A mother’s love

Tina Settles created the Children’s Memorial Butterfly Garden at Good Shepherd Parish in Indianapolis as a place to remember and celebrate the lives of her only child and other children who died too soon.

Butterfly garden gives a sense of hope and beauty for parents who have lost a child

By John Shaughnessy

It all has to do with the incredible depth of a mother’s love.

There’s no other way to explain what Tina Settles has created, what she believes in, and what she holds close to her heart.

For the past two years, Settles has worked tirelessly to turn an overgrown patch of land behind a parish church into a flowing garden of red, yellow, pink and purple flowers that has become a home to a dazzling, breathtaking assortment of butterflies.

Yet even more dramatically, that change in landscape has led to a special place that has lightly touched upon the hearts and souls of parishioners who have known the unbearable heartbreak of losing a child.

This then is a story of transformation, the transformation of a parent—from a mother who never felt so alone and devastated after the death of her only child to a woman who has created a Children’s Memorial Butterfly Garden where she can find a peaceful refuge to visitors.

Pope returns to Latin America as witness of Christian love

RIO DE JANEIRO (CNS)—Pope Francis returned to his native Latin America on July 22, asking for open hearts, even after the irepressible crowds made it clear he had them.

The 76-year-old pope’s first international trip involved a 12-hour flight from Rome, taking him back to the continent he left more than four months ago to attend the conclave that elected him pope.

After quick greetings at Rio’s international airport, then an often chaotic 45-minute ride into the city and a more orderly 25-minute circuit of downtown in an open popemobile, the pope flew by military helicopter to Guanabara Palace, the office of the governor of Rio de Janeiro state. There he met with Brazilian President Dilma Rousseff and other leaders.

In his remarks there, delivered in a mixture of Portuguese and Spanish, the pope paraphrased a passage from the Acts of the Apostles: “I have neither silver nor gold, but I bring with me the most precious thing given to me: Jesus Christ.”

The way to reach the Brazilian people is through the heart, he said, “so let me knock gently at this door. I ask permission to

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people can feel some measure of hope and healing as they remember a child who died too soon, who touched their lives forever.

GARDEN

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A sense of hope and beauty

Settles knows that some of the pain from the death of her son, Jeremiah Allen Monroe, will always be with her. He died at 29 on Sept. 11, 2010. And while she prefers to keep the details surrounding his death private, she openly shares the heartbreak of losing her only child—and the startling discovery she made in the midst of that heartache.

“When I lost my son, I felt very alone,” Settles recalls. “A lot of people at the showing would tell me they had lost a child. I had no clue. Here I was feeling all alone, and other people had been through it. If you outlive your child, it’s a strange feeling. I saw they were going on with their lives, and it gave me hope that I would learn, too. I’m still in the learning process.”

One significant part that has helped in that process has happened at Good Shepherd Parish in Indianapolis, where Settles and her husband, Kevin, are members.

In the spring of 2011, there was a flower garden behind the church that had become overgrown, and one plan was to return it to grass. Hearing about that plan, Settles asked Father Gerald Kirkhoff, the parish’s pastor, if she could take care of the garden. One of the main reasons she wanted to do it was because she remembered how much her son enjoyed watching her garden.

“I thought it would be a good diversion for me,” she says. “I was so depressed. For me, gardening is therapeutic.

Some of the flowers that were originally there, once the weeds were pulled away, we started to see butterflies. They added some flowers and weeds that attract butterflies. We have wild violets. We have milkweed. If you don’t have milkweed, you won’t have monarch butterflies.”

The butterflies appealed to Settles’ sense of beauty, but there was another reason she chose to make them so essential to the garden.

“When you think of butterflies, they’re like our children. You think of their essence, their beauty, and you think of the children who died too early in life—children who were stillborn or who died because of childhood illnesses and accidents. It’s a memorial for those children—how they made an impact on our lives in such a short time, and how they made us better people.”

Mary Jane Biro joined the group that attended the plaque’s dedication.

“I was amazed at the number of people who came,” says Biro, a member of the parish. “It was inspiring, not only to see the people who participated but how much work Tina put into the whole thing. She has a place where people can sit and make stepping stones so it’s easy for people to walk through.

We had a minimal loss a son when the son was 50. It was so sudden. Bob goes back to that garden and just sits and enjoys the serenity.”

Kevin Settles marvels at his wife’s tribute: “This is a wonderful thing she’s done.”

“I believe I’m starting to heal”

Nearly three years have passed since Settles lost her son. There are still times that test her soul.

“There have been people who told me that some people never get over losing a child,” she says. “For me, it’s very hard. He’s the only child I’ve ever had. But I believe he’s with God. He no longer suffers or knows pain. And I believe I’m starting to heal. But you just never want to forget them.”

Now, she has created a place for herself and others where they can heal as they remember.

“When I’m at the garden, I think of him. I’m also starting to find peace. When I feel sad, I can sit on the bench and feel God’s presence.”

She started selling tomato plants at the parish to raise money for the plaque. Then people donated money, wanting the names of their children to be on the plaque.

“The children are of all ages,” she says. “One person in the parish lost a child at 56. That was still her child. We’ve also had people who are not Catholic ask to put a name on the plaque. I have no problem with that. We’re all God’s children.”

There are 46 names on the plaque that hangs on a red-brick wall by the Children’s Memorial Butterfly Garden. After one of the parish’s Masses on July 7, Father Kirkhoff dedicated the plaque while a large crowd watched.

“I thought it was a great idea,” Father Kirkhoff says. “It enlarges the whole idea of respect for life. We think of the unborn children who die because of abortion, and we also think of the children who died too early in life—children who were stillborn or who died because of childhood illnesses and accidents. It’s a memorial for those children—how they made an impact on our lives in such a short time, and how they made us better people.”

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“I believe I’m starting to heal”

Nearly three years have passed since
Roncalli graduate experiences Catholic radio—Uganda style

By Natalie Hoefer

Dancers going up the aisle during hymns sung to the beat of drums. Shrii breaths ringing out in joy.

It was not what Alexandra “Alex” Servie was used to when attending Mass.

But it proved to be just another one of the striking differences between life in the United States and life in Uganda.

Servie spent five months in the African country working at a Catholic radio station in the northwestern city of Arua.

“It was very different in every way. There was no way to know what I was getting into,” says the 2012 Roncalli High School graduate and member of St. Jude Parish in Indianapolis.

From experiencing the role of Catholic radio in a region with few other forms of communication, to learning of mob justice and carnivorous ants, Servie reflects on her unique experience.

Gaining global experience

Not sure what she wanted to major in after graduating from high school, Servie took a year off before enrolling in college to travel and gain experience in different areas of interest.

Last fall, she spent two months in Uruguay taking Spanish and art classes while interning for a fashion designer and an event planner.

That experience was followed by two months in Argentina volunteering for a non-governmental organization that focused on sustainable development.

