Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ:

Christmas came early this year. God surprised the Church with a great gift back in March—March 13, to be exact. At a little past seven in the evening, Rome time, white smoke poured from the chimney of the Sistine Chapel, signaling the election of a new pope. An hour or so later, he was introduced to the world as Francis. He greeted with smiling simplicity the throngs in St. Peter’s Square and asked them to pray for him, even that they bless him. Since his election, Francis has charmed and puzzled people across the world, including Catholics.

His pronouncements and gestures have served to broaden the “tent” of the Church, while challenging her pastors to remain close to the people entrusted to their care.

I suppose that the most precious gift of my first year as Archbishop has been the election of Pope Francis. I met Blessed John Paul II a few times, worked closely with Pope Benedict XVI and admired and respected them both. But, as the pastor of the Catholic Church in central and southern Indiana, I think God has called me to a role distinct from those of my predecessors.

I am grateful to have him as a model of what a bishop should be. He has taught me that a bishop should be bearers of good news, even as they do their daily service to the Archdiocese of Indianapolis. I am grateful to have him as a model of what a bishop should be.

The Holy Father has given me a lot to think about this Christmas, and his inspiration casts a special light on how I read the story of Jesus’ birth this year. I would like to share with you some thoughts about the shepherds.

Here the word of God is speaking to all of us, not simply those baptized who exercise ordained ministry. The shepherds illustrate the vocation of every Catholic Christian to rejoice in the Gospel and bring good news to a waiting and often weary world.

We meet these shepherds in the account of the birth of Jesus according to the Gospel of Luke. They are not the center of the story, which features the Holy Child and his parents. The shepherds, however, are the first to receive the news of the birth of the Savior. Having learned the news from an angel, they go to Bethlehem “to see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to [them]” (Lk 2:15).

They bring to Mary and Joseph the “good news for all the people that the angel had communicated: the birth of one who is Messiah and Lord” (Lk 2:10-11). We can well imagine how they might have stammered as they repeated the song of the heavenly host: “Glory to God in the highest, and on Earth peace to those on whom his favor rests!” (Lk 2:14)

The Gospel remembers that all who heard the shepherds were amazed (Lk 2:18) by what the humble witnesses reported. The shepherds exit, “glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, just as it had been told to them” (Lk 2:20).

The shepherds help us to understand our vocation. At first, they were bewildered, even frightened by the message that reached them as they were tending their flocks.

After finding the courage to investigate further what this message was all about, they met Jesus Christ, an encounter that provoked in them an incredible joy. That joy led them to be bearers of good news, even as they returned to their normal occupations.


Here is where the so-called new Evangelization has to begin: in meeting Jesus Christ and his saving power, an encounter that produces an incredible joy. It is only then that you and I will be able to announce a message that is both “good” and “news.”

In the coming year, our archdiocese will consider how we can better live our vocation as bearers of good news. What does the call for a “new evangelization” mean in central and southern Indiana? We will step through the door that God is opening for us and, like the shepherds, carry a message that still has the power to amaze those who hear it.

Let us consider how we can better live our vocation as bearers of good news, even as we are tending our flocks.

But the mission begins with an encounter. So, this Christmas, I invite you to listen to the story as if you have never heard it before. Allow the arrival of Christ to soften your heart and awaken your hope. He is with us in our joys and sorrows, our victories, our frustrations and our darkness. He is Emmanuel, God-with-us. Do not be afraid to be happy.

May this encounter enkindle exuberant joy and lasting peace.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Rev. Joseph W. Tobin, C.Ss.R.
Archbishop of Indianapolis
Christians can’t be gloomy because Jesus always brings joy, pope says

VATICAN CITY (CNS)—Sadness is a sign of being far from Christ because Jesus offers everyone the strength to persevere with hope and joy, Pope Francis said.

“God is the one who came to save us and offer help, especially to hearts gone astray,” he said before praying the Angelus and offering a proclamation of joy for all.

The pope asked the children to remember him when they pray in front of their Nativity scenes just as he remembers them in his prayers.

“Children, bring and then place in your homes the image of Baby Jesus to show how much you love him and remember him when you pray,” he said.

The pope first visited the dispensary, which is staffed by volunteers and serves mainly immigrant families, before he met in the audience with the families who have been receiving care.

In the hall, a group of children piled large blocks on top of each other to reveal the pope’s picture and the Italian word “Auguri,” meaning “Happy Birthday.”

Another group of kids wearing white T-shirts with a yellow letter printed on each one, assembled themselves to spell out “Happy Birthday, Pope Francis” in Italian. When presented with the cake, the pope blew out the candles. He joked, “I’ll tell you later if it’s good or not.” He thanked the children for their joy and gifts, which included a sweater.

Pope Francis replaces his skullcap after this young boy removed it during an audience in Paul VI hall at the Vatican on Dec. 14. The audience was held for families who have been receiving care at the St. Martha Dispensary, a maternal and pediatrics clinic located at the Vatican.

Despite the rain, tens of thousands of pilgrims turned out in St. Peter’s Square for the weekly prayer and to have the pope bless the figurines of Baby Jesus that children bring and then place in their homes.

“[Children] are not allowed ‘to be that no matter how big people’s sins and weaknesses are, he always keeps his promises,” he said, adding “in the certainty that he always keeps his promises.”

Christian joy and hope are grounded in God’s fidelity, “in the certainty that he always keeps his promises,” the pope said.

“True joy even remains during times of trial, suffering, too, because it is not superficial, but lies deep in the person who trusts in God and confides in him.”

Pilgrims turned out in St. Peter’s Square sang “Happy Birthday” ahead of his Dec. 17 birthday when he turned 77.

The day before, children and parents met in the Vatican’s Paul VI audience hall gave him a surprise birthday party marked with singing and a real cake with candles.

The children and families use the Vatican’s St. Martha Dispensary, a maternal and pediatrics clinic.

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“The Church is not a refuge for sad people, the pope said. "Sadness is a sign of being far from Christ because Jesus always brings joy, and offer help, especially to hearts gone astray.”

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Sweeping changes to Batesville Deanery and NCYC top local news stories

By Brandon A. Evans

The multitude of changes that parishes in the Batesville Deanery saw as a result of the “Connected in the Spirit” parish planning process, Indiana schools hosting 23,000 youths at the National Catholic Youth Conference (NCYC), and the archbishop’s reaction to the resignation of Pope Benedict XVI and the election of Pope Francis were voted the top three local news stories of 2013.

Other stories of note include coverage of Archbishop Joseph W. Tobin receiving his pallium from Pope Francis, a Madison family winning a federal appeal against the Department of Health and Human Services’ (HHS) mandate, a Marian University opening its school of osteopathic medicine and a record amount of money raised for Catholic education.

Working in the custom of other news agencies, The Criterion editorial staff votes each year on those stories that were published in our newspaper.

Many of the stories selected this year were made up of several individual articles. Read this story online to browse the links to all of our original coverage.

Amidst the hundreds of newly produced news stories during 2013, here is our “Top 10” list:

1. Sweeping changes are announced and implemented for parishes in the Batesville Deanery.

On June 6, Archbishop Joseph W. Tobin spoke before hundreds of people gathered at St. Louis Church in Batesville to announce a series of decisions that would affect 26 of the 27 parishes in the Batesville Deanery and three other nearby parishes.

The decisions had been made as part of the “Connected in the Spirit” parish planning process which the deanery had been participating in for two years.

