‘Terrible loss of life’ at Navy Yard shocking and sad, says archbishop

WASHINGTON (CNS)—As military, police and federal investigators searched for answers as to why a lone gunman opened fire on Sept. 16 at the Washington Navy Yard, killing 12 people and wounding at least eight more, religious leaders and public officials offered prayers for the victims and their families.

Washington Cardinal Donald W. Wuerl and Archbishop Timothy P. Broglio, who heads the Washington-based Archdiocese for the Military Services, both issued brief statements offering prayers for the victims and their families.

The shooter was identified as Aaron Alexis, 34, who became the 13th victim when he died in a gun battle with police at the naval office building in the nation’s capital. At first, law enforcement authorities thought there was a second shooter, but by the end of the day confirmed Alexis was the only gunman.

According to news reports, Alexis was a former Navy reservist who received a "general discharge" from the service and had moved to the Washington area from Texas about a year ago. He worked for a military contractor and had security clearance at the Navy Yard.

Archbishop Broglio said the “terrible loss of life” shocked and saddened him, particularly as it occurred at a familiar place where he has often visited and celebrated.

Archbishop Timothy P. Broglio

Catholic school values are at the heart of award recipients who make a difference

By John Shaughnessy

One of the common qualities of people whose Catholic values shape their commitment to others is how they prefer to talk about the people who have influenced them—and the people who they believe do so much more than them.

So Sarah Lechterle praises the Little Sisters of the Poor at St. Augustine Home for the Aged in Indianapolis, where her longtime volunteer efforts have included making beds for residents.

"There is no greater beauty than the work they do," she says. "I learned about sheer love there, with no questions asked."

And John Lechterle focuses on his sister

By Natalie Hoefer

Dressed in colorful traditional attire, the primarily African-born Catholic congregation clapped and danced to the beat of bongo drums, making their way to the altar for an offering of thanksgiving and blessing toward the end of the Mass.

African youths danced and dipped in choreographed moves, and shrill cries of joy burst forth sporadically from individuals around the sanctuary.

"I felt right at home because we share the same Spirit; we share the same faith," said Franciscan Brother Moses Gutierrez, director of the archdiocesan Office of Multicultural Ministry. "As a matter of fact, their spirit was contagious!"

The contagious spirit was spread in Indianapolis as the city hosted the third annual convention of the National Association of African Catholics in the United States on Sept. 7.

Contagious spirit spreads at National Association of African Catholics conference in Indianapolis

"I felt right at home because we share the same Spirit; we share the same faith," said Franciscan Brother Moses Gutierrez, director of the archdiocesan Office of Multicultural Ministry. "As a matter of fact, their spirit was contagious!"

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Catholic school values are at the heart of award recipients who make a difference

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Dr. David Wolf talks about growing up as a Catholic and the difference they make to others.

And Dr. David Wolf talks about growing up in a poor family and how two parish priests were among the mentors who taught him "to set high standards, set goals and never give up."

And Julie Bowers raves about her grandmother, the youngest of 18 children, who kept living her faith and serving others into her 90s.

Yet while all four individuals seek to steer the spotlight away from themselves, they will be honored during the Celebrating Catholic School Values: Scholarship and Career Achievement Awards event in Indianapolis on Oct. 8.

Bowers and Wolf will receive Career Achievement Awards from the archdiocese while the Lechtleirs are the recipients of this year’s Community Service Award.

Here is a glimpse of the four honorees and the difference they make to others.

Dr. David Wolf

"I’m fascinated by the new evangelization," said Dubrice Burtet, a native of Togo who is now a member of St. Monica Parish in Indianapolis. "I like trying to find new ways to reach people.

This morning the keynote speaker gave us some good ideas," she said of Nigerian Father Pascal Nduka, administrator of St. Anthony of Padua Parish in Morris and sacramental minister of St. Nicholas Parish in Sunman.

Zimbabwe native Stella Mabudzi traveled from California with her

See MAJUS, page 8

Cardinal Donald W. Wuerl

Photo by Natalie Hoefer
Tickets, sponsorships available for celebration of Catholic education

By John Shaugnessy

As the archdiocese prepares for its annual celebration of Catholic education, major progress has already been made toward the goal of raising $2 million to benefit Catholic schools, to have their children attend Catholic schools.

At the same time, the archdiocese has announced the formation of a new program to assist students in the 18th Annual Catholic Education Values event. Celebration of Catholic School Values: Scholarship and Career Achievement Awards event—which will be from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. on Oct. 8 in theipe Grand Ball at Union Station in Indianapolis. Julie Bowers and Dr. David Wolf will receive Career

Bowers and Dr. David Wolf will receive Career Achievement Awards while John and Sarah Lechleiter will be honored with the Community Service Award. This year’s event will once again focus on promoting the importance of Indiana Tax Credit Scholarships as a way to make a Catholic education possible for children from lower- and moderate-income families.

“Many things change in the school choice laws this year, but the most important allowed for Tax Credit Scholarships to apply to income-eligible students already in our Catholic schools from kindergarten through 12th grade,” says G. Joseph Peters, special consultant to the archdiocese’s Office of Catholic Education.

“A common thread that the St. Monica Parish in Indianapolis, appointed associate pastor of St. Patrick Parish and Sacred Heart Jesus Parish, both in Indianapolis.

This appointment is from the office of the Most Rev. Joseph W. Tobin, C.S.S.R., Archbishop of Indianapolis, Indiana, on September 1, 2013.
Religious join drive to stop pipeline in Kentucky’s ‘Holy Land’

WASHINGTON (CNS)—In the “Holy Land” of central Kentucky, religious communities have joined neighboring landowners in a campaign to stop a pipeline project that they fear will endanger the land they hold dear.

Their focus is on the Bluegrass Pipeline, which developers say will enhance America’s energy independence in bringing much-needed natural gas liquids to petrochemical operations on the Gulf Coast from burgeoning, hydraulic-fracturing natural gas operations in Pennsylvania, Ohio and West Virginia.

However, landowners, including the Dominican Sisters of Peace, the Sisters of Loretto and the Sisters of Charity of Nazareth, all near one another in an environmentally sensitive area an hour south of Louisville, disagree. They say the dangers posed by the pipeline and the flammable liquids it will carry pose too great a danger to the region’s fragile geology and long-standing way of life.

“The idea of any tearing up the land to put a pipeline through that may destroy the water [table] is just unthinkable,” said Sister Claire McGowan, a member of the Dominican Sisters of Peace in St. Catharine, Ky., who runs an organization called New Pioneers for a Sustainable Future.

The “Holy Land” moniker for Marion, Nelson and Washington counties stems from the region being the home of several Catholic religious communities that settled the area early in the 19th century. The area also has Kentucky’s highest concentration of Catholics. Towns include St. Mary, St. Francis, Holy Cross, Nazareth and New Hope.