Servie spent early January through early May working at a Catholic radio station in Uganda. That opportunity came through Servie’s aunt, Sherry Meyer. Meyer is a volunteer missionary from the Archdiocese of Indianapolis. She has been working for the Diocese of Arua.

So begins the 9 o’clock hour every Thursday morning on 89.9 FM WOMB radio station broadcast in the Bloomington area. Prayer vigils have been conducted at the Planned Parenthood facility on Thursdays from 9-10 a.m.—during which surgical abortions are performed at the facility near the Indiana University campus—for over a decade.

But for the last year and a half their prayers have been broadcast live on the local Catholic radio station.

“This way,” says Monica Seifker, coordinator of the live broadcast ministry. “They’re a group of volunteers calling themselves ‘people that can’t be [present] to pray at Planned Parenthood’ because of work can pray along with us, or people just driving in the area.

“We also have a group playing the radio at the Sacred Heart Chapel at the [Mother of the Redeemer] Retreat Center. They pray simultaneously with us before the blessed sacrament.

The retreat center and 89.9 FM WOMB radio station are located in the hillsy outskirts of Bloomington about eight miles west of the Planned Parenthood center. The Franciscan Friars of the Immaculate Conception provide spiritual direction at the retreat center and also operate the radio station as part of their apostolate.

According to Bill Dunfee, president of the board of directors for the station, “When school is on [at Indiana University], Planned Parenthood is really crowded [on Thursdays], with 30-40 girls getting abortions.

Dunfee says Franciscan Brother Augustine Arts, who set up the station, told the friars it would be easy to do a live broadcast of the prayer vigil in front of Planned Parenthood.

Shortly after the station went live in October 2011, the friars asked Monica Seifer of St. John the Apostle Parish in Bloomington to coordinate the ministry. Seifker home schools her children and had been bringing them to pray at Planned Parenthood on Thursday mornings for many years.

While Seifker opens and closes each broadcast with a meditation, the prayers are led either by a friar from the retreat center or a priest from one of the three local parishes.

Seifker feels the ministry has been a success.

“So go by, flip on the station and their attention is drawn and they’ll pray with us. We had one woman, a fallen away Catholic, who came back as result of the broadcast.”

That woman, Gladys Newson of St. Paul Catholic Center in Bloomington, says she had become frustrated with other faiths not recognizing the truth about abortion.

“When I learned what [abortion] really meant, I thought, ‘How can you be Christian and pro-choice?’ I think the live broadcast of prayers is absolutely wonderful. That’s what got me here. I think it’s so powerful. It’s one way of getting the pro-life word out.”

That the station’s call letters spell the word ‘womb’ is a bit of providence, says Franciscan Father Joachim Mary Mudd.

“We got a list from the FCC [Federal Communications Commission] of all the call letters that had been taken. I got our hymnal and looked through all the Marian songs, I found ‘O Mother Bles’t’, and OMB wasn’t taken.

“Since we’re east of the Mississippi River, the call letters heng with ‘W’. So we made it stand for ‘With Our Mother Bles’t. And it just happened to spell ‘womb’. That was unforeseen—it was in God’s plan.”

Mary Dunfee of St. John the Apostle Parish in Bloomington, a regular participant at the Thursday prayer vigil, cites scriptural support for the prayer vigil broadcast ministry.

“We all know the power of prayer. As our Lord said, ‘Where two or more are gathered in my name , and we have more than by using the radio,”

Dominican Father Simon Michalski, associate pastor of St. Paul Catholic Center, led the prayers for the first time at the vigil broadcast on July 11.

“I loved it. They’re doing a great ministry here. I believe this program is absolutely essential.

“Relaying on God and calling upon him for the things we want and need is the heart of the Christian life. This couldn’t exist without prayer, and the fact that it’s broadcast is even more powerful.”

Isaac, who alternates setting up the portable equipment with his 17-year-old brother, Andre, is passionate about the ministry.

“The millions of babies who are being murdered across the nation can’t speak for themselves. We’re here to speak for them.

“We use the technology and equipment to make our voices go over the air as loud as possible so that everyone can hear and know that abortion needs to be stopped.”

(Pray vigil is broadcast live on 89.9 FM WOMB Thursday mornings from 9:45 a.m. from the Planned Parenthood at 421 S. College Ave. in Bloomington. Prayers are also said simultaneously at the Sacred Heart Chapel at Mother of the Redeemer Retreat Center, 6212 W. Hendricks Road, Bloomington.) †
Celebrating saints for our time

Catholics in central and southern Indiana joined our sisters and brothers throughout the world in welcoming the news that two recent popes, Blessed John XXIII and Blessed John Paul II, will incite canonization saints. Some of us remember both men, but all of us regardless of our ages are living in times that were profoundly influenced by their witness to the Gospel and their deep sensitivity to the challenges of living our faith in these turbulent times.

Blessed John XXIII occupied the chair of St. Peter for a relatively short time (1958-63), but what he set in motion by calling the Second Vatican Council has had a lasting impact on the Church and on the modern world.

Blessed John Paul II served as pope for many years (1978-2005). His writings, his pastoral visits to virtually every corner of the globe, his political clout, and his dynamic ministry all followed by the suffering and decline of his later years, all have touched our lives. The world is different because of these two popes—soon to be officially canonized.

What did these two popes have in common? Love for the Church, warmth and compassion, charisma, a keen sense of what the world needs now, and, above all else, holiness.

Holiness is the virtue that unites all the saints—very different women and men with extremely diverse backgrounds, personalities, skills and talents, failures and triumphs. St. Thomas Aquinas was brilliant. St. John Vianney struggled with his studies and was nearly refused ordination to the priesthood.

St. Thérèse Guérin was a multi-talented patient who bore witness to the influence on the state of Indiana and our nation can be measured, in part, by what she built and accomplished.

St. Maria Goretti was an 11-year-old girl, whose only achievement was her courage in the face of martyrdom at the hands of an abusive young man.

Similarly, Blessed John XXIII was a very different personality than Blessed John Paul II. Angelo Roncalli (“Good Pope John”) was a grandfatherly figure when he was first elected pope. He was thought to be a transitional figure, but he surprised everyone by calling for a profound spiritual renewal of the Church and its institutions.

Karl Wojtyła (“John Paul the Great”) was a surprise choice—the first non-Italian pope in centuries. He brought to the Pontificate a dynamic personality that combined boundless energy with an iron will that set the stage for the “new evangelization.”

They were very different men. What unites them to one another, and to all the saints, is holiness.

What is this thing we call holiness?

Where does it come from and what are we supposed to do with it?

The teachings of the Second Vatican Council make it very clear that “all baptized Christians are called to be holy.” This universal call to holiness is not optional, and is present not just in the saintly people—priests or religious, saints

Jesus Father Federico Lombardi, the Vatican spokesman, addresses a news conference about the canonization efforts for Blessed John Paul II and Blessed John XXIII on July 5 at the Vatican. Pope Francis signed a decree recognizing the miracle needed for the canonization of Blessed John Paul II and has asked the world’s cardinals to vote on the canonization of Blessed John XXIII, even in the absence of a miracle.

or superheroes.

