received, with Johnson serving as the Catholic campus minister at Butler and Levy ministering as the archdiocese’s young adult ministry coordinator.

Now they’re going forth from the archdiocese to share their love for Christ in the Eucharist with people across the country.

“I’m blown away by what God’s doing in the archdiocese,” Johnson said. “The grace from the congress last year has been so tangible. Hopefully, it will continue to spill out and help to build up the Church in the United States.”

“Being able to work for the archdiocese and pouring out what I’ve received in college in Bloomington has been a gift,” Levy added. “I’m excited to be able to continue to pour it out to people across the country.”

Levy described the pilgrimage as “a unique opportunity” to carry out Pope Leo’s call “to love all the people that we’ll be encountering along the pilgrimage and be a light of Christ to them.”

At the same time, she also noted that the pilgrimage will give her and her fellow perpetual pilgrims a chance to witness to those they’ll meet along the way how “to love God alone ... in all the times that we’ll have in adoration and prayer.”

“There are so many ways that we’re able to witness to people across the country,” she said, “by loving them very intentionally, but also by showing them how to love God very intentionally in the Blessed Sacrament.”

‘Planting that seed’

Perpetual pilgrim Leslie Reyes-Hernandez grew up in a Chicago suburb not far from Pope Leo’s boyhood home.



Archbishop Charles C. Thompson carries a monstrance holding the Blessed Sacrament in a procession on May 18 from St. John the Evangelist Church in Indianapolis to a National Eucharistic Pilgrimage van. The young adults following Archbishop Thompson are the pilgrimage’s “perpetual pilgrims.” Father James Brockmeier, second from right, assists as master of ceremonies.



Archbishop Charles C. Thompson, left, blesses chaplains and eight young adults at the end of a May 18 Mass at St. John the Evangelist Church in Indianapolis. The Mass marked the start of the National Eucharistic Pilgrimage, which will conclude on June 22 in Los Angeles. The young adults are taking part in the pilgrimage as “perpetual pilgrims.”

So, she was excited to begin the National Eucharistic Pilgrimage on the same day as his inaugural Mass at the Vatican.

“This is big, not only for the Catholic Church, but for our country as well,” she said.

Reyes-Hernandez, 26, also knows from experience the impact that the National Eucharistic Congress had on people across the country last year.

She attended the event last summer that drew more than 50,000 people to Indianapolis. The changes that have happened in her life since then have amazed her.

“The seed was planted in my heart here,” she said.

Last July, she couldn’t have imagined that just 10 months later she would be setting off on a nationwide eucharistic pilgrimage like the perpetual pilgrims she saw process into Lucas Oil Stadium in Indianapolis.

“I would have been in total disbelief if someone would have told me that,” Reyes-Hernandez said in wonder.

Back then, she wanted to speak with the pilgrims and hear their stories. Now, she’s hoping to have stories to share of how people she will meet along the pilgrimage route will be drawn close to Christ in the Blessed Sacrament.

“I’m looking forward to seeing all that God will do in my heart, as well with everyone that we encounter,” said Reyes-Hernandez, a teacher at Barry Goldwater High School in Phoenix. “Maybe someone hasn’t encountered the Eucharist before. We’ll just be planting that seed.”



Rachel Levy, left, and Cheyenne Johnson kneel in prayer on May 18 during a Mass at St. John the Evangelist Church in Indianapolis that marked the start of the National Eucharistic Pilgrimage. Levy, who serves as archdiocesan young adult ministry coordinator, and Johnson, the Catholic campus minister at Butler University in Indianapolis, are taking part in the 36-day journey as two of its eight “perpetual pilgrims.” (Photos by Sean Gallagher)

McCullough was one of those pilgrims that Reyes-Hernandez saw at the congress last July in Indianapolis. He took part in the pilgrimage’s St. Juan Diego Route, which started in Brownsville, Texas.

He laughed as he said coming to Indianapolis without 50,000 people gathered there was a change for him. At the same time, returning to the city brought back so many memories.

“I shed a couple of tears of gratitude for all the good work that I had seen the Lord do and all the good work that he had done in my life,” said McCullough, 23, a native of Texas.

‘Making more people aware of the power of the Eucharist’

Barbara Costa made a special trip to Indianapolis for the Mass from her home

in Longwood, Fla., where she is a member of Nativity Parish.

She was amazed by seeing the perpetual pilgrims at the Mass preparing to begin their journey across the country.

“I was kind of in awe at their dedication,” Costa said. “It just made me realize that I need to do my part, which is making more people aware of the power of the Eucharist.”

Capuchin Franciscan Father Christopher Iwancio was glad to come to Indianapolis to be a concelebrant at the Mass at the start of the pilgrimage. He’ll later join the perpetual pilgrims for two weeks during their travels.

He ministers in Los Angeles and lives near where earlier this year a wildfire roared through Altadena, Calif., a stopping point of this year’s pilgrimage.

“We’re going to walk past the homes of my students, colleagues and friends who lost their homes in the fires,” Father Christopher said. “So, in this Jubilee year of a pilgrimage of hope, to bring that hope to people in different areas is powerful.”

He also said that the hope he saw in the way that Catholics and others responded so positively to the recent election of Pope Leo was similar to the hope he experienced in many people in the National Eucharistic Pilgrimage last year, something he would like to see repeated in this year’s pilgrimage.

“This is what the hope of the Eucharist brings us,” Father Christopher said. “We are still walking with Christ. We’re not walking alone in our troubles and difficulties. God is with us.”

‘Our ultimate destination is heaven’

Archbishop Charles C. Thompson was the principal celebrant of the Mass that started this year’s pilgrimage.

“We’re honored to be celebrating this Mass today and sending off these pilgrims,” he said in an interview with *The Criterion*. “I think it’s just as much an honor to send them off as to receive them.”

Archbishop Thompson noted that the perpetual pilgrims “represent all of us” as they go across the country to bring Christ in the Eucharist to so many communities.

“They’re representing the Church and the unity we share in the body, blood, soul and divinity of Christ,” he said. “He is the living Word of God made available to us so that we can carry out his mission of transforming the world, by proclaiming the good news by the witness of our lives.”

In his homily at the Mass, Archbishop Thompson invited the approximately 800 people gathered for the liturgy to carry out in their own lives the mission that the perpetual pilgrims will embrace in their journey of faith to Los Angeles.

“Wherever any of us are headed, each of us are meant to go forth as missionary disciples of Jesus Christ,” he said. “Wherever that immediate stop may be, our ultimate destination is heaven, which is why we constantly preach the kingdom of God through both word and example.

“While eight special pilgrims, along with chaplains and other companions, embark on a 36-day pilgrimage to cover some 3,300 miles through 10 states, we do not necessarily have to physically travel to faraway places to be missionary disciples. ...

“We need only be willing to step out of comfort zones, focus outward to recognize the needs of others and then act as Jesus commands, namely, by loving one another as he loves us.”

(To view more photos of the Mass that started this year’s National Eucharistic Pilgrimage, go to www.CriterionOnline.com.) †

OPINION



Archbishop Charles C. Thompson, *Publisher*
Sally Krause, *Associate Publisher*
Mike Krokos, *Editor*

Editorial



Pope Leo XIV speaks to representatives of the media who covered his election in the Paul VI Audience Hall at the Vatican on May 12. (CNS photo/Lola Gomez)

Words of peace, not war

Peace begins with each one of us: in the way we look at others, listen to others and speak about others. In this sense, the way we communicate is of fundamental importance: we must say “no” to the war of words and images, we must reject the paradigm of war. (Pope Leo XIV)

“Peace” was our new pope’s first word to us, and it is clear that “peace” is a word Pope Leo XIV will continue to speak, and a concept that he will continue to press urgently on everyone from world leaders to the ordinary people whose lives literally depend on it.

“Peace begins with each one of us,” the Holy Father said. And, quoting St. Augustine, the patron saint of his religious order, he exhorted us, “Let us live well and the times will be good. We are the times” (Discourse 80.8).

These are foreign concepts to most of us. We are used to being passive, even disengaged participants, when it comes to deciding questions of war and peace. Other people—local, national and world leaders—are expected to decide whether there will be peace at home or abroad. Most of us feel powerless when confronted with these profound issues.

But Pope Leo sees things differently. “Peace begins with each of us,” he says, “and if we live well, the times will be well.” We are not merely passive observers. What we do, or don’t do, makes a difference. We can choose to be peacemakers as our Lord Jesus Christ has directed us, or we can remain silent and let others decide for us.

Journalists have a special role to play. As Pope Leo said in an address to journalists on May 12:

In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus proclaimed: “Blessed are the peacemakers” [Mt 5:9]. This is a Beatitude that challenges all of us, but it is particularly relevant to you, [journalists], calling each one of you to strive for a different kind of communication, one that does not seek consensus at all costs, does not use aggressive words, does not follow the culture of competition and never separates the search for truth from the love with which we must humbly seek it.

Living as we do in a world saturated by words and images, it’s important to grasp what our new pope is saying

to journalists, but in truth to all of us. What is this “different kind of communication” that Pope Leo is calling for? The pope spells out several things to be avoided: 1) consensus at all costs; 2) aggressive words; 3) the “culture of competition;” and 4) the separation of truth from love.

Consensus at all costs rules out the legitimate diversity that exists among people with different experiences and points of view. Genuine peace can never happen if we insist on absolute uniformity. Too much richness and independent thinking are sacrificed by requiring consensus “at all costs.”

And, of course, aggressive words only alienate and divide us from each other. Name calling is antithetical to peacemaking, just as an unhealthy emphasis on competition suggests that we are irreconcilable enemies rather than sisters and brothers who work together for the common good of all.

Finally, as Pope Benedict XVI taught so eloquently, truth and love can never be separated without distorting both. Jesus Christ is both the Word made flesh and Love Incarnate. Unless these two divine attributes are kept together, the result is violence, chaos and unending war.

“Peace begins with each one of us,” our Holy Father says, “in the way we look at others, listen to others and speak about others.” We are responsible for making peace, not war, in our own hearts, in our families and neighborhoods, in our nation and in our world.

“We are living in times that are both difficult to navigate and to recount,” Pope Leo said to the journalists and to each of us. “They present a challenge for all of us but it is one that we should not run away from. On the contrary, they demand that each one of us, in our different roles and services, never give in to mediocrity.”

No more war means no more mediocrity. It requires that each person does his or her best to live well, speak the truth with love, and respect the dignity (and the diversity) of all our sisters and brothers in Christ.

Blessed are the peacemakers, everyone of us, who speak and live words of peace, not war.

—Daniel Conway

Be Our Guest/Michael R. Heinlein

Christ at the center of life

How striking it was to hear the first words of Pope Leo XIV’s pontificate. They surprised, in no small part of course, because the world had never heard before from a pontiff born in the United States. But even more significantly, the first



words he spoke as pope were not his own. Stepping out onto the loggia of St. Peter’s Basilica on May 8, emerging from the conclave that elected him the 266th successor of St. Peter, Pope Leo

greeted the universal Church with the words of the resurrected Lord: “Peace be with you all!” “These are the first words spoken by the risen Christ,” Pope Leo said, “the Good Shepherd who laid down his life for God’s flock.”

In this greeting, Pope Leo laid a foundation for what seems to be a programmatic vision for his exercise of the papacy, with Christ at center stage in the speeches and homilies in the days since his election.

The way Pope Leo has put Christ at the center in these early days of his pontificate illustrates that Christ is no mere idea or role model. In fact, in his first homily as pope, the day after his election, Pope Leo chastised such ways of perceiving Christ.

Turning his attention to St. Peter’s response to Christ’s question “Who do people say that the Son of Man is?” (Mt 16:13), Pope Leo exposed the heart of Christian living, as he first described the half-hearted, weak responses we find all too often, even within ourselves.

This can include those who regard Christ, according to Pope Leo, as “completely insignificant,” who then is rejected and eliminated once he “becomes irksome because of his demands for honesty and his stern moral requirements.”

It also includes those who see Christ as truthful, courageous and well-spoken, worthy of following until it costs too much. But then, though, Christ “is only a man,” who is abandoned amid disappointment.

These attitudes are relevant today,

Pope Leo insists, because it is easy to find the Christian faith “considered absurd, meant for the weak and unintelligent” or less preferred to “technology, money, success, power, or pleasure.” But, in the face of these, Pope Leo argues it is all the more essential to reject those inadequate and false notions, to answer Christ’s question by proclaiming anew St. Peter’s own answer: “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God” (Mt 16:16).

This is accomplished, as Pope Leo explained, primarily “in our personal relationship with the Lord, in our commitment to a daily journey of conversion” and as the Church “experiencing together our fidelity to the Lord and bringing the good news to all.”

To illustrate the most significant commitment to embodiment of St. Peter’s answer, Pope Leo recalled the words and witness of early second-century martyr St. Ignatius of Antioch, who said of his impending

martyrdom, “Then I will truly be a disciple of Jesus Christ, when the world no longer sees my body” (Letter to the Romans, IV, 1).

On his part, Pope Leo said his exercise of ministry, and all in authority, should mirror this: “to move aside so that Christ may remain, to make oneself small so that he may be known and glorified [Jn 3:30], to spend oneself to the utmost so that all may have the opportunity to know and love him.”

This kind of proclamation of who Christ is, and this kind of commitment to him, lies at the heart of Christian faith. A refreshing, compelling and encouraging start of Pope Leo’s pontificate—a sign of life amid the hopes for much-needed reform that now rest on his shoulders.

“We need to be courageous in the witness we give,” Pope Leo encouraged in his first Sunday homily on May 11. “There is no better example than Jesus Christ himself, to whom we give our

lives and whom we depend on.”

(Michael R. Heinlein is author of Glorifying Christ: The Life of Cardinal Francis E. George, O.M.I. and a promised member of the Association of Pauline Cooperators.) †

Letters Policy

Letters from readers are published in The Criterion as part of the newspaper’s commitment to “the responsible exchange of freely-held and expressed opinion among the People of God” (Communio et Progressio, 116).

Letters from readers are welcome and every effort will be made to include letters from as many people and representing as many viewpoints as possible. Letters should be informed, relevant, well-expressed and temperate in tone. They must reflect a basic sense of courtesy and respect.

The editors reserve the right to select the letters that will be published and to edit

letters from readers as necessary based on space limitations, pastoral sensitivity and content (including spelling and grammar). In order to encourage opinions from a variety of readers, frequent writers will ordinarily be limited to one letter every three months. Concise letters (usually less than 300 words) are more likely to be printed.

Letters must be signed, but, for serious reasons, names may be withheld.

Send letters to “Letters to the Editor,” The Criterion, 1400 N. Meridian Street, Indianapolis, IN 46202-2367. Readers with access to e-mail may send letters to criterion@archindy.org. †

ARCHBISHOP/ARZOBISPO CHARLES C. THOMPSON



Christ the Cornerstone

Our new pope is a gift of the Holy Spirit

The Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything and remind you of all that I told you (Jn 14:26).

Just two weeks ago, the whole world witnessed the working of the Holy Spirit. When the white smoke emerged from the papal conclave on May 8, it was a sign that the 133 cardinals had reached the required two-thirds’ consensus on the 266th successor of St. Peter.