The news story announced that 12 parishes would close by Dec. 1 of this year; other parishes would be linked together in such a way that they create partnerships to collaborate with nearby parishes.

Archbishop Tobin’s own childhood parish in Detroit was closed, and he said that he identifies with the pain and anger experienced by some of the affected parishes.

“It’s not perfect, as no human process is measure up.”

Archbishop Tobin kneeled before Pope Francis and the two had a warm exchange in Spanish.

“May the cross bear fruit,” said Elsener.

Archbishop Tobin, in the response, “You can count on us.”

He said, “I hope this time during the Mass he was thinking of Peter, who was buried there [under St. Peter’s Basilica], and whose feast day we were celebrating today. He was someone who could speak easily and whose deeds didn’t always measure up.”

5. A Madison family business wins a federal appeal against the HHS mandate.

On May 22, a three-judge panel of the U.S. Circuit of Appeals in Chicago heard arguments from the lawsuit brought by Grote Industries, a family-owned, worldwide manufacturer of vehicle lighting products in Madison.

The Grote family argued that they should have relief from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services’ (HHS) mandate that forces most employers to provide abortion-inducing drugs, sterilizations and contraception to their employees in company health plans.

The legal challenge is part of many across the country and part of a nationwide campaign led by the U.S. bishops to fight for religious liberty. Rallying and calls for action occurred in the archdiocese throughout the year.

On Nov. 8, a ruling was handed down that gave the Grote’s victory.

“We hold that the plaintiffs—the business owners and their companies—may challenge the mandate,” U.S. Circuit Judge Diane Sykes wrote (emphasis in original).

“We further hold that compelling them to cover these services substantially burdens their religious exercise rights.”

6. The opening of a new medical school at Marian University in Indianapolis is a first for a Catholic college.

“All people called it a ‘leap of faith’ when Marian University in Indianapolis announced its plan to be the first Catholic college in the country to have a school of osteopathic medicine,” wrote John Quaas giorni, Criterion assistant editor.

“Yet, Marian’s President Daniel Elsener prefers to use a different phrase as the university’s first group of 162 medical students gets ready for the historic first day of classes on Aug. 12.

“It’s a response to a faith, a response to a call,” Elsener said as he sat in the sparkling, $48 million, state-of-the-art Michael A. Evans Center for Health Sciences that is now the home of the university’s long-term nursing program and the new medical school in Indianapolis.

The call Elsener referred to can be seen in recent studies that showed there could be a shortage of 2,000 primary care physicians in Indiana alone by 2020 if more doctors weren’t trained.

“Now we want to be a great Catholic university in a great American city for service to the world,” Elsener said. “To be a partner without reservations. So that we say if we want to be a great Catholic university, we have to have great resources, starting with a medical school.”

7. A record $3 million raised to send children to Catholic schools.

Each year, the archdiocese hosts the Celebrating Catholic Schools Values Awards event, honoring those with a commitment to Catholic education and raising money for schools.

The previous record for money raised was $1.1 million in 2012. This year, the event nearly tripled that amount raising $3 million to help children attend Catholic schools.

The event was held to raise money for the Education Scholarship to apply to income-eligible students already in our Catholic schools from kindergarten through 12th grade,” Peters said.

8. The Indiana voucher program is upheld in the courts and expanded by the legislature.

On March 26, the Indiana Supreme Court unanimously ruled that the state’s school voucher program was constitutional.

“I’m just really happy that Indiana’s constitution provides for and allows for parental choice,” said David Tobbe, executive director of the Indiana Catholic Conference. “It compiles with the Church’s understanding that parents are the first teachers, and have the right and responsibility to educate their children consistent with their values and their child’s educational needs.

Statewide, the program—which is the nation’s broadest school voucher program—gave school vouchers to more than 7,900 students.

A day after the ruling, the state Senate approved House Bill 1003, a proposal to expand the voucher program.

9. Three men of diverse cultural background are ordained priests for the archdiocese.

Three men were ordained priests for the archdiocese on May 18 during a Mass at S.S. Peter and Paul Cathedral in Indianapolis.

Fathers John Kamwendo, Douglas Marcotte and Martin Rodriguez.

Each of the new priests comes from a different cultural background:

Father Kamwendo is originally from Tanzania, Father Rodriguez grew up in Mexico and Father Marcotte was raised a Hoosier.

At the ordination Mass, which was broadcast live online, Cardinal Daniel DiNardo, archdiocese of Galveston-Houston, was present.

Archbishop Tobin gave the new priests’ names.

He said that they would “be able to speak to the hearts of your people only if you know their joys and sorrows, their anxiety and their hope.”

“Your ministry will be喵 must never let the burden of administration or the pursuit of your own interests be the primary concern of your sisters and brothers who, like you, search for God and hunger for God’s word,”

Archbishop Tobin said.

10. Archbishop Tobin visits each of the 11 deaneries during his first months as archbishop.

Fulfilling a promise he made upon arriving in the archdiocese, Archbishop Tobin celebrated a series of Masses in each of the 11 deaneries during the first months of 2013.

The Masses were covered in a series of stories and photos in The Criterion.

An estimated 1,000 people attended a June 29 Mass at St. Mary of the Knobs Church in Floyd County. “I thought that Hoosier hospitality was just a bumper sticker,” Archbishop Tobin told those gathered, “but it’s the real thing.”

Henry Andres, a lifelong member of St. Mary-of-the-Knobs Parish, called the new archbishop “awesome. He’s on our level. I think he’s someone we can talk to.”

The archbishop said that he was energized by the Masses and the welcome he received, and was struck by what he called the “anomalous location of the cathedral.”

“I don’t think that there’s a lot of the archdiocese outside of Indianapolis,” he said. “I wouldn’t want them to feel like they’re in Indianapolis and, as an afterthought, there’s the rest of us.”

(To read the original coverage, including additional links of interest, click on the headline for this story on our website at www.CriterionOnline.com)
Pope Francis leads a meeting with the poor in early October at the archbishop’s residence in Assisi, Italy. In his first extensive piece of writing as pope, Pope Francis lays out a vision of the Catholic Church dedicated to evangelization, with a focus on society’s poorest and most vulnerable, including the aged and unborn.

Editorial

On serving the poor

"Behold these Christians. Look how they love one another.”

These are the words in the Apology of Tertullian, who died in 230. It’s reported that a man named Aristides, sent by Emperor Hadrian to spy on the Christians, uttered the words. At this Christmas time, let’s ask ourselves if we ourselves can be really identified by the way we love one another. The evidence seems to indicate otherwise. Today we have Catholics who identify themselves as conservative, liberal, orthodox, progressive, traditional or whatnot. It’s so bad that Pope Francis, in his apostolic exhortation “Evangelii Gaudium” (“The Joy of the Gospel”), had to say, “No more warring amongst ourselves.” He describes some people, correctly we believe, as not content with “belonging to the whole Church in all its rich variety” but longing to “belong to this or that group which thinks itself different or special.” Right now that seems to be the lot of people who consider themselves conservatives. Among them are those who have criticized Pope Francis as being liberal, as if what he is saying is different or special.”

The human side

The Human Side/Fr. Eugene Henrich

God’s gift of love is greater than the material gifts of the season

In 2005, some news outlets reported that then-Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives Dennis Hastert told federal officials that the lighted, decorated tree on the lawn of the U.S. Capitol should be referred to as the “Capitol Christmas Tree,” as it was called until the late 1990s.