We are all called to be holy. That means we are all called to accept the particular gifts and talents God has given us and to develop them, and share them generously, out of love for God and love for one another.

Holiness is the overflowing of God’s grace in our words and actions day in and day out. It is the sign that God is with us and that we are one with him.

To be holy is not the same thing as being perfect or without sin. Only the Blessed Virgin Mary was, by the grace of God. The rest of the saints were sinners who confessed, repented and struggled—not always successfully—to sin no more. Saints are ordinary sinners who accepted God’s forgiveness and grew in their ability to know, love and serve God in extraordinary ways.

The saints show us how to live holy lives. They make it possible for us to see ourselves as better than we are and to grow in wisdom, compassion and dedicated service. Saints show us that there are many equally valid ways to live the one Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, the way, the truth and the life. The saints help us to understand that there are many diverse forms of spirituality that we can follow in our daily lives.

So we will rejoice with the whole Church when the date is set for the canonizations of John XXIII and Blessed John Paul II. These great men showed us how to live holy lives—in spite of our own sinfulness and the sin of the world.

We ask them to intercede for us, and especially for Pope Francis and Archbishop Joseph W. Tobin, as they continue the spiritual renewal and the new evangelization set in motion by these blessed men of God. That in all things God may be glorified! —Daniel Conway

Letter to the Editor

Amid discussion of academic standards, keep priority on faith, reader says

In the July 19, 2013 issue of The Criterion, Gina Fleming provides a good summary of the Common Core Implementation and the success of the Archdiocesan schools in academics.

I attended Catholic schools from first grade through college and received a tremendous education. I was blessed with fine academic institutions and kind, caring, professional teachers. My parents chose Catholic schools for me because of the faith-filled environment which fostered a safe, loving atmosphere.

As parents today, we look for schools for our children, there are many more options. Many school districts have excellent public and private schools in which children also thrive, so choosing a school strategically is important. As a Catholic community, we need to be vigilant to keep our focus on what truly makes us different from the other schools. It’s our faith.

The test scores, the awards and accolades, the graduation rates and college acceptances are wonderful but providing our children with a loving, faith-filled, nurturing and learning environment which promotes respect and dignity is non-negotiable.

Stephen O’Neill, M.D.
Indianapolis

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 opinions of 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 considerations, past content (including spelling and grammar) and in order to encourage oppositions of a variety of opinions, from letters which will ordinarily be limited to one letter every three months. Concise letters (usually less than 300 words) are more likely to be published.

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 email may send letters to criterion@archindy.org.

Making Sense Out of Bioethics

Is it wrong for me now to buy health insurance?

Many individuals and business owners are struggling in conscience about whether to purchase health insurance coverage, either for themselves or for their employees, in order to avoid the “penalty” required under the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services’ (HHS) health care mandate.

A provision of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA), the mandate requires “preventive health services” to be covered by all health insurance issuers and all group health plans.

These insurance plans must provide coverage, with no co-pay, for the full range of Food and Drug Administration-approved (FDA) contraceptive methods for women. These include not only surgical sterilizations, but also potential abortion-causing agents such as Plan B (the morning-after pill), intrauterine devices (IUDs) and another form of “emergency contraception” known as Ella.

This drug, which the FDA acknowledges may also work against the life of the embryo “by preventing attachment (implantation) to the uterus,” can be taken up to five days after sex.

The chief moral concern, of course, is that by purchasing such mandated coverage, an individual would be subsidizing pharmaceutical abortion, contraceptives and sterilizations for others, and business owners would similarly be subsidizing these procedures for their employees through their health plans.

Employers, in other words, would pay for coverage for forms of contraception potentially facilitate—various acts of vice on the part of their employees, and all who pay for health insurance coverage would potentially fund and thereby support the vice of their neighbors. This raises the serious moral concerns of “cooperation in evil.”

In general terms, any cooperation in evil should be avoided, or at least minimized to the extent prudently possible. By purchasing a policy with problematic inclusions, one would likely cooperate “materially” in the commission of various evils by others, but the debate on this matter hinges on whether that material cooperation should be considered “immediate” or “remote.”

Immediate material cooperation (when your action is never morally permissible, and remote material cooperation (when your assistance is essential to the evil) is a key difference between allowable and forbidding cooperation.

In evaluating the specifics of the HHS mandate, the National Catholic Bioethics Center (NCBC) has reached the provisional conclusion that paying premiums for a policy that also includes coverage for the above-mentioned procedures, devices and drugs—while opposing the mandate itself—does not appear to involve an individual in immediate material cooperation in evil because a number of intervening causes are likely to exist between the paying of the premiums by a subscriber, and the action of another person who chooses to engage in one of the immoral activities.

The key difference between acceptable and unacceptable material cooperation involves the “causal distance” between what we do by act of cooperation, and the action of the other person using the abortifacient substance or the contraceptive that is covered by the health plan into which we have paid. The paying of the premiums does not appear to be causally immediate to the chosen action.
House abandonment of nutrition items in farm bill called ‘misguided’

WASHINGTON (CNS)—A federal judge in Oklahoma City on July 19 granted a temporary injunction to Hobby Lobby, a for-profit corporation which said it would not have to comply with the federal health care law mandating that employers provide coverage of abortifacients, sterilizations and contraceptives in their health insurance plans.

The injunction comes several weeks after a federal appeals court ruled that Hobby Lobby can exercise religion under the First Amendment and is likely to win its case against the mandate.

The tide has turned against the HHS mandate,” said Kyle Duncan, general counsel with the Becket Fund for Religious Liberty, and lead attorney for Hobby Lobby, in a July 19 statement.

The NCBC discusses this option, and some of the morally relevant factors surrounding such a decision, in its analysis available at www.ncbcen.org/document.do?id=50.

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A press release from the Becket Fund called the decision a major victory not only for Hobby Lobby but for all for-profit businesses.

The HHS mandate represents bureaucratically coercive personal and institutional involvement in the commission of an intrinsic evil. No person should ever be coerced by the state to be directly complicit in such acts.

The HHS mandate is an affront to every American. It is immoral and offensive. If the government’s current attempt to coerce Americans into violating their most deeply held convictions doesn’t breach their religious freedom, then nothing does.

No individual or institution should have to be concerned about violating their conscience when they merely seek to safeguard and uphold their beliefs, their families or their employees by purchasing health insurance.
July 27
Most Holy Name of Jesus School, 21 N. 16th Ave., Beech Grove. Student Council Rummage Sale. 8 a.m.-3 p.m. Information: 317-283-2130.
St. John the Evangelist Church, 126 W. Georgia St., Indianapolis. Rosary procession, following 12 noon Mass. Process through the streets of downtown Indianapolis. Information: faith@cathedral.com.

August 2-4

August 3

August 4
St. Bernard Parish, 7600 Highway 337 NW, Franklin. Parish picnic, 10 a.m.-3 p.m., chicken and ham dinners, quilts. Information: 317-347-3226. 8 a.m.-noon. Information: 317-257-3334.