As the Cardinal Electors affirmed, it was the Holy Spirit who inspired their discussions in the pre-conclave congregations. And it was the Divine Advocate who guided them in balloting once they were sequestered in the Sistine Chapel for what turned out to be a relatively brief conclave.

The Holy Spirit’s choice for St. Peter’s successor was a surprise. Worldly wisdom dictated that the new pope would not be from the United States of America. Many commentators speculated that the new pope would be African or Asian. Others debated whether he would be a progressive or a traditionalist. The Holy Spirit chose a

both/and papal candidate, a bridge-builder who would accept the daunting challenge of unity in Christ expressed in his papal motto, “*In illo uno unum*” (“In the One Christ we are one”).

Cardinal Robert Francis Prevost (now Pope Leo XIV) did not campaign for his office as the Vicar of Christ. Nor was his election simply the result of the Cardinals’ efforts to find “the best man for the job.”

The new pope was a gift to the Church and the world by the Holy Spirit working in and through the Cardinal Electors. This is the same Spirit that the Risen Christ promised his Father would send in his name to teach his disciples everything and to remind them of all he told them during his brief time on Earth (Jn 14:26).

In the Gospel for the Sixth Sunday of Easter (Jn 14: 23-29), Jesus says:

Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give it to you. Do not let your hearts be troubled or afraid. You heard me tell you, “I am going away and I will come back to you.” If you loved me, you would rejoice that I am going to the Father; for the Father is greater than I.

And now I have told you this before it happens, so that when it happens you may believe. (Jn 14:27-29)

“Peace be with you,” were the first words spoken by Pope Leo XIV when he was introduced to us as our new pope. Those same words were spoken by the Risen Jesus when he first appeared to his disciples, and the peace that our new Holy Father wishes for us can only come from Christ. He gives us peace not as the world gives it—tentative and conditional—but as a permanent and irrevocable covenant between our merciful God and his people.

As the Vicar of Christ, Pope Leo is charged with the sacred responsibility to comfort, challenge and instruct us as faithful followers of Jesus. The way that he can accomplish this awesome task is not by trusting his own gifts and talents (as considerable as they are) but by relying on the power of the Holy Spirit who is actively at work in the world.

Every time we recite the Nicene Creed, we say, “I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified, who

has spoken through the prophets.”

The Holy Spirit was instrumental in the birth of the Church as the Body of Christ, and it was the same Spirit who breathed life into St. Peter and the first Apostles, empowering them as missionary disciples of Jesus Christ called to proclaim his Gospel to the ends of the Earth.

Without the Holy Spirit, the mission of St. Peter’s successor would be impossibly complex and difficult. It would require the political posturing of secular leadership, and its accomplishments would be, at best, the result of human wisdom. In the Creed, we profess that the Holy Spirit is “the giver of life.” We Catholics believe that the Holy Spirit is also the giver of many spiritual gifts, including love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, modesty, prudence, courage and wisdom.

Let us pray that the Holy Spirit will bless Pope Leo XIV with all these gifts as he carries out his mission of bridge-building and peacemaking in our Church and in the world. And may the Spirit of God guide him in all aspects of his Petrine ministry. †



Cristo, la piedra angular

Nuestro nuevo Papa es un don del Espíritu Santo

Pero el Abogado, el Espíritu Santo, a quien el Padre enviará en mi nombre, hará que ustedes recuerden cuanto yo les he enseñado y él se lo explicará todo (Jn 14:26).

Hace apenas dos semanas, el mundo entero fue testigo de la obra del Espíritu Santo. Cuando el 8 de mayo salió humo blanco del cónclave papal, era señal de que los 133 cardenales habían alcanzado el consenso necesario de dos tercios sobre el 266.º sucesor de San Pedro.

Como afirmaron los cardenales electores, fue el Espíritu Santo quien inspiró sus debates en los congregaciones previos al cónclave. Y fue el Divino Abogado quien los guió en la votación una vez que estuvieron a puertas cerradas en la Capilla Sixtina para lo que resultó ser un cónclave relativamente breve.

La elección del Espíritu Santo como sucesor de San Pedro fue una sorpresa. La sabiduría mundana dictaba que el nuevo Papa no podría ser de los Estados Unidos de América. Muchos comentaristas especulaban que el nuevo Papa sería africano o asiático; otros debatían si sería progresista o tradicionalista. El Espíritu Santo eligió a un candidato papal que resultó ser un constructor

de puentes que aceptó el enorme desafío de la unidad en Cristo expresado en su lema papal, “*In illo uno unum*” (“En el único Cristo somos uno”).

El cardenal Robert Francis Prevost (actual papa León XIV) no hizo campaña para convertirse en Vicario de Cristo. Su elección tampoco fue simplemente el resultado de los esfuerzos de los Cardenales por encontrar “al mejor postor.”

El nuevo Papa fue un regalo del Espíritu Santo a la Iglesia y al mundo, actuando en y a través de los cardenales electores. Es el mismo Espíritu que Cristo resucitado prometió a su Padre que enviaría en su nombre para enseñar a sus discípulos y recordarles todo lo que les dijo durante su breve estancia en la Tierra (Jn 14:26).

En la lectura del Evangelio del Sexto Domingo de Pascua (Jn 14:23-29), Jesús dice:

Les dejo la paz, mi paz se la doy. Una paz que no es la que el mundo da. No vivan angustiados ni tengan miedo. Ya han oído lo que les he dicho: “Me voy, pero volveré a estar con ustedes.” Si de verdad me aman, deben alegrarse de que vaya al Padre, porque el Padre es mayor

que yo. Se lo he dicho a ustedes ahora, por adelantado, para que, cuando suceda, no duden en creer. (Jn 14:27-29).

“La paz sea con ustedes”, fueron las primeras palabras que pronunció el Papa León XIV al ser presentado como nuestro nuevo Papa. Las mismas palabras que pronunció Jesús resucitado cuando se apareció por primera vez a sus discípulos, y la paz que nuestro nuevo Santo Padre desea para nosotros solamente puede venir de Cristo. Nos da la paz no como la da el mundo, de forma provisional y condicional, sino como una alianza permanente e irrevocable entre nuestro Dios misericordioso y su pueblo.

Como Vicario de Cristo, el Papa León tiene la sagrada responsabilidad de consolarnos, desafiarnos e instruirnos como fieles seguidores de Jesús. La forma para llevar a cabo esta impresionante tarea no es confiando en sus propios dones y talentos—que de por sí son considerables—sino confiando en el poder del Espíritu Santo, que actúa activamente en el mundo.

Cada vez que recitamos el Credo de Nicea, decimos “Creo en el Espíritu Santo, Señor y dador de vida, que procede del Padre y del Hijo, que con el Padre y el Hijo

recibe una misma adoración y gloria y que habló por los profetas.”

El Espíritu Santo fue decisivo en la génesis de la Iglesia como Cuerpo de Cristo, y fue el que insufló vida a san Pedro y a los primeros Apóstoles, dándoles poder como discípulos misioneros de Jesucristo llamados a proclamar su Evangelio hasta los confines de la Tierra.

Sin el Espíritu Santo, la misión del sucesor de san Pedro sería terriblemente compleja y difícil. Requeriría el postureo político de un liderazgo secular, y sus logros serían, en el mejor de los casos, el resultado de la sabiduría humana. En el Credo, profesamos que el Espíritu Santo es “el dador de vida.” Los católicos creemos que el Espíritu Santo es también el dador de muchos dones espirituales, entre ellos amor, alegría, paz, paciencia, amabilidad, bondad, generosidad, fidelidad, mansedumbre, modestia, prudencia, valentía y sabiduría.

Recemos para que el Espíritu Santo bendiga al Papa León XIV con todos estos dones mientras lleva a cabo su misión de tender puentes y construir la paz en nuestra Iglesia y en el mundo. Y que el Espíritu de Dios le guíe en todos los aspectos de su ministerio petrino. †

Events Calendar

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

May 26

Our Lady of Peace Cemetery and Mausoleum, 9001 Haverstick Road, Indianapolis. **Memorial Day Mass**, 2 p.m. Information: 317-574-8898, catholiccemeteries.cc.

Calvary Mausoleum Chapel, 435 W. Troy Ave., Indianapolis. **Memorial Day Mass**, 2 p.m. Information: 317-784-4439, catholiccemeteries.cc.

May 29-31

St. Jude Parish, 5353 McFarland Road, Indianapolis. **Parish Festival**, Thurs. 5-10 p.m., Fri. and Sat. 5-11 p.m., children’s games, prizes, food and beer tents, raffle, silent auction, bingo, Monte Carlo games, carnival rides, live music: Thurs. DJ Tobias, Fri. Project 19, Sat. Train Wreck, free admission. Information: 317-786-4371, festival@stjudeindy.

St. Simon the Apostle Parish, 8155 Oaklondon Road, Indianapolis. **Parish Festival**, Thurs. 5-11 p.m., Fri. 5 p.m.-midnight, Sat. 3 p.m.-midnight, rides, food, beer garden, games, kids’ zone, Vegas room (ages 21 and older), live music: Thurs. St. Simon Idol,

Fri. My Yellow Rickshaw, Sat. Stella Luna and the Satellites, \$10 admission. Information: Facebook: @stsimonfestival, 317-826-6000, saintsimonfestival.com.

May 30-31

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

May 30-June 1

St. Therese of the Infant Jesus (Little Flower) Parish, 4720 E. 13th St., Indianapolis. **Summerfest**, Fri. 5-11 p.m., Sat. 3-11 p.m., Sun. 11 a.m.-5 p.m., \$4,000 grand prize raffle, bingo Fri. and Sat., midway rides, silent auction, food, beer, wine, games for kids and adults, live music: Fri. 5 Minutes 2 Wapner 5 p.m., The Sherwood Club 8:30 p.m.; Sat. OK Boomer Band 4:30 p.m.; Bigger is Better Band 7:30 p.m.; Sun. Silly Safaris noon, Jaylen Koehl 1 p.m., Arisan Maru (Seccina) 2 p.m., Almost Live 3 p.m., \$10 admission for \$10 in event coupons. Information: 317-357-8352, lfsummerfest@littleflowerparish.org.

June 3, 10, 17, 24

St. Patrick Parish, 950 Prospect St., Indianapolis. **“Know Your Fertility” class in Spanish**, 7-9 p.m., series of four sessions, \$75. Information, registration: ccorona@archindy.org, 317-800-9306.

June 4

MCL Cafeteria, 5520 Castleton Corner Lane, Indianapolis. **Solo Seniors**, 5:30-8:30 p.m., Catholic, educational, charitable and social singles—separated, widowed or divorced—age 50 and older, new members welcome, also call about regular Friday night dinner events. Information: 317-796-8605.

June 5-7

St. Anthony Parish, 337 N. Warman Ave., Indianapolis. **Crossroads of the Americas Festival**, Thurs. 4-10 p.m., Fri. 4-11 p.m., Sat. 2 p.m.-midnight, live music, beer garden, American, Mexican and international food, \$20,000 cash raffle, free admission. Information: 317-636-4828, saintanthonybusiness@gmail.com.

June 6

Women’s Care Center, 4901 W. 86th St., Indianapolis. **First Friday Mass**, 5 p.m., optional tour of center to follow. Information: 317-829-6800, womenscarecenter.org.

Our Lady of the Greenwood Church, 335 S. Meridian St., Greenwood. **First Friday bilingual celebration of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus**, Mass 6 p.m. followed by adoration until 9 p.m., sacrament of reconciliation available. Information: 317-750-7309, msross1@hotmail.com.

St. John Paul II Church, 2253 St. Joe Road W., Sellersburg. **First Friday Devotion**, 11:40 a.m., litany, consecration to the Sacred Heart, Divine Mercy Chaplet followed by noon Mass. Information: 812-246-2512.

June 7

Virtual Prayer with the Sisters of Providence, 7-7:45 p.m., for single women ages 18-42, prayer and sharing on topic of gratitude. Information, registration: events.sistersofprovidence.org,

361-500-9505, jluna@spsmw.org.

St. John Paul II Church, 2253 St. Joe Road W., Sellersburg. **First Saturday Devotion**, 8 a.m., rosary, litany, consecration to the Immaculate Heart of Mary, confession 8-8:30 a.m. followed by 8:30 a.m. Mass. Information: 812-246-2512.

St. Matthew the Apostle Church, 4100 E. 56th St., Indianapolis. **Children’s Rosary**, 9 a.m., children of all ages invited to pray rosary every first Saturday, donuts and fellowship to follow, free. Information: julie3reyes@gmail.com.

June 8

Marian University, Norman Center Room 222, 3200 Cold Spring Road, Indianapolis. **People of Peace OFS Monthly Meeting**, 12:30-3 p.m., explore Franciscan spirituality with lay Franciscans, free. Information: Information: 317-432-0909, jodymdalton@aol.com.

June 10

Church of the Immaculate Conception, 1 Sisters of

Providence, Saint Mary-of-the-Woods, St. Mary-of-the-Woods. **Taizé Prayer at the Woods**, 7-8 p.m., silent and spoken prayers, simple music, silence, virtual option available. Information: Taize.SistersofProvidence.org, 812-535-2952.

June 12

Hickory Stick Golf Club, 4422 Thompson Blvd., Greenwood. **SS. Francis and Clare of Assisi Parish Men’s Club Annual Golf Outing**, noon-5 p.m., benefiting SS. Francis and Clare of Assisi Parish youth athletic program, volunteer and sponsorship opportunities available, \$125 May 23-June 8, \$150 June 9-12. Information, registration: tinyurl.com/ssfcgolf25, text “2025golfouting” to 76278, jcecil@ss-fc.org.

June 13-14

Our Lady of the Most Holy Rosary Parish, 520 Stevens St., Indianapolis. **Italian Street Festival**, 5-11 p.m., Italian food, wine, live music, free parking in Eli Lilly lots on East and New Jersey streets, free admission. Information: 317-636-4478, info@holyroary.org, indyitalianfest.org. †

Retreats and Programs

For a complete list of retreats as reported to The Criterion, log on to www.archindy.org/retreats.

June 6-8

Saint Meinrad Archabbey Guesthouse, 200 Hill Dr., St. Meinrad. **Praying the Mass: Eucharistic Spirituality**, Benedictine Father Lorenzo Penalosa presenting, \$350 single, \$550 double. Registration: 812-357-6611, saintmeinrad.org/retreats.

Oldenburg Franciscan Center, 22143 Main St., Oldenburg. **Women’s Day Celebration**, 9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m., keynote by Cory Lockhart, coffee, breakfast, crafts, chair yoga, essential oils, neck massages, door prizes, coffee bar, lunch, \$60. Information, registration: 812-933-6437, oldenburgfranciscancenter.org.

June 10, July 9

Our Lady of Fatima Retreat House, 5353 E. 56th St., Indianapolis. **Day of Silence**, 8 a.m.-4 p.m., \$45, includes room, lunch, Mass and use of common areas and grounds, overnight stay available

for additional \$32, dinner additional \$11. Registration: archindy.org/fatima-events, 317-545-7681, lcoons@archindy.org.

