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## Archdiocese to celebrate Catholic school values

Annual dinner will honor six community leaders and raise funds for tuition assistance for needy families

The second annual "Celebrating Catholic School Values" dinner and awards celebration will be held on Jan. 15 at the Indiana Convention Center in Indianapolis.

At the dinner, Archbishop Daniel M. Buechlein will honor five Catholic school graduates who are leaders in the Indianapolis community with 1997 Career Achievement Awards. He will also present a Community Service Award to a Catholic who did not attend Catholic schools.

The archbishop and Daniel J. Elsener, archdiocesan secretary for total Catholic

education, will also announce the amount of funds raised for a permanent tuition assistance endowment for families throughout the archdiocese. The funds assist families who otherwise could not afford to send their children to a Catholic high school. Businesses, organizations and individuals throughout the archdiocese have contributed to this tuition fund.

Joseph P. Clayton of Thomson Con sumer Electronics in Indianapolis is chair for this year's "Celebrating Catholic School Values." Clayton is executive vice president for marketing and salesAmericas and Asia for Thomson, which manufactures and markets the RCA, ProScan, and GE brands. Thomson is the top manufacturer and marketer of color television and VCRs in the United States.

Alan Keyes, former United States am-bassador to the United Nations Economic and Social Council and former assistant secretary of state for interna-tional organizations, will be the keynote speaker at the dinner.

Those to be honored with Career Achievement Awards at the dinner are Harry Bindner, Walter F. Grote Jr., Rita V. Guynn, Sister of Providence Barbara McClelland and Joseph L. Smith Sr. G. Christopher Duffy will receive the Community Service Award. More information about the honorees will be provided next month.

Elsener said that "Celebrating
Catholic School Values" represents the
growing partnership between the archdiocese and the local corporate, business and civic communities. This partner-ship, like the archdiocese's "Making a Difference" campaign for center-city elementary schools, provides permanent need-based assistance for families who otherwise could not afford a Catholic education for their children. For more information about the

"Celebrating Catholic School Values" dinner, call the archdiocesan Office of Stewardship and Development at (317) 236-1415 of 800-382-9836, ext. 1415.

## Hispanics gather to honor Our Lady of Guadalupe

Archbishop says message of Guadalupe is a call to build the church

#### By Margaret Nelson

Archbishop Daniel M. Buechlein presided at the Mass honoring Our Lady of Guadalupe on Sunday, Dec. 8 at SS.

Peter and Paul Cathedral.

Except for a few song responses, the entire Mass was celebrated in Spanish. As

has been his practice for several years, the archbishop gave his homily in Spanish.

(See page 7 for the text.)

Archbishop Buechlein said that Our Lady of Guadalupe said "Yes" to the Lord.

After his death on the cross, Mary's agree ment became a commitment to serve the Lord and his church as an evangelizer.

He explained that the indigenous people had suffered greatly and the church had been frustrated in its efforts to reach them. With the apparition of Our Lady, a new people was created and the church was established in the New World.

Our Lady first appeared to Juan Diego on Dec. 9, 1531, as he was going to Mass. She told him to go to the bishop and ask him to build a church in the valley near Tepeyac. The bishop asked for a sign. Our Lady told Juan to gather the roses at the top of the hill (in winter). When he opened his cloak to give the bishop the roses, the prelate knelt. The image of the Blessed Virgin was on his tilma, just as Juan had seen her on the hill.

Archbishop Buechlein said that the central message of Our Lady of Guadalupe was to build the church. Through Juan Diego and the bishop of Mexico, that became a reality. And this is still the message of Guadalupe sage of Guadalupe—a call for everyone-as we approach the year 2000, he said.



The choir of St. Mary Church in Indianapolis, led by Maria Tapia, provides music leadership for the Mass honoring Our Lady of Guadalupe on Dec. 8 at SS. Peter and Paul Cathedral. Archbishop Daniel M. Buechlein presided, with seven other priests concelebrating.

About 600 Hispanic Catholics came from many areas of Indiana to join in the colorful festivities.

During the presentation of the offertory gifts, 7-year-old Ernesto Ruiz Jr. dressed like Juan Diego to bring roses to the archbishop. Long-time members of St. Mary Church, Dr. Ernesto and Margo Garrasco, presented the gifts.

Young people were highly visible, with 11-year-old Fabiola Casiana proclaiming the second reading dressed in a bright yellow dress, trimmed with stripes of many colors. Cesar Garcia, representing the youth group, offered the first reading.

Besides the archbishop and Father Rick Ginther, master of ceremonies and pastor of the cathedral, six priests concelebrated. Father Mauro Rodas, pastor

celebrated. Father Mauro Rodas, pastor of St. Mary Church in Indianapolis and director of the Hispanic Apostolate, introduced them in Spanish.

Father Kenneth Taylor, director of the Office of Multicultural Ministry, was present. Among all the Spanish words, the name of Jesuit Father Joseph Folzenlogen, coordinates of the Evangelization. coordinator of the Evangelization Commission, amused the assembly. Franciscan Father Thomas Fox, associ-

ate pastor for the Hispanic Community at St. Patrick; Father Michael O'Mara, co-pastor at St. Paul Catholic Center in Bloomington; Father Vincent Lampert, director of the Office of Pro-Life Activities; and Father Ron Ashmore, also concelebrated the Mass.

St. Mary's choir, with members from such Latin American countries as Colombia, Mexico, Peru, and Puerto Rico, joined Hispanics from the U.S The liturgical music also represented many different nations, as well.

The little English heard during the

Mass was in the music. During the response to the petitions, the assembly sang: "Oyenos mi Dios, oyenos mi Dios,"

Listen to your people, oyenos mi Dios."
And during the offertory song,
"Camina, Unido tu Pueblo" alternated between English and Spanish with re-frains: "Tu que nos das, Pan sabroso y vivo, danos de tu pan compartido, un pan de amor" and "Lord Jesus Christ, gather us together. Make us one bread, one body in vour lave." one body in your love.

Delia Diaz, pastoral minister for the apostolate for St. Mary and associate director of the archdiocesan Hispanic Apostolate, was pleased with the turnout for the event and that so many nations represen-ted. She explained that Our Lady has been

proclaimed the Mother of the Americas.
After the Mass, a fiesta was held at
the Archbishop O'Meara Catholic Center. Refreshments were served while

Center. Refreshments were served while young and old joined in music and dancing—including the macarena.

Several parishes planned Masses in honor of Our Lady of Guadalupe on her feast day, Dec. 12: St. Mary and St. Patrick in Indianapolis, and St. Paul Catholic Center in Bloomington.

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#### **Equality of Sexes**

Pope says that the equality of men and women must be promoted but it must be done with respect for the differences between

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#### **Ecumenism**

Pope and Anglican Archbishop George L. Carey of Canterbury meet for the first time since the Anglican Church began to ordain women.

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#### Seeking the Face of the Lord

Archbishop Daniel M. Buechlein, O.S.B.

# **Suffering:** a personal Adve

re the necessary prepara-tions for Christmas anything but peaceful for you? Are you feeling more melancholy than joyful in Advent and as you think of Christmas? Are you sick, perhaps even facing the fear of terminal illness? Are you feeling spiritually down? Does the joy of the sea-son in fact "rub salt in the wound"? Is this your first holiday season without a loved one? Have you been deserted by a friend? Does it seem like the season of hope excludes you? It may be time to stop and reflect on the nuanced meaning of Advent.

Advent is a Latin word that trans lates as "presence" or "coming." We are told that in ancient times it was a technical term used to indicate the arrival of a person in office, e.g., an emperor. Sometimes it meant the coming of a god or goddess who was emerging from the unknown and mak-ing his or her presence known in power or perhaps having it celebrated in a cultic ritual. Christians took on this term "advent" in reference to Jesus Christ who, as eternal King and Messiah, entered the poverty of our human earth and gave us reason to celebrate his visit among us. He is the one whom we meet when we gather

one whom we meet when we gather
for liturgy and prayer.
In simple words, Advent means
"God is present to us." Jesus Christ
has not gone away and left us alone.
Even though now Christ is physically
invisible as a human person, he is still here and he comes to us in many ways. God has visited his people and continues to visit us.

But sometimes the word "visit" is used to mean something unpleasant. For example, we say a country has been "visited" with a famine or plague. Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger, in a little book "Seeking God's Face," once said, "Illness and suffering can, therefore, like a great joy, also be a personal Advent."

If we feel down or stressed, or seri-

If we feel down or stressed, or seri-ously ill physically, emotionally or even spiritually, can we not say this too is a visit from God? Can this not be a visit from God who wants to enter our lives and get our attention? Sometimes Jesus wants to slow us down or even interrupt our busy activity for awhile. Perhaps he wants us to be quiet and realize that, after all, we do need God. Yes, suffering can be a personal Advent.

Maybe in the hectic pace of our everyday, workaday lives we have little time for Jesus and for ourselves. Sometimes we let ourselves get so preoccupied and busy with work or some cause or even another person that we let ourselves become possessed by that other person or thing or work. Why? Maybe we don't want to face ourselves, not to mention God. Secular society can possess us. Money can possess us. Pleasure can have us in its grip. When we do not have ourselves, we truly suffer. When we become driven by someone else or some thing else we lose our precious freedom of spirit. The loss of freedom is an often unrecognized cause of a numb-ing kind of suffering.

Can we not say, then, that some-times we need the personal Advent of suffering? Isn't it true that sometimes we need for God to intervene, to slow us down and to virtually compel us to be quiet? I am convinced that sometimes God allows situations to happen in which all we can do is wait. Some times God allows situations in which we must be alone. Perhaps he allows pain so that we learn to accept ourselves face to face with him. The virtue of patience is absolutely necessary if we want to be holy and free. I think holiness and freedom of spirit

are the same. Cardinal Ratzinger asked, "Is it true that God is waiting for me in this quietness? Is it not possible that he wants to do with me as the fourth Gospel says he does to the vine: 'Every branch that does bear fruit he prunes, that it may bear more fruit'
(Jn 15:2)?" If indeed this visiting of illness or some other suffering or interruption in my life is a visit from God by which he wants to "prune" or cleanse me for something greater, is that not freeing?

Suffering and inconvenient interruptions are part of life. No one escapes these reversals. Often enough we cause them! For us people of faith these are opportunities of grace. Indeed they are a personal Advent of the Lord. Whether we recognize them as such is one of the challenges of becoming holy. And so I come back to personal prayer. Without personal prayer the setbacks of life will seem fruitless because we do not recognize God's personal Advent.

Shoppers would shun

WASHINGTON (CNS)-For the

second year in a row, consumers told pollsters they would be willing to pay extra for goods they know were made without sweatshop labor and that they would avoid shopping at retailers they know sell items made under undesirable conditions.

able conditions.

sweatshop products

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buying at stores that cooperate to end abuse of garment workers. Seventy-nine percent of the survey respondents said they would avoid retailers that they knew sold garments made in sweatshops.