Some were calling it the “holiday tree.” Though this happened in 2005, it poses a troublesome question for 2013. Is the true meaning of Christmas being lost? I believe it is.

Pope Francis in his apostolic exhortation “Evangelii Gaudium” (“The Joy of the Gospel”) says, “The great danger for today’s world, pervaded as it is by consumerism, is the desolation and anguish born of a complacent yet ceaselessly feverish chase for the material gifts of the season. And because it took some time to deliver them, it made us race toward consumption. It’s not an exaggeration to say we are living in a world of materialism.”

The glitz of the holidays can’t compare to the bliss of realizing we are beloved by God and that God’s gift of love is greater than the material gifts of the season.
24 Sisters of Providence celebrate milestone jubilees

In 2013, two Sisters of Providence of Saint Mary-of-the-Woods celebrated 80 years in the congregation, two celebrated 75 years, seven celebrated 70 years and 13 celebrated 60 years. In addition to other ministries, all 24 sisters ministered in the Archdiocese of Indianapolis at some time, giving 504 total years of service within the Church in central and southern Indiana.

Sister Mary Esther (formerly Francis Gertrude) Lane celebrated her 80th jubilee. In the archdiocese, she taught at St. Charles Borromeo School in Bloomington from 1940-41, the former St. Joseph School in Terre Haute from 1952-57 and St. Paul School in Sellersburg from 1957-58. In Indianapolis, Sister Mary Esther ministered at the former St. Anthony School from 1945-46, the former St. Agnes Academy from 1967-69, the former Ladywood-St. Agnes High School from 1972-75 and at Fatima Retreat House from 1975-76. Currently, Sister Mary Esther has a special prayer ministry at the motherhouse.


Sister Rita (formerly Edward Clare) Lorner celebrated her 75th jubilee. In the archdiocese, she ministered in Indianapolis at St. Matthew School from 1977-83 and at Saint Mary-of-the-Woods in residential and health services from 1983 to 2006. Her current ministry is prayer.

Sister Alexa Suarez celebrated her 75th jubilee. In the archdiocese, she taught in Terre Haute at St. Patrick High School from 1941-46 and at the former St. Agnes Academy in Indianapolis from 1946-50. Sister Alexa ministered at Saint Mary-of-the-Woods in several capacities: teacher and professor at Saint Mary-of-the-Woods College from 1965-68; as a member of the Sister of Providence General Council from 1972-76; and in residential services from 2002-12. Sister currently has a special prayer ministry at the motherhouse.

Sister Margaret Louise Bernard celebrated her 70th jubilee. In the archdiocese, she ministered in Indianapolis at the former St. Catherine School from 1945-46; St. Joan of Arc School from 1946-48; Holy Cross School from 1949-50; the former Ladywood School from 1945-46; St. Joan of Arc School from 1946-48; Holy Cross School from 1949-50; St. Philip Neri School from 1956-58; the former St. Anthony School from 1961-62; and St. Matthew School from 1962-63. Sister Margaret Louise also served at St. Paul in Sellersburg from 1969-70. She currently resides in Bradenton, Fla. Sister Adrian Marie Conrad celebrated her 70th jubilee. In the archdiocese, she served at the former Saint Mary-of-the-Woods.

See JUBILEES page 16
Events Calendar

December 20
St. Joseph Parish, Upstairs Classroom, 1375 S. Mckeeley Ave., Indianapolis. The Bible for Beginners, 1 p.m., an informative overview of what you should know before reading the Bible. Information: 317-244-9002.

December 21
Bishop Simon Bruté College Seminary, 2500 Cold Spring Road, Indianapolis, Men’s Day of Discernment with Archbishop Tobin, ages 18-50 who are open to the possibility of the priesthood, 9 a.m.-3 p.m., registration required. Information: 317-236-1490 or archdiocese.org/bpsdvoices@events.html.

Planned Parenthood, 8590 Georgetown Road, Indianapolis. Empty Manger Caroling event, 9-10 a.m. Information: 317-537-9531.

December 27
St. Joseph Parish, Upstairs Classroom, 1375 S. Mckeeley Ave., Indianapolis. The Bible for Beginners, 1 p.m., an informative overview of what you should know before reading the Bible. Information: 317-244-9002.

December 28
St. John the Evangelist Church, 126 W. Georgia St., Indianapolis. Rosary procession and empty manger caroling at Monument Circle, following 12:10 p.m. Mass, pray and process through the streets of downtown Indianapolis to Monument Circle, empty manger caroling event, 1-2 p.m. Information on rosary procession: faithfulcitizens2016@gmail.com, Information on empty manger caroling event: romanykramer@comcast.net or 317-537-9531.

December 31
The Slovenian National Home, 2177 W. 10th St., Indianapolis. New Year’s Eve Celebration, 5 p.m.-close, $5 donation for food, bring a side dish to share. Information: 317-632-0619 or slovenianness@gmail.com.

January 4

January 8
Archbishop O’Meara Catholic Center, 1400 N. Meridian St., Indianapolis. Solo Seniors, Catholic, educational, charitable and social singles, 50 and over, single, separated, widowed or divorced. New members welcome. 6:30 p.m. Information: 317-370-1189.

January 9
St. Mark the Evangelist Parish, Media Center, 541 Edgewood Ave., Indianapolis. Hope and Healing Survivors of Suicide support group, 7 p.m. Information: 317-851-8344.

January 15
St. Malachy Church, 9833 E. County Road 750 N., Brownsburg, “Catholics Returning Home,” six-sessions, 7 p.m. Information: 317-650-5751.

Prayer to end hunger

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul’s Indianapolis Council participated in Pope Francis’ launch of the prayer campaign to end global hunger on Dec. 15. Copies of the Holy Father’s prayer for hunger were distributed to volunteers and clients at the society’s Client Choice Food Pantry, 3001 E. 30th St., in Indianapolis, and the shopping session was briefly halted at noon when the prayer to end global hunger was recited by pantry volunteers and clients. Pictured is Jim Wilcher, Tuesday pantry manager, reading the prayer to end global hunger over the Client Choice Pantry’s public address system.

Haiti fundraiser

Participants listen as a Scripture reading is proclaimed on Dec. 12 at St. Paul Catholic Center Church in Bloomington during a Festival of Lessons and Carols. The event was held to raise money for a mission trip by Indiana University students to St. Paul Catholic Center’s sister parish in Haiti in 2014. The event began with a cookie reception, followed by a series of nine readings and songs led by the St. Paul adult choir.

Annual concert on Dec. 22

In this December 1963 photo, former Most Holy Name of Jesus Parish music director Jerry Craney poses with members of the parish’s third annual Christmas concert which he coordinated. The concert will be held for the 50th time this year at Most Holy Name of Jesus Church, 89 N. 17th Ave. in Beech Grove, at 3 p.m. and 7 p.m. on Dec. 22. What started out in 1961 as a boy’s and men’s choir accompanied by an organ, the concert now includes the Holy Name School choir and adult choir, which includes high school youths, and an orchestra consisting of horn, percussion, wind and string sections, as well as a harp and grand piano. Tickets for limited seating are $7 and are available at the door or in advance by calling Marcia at 317-787-1682.