June 11

Our Lady of Fatima Retreat House, 5353 E. 56th St., Indianapolis. **Holy Hands: Art with Heart**, 6:30-8 p.m., for children ages 3-17 with accompanying adult, cookies, snacks, juice, all paint supplies, \$25 adult, \$5 child. Registration: archindy.org/fatima-events, 317-545-7681, lcoons@archindy.org.

June 13-15

Mother of the Redeemer Retreat Center, 8220 W. State Road 48, Bloomington. **St. Jacinta of Fatima: A Prophetess for Our Times**, 5 p.m. Fri.-10 a.m. Sun., Franciscans of the Immaculate Father Jacinto Chapin facilitating, \$241 for single, \$302.90 double, \$368 triple, \$433.12 quadruple, includes four

meals and room for two nights, commuters \$50.70 includes lunch and dinner on Sat. Information, registration: 812-825-4642, ext. 1, motheroftheredeemer.com.

June 16

Our Lady of Fatima Retreat House, 5353 E. 56th St., Indianapolis. **Pilgrims of Hope and the Jubilee Year: Day of Reflection**, 9 a.m.-2 p.m., Father James Farrell presenting, \$45, includes Mass and lunch. Information, registration: ftm.retreatportal.com/events, 317-545-7681, lcoons@archindy.org.

June 17

Our Lady of Fatima Retreat House, 5353 E. 56th St., Indianapolis. **Pilgrims of Hope and the Jubilee Year: Evening of Reflection**, 5-9 p.m., Father James Farrell presenting, \$45, includes Mass and dinner. Information, registration: ftm.retreatportal.com/events, 317-545-7681, lcoons@archindy.org.

June 20, July 18

Oldenburg Franciscan Center, 22143 Main St., Oldenburg. **A Day of Quiet Renewal**, 9 a.m.-4 p.m., \$20, \$80 with spiritual direction. Information,

registration: 812-933-6437, oldenburgfranciscancenter.org.

June 20-22

Saint Meinrad Archabbey Guesthouse, 200 Hill Dr., St. Meinrad. **Making**

“Soma” from “Sarx”: The Transformative Power of the Gospel, Benedictine Father Adrian Burke presenting, \$350 single, \$550 double. Registration: 812-357-6611, saintmeinrad.org/retreats. †

Wedding Anniversaries

EARL AND CAROL (ADLER) HUFFMAN, members of St. Mark the Evangelist Parish in Indianapolis, celebrated their 70th wedding anniversary on March 25. The couple was married in St. Rose of Lima Church in Layton, Utah, on March 25, 1955. They have three children: Earla Imel and the late Kimberly and Glenn Huffman. The couple also has three grandchildren and one great-grandchild.



VIRGIL AND MARTHA (WIWI) NOEL, members of St. Jude Parish in Indianapolis, will celebrate their 60th wedding anniversary on May 29. The couple was married in St. Peter Church in Franklin County on May 29, 1965. They have two children: Sheri Bauer and Michele Riedlinger. The couple also has three grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.



JOE AND KATHIE (GURNEY) SADOWSKI, members of St. Christopher Parish in Indianapolis, will celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary on May 31. The couple was married in Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary Church in Lorain, Ohio, on May 31, 1975. They have three children: Sarah Jones, Dan and Scott Sadowski. The couple also has six grandchildren.



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

Wedding Anniversary Mass with Archbishop Thompson is set for Aug. 24

Archbishop Charles C. Thompson will celebrate the annual archdiocesan Wedding Anniversary Mass (bilingual) at SS. Peter and Paul Cathedral, 1347 N. Meridian St., in Indianapolis at 2 p.m. on Aug. 24. The Mass is for all couples of the archdiocese married sacramentally in the Catholic Church who are celebrating a milestone anniversary ending in a 0 or 5. Couples will renew their commitment to their wedding vows during the Mass and will receive a certificate of recognition. A reception will follow across the street at the Archbishop Edward

T. O’Meara Catholic Center, 1400 N. Meridian St., from 3-5 p.m. The reception will include appetizers, drinks, wedding cake, music and the opportunity to greet the archbishop. The Mass and reception are sponsored by the archdiocesan Office of Marriage and Family Life. The event is free, but space is limited, and registration is required by Aug. 2. To register or for more information, go to marriageandfamily.archindy.org. For additional questions, contact Claudia Corona at 317-800-9306 or ccorona@archindy.org. †

Moms’ love and humor bless their children’s lives with joy

(Editor’s note: The Criterion invited you, our readers, to share your stories and tributes about motherhood from two perspectives—the gift of having your mom and the gift of being a mom. We’ve received so many wonderful responses that we will continue to share them throughout May, the month of Mother’s Day and a month dedicated to the Blessed Mother. Here is another collection of stories.)

By John Shaughnessy

The touching scene has played out in the lives of many families, especially when the moment involves a parent at the edge of death.

Amid the heartbreak that is nearing, the children—often grown by now—gather around their mom or dad. And while the tears flow, so do the stories that connect them, frequently leading back to childhood moments of joy, love and laughter.

So it was when Janine Schorsch and her five siblings came together while their 91-year-old mother, Vivian Wedig, was in hospice.

“We saw her constant giving in the daily tasks she performed for us—the meals cooked from scratch, the constant laundry and cleaning without the help of modern appliances,” recalls Schorsch, a member of St. Teresa Benedicta of the Cross Parish in Bright.

“In one of our few helpful moments of giving back, we decided to clean the basement for her. Of course, she had just hung a load of laundry on clotheslines in the basement. All of our efforts resulted in her having to rewash the laundry. It appears that we managed to transfer the dirt from the basement onto the wet clothes. Still, she loved us.”

Schorsch also remembers the uneven gift exchange that she and her mother shared one Christmas.

“When I was about 6, my mom—with a newborn baby, no less—worked at her sewing machine as I slept, making a wardrobe to go with the doll that I would receive for Christmas. Of course, in my mind, it was all the work of Santa. In the true spirit of giving, I brought her the gift of three baby field mice I found in our garden. There was a definite return of that gift! Still, she loved me.”

Her mother’s love also extended to a moment when Schorsch flirted dangerously with getting detention in grade school and in trouble at home.

“About the age of 9, I decided that the daily Mass that began our school day was boring,” she recalls. “I dawdled on my walk to school, consistently arrived late, and told my teacher that I had to help my mom with the babies.”

“At a conference, the teacher mentioned how wonderful it was that I was able to help my mom each morning. My mom didn’t ‘rat me out,’ but I was never late for Mass again. Still, she loved me.”

The stories have kept Schorsch’s mother alive in her memory. So has the overall gift her mother gave her children during her 91 years.

“You can imagine all of the memorable events that six active children gave to my mother over the course of her life,”

Schorsch says. “Through it all, through her frustration and exhaustion, we always knew that we were her life, her love, her heart.”

‘An intense message of love and regret’

LuAnn Tanzilli still cherishes the letter from her birth mother whom she never met—a letter that Tanzilli calls “an intense message of love and regret.”

In the letter, her birth mother refers to Tanzilli as the “diamond” she left behind.

“The letter meant so much to me because a child of adoption sometimes may wonder if they were disposable, even when God has blessed them with his very best.”

“The “very best” that Tanzilli mentions is the couple who adopted her.

“As an infant, I was blessed with the most amazing mother and father through God’s loving hands,” says Tanzilli, a member of St. Christopher Parish in Indianapolis. “They had prepared a beautiful room, showered this young baby girl with God’s love, as well as grandparents, neighbors and later, classmates and lifelong friendships.

“This devout couple instilled all of God’s love and their own strength and love to raise their daughter as a kind and loving child of God.”

Tanzilli felt her adopted parents’ love so powerfully that she didn’t search for her birth mother until she had a health concern.

“While records were sealed in earlier years, there was no strong desire or need to delve into genetic history, until later in life when a serious eye disease caused concern for a cure and genetic predisposition.”

When Tanzilli searched for her birth mother in 2009, she learned the woman had returned to Indiana in 1987 to search for her, but the records of the adoption were sealed by the state of Indiana then. She also learned that her birth mother had died in 1989. Still, there was the discovery of the letter that her birth mother had written to her in November of 1986.

On Mother’s Day, Tanzilli thought of her mother who gave her life *and* her mother who adopted her and gave her a life.

“Let there be no doubt that God has his loving hand and wisdom in each circumstance in our lives. And may God bless all mothers each day throughout their lives.”

‘I was never so proud of her!’

More than 70 years have passed since the moment happened, but it still makes Arlene Millar laugh—still makes her think of her mother with pride and joy.

“Not all moms are prim and proper with starched aprons and flour up to their elbows. Mine was a proud World War II Army nurse and tough as old boots,” Millar says about her mom, Margaret Corr. “She was a stay-at-home mom even though she could have had a great career in the nursing profession. She also had a quick Irish wit that surfaced now and then when you least expected it.”

That quick wit was in full force on a day in the early 1950s, a time when not a lot of women drove cars.

“She was the first woman on our block



Janine Schorsch had a closeness with her late mother, Vivian Wedig. (Submitted photo)

to get a driver’s license,” recalls Millar, a member of St. Luke the Evangelist Parish in Indianapolis. “She gathered my young cousins and I in the car for a spin around our Philadelphia neighborhood. No sooner did we reach the corner when a group of teenaged boys yelled out, ‘Hey, lady driver, ya know where the key goes?’ As quick as lightning, Mom had a colorful response as to where the key could go.

“I was never so proud of her!”

‘An accidental sense of humor’

Kevin Recktenwald fills with joy when he thinks about his mother’s “accidental sense of humor.”

“She really didn’t try to be funny or even know that she was,” he says about his mom Joann. “She just was.”

That quality even surfaced during the last days of her life.

“Our mother was a woman of great faith, and when her time on this Earth was nearing the end, she was ready and not afraid,” her son says. “Over the course of two days, she said her goodbyes to her friends and family. When the parish priest administered her last rites and told her that, in her honor, he would keep his homily short, she deadpanned, ‘Well, that would be a first.’

“She also thanked dad for ‘almost 60, not-all-perfect years’ and thanked my brother-in-law for putting up with my sister all these years.”

Her accidental sense of humor also brought the family a needed smile amid the heartbreak of her passing.

“I noticed my dad standing silently by her bed holding her hand, trying to find a way to say goodbye to the only woman he ever loved. The one he put above all others,” says Recktenwald, a member of St. Anthony of Padua Parish in Clarksville.

“I noticed that she didn’t have her hearing aids in, and she wouldn’t have heard a bomb go off without them. I picked them up and put them in her ears, and in a voice loud enough to be heard several floors down, I said, ‘Mom, will you wake up so we can tell you goodbye?’ She hadn’t opened her eyes all day, but just then, she opened them, looked right at me and said, ‘Kevin, can you be quiet,

just this once?’

“Moments later, she was gone. I looked at my dad, and for the first time in days I saw a slight smile. He said, ‘All her life, she has been telling you to be quiet, and it is fitting that she couldn’t leave here without telling you one last time.’

“Her last gift was making our dad smile in his saddest moment, and for that we are eternally grateful.”

‘Someday, we’ll all be jewels in heaven’

The family tradition started with a mother’s deepest pain, a tradition that has added touches of beauty through the years.

Now 84, Father John Mannion was a 5-year-old boy near the end of World War II when his parents received a telegram that contained the devastating news that their oldest son, Francis, had died when his plane was struck by lightning on a routine mission.

“Nightly, my mother would sit on the front porch with me and my sister in her lap and cry so hard that her hugs actually hurt,” says Father Mannion, a retired priest of the Lafayette Diocese who had served as a hospital chaplain in the archdiocese. “She would say over and over, ‘Look at the stars, and when you find the largest one shining, that is your brother.’ ”

Through the years, he added, her hugs also lead to an outpouring of “tears, laughter, healing, faith and a reassurance that God had never forgotten us.”

Their mother’s faith in God also helped foster the vocations of Father Mannion and one of his sisters. Father Mannion has been a priest for 57 years while Sisters of St. Joseph Sister Jane Frances Mannion has been in religious life for 65 years.

The faith that marks their lives also marks the family tradition that Father Mannion has embraced through the years.

“I have been privileged to literally hug everyone else in our family who has died—my father, my mother, my youngest sister and three brothers,” he says. “I’m 84 years old, and I still look at the stars and say, ‘There’s mom. There’s dad. There’s ’”

“I always picture that someday we’ll all be jewels in heaven.” †

Pope Leo XIV on social media: Instagram and X accounts up and growing

VATICAN CITY (CNS)—While Pope Leo XIV has deleted the account he began as Father Robert F. Prevost on Twitter, now X, in 2011, the Vatican has launched new accounts for him on X and Instagram.

“The Holy Father Leo XIV has chosen to maintain an active social media presence through the official papal accounts on X and Instagram,” said the Dicastery for Communication.

The first post on the “Pope Leo XIV @Pontifex” account on X was released on May 14 and was a quote from his inaugural greeting to the public on May 8 when he was elected:



Pope Leo XIV

“Peace be with you all! This is the first greeting spoken by the Risen Christ, the Good Shepherd. I would like this greeting of peace to resound in your hearts, in your families, and among all people, wherever they may be, in every nation and throughout the world.”

His first papal Instagram post featured the same quotation—in seven languages—alongside a photo of him greeting the crowd on May 8 from the central balcony of St. Peter’s Basilica.

The @Franciscus account on Instagram, which has been archived, had more than 10 million followers. The new @pontifex Instagram account of Pope Leo XIV had more than 13 million followers by May 16.

The number of followers on the English language X account had reached 18.6 million by May 16.

The Dicastery for Communication, which runs the accounts for the pope, said on May 13 that while the Instagram account was new, Pope Leo “inherited the @Pontifex accounts on X that were used by Pope Francis, and before that by Pope Benedict XVI.”

The nine X accounts—in English, Spanish, Portuguese, Italian, French, German, Polish, Arabic and Latin—have more than 52 million followers when combined.

The dicastery said the @Franciscus Instagram account would remain accessible online “as an ‘Ad Memoriam’ commemorative archive,” and the X tweets posted during the pontificate of Pope Francis will be available soon in an archive on the Vatican website. †

Teacher retires after 52 years of sharing her most important lesson

By John Shaughnessy

The sign on her classroom door—“This is my happy place”—and the way she smiles at it reveal so much about Mary Pickerrell.

For 52 years, she has been teaching at St. Anthony of Padua School in Clarksville—the school where she spent the first eight years of her education as a child, the school where she views every child she has taught as a gift in her life.

“Every day has been a pleasure,” says Pickerrell, who has taught first grade for most of her career. “If you love your job as much as I do, you really don’t have a job to work at. It’s just a place to go to love kids. And I love these kids.”

What she loves most is sharing the main lesson that she hopes the children will carry with them for the rest of their life—because it’s the major blessing that has guided her 75 years of life.

“You can teach kids anything, but the thing I’m most proud of is that I taught them to pray,” she says. “And I taught them that God never fails. And I taught them to love Jesus as much as I love Jesus. And I tell them all the time that Jesus loves me. I tell them, ‘There’s no doubt that Jesus loves me, but you’re his favorite because he says, ‘Let the little children come to me’ (Mt 19:14).”