St. Bonifacius Parish, 15519 N State Road 54, Franklton. Parish picnic, 10 a.m.-6 p.m., famous soup, food, quilts. Information: 317-357-7553.

August 6
St. Michael Parish Life Center, 6311 N. Michigan Road, Indianapolis. Catholic Adult Education, discussion of Chapter 1 of the encyclical Laudato Si’. 7:30-8 p.m. Information: 317-536-3443. CFAP is free following service. Information: 317-348-7157 or saracrowley16@gmail.com.

St. Thomas Aquinas Parish, 4625 Walnut Ave., Indianapolis. “Sausage Fest,” food, music, Pet Fest. 8 a.m.-4 p.m. Information: 317-253-1661.

August 7
St. Thomas Aquinas Parish, 4625 Walnut Ave., Indianapolis. “Night of Healing Praise,” 7 p.m., reception following service. Information: 317-253-7153 or saracrowley16@gmail.com.

St. Lawrence Parish, 6942 S. Indiana, Indianapolis. Catholic Inquiry, “Cookies and Conversation.” 7 p.m. Information: 317-546-4065 or brhub@archindy.org.

Archbishop O’Meara Catholic Center, 1400 N. Meridian St., Indianapolis. Solo Seniors, Catholic, educational, charitable, social, 50 and over, single, separated, widowed or divorced. New members welcome: 6:30 p.m. Information: 317-370-1189.

August 8

August 10
St. Roch Parish, Family Life Center, 603 N. Pendleton St., Indianapolis. Single Seniors, 50 and over. Information: 317-784-4207.

August 10-11

St. Mary Parish, 2500 St. Mary’s Drive, Lapel, Indiana, Parish picnic. Information: 812-952-2835.

August 13
St. Paul Hemitage, 501 N. Breaks Street, Vincennes. Ave Maria Guild, meeting, 7:30 p.m. Information: 812-877-5020 or jimswinos@comcast.net.

August 15

August 16-17
Niles, Ohio. Our Lord Jesus Christ Parish, 7225 Southeastern Ave., Indianapolis. “Avenue vangruvang,” 5K walk/run 9 a.m., $20/person or $60 family, 4 miles, rides, food, music, entertainment. Mass Sat. 5 p.m., Festival 4 p.m.-midnight. Information: 317-357-1200.


August 18
St. Pius Parish, 7940 E. County Road 500 E., Sunman. Parish pork chop dinner, mock turtle soup, salads, 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Information: 812-652-2424.

August 21

August 22-24

August 23-24
Prince of Peace Parish “Community Festival,” 48th annual. 8 a.m.-4 p.m. Information: 317-738-2266.

August 24
Inmaculata Heart of Mary Parish, 5629 N. Central Ave., Indianapolis. 5K Run/Walk, 9 a.m., 5K pre-registration family of $4, 5K “Fall Kick-Off Fest,” food, fun, games, prizes, 50 and over, single, separated, widowed or divorced. Information: 317-821-2099.

August 24-25
St. Mary Parish Festival held at St. Mary’s School, 1331 E. 16th Street, Greensburg. “On Eagle’s Wings” 5K walk/run Sat. in memory of Steve and Denise Van Hooser; Butz and Don and Barb Horan 8-11 a.m., 11:30 a.m., $10. Information: 317-738-2266.

August 25-27
St. Mary Parish, 800 W. Yorktide Road, Guiford. Parish festival, Sat. 5 p.m.-11 p.m., Sun. 8 a.m.-9 p.m., fried chicken dinner, food, video games, raffles. Information: 812-576-4302.

July 27-28
St. Martin Parish, 8000 Yorkshire Road, guiford. Parish festival, Sat. 5 p.m.-11 p.m., Sun. 8 a.m.-9 p.m., $10. Information: 812-576-4302.

July 28
Augustine Parish, 1802 Lafayette St., Portland. Parish picnic, 9 a.m.-4 p.m., CFT, chicken dinner, quilts, games, raffles. Information: 812-843-5036.

July 31
St. Louis de Montfort Parish, 11441 Hague Road, Fishers, Ind. (Diocese of Lafayette). Prayer breakfast. Information: 317-848-4309.

Respect Life Educational Foundation, 6:30 p.m. “Kids Club,” children ages 4-6, free. Information: 317-294-5553 or rzatkulak@sbcglobal.net.

August 2-3
St. Joseph Parish, 2605 S. Joe Road W., Sowdersville. Parish yard sale, 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Information: 812-246-2512.

St. Thomas the Apostle Parish, 523 Sowdersville Rd., Fortville. Parish festival, Sat. 11 a.m.-10 p.m., games, food, entertainment, silent auction, chicken and noodles dinner. Information: 317-485-5102.

In the July issue of The Criterion, the Mass times for July 28 for St. Christopher Parish in Indianapolis were listed as 7:30 and 10:30 a.m. This is incorrect. There will be No Masses at St. Christopher Parish on Sunday, July 28.
**L'Arche has been led by ‘beautiful, gentle hand of God,’ says Vanier**

Jean Vanier, founder of the International Federation of L’Arche Communities, received the Pacem in Terris Peace and Freedom Award on July 7 in the village where he founded L’Arche, in Arua, Uganda in Africa with her aunt, Sherry Meyer, in this Jan. 13 photo.

Of black magic and more

Mob justice exists despite a high number of churches and faiths. Servie noted that along with Catholics, there is a high number of Protestants, Anglicans and members of the Church of Uganda.

“To them, everyone has to have some kind of religion. I have a friend in the Peace Corps in Uganda who is an atheist, and they just couldn’t understand the concept of not believing in some religion.”

“One thing that really surprised me was the belief in black magic,” Servie continues. “All people, even Christians, believe in it. They don’t use science to explain things. Like when someone dies, they hold another person responsible.”

Other differences Servie noted involved the quality of life in Uganda, a third world country.

“Most people live in grass huts as subsistence farmers with no electricity or plumbing. It’s a long walk to town. Those who had a little more money had a brick house and tin roof, but still no electricity or plumbing. Businesses usually had electricity, but it was unreliable. At the station we had solar power and generators. We had to because the radio station goes 24 hours.”

“If I didn’t want to walk, I took a motorcycle taxi,” says Servie. “It wasn’t the safest form of transportation, but it was often the only form if you didn’t want to walk.

“I wouldn’t go out alone at night. At night, there was the danger of wild life, snakes and carnivorous ants. They travel in a line. You have to have a flashlight because if you step in their path they swarm you and bite. I hear it’s pretty painful.”

“Totally worth it”

Despite the dangers, Servie grew from the experience. Her aunt attests to the growth.

“Alex told me, ‘I can’t believe in America that we think if everyone hands out mosquito nets [in Africa], we’ll end malaria.’ She understood the complications of the matter. They use mosquito nets for other things because they think other things are more important, or they sell them for money. So she saw complications—that we can’t just come in and assume the way we do it is the way it will work. You can’t just cut and paste our solutions. In a short five months, some of her ideas changed.”