While the proposed underground pipeline would pass about two miles from Dominican property, developers originally routed it through fields and forested land owned by the Loretto Sisters and the nearby Abbey of Gethsemani. When surveyors approached the Loretto community in mid-summer to survey the property, the sisters politely but firmly declined. So did the Trappist monks.

The monks declined to be interviewed. “The only thing I can confirm is that we’re not letting them survey our land for the project,” Trappist Brother Aaron Schulte told Catholic News Service.

That opposition has forced Williams, the pipeline developer, to change the proposed route. Meanwhile, the sisters continue to respect that decision of theirs. “So we’re not fussing other routes,” said Williams’ spokesman Tom Droge.

Williams and its partner in the venture, Boardwalk Pipeline Partners of Houston, continue to conduct land surveys and seek easements from landowners for the project not just in Kentucky but in Ohio, Pennsylvania and West Virginia as well. Droge said more than 90 percent of landowners along the 500-mile route have allowed their property to be surveyed.

Meanwhile, the sisters continue to work with landowners to help them secure pipeline easements and to persuade other landowners to follow all federal and state regulations for regular inspections and safety procedures.

The lake, the company’s assurances have failed to make any kind of promise that there won’t be any danger to those chemicals in the pipeline.”

Advocates are concerned that the pipeline will leak at some point, spilling natural gas liquids, or NGLs, into above ground and underground water sources and cause long-term damage to the farming and tourism industries. They cite significant leaks and even explosions along pipelines in Williams’ nationwide system that have caused deaths and injuries and millions of dollars in damage to private property while polluting natural resources.

Williams has worked overtime to assure Kentuckians that they will respond quickly and appropriately should a leak occur. Its website devoted to the project has numerous pages outlining practices for regular inspections and safety procedures. The company also has pledged to follow all federal and state regulations in the construction and maintenance of the pipeline.

The company’s assurances have failed to reassure the sisters.

“Our big concern is that this land is a trust that we have to take care of as best we can,” Sister Marz tied CNS from the Loretto motherhouse. “I will promise you we will care for this land, and we will continue to make sure that it is both productive and at the service of the greater good. None of those corporations can make any kind of promise that there won’t be any danger from those chemicals in the pipeline.”

(More information on the Bluegrass Pipeline debate is available online at bluegrasspipeline.us or www.stopbluegrasspipeline.us.)
Pope Francis' example worth emulating each day

While fall may be best known for footballs flying through the air and cooler days and longer nights, we in the Catholic Church take time to thank God for all he has created. Every October, the Church marks Respect Life Month. And the first Sunday of the month—Oct. 6 this year—is Respect Life Sunday. (See related story on page 6.)

The month is a time for us, as Catholics, to remember that our faith demands that we protect all human life—from conception to natural death. 

Human life is holy, they say, and protected absolutely from the moment of conception. From the first moment of existence, a human being must be recognized as having the rights of a person—among which is the inviolable right of every innocent being to life. (Catechism of the Catholic Church, #2270.)

We, of course, know that includes unborn children in their mother's womb.

But as people of faith, we take it further to include the disabled, the elderly, the homeless, the immigrants in our midst and every human being. All are precious gifts from God, and our brothers and sisters in Christ.

In today's world—where some people are doing their utmost to push faith out of the public arena—we conscientiously take on the challenge of recognizing every human life as a gift from God.

But thank her her by those in the universal Church, including Pope Francis, who offers examples of Christ in our midst.

By now, many of you have heard how the Holy Father recently made news when it was revealed he had personally called people who have written to him. The “papa’s “cold calls” are nothing new for Pope Francis, Msgr. Dario Viganò, director of the Vatican Television Center, recently told an Italian magazine.

According to Msgr. Viganò, the pope said, “That is the way I am. I’ve always done this, even in Buenos Aires,” where he served first as auxiliary bishop and later as archbishop until his election as pope this past March.

He said the pope explained how any time he got “a call early in the morning, or from a priest having difficulties, from a family or a prisoner, I would respond.”

The pope said, “It’s much easier to call, to ask about the problem and suggest a solution, if there is one. Some people I call, others I write to instead,” according to Msgr. Viganò.

One of the people that Pope Francis took the time to recently called was Anna Romano, a 35-year-old, divorced, unwed mother-to-be.

In her letter to the pope, Romano explained how she had gotten pregnant with the child of a married man, who demanded she have an abortion.

She refused.

“We [the pope and I] were only on the phone for a few minutes, but my heart was filled with joy. As we spoke, I was hugging my tummy at the same time,” she told the Daily Mail. “I would never have imagined that the pope would pick up a telephone and call me, and speak to me as if I was a dear friend.”

During the call, Pope Francis reassured Anna that a “child was a gift from God, a sign of Divine Providence,” and that she would “never be left alone.”

“he said that as Christians we should never be afraid,” she said. “He told me I had been very brave and strong for my unborn child.”

According to www.lifedefensenews.com, when Anna told the pope that she desired baptism for her baby, but was afraid that her divorce and her being a single mom would be an obstacle, the pope said that he would be her “spiritual father” and would baptize the baby himself.

While many may have been quick to judge Anna and her situation, Pope Francis saw a mother and her unborn child—both created in the image and likeness of God—in need of his support, love and prayers.

As we prepare for Respect Life Month, let us remember the unborn, the disabled, the elderly, the immigrant and every child of God.

May we follow the Holy Father’s example and be Christ to each of them. — Mike Krokos

The enduring glance, sparked by the sexual attractiveness of the other, is now impacted by the vicarious nature of pornography, but instead to point toward a personal and committed marital love, purified of exploitative and objectifying tendencies.

(Father Teduce; Pacholczyk, Ph.D. earned his doctorate in neuroscience at Yale University and did post-doctoral work at Harvard University. He is a priest of the Diocese of Fall River, Mass., and serves as director of education at the National Catholic Bioethics Center in Philadelphia. See www.ncbcenter.org)
Pope assures Rome priests that ‘sanctity is stronger than scandals’

ROME (CNS)—Acting in his capacity as bishop of Rome, Pope Francis offered words of encouragement to his diocesan priests, assuring them that recent and current scandals cannot overcome the Church’s holiness, and urging them to keep their vocations alive through love of God.

The pope made his remarks on Sept. 16 at a meeting with diocesan clergy in the Basilica of St. John Lateran, the cathedral of Rome.

Pope Francis devoted the first part of the meeting, which lasted more than two hours, to answering a letter he had received a few days earlier from an elderly parish priest, writing of his struggles as a pastor.

“The letter is beautiful, I was moved,” the pope said, according to a report by Vatican Radio. “When a priest is not in contact with his people, he gets tired, but in a bad way, and to fall asleep he needs to take a pill.