Women’s Day of Reflection

Women listen during a session at the second annual Advent African-American Catholic Women’s Day of Reflection on Nov. 23 at Fatima Retreat House in Indianapolis. The event, sponsored by the Black Catholic Ministry of the archdiocesan Office of Multicultural Ministry, was attended by 75 African-American Catholic women. The guest speaker, Adrienne Curry, spoke on women of the Bible, particularly Rebekah, Leah, Rachel and Dinah, and how these women encountered the same everyday trials, tribulations, temptations and crises that women face today. Curry holds a masters in divinity from Catholic Theological University. Due to the great success of the day of reflection, next year’s event will become a weekend retreat taking place on Dec. 5-6.

Correction

On page 6 of the Dec. 13 issue of The Criterion, Mary Young and Virginia Marten were incorrectly identified as residents of St. Augustine Home for the Aged in a photograph with Archbishop Joseph W. Tobin. 1

Society of St. Vincent de Paul still seeking end-of-year vehicle donations

As the 2013 calendar year comes to a close, year-end, tax-deductible donations of vehicles of all kinds are still desired to benefit the Society of St. Vincent de Paul.

The vehicle donation program accepts not only cars but also trucks, motorcycles and even boats, and they do not even have to be in running order.

All vehicles are auctioned off, and the proceeds are distributed to the parish conference that is closest to the donor’s home. All donations ultimately provide for the purchase of food and other essential assistance to the poor, as well as emergency assistance to families in need, including rent, utilities, transportation and medicines.

“By the end of the third quarter of this year, 42 vehicles had been donated, and the net proceeds earned from the donations totaled $22,866,” said Bernie Weitekamp, coordinator of the program for the Indianapolis archdiocesan council.

While there are minimal “flat” fees associated with the transport of a vehicle, title work and the sale of the vehicle at auction, the fees assessed are not a percentage of the value of the vehicle. This maximizes the proceeds that go to the society.

Unlike similar vehicle donation programs offered by other charitable groups, the proceeds of all donations benefit local needs and rely on local promotional efforts by the society’s various archdiocesan councils.

To donate or find out more information about the program, log on to www.svdpusacars.com or call 800-322-8284.†
Dear Mary,

I just received a letter from Mary, the wife of Joseph, and she asked me to tell you what has happened to her. She thought you might be worried about her since she has been gone for so long. The letter came from Egypt! How that happened is what she wanted me to tell you, and it’s an amazing story indeed.

The last time I saw Mary was soon after the birth of my son, John. As you know so well, Mary is always thinking of how she can help others, so when she learned that I was pregnant with John she made that long trip from Nazareth to Ein Karen to help me. She thought I would need some help since I was old for bearing children.

I was six months along when Mary suddenly appeared at our home and greeted me. As she did so, John leaped in my womb for joy. Blessed are you who believe! And yes, I believe her. The angel said that the Messiah would be born in Bethlehem, the City of David. As you know, my son, the reason for Jesus to be born there was so Herod could not find him. The census was God’s way of providing the reason for Jesus to be born in that time. (Lk 1:5-6)

Mary wrote that she had a very easy pregnancy. But about the time she was ready to deliver, Caesar Augustus ordered that census you’re so familiar with. That meant that Joseph had to go to Bethlehem, the home of his ancestors, to be enrolled. Since he and his wife were not married at the time he went to walk with his pregnant wife.

Mary insisted on going along because she knew that Jesus was meant to be born in Bethlehem, the City of David. As you know, Mary, we Jews have long believed that the Messiah would be born in Bethlehem. Mary was convinced that the census was God’s way of providing the reason for Jesus to be born there.

After their five-day trip to Bethlehem, they had a hard time finding a place where Mary could have her privacy because so many descendants of David were there for the census. They eventually found a dry cave that was used as a stable. They were able to have their donkey put up in the stable, and there was also an ox there. And that’s where Jesus was born. Mary wrapped him in swaddling clothes and laid him in a manger.

Not long after his birth, Mary wrote, they had some visitors. It seems that some shepherds had been tending their flocks when an angel appeared to them and told them that “a savior has been born for you who is Messiah and Lord” (Lk 2:11). Then, the shepherds told Mary, a whole multitude of angels appeared singing: “Glory to God in the highest, and on Earth peace to those on whom his favor rests” (Lk 2:14).

Naturally, they had Jesus circumcised when he was eight days old. I think by that time Joseph had been able to find a house for them since most of those who had come to Bethlehem to register had returned to their homes. They didn’t want to try to travel back to Nazareth with a newborn baby, so they decided to remain in Bethlehem until it was time for Mary’s purification 40 days after Jesus’ birth, as prescribed by Leviticus 12:2-8.

Since they were only five miles from Jerusalem, they went to the Temple for the purification. After she did that in one of the mikve (bath) built for that purpose outside the walls of Jerusalem, they went into the Temple and offered two pigeons. Since Jesus was their first-born son, they consecrated him to the law as Exodus 13:2-14 requires. While they were there, Mary wrote, an elderly man named Simeon recognized Jesus as the Messiah and said a prayer in which he told God that he could now take him because his eyes had seen God’s salvation. Also, an 84-year-old prophetess named Anna praised Jesus to all who were around. One sorrowful thing happened, though. Simeon told Mary that a sword would pierce her soul, whatever that means.

Mary said that the shepherds weren’t their only visitors while they were in Bethlehem. One day some men, wearing Eastern attire like Persians, arrived at the house. They told Mary that they were magi, or astrologers, who were searching for the newborn king of the Jews because they had seen his star at its rising. They said that they had been to Jerusalem where they met with King Herod. He asked the chief priests and scribes where the Messiah was to be born, and they told him that it would be in Bethlehem. So Herod sent the magi there. They arrived at the house and prostrated themselves before Jesus. They also offered valuable gifts of gold, frankincense.

I just received a letter from Mary, the wife of Joseph, and she asked me to tell you what has happened to her. She thought you might be worried about her since she has been gone for so long. The letter came from Egypt! How that happened is what she wanted me to tell you, and it’s an amazing story indeed.

The last time I saw Mary was soon after the birth of my son, John. As you know so well, Mary is always thinking of how she can help others, so when she learned that I was pregnant with John she made that long trip from Nazareth to Ein Karen to help me. She thought I would need some help since I was old for bearing children.

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A Simple Wish: A wife shares her words of wisdom about love and life

By Bonnie Price

I am known to my friends and family as the one who does not share personal feelings. Instead, I am the one who always has to come up with the first joke or remark about everything. But do not be fooled by the few expressions of the doldrums of family and friends at Christmas time.

In life and in death, we never know what surprises and challenges may come our way. No “special” life is exempt from challenges and pain. Life is a long and very difficult journey. I want you to know that when you come to me in the emergency room were, “Who is my husband? Where is my husband to take control. This is “my simple wish” for everyone. I don’t ask any questions, but I always tell the truth. He was very honest with me and the hospital nurses. I was probably in third grade before I understood the meaning of the field. I was probably in third grade before I understood the meaning of the phrase. I was probably in third grade before I understood the meaning of the phrase. I was probably in third grade before I understood the meaning of the phrase. I was probably in third grade before I understood the meaning of the phrase. I was probably in third grade before I understood the meaning of the phrase. I was probably in third grade before I understood the meaning of the phrase. I was probably in third grade before I understood the meaning of the phrase. I was probably in third grade before I understood the meaning of the phrase. I was probably in third grade before I understood the meaning of the phrase. I was probably in third grade before I understood the meaning of the phrase. I was probably in third grade before I understood the meaning of the phrase. I was probably in third grade before I understood the meaning of the phrase. I was probably in third grade before I understood the meaning of the phrase. I was probably in third grade before I understood the meaning of the phrase. I was probably in third grade before I understood the meaning of the phrase. I was probably in third grade before I understood the meaning of the phrase. I was probably in third grade before I understood the meaning of the phrase. I was probably in third grade before I understood the meaning of the phrase. I was probably in third grade before I understood the meaning of the phrase. I was probably in third grade before I understood the meaning of the phrase. I was probably in third grade before I understood the meaning of the phrase. I was probably in third grade before I understood the meaning of the phrase. I was probably in third grade before I understood the meaning of the phrase. I was probably in third grade before I understand...
and myth.