Six out of every 10 people surveyed in the study for Catholic-run Marymount University in Arlington, Va., said they would be more likely to do their holiday

Editorial Commentary/John F. Fink, Editor

## Those 'delicate subjects' in the church's history

Last week we published a story from Vatican City about meetings planned there about the Catholic Church's past involvement in anti-Semitism, the Inquisition, and other what-it-called "delicate subjects pertaining to church history.'

This is in line with Pope John Paul's call for us to reflect on the church's past as we prepare for the third millennium. When, in November 1994, he outlined his thoughts about preparations for that event, he said that the church needs to face the fact that in the past its members have given in to "intolerance and even the use of violence in the service of truth."

Last week in this space, we said that there is such a thing as objective truth and it resides in the Catholic Church. However, we also said that the church teaches that we cannot coerce someone teaches that we cannot coeffe someone to accept our religious doctrines. That was emphasized in Vatican II's "Declaration on Religious Freedom," approved by the world's bishops and signed by Pope Paul VI on Dec. 7, 1965. That makes it official Catholic doctrine.

Alas, it was not ever thus. There were periods in history when the church was quite intolerant. The first Papal Inquisition to combat heresy was established by Pope Gregory IX in 1231. Dominican friars in Germany, France and Italy were authorized to search out heretics, hear and judge them, and hand them over to civil authorities for punishment. That punishment included the death penalty. Later, in 1478, Pope Sixtus IV

approved the establishment of the Spanish Inquisition at the urging of King Ferdinand and Queen Isabella to punish Jewish and Moorish converts. If they didn't convert to Catholicism, they were expelled from Spain. This was part of church-approved persecution of the Jews.

The first major persecution of the Jews came in the Rhineland at the beginning of the 12th century. By the 13th century, hostility grew to such an extent that the Fourth Lateran Council in 1215 required

Jews to wear distinctive dress.

We also have to acknowledge that the church sanctioned burning heretics at the stake during a period of history when this was common. St. Joan of Arc, for example, was burned at the stake in 1431 after being found guilty of heresy by an eccle-siastical court. In the long religious wars in England, Queen Mary, in her zeal to return the country to Catholicism after the reigns of Kings Henry VIII and Edward VI, invoked the laws which provided capital punishment for heretics. Archbishop of Canterbury Thomas Cranmer and about or Canteroury Thomas Cantinet and additional 275 other persons were burned at the stake. (For this she earned the sobriquet "Bloody Mary.") Of course, this was not done by the official church.

It will be interesting to follow the constant of the constan

ferences in the Vatican on these "delicate subjects." Their purpose, as the pope said, will be to provide the opportunity for the church to express "profound regret for the weakness of her sons and daughters who sullied her face."

## Hermitage expansion at half-way point



Photo courtesy St. Paul Hermitage

Two halls, containing rooms for residents, project from each end of the dining room area of the new intermediate nursing care addition to St. Paul Hermitage.

Residents of St. Paul Hermitage in Beech Grove are excited about the progress at the south end of their building. The new nursing care wing is under construction there.

Building that began in early July of this year is due to be completed next June.

Designed to house 52 men and women who need 24-hour care, the wing also includes a dining/activity area, a nurses' station, an examination room, offices, and visiting rooms.

and visiting rooms.

The new wing will provide residents additional space, a view of the grounds, and easy egress in case of emergency.

Owned and operated by the Sisters of St. Benedict of Our Lady of Grace Monastery, St. Paul Hermitage currently cares for people in need of intermediate nursing on the third floor of the building—which was built in 1960. An additional 48 residents are living in retirement on the first dents are living in retirement on the first and second floors of the facility. The third floor will be renovated after

nursing care patients move to the new wing. Each apartment will have a living room, kitchenette, bedroom and bath.

The sisters, in collaboration with the archdiocese, will use these newly-renovated apartments to provide retirement housing for the clergy. A committee, re-presenting the archdiocese and the mona-stery, are designing them. Renovation is expected to take eight to 10 months.

The construction and renovation is possible because of a \$4 million program,

with contributions pledged by hundreds of individuals, corporations and businesses.

The nursing wing was designed by the architectural firm of Odle McGuire & Shook Corporation. The Skillman Corporation is construction manager.

Corporation is construction manager.

Benedictine Sister Mary Luke Jones, development director, said that each donor is remembered in the sisters' prayers. That includes everyone from the donor of \$1 million to the "one dollar pressed into my hand by an elderly woman who "wanted to be a part of it," she said.

"We are grateful for the opportunity to care for the aged and infirm and very grateful for the assistance of those who partner with us," said Sister Mary Luke.

#### Correction

Anna Knoble, fifth grade student who took top prize for her grade level in the "I Love to Read" competition, is from Holy Name School. In last week's Criterion her school was identified incorrectly. We evolve for the error. incorrectly. We apologize for the error.

## Resettlement Program treats refugees like Jesus

By Mary Ann Wyand

"Even Jesus was a refugee," the Sudanese man explained in halting

Melody Hays, job placement specialist for the Catholic Social Services Refugee Resettlement Program, often reflects on that image of Christ as she tackles the challenging and sometimes frustrating task of finding employment for people who speak little English.

"I will never forget the day Sudanese gentleman told me that in Bloomington," Hays said. "This man is a Christian, has a degree in theology, and is a refugee himself. I always try to remember what he said, that Jesus was a refugee from the time he was born. We are all God's children, and I believe we have a responsibility to each other."

Hays frequently relies on her Catholic faith to journey with refugees from Eastern Europe, the Far East, and Central America as she helps them

begin new lives in America.

"When I make the sign of the cross to some, they understand and smile," she said. "Many refugees come here with just the clothes on their backs and a few personal belongings because they have had to leave their homeland so quickly They have nothing, and have to start all in a country where they don't speak the language. Their lives were in danger, they were forced to leave their country, and the United States let them

Since joining the CSS Refugee Reset-tlement staff last fall, Hays has assisted people from Vietnam, Bosnia and Ukraine.



Photo by Mary Ann Wyans

Catholic Social Services Refugee Resettlement staff member Melody Hays uses gestures and an English-Vietnamese phrase book to communicate with a refugee family two days after their arrival in Indianapolis, Hays is helping the man and woman find jobs and become self-sufficient.

The three-member CSS refugee staff also has helped Haitians in recent years, she said. In coming months, the staff expects to assist Kurds who were banished from Iraq and are staying on the island of Guam pending their permanent resettlement in Indianapolis.

"If we had to walk a mile in their shoes, how would we do with an entireshoes, how would we do with an entirely new language and lifestyle?" Hays asked. "They have come a long way and they are thankful for their lives. They are so grateful to be safe here with their families. My job is to find out what type of work they did in their country and what kind of work they might do here. I try to make them feel welcome here, and let them know that I'm going to do

my best to find jobs for them. Our main program goal is to help them become self-sufficient as quickly as possible because they only receive financial assistance from the government for a

Refugees resettled in Indianapolis work hard because they value their jobs, she said, and are relieved to live in a place where they do not have to fear for their lives. The CSS staff continues to establish a network of employers who are willing to hire refugees.

'I work with translators and phrase books to help the refugees learn how to fill out job applications and understand what to expect in job interviews," Hays said. "They also begin English classes. Sometimes it's frustrating because the

language barrier prevents qualified peo-ple from getting skilled jobs they have been trained for and know how to do. Recently I have been working with a person who has the equivalent of a master's degree in organic chemistry, but has to learn how to apply that training and experience here and communicate

Some refugees owned factories or businesses, she said, and had comfortable lives before they had to give up their possessions, flee their homeland, and accept low-paying service jobs in America in exchange for their safety.
"The need to learn the English lan-

guage and solve transportation problems are their biggest obstacles," Hays said. "Our goal is to try to find jobs near where they live, and to help them learn

how to ride the bus to get to work."

Refugees also have to adjust to other cultural differences, she said, including weather conditions. Vietnamese refugees lived in a warm climate and never owned coats. They arrive at Indianapolis International Airport wearing light clothing.

Families previously resettled here are generous in befriending new arrivals and providing clothing or housewares, she said. The St. Vincent de Paul Society and CSS Crisis Center also offer assistance to the CSS Refugee

"This ministry is challenging and also frustrating at times," Hays said, "but it just comes down to being Christ-like to people in need. That's the bottom line. I have a picture of Jesus on my office wall so when I get frustrated I can look at it. I know that's why I am doing this job."

(Next: CSS Refugee Resettlement Program relies on volunteers and donations.)



Photo by Sharon Brich

On Nov. 5, students at St. Barnabas School in Indianapolis enjoy a helicopter visit from First Sgt. Al Verbish and Mike Baughmann of the Indiana State Police. The message was one of public safety, the ongoing "Say No to Drugs" campaign, and helicopter operations.

## The Grifferion

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Photo courtesy Knights of Columbus

Father Joseph B. Sheets, paster of St. Ambre in Seymour, stands with Larry F. Schuitheis, Grand Knight of Knights of Columbus counci #1252 during the groundbreaking for a \$1.2 million addition to the school and chaused. council donated \$50,000 for a school elevator.

#### Would you think these little refugees from Rwanda could smile?

Talf the children in their refugee camp in Tanzania have seen a family member

killed. Yet for each daily Mass, 1,000 adults and children gather. In the midst of fear and grief, they know Christ is with them: in the



Eucharist, in the faith of one another, and in the missionaries.

With your prayers and your Christmas gift through the Propagation of the Faith, you will help the poorest of the world come to know that in Christ, God is indeed with them, just as He is with us.

Won't you send your Christmas gift today?

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From the Editor/John F. Fink

## My decision to resign as editor of *The Criterion*

Idon't usually write about myself, but I thought I should say some-thing about the announcement of my intention to resign as editor of The Criterion at the end of the year. I didn't expect my announce-

ment to take people by surprise, as it seemed to do, because I thought most people were aware of my age.
The Archdiocesan Personnel Policies Manual states

that a lay employee's normal retirement date will be the last day of the month in which the 65th birthday is attained but that he or she may continue after that time with the consent of the department head. With my 65th birthday approaching, I had to decide whether to

accept retirement or to request an exemption.

After giving the matter considerable thought and prayer, I decided it was best if I did not ask to stay on in this position but to resign at the time my normal retirement would take effect. I think it's better to have people wonder why you retired than to have them wonder when you're going to retire-or why the old

I also didn't think it was fair to put Dan Conway, my immediate superior, on the spot by asking for an exemption from archdiocesan policy. After all, he didexemption from archdiocesan policy. After all, he didn't hire me and I thought it best to give the archbishop and Dan the opportunity to appoint someone of their own choosing. They have done that with the appointment of Bill Bruns as executive editor and Peter Agostinelli as managing editor. You'll see that the newspaper will be in good hands.