“The people have so many demands, so many demands, but they are the demands of God,” the pope said. “That makes one number, and also inviting the representatives of non-Catholic Christians and representative of the major international Catholic institutions.

… Reinvitation of non-Catholic Christian observers at the council, increasing the number, and also inviting the representatives of non-Christian religions who were not invited to the first session.

• Nature of the Church’s first council topic
• Marian sets men’s dorm construction
• Two Oldenburg Sisters to leave for New Guinea
• Nuns at Unitarian Church-School
• Archbishop leaves for Rome Thursday
• Plan to put pope on U.S. television
• The Hoodlum Priest
• 90 use shared-time program
• Bishop Sheen proposes new mission aid plan
• Touchy council issue: Eastern Rite Catholics recent ‘foreigner’ tag
• Parents told to exert more school influence
• Scrap pays for new church
• Magazine says Hitler planned to seize pope
• Brilliant Church rites set for council session
• Pope returns to Rome; lauds Marian devotion • Delayed vocation seminary to open
• Know who started Columbus Day?
• Nuns at Unitarian Church-School
• American mission effort miserly, prelate says
• Half of missioners go to S. America
• Bishops urge campaign against bracer law
• Many not informed on Church’s stability
• New English press officer appointed for Vatican Council
• New Albany parish sets card party, style show
• American mission effort miserly, prelate says
• Half of missionaries go to S. America
• Donate land for seminary
• Plan to admit newsmen to sessions of council
• Fr. Hans Kueng traces effort to update Church
• Pope voices concern over Vietnam crisis
• Don’t stymie lay efforts, bishop asks
• Invite Negrin to move in, cardinal asks Catholics

What was in the news on Sept. 20, 1963? Pope Paul revises the rules for the next session of the council, and the Greek Orthodox primates predicts that unity is impossible
Events Calendar

September 20

September 20-21
St. Patrick’s Parish, 9833 E. County Road 75 N., Brownsburg, Country Fair and Hog Roast, 4-11 p.m. food, games, booths. Information: 317-851-3155.

St. Vincent de Paul Parish, 1772 S. St. Bedford.

Oktoberfest, Fri. 5-10 p.m., Sat. 10 a.m.-midnight, German dinner, games, food. Tickets prestated. Sat. 5K run/walk 7 a.m. Information: 812-275-6539.

St. Teresa Benedicta of the Cross, 23670 Salt Fork Road, Lawrenceburg. Parish festival, 5-11 p.m. Fish fry.

St. Ann’s Fall Festival, 10 a.m.-noon, $5, food, games, entertainment. Information: 765-458-5412.

St. Thomas More, 1200 N. Indianapolis St., Monroeville. Applefest, Fri. 5-10 p.m., Sat. 10 a.m.-10 p.m., 11 a.m.-11:30 p.m., food, rides, crafts. Information: 317-831-4142 or mstbarmcg.org.

September 21
St. Rita Parish.

1733 Dr. Andrew J. Brown Ave., Indianapolis. “St. Rita Funfair: A Blast From the Past,” 11 a.m.-10 p.m., games, food. Information: 317-632-9349.

St. Luke the Evangelist Parish, 7557 Holliday Dr. East, Indianapolis. Fall Festival, games, food, 11 p.m. Information: 317-259-4373.

St. Simon the Apostle Parish, 8155 Oakland Road, Indianapolis. Shopping Extravaganza, Christmas shopping fair, 1:30-3 p.m. Information: 317-578-7213.

St. Bridget Parish, 404 E. Vine St., Liberty Township. Oktoberfest, 3-9 p.m., food, games, $25 per person includes lunch and room for the day. Information: 317-788-5781 or benedictus@archindy.org.

September 22
Benedict Inn Retreat and Conference Center, 1402 Southern Ave. Brooklyn Grove “Lenten Contemplation: The Dogmatic Constitution on the Church,” session two, 7-9 p.m., $20 per person, downloadable audio book form for $5.50 or bring your own copy. Information: 317-788-7581 or benedictus@archindy.org.

October 4-6
Fatima Retreat House, 5353 E. 55th St., Indianapolis. “Being and Belonging … in a time of needed renewal,” Retreat for Separated and Divorced Catholics. Information: 317-236-1586, or e-mail caravanadeldivorcio@gmail.com. To find additional life chain events in the archdiocese on Oct. 6, according to http://lifechain.net/index.html/ include: Bloomington: Third Street at High Street, 2-3:30 p.m. Contact: Carole Canfield, 812-322-5114 • Columbus: Second Street at 5th Street, 6:30 p.m. Socialize, 7:30 p.m. Respect Life Mass, life chain events are invited to attend. Hors d’oeuvres will be presented followed by a special Mass at SS. Peter and Paul Cathedral in Indianapolis, followed by a life chain of peaceful prayer extending along North Meridian Street in Indianapolis from 2:30-3:30 p.m. At the conclusion of the Mass, the Archbishop O’Meara Respect Life Award and the Our Lady of Guadalupe Pro-Life Youth Award will be presented to outstanding leaders in the pro-life movement. For specific questions or more information about Central Indiana Life Chain, call 317-913-1409 or e-mail centralindianalifechain@yahoo.com. For more information, call 317-495-1901 or log on to www.OLCindy.com.

First-ever St. Anne School reunion planned in New Castle on Sept. 28
The first-ever reunion for those who attended St. Anne Catholic School in New Castle will be held at the former school building, now known as the Parish Center, 3033 Martin Road, on Sept. 28.

The school operated at 102 N. 19th St. in New Castle from 1951-82.

Entertainment will include a DVD presentation of old school pictures. The special DVD will be available for purchase at the event.

First Communicants

The First Communion class at Sacred Heart Parish in Clinton poses for a picture after receiving the sacrament on May 11. Front row, left to right: Dalton Purcell, Nicholas Waugh, Ciana Meneghini, Jenna Andrews, Michael Scully and Ashton Hines. Back row: Nathan Andrews, Don Demas, 812-372-0774. • Connerville: 30th Street at Park Road, 2-3 p.m. Contact: Barbara Wagner, 765-647-3154. • Milan: Highway 101 at Highway 350, 3-4 p.m. Contact: Ed King, 812-654-6502. • Terre Haute: 3rd Street at Wabash, 2-3:30 p.m. Contact: Tom McMorrow, 812-841-0060. Information: 317-913-1409 or e-mail centralindianalifechain@yahoo.com. For more information, call 317-495-1901 or log on to www.OLCindy.com.
The Christmas Angel is a traditional figure who greets revelers at Christkindlmarkt.

The history of these markets dates back as far as the 12th century in the Germanic regions of Europe, when vendors would display their wares in lavishly decorated street markets during Advent.