Servie is grateful for the experience.

“I learned a lot of life lessons. I learned to be culturally sensitive. I got an idea of what I want to study.”

“The experience was totally worth it.”

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Not crazy, but lovable and endearing, as Bishop Amos discovered during dinners at L’Arche homes in Clinton in June and at the L’Arche community in Uganda, where he received hugs, smiles and lots of attention.

At L’Arche in Trosly, where Vanier established his first house in 1964, Vanier related an incident where a boy had asked him—in French—whether he knew the late pop singer Michael Jackson. Olivier said he could dance like Jackson and Vanier wanted to demonstrate.

Deborah, a young woman wanting to show off her English skills for Bishop Amos, looked at him and repeated a phrase she’d probably heard in a movie: “I love you, baby!”

The bishop laughed and listened as L’Arche assistants, who share life with people with disabilities, interpreted and explained what the French housemates were saying. At both houses the bishop visited in France, everyone sang a prayer of thanks to God before and after the meal.

At La Colombe house in Cuisa-la-Motte, ballons hung from the living room ceiling, evidence of an earlier party.

“Feast days, birthdays are all occasions for parties and for fun; we pray with all our heart, but not long hours,” Vanier explained in his acceptance speech.

At La Colombe, some of the housemates expressed enthusiasm for Pope Francis. Mathieu, the house leader, pointed out that the pope “speaks in a way that people understand.

“Members of the L’Arche community give witness to what we all should do: show total acceptance of people as they are, with their limits, their strengths, their gifts,” Bishop Amos said. “At Jean Vanier said, it really is about relationships.

The quality of community life centers on relationship, Vanier said during an interview with The Catholic Messenger, Davenport’s diocesan newspaper. “It’s not just doing for; it’s doing with.”

The Pacem in Terris Coalition, which chose Vanier for the award, represents the Diocese of Davenport, St. Ambrose University, Augustana College, The Catholic Messenger, Churches United of the Quad City Area, Congregation of the Humility of Mary, Muslim Community of the Quad Cities, Pax Christi Quad Cities, Sisters of St. Benedict, Sisters of St. Francis, Clinton, Iowa, and Sisters of St. Francis, Dubuque.

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**UGANDA**

Aruna in Uganda for 22 years.

She and a Comboni priest started the station in October of 2004, operating on three frequencies to target different regions and languages.

**‘Not entertainment radio’**

“It’s called Radio Pacis (Radio Peace),” Meyer explains. “Our goal is to announce the Good News of Jesus but in a holistic way. So some programs are developmental for health issues, educational issues, family relations, working for unity, healing of divisions.

We start every morning with the rosary. I run a call-in program for people to call in with questions. We do special programming for all major feasts, Christmas and Holy Week.

“We are not entertainment radio. We provide information. News is a huge part of what we do. We broadcast news bulletins in local languages. We’re considered the news leader in this area. There are no newspapers, but most don’t read anyway,” Meyer says. “Nobody has TV or internet. Before [the station started], the communities were as far as they could go.”

Servie worked in the newsroom as a journalist. She conducted interviews, wrote stories and voiced them on the radio.

“I focused on more international issues and then interviewed local people on the topic,” says Servie. “There’s a lot of education that goes on with radio. The newscast would play things from CNN, Al Jazeera [international Arabic news service] and the BBC [British Broadcasting Corporation] when the stories were relevant to Uganda. We played the new pope’s speech and news from Vatican Radio.”

**Mob justice**

Sometimes the station even played the role of peace maker.

“There’s not much of a legal system here,” Servie notes. “They practice mob justice. If someone commits a crime, then someone gets revenge on them or their village.”

One such instance that involved the radio station occurred while Servie was in Uganda. Although she did not witness the event personally, her aunt did.

“We went out to record a rural debate,” Meyer relays. “When we got to the village, there was an accusation that someone had hit someone with a motorcycle or bike or something. Revenge was happening.

“So when we got there, the officials asked that we not do the rural debate. But we set up our equipment, got the facts out that the person was not dead and got the two sides to talk, and we prevented further violence.”

Jean Vanier, founder of the International Federation of L’Arche Communities, received the Pacem in Terris Peace and Freedom Award on July 7 in the village where he founded L’Arche in 1964. He is pictured in a 2008 photo. It will be the first time the Iowa-based award is presented overseas.
come in and spend this week with you.”

Pope Francis said he had come to Brazil, the country with the most Catholics in the world, to “give an account of the reasons for the hope” that comes from faith in Jesus and inspire them to “offer everyone the inexhaustible riches of his love.”

The pope did not refer or allude to the mass protests that broke out last month in Brazilian cities against a range of grievances, including government corruption, unsatisfactory public education and health services, the high cost of public transportation and police brutality. Those demonstrations, driven largely by social media and largely populated by younger Brazilians, have dragged Rousseff’s approval ratings to record lows.

In her remarks, Rousseff noted that her government was facing “new challenges—the demonstrations by people who are protesting against some government decisions, which are a sign that they want and expect more.”

Acknowledging the hundreds of thousands of young Catholics gathered in the city for World Youth Day, the pope said they needed space, which they find in Christ, since “there is no more powerful force than the one released from the hearts of young people when they have been conquered by the experience of friendship with him.”

Parents and other adults have an obligation to ensure they give the young the support, tools and space they need to develop their potential, he said.

The young need “a solid basis on which to build their lives,” Pope Francis said. They need safety, education and “lasting values that make life worth living.”

Pope Francis said he and members of his generation also must give the young “the legacy of a world worthy of human life” and learn “how to awaken in them their greatest potential as builders of their own destiny, sharing responsibility for the future of everyone.”

He ended his speech referring again to the statue of Christ the Redeemer overlooking the city and said, “The arms of the pope now spread to embrace all of Brazil in its human, cultural and religious complexity and richness.”

After the speeches and plenty of time giving representatives of the national, state and city governments and presenting the members of his entourage, Pope Francis entered the Guanabara Palace for a private meeting with Rousseff, with the governor of Rio de Janeiro state and with the city’s mayor.

The welcoming ceremony and meetings were the only published events on the pope’s schedule for the day. He was to spend the night, and the entire next day, resting at the archbishop’s Semarre Residence on a hill above the city.

State of religious freedom in Pakistan considered ‘dire’

WASHINGTON (CNS)—Panelists at a religious freedom session on Pakistan called for reform of the nation’s laws, calling the situation for minorities dire.

In June alone, 47 religious minorities were killed in Pakistan, according to the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom.

“The victims included an 18-year old Christian man who was kidnapped, raped, tortured to death by police after he was suspected of practicing his faith,” said Janeen Adefar, director of advocacy and analysis at the commission.

“The victims included Sunni and Shia Muslims, Hindus, Christians and Ahmadiyya Muslims,” said Adefar.

“The commission is eager to have Pakistan—its majority of public school students viewed non-Muslims as enemies of Islam.”