I think 12 years should be sufficient to accomplish the goals or objectives I had when I arrived. If I haven't been able to do it in 12 years (I haven't, but I suppose I'd never be satisfied), there's no reason to

suppose I'd never be satisfied), there's no reason to believe that I'll do it next year, or the year after. I think it's good for a periodical to get a change in

leadership occasionally so it doesn't get too stale. There was plenty of evidence in the comments in the Catholic Center Evaluation and Communications Effectiveness Studies that many people would agree that it's time for a change. The Criterion received more suggestions for improving what we do (some mutually contradictory) than any other archdiocesan agency. From some of the letters and phone calls I receive, I'm sure my resignation will make some people very happy—both those who think I'm too liberal and those who think I'm too conservative.

So I think it's best for The Criterion that I resign. It's also best for me personally to go on to do other things, even if I don't know yet what that might be. I am I retiring now while I'm still able to do something else rather than wait until I'm too old. I've noticed quite a few other people whom I admire doing the same thing. Although some people hold on for as long as possible, others know that it's time to move on and let someone younger take over. No one is indispensable in any position.

God has always let me know in the past what he wanted me to do and I'm sure he will continue to do so in the future. I was editor of *The Family Digest* and associate editor of *Our Sunday Visitor* for about 12 years, president and publisher of Our Sunday Visitor, Inc., for about 12 years, and editor of *The Criterion* for about 12 years. (Of course, there were also about five years when I was marketing manager and then executive vice president of Our Sunday Visitor, Inc., but I won't count that.) Now I have to see what I should do

for the next 12 years.

The first thing I plan to do is to treat myself to a constant of the second abbatical (although my wife has reminded me that most people who take a sabbatical have a job to return to). I plan to take the regular three-month sabbatical program at the Tantur Ecumenical Institute for Theological Studies in Jerusalem from Jan. 14 to April 10. What I do after that might be determined by what happens while I'm in the Holy Land.

I've been to the Holy Land seven times and each time has seemed too short. I've visited Tantur several times and have written about it. Tantur is the institute that Pope Paul VI asked Father Ted Hesburgh to found after the pope's visit to the Holy Land in 1964. He found property on the outskirts of Jerusalem, actually closer to Bethlehem. It is a unique place where people of various religions, but mostly Christian, study and pray together. I'll write more about it after I'm there.

pray together. I'll write more about it after I'm there. I appreciate the honor of being named editor emeritus of The Criterion by Archbishop Buechlein. We still have to figure out just what an editor emeritus does and we'll work that out after I return from my three months in the Holy Land. That will give the new editorial team more than three months to put their own stamp on this periodical and then and we'll see what, if anything, they might want me to do. In the meantime, I plan to continue to write this column. I'll also try to contribute continue to write this column. I'll also try to contribute articles if I'm not too busy with my studies.

#### A View from the Center/Dan Conway

## Advent is time to reflect on why the church insists on the absolute inviolability of human life

Pope John Paul II's encyclical, "The Gospel of Life," is



a profound Advent meditation on the positive aspects of the Fifth Commandment, "Thou shalt not kill." At a time when life is threatened at its weakest moments (the beginning and the end of life), the Holy Father offers all Christians, and all people of good will, a new look at why it is so important for us to affirm (and

defend) the sanctity of life.

The paradox of our time is the fact that human life is being threatened at the

same time there is a growing recognition throughout the world of the indispensable role of human rights and freedom in securing a true and lasting peace. On the one hand, human life is brutally oppressed and cheapened at the weakest and most subarrable moments. And at the weakest at its weakest and most vulnerable moments. And at the very same time, we exalt individual rights and democracy. The warning Pope John Paul II issues in "The Gospel of Life" is that if we do not come to a true understanding of why human life is so precious, we will never be able to sustain the politi-

life is so precious, we will never be able to sustain the political and economic freedoms that we cherish.

As we prepare for Christmas, the great feast of life, it's important to reflect on why the church insists on the absolute individuality of human life—at all stages of life, but especially in its weakest and most precarious circumstances.

According to Pope John Paul II: "All human beings, from their mothers' womb, belong to God who searches them and knows them, who forms them and knits them together with his own hands, who gazes on them when they are tiny shapeless embryos and already sees in them the adults of tomorrow whose days are numbered" (No. the adults of tomorrow whose days are numbered" (No.

61). The church affirms the active presence and loving care of God at every stage of human life. Because every human being "belongs to God" in the most intimate and personal sense imaginable, any efforts by individuals or governments to intervene in God's plan constitutes an assault on human dignity and a threat to human freedom.

When we forget that every human life belongs to God,

ace and the social order are also threatened because, as the peace and the social order are also threatened because, as the Holy Father says, "without an objective moral grounding not even democracy is capable of ensuring a stable peace, especially since peace which is not built upon the values of the dignity of every individual and of solidarity between all people proves to be illusory" (No. 70).

On the other hand, the pope says, "When human life is given its proper relevance and respect, the social climate is radically changed. It is therefore urgently necessary, for the future of society and the development of democracy.

the future of society and the development of democracy, to rediscover those essential and innate human and moral values which flow from the very truth of the human being and express and safeguard the dignity of the person: val-

and express and sareguard the dignity of the person: values which no individual, no majority and no state can
ever create, modify or destroy, but must only acknowledge, respect and promote" (No. 71).

It is impossible to separate human freedom from human
dignity. Where one is devalued, the other is also threatened.
"The Gospel of Life" challenges all Christians, and all people of good will, to affirm life from the moment of conception until the moment of natural death—and, in so doing, to
ensure a stable and lasting peace.

ensure a stable and lasting peace.

May the Prince of Peace, who was born among us as a man, help us to reverence all human life and, so, to prepare for true and lasting peace.

Stories, Good News, Fire/Fr. Joe Folzenlogen

## Moving into the neighborhood

One day I was driving toward downtown Indianapolis when a traffic light changed and I had a chance to pull up



behind the van ahead of me and read its bumper stickers. One of them said,
"Just visiting this planet." There was
something inside me that immediately
said a loud, "No!" Although our faith
clearly teaches us that there is life after death, that same faith makes it very clear that during our time on earth we are not "just visiting." And the reason for that is that we follow a Jesus who was much more than a visitor

We become very aware of that during this Advent We become very aware of that during this Advent and Christmas season. The beautiful prologue to John's Gospel reminds us that the Word became flesh and dwelt among us (John 1:14). The Greek word for "dwelt among us" actually means "pitched his tent among us." If we put that in the way we talk today, the Gospel is telling us that Jesus moved into our neighborhood. Jesus was not just visiting.

In the First Letter of John, the importance of Jesus' becoming truly human is underscored again. The question is raised about how one can test the spirits to see if they

is raised about how one can test the spirits to see if they come from God. And the response is, "By this you know the Spirit of God: every Spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is from God" (1 John 4:1-2). Our faith has always held that Jesus is both divine and human and has always resisted any attempt to erase either his divinity or his humanity. Jesus was not just visiting, and neither are we

I believe that Jesus' "moving into our neighborhood" models for us some important aspects of evangelization. First, what we proclaim is a person rather than simply a message. The faith that we offer is a relationship with someone who loves us rather than solely a set of ideas.

Second, if our sharing of Jesus is going to be credi-ble, then we have to do what he did—move into the neighborhood. A good way of posing the evangelization question is to ask, "What kind of neighbors are we?"
And that question needs to be asked not only about us individually, but also as faith communities. The stirring opening of Vatican II's "Constitution on the Church in the Modern World" affirms that the joys and the hopes, the fears and anxieties of the human race, especially of

the peor, these are the joys and the hopes, the fears and anxieties of the people of God.

Like Jesus, we are not just visiting. We have truly moved into the neighborhood, and like Jesus, we respond to the needs of the neighborhood with a boundary-breaking compassion. We Catholics are sometimes chided about our emphasis on "good works." But our real concern is not earning our way into heaven, but joining with Jesus in deep care for the pain, woundedness, hunger, loneliness, despair, poverty—the whole spectrum of the physical and spiritual needs and desires of our brothers and sisters in

Finally, because our faith in Jesus inserts us deeply into the neighborhood of humanity, we can never settle into a relationship with Christ which is purely individual. Nor can our faith communities ever become simply safe havens where we huddle together to avoid contamination from the big bad world.

The John 3:16 passage that we see listed on the signs in the background of sporting and other public events reminds us that God so loved that world that he gave his only Son to save it. And this time of the liturgical year drives home the fact that he saved it precisely by becoming

deeply part of it.

As followers of Jesus, we are called to share his mission to move into the neighborhood. Jesus was not just visiting

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#### To the Editor

#### Goals of Journey called inward-turning

On the last Sunday of the liturgical year, the Gospel seemed to make a clear point: We will, in the final analysis, be judged on what we do for others, especially those most in need—"whatsoever you did for the least..." The imagery of separating the saved from the condemned is a wakeup call, a reminder of what should be central to the meaning of being Christian.

Later that week I was struck by the contrast of this stark message to the stated goals of the archdiocesan Journey of Hope 2001. As compared with the above-cited Gospel, they seem to be very inward-turneven institutional: greater attendance at Mass, more confession, more generous donations, capital campaigns, more participation in ministry, increased number at religious education programs, reconciliation within our church, even prayer in our homes. While all of these are worthy, laudable, and probably necessary aims, there is a sense in which they all relate to better serving ourselves and the institution called church, without a visible connection to the Gospel of service. I do not think it a difficult task to link

these goals with our concern for, and action on behalf of, those in need. My hope is that this will be more specifically done as we proceed on our proposed jour-ney. My fear is that we will become caught up and self-congratulatory in the success of institutional numbers, whether they be people count or dollar count or even sacramental count. The Gospel seems to imply that the most important count is how many times we saw someone hungry, or thirsty, or naked, or in prison, or sick, and responded as Jesus would have us.

Robert Riegel Indianapolis

#### One reason for a lack of vocations

In reading the "Viewpoints" column concerning priestly and religious vocations in the Nov. 22 issue, some thoughts came to mind as to one of many reasons why there are so few vocations today. Those in religious life are not as visible today as in

In pre-Vatican Council II days, nuns wore the habits of their orders and priests wore the Roman collars and this distinguished them from the laity. They didn't seem to consider such clothing to be uncomfortable or impractical; they simply accepted it as part of their dedication to the religious life.

Whether we saw priests or religious in church or in public we knew, by their garb, that they had dedicated their lives to God in religion. This earned for them attitudes of respect and reverence from most people. When obvious joy and dedication to their vocation accompanied their reli-gious garb, it would follow that the seed of a vocation would be planted in the mind of many young people and these priests and nuns would be there to help nurture it.

In post-Vatican Council II days, most religious have given up their collars and habits for street clothes. So now what have they to identify themselves as religious? They still have the dedication, good works and joy for us to see, but so do many lay people. Without the identifying religious garb, there is nothing to connect these good attributes to a vocation to the religious life; therefore, many vocation seeds are not planted.