To share in this German pre-Christmas tradition, the archdiocese is sponsoring a pilgrimage to southern Indiana to visit various churches, a grotto and the Monastery Immaculate Conception of the Sisters of St. Benedict. The trip will also celebrate the opening of—and offer opportunities to shop at—Ferdinand’s Christkindlmarkt. The pilgrimage will take place on

Nov. 15-16. A motor coach will depart from the Archdiocese of Indianapolis at 8 a.m. on Nov. 15.

The first stop of the pilgrimage will be historic St. Joseph Church in Jasper for Mass. The current structure of the 176-year-old-parish was started in 1867 and took 13 years to complete.

On the way to Jasper’s famous Schnitzelbank Restaurant, pilgrims will stop by a grotto with two shrines made of geodes, a crystal-interior rock common to southern Indiana. Located on the grounds of Providence Home Health Care Center, the shrines took a decade to complete.

In the evening, pilgrims will be treated to the festive, traditional opening ceremony for Ferdinand’s 16th annual Christkindlmarkt. The celebration begins in a candlelight service outside the Sisters of St. Benedict’s Monastery Immaculate Conception. In the midst of festive music and chanting, the angel of Christmas appears to remind all of the true meaning of the Christmas season.

The festivities then move indoors for a traditional German feast, more singing and music.

Friday, September 27

5:00 pm - Midnight
Fish Fry Dinner
5:00 pm - 8:00 pm
Served in Air Conditioned
St. Clare Hall
Live Music: Taste Like Chicken
8:00 pm - Midnight

Saturday, Sept. 28

Noon - Midnight
Art in the Park
Noon to 7:00 pm
SMOKED CHICKEN DINNER
BY Big Wampus BBQ
Sponsored by the Ramey family
5:00 pm - 8:00 pm
served in Air Conditioned
St. Clare Hall
Live Music with Peace Train
8:00 pm - Midnight

Fun for everyone!
Rides • Monte Carlo
Silent Auction
Kids Games • Arts & Crafts
Bingo • Great Food

5 p.m. to Midnight
Great Food • Great Beer • Great Music

LIVE BANDS

Friday Night
Saturday Night

Flying Toasters
Foolish Bear

KID ZONE
Inflatables!
Games!
Prizes!

2013 BIG RAFFLE
$25,000 PRIZE

Wine vendors will sell their finest vintages, and pilgrims can enjoy lunch at local establishments.

After departing from Ferdinand, the pilgrims will celebrate Mass at Christ the King Church in Paoli. Christ the King Parish is administered by the pilgrimage’s leader, Father John Hall, who also is administrator of Our Lady of the Springs Parish in French Lick and pastor of St. Martin of Tours Parish in Martinsville.

The group will then dine in Bedford before returning to the Catholic Center at 8 p.m.

Father Hall is excited about his first experience as a pilgrimage guide.

In addition to leading prayer on the bus and sharing in the spiritual aspects of the pilgrimage, he hopes to draw on his 12 years ministering in southern Indiana to share with the pilgrims the history of the region as it relates to the archdiocese.

‘With prayer on the bus, having two Masses, visiting the shrines and the Monastery [Immaculate Conception], I think this will be an opportunity for people to get away from the normal routine and see a different perspective of the faith at a fitting time,’ says Father Hall.

‘(The cost of the trip—$269 for a double occupancy room and $299 for a single occupancy room—covers two breakfasts, one lunch, two dinners, transportation and lodging. For more information on the pilgrimage, contact Carolyn Noone at 317-236-1428, 800-382-9836, ext. 1428 or e-mail her at cnoone@archindy.org. To register, log on to www.archindy.org/pilgrimage.)’

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—Father John Hall, who is leading the pilgrimage

By Natalie Hoefer

The Germans that settled in southern Indiana brought with them many traditions: their Catholic faith, their steadfast work ethic, their food—and their centuries-old celebration of festive shopping at Christkindlmarkts.

Originally, it was just one building when it first started,” said Kathy Tretter, editor and co-publisher of the Ferdinand News. As of 2012, the market had expanded to six buildings throughout the town, some with live entertainment, plus an antique market.

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Drums rumbled. Gourds rattled. Hands clapped. Youths performed dances typical of Masses celebrated in Africa. The Book of the Gospels was processed to the altar in a cloth sack slung over the shoulder of a young man. He stooped as he walked, as though carrying the weight of the world.

“This Mass reminded me of attending service back in Cameroon,” said Christopher Atte of Pittsburgh, Pa. “It reminded me of back home, of the churches, of the faith, of what we are called to do in order to be blessed.” Atte is Presbyterian, but attends Catholic events with his wife, Irene.

Brother Moises commented on the African Catholics’ use of their culture during the Mass.

“Pope Francis recently talked about unity and not uniformity. This event was a clear example of this. It was evident that we are united in our Catholic faith, but living it out and expressing it may take different shapes. It was a reminder of the one faith made rich through many peoples.”

During his homily, Bishop Coyne recounted a time when he was at an airport and was asked by a man, “Are you saved?” After the laughter subsided, Bishop Coyne pointed out the teaching of the Catholic faith—that salvation takes work, it is not a matter of faith alone, and that Catholics, too, are called to evangelize.

Before the closing hymn, Sister Joanna presented Bishop Coyne with a stole from Ghana as a token of gratitude on behalf of all those attended.

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—Brother Moises Gutierrez, O.F.M., director of the archdiocesan Office of Multicultural Ministry
DENVER (CNS)—Colorado Governor John W. Hickenlooper declared a state of disaster emergency in response to massive flooding across 15 counties, from south of Colorado Springs to the Wyoming border, caused by several days of heavy rain fall that began on Sept. 11.

As of late afternoon on Sept. 16, authorities confirmed that at least six people have died in the disaster and hundreds of others remained unaccounted for in the flood zone, which an AP story described as covering “an area nearly the size of Connecticut.” Flooding along the Front Range was moving east across the prairie to Denver, about 128 miles northeast of Denver.

With Hickenlooper’s declaration, the state began making resources available to search and rescue flood victims, help flood survivors, provide emergency services and begin help to assist with flood recovery.

On the federal level, President Barack Obama signed a disaster declaration and ordered federal aid for Colorado. Obama also was sending the head of the Federal Emergency Management Agency to the state.

According to several reports compiled by KMGH-TV Channel 7 in Denver and based on state agency estimates: 11,750 people to date had to be evacuated; 17,484 homes were damaged and 1,502 homes destroyed; and in the three hardest hit counties alone—Larimer, Boulder and Jefferson—2,380 square miles were flooded.

Areas scarred by recent forest fires—both in the Colorado Springs area and in northern Colorado—were particularly vulnerable to flooding.

denver Archdiocese Samuel J. Aquila said in a Sept. 12 statement he was praying for all those affected by extensive flooding in northern Colorado, and urged all people of good will to join him in prayer. He said he was “praying for the souls” of those who had died and for their families.

He also said that “through the local parishes in the affected areas, Catholic Charities stands ready to assist those in need.”