That all sounds great. But then came the bad news. Joseph had another dream. This time the angel told him to get up immediately and take Mary and Jesus and flee to Egypt because Herod was about to search for Jesus and kill him! It must have been a nightmare journey, taking about a week, through deserts where it was difficult to find water, and worrying that Herod’s men might be chasing them. They weren’t though, because, as you probably heard, Herod sent soldiers to Bethlehem to massacre all the boys 2 years old or younger. The soldiers weren’t chasing Joseph, Mary and Jesus because they thought they had already killed Jesus.

So that’s why Mary wrote her letter from Egypt. She wrote that they intend to stay there until Herod dies. Then they plan to return to Nazareth. Mary said that they wouldn’t want to return to Bethlehem after the massacre there, with the only boy who survived. Besides, it’s too close to Jerusalem in case Archelaus succeeds his father Herod. Mary wrote that they hope to be able to stop at your home in Emmaus on their way back to Nazareth, whenever that happens. Until then, she asked to be kept in your prayers as you are in hers.

Elizabeth

Obviously, the letter is fictional, but the events reported are factual. Mary, the wife of Clopas, remained a friend of the Blessed Virgin and stood with her by the cross when Jesus was crucified (Jn 19:25). It’s possible, because of the closeness in spelling, that she also could have been the wife of Cleopas, one of the two disciples Jesus met on the road to Emmaus after his resurrection. Since the other disciple isn’t named, it could have been Cleopas’ wife.

(John F. Fink is editor emeritus of The Criterion.)

LETTER continued from page 7

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(John F. Fink is editor emeritus of The Criterion.)

Northwestern Mutual Recognizes McGinley with Forum Membership Conference

Northwestern Mutual is honoring Indianapolis financial advisor Mike McGinley with membership in its 2013 Forum group, which recognizes individuals for an outstanding year of helping clients achieve financial security. McGinley is affiliated with Northwestern Mutual Indiana based in Indianapolis. This is the third time that McGinley received the Forum honor.

“One 2013 Planning & Progress study shows that half (51%) of Americans feel less financially secure than they thought they’d be at this point in their lives,” says Northwestern Mutual Executive Vice President Todd M. Schoon, CLU, ChFC, JD. “In an uncertain economy, consumers are seeking guidance and are turning to experienced financial professionals like Mike to plan for their future financial security.”

The honorees were recognized at a conference held on November 3-6, 2013, in Scottsdale, AZ. At the conference, honorees learned new insights from prominent speakers, gained access to advanced training and leadership development, and shared knowledge with fellow colleagues. The Forum conference is an extremely exclusive achievement, with approximately five percent of Northwestern Mutual’s more than 6,500 financial representatives invited to attend.

About Northwestern Mutual

Northwestern Mutual is the marketing name for The Northwestern Mutual Life Insurance Company, Milwaukee, WI, and its subsidiaries. Northwestern Mutual is among the “World’s Most Admired” life insurance companies in 2013 according to FORTUNE® magazine and has helped clients achieve financial security for more than 166 years. As a mutual company with $1.4 trillion of life insurance protection in force, Northwestern Mutual has no shareholders. The company focuses solely on its clients and seeks to deliver consistent and dependable value to them over time. Northwestern Mutual and its subsidiaries offer a holistic approach to financial solutions including: life insurance, long-term care insurance, disability income insurance, annuities, investment products, and advisory products and services. Subsidiaries include Northwestern Mutual Investment Services, LLC, broker-dealers, registered investment advisor, member FINRA and SIPC; the Northwestern Mutual Wealth Management Company, limited purpose federal savings bank; Northwestern Long Term Care Insurance Company; and Russell Investment Group. Further information is available at http://www.northwesternmutual.com.

About the Northwestern Mutual Planning & Progress Research

This study was conducted by independent research firm Harris Interactive, and included 2,246 Americans aged 25 or older who participated in an online survey between January 9, 2013 and January 23, 2013. Results were weighted as needed for age by gender, education, race/ethnicity, region and household income. Propensity score weighting was also used to adjust for respondents’ propensity to be online. No estimates of theoretical sampling error can be calculated; a full methodology is available.
Be watchful at Christmas for special gifts in those we love

Faith

By David Gibson

Is there something magical in Christmas gifts? Children think so. As if struck by a holiday contagion, children hunt feverishly, furiously among the packages under the Christmas tree during the last days before the big day, hoping to learn precisely what magic awaits them there.

But what adults learned over time and children have yet to discover is that the most magical gifts on Christmas are not hidden under the tree.

Consider the 4-year-old Christmas gift, finely crafted for Mom or Dad under a preschool teacher’s watchful eye. Parents celebrate these gifts excitedly.

True, the parents are happy at their child’s increased ability to cut out and glue rough drawings onto colorful construction paper. But isn’t it less the craft and far more the child that the parents celebrate when the gift is presented?

The child is the true gift here. And as Pope Francis might put it, the love between these parents and their child creates music in their home.

It is precisely this kind of music that households everywhere hope to play loudly on Christmas. They have the pope’s assurance that this music mixes well with home-based fun. A family’s life together is filled with events of all kinds, Pope Francis observed when he spoke in October at an international pilgrimage of families. But he said that “if love is missing in a family, joy is missing too, and nothing is fun.”

For him, love is a gift, one to give and receive. Pope Francis speaks of home life often. His thoughts on gifts and where to find them are noteworthy, too. He is convinced that gifts await us in others. In a recent interview published in major Jesuit publications, he called attention to “what the Spirit has sown in the other as a gift for us.”

Both home life and gifts were on the pope’s mind last May when he visited the Casa Dono di Maria soup kitchen and women’s shelter inside the Vatican walls. The Missions of Charity, founded by Blessed Teresa of Calcutta, operate the shelter.

As a home, the shelter itself is a gift, Pope Francis said. Calling it a home means it is a place of “warmth, affection”—the kind of “love that can be felt in a family.”

A home is a crucial place where gifts are given and received, the pope made clear. For him, a home is “where life grows and can be fulfilled because it is a place in which every person learns to receive love and to give love.”

Pope Francis then affirmed that all the people encountered inside the homeless shelter are a “mutual gift” for each other.

First, there are the gifts of “hospitality, material and spiritual sustenance” given by those who work there, he observed. As a home, he said, the shelter is “a school of charity, which instructs me to go and encounter every person.

not for profit but for love.”

Those working in the shelter are not its only gift givers, however. To locate all the gifts hidden there, it is essential to look to its homeless and hungry guests. To them, Pope Francis said:

“You are also a gift for this home and for the Church. You tell us that to love God and neighbor is not something abstract, but profoundly concrete. It means seeing in every person the face of the Lord to be served. ... You are, dear brothers and sisters, the face of Jesus.”