The panelists echoed Thanes’ sentiment that the situation for religious freedom there is dire.

Shahzad Bhatti, a federal minister, was murdered for his work on behalf of religious minorities.

Peter Bhatti said homes and churches have been vandalized or destroyed, and men and women have been attacked and even burned alive.

“As recently as June 3, three Christian women were beaten and forced to walk around their town naked,” said Bhatti.

“The victims are being killed for their beliefs. They are being killed for their faith,” said Bhatti.

Many non-Muslim women are kidnapped, raped, and forced to marry their abusers in an effort to convert them to Islam or to harm a copy of the Quran. Many people are jailed for life even when they recant allegedly making such statements.

Ahmadiyya Muslims face restrictive voting policies, and Hindu marriages are not recognized by the state, making abductions and forced marriages even easier. Many public school textbooks, especially history books, only show the Muslim perspective and demonize other groups, according to the commission, and such a bias deeply affects a student’s mindset.

“A large portion of public school students could not correctly identify religious minorities as citizens, and many were skeptical about the potential for religious minorities to assist in the development of Pakistan,” reported the commission’s executive summary on religious discrimination in Pakistan. “Like their teachers, the majority of public school students viewed non-Muslims as enemies of Islam.”

The panelists stressed that religious minorities are too terrified and bullied to act against the persecution, so international pressure to make top-down changes could be the most powerful catalyst for change within the country, according to the speakers.

The commission is eager to have Pakistan designated as a country of particular concern by the State Department, but so far those efforts have been unsuccessful.

Despite the violence of their countrymen and the seeming indifference of their government, Bhatti spoke with great patriotism and a hope.

“We will remain loyal to Pakistan, and we will be willing to sacrifice our lives for our country,” he said.

English archbishop calls birth of prince ‘source of joy’ for world

The birth of the royal prince is a ‘source of joy’ for people all over the world, said Archbishop Vincent Nichols of Westminster.

The archbishop promised prayers from the Catholic bishops’ conference.

At one point, the press of crowds brought the motorcade to a standstill, and the pope emerged to kiss a baby. Apparent attempting to avoid the crowds, the motorcade turned into a stretch of ordinary traffic. Shortly thereafter the papal car found itself stuck behind police barriers and helicopters overhead.

About 20 minutes into the ride, clusters of people began pressing against the vehicle, reaching out to touch the pope, and had to be pushed away by the security detail. At one point, the press of crowd brought the vehicle briefly to a standstill, and the pope emerged to kiss a baby.

He is the first child of the couple, who were married in Westminster Abbey in April 2011. The prince is the grandchild of Prince Charles, the immediate heir to the reigning monarch, Queen Elizabeth II.

A statement issued by the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge at midday on July 23 said that all three were doing well. They thanked the hospital staff for their “tremendous support.”

Meanwhile, gun salutes sounded across London to mark the birth. Such military salutes traditionally honor the birth of every prince or princess, no matter where their place is in the line of succession, the Ministry of Defense said. The last royal salute for a birth was for Princess Eugenie in 1990.

The bells of London’s Westminster Abbey tolled for three hours beginning at 2 p.m.

Anglican Archbishop Justin Welby of Canterbury said in a July 22 statement that he was “delighted” by the birth.

“We were in need of a ‘people pope,’” she said. “Europeans don’t really know what it is like living in Latin America.”

The decision exemplified the spontaneity that has already become a trademark quality of Pope Francis’ youthful pontificate.

According to his original itinerary, the pope would have proceeded directly from the airport to a welcome ceremony in the Guanabara Palace, the office of the governor of the state of Rio de Janeiro, about 12 miles away.

Instead, following the popemobile ride, he rode in the Fiat to a military airfield and boarded a helicopter that took him across the city to his meeting with Rousseff and other officials at the governor’s palace of Rio de Janeiro.

TheCriterion Friday, July 26, 2013 Page 9
During flight, pope talks about giving young people jobs

ABOARD THE PAPAL FLIGHT TO BRAZIL (CNS)—With economic hunch times as an excuse not to hire young people, the world risks tossing them aside and enmeshing its own future, Pope Francis said.

Speaking to reporters aboard the papal flight to Rio de Janeiro on July 22, the pope declined to answer their questions, but instead made very brief remarks about his July 22-29 trip and then greeted each of the 71 media members.

A Mexican veteran of papal trips, speaking on behalf of the journalists, welcomed the pope to the back of the plane on his first foreign trip, acknowledging the pope’s reputation for keeping reporters at a distance.

Pope Francis said it was strange to hear her interpretation that reporters “aren’t the saints I’m most devoted to” and that by entering the media section of the plane he was entering “the lion’s den.”

“It’s rare I don’t give interviews. I don’t know why. I just can’t. It’s tiresome,” he said. “But I enjoy your company.”

Turning to World Youth Day, the purpose of his trip, Pope Francis said he did not want the event to be a meeting with young people “in isolation,” because “when we isolate them we do them an injustice. They belong to a family, a country, a culture and the world.”

While it is true that young people are the future, he said, they are not the only keys to a strong future for a society, nation or the world.

The young “are the future because they are strong,” the 76-year-old pope said, but the aged are essential too, “because they have the wisdom of life.”

“Sometimes I am unjust to the aged; we set them aside as if they have nothing to give,” he said. “But they have the wisdom of life, history of our homelands and families that we need.”

Pope Francis told reporters he knows that in many countries the economic crisis has been hardest on young people and young families.

“I read last week how many of the young are without work, and I think we run the risk of creating a generation that has never worked,” he said.

The long-term lack of a job is detrimental, he said, because “work is dignity to the person [and] the ability to earn one’s bread.”

Once again decrying what he describes as “a throwaway culture,” Pope Francis said “we do it often with the aged and now, with this crisis, we are doing the same with the young.”

What the world needs and what Pope Francis said he hoped to demonstrate in Brazil is “a culture of inclusion and encounter” to make sure everyone’s place and potential contribution to society is welcomed.

Telling the journalists that he noticed that they weren’t as “ferocious” as he had feared, the pope asked them to “help me by collaborating for the good of society, the young and the aged.”

World Youth Day obviously has been on the pope’s mind for weeks, but in the three days before leaving Rome it was clear that the trip and the young people he would meet were a priority for him.

He visited Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI on July 19, asking him to accompany his journey with his prayers.

Then on July 21 he made an unannounced visit to Rome’s Basilica of St. Mary Major, spending more than half an hour in private prayer and entrusting the young people to Mary.

The basilica was open to the public at the time, so when he was done praying the pope went to the main altar and addressed the stunned crowd. He asked people to accompany his trip and his meetings with the young people with “prayer, trust and pance.”

He recited the Angelus prayer at noon on July 21 with visitors who filled much of St. Peter’s Square. He thanked the people who had brought a large banner with the words “Bion viaggio” and again asked people to accompany World Youth Day with their prayers.

“All those going to Rio want to hear the voice of Jesus, to listen to Jesus,” the pope said. They want to ask, “Lord Jesus, what must I do with my life? What is the path for me?”