The Colorado State Council of the Knights of Columbus issued a call for manpower to help get supplies to Red Cross shelters. “This recent storm is breaking records: more shelters are now open then ever recorded in the state. We have supplies but are desperate for manpower. Please help,” the council said in a Sept. 13 message to Knights.

As much of the rest of Colorado struggled to stay out of the path of raging floodwaters, residents of beleaguered Manitou Springs and other small mountain towns along the Highway 24 corridor gave thanks that, for now anyway, they were out of harm’s way.

“We’re all good,” a woman at the parish office of Our Lady of the Woods in Woodland Park said on Sept. 13 to The Colorado Catholic Herald, newspaper of the Colorado Springs Diocese.

In Colorado Springs, Mark Rohlena, CEO of Catholic Charities of Central Colorado, said that in that diocese the agency was “helping victims of all the recent flooding on a case-by-case basis. We have mainly been focused on material support for those who have sustained damage or loss.”

Bishop Michael J. Sheridan said in a Sept. 13 statement: “We are deeply saddened by the loss of life that has occurred as a result of this flooding, and we continue to pray for the safety of those in northern Colorado.”

In early August, parts of Manitou Springs—which relies heavily on tourism to support local businesses—had been devastated by mudslides created when heavy rains fell over the burn scar from last year’s Waldo Canyon fire. One month later, parishes closer to downtown Colorado Springs were the ones feeling the heaviest impact from flooding.

Governor, president declare Colorado’s flood zone disaster areas
Archbishop rededicates Marian shrine at St. Augustine Parish in Leopold

By Patricia Happel Cornwell

LEOPOLD—Archbishop Joseph W. Tobin traveled to Perry County in southern Indiana on Sept. 7 to rededicate an outdoor statue of Our Lady of Consolation at St. Augustine Parish in Leopold. The Blessed Mother’s title of “Our Lady of Consolation” is more than a name to the 157 families at St. Augustine Parish.

During the Civil War, three parishioners fighting for the North were impressed at the Confederacy’s notorious Andersonville Prison in Georgia. Henry Devillez, Isidore Navauze and Lambert Rogier vowed that if they survived, one of them would make a pilgrimage to their homeland of Luxembourg and have a replica made of the statue of Our Lady of Consolation that stood in their ancestral church.

In 1867, Rogier made the transatlantic voyage, returning with components that would become the small, elaborate statue that stands today to the left of the main altar inside St. Augustine Church.

The statue depicts Mary holding Jesus as a child. Each figure wears a jeweled crown, a white fabric garment and a blue cape. Mary holds a scepter and cross representing his redemption of grace. The child Jesus holds an orb and key indicates her access to the treasury of the world.

The Blessed Mother’s title of “Our Lady of Consolation” is more than a name to the 157 families at St. Augustine Parish. In 1867, Rogier made the transatlantic voyage, returning with components that would become the small, elaborate statue that stands today to the left of the main altar inside St. Augustine Church.

The statue depicts Mary holding Jesus as a child. Each figure wears a jeweled crown, a white fabric garment and a blue cape. Mary holds a scepter symbolizing her queenship. A silver heart is suspended from one arm, and a key indicates her access to the treasury of the world.

In 1960, a larger statue of Our Lady of Consolation was installed outdoors St. Augustine Church in Perry County. The statue was completed in honor of the parish’s 175th anniversary, and parishioners undertook construction of a stone grotto to protect the marble figure of Mary. A stone patio was laid in front of the grotto, and the surrounding area was landscaped with flowers.

Prior to the rededication of the statue and shrine, Father Brian Esarey, pastor, and Benedictine Father Barnabas Gillespie, a former pastor, concelebrated Mass with Archbishop Tobin.

The archbishop told the congregation, “It’s humbling to come to one of the oldest churches in the state of Indiana. During his homily, Archbishop Tobin said, “There are two things we absolutely have to know about God. First, there is one. Second, it’s not me. Be who you are, not more, not less. Jesus came so we can learn who we really are. We love each other, not as statistics, but as we really are. In the Gospel, ”Archbishop Tobin continued, “Jesus recommends ‘hatred’ of father, mother, wife, husband, even your very own life. But didn’t Jesus command us to love? What Luke is writing about here is the total dedication Jesus asks of his disciples. Not even family obligations can deter us from doing God’s work. The first priority is ‘follow me.’ ”

Music for the liturgy was provided by the St. Augustine choir, cantors Linda Gengelbach and Tammy Saalman, organists Nelda Waninger and Martha Bushor, and guitarist Bob Thomas. Garth Steckler and Bernie Overstreet were lectors.

(Photos by Patricia Happel Cornwell)

Archbishop Joseph W. Tobin proclaims a prayer at the rededication of the newly completed Marian grotto at St. Augustine Parish in Perry County on Sept. 7.

Above, Archbishop Joseph W. Tobin delivers a homily during a Sept. 7 Mass preceding the rededication of an outdoor Marian shrine at St. Augustine Parish in Leopold. To his left is the parish’s original statue of Our Lady of Consolation, brought from Luxembourg in 1867.

Right, the marble statue of Our Lady of Consolation was installed outside St. Augustine Church in Leopold in 1960. The stone grotto, patio and landscaping surrounding the statue were recently completed in honor of the parish’s 175th anniversary, marked in 2012.
Hospitality is part of our faith tradition

By Daniel Mulhall

Abraham was a rich man, but he had no son with his wife, Sarah, and he and his wife had grown old. One day as he sat at his tent in the hot sun, he noticed three men. Abraham immediately ran to them, bowed down in front of them, and invited them to dine with him. Bringing them into the shade, he fixed a sumptuous banquet and treated them as royalty—which they were, as angels of the Lord. Following this act of hospitality, Abraham and Sarah were blessed by God in their old age with a son, Isaac.

This wonderful display of kindness presented in Genesis 18 is one of many examples in the Bible that tell us of the importance of hospitality. We are to welcome strangers at all times and treat them with great respect. No one knows when that stranger might be a messenger from God.

In today’s transient society, we are faced with more situations that ask us to welcome visitors or family from various parts of the country or the world. We welcome them into our homes or run into them in the streets of our cities or towns or when they visit our temples as they worship. But throughout the year, we also are faced with opportunities to show our hospitality to others as we welcome them into our parish and sometimes into our home. Hospitality then becomes a practice intertwined with our faith, one practiced by our ancestors.

In 1 Kings 17, the prophet Elijah saves a starving widow and her son because of her hospitality. In Matthew 25:38, Jesus tells us that those who welcome a stranger shall inherit eternal life. In Malachi 3:5, God promises judgment against those who are not welcoming strangers. In Matthew 25:38, Jesus tells us that those who welcome a stranger shall inherit eternal life. In Malachi 3:5, God promises judgment against those who are not welcoming strangers. In Matthew 25:38, Jesus tells us that those who welcome a stranger shall inherit eternal life. In Malachi 3:5, God promises judgment against those who are not welcoming strangers.