In this home, this shelter, “one tries to love one’s neighbor, but also to allow oneself to be loved by one’s neighbor,” he said. Those “two attitudes,” he insisted, “go together.”

“The music ... of this home is love,” said Pope Francis. His reflections on the exchange of gifts in a homeless shelter are food for thought at Christmas. Where will gifts for you or me be found this Christmas?

One thing is certain: You can take the Christmas out of gift giving, but you cannot take the gift giving out of Christmas!”

I will enjoy gifts that come wrapped in colorful packages. And when I open something handmade for me by a grandchild, I will relish the gift while celebrating the giver far more.

Truth be told, however, to discover some of the finest gifts of Christmas, it is essential to do what the shepherds did the night Jesus was born: Be watchful.

The watchful shepherds were fearful when “the angel of the Lord appeared to them” (Lk 2:9-10). But soon, upon arriving in Bethlehem, their fears dissipated, replaced by excited joy.

It is a great gift when someone eases our fears or clears a space for hope.

Something as small as the smile on the right person’s face can be an amazing gift on Christmas. Someone else’s announced plan to make important, needed life changes might be received not as a magical gift, but a miraculous one.

So be watchful on Christmas. Be on the lookout for “what the Spirit has sown” in others as a gift for you.

(David Gibson served on Catholic News Service’s editorial staff for 37 years.)

The most magical gifts of Christmas are not hidden under a tree. They are often found in the giver of the gift, not the gift itself.

‘Something as small as the smile on the right person’s face can be an amazing gift on Christmas.’

Mary is a model of gratitude for the gifts of God at Christmas

By H. Richard McCord

Like many families, we have happy Christmas memories saved in photos. There is one of our son at age 6 seated on his first bicycle by the Christmas tree.

His head is thrown back with an exuberant smile. We were pleased to be able to give him this “best gift ever,” and he was equally delighted to receive it. Such a memory reminds us that Christmas is as much about receiving gracefully as it is about giving generously.

A gift requires a giver and a receiver to be a complete experience. This truth can get lost in the Christmas frenzy of acquiring and checking off items on our list. The commercial message of Christmas focuses attention on what we’re going to give when really it’s asking the bottom-line question: How much are you going to spend? The successful Christmas season always seems to be measured in dollars and cents.

Giving generously, especially to those in need, is a truly blessed act. St. Paul even tells us that “God loves a cheerful giver” (2 Cor 9:7). Giving is more than just a good human action. For a Christian, it’s a participation in the divine activity by which God the Father gives us his Son whose unconditional love brings us salvation.

At Christmas, we rejoice in God’s supreme gift by celebrating the earthly coming of his Son. Our Christmas giving is meant to be an act of gratitude acknowledging what and whom God has first given to us.

As important as it is to imitate the divine generosity by knowing how to give, it also is necessary to know how to receive a gift. We can look to Mary as the best example of one who receives.

In St. Luke’s account of the birth of Jesus, Mary sings God’s praises to her kinswoman Elizabeth for all that he has done for her. “My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord; my spirit rejoices in God my Savior” (Lk 1:46).

Mary’s canticle offers a perfect example of how to receive a gift graciously, sincerely and humbly. Realizing what she has been given, Mary expresses gratitude: “The Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name” (Lk 1:49).

In this way, Mary places the emphasis where it should be, namely, on what God does for us. We receive all that we have and all we will ever need from his generous hand.

To receive a gift at Christmas, no matter how small or simple, with delight and a grateful heart symbolizes our openness to receive all that God gives us. When we open presents this Christmas, might we reclaim some of the simple joy we once had as children when we revered that special gift? If so, let this experience open our hearts not only to the gift giver but also to the one who himself is the divine gift.

(H. Richard McCord is the former executive director of the U.S. bishops’ Secretariat of Laity, Marriage, Family Life and Youth.)

Mary is a model of gratitude for the gifts of God at Christmas

FaithAlive!

Keeping Christ in Christmas in our family of faith

Advent is a time of preparation and waiting to celebrate the birth of Jesus. At the heart of Catholic education is the commitment to assist parents as the first and best educators of their children. This holy season provides an opportunity for us to reflect upon the family—the domestic Church. While I make an effort to keep my prayer and faith life on track, I find myself getting caught up in the busyness and materialism associated with the celebration of Christmas.

The words “making a list, checking it twice” from a secular Christmas carol remind me of the shopping I still need to finish. Of course, I need to ensure that I am buying the perfect gift for each of my grandchildren. This year seems different, perhaps due in part to the spirit and simplicity of Pope Francis. In less than a week, we celebrate the Nativity of Our Lord, followed by the feasts of the Holy Family, the Solennity of Mary, the Epiphany and the Baptism of Our Lord. As Catholics, this is a beautiful time to celebrate and worship!

The feasts that we will celebrate afford us an awesome opportunity to witness to our children and grandchildren, in a powerful and practical way, the love of Christ for his people. So, if you are like me and looking for a way your family can experience what “sacred in the ordinary” and celebrate these feasts with purpose, I suggest the following:

• Read, pray and chat with your children at bedtime. Those few quiet minutes with your child can create lasting memories. In long memories that will shape a child or teenager for years to come. Maybe even generations to come.

• While sharing meals, include your children, consider finding time to tell your children about their own birth. At moments, this is a perfect time for preparation and anticipation. Share with them the people who came to visit them, just as the shepherds and wise men visited the baby Jesus.

• The teen years can be a “roller coaster” for your children, the intentional with your schedule. The times a teen returns to or departs from the home are important opportunities to “touch base.” Continue to be home as often as possible at these times.

• Make your marriage a priority. Treat your spouse tenderness in the presence of your children. Use words of affirmation and encouragement. Sometimes a gesture as simple as helping clear the dishes speaks volumes for the care you have for a spouse. Spending a walk or holding hands are visible signs of affection for one another. This list is in no complete. Take these ideas and adjust them to the needs of your family.

I am blessed to have eight grandchildren. In addition to the gift of grandchildren my will open this Christmas season, I am committed to making time for them. I would like to share my memories of their birth and mom’s birth. I believe that is why we experience everyday acts of kindness and striving for holiness in our relationships have the potential to reap big results in our lives together.

Merry Christmas, and Christ’s peace to you and yours.

(Margaret Hendricks is the program coordinator for Adolescent Growth, Pope John XXIII Catholic High School, Indianapolis. You can e-mail her at mhendricks@archindy.org.)
**Fourth Sunday of Advent/Msgr. Owen F. Campion**

**Sunday Readings**

_Sunday, December 22, 2013_

- **Isaiah 7:10-14**
- **Romans 1:1-7**
- **Matthew 1:18-24**

This weekend, the Church celebrates the fourth and last Sunday of Advent 2013. For its first reading, this weekend’s liturgy offers a reading from the first section of the Book of Isaiah. This reading refers to King Ahaz of the southern Hebrew kingdom. In this section, the reference allows scholars to date this prophecy.

Ahaz reigned in the last third of the eighth century before Christ. To be kind, he is not regarded as having been a remarkably successful king. It is easy to understand why Isaiah prophesied him more than once.