Pope Francis’ @Pontifex Twitter account also took a decidedly World Youth Day turn the three days before he left, telling those already in Rio he was looking forward to seeing them, praying for a safe journey for those heading toward Rio, and on July 21 offering prayers that those unable to make the trip would still be a part of it through prayer.

Attending SSPX Masses ‘not a legitimate option’ for Catholics, bishop says

In a letter published in the June 7 issue of the Messenger, the newspaper of the Diocese of Covington, Ky., Bishop Roger J. Foys informed Catholics in neighboring dioceses, including the Archdiocese of Cincinnati, that it is not a legitimate option to attend Masses and other liturgies celebrated at Our Lady of the Most Holy Rosary Parish in Brookville, Ind., and Cecilia Parish in Oak Forest, whose street address is 16194 St. Mary’s Road, Brookville.

The Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception was open to the public at St. Mary Major, spending more than half an hour in private prayer and entrusting the young people to Mary.
Younger sisters see smaller orders ahead, but say future still bright

SAN FRANCISCO (CNS)—Some of the world’s 10,000 religious women from 30 different congregations at Notre Dame de Namur University in Belmont in early July.

Giving Voice was created as women religious in their 20s, 30s and 40s who are members of orders with diminishing membership—orders they feel they were called to join despite that demographic decline.

Giving Voice “provides a peer group in religious life for women religious who probably don’t have a lot of peers in their own congregations—strengthening their own religious life, and their identity across all religious life,” said Sister Kristin Mathies, 47, a Sister of Notre Dame de Namur and president of the group that began in 1997.

“When I was discerning religious life, I was always looking through the Internet. I found out this group existed. The fact then that they were starting up in our area, and they formed this group gave me the freedom to listen to the Holy Spirit,” said Sister Susan Francois, 41, a Sister of Notre Dame of Namur and founder of the group that created the new commission.

The papal document said the commission was formed “to ensure correct administration of goods and real estate; to work with ever greater prudence in the financial sphere; and to help devise and implement a new strategy of accounting and mission of the Vatican bank. All three advisory bodies are to be led by a former minister of foreign affairs.”

The groups do not substitute or override the Vatican’s current supervising authorities. However, they have wide powers on whether it is the office of the Vatican bank, the U.S. bishops’ conference for the study of the Organizational and Economic Problems of the Holy See, which regularly reviews the Vatican budgets.

The papal document said the commission was formed to help him in his efforts to reform the Vatican’s administrative offices, including the financial and mission of the Vatican bank. All three advisory bodies are to be led by a former minister of foreign affairs.

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From the Editor Emeritus/John F. Fink

Year of Faith: Social justice and charity

Jesus left no doubt about how we are going to be judged at the end of the world. The 25th chapter of Matthew, verses 31-46, tells us plainly that we will be saved according to how we helped the hungry, give drink to the thirsty, welcome the stranger, clothe the naked, and visit the sick and those in prison.

Conversely, those who will not be condemned.

The Catholic Church as an institution does not have a singular position on these issues. Church leaders spend considerable resources on Catholic Charities or Catholic Social Services that help the poor, the immigrants, the homeless, and others in need. Catholic hospitals care for the sick, and Catholic chaplains are assigned to other hospitals. The St. Vincent de Paul Society aids the hungry and those who need clothing or household appliances. There is also a ministry to those in prison.

The Church’s services aren’t confined only to this country either: Catholic Relief Services, an agency of the U.S. bishops, helps the poor in developing countries learn to help themselves.

The Church’s social doctrine flows from its belief that the human person is sacred. Everything the Church does, both locally and globally, has the right to life, but to all those things that are required for human decency.

The Constitution of the Catholic Church says, “the decisive point of the social question is that goods created by God for every man in fact equally exist in accordance with justice and with the help of charity” (2345).

Of the poor needs of the poor, the sick, the homeless, immigrants, etc., is both a matter of justice and charity. In justice, we must try to know they’ other needs. In charity, we must help those who are suffering from poverty and injustice. In charity, we must help those who are suffering from poverty and injustice.

There is also a ministry to those in prison.

Emmas Wall/Debra Tomassi

How do you spell s-u-c-c-e-s-s? By giving all for Christ

"Come on back," the social worker called to me.

I followed Gloria into a modest office in our local Catholic Charities building, prepared to interview a woman she was helping.

She introduced us, but her wild effervescent name was so full of unending silliness that she simply called him Majik, an adaptation of his surname. It seemed OK with that, and the tall, gentle black man smiled and shook my hand.

After briefing me on the fact that Majik had arrived in metropolitan Orlando only weeks earlier from his native Sudan, I knew some little English, Gloria suggested I proceed with the interview.

“Can’t you tell me why you want to leave Sudan?” I asked.

Majik delivered a blank stare.

“Why leave,” the social worker said.

Majik nodded, looked at me, and responded. “Shat dad.”

Shat, phrases in sign language, facial expressions and interpretations from the social worker soon had us communicating.

When you smell the spun sugar of cotton candy and the sickly sweetsmell of caramel popcorn, or see it blow you know it must be fair time again. Indians is still a rich cultural tradition and it enables us to enjoy this summer phenomenon following the Indiana State Fair festivities on July 4.

County fairs start to be used, and sometimes still are, called 4H fairs because that organization is one of the main reasons for them. Projects for 4H dominate the displays and programs at the fairs, and kids are everywhere. Their enthusiasm is infectious.

Old guys man the front gate and many of the fair booths, but the young people are the fun ones to watch. At a Laus Club golf-driving booth, for instance, most of the customers are teenaged boys trying to impress their girlfriends.

And there are darts showing their 4-year-olds how to tee off. Never mind that their wild efforts often cause the customers to be teenaged boys trying to impress their girlfriends. Never so, to form Michael’s faith and that of his three brothers. And with the grace that comes from being with their sibling who will, God willing, be born in September.

I was recently on the duty that Cindy and I accepted 11 years ago as I’ve read Pope Francis’ first encyclical, “Laudato Si’,” which was released earlier this month.

He dedicated a section of the letter to the crisis of our present faith, noting that when faith is “absorbed and deepened in the family, it becomes a light capable of illuminating all our relationships in society” (#54).

The challenge is to have faith absorbed and deepened in the family in the first place. The pope suggests that “shared expressions of faith... can help children gradually to mature in their own faith” (#53).

We try to do that in our home through family prayer at meals, at bedtime, in going together to church, reading the saints, teaching them the faith at home and in regularly explaining how service given in our home and elsewhere is service given to God.

In this and in other ways, Cindy and I are trying to teach our children as well as—into an ongoing encounter with Christ. This encounter, Pope Francis says, will let us “know which is the correct way” and “ultimately... the sacred striving that makes up so much of our days as parents...[will] be a powerful source of ‘vocation of love,’ which will ultimately lead us to God,” (#51).

Over all of this sounds like a tall task, it is.