Hospitality requires that there be sufficient space—physical, emotional and mental—for the guests to enter and stay comfortably. If we are too busy, too afraid or too distracted to even see the stranger, how can we possibly offer care for them?

Once we have made room for our guests, the next step involves welcoming them with open arms and with small and large “touches” to signify how valuable we find them. To truly welcome people is to exercise the art of attentiveness: We turn off electronic distractions and communicate with them so they may relax in our presence. Nothing is too good for our honored guests.

A key part of hospitality is caring enough about others to want to know more about them, so we listen carefully as they speak and we engage them in conversation. If every encounter with another human being has the potential to be an encounter with God, then we must be “all ears” when we offer hospitality because we never know how God is speaking to us through our guests.

By listening intently to others, we pay them a great honor. By engaging them in dialogue, we acknowledge that they bring something important into our lives. Again, communicating with others requires that we first allow them into our lives.

When we offer hospitality, we become vulnerable to the other people. We drop our guard, we fully allow them into our homes, into our temples or into another aspect of our lives. We put ourselves at risk to some degree. In so doing, we open ourselves to the gifts that God sends us through the person’s visit. Just as the lives of Abraham and Sarah were changed because of their angel visitors, our lives will be changed by our interaction with our guests or with the strangers with whom we share our lives.

Another part of hospitality involves allowing ourselves to be affected by and be willing to grow from interacting with our guests. Any time we welcome another person fully into our lives, we will be changed by the experience.

For this to have lasting meaning, we must engage with the experiences that come about it and act upon it. How we respond to the gifts that come our way because of hospitality will determine how much we benefit from them. In the Bible, we’re told to be “doers of the word and not hearers only” (Jas 1:22). When we practice the acts of kindness and generosity that are part of hospitality we become “doers of the word,” and by so doing, we allow the word of God to take root in our hearts. While we cannot expect to serve angels every time we offer hospitality, we can expect to be touched by God through each act.

Offering hospitality and a welcoming heart to the stranger

By Father Lawrence E. Mick

If we were asked to create a list of important virtues, most of us would probably not place hospitality at the top of our list. For people in Old Testament times, however, it may have ranked very high on their lists, because in the desert environment it is essential for survival.

The Book of Genesis holds up Abraham as a model of hospitality when he welcomes three strangers who appear at his tent (Gen 18). It turned out that one of the three was the Lord, who promised Abraham and Sarah that they would have a son within the year.

In the New Testament, the Letter to the Hebrews refers to this episode when it counsels us, “Do not neglect hospitality, for through it some have unknowingly entertained angels” (Heb 13:2). Various spiritual writers draw on this event to remind us that guests often bring something important into our lives. So both women were being communicated with by angels, so that they could reflect on the events and then tell others.

An example of hospitality refused in the Old Testament appears in the story of Sodom (Gen 19). Contrary to popular belief, the real sin of the men of Sodom was not homosexual behavior but a violation of hospitality. A similar episode occurred in Gibeath as recounted in Judges 19.

In both cases, the men of the city wanted to abuse the guests, a serious violation of hospitality, and in both cases they were warned by the just men who had offered hospitality. Both hosts went so far as to surrender their daughters rather than allow their guests to be mistreated. While we may not approve of that tactic, it indicates how seriously they took the obligation of hospitality in those days.

The ministry of Jesus also depended on hospitality. He noted early in his ministry that “the Son of Man has nowhere to rest his head” (Mt 8:20), so he was dependent on the hospitality of others. One familiar occasion can remind us of different dimensions of hospitality—his visit to the home of Mary, Martha, and Mary, on the other hand, sits at the feet of Jesus, listening to him speak. She, too, was offering hospitality, for through it she had unknowingly entertained angels. She was commended for her efforts at hospitality.

Mary, on the other hand, sits at the feet of Jesus, listening to him speak. She, too, was offering hospitality, for through it she had unknowingly entertained angels. She was commended for her efforts at hospitality.

Martha appears as the practical one, taking care of the household tasks and preparing the meal for their guest. There is certainly nothing wrong with that. She is to be commended for her efforts at hospitality.

Mary, on the other hand, sits at the feet of Jesus, listening to him speak. She, too, was offering hospitality, for through it she had unknowingly entertained angels. She was commended for her efforts at hospitality.

While Martha was “anxious and worried about many things” (Lk 10:41), as Jesus puts it, complaints that Mary is not helping, Jesus reminds her that what Mary is doing is important, too.

Offering hospitality is not always easy, especially if the guest is a stranger to us. It makes demands on our time and on our heart. We have to let the other into our life, at least for a little while.

But as the Letter to the Hebrews reminds us, our guest may be an angel in disguise or, even more likely, he or she may bring along Christ into our hearts, too.

(Father Lawrence E. Mick is a priest of the Archdiocese of Cincinnati and a freelance writer.)
From the Editor Emeritus/John F. Fink

**Year of Faith: We have multiple vocations**

I wrote last week that, if we are to know, love and serve God, we must do that by discerning our vocations, our calls, from God.

We receive many calls, each of which make our unique talents available to the community. These calls should be seen as at least one of those vocations that are necessary to glorify God by our work. We can and should offer our work to God and achieve our vocation through our love.

All honest and moral work has equal value. It is done well, whether it is in our homes, on our fields, in a factory, a worker, a lawyer or businessman, a politician, or even a journalist. There should always be doing work, some "prestigious" and "modest" work.

But to have spiritual value, work must be done well. The work that is best from a spiritual viewpoint is work done extraordinarily well.

**For the Journey/Effie Caldara**

**Finding a way to combat our heart’s loneliness for God**

One of my memories of growing up on a Midwestern farm is that we huddled close together, as far away from the southern wind blowing on a very hot day. As a child, I conjured up childhood loneliness, which seemed to be more real on Sunday afternoon with no air conditioning. I knew what loneliness felt like and something no one could do except for a few cases of church or school and seemingly nothing to do after we changed out of our church clothes. I remembery that my family was living in a trailer a distance away, date few and far between.

My brothers trooped through the woods and played on the tire swing. I clung to my paper dolls and an over-active fantasy life in which I created a huge family of imaginary cousins who lived nearby. As for real cousins, we were especially close to two. Even after they moved away to the big city, my beautiful aunt would often drive them out to see us. But often, she would say they “visit” with Operative wood wholesome.

I remember scanning the horizon for my aunt’s car. My brothers and I hopped so much for a walk, and it was my monotonous that we would stand at the end of our gravel lane and watch for dust clouds on the country road. The feeling of loneliness an hour later, and seemingly nothing to do after we changed out of our church clothes. I remember that my family was living in a trailer a distance away, date few and far between.