“We pray all the time in here. We pray for whatever they want to pray for. ‘My grandma’s sick.’ ‘My aunt had to have surgery.’ ‘I can’t find my lunchbox.’ I teach them to pray.”

Lately, Pickerrell has been praying to God to be with her as she prepares to retire from her happy place on May 23.

‘The coolest thing in the whole world’

“I’m ready to go mentally and physically, but my heart will always be here,” says Pickerrell, who graduated

from the school in 1964. “Getting through this is going to be tough. But you have to go sometime. And I want to go while I’m healthy. I don’t want to wait too long and not be able to do the things that me and my husband have been waiting to do. He’s ready for me to retire.”

Her first-grade students aren’t. “They don’t want me to leave. They beg me all the time. They say, ‘But this is your happy place. It just won’t be the same.’ I said to them, ‘Are you coming back to first grade next year?’ They say, ‘No, but can’t you just stay one more year?’ And they cry.”

As the principal of the school and a friend of Pickerrell, Stephany Tucker understands the children’s emotions. She feels them, too.

“Mary is the most loving, caring person that I know,” Tucker says. “She is strong and brave, but also gentle and patient. Even after 52 years of teaching, her dedication to teaching and the love for her students are unwavering. She has always considered her classroom her happy place, and I know every student that was a part of the class knew it was her happy place. Generation after generation, people come back and share memories of Mary.”

“The one connection that I see Mary makes with her students is sharing her love of Jesus with them. Of course, reading, writing and math were a top priority, but her goal in teaching students was to make sure they knew and loved Jesus.”

As the school year has neared its end, Pickerrell has been sorting through 52 years of memories—the physical ones that are in the boxes of materials she has kept, and the other ones that are stored in her mind.

She remembers that she has wanted to be a teacher since she was in the fourth grade and her teacher was Miss Rogie.



Mary Pickerrell's smile captures the joy she has always found in being immersed in the lives of students at St. Anthony of Padua School in Clarksville. (Submitted photo)

“She was young and fun, and I thought she was the coolest thing in the whole world. And I wanted to be just like her,” she recalls. “In those days, the teachers had to wear uniforms. They wore navy blue suits. I thought that was so cool. I was ready to go out and start looking for a suit.”

Getting ready to throw away a box of letters a month ago, Pickerrell was thrilled when she found an envelope filled with small black-and-white photos of the children in her first class during the 1972-73 school year.

“I had 31 kids. Believe it or not, I could name every one of those children except two,” says Pickerrell, a 1968 graduate of Our Lady of Providence High School in Clarksville. “I guess your first class, you just remember those little kids.”

“Those little kids” now have an average age of 58—one more example of

all the changes that have come for her as a teacher.

“When I first started, we had those purple mimeograph things that you had to fire up the machine and put ink in it, and you had to be careful not to get it on your clothes. Now you just push a button for everything,” she says. “There’s boxes and boxes of chalk I’ve found because there was always a blackboard. Now we have a whiteboard. But I’ve been able to roll with the changes pretty good.”

Perhaps the most challenging changes came during the last week of her 52 years of teaching.

The three greatest loves of her life

The schedule included an all-school Mass during which she was being honored, with all her family proudly supporting her: her husband of 45 years,

See TEACHER, page 18

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HOSTY

continued from page 1

before the gates of St. Peter, and St. Peter asks her, ‘What have you given the Church?’, she can hold up the cloth and say, ‘I’ve given my son.’ ”

Deacon Hosty pauses for a moment as the twinkle in his eyes grows. His smile turns into a laugh as he adds, “I don’t think there’s going to be a dry eye when I give the cloth to my mother.”

The sentiment of that story—as well as the smile and laugh that flow easily from him as he shares the story—reveals a great deal about the person he is and the priest he will become.

So do these other defining moments from his 27 years of life as he prepares to be ordained a priest at SS. Peter and Paul Cathedral Parish in Indianapolis with transitional deacons Thomas Day and Isaac Siefker.

‘There’s no greater gift to give’

One of the most heart-wrenching and valuable experiences in Deacon Hosty’s formation as a priest came during his Clinical Pastor Education training at Riley Hospital for Children in Indianapolis—when a child died.

“I had a patient pass away overnight,” he recalls. “I was on call that weekend. I spent about five hours with that family, and I maybe said less than 100 words. I prayed with them. I sat and visited with them. They shared stories about their loved one. At the end of that, they were so gracious and glad that I was there. Even that was enough to let them know that Christ was there with them.”

Having never been in that situation previously, those five hours with the grieving parents gave Deacon Hosty a powerful insight into the importance of being present to families during a vulnerable time of life.

“I realized that by being present to them I didn’t need to say much in those moments of great grief,” he says. “When people are suffering or in pain, they feel that God is somehow distant from them at times. When it’s a priest or someone studying to be a priest, his presence to someone who is suffering brings God into those moments. It helps them realize God is not distant from them.

“For me, there’s no greater gift to give somebody than to help them experience God’s love for them, both in their highest moments but also in their lowest moments.”

‘Oh, no, not this place again!’

In 2024, Deacon Hosty and his father, Deacon Thomas Hosty, became the first father and son to both be deacons at the same time in the 191-year history of the

archdiocese. That’s a story in itself, yet when Deacon Tom and his wife Julie were asked to share some insights about Deacon Liam, they looked back to his childhood in St. Barnabas Parish in Indianapolis, to moments of humor and a growing faith.

“When Liam was in preschool, whenever we went to Sunday Mass as a family of seven, he would always squirm in the pews and want to get away,” recalls his dad, the director of pastoral ministries in the archdiocese. “It was a constant battle for us as parents to keep him in the pew with us and quiet. So, one Sunday as we pulled into the parking lot of St. Barnabas, he yelled out from the back row of the minivan, ‘Oh no, not this place again!’

“As he got older, things changed. He loved to help his mother with children’s Liturgy of the Word. Then as he watched his older brothers and sister become altar servers, he could not wait for the day when he got to be one in the fourth grade. And when he did, he loved it. So much so that by the fifth grade, he was serving the entire Triduum. This was when he also fell in love with the use of incense at Mass.”

Deacon Tom smiles as he offers one more insight into Deacon Liam, whose growing embrace of the faith as a child was also marked by his love of playing the drums during the 5 p.m. Sunday youth Mass at St. Barnabas.

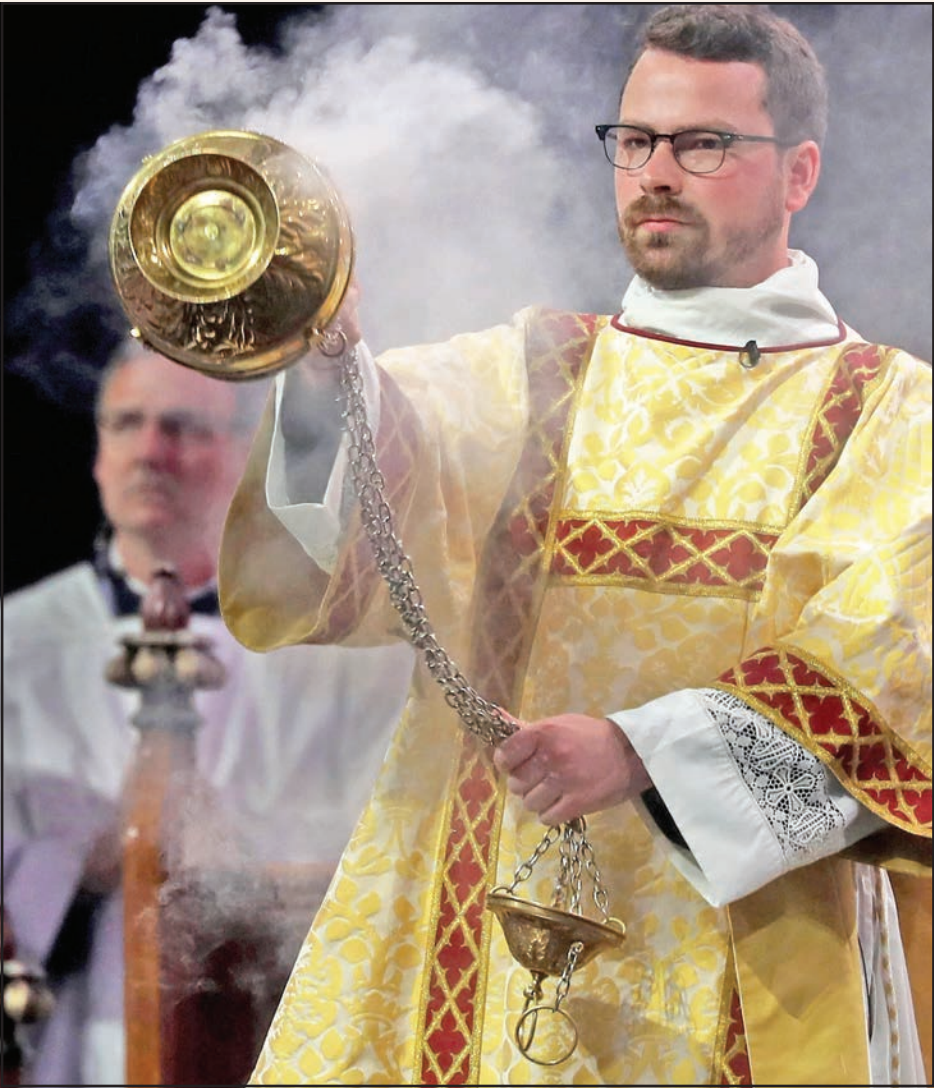
“He played the drums at this Mass through high school whenever he was not serving as an altar server,” Deacon Tom says about the fourth of their five children. “Sometimes his brothers joined and played their guitars and his sisters sang.

“Liam especially loved to play the drums on the recessional song when the music director would cut him loose and let him really go to town on the drums, such as on songs like ‘Lead Me Lord’ and ‘Go Make a Difference.’ He usually was the one who ended the song with a final flourish on the drums. After these recessional songs, people were ready to charge out of the church and go make a difference in the world.”

The challenge and the gift

At the age of 4, Deacon Hosty was diagnosed with speech and learning disabilities, making his education through grade school and high school a challenge. Still, he believes that experience will help him connect closer to people.

“You don’t wish hardships in life or various crosses on anyone else,” he says. “At the same time, in my own life, the crosses the Lord has given me have led to two things. One, it’s been beautiful to offer that to our Lord out of pure love for him. And two, it helps you empathize with people who are carrying a variety of different crosses.



Transitional Deacon Liam Hosty of Indianapolis swings the censer toward pilgrims on July 21, 2024, during the closing Mass of the National Eucharistic Congress at Lucas Oil Stadium in Indianapolis. (OSV News photo/Bob Roller)

“Loneliness is probably one of the most painful things for people. I want to be able to recognize and see the cross that other people carry and to be able to encourage them and help strengthen them to carry their cross with joy and offer that to our Lord. And for them to know Christ is right next to us, carrying the same cross with us. We’re never alone. None of us are ever truly alone if we recognize Christ is next to us in everything.”

‘That was a beautiful moment’

Deacon Hosty felt another kind of support during a special moment with his classmates at Roncalli High School in Indianapolis. At the baccalaureate Mass on the weekend of his graduation in 2016, he received a standing ovation from his class and their families and friends when it was announced that he would be entering the seminary to become a priest.

“That was a beautiful moment,” he says. “I got very close to many of my classmates and still keep in touch with many of them. I was very open about discerning the priesthood in high school. And my classmates were very encouraging. The people of God want good priests, and they deserve good priests.

“There’s something beautiful about a priest coming from the people of God, someone who has been selected to minister to us.”

That sense of connection and community has grown from his own family’s roots.

“I come from a strong Irish-Catholic family. With both of my parents being one of nine kids and having countless cousins and relatives, family has been very important to me. It’s bizarre for me when people don’t gather as frequently as we do for the sacraments—baptisms, weddings and funerals and other moments. We always love big celebrations. And there’s a particular devotion to the rosary. Just a sense of rootedness. This is your heritage, this is your family, and we’re proud of it.”

That rootedness is at the core of his desire to lead people to a deeper relationship with Christ.

“The world has meaning because we have a loving Creator who made it as such,” he says. “And not only that, he became one of us. He took on flesh in the person of Jesus Christ, and he desires to live in relationship with us. Religion is not this abstract set of rules. It’s an encounter

with a person who loves us very much, and that person is Jesus Christ. He gives meaning and purpose to our lives, even beyond our wildest imaginations.”

‘A man of faith’

During the past year, Deacon Liam has spent considerable time at Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish in Indianapolis, ministering with and learning from its pastor, Father Patrick Beidelman.

“I think it will take the people in the parishes where he will serve about 0.5 seconds to accept, love and respect him,” says Father Beidelman. “He is joyful, quick to smile and laugh, and is a good listener. He is a naturally good preacher.

“His love of the Church, the priesthood, God’s people and the Church’s worship of God is always palpable in his ministry. He is a man of faith who understands the importance of health and holy relationships with his family, his circle of friends, his soon-to-be brother priests as well as within the wider community.”

Deacon Hosty will begin his priestly ministry for the archdiocese as the parochial vicar—associate pastor—of St. Ann Parish in Indianapolis and St. Thomas More Parish in Mooresville.

He especially looks forward to celebrating Mass with people.

“All the sacrifices that people are bringing to the Mass—all their prayers, joys, works and suffering—I want to be able to unite that to the Eucharist and offer the perfect sacrifice of Jesus to the Father,” he says. “I can’t think of any greater thing to give my life for than for the glorification of God and the sanctification of his people—to praise God and help his people become saints.”

As he shares the Eucharist and other sacraments with people, Deacon Hosty also plans to be present to them in their non-sacramental moments—in the struggles, joys and heartbreaking times of their lives.

He’s had that feeling from God in his own life.

“My life has been marked by a strong sense of divine providence,” he says. “God has been there every step of the way in my journey.”

(For more information about a vocation to the priesthood in the Archdiocese of Indianapolis, visit HearGodsCall.com.) †

About Transitional Deacon Liam Hosty

Age: 27

Parents: Deacon Tom and Julie Hosty

Home Parish: St. Barnabas Parish in Indianapolis

Education: St. Barnabas School, Roncalli High School, Marian University and Bishop Simon Bruté College Seminary, all in Indianapolis; Saint Meinrad Seminary and School of Theology in St. Meinrad; Mount St. Mary’s Seminary and School of Theology in Cincinnati

Favorite Scripture passage: John 15:13: “Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one’s life for one’s friends.”

Favorite saint: St. Joseph

Favorite prayer or devotion: St. Thomas Aquinas’ “Prayer before Communion”

Favorite book: *Till We Have Faces* by C.S. Lewis

Favorite movie: *The Lord of the Rings: The Return of the King*

Hobbies: Reading, running and hiking

Parish FESTIVALS

May 29-31

St. Jude Parish, 5353 McFarland Road, **Indianapolis**. Parish Festival, Thurs. 5-10 p.m., Fri. and Sat. 5-11 p.m., children's games, prizes, food and beer tents, raffle, silent auction, bingo, Monte Carlo games, carnival rides, live music: Thurs. DJ Tobias, Fri. Project 19, Sat. Train Wreck, free admission. Information: 317-786-4371, festival@stjudeindy.