That’s why we parents need the grace of the sacraments to accomplish it. It also wouldn’t if we parents prayed regularly for each other that we all might lay the foundation for a better Church and world here and now, and pave the way for all of us to be one with God in the eternal wedding banquet.
My Journey to God

To the blushing bride in her beautiful gown,
To the groom in his tux refined,
To the couple headed off to a honeymoon town,
The picture of bliss defined:
To the couple headed off to a honeymoon town,
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The picture of bliss defined:
To the couple headed off to a honeymoon town,
To the blushing bride in her beautiful gown,
To the groom in his tux refined,
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Rest in peace

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


Papal sculpture

A sand sculpture of Pope Francis is seen on Copacabana beach in Rio de Janeiro on July 16. Pope Francis arrived in Rio on July 22 for the World Youth Day. It is his first international trip as pontiff.
New coalition aims to protect right to religious expression in military

WASHINGTON (CNS)—Archbishop Timothy M. Broglio of the U.S. Archdiocese for the Military Services praised the efforts of a new coalition formed to fight what the organizers see as growing hostility toward free religious expression in the armed forces.

“The archdiocese looks forward to working closely as an ally as all seek to ensure the continued protection of the First Amendment rights of free speech, and the free exercise of religion of the men and women of the United States military,” the archbishop said.

“No one who raises a right hand to defend the Constitution should sacrifice his or her religious beliefs by members of the military,” he said. Attendees at the news conference also expressed support for a military religious freedom amendment to the National Defense Authorization Act sponsored by Rep. John Fleming, R-La.

In an earlier statement about his amendment, Fleming acknowledged that in last year’s defense authorization bill, congressional lawmakers took steps to protect the religious liberty of service members, but now he is concerned, he said, about protecting members’ expression of their religious beliefs.

He explained the amendment was needed “to ensure that men and women of faith will not be discriminated against in the armed forces, and will be free to exercise their religious beliefs.”

Lt. Cmdr. Nate Christensen, a Department of Defense spokesman, told Catholic News Service in a July 11 statement that “the U.S. Department of Defense has never and will never single out a particular religious group for persecution or prosecution. The department makes reasonable accommodations for all religions and celebrates the religious diversity of our service members,” he said.

Brothers call on Bishop to end “No-Go Zone”

A coalition of former and current military chaplains and religious leaders will call on Bishop George V. Murry, USCCB chairman of the Ad Hoc Committee for Religious Liberty, to overturn a ban on religious activity on military installations, titled a “No-Go Zone” under a new Army Directive.

Brothers and Sisters in Service (BASIS) were formed to promote religious freedom for all service members and to promote greater cooperation and communication within the Catholic church, the military and the military chaplaincy.

Serra Club votes election

Benedictine sister forms the faith of young family member

By Katherine Will

Katherine Will

Special to TheCriterion

At the age of 15, my great-great-aunt went to the convent when she entered the convent. She was only looking to glorify God, yet she did it in such a selfless and humble way, that it touched the lives of others.

While this now 100-year-old nun spends most of her days praying, over 50 years of her life were committed to teaching students and inspiring them to live out their faith more fully in their daily lives.

She followed a mission of service. Of Sister Sylvester’s few possessions, the one that she holds most dear is a little black book. In this book is the name of every student she has ever taught, every student she has ever impacted.

If one would walk around Our Lady of Grace Monastery in Beech Grove, some of the sisters can say that either they or their parents, were taught by Sister Sylvester. She is a witness to Christ through her selfless devotion to God in ways that cannot be put into words.

Just recently, I was visiting my great-great-aunt and we were talking about my future plans. Sister Sylvester always tells me that if I were to become a sister, it would bring so much joy to my life. Even more so, she says that whatever I do, I do for the glory of God.

I had never thought about the decision of which college to attend and my career quite in that light. I know, through the example of the religious in my life, that I want to glorify God through my actions, just like many around me have.

Whether I do this by becoming a religious myself, or being involved with the service organizations close to my heart, I would not be asking myself these questions if I did not have the example of the countless religious role models in my life.

When choosing a confirmation name last spring, I knew I wanted the person who inspired me the most to be my choice. When I took Sylvester as my confirmation name, it was due to the person before me who had Sylvester as her religious name. A true witness to Christ is selfless, loving and glorifies God in all his or her actions.

In the 85 years that Sister Sylvester has solely devoted her life to God, she has done much. The hundreds of students, the thousands of people, whose lives she has touched, including mine, have been reminded of the importance of glorifying God in all our actions.

To be an incredible witness of Christ, to live his or her life like Christ, and that is something Sister Sylvester has truly done.

(Katherine and her parents, Matthew and Melanie Will, are members of St. Jude Parish in Indianapolis. She completed the 11th grade at South Senior High School in Indianapolis last spring, and is the 11th-grade division winner in the Indianapolis Serra Club’s 2013 John D. Kelley Vocations Essay Contest.)

Cardinal Ritter was noted for desegregating Catholic schools in St. Louis and fought for many years to come. "Cardinal Ritter also played a major role in Vatican II. He was in the forefront of the Catholic Church's efforts to transition to the spirit of ecumenism. Through it all, he remained himself. While there is a beautiful architect's residence in St. Louis, he wanted a simple place out farther because he wanted to have a garden. I can just imagine the cardinal in his old clothes tending his garden." Archbishop Lori continued, "This museum is going to tell a very interesting story about a very interesting man, but it's also going to be an inspiration to all of us to play our part in the Church. Cardinal Ritter is praying for us in heaven right now. May his legacy live in our hearts forever." Soave said. "We called him 'Uncle Cardinal.' He had a rose garden and a vegetable garden in St. Louis. I remember him in his old clothes and big straw hat, working in his gardens. He was a very humble and simple man."

(Research and photos by Patricia Cornwell)

**What was in the news on July 26, 1963?** Church leaders call for civil rights action and Pope Paul gives a mandate to women

**By Brandon A. Evans**

This week, we continue to examine what was going on in the Church 50 years ago as seen through the pages of *The Criterion*. Here are some of the items found in the July 26, 1963, issue of *The Criterion*:

- **VATICAN CITY—** His Holiness Pope Paul VI has called for the reconstruction of the Christian community and indicated that women are the best agents for the task. Pope Paul's call was made during a special audience at the conclusion of the second annual "Fortnight for Freedom." Archbishop Lori cut the ceremonial ribbon to open the museum room and welcomed guests to their first look at the exhibits. Among the visitors were members of Cardinal Ritter's family, including a first cousin of the cardinal, Helen Ritter, his niece Virginia Ritter Lipp, great-niece Mollie Garnett of Springfield, Ill, her daughters Maggie and Mary Caroline, and great-niece Kate Ritter Soave of Grand Rapids, MI.

- "Every year we had a family reunion and the cardinal would never miss it. He had invitations from all over the world, but family was important to him," Soave said. "We called him 'Uncle Cardinal.' He had a rose garden and a vegetable garden in St. Louis. I remember him in his old clothes and big straw hat, working in his gardens. He was a very humble and simple man."

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