Chantelle Ubelhor

#### Need to educate Catholics about voting

The letter "Charge of Moral Laxity Is Morally Pompous," by Sharron Jaskunas, in the Nov. 29 issue of *The Criterion*. illustrates the need to educate Catholics on moral imperatives in voting.

Abortion is not necessarily a Republican

vs. Democrat issue. There are pro-life, proabortion, and indifferent people on both sides of the aisle. We are obliged to oppose pro-abortion politicians wherever they are.

The lady equates abortion with armament, gun control, environment, and welfare issues. This is morally indefensible even if her charges regarding Republicans were correct. They are not. National defense is the primary duty of the federal government. Would that our enemies were non-existent, as she states. Does she really believe that Republicans would eliminate
"aid to the poor, the disabled, the defenseless young" and destroy the environment? I challenge anyone to demonstrate these liberal calumnies and the immorality in

suggested repeal of gun control laws which control only the law-abiding.

The differences of degree in Republican and Democrat positions on these matters are debatable. It might surprise the lady to know that Catholics who believe charity in any form should not be a function of the federal bureaucracy are morally justified. None of these issues equate with the killing of more than 1.5 million babies a year. Abortion is a black and white issue in this relativistic world. Deliberate taking of the most innocent and helpless human life is an intrinsically evil abomination that cries out to heaven (and to the bishops) for mercy.

Sharron Jaskunas opines that an inflexible Catholic stand on abortion "adds fuel to the fire of the church and state controversy we thought we had put to rest with the election of John J. Kennedy." The election of JFK changed nothing. He ran for office under the banner of secularism and was the forerunner of nominally Catholic politicians who deny Christ as they hide behind those weasel words, "I am personally opposed but . .

The battle for survival of Christian culture in an increasingly secular world will not be won by timid or wavering

"Elijah appealed to all the people and said, 'How long will you straddle the issue? If the Lord is God, follow him; if Baal, follow him' " (1 Kings 18:21).

Kenneth de Maille Bloomington

#### Stop desecrating our church buildings

I had the opportunity to be "on the road" on election day and, as I drove past the various polling places, I couldn't help noticing the number of polls that were located in Catholic, Baptist, Lutheran and Episcopal churches, social halls and schools.



YOU CAN BRING GOD A CHRISTMAS PRESENT

I find it incomprehensible that Christians of any denomination would allow their holy and sacred grounds and buildings to be used to elect men and women as our representatives, judges and leaders who advocate the destruction of life through the sin of

As long as the destruction, rather than the preservation, of life is no more than one of many points in a political plat-form to be "won" or "lost" in debate, maybe we should no longer stand by as nonpartisans in support of a political process which allows this slaughter to continue.

Maybe we should refuse to allow the politicans to desecrate our church buildings in this way and should recommend that the polls be located at the abortion clinics instead.

Donald A. Burosh

Light One Candle/ Fr. Thomas J. McSweeney

## The most expensive Christmas gift

With Christmas Day fast approaching, your wallet is surely feeling lighter with each passing day. So it probably isn't fair of



me to draw your atten-tion to the sky-rocket-ing price of food just before you do your supermarket shopping for your holiday cele brations. A television commentator recently remarked that it used to

be that people cried when they peeled

onions; they they cry when they buy them!

In these last few days of Advent, we would do well to look at the high price of food, and whether it is worth the high . price. Not just any food, of course, but the food that is the Bread of life, the food that was born in Bethlehem Remember, Bethlehem means in Hebrew "the house of bread." And it

was there that God's priceless Christmas gift came into the world. Jesus later underscored this point: "I am the Living Bread that came down from heaven. Whoever eats of this bread will live forever" (Jn 6:51). In our churchour House of Bread-we offer this same gift in remembrance of Jesus. He gave himself to us first, yet patiently waits for our return offering. This, too, is part of the mystery of Christmas. If this Bread of Life is to be your Christmas offering to God, I urge you to walk carefully, more than if you were carrying the win ticket to the ultimate Lotto. For in this Bread we are offering nothing less than the world to God. Just as he offered eter-

A young woman has been bedridden for months, in terrible pain. She is dying of AIDS. We offer up her pain.-How costly is this food!

A mother watches with broken heart as her son whom she loves beyond all des-cription loses himself in drugs and crime. We offer up her sorrow.—How costly is this food!

There will be no Christmas dinner for 2-year-old Nthemba, one of millions in Africa and around the world who are dying of malnutrition. We offer up their hunger.—How costly is this food! Javier is 16. His father left the family

for good last week. "I never even got to know him," Javier cries. We offer up his tears.-How costly is this food!

Young men and young women, deeply in love but not loved in return. We offer up their loneliness.—How costly is this food!
The people in the land of that first

Bethlehem: like so many people in other places, living daily under the shadow of the gun and the fear of war. We offer up their terror. How costly is this food!

This Christmas we offer the whole world—its sorrows and hopes, the wound-ings and healings, the sadness of farewells, the delights of new discovery. Walk proudly, my friend, walk solemnly when you bear this Bread of Life within you.—How costly is this food!

In offering the world, we offer our own lives. That is our Christmas gift to God. But we only give what he gave us. If our offering to God costs us dearly, how much more expensive is God's offering to us? His was not just any life, but the life that is the Light of the world. He died and rose again so that our House of Bread, our Bethlehem, might sustain us with the food

of eternal life.—How costly is this food! Was the price of his Christmas gift worth it? We answer that question every day in the way we live out, or refuse to live out, the life of Christ within us. Make every time and place a Bethlehem—a House of Bread—and find that only in breaking his bread with each other are we ever truly nourished.

ever truly nourished.
(For a free copy of the Christopher
News Note "Living Peace, Giving
Peace," write to The Christophers, 12 E.
48th St., New York, NY 10017.)

#### Point of View/Alice Dailey

## All roads and hearts lead to home

In a happy little twist of an old saying, "You can't go home again," we say, "Oh yes you can, at least for



Christmas. Call it nostalgia, call it homing instinct, whatever; in this season of enchantment all roads and hearts lead to home

So, with joyful hearts we polish silver and the

house, and place wel-coming lights in the window for dear ones and a very Special Guest who is the inspiration for the celebration

In the company of family, with whom we shared our beginnings, we can relax, let our guard down. Since they "knew us when," there is no need for pretense. Reminiscing, a how, as kids, we fought, whined and tattled. We recall the May processions; of being honored as altar servers. As one, the male members totally agree that, despite the awe that modern, electronic wizardry brings, it can never compare with the awe of watching their first little electric train go round and round in circles.

Society may criticize such reminiscing as building bridges to the past. So be it. Christmas itself is such a bridge, a vital link to an unforgettable event in a Bethlehem stable. We do, however, build

bridges to the future in the sharing of hopes and plans. We're glad that fussy, greedy small fry,

who used to disrupt these get-togethers, have matured into responsible young adults with a grasp of the here and now. Sharing their valuable perceptions with wisdom of their "elders" results in a learning experience for all.

Regretfully, not all families enjoy such harmony. There are those, brooding about slights or hurts from the past, who have dis-tanced themselves from other clan members. Maybe one simple sentence spoken by the "culprit," "I'm sorry I hurt you. Please come home for Christmas," would melt the ice that

Regretfully, too, are some who have distanced themselves not from family from church. Mainly it is simply a matter of indifference, of going along with a sec-ular tide. But for others it hints of disdain, of scorn for a church they deem as boring

Thankfully, billions of the faithful see the church in a realistic light; as a firm founda-tion that no amount of wobbly, change-with-the-wind persuasion can shake. They know it as a comforting beacon, a star of Bethlehem if you will, guiding all who may be flounder-ing in a sea of discontent, of despair.

For all of us this can be a season of savor-ing, of promoting unity. Who can know how many more Christmases may remain?

## Goodbye to a Christian gentleman

Identifying someone as a "Christian gentleman" seems like a throwback to some moldy Victorian



some moldy Victorian time when men opened doors for ladies, and marched their families to church in lock step. It sounds faintly contemptuous or even insulting in these times of resolute gender equality.

But when a truly

But when a truly Christian gentleman appears in our lives we should put aside trendy skepticism. We should simply relax and appreciate a man whose character seems to be becoming more and more of a rarity.

Jack Fink is indeed a Christian gentleman, a good and graceful man in the best sense of the word. The Archdiocese of Indianapolis will miss his kindness, good humor and professionalism as editor of The Criterion when he leaves for new adventures at the end of this year.

If Jack has a fault, it's that he seems oblivious to the faults of others. Personality differences in the newsroom or elsewhere always take him by surprise, and he is slow to lay blame when others

are eager to point it out. Anyone who has been mildly chastised or corrected by him probably deserved a lot worse

probably deserved a lot worse.

This is not to say that he's wishy-washy or has no firm opinions. Jack has a strong sense of what is right, as is evident from his columns and editorials. He's also fair, one of the first things he did as editor of The Criterion was to establish a regular page for letters to the editor and to encourage contributions. And all of us readers know what a popular forum for "catholic" points of view that has become!

The "gentle" part of the word "gentleman" describes Jack well. He is kind and forebearing, not only with admiring old ladies at public church events (although he's that, too), but also with family, friends and co-workers.

When his colleagues experienced crises in their lives, Jack was always on hand to help. He sat with them in hospital waiting rooms, attended wakes and funerals for their loved ones, and juggled work schedules to accommodate their family problems.

modate their family problems.

For years, Jack has patiently led groups of travelers on trips sponsored by *The* 

Criterion. No amount of failed arrangements, elderly complaints or bad weather has ever evinced snide remarks or public impatience from him, according to his companions. And he always shared his travel experiences with co-workers and readers by way of thoughtful souvenir gifts and travel diaries.

Jack is properly respectful of the clergy and religious, another embarrassing trait by today's standards. He savors his friendships with them in this archdiocese, and in many others with which he is familiar. He also takes unsophisticated delight in his contacts over the years with several popes and other movers and shakers.

and other movers and shakers.

One of Jack's favorite things in the whole world is the Catholic Press Association, to which he has given much time and talent. Because of his leadership and effort the overall quality of Catholic journalism has improved, as well as the numbers of Catholic newspapers and periodicals and the international respect they command.

Perhaps the true test of a Christian gentleman is in his feet. Are they made of clay? Jack passes this one, too, since his wife, Marie, his kids and grandkids love and admire him and are not ashamed to say so publicly.

say so publicly.
We'll miss you at *The Criterion*, Jack.
Goodbye for now. God be with you.



indianapolis area alumni
of Xavier University
gathered on the near east
side of Indianapolis
recently for their annual
ignatian Day of Service.
The group put siding on a
house in cooperation
with the Eastide
Community Investment
group. Xavier University
is located in Cincinnati.

Xavier University alumni photo

### VIPs . . .

Dr. Bill Mirola, assistant professor of Sociology at Marian College in Indianapolis, has been selected to participate in the "Young Scholars in American Religion," program, funded by the Pew Charitable Trusts. Only 10 sociologists nationally are accepted into this program which begins in January. The goal of the program is to develop ideas and methods in a supportive workshop environment for teaching courses in the sociology of religion.