St. Simon the Apostle Parish, 8155 Oaklondon Road, **Indianapolis**. Parish Festival, Thurs. 5-11 p.m., Fri. 5 p.m.-midnight, Sat. 3 p.m.-midnight, rides, food, beer garden, rides, games, kids' zone, Vegas room (ages 21 and older), live music: Thurs. St. Simon Idol, Fri. My Yellow Rickshaw, Sat. Stella Luna and the Satellites, \$10 admission. Information: Facebook: @stsimonfestival, 317-826-6000, saintsimonfestival.com.

May 30-31

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

May 30-June 1

St. Therese of the Infant Jesus (Little Flower) Parish, 4720 E. 13th St., **Indianapolis**. Summerfest, Fri. 5-11 p.m., Sat. 3-11 p.m., Sun. 11 a.m.-5 p.m., \$4,000 grand prize raffle, bingo Fri. and Sat., midway rides, silent auction, food, beer, wine, games for kids and adults, live music: Fri. 5 Minutes 2 Wapner 5 p.m., The Sherwood Club 8:30 p.m.; Sat. OK Boomer Band 4:30 p.m., Bigger is Better Band 7:30 p.m.; Sun. Silly Safaris noon, Jaylen Koehl 1 p.m., Arisan Maru (Sccecina) 2 p.m., Almost Live 3 p.m.; \$10 admission for \$10 in event coupons. Information: 317-357-8352, lfsummerfest@littleflowerparish.org.

June 5-7

St. Anthony Parish, 337 N. Warman Ave., **Indianapolis**. Crossroads of the Americas Festival, Thurs. 4-10 p.m., Fri. 4-11 p.m., Sat. 2 p.m.-midnight, carnival rides, live music, beer garden, American, Mexican and international food, \$20,000 cash raffle, free admission. Information: 317-543-7740, stanthonymbusiness@gmail.com.



Kyle Kujawa, 6, waves to family members as his cousin Matthew Kusbel, 11, steers a ride during “Sharing Your Blessings Day” at St. James the Less Parish festival in Highland, Ind., in the Gary Diocese, in this file photo. (CNS photo by Karen Callaway, Northwest Indiana Catholic)

June 13-14

Our Lady of the Most Holy Rosary Parish, 520 Stevens St., **Indianapolis**. Italian Street Festival, 5-11 p.m., Italian food, wine, live music, free parking in Eli Lilly lots on East and New Jersey streets, free admission. Information: 317-636-4478, info@holynosaryindy.org, indyitalianfest.org.

June 20-21

Christ the King Parish, 5884 N. Crittenden Ave., **Indianapolis**. Summer Social, 6-11 p.m., food, beverages, music, dancing, kids' games and prizes, \$1 admission. Information 317-255-3666, ctksummersocial@gmail.com.

June 28

St. Ambrose School Gym, 325 S. Chestnut St., **Seymour**. Parish Festival, 4-8 p.m., fellowship, food and fun, free admission. Information: 812-522-5304, memchdominik@gmail.com.

June 28-29

St. Catherine of Siena Parish, St. Maurice campus, 1963 N. St. John St., **Greensburg**. June Festival, Sat.: 1 p.m. Jeep/ATV ride, \$25; 6 p.m. poker tournament, \$50. Sun.: 10:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m., chicken and roast beef dinners, games, raffles, beer garden, live music, turtle soup, adult meals \$15, children's meals \$7. Information: 812-663-4754, stcatherinekb@gmail.com.

July 19-20

All Saints Parish, St. John the Baptist campus, 25743 State Route 1, **Guilford**. Chicken Dinner and Summer Festival, Sat.: 5 p.m.-midnight, live music by Yorkridge Boys. Sun.: 11 a.m.-7 p.m., chicken dinners available 11 a.m.-5 p.m. or sold out, food prices TBA. Both days: food, beer garden, B&G ice cream, kiddie land, raffles, religious exhibit “Celebrating America,” \$10,000 Big Money Raffle, free admission. Information: 812-576-4302, emilyalig.asp@gmail.com.

July 26

St. Mary Parish, 777 S. 11th St., **Mitchell**. Summer Festival, 9 a.m.-3 p.m., fried chicken dinners, dine-in or carry-out, indoor and outdoor vendor booths, cake walk, cash raffles, silent auction, door prizes, free admission. Information: 812-849-3570, stmarysmitchell294@gmail.com.

July 26-27

All Saints Parish, St. Martin campus, 8044 Yorkridge Road, **Guilford**. Summer Festival, Sat: 5 p.m.-midnight, ham stand, live music by Misty Creek. Sun.: 11 a.m.-7 p.m., chicken dinners available 11 a.m.-5 p.m. or sold out, food prices TBA. Both days: lunch stand, food, beer garden, B&G ice cream, kiddie land, raffles, \$10,000 Big Money Raffle, religious exhibit “Celebrating America,” free admission. **5K Country Run/Walk**, Sun. 9:30 a.m., \$20 with t-shirt or \$15 without t-shirt until

July 13, \$25 with t-shirt or \$20 without t-shirt after July 13 or on-site, register online at tinyurl.com/StMartinRun25. Information: 812-576-4302, emilyalig.asp@gmail.com.

July 27

St. Augustine Parish, 18020 Lafayette St., **Leopold**. Church Picnic, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. CT, fried chicken dinners (cash only), dine-in or carry-out, food prices TBA, free admission. Information. 812-843-5143, staughc@psci.net.

July 31-August 2

Holy Spirit Parish, 7243 E. 10th St., **Indianapolis**. Holy Spirit Festival, Thurs. 6-11 p.m., Fri. 6 p.m.-midnight, Sat. 1 p.m.-midnight, live music, midway rides, food, beer and wine, bingo, Monte Carlo, Texas Hold ‘Em, silent auction, \$7,500 raffle (tickets \$20), parking shuttle available at 7140 E. Washington St., free wrist bands provided to parishioners after Masses, non-parishioner admission \$10 in festival tickets, children younger than 12 free, ages 17 and younger must be accompanied by an adult. Information: holyspiritfestival.org, festival@holyspirit.cc, 317-353-9404.

August 3

St. Boniface Parish, 11715 E. County Road 1550 N., **Fulda**. Annual Summer Picnic, 9:30 a.m.-2 p.m. CT., live music, dinners, food court, Fulda's famous soup, family fun center, quilts, raffles, free admission. Information: 812-357-5533, info@myparishfamily.church.

August 8-9

Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ Parish, 7225 Southeastern Ave., **Indianapolis**. Augustravaganza, 4 p.m.-midnight, raffle, festival food, children's games, church tours, baby crawling race, bingo, beer tent, Monte Carlo, carnival rides, live music, catered dinners in air-conditioned gym, Silly Safari, free admission. Information: 317-357-1200, nativityindy.org/augustravaganza.

August 9-10

All Saints Parish, St. Paul campus, 9788 N. Dearborn Road, **Guilford**. Summer Picnic, Sat.: 5 p.m.-midnight, pork loin dinners, live music by Misty Creek. Sun.: 11 a.m.-7 p.m., chicken dinners available 11 a.m.-5 p.m. or sold out, food prices TBA. Both days: lunch stand food, beer garden, B&G ice cream, kiddie land, raffles, \$10,000 Big Money Raffle, religious exhibit “Celebrating America,” free admission. Information: 812-576-4302, emilyalig.asp@gmail.com.

St. Mary Parish, 2500 St. Mary Dr., **Lanesville**. Parish Picnic, Sat. 6:30-10:30 p.m., Sun. 10 a.m.-3 p.m., chicken dinners, quilts, games of chance, free admission. Information: 812-952-2853.

August 15-16

St. Thomas Aquinas Parish, 4625 N. Kenwood Ave., **Indianapolis**. SausageFest, 5:30 p.m.-midnight, Kincaid's sausages, beer garden featuring Sun King beer, live music, kids' games, teen zone with D.J., free admission. Information 317-253-1461, mlorch@staindy.org.

August 16-17

St. Mary of the Knobs Parish, 5719 St. Marys Road, **Floyds Knobs**. Knobfest, Sat. 5:30 p.m.-midnight, Sun. 11 a.m.-3 p.m., dancing, gambling, games, fried chicken dinner, food trucks, cost TBD. Information: 812-923-3011, mhartlage@yoursmk.org.

St. Nicholas Parish, 6461 E. St. Nicholas Dr., **Sunman**. Music Festival and Chicken Dinner, Sat. 6-11 p.m., Sun. 11 a.m.-5 p.m., ribeye sandwiches, fried chicken, turtle soup, live music: CRB (Classic Rock Band), Mitch and Fitch Music, dinners \$15, free admission. Information: 812-623-2964, cludwig@etczone.com.

August 22-24

St. Joseph Parish, 1401 S. Mickley Ave., **Indianapolis**. Fall Festival, Fri. and Sat. 5-11 p.m., Sun. 1-7 p.m., rides, food festival featuring Vietnamese, Mexican, African, Italian and American food, Texas Hold'em tournament on Saturday, blackjack, bingo, pull tabs, silent auction, free admission. Information: 317-244-9002.

August 23

St. Monica Parish, 6131 Michigan Road, **Indianapolis**. International Festival, 5-11 p.m., international food and entertainment, beer garden, \$3,000 raffle, kids' games, free admission. Information: 317-253-2193, parishoffice@stmonicaindy.org.

August 23-24

St. Mary Parish, 1331 E. Hunter Robbins Way, **Greensburg**. Parish Festival, Sat.: 5:30-11 p.m., Adult Night, games, beer garden, pie auction, 7 p.m. live music by Nuttin' Fancy, pork burger or pulled pork dinners, concessions. Sun.: 11 a.m.-2:30 p.m., Family Day, kids' games, live entertainment, silent auction, 50/50 raffle, fried chicken and pulled pork dinners; free admission. **On Eagles Wings 5K Run/Walk**, Sat. 8 a.m. registration, 8:30 a.m. kids' games open, 9 a.m. race, 10 a.m. Kids Fun Run, 10:15 a.m. awards, \$20 for all participants until Aug. 13, \$25 after Aug. 13, register by Aug. 13 for t-shirt, \$8 to have shirt shipped, additional fees applied for online registrations. Information, registration: 812-663-8427, oneagleswings5k.com.

August 31

St. Catherine of Siena Parish, St. John campus, 9995 E. Base Road, **Greensburg**. Festival, 10 a.m.-6 p.m., Fireside Inn chicken dinners, mock turtle soup, games, basket booth, country store, raffles, adult meals \$15, children's meals \$7. Information: 812-212-8384, stcatherine47240@gmail.com.

September 1

St. Anthony of Padua Parish, 4773 Church Road, **Morris**. Labor Day Picnic, 11 a.m.-6 p.m., fried chicken dinner, kids' games, cash raffle and prizes, country store, entertainment, free admission. Information: 812-934-6218, communications@stanthonymorris.org.

St. Peter Parish, 1207 East Road, **Brookville**. Labor Day Festival, 10 a.m.-7 p.m., fried chicken dinner, air-conditioned hall, raffles, games, beer garden, free admission. Information: 765-647-5462 brookvilleparishes@gmail.com.

September 6

St. Joan of Arc Parish, 4217 Central Ave., **Indianapolis**. French Market, noon-10 p.m., live music, 50 artisan booths, French food, bake sale, raffle, church tours, children's games until 5 p.m., Club d'Arc 7-9 p.m. for grades 5-10, Mass 5:30 p.m., free admission. Information: 317-283-5508, sjoa.org/about-french-market.

September 6-7

St. Elizabeth of Hungary Parish, 333 W. Maple St., **Cambridge City**. Canal Days, city-wide event, parish has food tent at festival, free admission. Information 765-529-0933, secretary@sa-se.org.

September 7

St. Mary Parish, 512 N. Perkins St., **Rushville**. Fall Festival, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., 10 a.m. Mass, fried chicken, kids' games, craft vendors, free admission. Information: 765-932-2588, dspeath@stmaryrush.org.

September 12-13

St. Thomas More Parish, 1200 N. Indiana St., **Moorestown**. September-fest, 5-10 p.m., live music, balloon rides, beer and wine garden, kids' games, food, free admission. Information: 317-831-4142, pweber@stm-church.org.

September 19-20

St. Luke the Evangelist Parish, 7575 Holliday Dr. E., **Indianapolis**. Fall Fest Weekend, Fri.: 6-11 p.m., Adults' Night Out, bingo, live music, beer garden. Sat.: 3-11 p.m., Family Fun Day, children's game and activity area, free admission. Information: 317-259-4373, thartley@stluke.org.

St. Malachy Parish, 9833 E. County Rd. 750 N., **Brownsburg**. Country Fair and Hog Roast, Fri. 4-11 p.m., Sat. 3-11 p.m., midway, live entertainment, food, games, beer tent, free admission. Information: 317-852-3195, info@stmalachy.org.

September 20

St. Augustine Parish, 315 E. Chestnut St., **Jeffersonville**. Octoberfest, 4-10 p.m., music, authentic German food and drink, free admission. Information: 812-282-2677, communications@jeffersonvillecatholic.org.

September 20-21

St. Louis Parish, 13 E. St. Louis Pl., **Batesville**. Parish Festival, Sat.: 5-11 p.m., live music, pulled pork, pull tabs, cash raffle. Sun.: 10 a.m.-5 p.m., chicken and roast beef dinners, country store, basket booth, plant stand, Eureka band, free admission. Information: 812-934-3204, mwachsmann@stlouisschool.org.



Children enjoy a swing ride during the annual Italian Festival at St. Anthony of Padua Parish in Wilmington, Del., in this file photo. (CNS photo by Don Blake, The Dialog)

September 21

St. Meinrad Parish, 19570 N. 4th St., **St. Meinrad**. Annual Fall Picnic, 9:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. CT, chicken dinners, live entertainment, family fun, St. Meinrad's famous soup, raffles, church tours, country store, free admission. Information: 812-357-5533, info@myparishfamily.church.

St. Michael Parish, 101 St. Michaels Dr., **Charlestown**. Septemberfest, 11 a.m.-4 p.m., chicken dinner, authentic Mexican food, cash and quilt raffles, silent auction, games of chance, free admission. Information: 812-256-3200, stmichaelsecretary@northclarkcountycatholic.org.

September 26-27

Our Lady of Lourdes Parish, 5333 Washington St., **Indianapolis**. Fall Festival, Fri. 5 p.m.-midnight, Sat. 2 p.m.-midnight, kids' games, live music, Silly Safari, foods, desserts, raffle, Monte Carlo tent, free admission. Information: 317-356-7291, ollfallfest@gmail.com.

Holy Name of Jesus Parish, 89 N. 17th Ave., **Beech Grove**. Oktoberfest, 5 p.m.-midnight, live music, beer and wine, food and drink, Kids Zone, trivia contest, big ticket raffle, pull tabs, 50/50, health fair, bingo, Monte Carlo, free admission. Information: 317-784-5454, parishadmin@holyname.cc.