Promising Isaiah’s interest in Ahaz, or in any king, was not necessarily the mechanism of obvious power and prestige, but rather the fact that the king first and foremost was the servant of God. The rulers of Israel and Judah were God’s assigned and anointed rulers. The kingship was a sign of God’s favor. It was promised a sign of God’s favor. It allowed to display a chronicle of the conception and birth of Jesus, divine though these events may have been. The coming of the Messiah is a sign, perfect and penultimate, of God’s everlasting love for humankind. God never fails, is never absent from people.

**Reflection**

This weekend, the Church calls us to observe the last Sunday of Advent. The season of Advent is the careful and focused period preceding Christmas. It is more than a time to prepare for a festive day of good food and good cheer.

Of course, it looks the occasion of remembering the Lord’s birth. The Church sees another purpose, and it provides Advent to assist us to express, in our effort personally to unite with the Lord. Our union with God, so intimate that we can possess even God’s eternal life, occurred because of our unity first with Jesus in a common humanity. This union, established by creation, was completed in the Lord’s own humanity.

We ratify and reinforce our own personal unions with God by individually choosing holiness. Thus, Advent is at our disposal. The question is if we shall respond.

Growth in faith and in discipleship has never been easy. Advent liturgies often centered on John the Baptist, killed because of his fidelity to God.

Facing our own temptations, the Church reassures us. Be strong, it advises. God will strengthen and enlighten us. He has never failed in love, mercy and justice. God will strengthen and enlighten us. Be strong, it advises. God will strengthen and enlighten us.

**Question Corner**

Fr. Kenneth Doyle

At ordination, bishops receive a ring that is a sign of their faithfulness to the Church.

Q: Why do Catholics kiss the pope’s ring? Did our Lord walk around with such a ring? I don’t know whether our new Pope Francis has had a ring designed for himself.

A: For centuries, popes have worn a ring called the fisherman’s ring. It shows an image of Peter, the first pope, marking Peter’s original occupation and Christ’s invitation to the first Apostles to become “fishers of men” (Mt 4:19).

Until 1842, the ring was used to stamp official papal decrees as a sign of their authenticity, a fact reflected in the present-day symbolic distinction of a pope’s ring at his death or resignation.

Characteristic of Pope Francis’ preference for modesty, the new pope’s ring is actually not one newly designed at his election. The wax model for it was created decades ago for Pope Paul VI. Though a ring itself was never produced at that time, Paul VI’s priest-secretary kept the wax model, and sometime later it was cast in gold-plated silver. When he was shown the “leather” ring, Pope Francis chose it as his own.

Bishops, too, wear a ring that is presented to them in their episcopal ordination as a symbol of their faithfulness to and nuptial relationship with the Church.

When people kiss a bishop’s ring (a practice seems less frequently these days and has replaced by a simple handshake), they are expressing their respect for his bishop’s role and responsibility in guiding the Church.

Q: I am a 72-year-old woman who lives alone. I would like very much to have a deep relationship with God.

A: Pray and meditate on the rosary and, although I have several booklets with devotional prayers in them, those prayers seem to be very short and not enough to satisfy me. I have heard of the Liturgy of the Hours and the Divine Office, but I am not familiar with them.

Do they require that certain prayers be recited at particular hours in the day? I still have to run errands, go grocery shopping, etc., and wonder whether I could keep to a specific regulated schedule. (Albany, N.Y.)

The Liturgy of the Hours, the Divine Office and the breviary all refer to the same thing, namely, an official set of prayers that is required to be recited by members of the Catholic clergy and monastic communities.

Consisting of psalms, hymns and readings, they are part of the public prayer life of the Church and are offered at various times to sanctify the day. The Divine Office has a long history in the Church. The earliest Christians tended to continue the Jewish practice of reciting prayers at certain hours of the day and night.

With the reform of Pope Paul VI following the Second Vatican Council, the Liturgy of the Hours consists of morning prayer, daytime prayer (divided into midmorning, midday or midafternoon), evening prayer, night prayer and the office of readings, a component that features extended excerpts from Scriptural and other spiritual writings.

Monastic communities gather in their chapel at certain times throughout the day, while diocesan clergy and non-monastic religious often tend to pray the office individually, fitting it at their own convenience into their other pastoral responsibilities.

I admire your desire for a deeper prayer life and encourage your efforts. I believe, though, that to take on the entire Divine Office might become too burdensome for you. What many of the laity have found helpful, instead, and what I would recommend, is a publication called Magnificat (you can request it via this toll-free telephone number: 1-866-273-5215). You are mailed a monthly booklet, which, for each day, includes morning prayer, evening prayer and the Mass texts for that day, together with some brief additional devotional readings.

The entire text can be read and prayed in about 20 minutes, and it can be done at any point in the day, depending on your schedule.

(Questions may be sent to Father Kenneth Doyle at uskfdorely@verizon.com and 40 Hoplett St., Albany, N.Y. 12208.)

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**Daily Readings**

_Monday, December 23_

- St. John of Kanty
- Malachi 3:1-4, 23-24
- Psalm 23:4-6b, 8-10, 14
- Luke 1:56-66

_Tuesday, December 24_

- 2 Samuel 7:1-3, 8b-12, 14a, 16
- Psalm 89:2-5, 27, 29
- Luke 1:67-75
- Vigil of the Nativity of the Lord (Christmas)
- Isaiah 62:1-5
- Psalm 89:4-5, 16-17, 27, 29
- Acts 13:16-17, 22-25
- Matthew 1:1-25 or Matthew 1:18-25

_Wednesday, December 25_

- The Nativity of the Lord (Christmas) Midnight
- Isaiah 9:1-6
- Psalm 96:1-3, 11-13
- Titus 2:11-14
- Luke 2:1-14

_Dawn_
Joseph F. Casey, the father of Father Noah Coley, loved the Irish community of St. John the Evangelist

Joseph F. Casey, 88, the father of Father Noah Casey, rector of SS. Peter and Paul Cathedral Parish in Indianapolis, died on Dec. 8. He was 80.

The Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated on Dec. 16 at St. John the Evangelist Church. Burial followed at Holy Cross Cemetery in Indianapolis.

A native of Indianapolis, he was a longtime member of St. John the Evangelist Parish in the city and attended the former St. John School and Manual High School.

He was employed by General Motors, Chevrolet and later Allison Engine, for 55 years. Throughout his life, he was devoted to the Church, especially to the priests of the Archdiocese of Indianapolis and the monks of Saint Meinrad Archabbey in St. Meinrad.

He also loved the Irish community of St. John the Evangelist Parish, and was proud of his Irish heritage and of the commitment to faith and family that he helped in handing down to future generations.

He is survived by his son, Father Noah, and his two sisters Helen M. (Casey) McGrath (Robert) and Patricia A. (Casey) Beidelman, who cared for him beautifully in his later years. He was also the uncle of Father Patrick Beidelman, executive director of the archdiocesan Secratariat for Spiritual Life and Worship.

Donations may be made in his memory to St. John the Evangelist Parish or SS. Peter and Paul Cathedral Parish, both in Indianapolis, or to Saint Meinrad Archabbey in St. Meinrad, Ind. "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.


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JOHNSON, Jerry. 79. St. Therese of the Infant Jesus (Little Flower), Indianapolis, Nov. 28. Father of April Hinson, Andrea and John Ford. Brother of Max Brown, Betty Howard and Bobby Ford. Great-grandmother of eight.