William S. Hicks, a speech and debate teacher at Brebeuf Jesuit Preparatory School in Indianapolis, has co-authored a textbook called "Basic Debate, Edition 4." The textbook is used for introduction to debate classes from the junior high through high school levels. Hicks also took 17 of the 19 photographs in the text, which features Brebeuf students and graduates. He has been on the faculty at Brebeuf Jesuit since 1984.



# Young Adult Conference February 1, 1997

Indiana Convention Center

- Keynote address by Anne Ryder WTHR Channel 13 News
- · Music provided by Just Friends
- · Lunch/Assembly with Archbishop Daniel Buechlein

For more information or to obtain a registration form please call: 317-236-1439, 317-236-1596 or 800-382-9836 ext. 1439 or 1596 or write:

Office for Youth, Young Adult and Campus Ministries 1400 North Meridian Street • P.O. Box 1410 • Indianapolis, IN 46206

#### Check It Out . . .

An Advent Silent Retreat will be offered Dec. 20-22 at the Benedict Inn Retreat and Conference Center in Beech Grove. For more information contact the center at 317-7581.

Holy Name Parish in Beech Grove will present Christmas Göncert XXXV at 3 p.m. and 6 p.m. Dec. 22. The concert will be held in the church located at 17th and Albany in Beech Grove. Boys, girls, and adult choirs will perform, presenting traditional and contemporary music of the season. An orchestra of strings, brass, and percussion will accompany, as well as organ and guitar. Tickets are available for \$5 per person and may be obtained by calling Marcia Cleary at 317-787-1682. Tickets for the 3 p.m. concert will be available at the door. The performance is under the direction of Jerry Craney, Holy Name Parish music director.

A program for "Woman in Healthcare" will be offered Dec. 19 at the Benedict Inn Retreat and Conference Center in Beech Grove. For more information contact the center at 317-788-7581.

A program titled "Women in Ministry," is scheduled Dec. 19 at the Benedict Inn Retreat and Conference Center in Beech Grove. For more information contact the center at 317-788-7581.

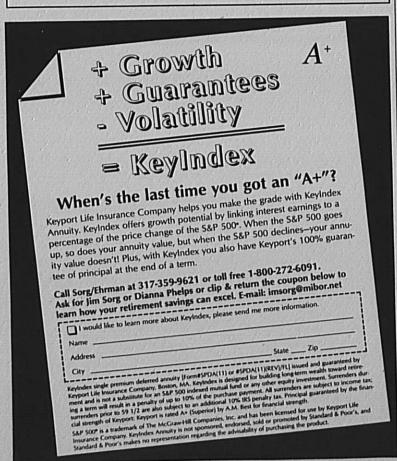
Male actor auditions for roles in William Shakespeare's "The Merchant of Venice," to be produced by Marian College in Indianapolis, will be held from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. Jan. 13 and 14 in the Peine Arena Theatre in Fisher Hall on the campus. Men in their 20s, 30s, 40s, 50s, and 60s are needed to play lead and supporting roles. No previous experience in Shakespearean acting is necessary, but familiarity with the play is helpful. No prepared reading is necessary. Production dates are Feb. 27, March 1, 2, 1997. For more information contact Jack Sederholm at 317-929-0292 after Jan. 9.

"The Beatitudes and the Twelve Steps: Model and Recovery," a retreat for divorced and separated persons will be offered Jan. 24-26 at the Mount St. Francis Retreat Center in southern Indiana. The program begins with registration at 7 p.m. Jan. 24 and concludes after lunch Jan. 26. The cost is \$90 for resident and \$65 for commuter. A \$25 non-refundable deposit is required. For more information call the center at 812-923-8817.

"On the Road Again: A New Year, New Beginnings," a day of reflection for those living with HIV or AIDS, will be offered Jan. 18 at the Benedict Inn and Conference Center in Beech Grove. Registration is at 9 a.m. The cost is \$10 per person, which includes continental breakfast, lunch, and dinner. Pre-registration is required. For more information or to request a registration form call 317-631-4006.

Single Catholic women, ages 20 to 40, who want to learn about monastic life are invited to attend a Benedictine Life Weekend Jan. 3 to Jan. 5 at the Monastery Immaculate Conception in Ferdinand. The weekend will focus on the theme "Hospitality as a Monastic Value." Participants will share in the prayer and community life of the Sisters os St. Benedict and meet other women who are also considering the religious life. the weekend gives women the chance to experience the monastic life without the pressure of making a decision to enter the religious community. The program is free. For more information or to register call Sister Rose Mary Rexing at 800-738-9999.

"Home for the Holidays," a seasonal musical, will be presented on weekends Dec. 13 through Jan.4 at Theatre on the Square, 627 Massachusetts Ave., in Indianapolis. Showtimes are at 8 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays and Sunday matinees begin at 2:30 p.m. Tickets are \$16. Discounts are available for seniors, students, and groups. For more information or for reservations call 317-637-8085.



# Our Lady of Guadalupe homily is given in Spanish

Queridos Hermanos:

Hace casi dos mil anos desde que la Virgin Maria dijo "si" por primera vez a Cristo Jesus. De este "si" se desprendio el gran trabajo de Maria de ser la Madre de Dios. Pero el compromiso de Maria no termino en la muerte de su unico hijo.

Leemos en el evangelio de San Juan las utlimas palabras de Cristo, "Mujer, ahi tienes a tu higo. Despues dijo al discipulo:

Ahi tienes a tu madre."

En este momento del "si" de Maria broto un compromiso que incluye a todas las gentes. De la cruz de Cristo, Maria recibio un nuevo mision: evangelizar a todo el mundo, anuciar la buena

¿Donde encontramos que se esta realizando este mision? Mas que todo en la iglesia ella sigue realizando su mision de madre y evangelizdora de todos los

Seven-year-old Ernesto Ruiz Jr. (left photo) portrays Juan Diego during the Mass in honor of Our Lady of Guadalupe at SS. Peter and Paul Cathedral on Sunday.

Archhishon Daniel M. Bucci (photo below) presides in Spanish at the Mass in honor of Our Lady of Guadalupe. His executive assistant. Jo nzalez, is seen to his right. nong concelebrants were Among concelebrants well-(from left) Jesuit Father Joe coordinator of the om left) Jeson Jizeniogen, coordinator er rchdiocesan Evangelization Franciscan Fa Commission; Franciscan Father Tom Fox, St. Patrick's associate tom rox, st. Parick's associate pastor for the Hispanic Community; Fathers Michael O'Mara, co-pastor at St. Paul Catholic Center in Bloomington; and Mauro Rodas, director of the chdiòcesan Hispanic postolate. The banner in the background is used by arch-

Photos by Margaret Nelson

discipulos de Jesus.

En el ano 1531 (mil quinientos treinta y uno) Mexico llego a un tiempo muy crit-ico en su historia. La gente indigena estaba completamente vencida por causa de la conquista espanola. Millones murieron por causa de guerra, enfermedad y desesperacion. Perdieron su religion, cultura hasta su espiritu. Parecia que llegaba el fin para la gente de Mexico.

Al mismo tiempo la situacion de la Iglesia era muy critica. ¿Como evange-lizar a esta gente? ¿Como mostrarles el amor de Dios para con ellos? En primer lugar fue duro para los indigenas aceptar el Evangelio de la misma gente que los conquisto. En segudo lugar, como explicar la Buena Nueva a los indigenas, de tal manera que la entiendan.

Ante esta situacion la Virgen Maria se le aparece a Juan Diego para comenzar una nueva manera de evangelizar, atrayendo a todos sus hijos como un nuevo pueblo. Esta mision de Maria no solo re-queria de su colaboracion sino tambien de todos los cristianos. Porque el "si" de Maria es el "si" de cada uno de nosotros si queremos ser discipulos de su Hijo. Pues como dice Jesus en el Evangelio de San Marcos "¿Quienes son mi Madre y mis hermanos? . . . el que hace la voluntad de

Dios es hermano mio y hermana y madre."
El mensaje central de nuestra Madre
Santisima de Guadalupe es la construccion de un templo. Pero no un templo meramente material sino el templo de un nuevo pueblo, una nueva familia en la que cada uno de sus miembros tiene un lugar importante y una mision que cumplir.
Como lo muestra elle al pedir la colaboracion no solo de Juan Diego sino tambien la del Opisbo Juan de Zumarraga.

Es importante notar que Maria le pide a

Juan Diego dirigirse con el Obispo siendo el una persona humilde y que ante los ojos de los demas sin ningun valor, lo envia unicamente con el don de fe. Por otra parta el Obispo por su fe pide una senal, que ahora tenemos como la imagen de nuestra senora de Guadalupe. Es por estos esfuerzos que Mexico fue convertido a una nueva fe y con una nueva esperanza.

Ahora nos encontramos muy cerca del ano dos mil, celebrando el milagro de la Virgen de Guadalupe. Venimos hoy a este templo porque no motivados unicamente por un sentimiento sino mas bien porque la Virgen de Guadalupe continua llamandonos a ser Iglesia. Como los indigenas encontramos a Maria como simbolo de liberacion.

Del caos de nuestra vida, de los sufrimientos que tenemos puede venir una nueva creacion, una nueva esperanza si ponemos nuestra confianza en ella. Pero no solamente venimos a Maria con nues-tras plegarias sino tambien venimos a ella para escuchar su mensaje de construir el templo de Dios por quien se vive. Este es un trabajo que requiere de todos. Al acercarnos al ano dos mil, el Papa

Juan Pablo Segundo nos hace un llamado a comprometer todas las energias de la Iglesia en una nueva evangelizacion. El papa descubre que estamos viviendo en un mundo que no respeta la vida, en un mundo plenamente materialista. Es por eso que muchos de nosotros nos conformamos con ser solamente creyentes.

Pero la nueva evangelizacion exige de nosotros hacer a un lado la indiferencia y la flojera. La Virgen de Guadalupe puede ser un buen modelo en nuestro tiempo. Su mensaje de construir la Iglesia vale ahora mas que nunca cada uno tiene un valor y una mision de con-struir un nuevo pueblo de Dios.





### Crisis Office needs clothing help

The Catholic Social Services Crisis Office need volunteers for its clothing room Monday through Friday for three to five hours per day. The office is located in the Xavier Building of the Archbishop

O'Meara Catholic Center at 1425 N. Illinois Street in Indianapolis. Parking and security are on site. Those wishing more information may call Marge Hittle or Patty Colbert at 317-236-1556.



First grade classes of Mrs. Brown and Mrs. Gregory at St. Jude School in Indianapolis dress in outfits they made, to look like Indians and pilgrims. After preparing friendship stow, combread, popcorn, pumpkin pie and apple juice, they biessed the food and ate a Thanksgiving feast. Afterwards, some of the students read accounts of the first Thanksgiving and displayed their art projects.