September 26-28

SS. Francis and Clare of Assisi Parish, 5901 Oliver Branch Road, **Greenwood**. Fall Festival, Fri.: 4-5 p.m. rides only, 5-10 p.m. full festival. Sat.: noon-10 p.m. full festival, rides, food, games, live entertainment. Sun.: noon-5 p.m. rides only, free admission, ride ticket prices TBA. Information: 317-859-4673, festival@ss-fc.org.

September 27

St. Matthew the Apostle Parish, 4100 E. 56th St., **Indianapolis**. Oktoberfest, 5-10 p.m., live band, kids' entertainment and activities, beer garden, stein holding competition, food trucks, free admission. Information: 317-257-4297, bulletin@saintmatt.org.

Immaculate Conception Parish, 2081 E. County Road 820 S., **Millhausen**. Parish Festival, 3-11 p.m., Stones fried chicken, mock turtle soup, Tree City Brew beer. Ertel's wine, Hillbilly Corner ice cream, live music, 50/50 raffle, pull tabs, kids' games. Information: 812-591-2362, kenny@millhausen.church.

September 28

St. Mark Parish, 5377 Acorn Road, **Tell City**. Shooting Match and Festival, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., shooting match, raffles, handmade quilts, homemade pies, chili served by the bowl or gallon, hamburgers, hotdogs, brats and chicken sandwiches, bingo, games, free admission. Information: 812-836-2481, stmark@psci.net.

October 3-4

St. Bartholomew Parish, 1306 27th St., **Columbus**. St. B Fest, Fri. 6-11 p.m., Sat. 4-10 p.m., live music, multicultural food, drinks, kids' carnival, free admission. Information: 812-379-9353, stbfest@stbparish.net.

October 4

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish Holy Family Campus, 815 West Main St., **Richmond**. Fall Festival, 11 a.m.-3 p.m., fried chicken dinner, silent auction, gaming, craft tent, kids' games, music, beer tent, free admission. Information: 765-962-3902, lmiller@setoncatholics.org.

October 5

Holy Family Parish, 3027 Pearl St., **Oldenburg**. Parish Festival, 11 a.m.-3 p.m., fried chicken and roast beef dinners, turtle soup, money raffle, quilt raffle, basket raffle, silent auction, craft booths, free admission. Information: 812-934-3013, holysfamilycheryl@gmail.com.

St. John Paul II Parish, 2253 St. Joe Road West, **Sellersburg**. Chicken Dinner and Fall Festival, 11 a.m.-4 p.m., chicken dinner with homemade dumplings, raffles, booths and country store, free admission. Information: 812-246-2512, bsmith@stjohnpaulparish.org. †

Pope Leo begins papacy calling for ‘united Church’ in a wounded world

VATICAN CITY (CNS)—Launching his papacy with a call for reconciliation and communion, Pope Leo XIV formally began his ministry as the successor of St. Peter by calling for “a united Church, a sign of unity and communion, which becomes a haven for a reconciled world.

“In this our time, we still see too much discord, too many wounds caused by hatred, violence, prejudice, the

fear of difference and an economic paradigm that exploits the Earth’s resources and marginalizes the poorest,” the new pope said in his homily during his inauguration Mass on May 18.

“For our part, we want to be a small haven of unity, communion and fraternity within the world,” he told the estimated 150,000 people gathered in and around St. Peter’s Square. “We want to say to the world, with

humility and joy: Look to Christ! Come closer to him! Welcome his word that enlightens and consoles! Listen to his offer of love and become his one family: ‘In the one Christ, we are one.’ ”

A version of the quote from St. Augustine is the pope’s episcopal motto and is featured on his coat of arms. Ecumenical and interreligious guests and more than 100 government delegations joined the new pope for Mass in St. Peter’s Square. The United States was represented by Vice President JD Vance and Secretary of State Marco Rubio, accompanied by their spouses and senior White House aides.

Vance and the second lady, Usha Vance, visited Pope Francis’ tomb in the Basilica of St. Mary Major the evening before the Mass. “He was beloved by many Catholics around the world, and I hope you will join me

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Pope Leo XIV greets the faithful while riding the popemobile through St. Peter’s Square before celebrating his inauguration Mass at the Vatican on May 18. (CNS photo/Lola Gomez)



Pope Leo XIV, left, receives the fisherman’s ring, symbolizing his role as successor to St. Peter, from Filipino Cardinal Luis Antonio Tagle, right, during the pope’s inauguration Mass in St. Peter’s Square on May 18. (CNS photo/Vatican Media)

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in praying for the repose of his soul,” he wrote in a post on X.

Among the Christian leaders present was Orthodox Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew of Constantinople, along with other delegations from the Orthodox Churches, the Anglican Communion, the Lutheran World Federation, the World Methodist Council, the World Communion of Reformed Churches and various evangelical and Pentecostal communities. Representatives of the Jewish community as well as Muslim, Hindu, Buddhist, Sikh, Zoroastrian and Jain traditions also were in attendance.

Before the Mass began, Pope Leo rode through the square in the popemobile for the first time since his election on May 8, greeting the faithful as cheers of “*Viva il papa!*” (“Long live the pope!”) poured out from the crowd. He then entered the basilica to pray at the tomb of St. Peter, accompanied by patriarchs of the Eastern Catholic Churches.

Following the Gospel reading, three cardinals from the different orders within the College of Cardinals took part in the formal beginning of the Petrine ministry: Italian Cardinal Mario Zenari placed the woolen pallium on the pope’s shoulders, symbolizing his role as shepherd of the universal Church; Filipino Cardinal Luis Antonio Tagle presented him with the fisherman’s ring, evoking St. Peter’s mission to draw people into Christ’s net; and Congolese Cardinal Fridolin Ambongo offered a prayer invoking the strength of the Holy Spirit for the new pontificate.

Representing the universal Church, 12 people—clergy, religious and laity from around the world—then came forward to offer their obedience to the new pope.

Reflecting on the Gospel reading from St. John—in which Jesus asks St. Peter three times to tend to his sheep—Pope Leo said in his homily that the ministry of Peter is rooted not in authority for its own sake, but in love that serves and unites.

“Peter is thus entrusted with the task of ‘loving more’ and giving his life for the flock,” he said. “The ministry of Peter is distinguished precisely by this self-sacrificing love, because the Church of Rome presides in charity and its true authority is the charity of Christ.”

The successor of St. Peter, he said, “must shepherd the flock without ever yielding to the temptation to be an autocrat, lording it over those entrusted to him.” Instead, “he is called to serve the faith of his brothers and sisters, and to walk alongside them.”



Pope Leo XIV gives his blessing at the conclusion of his inauguration Mass in St. Peter’s Square at the Vatican on May 18. (CNS photo/Lola Gomez)

Pope Leo also recalled the period of mourning following the death of Pope Francis, and he said that the conclave that followed the late pope’s death was “a moment of grace.”

“I was chosen, without any merit of my own, and now, with fear and trembling, I come to you as a brother, who desires to be the servant of your faith and your joy, walking with you on the path of God’s love, for he wants us all to be united in one family,” he said.

“With the light and the strength of the Holy Spirit, let us build a Church founded on God’s love, a sign of unity, a missionary Church that opens its arms to the world,” he said, calling for a Church that “proclaims the word,

allows itself to be made ‘restless’ by history and becomes a leaven of harmony for humanity.”

At the end of Mass, the pope called for prayers for regions afflicted by war: Gaza, Myanmar and Ukraine, which “finally awaits negotiations for a just and lasting peace.”

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy was present for the Mass and had a private meeting with the pope later in the day, the Vatican press office said.

Immediately after the Mass, Pope Leo met with several government representatives including Vance and Rubio, as well as Peruvian President Dina Boluarte. The pope had spent more than 20 years in Peru as a missionary priest and bishop and has Peruvian citizenship. †



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SIMPLY CATHOLIC

People who return to the Church find many reasons for doing so

By Lorene Hanley Duquin

(OSV News)—*You Can’t Go Home Again* is the title of a once-famous novel by 20th-century American author Thomas Wolfe. There is deep wistfulness in his novel, for he believed that going home again is bound to be a great disappointment.

Not so with the Catholic Church. No matter how long you’ve been away, you can always come home. You can start attending Mass again. You can become a part of a parish community. You can enter into the faith far more deeply than when you left.

If you’ve been away from practicing the faith, chances are, you’re already feeling an inner pull. No matter what anyone else tells you, the spiritual longing you feel is God in his infinite love trying to draw you back to himself. But God never forces. He only invites. Whether you return to the Catholic Church is a decision that only you can make.

There are as many reasons for coming back to the Church as there are people who left. While God is at the center of each person’s decision to return, the circumstances are varied.

Here are 10 reasons that influenced the decision of others to return to the practice of the Catholic faith.

1. Because they hunger for the Eucharist.

Many people come back to the Catholic Church because they feel an intense longing for the Eucharist. Sometimes it happens at a wedding, a funeral, a baptism, a first Communion or a confirmation.

Sometimes it happens when people are alone or facing difficulties in life. They describe it as a deep hunger for the spiritual nourishment that comes when they receive the body and blood, soul and divinity of Jesus Christ. This hunger for the Eucharist triggers a recognition of the presence of Christ in other sacraments, which draws them even more deeply into the practice of their faith. It is, without exception, the top reason people come back to the Catholic Church.

2. Because they want to help other people.

There are lots of opportunities within the secular world to volunteer. What’s missing is the spiritual dimension that service within the Catholic Church provides. It’s more than just a “feel-good” activity. It’s part of the great commandment to love God and to love your neighbor as yourself (see Mk 12:28-34). In reaching out to others, Catholic volunteers become instruments of God’s love. The Catholic Church offers opportunities to touch the lives of people at home or around the world.

3. Because they want to be part of a faith community.

Many people seek a sense of belonging. But community is more than just friendly people, good sermons and interesting activities. A Catholic Christian community is a group of people who gather around the person of Jesus Christ to worship God and live in the light of the Holy Spirit.

Catholics come together at Mass, in the sacraments and in parish activities to pray, celebrate joys, mourn



A man is pictured running up the stairs of St. Mary’s Church before Mass in Tohatchi, N.M. People returning to the practice of the faith can find many reasons that draw them back to the Church. (OSV News photo/Bob Roller)



Metropolitan Archbishop Borys Gudziak of the Ukrainian Catholic Archeparchy of Philadelphia distributes Communion on April 22 during a memorial Mass for Pope Francis at St. Patrick’s Cathedral in New York City. People returning to the Church often find a desire for the Eucharist draws them back to the practice of the faith. (OSV News photo/Gregory A. Shemitz)

losses, serve others, provide support and receive strength for daily life. A Catholic parish offers all of this—and much more—to people who recognize the importance of walking with others toward union with God.

4. Because they want their children to have a faith foundation.

Some people return to the Catholic Church because they recognize that raising children in a culture that promotes “doing your own thing” can lead to disaster. Children need to experience the spiritual dimension of life. They need a structured system of belief and a firm moral foundation that includes human logic and reasoning but also transcends it. People return because they want a solid foundation upon which their children can build their lives.

5. Because the Catholic Church has the fullness of truth and grace.

Many people who leave the Catholic Church are blessed by the experience of worshiping for a while in another Christian community. But some people come back when they realize that Catholicism has the fullness of truth and grace.

The Catholic Church was not founded by a single reformer or historical movement. It is not fragmented by individual interpretation of Scripture. There are thousands of Christian communities, but only one Catholic Church, which has been guided and protected by the Holy Spirit from generation to generation for 2,000 years.

6. Because they want to be healed.

Some people carry deep spiritual wounds. They struggle with anger at God over bad things—a terminal illness, a debilitating injury, a broken relationship, mental or emotional problems, an act of violence against an innocent person, an unexplainable accident, some natural disaster, the death of a loved one or some other deep disappointment.

The Catholic Church in this life cannot change these situations or explain why they happened. But there are people in the Church who can assist in spiritual healing and help you get on with your life.

7. Because they need to forgive others.

Sometimes people hold on to anger and resentment toward individuals who have hurt them deeply. Maybe it was a family member or a friend. Maybe it was someone or something in the Church.

Our modern culture condones and encourages anger and revenge. But hatred and bitterness are spiritual cancers that eat at the heart of a person. The Catholic Church provides the opportunity to seek God’s help in forgiving others, even when the other person does not ask for forgiveness or does not deserve it. The ability to

forgive is a gift that opens a person’s heart more fully to God’s love and peace.

8. Because they made mistakes.

Some people become burdened with the weight of accumulated sin. They want to get rid of the guilt of having hurt themselves or others. They begin to ask themselves, “Will God ever forgive me? Is there any way I can start over with a clean slate?”

You can always tell God that you’re sorry. But if you want the complete assurance of God’s forgiveness and the grace to start again, the Catholic Church offers absolution in the sacrament of penance.

9. Because childhood memories surface.

Some people say childhood memories of feeling connected to God surface in later life. They begin to ask themselves, “Is it possible to recapture that simplicity of faith? Can I ever really believe that God is watching out for me?”

The secularization of our society leads people away from the spiritual side of themselves. The Catholic Church offers both religious and mystical experiences that feed the heart, the mind, the body and the soul.

10. Because they want meaning in life.

In the hustle of today’s busy lifestyles, lots of people suddenly realize that their lives have lost a sense of meaning or purpose. They begin to ask themselves, “What is my life all about? Why do I do what I do?”

There is widespread confusion in our culture with regard to morality and truth. The Catholic Church offers a beacon of light that gives meaning to our existence and leads to eternal life.

Most people discover that coming back to the Church is not an event as much as it is a process that involves a little pain, a little laughter, some thinking, some prayer, some discernment and a lot of letting go.

“My actual return to full participation in a parish took about three years after I felt the first longing,” one person reflected.

And what do they get in return? The Catholic Church offers union with Jesus Christ in Scripture, in prayer, in the community of others, in the Eucharist and in the other sacraments. It offers spiritual support in good times and bad. It offers divine wisdom that is thousands of years old. It offers meaning and purpose in this life and the promise of life with the Blessed Trinity and all the angels and saints after death.

You’ll know you are home when you begin to feel a deep sense of peace.

(Lorene Hanley Duquin is a Catholic author and lecturer who has worked in parishes and on a diocesan level.) †

Amid the Fray/Greg Erlandson

May our unexpected pope build bridges and remain a disciple of Christ

How many people on Thursday, May 8, while waiting for the cardinals to elect a new pope, said, “It will never be an American!”



I was one of those, and like so many, I believed the received wisdom that the electors would not want the Church to be headed by a citizen of the world’s greatest superpower. In my case, I did receive a hint that in the case of Cardinal Robert F. Prevost, he would be an exception to that rule. An Italian journalist with whom I was discussing *papabile* (possible candidates for pope) mentioned Cardinal Prevost. Because of his years abroad in Peru as a missionary and in the Vatican, my friend said, he is almost not American.

Indeed, only after his election as Leo XIV did I learn of his tongue-in-cheek nickname: “The Latin Yankee.”