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As for real cousins, we were especially close to two. Even after they moved away to the big city, my beautiful aunt would often drive them out to see us. But often, she would say they “visit” with Operative wood wholesome.
The first reading for this weekend is from the Book of Amos. This prophet, regarded as one of the Minor Prophets, was from Tekoa, a rural area of Judaea. It was about 10 miles from Jerusalem. Amos was a shepherd, and obviously he knew well the religious traditions of his ancestors. He also had a sense of other things occurring beyond his own environment, even events happening in other lands. His pastoral occupation and keen knowledge not only of tradition, but also of life far beyond his own situation, gives his book of only nine chapters a special quality.

The reading for this weekend is quite frankly monetarily in its wording. It speaks of ancient units of currency, such as the shekel. It is also highly critical of any quest to gather great sums of money, insisting that a higher standard, a higher reward, exists in life.

For its second reading, the Church presents the First Letter to Timothy. Early Christian history, including that of the Apostolic Era, includes the names of deeply committed pioneer converts to Christianity. Timothy was one of these converts. He was so close to the Apostle Paul that Paul referred to him as “beloved son,” although of course nothing suggests that Timothy literally was the Apostle’s biological child. Son of a Greek father and a devout Jewish mother, and therefore Jewish under the laws of Judaism, Timothy became a Christian through Paul’s influence. Tradition is that Timothy was the first bishop of the Christian community in Ephesus.

In this weekend’s reading, Timothy is especially asked to pray for rulers and other persons in authority. Such officials especially are vulnerable to the temptation of yielding to greed and ambition.

### Prayer: Over Time

**Cathy Lamperski Dearing**

**Sometimes we think it should be instant**

We walk up, say “hello,” chat a bit. And call it relationship.

**But any true, deep, and lasting thing**

 Doesn’t work like this.

**It takes time.**

**Give it time.**

—So that

**Over time**

- We keep building trust
- We take risks
- Over time I refer to you as friend
- Over time I become transparent
- Over time I _keep_ giving myself over to you
- I see a progression
- I feel the depth
- Love is growing

On this journey of relationship

**Prayer—Give it time**

And watch what happens

**Over time**

(Cathy Lamperski Dearing is a member of St. Barnabas Parish in Indianapolis. She wrote this poem after recently attending a retreat on prayer led by Father Jim Farrell at Fatima Retreat House in Indianapolis. Young people pray during eucharistic adoration led by Pope Francis at the World Youth Day vigil on Copacabana beach in Rio de Janeiro on July 27.)

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### Daily Readings

**Monday, September 23**

St. Pius of Pietrelcina, priest  
**Ezra 1:1-6**  
Psalm 126:1-6  
**Luke 8:16-18**

**Tuesday, September 24**

Ezra 6:7-8, 12b, 14-20  
**Psalm 122:1-5**  
**Luke 8:19-21**

**Wednesday, September 25**

**Ezra 9:3-9**  
(Psalm) Tobit 13:2-4, 7-8  
**Luke 9:1-6**

**Thursday, September 26**

St. Cosmas, martyr  
St. Damian, martyr  
Haggai 1:1-8  
**Psalm 149:1a-6b, 9a**  
**Luke 9:7-9**

### Question Corner

**Fr. Kenneth Doyle**

Church programs available for happily married couples to strengthen their bond

_Q_ We have a question that we would like answered with reasons, not just words. We hear about pre-Cana for engaged couples, the Christian Family Movement for those with children, Marriage Encounter for those with problem marriages and separate retreats for men and women. There is nothing for happily married couples who want to spend their trip together to heavens together, as the unit they became when they were married. For what reason does the Church not support the idea of couples being treated as one, as they strive to improve their spiritual life together? (Bluffton, S.C.)

_A_ First, may I expose and explode a myth which your question seems to embrace? Marriage Encounter is not meant for “problem marriages.” It is designed to make healthy marriages even healthier. Worldwide Marriage Encounter says specifically that its program is not a “substitute for counseling.” Rather, it offers a weekend experience where couples learn a technique of communication that can deepen their relationship with each other and with God. As such, it is one of several programs designed for marriage enrichment. The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops offers a website, www.foryoumarriage.org, that lists some of the programs described. One of them is Marriage Retorno, a weekend prayer experience for husband and wife facilitated by a married couple and a Catholic priest. In addition, several dioceses offer programs that respond to your request. In our diocese, we offer a two-session workshop called Strengthening Relationships that uses the standard Myers-Briggs personality test as a basis for teaching how different personality types can generate a healthy and harmonious match.

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**Readers may submit prose or poetry for faith column**

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

Seasonal reflections also are appreciated. Please include name, address, parish and telephone number with submissions. Send material for consideration to “My Journey to God,” The Criterion, 1400 N. Meridian St., Indianapolis, IN 46202. e-mail to criterion@archindy.org.
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 print and eulogies sisters and brothers are included here, unless they are natives of the archdiocese or have other connections to those are separate obituaries on this page.


Catholic college students say 9/11 attacks marked loss of innocence

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Alyssa Badolato, a senior at The Catholic University of America in Washington, described the morning of Sept. 11, 2001, as her loss of innocence. Badolato said she was 10 when the attacks took place. “You didn’t think these things could happen in our country,” she said. “Now there’s this fear. We’re still feeling those effects.”

Badolato, former chairwoman of the College Republicans at Catholic University, is from Cherry Hill, N.J. She and other members of the university’s chapter of College Republicans helped hand out flags to students on campus on the 12th anniversary of 9/11 in remembrance of the nearly 3,000 lives lost in the terrorist attacks in New York City, near Shanksville, Pa., and at the Pentagon.

Nicole Kolenberg, a sophomore from Stamford, Conn., said although she was in second grade in 2001, she remembers the news of the attacks like it was yesterday. “It’s the first thing I remember so vividly,” Kolenberg said. “My parents came to pick me up from school. We went out in our boat, and we could see the Long Island Sound in smoke. It was unreal.”

Kolenberg said flags were laid on the lawn of the Edward J. Pryzbyla University Center in loving memory of all the lives lost.

“We’re trying to fill the lawn up,” she said.

Kolenberg said the events of Sept. 11 were especially difficult for those in her community.

“It’s hard because we were so close to the city (New York City),” she said. “We lost a lot of people who were close to us.”

Tom Lahey, a sophomore from New Jersey, said he was also in second grade in 2001. Lahey said his father was stuck in the subway under the North Tower when that tower of the World Trade Center fell.

“He didn’t get home until 8 p.m. that night,” Lahey said. “He was covered in soot. A couple of my friends’ parents died.”

Students wrote the names of loved ones and prayers on cards where they laid their flags. Jac Descloux, a sophomore from Westchester County in New York, said her father also experienced a close call during the attacks. Descloux said her father used to work at the World Trade Center.