## A modern experience in the Catholic tradition.

If you're interested in attending a liberal arts college that prides itself on its Catholic heritage, consider Bellarmine College in Louisville, Kentucky.

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## BELLARMINE

Louisville, Kentucky

## Pope, Anglican leader meet, will continue dialogue

They acknowledge 'the obstacle to reconciliation caused by the ordination of women' in parts of the Anglican church

By John Thavis, Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY—With the Anglican ordination of women seeming to block Roman Catholic-Anglican unity, the heads of the two churches called for respect and

understanding of their respective positions.
Pope John Paul II and Archbishop
George L. Carey of Canterbury, head of the worldwide Anglican Communion, met privately Dec. 5 and later exchanged formal speeches.

It was their first meeting since the Church of England, which Archbishop Carey heads, began ordaining women in 1994. It was also the first meeting since Pope John Paul formally declared in 1994 that the church has no authority to ordain women because such a practice would go against the example of Jesus and the unbroken tradition of the church.

In a joint declaration signed after an evening prayer service, the pope and the archbishop wrote of "the new situation" and "the obstacle to reconciliation caused by the ordination of women as priests and bishops in some provinces of the Anglican

"In view of this, it may be opportune at this stage in our journey to consult further about how the relationship between the Anglican Communion and the Catholic Church is to progress," it said.

Archbishop Carey, at a press conference earlier in the day, said, "We have agreed to convene a meeting to review our past progress and future agendas."

The meeting, he said, would take place

after the Second Anglican-Roman Catholic International Commission, known as ARCIC II, completes work on a statement about authority in light of Scripture and tradition. The document is

expected to be completed in 1997.

Neither the pope nor the archbishop specifically mentioned women priests in their formal speeches, referring instead to "new obstacles" to Anglican-Roman Cath-olic unity. Pope John Paul, however, did point to disagreements over women's ordination when he and Archbishop Carey gave homilies that evening at a prayer service at Rome's St. Gregory Church.

"Sadly, we are faced with disagree-ments which have arisen since we entered into dialogue, including disagreements about conferring priestly ordination on women," the pope said in his homily, "This question puts into clear relief the

need to reach an understanding of how the church authoritatively discerns the teaching and practice which constitute the apos-

tolic faith entrusted to us," he said.
While positions on both sides seem firm, Pope John Paul and Archbishop Carey pledged to continue the ecumenical journey and to support the official Anglican-Roman Catholic dialogue commission.

"The path ahead may not be altogether clear to us, but we are here to recommit ourselves to following it," the pope told the archbishop.

"The dialogue between us will continue, no matter what barriers-even ones that seem insurmountable from a human point of view—are in the way," the archbishop said at the evening prayer service.



CNS photo from Reuters

Canterbury Archbishop George L. Carey and Pope John Paul II share in a blessing Dec. 3 at the Valican. The head of the Anglican church was in Rome for meetings and prayer with the pope.

During the morning meeting, which began and ended with warm smiles and firm handshakes, Pope John Paul and Archbishop Carey gave each other gifts symbolic of two key areas of disagreement between their churches: the Eucharist and

authority in the church.

Archbishop Carey gave the pope a silver box, lined with English yew wood, for carrying hosts.

Pope John Paul gave the archbishop a gold pectoral cross, and he gave the four

Anglican bishops in Archbishop Carey's entourage silver pectoral crosses.

Both leaders praised the work carried out over the past 25 years by ARCIC and said the dialogue commission would con-

tinue searching for a common understand-

ing of divisive theological questions after a period of reflection.

"The commission's current study of teaching authority in the church can be of great help in the face of new areas of disagreement which have accounted agreement which have emerged in recent

years," the pope said.

The question of authority includes not only top positions of power and leadership in the church, but also the question of who has the authority to decide if women may

"My particular responsibility as the successor of Peter for the faith and unity of the church leads me to invite my brothers and sisters of the Anglican Com-munion to reflect on the motives and reasons of the positions I have expressed in the exercise of my teaching office," the pope said.

The hoped-for unity, he said, must be

based on "a common understanding of the mind of Christ in every crucial aspect of the constitution of the church."

In his own apparent reference to the ordination of women, Archbishop Carey

told the pope, "We recognize that other obstacles have been seen by some as obtruding themselves into the path of swift progress toward full, visible unity.

"However, as ecumenical partners," Archbishop Carey said, "we are called to affirm the integrity of the other, knowing that decisions will sometimes be made which we ourselves find difficult."

At the evening prayer service, Arch-bishop Carey also said Roman Catholics and Anglicans can learn from the other's differences.

The acceptance of "legitimate diver-sity" has marked English Christianity since 597 when Pope Gregory the Great sent the monk Augustine to evangelize Britain, the archbishop said at the church where Augustine's mission was commis-

The future St. Augustine of Canterbury brought the English customs and practices from the Roman and Celtic Christian tradi-

tions, Archbishop Carey said.
"It is, of course, a sadness to us all that This of course, a sadness to us at that the ancient and historic sees of Rome and Canterbury are separated," the archbishop said. "Nevertheless, God does not abandon us in our separation. We are given his grace and learn much in our own pilgrimage which has the potential to enrich any future union with those from whom at present we are separated."

Even if the way ahead is not clear, Archbishop Carey told reporters, "we simply have to trust God."

Looking toward the formula for the contract the formula for the formula for the contract the formula for the formul grace and learn much in our own pilgrim-

Looking toward the future, the archbishop said he and the pope discussed the possibility of leaders of the world's main Christian churches gathering together for a joint celebration marking the year 2000.
Orthodox and other leaders would have

be consulted in order to determine the date and place for such a meeting, he said.

#### Cardinal Ratzinger agrees to remain as doctrinal head

By John Thavis, Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY—Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger said he has agreed, with some reluctance, to stay on as head of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith.

The 69-year-old German theologian, whose third five-year term at the congregation expired Nov. 25, said he would not mind if someone younger took over, but for now Pope John Paul II had asked him

"For now I have to continue to carry out my job, because the Holy Father wants it. But I hope this doesn't continue for too much longer," he said. His new term would extend until the year 2001, but it is possible for Vatican officials to leave office before their full five years is completed.

Cardinal Ratzinger has reportedly said Cardinal Ratzinger has reportedly sale he would like to spend more time writing books over the coming years. His job at the, helm of the doctrinal congregation has not been an easy one, he said.

"After 15 years of managing this congregation, which has been truly demanding on me, and at almost 70 years of age.

ing on me, and at almost 70 years of age, it's normal to feel a little exhausted," he

said.
"I'd really like to see a new person come in, with new ideas and a new tem-perament," he said.

Cardinal Ratzinger made the remarks to the Italian news agency ADN Kronos Nov. 22. A spokesman for the cardinal later said they reflected his sentiments, although an official letter from the pope extending his mandate had not yet arrived.







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## Pope says equality of sexes must respect differences

Conference on women explores how equality and differences can lead to collaboration, unity and communion

By Cindy Wooden, Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY—The equality of men and women must be promoted, but it must be done with respect for the differences between the sexes, Pope John Paul II said.

"Equality goes hand in hand with the recognition of the differences inscribed by creation," the pope told participants in a Dec. 6-8 conference on women sponsored by the Pontifical Council for

The meeting was designed to reflect

on the experiences and implementation of the 1994 U.N. Conference on Women and to continue a dialogue with and about women called for by the pope, said Archbishop J. Francis Stafford, for-mer archbishop of Denver and president

of the council.

The pope told the 130 participants that the Vatican delegation's message at the conference was that "all people must be respected for themselves, in the integrity of their bodily, intellectual and spiritual being, in a way that can never be debased and considered and treated as an object or instrument at the service of political and economic interests."

Respecting women for who they are, he said, includes recognizing and respecting the ways they are different from men, but those differences are not to be used as a basis for discrimination.

Archbishop Stafford told Catholic News Service Dec. 9 the key points of discussion at the meeting were:

• How the equality and differences

between women and men must lead to

collaboration, unity and communion between male and female as a reflection of the Trinitarian life of God.

• The "anthropological catastrophe" caused by decades of communist rule in

Eastern Europe.
"There is little sense of wonder before the gift that is everywhere about us, especially the gift of our dif-ferences in the one human nature. So one of the responses to that was the church's responsibility to keep alive the sense of wonder and awe before the gift of creation and redemption,"

• The overwhelming "culture of death" in the world, which particularly impacts the woman, "the one who has been especially and primarily entrusted with human life as gift."

Participants explored what they saw as "the prophetic element of what it means to be feminine, and that is to be the guardian of life."

 The concepts of empowerment and rights as they were used at the U.N. Women's Conference, and whether or not they are terms appropriate for use in the context of the church. "There was a strong affirmation of

the Holy Father's desire to take what is best in contemporary culture, and these may be among the better ideas" if placed within a Christian context, Archbishop Stafford said.

· The need for everyone in the church—male and female, ordained or to the word of God, then accepting
God's will for one's life. "Ours has become a world in which everyone, men and women alike, is characterized by an overemphasis on the mas-culine and a diminution of the feminine," Archbishop Stafford said.

"If there is to be a future, we must reappropriate the order and primacy of love and we must learn from woman,"
the archbishop said in his Dec. 6 introduction to the meeting.
The Virgin Mary is the most perfect

model for both women and men, he said. The message of her life is that "the primary human activity is not to seek in order to grasp and acquire, but to receive in order to give back."

Bruna Costacurta, a professor of theology at Rome's Gregorian University,

told participants that the way the biblical creation story is written emphasizes the fact that God had not completed making the human being until he had created male and female. "It is to the still-undifferentiated being that God said, 'It is not good that you should be alone,' " she said. "Creation is all good, all beautiful,

but the human being of which Genesis 2 speaks has still not reached completion; there is something missing before this work is truly good and beautiful,' Costacurta said.

Without the possibility and reality of an interpersonal relationship, she said, humanity has not reached the heights God planned for it.

### Vatican encourages work of U.N. Agency for Palestine Refugees

By Tracy Early, Catholic News Service

UNITED NATIONS-The Vatican will demonstrate its continuing support of the U.N. Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East by making another symbolic contribution of \$20,000 to its 1997 budget, the Vatican nuncio to the United Nations announced Dec. 5.

That is the same amount given to the current 1996 budget and those of sever-

al previous years.

Addressing the annual pledging confer-Addressing the annual pledging conference for the agency, Archbishop Renato R. Martino said the gifts were meant to express the Vatican's encouragement for the programs helping Palestinian refugees.

As in past years, he used the pledging conference as an opportunity to point out that the Catholic Church was also siding Palestinian refugees through its

aiding Palestinian refugees through its own agencies and programs.

The Pontifical Mission for Palestine, established in 1949, the same year as the U.N. agency, served as a channel for \$6.8

million contributed by various agencies in the past year, the nuncio said.

"Beyond these generous gifts, I take the opportunity to point out that the Catholic Church sustains and operates numerous schools in the region, foremost among them being Bethlehem University," said Archbishop Martino. He also named the Tantur Ecumenical Institute for Theological Studies and various special medical facilities.