I’m not sure many people predicted his quick election either, since he was usually labeled a dark horse at best. It is a reminder, as always, that when it comes to scoring *papabile*, usually those who know don’t say, and those who say don’t know. Having witnessed two other papal elections, I could

not help but be struck by the moment when Leo XIV was revealed to us. Thanks to close-ups of his face, I was struck by the emotions he was keeping in check. Hearing the cheers of more than 100,000 people in St. Peter’s Square below him, and at the same time knowing what an awesome responsibility was being laid on his shoulders, our new pope’s emotions were understandable.

We met him on the balcony of St. Peter’s. That he spoke in Italian and Spanish (and offered his prayer to the Church and the world in Latin), but not a word of English, was smart. He is the bishop of Rome and of the world, after all, not the standard bearer of one country.

I was particularly moved by his testament to his Augustinian roots. “I am a son of St. Augustine,” he said, “an Augustinian, who said: ‘With you I am a Christian, and for you I am a bishop.’ In this sense, we can all walk together toward that homeland that God has prepared for us.”

This quote is from a sermon by St. Augustine, and the whole passage is worth quoting, for it speaks to how we can pray for our new Holy Father at this moment.

“What I am for you frightens me,” St. Augustine said. “What I share with you brings me consolation. For you I am bishop; with you I am a Christian. The former is the name of a duty I have received; the latter I am by grace.

The former implies potential danger; the latter offers salvation. Assist me by your prayerful support, so that my joy will be in serving you, rather than in being over you.”

These final words uttered centuries ago echo a statement by Cardinal Prevost to Vatican Radio in 2023: “We must not hide behind an idea of authority that no longer makes sense today,” he said. “The authority we have is to serve, to accompany priests, to be pastors and teachers.”

Already, unfortunately, there are the low whisperings of critics who may seek to do to him what they tried to do to Pope Francis. The political ideologues already are trying to pigeonhole him, to put him in a box, to either weaken him or call him their own. God willing, they will not succeed.

It may be worthwhile to remind us of another quote of St. Augustine that seems suitable at this moment: “If you believe what you like in the Gospels, and reject what you don’t like, it is not the Gospel you believe, but yourself.”

Let us pray that our new pope remains a bridge between peoples, a conscience for the world, a voice for the marginalized, and always a disciple of Jesus Christ.

(Greg Erlandson is an award-winning Catholic publisher, editor and journalist whose column appears monthly at OSV News. Follow him on Twitter @GregErlandson.) †

Guest Column/Elizabeth Scalia

My Church and myself: Motherhood, mystery and a willing mercy

If one gets the chance to stand atop the Bernini colonnades of St. Peter’s Square, it’s delightful to discover that the hills and trees of the Roman horizon boast the color palette we see in the works of Raphael and Michelangelo. The soft, inviting pastel hues of pink and green and blue remind us of eternal things amid the passing.



Then, looking down on the square, one cannot help but study the rounded embrace of sturdy pillars and its continuance into the Via della Conciliazione, the great avenue that leads directly from the tomb of St. Peter out to, well, the whole world.

It looks very much like a womb—the basilica and surrounding buildings resemble nothing less than the miraculous interiors of a woman’s body. Here we encounter the inner workings that have received,

and continue to receive, everything since the earliest days of a Church that Scripture (and Christ himself) references as “bride”—the wisdom of doctors and philosophers, old and new; the fertile nucleus of a history that watches and waits and invites the seeds of faith to be delivered daily in the encounters of surprised converts and the awestruck prayers of baptized pilgrims, full of hope.

Gestated in ancient wisdom, beauty and truth, these are delivered back to the world, a people blessed and sent forth, passing through the exquisitely alive and enveloping clasp of the square, supported by the prayers of the saints who are poised above like ancestral godparents, as the newly (rarely perfectly) formed people of God go forth into the great, teeming planet, daughters and sons of antiquity and mystery.

The idea that the Church is “the mother” of the faith is not new. Bolstered by the testimony of one of our earliest fathers, St. Cyprian, the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* perfectly describes the work of a mother, explaining, “The Church’s faith precedes, engenders, supports and nourishes our faith. The Church is the mother of all believers. ‘No one can have God as Father who does not have the Church as Mother’ ” (#181).

The idea has legs extending through our history. Pope Leo XIII, in his 1891 encyclical “*Rerum Novarum*,” called the Church the “common Mother of rich and poor ... the common Mother of us all.”

A friend with toddlers recently admitted, “I don’t know anything about motherhood except that I have a long way to go before I approach sainthood.”

Pope Francis, during the 2012-13 Year of Faith, proclaimed “The Church is our mother” at a weekly audience, saying, “If you go to the baptistery of St. John Lateran ... there is an inscription in Latin [reading]: “Here is born a people of divine lineage, generated by the Holy Spirit who makes these waters life-giving; Mother Church gives birth to her children within these waves.”

He added, “A good mother helps her children to come of themselves. ... The Church, like a good mother, does the same thing: She accompanies our development by transmitting to us the word of God, which is a light that directs the path of Christian life; she administers the sacraments. She nourishes us with the Eucharist, she brings us the forgiveness of God through the sacrament of penance, she helps us in moments of sickness. ... The Church accompanies us throughout our entire life of faith, throughout the whole of our Christian life.”

In its exposition of the lifelong depths of concern, nurturing, love, puzzlement, understanding, clemency and prayerful accompaniment, this is a description of motherhood that anyone who has experienced it, physically or spiritually, will recognize. It is also a beautifully stated, convincing argument that the Catholic Church is, indeed, mother to all the baptized.

Of course, mothers are imperfect, as Pope Francis reminded his audience, and yet through the deep bonds of love, a child wants to forgive even her mistakes, her failures—and every mother knows failure. She fails in patience, in teaching well; sometimes she fails in nurturing and, most regrettably, even in love.

A friend with toddlers recently admitted, “I don’t know anything about motherhood except that I have a long way to go before I approach sainthood.”

Well, yes. Perhaps the Church has a long way to go, too, but we are children who want to forgive. Through the decades, I’ve discovered to my surprise that motherhood is completely spiritual at its core. Sadly, in the spiritual I fail consistently. As do we all. Even our mother, the Church.

As we ponder all mothers, including ourselves, let us do so with a willing mercy.

(Elizabeth Scalia is editor at large for OSV. Follow her on X @the anchoress.) †

Feeling IV/Effie Caldarola

In a dark world, look for the helpers—or make the time to be one yourself

A favorite quote of mine comes from Fred Rogers, the children’s television personality. He shared how his mom would comfort him when he was a frightened child.



If news events were scary, she would say, “Look for the helpers. You will always find people who are helping.”

I think there’s a bit of that frightened child in me right now, and maybe in most of us.

That’s why I’ve been gratified lately to hear about chef Jose Andres, the founder of World Central Kitchen. This organization, which Andres launched in 2010 in response to a massive earthquake in Haiti, has provided more than 450 million fresh, nourishing meals worldwide to those caught in crisis situations. Basically, they cook good meals for hungry people.

You may have heard that in April 2024, an Israeli strike in Gaza killed seven World Central Kitchen workers, an action Israel later called a “mistake.”

Nevertheless, Andres and his crew continue to be helpers, running very low on supplies in Gaza, where Israel imposed a humanitarian blockade on food, medicine and other aid until all hostages taken in Hamas’ 2023 terrorist attack are released. (Editor’s note:

According to Reuters, Israel declared on May 18 it would allow limited amounts of food into Gaza.)

Andres, who was born in Spain and immigrated to the U.S. when he was 21, has a new book out: *Change the Recipe: Because You Can’t Build a Better World Without Breaking Some Eggs*.

This isn’t a book review, as I haven’t gotten my hands on the book yet. But the new book has spurred interviews, and one morning on National Public Radio I heard someone ask Andres how he continues on in our present dark times. His answer was almost an echo of Fred Rogers. When times are particularly bleak, he said, “The best of humanity shows up.”

Those are words to contemplate in this season of Easter. Sometimes we forget that Lent is 40 days long, but the Easter season, our time to celebrate, is 50. We should be rejoicing right now, and following the Lord into Galilee.

That’s the same Lord who gave us a blueprint for helping in Mt 25:34-40: Feed the hungry, welcome the stranger, cloth the naked, care for the sick, visit the prisoner. And when you do these things, Jesus said, you are actually doing them for him.

Pope Francis was a helper, and he encouraged helpers everywhere. Was it surprising that he made the effort to greet the crowds in St. Peter’s Square on Easter on the day before his death?

Catholic Relief Services (CRS) helps the world on our behalf. Launched by the U.S. Catholic Bishops at the end of World War II to assist survivors in Europe, CRS has served more than 200 million people in more than 100 countries on five continents.

Recent drastic cuts to the agency USAID have impacted their budget. They need our financial help more than ever.

But besides monetary donations, there are so many ways to be a helper. Is there a food bank in your town? Have you donated blood to the Red Cross lately? Is there a neighbor who might need a friendly call?

A woman in my parish organizes a casserole donation to a shelter once a month. People anonymously place homemade casseroles in a freezer in the parish garage and someone delivers them on Monday morning.

What if during these days of Easter, which culminates with the feast of Pentecost—or beyond—we tried each day to think of a way to be a helper? Start a journal and make a list.

Looking for the helpers is good advice for the frightened child. Being a helper is a way to move beyond fear.

(Effie Caldarola is a wife, mom and grandmother who received her master’s degree in pastoral studies from Seattle University.) †

Sixth Sunday of Easter/Msgr. Owen F. Campion

The Sunday Readings

Sunday, May 25, 2025

- Acts of the Apostles 15:1-2, 22-29
- Revelation 21:10-14, 22-23
- John 14:23-29

The Acts of the Apostles again provides the first reading for a weekend Mass in the Easter season.



As it grew, the Church not only expanded beyond its original base in the Holy Land. It also drew gentiles in foreign lands. Diversity was a characteristic early in the development of the Church.

This increasingly multi-cultural nature of the Christian community presented challenges which are evident in this weekend’s reading.

A dispute arose in Antioch, located on the Mediterranean Sea north of the Holy Land, at the time one of the major cities of the Roman Empire.

In Antioch’s recently formed Christian community, people from all backgrounds were present. Jews would have been among them, but others were not of Jewish background. Still, the major leaders in the Church at the time were Jews. These most certainly included the Apostles who had known Jesus and their earliest followers.

The argument was about circumcision, the ancient required ritual followed in Judaism for Jewish males even to this day. Evidently, some Antioch Christians were demanding that converts from paganism submit themselves to this ritual.

The Christians in Antioch seemed unable to resolve the dispute. It became a source of division and probably hard feelings among the Christians.

So, the question was sent to Jerusalem, for review by the Apostles.

Replying, the Apostles called the Antioch Christians “brothers,” one and all, without any distinction (Acts 15:23). The Apostles said that this Hebrew ritual need not be imposed upon gentile converts. They based their decision on their own authority, conferred upon them by the Lord.

The Book of Revelation furnishes the second reading. It is poetic and highly symbolic. The city is heaven, called the “holy city Jerusalem” (Rv 21:10). This heavenly city awaits all who love God. On each of its four sides are three gates, open and available to anyone wanting entry. In the symbolism of the time, three was a perfect number. The four sides refer to the four corners of the Earth. In other words, everyone is welcome.

The names of the twelve tribes of Israel appear on the city’s walls, another symbol to say that salvation is offered to all. No tribe is excluded.

St. John’s Gospel gives this weekend the third eloquent reading. It makes three points.

Jesus calls upon the disciples to love each other. It will not be easy all the time, but following Christ will not be impossible, as the Holy Spirit will assist and strengthen the faithful.

Finally, peace will be with those who truly love God. Peace is not simply an absence of conflict or necessarily involves only societies or nations. It is the gift of God enjoyed by an individual human heart and soul that comes from knowing that God is present and merciful.

Reflection

The Church is directing us to Pentecost, but it is far from merely pointing us to an anniversary. The Church is telling us that, if we accept Jesus and live by the Gospel, God will be with us in the presence of the Holy Spirit.

The Church gives us practical advice. Since being with God in the heavenly Jerusalem is the only true source of peace, and being separated from God is death, we reach God’s heavenly Jerusalem by cooperating daily with his grace in following Jesus.

The route to heaven requires voluntary commitment to Christ, but also letting the Lord illumine each step of our personal path. Relying upon Christ and his Apostles, the Church now shows us the way, guiding us with Christian faith and love.

As we look ahead to Pentecost, the Church calls us to strong faith, but also to realism. We need the Lord’s guidance and grace. †

Daily Readings

Monday, May 26
St. Philip Neri, priest
Acts 16:11-15
Psalms 149:1b-6a, 9b
John 15:26-16:4a

Tuesday, May 27
St. Augustine of Canterbury, bishop
Acts 16:22-34
Psalm 138:1-3, 7c-8
John 16:5-11

Wednesday, May 28
Acts 17:15, 22-18:1
Psalm 148:1-2, 11-14
John 16:12-15

Thursday, May 29
St. Paul VI, pope
Acts 18:1-8
Psalm 98:1-4
John 16:16-20

Friday, May 30
Acts 18:9-18
Psalm 47:2-7
John 16:20-23

Saturday, May 31
The Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary
Zephaniah 3:14-18a
or Romans 12:9-16
(Response) Isaiah 12:2-3, 4bcd, 5-6
Luke 1:39-56

Sunday, June 1
The Ascension of the Lord
Acts 1:1-11
Psalm 47:2-3, 6-9
Ephesians 1:17-23
or Hebrews 9:24-28; 10:19-23
Luke 24:46-53

Question Corner/Jenna Marie Cooper

Convalidation not needed in most cases for married people received into the Church

Q At my parish, we were blessed to have several adults baptized and be received into the full communion of the Church this past Easter. But my question is, what happens with their marriages? Doesn’t a married person need their marriage blessed or “convalidated” once they become Catholic?



A The short answer is that, for most already-married people entering the Catholic Church, their marriage vows essentially “carry over” with them, and they don’t need to do anything special or additional to have their marriage recognized by the Catholic Church.

As Catholics, we believe that “the marriage covenant, by which a man and a woman establish between themselves a partnership of their whole life, and which of its own very nature is ordered to the well-being of the spouses and to the procreation and upbringing of children, has, between the baptized, been raised by Christ the Lord to the dignity of a sacrament” (*Code of Canon Law*, canon 1055, 1).

Still, marriage as an institution is as old as humanity itself and as such predates Jesus’ time on Earth. Consequently, people do not need to be Catholic or even Christian to have a valid marriage, provided that in their matrimonial consent they committed themselves to a union that would broadly match our Catholic understanding of marriage: namely, as a permanent, faithful and exclusive union ordered fundamentally toward children and family life.

A marriage between non-baptized persons, or between one baptized and one non-baptized person, is called a “natural marriage.” In some cases, this might be referred to as a “merely natural” marriage, to distinguish it from a sacramental marriage bond between Christians. But “sacramental” is not shorthand for “valid,” and a merely natural marriage is presumed

valid and binding to a similar degree as a sacramental one.