“He was supposed to go to the city [on Sept. 11], but he overslept,” she said.

Freshman Dulan Jayawardane said school officials tried to hide the details of the attacks from students at school.

“Our teachers tried to play it off as an early dismissal,” he said. “We overheard them talking.”

Jayawardane, who is from Bethesda, Md., was 5 in 2001. He said he felt frightened after he was picked up from school.

“I heard a plane overhead, and got scared on my way home,” Jayawardane said.

Freshman Courtney Wospeka said she lived in Michigan on Sept. 11, 2001. Wospeka said although she was too young to remember the day’s events, she remembers sitting down with her parents a few years later with a postcard of the World Trade Center. Wospeka said both her parents had been to the World Trade Center before. She said although she was still young, they wanted to help her understand the significance of the attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon.

If you are a victim of sexual misconduct by a person ministering on behalf of the Church, or if you know of anyone who has been a victim of such misconduct, please contact the archdiocesan victim assistance coordinator.

If your current balance is greater than the value of your home you may be able to re
Clinic of Christian Nursing Service (CNS) founded in Clinic recently opened its doors. It replaces the Well Baby giving the less fortunate what she had lacked.

Dr. Mary Ludwig, left, and her husband, Paul, attend an open after starting with $10. The community backed it, those in need used it, and the doors were open to the community in the fall of 1968. The clinic board wanted to name the clinic for Ludwig as a tribute to her lifelong dedication to providing free health care to people of Crawfordsville and surrounding communities.

Ludwig's daughter, Julie Bergfors, said that her parents moved to Crawfordsville so her father, Paul Ludwig, could open an ophthalmology practice. The couple retired in the 1980s.

"She loved it—threw on it," Bergfors said. "Being able to help families was something she related to. My dad was always a big supporter, and he was so proud of her. She worked at the clinic two days each week, but she was on the phone 24 hours a day with questions, answering anything people needed. She was always willing to help others."

(DIOCESE OF LAFAYETTE

CRAWFORDSVILLE — As a child, Mary Ludwig knew what it was like to be poor and hungry with no access to medical care. As an adult, she spent decades giving the less fortunate what she had lacked.

Dr. Mary Ludwig, 87, is a member of St. Bernard Parish. A native of Harrison, N.Y., she received a bachelor's degree from the College of New Rochelle in 1948 and a medical doctorate from the University of Virginia in 1958.

"The schools had been providing a hot meal of rice and beans on a regular basis—until the source of their food supply basically dried up," said Butch Feulner, a member of St. Joseph Parish in Vanderburgh County.

Pursuit Party raises funds for Haitian school children

EVANSVILLE—Can empty purses provide the funds to feed hungry school children? Yes, they can. In fact, those empty bags can provide the funds for lunches for weeks at a time.

Recently, nearly 200 people gathered in downtown Evansville to attend the third annual Haiti Pursuit Party. They chose to help the schoolchildren in Haiti and their checkbooks were ready and, at the end of the event, more than $16,000 had been raised to feed the children who attend school at St. John Vianney Parish in Plaine du Nord, Haiti.

Karen Hinderliter is a kindergarten teacher at Corpus Christi School in Evansville, and a member of the Haiti Pursuit Party. She explained that Evansville businesses and individuals donated "new and gently used" designer and faux designer purses of all sorts for the Haiti Pursuit Party.

Hinderliter noted that the event, which included lunch and both a silent and a live auction of the purses, has grown from 120 guests in its second year to nearly 200 this year.

"The funds which were raised will go directly to St. James Parish in Plaine du Nord, Haiti. The church has been partnered with St. Joseph Parish in Vanderburgh County for close to 30 years. Last year’s proceeds were used to purchase books for the elementary school students in the parish. This year, the money will be used to purchase food for the 500 students enrolled in the elementary school there and the 200 students in the high school.

"The schools had been providing a hot meal of rice and beans on a regular basis—until the source of their food supply basically dried up," said Butch Feulner, a member of St. Joseph Parish in Vanderburgh County.

"For many of those students, that meal wasn't just the only meal of the day, but their only food they got. We are going to use the money we raise this year to help them get the food they need to continue providing healthy nutrition to the students."

Pursuit Party raises funds for Haitian school children

Archbishop Bo recommended the U.S. assistance to his people, saying, "The local Church in Fort Wayne is trying its best to take care of the migrants and resettlement. Since our Burmese Catholics are new to the U.S., I think it would need much time and attention to do it enough. We thank the American leaders and clergy they offered."

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Poles welcome native son Blessed John Paul II’s sainthood

WARSAW, Poland (CNS)—A larger-than-life model of Blessed John Paul II as a young man reaches out from the top of the exterior steps that ascend to All Saints Church, Warsaw’s largest church.

At the statue’s feet one recent summer afternoon set a bouquet of plastic red roses, and candles lit in red heart-shaped vases.

"If he becomes a saint, it is nice to know that there is a person who I actually know and have seen," Drzicicwicz, an unemployed archaeologist, commented.

"I’ve got a father and mother and have known other people, but I didn’t even know a saint," he said.

News that Blessed John Paul soon will be a saint evoked varied reactions in the capital of his native Poland.

For Drzicicwicz, 35, who was raised Catholic and has always gone to Sunday Mass, the reaction was one of almost sudden realization that someone he had actually encountered, albeit from a distance and as a child, was now set to be exalted to the highest echelons of the Church.

"With my parents when I was young, we went to see him crossing the street," said Father Peter Dee De, part-time associate pastor at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, who served as master of ceremonies. The 80 Burmese Catholics registered in the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend were in attendance as well. Conference attendees were welcomed with a presentation on youth activities and a special youth dance.

Supported by the assembly about values that included identity, trust, gratitude and love.Aware of the struggles this assembly has experienced in their migration to and resettlement in the U.S., the archbishop told Today's Catholic before the conference, "They themselves face a terrible culture shock and many find it hard to adjust." He cited challenges such as lack of education, homesickness, lack of stamina for resettlement and the language barrier.

Keynote speaker and Mass celebrant Archbishop Charles Bo of the Rangoon Diocese in Myanmar (formerly known as Burma) explained the throngs of Burmese-Americans gathered to enrich their faith and connect with others. The day was laced with cultural music and prayers, many in Burmese, and the opportunity for eucharistic adoration, confession and the recitation of the rosary.

"We’re going to help the assembly to the assembly about values that included identity, trust, gratitude and love."

"May the Holy Spirit descend and change the face of the Earth," she remembered Blessed John Paul saying. "He was very smart. He never gave in, he never attacked," Bonickiwicz said. She had heard of stories of people in Poland being cured through prayers to Blessed John Paul II, but she said it would be a mistake to overestimate the power of devotion.

"Blessed John Paul II’s sainthood is a sign of the times because he became pope as a young man, and he was a ‘sweet person,’" she said.