"All these institutions operated by the local church and sustained by generous donors worldwide serve on the basis of

need, not creed," he said.

Edward W. Gnehm, speaking on behalf of the United States, said it would again contribute \$70 million to the 1997 core budget, the same amount it gave to the 1996 budget. It also made an allocation of \$10.6 million for special projects.

The agency's financial report showed total 1995 income at \$316.9 million, down from \$341.6 million the year before.

Peter Hansen, commissioner general of the agency, said in a statement to the pledging conference that despite severe cost-cutting measures, the agency faced a deficit of up to \$50 million next year. A meeting of major donors and host governments to discuss this situation was set for Dec. 11 in Amman, Jordan, he said. The refugees see the agency's services

s a symbol of the international community's political commitment to them, and cutting programs could have political implications for stability in the region, Hansen warned.

The agency provides aid to 3.3 million Palestinian refugees in Jordan, Lebanon, Syria, West Bank and Gaza.

### Bishops' president urges Clinton to boost level of foreign aid

#### By Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON—Generous foreign aid is not an extravagance for the United States "but a moral responsibility," said the president of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops in a letter to President Clinton.

"A leadership position among nations demands, as Pope John Paul II consistently reminds us, that developed

consistently reminds us, that developed nations respond with generosity to the needs of the world's poor," wrote Cleveland Bishop Anthony M. Pilla, president of the bishops' conference.

The letter was written at the request of the U.S. bishops in a vote during their mid-November meeting in Washington. Dated Nov. 15, the letter was released by the NCCB Dec. 5.

It notes that through its charitable programs, such as Catholic Relief Services, the U.S. church is attuned to the needs, suffering and early death of millions of

suffering and early death of millions of people in the poorest parts of the world.
"We also know what U.S. commit-

ment and leadership can mean in preventing these deaths and avoiding terrible human tragedies," it said. "As one of the wealthiest of industri-

al nations, our country should be in the forefront of international development assistance," Bishop Pilla's letter said.

"Unhappily, we stand at the bottom of the industrial nations in the proportion of GNP devoted to aid for the poorest countries.

"Recent and continuing persistent cuts in U.S. foreign assistance have dramati-cally impacted the ability of Catholic Relief Services and other aid agencies to serve the poor," he continued. "These cuts have required us to scale back or abandon vital needed health, nutrition

and agriculture programs.

"Continuation of this trend could further cripple our capacity to respond to the suffering and to serve as an American presence in the midst of con-flict and chaos."

Bishop Pilla asked Clinton to lead the nation in honoring its obligations of justice and charity toward "the most vulnerable of our brothers and sisters in the world."

He encouraged "the highest feasible level of increase" in aid that promotes

grass-roots development and emergency relief and for programs that meet basic human needs.

"As you prepare to begin your second term, I assure you, Mr. President, of our prayers and good wishes," concluded Bishop Pilla. "We ask you to provide effective leadership in reversing this tragic erosion of American commitment in helping our poorest sisters and brothers to live in dignity."



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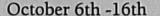
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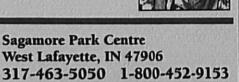


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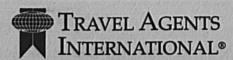
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## Rabbi calls for Vatican inclusion in Jerusalem talks

Rabbi David Rosen says the issues are not only religious but also relate to property and financial matters

**By Judith Sudilovksy** 

Catholic News Service

IERUSALEM-The Vatican and other Christian churches should be involved in the negotiations over Jerusalem, said Rabbi David Rosen, who was a member of the committee that drew up the Vatican-Israeli agree-

ment three years ago.
"They should be involved because (Jerusalem) is not exclusively a question of sovereignty but also a religious question in terms of different religious attachments," said Rosen, also the Anti-Defamation League's co-liaison to the Vatican. "But these religious (issues) are not only religious but also relate to property and financial matters." The Vatican has indicated its interest

in participating in multilateral talks when the issue of Jerusalem is tackled by Israeli and Palestinian negotiations.

Rabbi Rosen said the issues of religious attachment and jurisdiction, sov-ereignty and functional matters need to be separated. The status quo among the churches in terms of control over certain religious locations, in place since 1967, would remain, he said.

Jerusalem is not just a question of bilateral relations but of international interests, the rabbi said.

The question of the status of Jerusalem was left for the last stage of negotiations in the final status talks, which have stalled over the issue of the West Bank city of Hebron. One possible way of dealing with the

issue of Jerusalem, he said, would be to create a "borough" system whereby each individual neighborhood would be responsible for its own affairs.

This would mean that people in Arab neighborhoods within Jerusalem would have as much control over their daily lives as would the ultra-religious Jewish neighborhoods. Rosen said he sees this process of decentralization already beginning in certain ultra-religious neighborhoods that want to be in control of their own educational and social

However, he said, it might not be numerically feasible to create an independent Christian borough in Jerusalem because of the low number of Christians in the city, and that maybe a solution would be to create a joint Armenian-Christian borough. The city's Armenians generally belong to the Ortho-dox Church, but there are also some

Armenian Catholics living in Jerusalem.

"Still, we would have one municipality which—by virtue that there are more Jews than Arabs living here—would be Jewish," said Rosen. "It would be one city serving two entities."

Another possible solution to the prob-lem of having a Palestinian Authority official presence in Jerusalem could be to locate Palestinian Authority offices in areas Palestinians consider to be part of Jerusalem that Israelis do not, such as the southern Arab village of Abis, said

There is only one intrinsically holy lace for Jews, he said, and that is the Holy of Holies, which was located

inside the Biblical Temple, where the Muslim Dome of the Rock now stands. The sanctity of all other places emanates from that one spot, he said.

For Muslims a site inside the Dome of the Rock is sacred because they believe that is where the rock on which God asked Abraham to sacrifice Ishmael is located, and where the prophet Mohammed ascended into the heavens,

he said. For Christians Jerusalem is sacred because it is the site of the crucifixion of Jesus.

"In terms of peace we have to recognize the emotional attachment of the Arab world to this particular location, but I also very much hope that the Arab world—both Christian and Muslim—appreciate what it is the Jewish people are giving up," he said.

#### Chinese officials rebuke pope for remarks on religious freedom

They accuse the Vatican of interfering in the country's domestic affairs

#### By Catholic News Service

BEIJING—Chinese officials rebuked Pope John Paul II for his remarks on religious freedom in China in early December, demanding that the Vatican stop "interfering" in the country's domestic affairs.

News agencies in China reported that a Foreign Ministry spokesman said the Vatican "must cease its interference in China's internal affairs, including . . . by making use of religion."

The spokesman, who was not named, added that the Chinese government respects its citizens' religious freedom.
The Chinese Catholic Patriotic Asso-

ciation, which is sanctioned and supervised by the government, claims 3 million members. An additional 3 million to 10 million "unauthorized" Catholics remain

loyal to the Vatican, and try to retain ties to it despite government suppression.

In a Mass for China broadcast on Vatican Radio Dec. 3, Pope John Paul urged China to let its Catholics have offi-cial links to the Vatican.

'Let the civil authorities of the People's Republic of China be reas-sured: A disciple of Christ can live his faith in any kind of political order as long as there is respect for his right to act according to the dictates of his con-science and faith," the pope said. China severed ties with the Vatican

after Pope Pius XII declared invalid government appointments of Chinese bishops in 1958. The Vatican then formed diplomatic relations with Taiwan, further irritat-

ing the Chinese government.

"China is willing to improve its relations with the Vatican" the Foreign Ministry official was quoted as saying Dec. 5. "However, the Vatican must sever its so-called diplomatic relations with Taiwan, and recognize the government of the People's Republic of China as the sole legal government of China, and Taiwan as a part of Chinese territory.'

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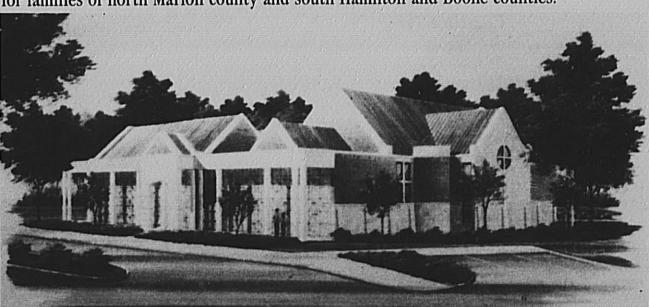
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# Faith Alive!

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## God calls faithful to make Christ present in world

By Fr. Eugene LaVerdiere, SSS

If the poor Magi returned, they would be aghast at the commercialism surrounding Christmas. Imagine them running into Santa Claus!

It is quite a challenge to keep the Christian feast of Christmas from becoming a winter secular festival. Lest the challenge seem too big, we should remember how the feast of Christmas

It was in the fourth century when Christians took the Roman winter festival of the Unconquered Sun and transformed it into the feast of Jesus' birth as

the Unconquered Son of God.
Today, keeping Christ in Christmas is an enormous challenge. But there is an even greater challenge: keeping Christians in Christmas. Let me explain. In our celebration of Christmas, our

tendency is to look back 2,000 years to when Joseph and Mary, who was with child, traveled to Bethlehem and Mary gave birth to a son she named Jesus.

But, instead of looking backward, a good celebration of Christmas starts by looking forward. We do that, starting with the very beginning of the church's Advent season.

Yes, Jesus was born 2,000 years ago. He came as the presence of God to the human race. But that was only the

Jesus is still coming into the world! He continues to do that in and through us Christians every day. He will continue to do that until he is fully present in the world!

We call that full presence of Christ

the Second Coming.
In fact, the Second Coming already has begun. It is our Christian responsibility to contribute to Christ's coming, to make Christ more and more present in the world, in our cities, our neighbor-hoods, and our homes. We do that by reaching out to the poor, the lame, and the blind around us as Jesus did throughout his life on earth.

The greatest poverty is the lack of faith, love and hope. Those who are truly lame and crippled are unable to walk or even limp in the following of

Those who are truly blind cannot see the goodness of God in their midst, in the smile of an old couple holding hands, in a child studying the mystery of a flower unfolding, in a young couple in love.

Reaching out with a smile, a prayer, a kind gesture, a greeting—sometimes with

a small gift—to the poor, the lame and the blind, we make Christ more present.

It is not just a question of getting ready for the Second Coming. It is a matter of making it happen progressively each day until Christ is fully come. We make our-selves ready for Christ's coming by contributing to it, placing ourselves as Christians at his disposal. Born again from above, we Christians

become living signs of Christ's presence in the world. It is not a matter of motivating ourselves or others; it is a matter of realizing who we are.

That is the challenge of Christmas: looking forward to and contributing to the coming of Christ. When we take up our responsibility for Christ's coming, the Christmas event will be told as a story of Gospel hope.