Similarly, it is Catholics and only Catholics who are bound to “canonical form,” or marrying in a Catholic religious context for validity. (See canon 1108.) Non-Catholics, even baptized non-Catholic Christians, for the most part do not have the requirement of marrying in any kind of religious ceremony. So, a non-Catholic could marry validly even in a purely secular ceremony before a justice of the peace—just as long as, once again, they intended to marry according to our basic understanding of what marriage is.

To give some practical examples, the Church would assume that two Protestants, who were both free to marry and get married in their own church have a valid marital union. Later on, if one or both decide to be received into the Church, they would remain validly married, since the requirement to observe canonical form does not apply to them retroactively.

The same principle applies to married non-baptized people converting to Catholicism. If their marriage was valid to begin with, their baptism would not change this fact. However, if their baptism made it so that their marriage was now a union between two baptized persons, their marital bond would be automatically considered by the Church to be a sacramental one, since “a valid marriage contract cannot exist between baptized persons without its being by that very fact a sacrament” (Canon 1055, 2).

While the validity of their marriage would not somehow increase with this “sacramental upgrade”—a marriage is either valid, or it’s not—they would now obtain more grace and their union would become a more effective path of growing closer to God.

Where things sometimes get complicated are situations where the person who wishes to enter the Catholic Church is in a marital union that cannot be presumed valid. For instance, if a non-Catholic was divorced and remarried, we would presume the validity of the original marriage rather than the second and current union. People in this situation would most likely need to approach the local marriage tribunal before they could progress further in their journey toward full communion.

But usually, these sorts of sensitive pastoral situations are addressed and hopefully resolved while the person is still a catechumen involved with the Order of Christian Initiation of Adults process or otherwise still being prepared to enter the Church.

(Jenna Marie Cooper, who holds a licentiate in canon law, is a consecrated virgin and a canonist whose column appears weekly at OSV News. Send your questions to CatholicQA@osv.com.) †

My Journey to God

Your Little Way, O Little Flower

By Natalie Hoefer

O St. Thérèsè, dear simple soul,
How I love your “Little Way.”
For I myself am small and weak,
With resolve that ever strays.

I have desired spiritual heights
And attempted them on my own.
But I tire quickly, trip and fall.
“I can’t do it,” I wearily moan.

Then, with understanding smile,
You came to soothe my soul.
“I have been there, too,” you said,
“Too weak for my holy goals.

“Then God showed me another path
“To holiness and heaven.
“First, admit your weakness,
“Your lack of power over sin.

“Next, do little things with love—
“The tasks you daily do.
“And practice virtue as you go,
“And tell God that He must help you!

“Then believe in His great mercy
“With the pure trust of a child—
“He will lift and hold you in His arms
“Like a Daddy love-beguiled.”



At last, here was a different path
That called for no great feat,
But little acts done with great love,
And to trust God when I’m weak.

So, pray for me, dear St. Thérèsè,
That God grant me grace and power
To grow in holiness and virtue
Through your Little Way, O Little Flower.

(Natalie Hoefer is a member of St Monica Parish in Indianapolis and is a reporter for The Criterion. Photo: This mosaic, photographed in the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Little Flower in San Antonio, Texas, on Aug. 8, 2019, depicts St. Thérèsè of Lisieux. May 17 marked the 100th anniversary of the saint’s canonization.) (Photo by Natalie Hoefer)

Welcome, new members



The Ladies Auxiliary of St. Peter Claver, St. Catherine of Siena, Court 109 Northern District at Holy Angels Parish in Indianapolis welcomed five new members to its roster on March 29: seated, from left, Lady Talja Griffin, Lady Cynthia Daniels, Lady Starling Loyd, Lady Stephanie Finnell and Lady Tiffany Harris. The initiation ceremony was followed by a light luncheon to celebrate the occasion. (Submitted photo)

Trump names bishops, priest to religious liberty commission advisory board

WASHINGTON (OSV News)—Three U.S. Catholic bishops and a parish priest were among religious leaders President Donald J. Trump appointed to an advisory board of his recently established Religious Liberty Commission.

Archbishop Salvatore J. Cordileone of San Francisco; Bishop Thomas J. Paprocki of Springfield, Ill.; and Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades of Fort-Wayne-South Bend, Ind., will support the commission’s work. Joining them is Father Thomas Ferguson, pastor of Good Shepherd Parish in Alexandria, Va.

Bishop Rhoades is chairman of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops’

(USCCB) Committee on Religious Liberty, which issues an annual report on the state of religious freedom in the U.S. He also serves on the bishops’ ad hoc Committee against Racism and Committee on Doctrine, and previously served as that latter committee’s chairman.

Bishop Paprocki is chairman of the USCCB’s Canonical Affairs Committee and Church Governance, and initiated the “Fortnight for Freedom,” the U.S. bishops’ annual June 21-July 4 campaign on defending religious liberty, which launched in 2012. Archbishop Cordileone sits on, and previously led, the USCCB’s Committee on Laity,



Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades

Marriage, Family Life and Youth. Father Ferguson is the author of *Catholic and American: The Political Theology of John Courtney Murray*, published by Sheed & Ward in 1993. Jesuit Father Murray was a key 20th-century thinker on religious liberty. His ideas influenced the Second Vatican Council’s 1965 Declaration on Religious Liberty, “*Dignitatis humanae*.” The four Catholic leaders join seven

other U.S. religious leaders on the commission’s Advisory Board of Religious Leaders. The commission’s 13 members, announced on May 1, include Cardinal Timothy M. Dolan of New York and Bishop Robert E. Barron of Winona-Rochester, Minn. Bishop Barron is a member of and Cardinal Dolan is a consultant to the USCCB’s Committee for Religious Liberty. †

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Employment

Director of Evangelization

Our Lady of Grace, Noblesville, a Pastorate of the Diocese of Lafayette in Indiana, is currently seeking candidates for the position of Director of Evangelization.

Job Summary: The Director of Evangelization will assist the Pastor with the overall faith development of the parish community. Core responsibilities will include direct responsibility for Adult Formation and management of all other faith formation staff including Youth Ministry. The candidate should be fully committed to the Catholic Church’s teaching; has a mature discipleship evidenced in ability to comfortably witness the faith; a comprehensive vision and understanding of evangelization and parish vitality, and a solid grounding in Catholic identity and the faith tradition. Position is available in July 2025.

- Qualifications and Skills:**
- Bachelor’s degree in theology or comparable training in Catholic Faith
 - Deep love of and working knowledge of Catholic faith, teachings, doctrine, and liturgy.
 - Ability to lead a session / series in an engaging manner.
 - Ability to lead and supervise staff by:
 - Collaborating; Empowering; Goal Setting and Assessing performance
 - Be consistently available to minister on nights and weekends.

- Preferred Additional Skills:**
- Master’s degree in theology
 - Bi-lingual fluency (English/Spanish)

Interested and qualified candidates should submit a cover letter and resume, including at least three references, to Larry Kunkel, ljunkel@ologn.org.

Employment

Payroll Specialist Assistant Catholic Center, Indianapolis

This full-time, hourly position will assist the Central Payroll Team with payroll processing.

Duties and Responsibilities will include:

- Clerical tasks related to updating computer systems accurately.
- Assist business locations and employees with payroll related questions.
- Processing of bi-weekly payrolls
- General administrative support to the payroll team
- Assist with day-to-day operations of the Central Payroll Department

Education and Experience needed:

- High school diploma or equivalent is required.
- At least 12 months of payroll experience
- High attention to detail and accuracy with data entry
- Great organization and communication skills
- Experience with Microsoft Office a must
- High level of discretion and confidentiality

For immediate consideration, please send resume to tsteele@archindy.org.

Archdiocese of Indianapolis Maintenance Technician

This full-time, hourly, position is responsible for the maintenance of several buildings.

Duties include:

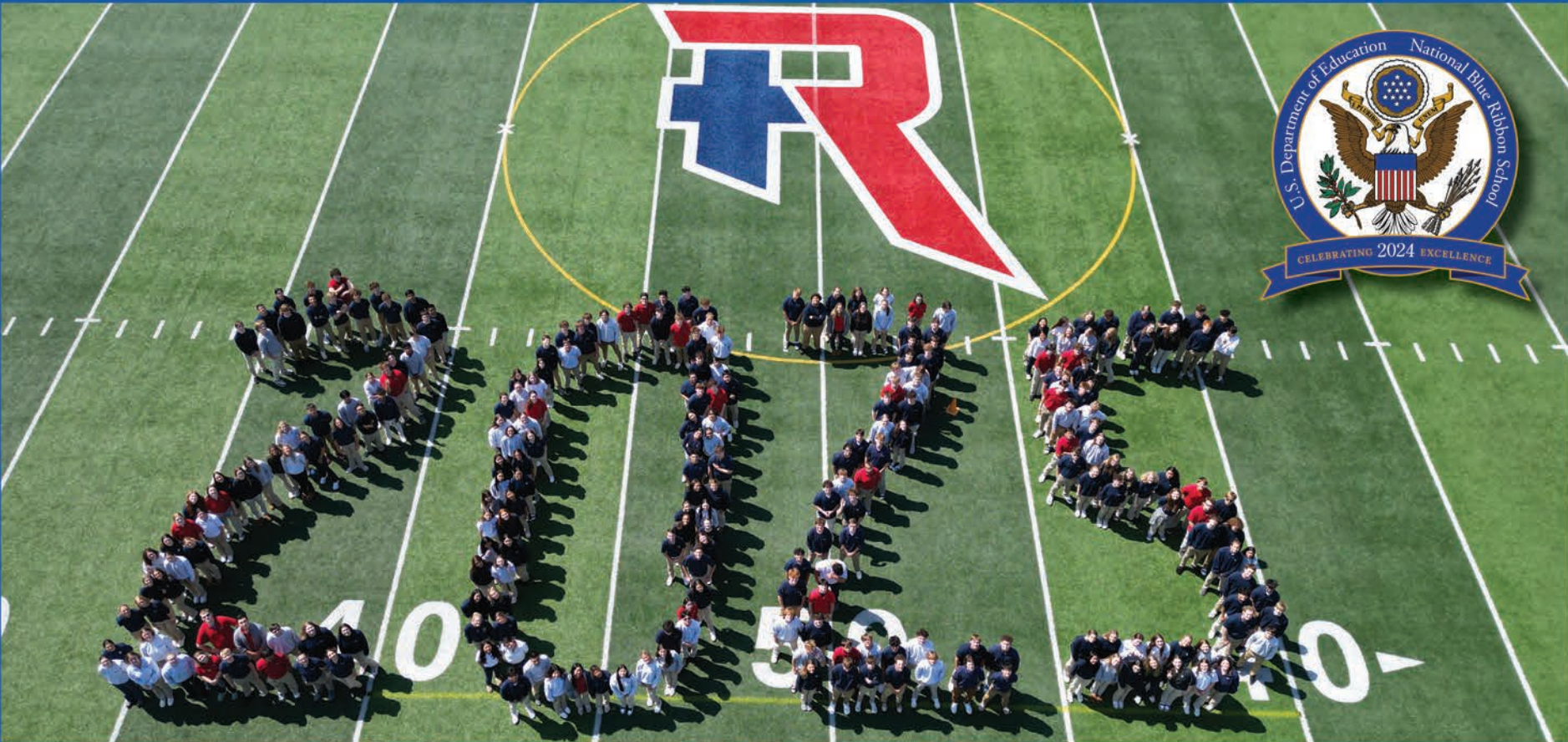
- Completing repairs, preventative maintenance and maintenance tasks on buildings and grounds.
- Responding, in a timely manner, to internal equipment repair needs.
- A verifiable background in building maintenance.
- A working knowledge of all building systems and components.
- The ability to evaluate and repair existing equipment.
- The ability to work with contractors, subcontractors, and suppliers.
- An ability to work with the Archdiocesan staff.
- Basic computer skills.
- Good organizational and communication skills.

If you are interested in this position, please send your resume to: dherbertz@archindy.org.



Congratulations to the Roncalli Class of 2025

The faculty, staff and administration of Roncalli High School are very proud of all that these young men and women continue to accomplish. They have challenged themselves, embraced their faith and are prepared to make their own unique impact in our world. The prayers and support of the entire Roncalli family accompany them on their journey. May God bless and protect the Class of 2025.



Roncalli Salutes the Graduating Class of 2025

Henry Joseph Adams
 Eddy Aguilar
 Simon Kenneth Louis Alba
 Lucia Elizabeth Allen
 Nicolas James Amodeo
 Nathan Alexander Anglemeyer
 Nicholas Anthony Armin
 Lillian Marie Babb
 Sydney Nicole Babb
 Martin David Babcock
 Adilyn Hope Baker
 Thomas Jose Barajas
 Andrew Nicholas Barkley
 Nicholas David Bastida
 Dominic Jordan Bauerle
 Lillian Clara Bauman
 Tuangbiakkam Bawihrin
 Ava Elizabeth Beer
 Logan Grace Bell
 Lauren Michelle Bender
 Nathaniel Adam Benefiel
 Rogan Joseph Benich
 Caroline Lauren Benson
 Elijah Dawson Berger
 Andrew Joseph Biltz
 Jacob William Blandford
 Caroline Elizabeth Bohn
 Sawyer Anthony Borders
 Lauren Kathryn Brown
 Jayden Scott Buchanan
 William Joseph Buchmeier
 Joseph Jacob Buckel
 Benjamin Rendel Buechler
 Hailey Morgan Bullock
 Christian Emmanuel Cardenas
 Ashlynn Reese Carrigan
 Samaira Guadalupe Chimal
 Rose Ngun Tha Chin
 Zen Sian Cing
 Dane Michael Clouse
 Makena Grace Finnely Combs
 Lauren Elizabeth Coppinger
 Fernando Anthony Cornelio Rosas
 Paul Michael Curd
 Andrew Elliot Curry
 Grace Katherine Daming
 Madeline Alice Daming
 Kristen Elizabeth Dees
 Michael Allen DellaRocco
 Noah Louis Devine
 Michael Gene Dexter
 Matthew Stephen Dial
 Alexandra Diaz

Isabelle Nayeli Diaz
 Jaclyn Elizabeth Diersing
 Clare Therese Diez
 Kennady Noel Dougherty
 James Vincent Dozier
 Gavin Joseph Lee Dulworth
 John Robert Edge
 Lucas Xavier Edwards
 Avery Donavan Elbreg
 Callie Burrleene Elrod
 Dominick Andrew Elsener
 Juan Felipe Escobedo-Lopez
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 Mya Lillian Galbreath
 Claire Elizabeth Gallagher
 Candy Esperanza Garcia
 Angel Alexander Gazpar Martinez
 Sara Jordan Geier
 Elijah Andrew Goers
 Fabrizio Gomez
 Benicio Cruz Gonzalez
 Jolie Lynn Goss
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 Michael Robert Green
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 Kalise Ramona Gutierrez
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 James Thomas Hatfield
 Maddux Douglas Hawthorth
 Macen Xavier Hendrix
 Cameran Blake Dale Henson
 Aiden Jeremy Hill
 Eliana Kathleen Himes
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