KEMP, Robert. 91. St. Therese of the Infant Jesus (Little Flower), Indianapolis, Nov. 28. Father of April Hinson, Andrea and John Ford. Brother of Max Brown, Betty Howard and Bobby Ford. Great-grandmother of eight.
Priest’s commitment to vocation, others shines in new novel

Reviewed by Mike Krokos

At 82, “Father T” is still active, living out his priestly vocation as full-time pastor of a parish and staying very involved not only in his faith community but in the local community as well. But that part of his life is put on hold when he learns that his former archbishop and now cardinal is being threatened in Rome by a left-wing terrorist group trying to intimidate and frighten the Church into changing its position on several issues.

In his latest novel Father Turiddu Returns: The Cardinal and the Inquisitor, author Daniel Conway models after Msgr. Salvatore Polizzi, an 83-year-old priest who currently serves as pastor of St. Roch Parish in St. Louis, Mo., and is a longtime friend of Conway. “I decided to create a fictional character, Msgr. Salvatore Turiddu, or Father T., and that of his family and friends who appear in the novels—are all true to life!” Conway noted. “I hope that by novels—are all true to life!"

Father Turiddu—and that of his family are fictional, but the character of the Inquisitor is based on Msgr. Polizzi. The adventures are fictional, but the character of Father T. and that of his family and friends who appear in the novels—are all true to life!” Conway noted. “I decided to create a fictional character, Msgr. Salvatore Turiddu, or Father T., and that of his family…"

He is being threatened in Rome by a former archbishop and now cardinal on hold when he learns that his former shepherd, now cardinal, is moved from his current position in Rome to Italy to see the Sword of Justice terrorist group, Supremo Council (Italian Supreme Court), is moved from his residence to inside the Vatican after receiving death threats from the Sword of Justice terrorist group, he jumps on a plane to Italy to see what he can do to help.

The cardinal is later moved to a Benedictine monastery, then kidnapped and taken to Naples where the Grand Inquisitor of the terrorist group attempts to intimidate him to “confess to crimes” committed by the Church throughout its history.

Entrusting the situation to the Sacred Heart, readers will see more Father T.’s unbridled commitment to helping others no matter what the cost—“end of story.”

“As a young boy, ‘I was taught that you never met a priest whose pastoral instincts and commitment to his people was more genuine than Msgr. Polizzi. His heart always goes out to people in need—no matter how great or small, no matter what their station in life, and no matter what sins they have committed. When Pope Francis talks about our Christian duty to represent the God of mercy, not the judgmental God, I think of Msgr. Polizzi.’"

As readers peruse the fast-paced novel, they too will no doubt gain a better understanding of a priest whose vocation shapes all he says and does.

Readers will also appreciate how Conway is able to blend intrigue and action with the story’s strong backdrop.

Family, including Father T’s strong Silician roots, is at the heart of the story, too.

“In my book, A Communion of Saints, I wrote ‘nothing is more important than family because family binds us to each other and to God.’ Conway said. ‘I was blessed to be born and reared in a remarkable family—very real people with lots of problems and difficulties who were sustained by their faith. Msgr. Polizzi would be the first to agree. Family comes first.’

(Mike Krokos is editor of The Criterion.)
Saint Mary-of-the-Woods in 1997, she served from 1973-76 and in adult education at a nurse at several Indianapolis facilities from 1966-72; as a licensed practical nurse at several Indianapolis facilities from 1963-64. At Saint Mary-of-the-Woods from 1963-64; at the former St. John’s School in Terre Haute from 1972-76. In Indianapolis, she ministered at the former Ladywood-St. Agnes High School from 1971-72; and at Cathedral High School from 1976-78. She provides priest service as an outreach minister in Los Angeles.

Sister Sheila (formerly Marie Sheila) FitzSimons, a native of Indianapolis, celebrated her 70th jubilee. In the archdiocese, she taught at St. Charles Borromeo School in Indianapolis from 1967-72 and served in residential and health care services from 1980-90. Sister Sheila now has a special prayer ministry at the motherhouse.

Sister Ann Brendan Burget celebrated her 60th jubilee. In the archdiocese, she taught at St. Charles Borromeo School in Indianapolis from 1954-55 and at St. Mary School in Indianapolis from 1963-64. At Saint Mary-of-the-Woods, she served on the General Administrative staff from 1994-97 and from 1998-2002 in various departments and programs. Currently Sister Ann Brendan's ministry is prayer.

Sister Edward Louise Schroeder celebrated her 70th jubilee. In the archdiocese, she served at St. Joan of Arc School in Indianapolis from 1959-62. Since 1991, she has ministered in various departments at Saint Mary-of-the-Woods, including residential and health care services.

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Sister Louise (formerly Edward Louise) Schroeder celebrated her 70th jubilee. In the archdiocese, she served at St. Joan of Arc School in Indianapolis from 1959-62. Since 1991, she has ministered in various departments at Saint Mary-of-the-Woods, including residential and health care services.

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Sister Michaela Galvin celebrated her 70th jubilee. In the archdiocese, she taught at St. Thomas Aquinas School in Indianapolis from 1955-56 and as an adult education teacher in New Albany at Providence Self Sufficiency Ministries from 1999-2002. She served in transportation at Saint Mary-of-the-Woods from 2002-10. Sister Sheila devotes time now to a special prayer ministry at the motherhouse.

Sister Ann Paula Pohlman, a native of Indianapolis, celebrated her 60th jubilee. In the archdiocese, she taught at the former St. Catherine of Siena School in Indianapolis from 1968-74 and served as principal there from 1974-76. Sister Ann Paula currently tutors at St. Joseph School in Bradenton, Fla.

Sister Mary Catherine (formerly Marie Michele) Duffy, a native of Indianapolis, celebrated her 60th jubilee. In the archdiocese, she has served more than 25 years serving the Hispanic community in Indianapolis and currently ministers in the Marian Center in Indianapolis in immigration assistance. She served in Provincial Administration from 1978-86, and taught at St. Matthew School in Indianapolis from 1986-87.

Sister Donna Marie Fu celebrated her 60th jubilee. In the archdiocese, she ministered in Terre Haute at the former Sacred Heart School from 1956-57 and at the former St. Ann School from 1972. Sister Donna currently is a vocation promoter for Asia.

Sister Jane (formerly Dorothy Jane) Gibson celebrated her 60th jubilee. She ministered in Indianapolis at Holy Cross School from 1972-74, as housekeeper at the Cathedral from 1974-77 and at Cathedral High School from 1979-80, in outreach ministry from 1980-92, as a home health care giver from 1994-2008 and at St. Rita Parish from 2008-10. Sister Jane devotes time now to a special prayer ministry at the motherhouse.

Sister Carolyn (formerly John Michael) Glynn celebrated her 60th jubilee. In the archdiocese, she ministry at the former St. Anthony School in Indianapolis from 1958-61. Currently, Sister Carolyn is a volunteer with Catholic Charities in Bradenton, Fla.

Sister Marilyn Ann Kofler celebrated her 60th anniversary. In the archdiocese, she served in Brownsburg at St. Malachi School from 1959-61. Sister Marilyn Ann currently volunteers in immigration services in Chicago.

Sister Jeanette Marie Lucinio celebrated her 60th jubilee. In the archdiocese, she ministered at the former St. Paul School in Sellersburg from 1955-56 and at the former St. James the Greater School in Indianapolis from 1959-60. She currently ministers as director of the office for women religious in the Diocese of San Diego.

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