Recall the message of the angel to the shepherds: "Do not be afraid; for shepherds: Do not be arrand; for behalf of proclaim to you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For today in the city of David a savior has been born for you who is Messiah and Lord" (Luke 2:10-11).

When we keep ourselves as Christians in Christmas, we keep the Gospel in Christmas and Christmas is truly a proclamation of the Gospel of hope

When we approach Christmas as an opportunity to proclaim the coming of Christ through what we do and what we say, we can really appreciate the story of Jesus' birth.

At Christmas we not only proclaim Christ's Second Coming, we celebrate his first coming 2,000 years ago when Mary gave birth to the Son of God, wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger because there was

But when we celebrate the birth of Jesus, his first coming, we do so in light of his Second Coming and of our responsibility as Christians to make him present in the world.

The danger otherwise is to reduce the celebration of Christmas to an annual exercise in romantic nostalgia. As a nostalgic celebration, Christmas becomes an escape from reality. Then it loses its Gospel challenge and is no longer good

Just as all is grace, all is faith. And faith is based on what God has done for us in history. What God did in the first coming was a promise. At Christmas we celebrate the promise made in the birth of Christ. We also make him present in love and hope, looking forward to his Second

(Blessed Sacrament Father Eugene LaVerdiere is a Scripture scholar and senior editor of Emmanuel magazine.)



CNS photo by Mary Ann Evans

During Advent, we await the Second Coming of Christ, not his first. When we take responsibility for Christ's coming, Christmas is a proclamation of the Gospel of hope.

#### Advent readings remind Christians that it is a holy season of waiting

By Fr. Lawrence E. Mick

During Advent, we do not pretend Christ has not yet come. We know he was born at Bethlehem and died and rose to new life at Jerusalem. Our faith and worship are based on the fact that the Son of God became human and lived

But Advent still is a season of waiting. Our hymns and prayers cry out for the Lord to come to save us. We await the second coming of Christ, not his first coming. Advent readings remind us of this truth.

The prophet Isaiah proclaims a vision of the wonders of the day of the Lord when the kingdom comes in its fullness.

John the Baptist calls us to prepare the way of the Lord and make straight his path for his coming again.

Mary and Joseph also are examples for us. As Mary brought Christ into the world at Bethlehem, we are to make him present in our world today. As these expectant parents longed for the day of Jesus' birth, so we long for the birth of the new heaven

(Father Lawrence Mick is a priest of the Archdiocese of Cincinnati, Ohio.)

#### Discussion Point

## Youth visualize Christ as a friend

As a youth minister, what image of Jesus do you find teens most drawn to?

"The image of Jesus as a listener and as someone who accepts people for who they are, and finally, his forgiving spirit." (Phyllis Hamann, Greenfield, Wis.)

I think more as a friend or as a teacher-someone to help show them what to do in their life situations."
(Vern Hollermann, Melrose, Minn.)

"My sense is that older teens relate to Jesus as a friend who will accept them no matter what their con-flicts and doubts, and as a mentor and a guide through

the difficult teen-age years." (Paul Fiorini, Seattle,

"Many see Jesus as a judge figure. Some who are more advanced see Jesus as more of a father-friend figure, someone to trust." (John Fain, Deerfield, Mich.)

Lend Us Your Voice

An upcoming edition asks: How did someone else help you to see the value of faith or of prayer?

If you would like to respond for possible publica-tion, write to "Faith Alive!" at 3211 Fourth St. N.E., Washington, D.C. 20017-1100.



Photo by Mary Ann Wyand of illustration of Christ

Viewing with Arnold/James W. Arnold

## Romance blooms in 'The Mirror Has Two Faces'

The hero of "The Mirror Has Two Faces" has a really crazy idea that a mar-





way, but making it all finally happen seems to take forever.

Romantic love is not perfect, and can be illusory. But there are few alternatives,

at least in Manhattan!

"Mirror," based on a 1958 French film, is the latest work by director-star Barbra Streisand. Although blessed with a familiar and likeable cast, including veteran actress Lauren Bacall in her best part in years, it just seems too predictable in plot, setting, and incident—in everything except for individual lines of dialogue,

which now and then startle and delight. Streisand herself plays the central role, one of her favorites, as the smart ugly duckling who blossoms. She's Rose Morgan, an aging English professor who teaches at Columbia University, and who is unwed and hungry for a loving mar-riage. Rose has a beautiful sister, Claire (Mimi Rogers), whom she envies, and a widowed, once-beautiful, and still competitive mom (Bacall, now 72), who keeps badgering her to get a husband.

The hot prospect turns out to be a near-by math professor, Greg Larkin (Jeff Bridges), who has an unusual problem. He finds sex always dominates his past relationships and tends to ruin them. He hopes to build a relationship based on friendship, companionship, and (apparently) good conversation. He advertises for a woman of similar ideals and picks Rose's picture out of the pile of mail.

For the movie to have a chance, Greg has to be credible and both funny and impractical without being a jerk. Bridges is perfect in the role. He's kind, always cheerful and optimistic, and he uses a marvelous, cracking voice a register higher than normal.

Rose wants to wrap him up immediately, figuring that, eventually, her romantic spirit will win him over.

She is, of course, a flat-out "romantic love" person. As she tells her class, "We all want to fall in love"—complete with all the bells and whistles and Puccini music-

"because it makes us feel completely alive."

The plot's built-in joke carries it for a while. Mom wonders if this is "normal."

Rose's friend (Brenda Vaccaro) is alarmed that Rose hasn't even been listed (Grant's Friend (Grant's Friend (Grant's Friend)). kissed. Greg's friend (George Segal)

After the civil wedding (for the record, it would never make it in the Catholic Church), they spend the night on twin beds watching "Lawrence of Arabia."

'We're so polite," Rose complains, "we're like roommates in a charm school."

As they sit in the park on a summer day, with Greg writing on his laptop com-puter, Rose looks wistfully about at all the lovebirds holding hands and she begins to wonder about their relationship. The last straw comes when she plans a romantic evening, and the awkwardness, at first funny, turns to heartbreak and she goes home to mom.

At this point, the tone shifts, and we plunge into a lot of self-pity for Rose, who has to be assured that, paradoxically, her parents think she is pretty, but still "pretty isn't everything." Then she goes to all the trouble (jogging, exercise bikes,



Actress and singer Barbra Streisand portrays Rose Morgan in a scene from the romantic comedy "The Mirror Has Two Faces." The movie is based on a 1958 French film. The U.S. Catholic Conference classifies the comedy A-III for adults.

and beauty treatments) to make herself into the best possible Rose. (She is now

both beautiful and smart.)

The bottom line is that Greg doesn't like that either, and he wants Rose just as she is.

Writer Richard La Gravenese, who has writer Richard La Gravenese, who has crafted some pretty fair scripts in the past ("Fisher King," "Bridges of Madison County," and "A Little Princess") works in stuff that gives the story a lift. Viewers learn that Rose is a nutsy baseball fan and Greg is a poor teacher, but she helps him. Rose also has a habit of carving her salad into "perfect bites."

As director, Streisand makes the "almost sex" scenes funny and tasteful. She also really exploits the lovely urban campus locales, and stages a marvelous street finale set to the music of, naturally, Puccini.

set to the music of, naturally, Puccini.

Of course, all the others will eventually confess that Rose and Greg, oddballs who ultimately also have romance to go with their friendship and ability to talk to each other, have much more of a relationship than they ever did with all their prettiness and loveless affairs.

Rogers' character offers some espe-

cially poignant comments, such as a reflection on what growing older means to someone who had always been the best-looking woman in the room.

None of the morals are bad. It's just that you could see them coming for miles (very, very slowly). And most of the ideas seem to come from old movies, rather than from life. Only Bacall and Bridges really transcend all the imperfections in the film. (Odd but photogenic romance could

have been wackier, but tells us truths we already know; OK for mature viewers.) USCC classification: A-III, adults.

#### **Film Classifications**

۱	Recently reviewed by the USCC
۱	Daylight
	Jerry Maguire
١	Losing Chase
į	The Substance of Fire

#### 'Woman Behind the Myth' Eva Peron profile examines

By Gerri Pare, Catholic News Service

One of the more controversial figures of the century is examined in "Evita: The Woman Behind the Myth," airing Friday, Dec. 20, from 8 p.m. until 9 p.m. on the A&E cable channel. (Check local cable listings to verify the program date and time.)

At 15, the impoverished and illegitimate Eva Duarte escaped the Argentine Pampas in 1934 for the bright lights of Buenos Aires, hoping to become a movie star.

A series of lovers supported her while she broke into modeling and found some success as a radio performer

and actress while transforming herself into a glamorous blonde. She moved in with the widowed 48-year-old Secretary of Labor, Juan Peron, at age 24 while he was building so much support among the workers that the

resentful president had him arrested.

Eva organized the masses to protest, leading to Peron's release, their marriage, and his landslide election to the

release, their marriage, and his landshoe election to the Argentine presidency in 1946.

Eva Peron was now the first lady of Argentina and taking an unprecedented role in government. Her ability to appeal to crowds as one who had also suffered poverty, and was determined to better their lot, won the hearts of many who saw their "Evita" as a symbol of hope.

In fact, she formed the Eva Peron Social Aid Foundation, which built hospitals, schools and Evita-City housing for the peop. The foundation's funding, however, came

for the poor. The foundation's funding, however, came from employers and workers forced to contribute—or face police retaliation.

The first lady was also instrumental in getting the vote for women, and her role as a bridge between the people and her tyrannical husband was deemed essential for his re-election, although her desire to become vice president was nixed by the military.

Despite a diagnosis of terminal uterine cancer, Evita

continued to campaign for Peron and appeared publicly for the last time at his inauguration. So intense was the

public outpouring of grief after her death in 1956, at age 33, that eight people died in the crush to touch her coffin. As produced and written by Deidre O'Hearn, the docu-

mentary presents the contrasting sides of a fascinating figure some scorned for sleeping her way to the top, while millions of Argentineans considered her a living saint unselfishly devoted to the poor.

In this regard, the documentary strives for balance, pre-senting interviews with those who benefited from her gen-erosity as well as those who questioned her self-serving

Unintentionally funny is veteran actress Libertad Lamarque who vainly dismisses the young actress Eva as

being nowhere near her own league.

Using a wealth of newsreel footage from the 1930s onward, one gets a sense of the Argentine political and social scene as well as the personal life shared by the childless but devoted Perons.

Some may also find of interest the final section, which

some may also find of interest the final section, its devoted to what became of Evita's nearly perfectly preserved corpse, hidden for 15 years in Italy before its return to her homeland at the request of Peron's third wife.

It is a quite intriguing entry in A&E's "Biography" series. The documentary does not solve the enigma that Evita was, but does reveal a flawed woman with noble goals as well as a dark side.

#### "Prisoners of Silence"

A controversial means of helping the autistic com-municate is examined in "Prisoners of Silence," a "Frontline" documentary being rebroadcast on Tuesday, Dec. 17, from 9 p.m. until 10 p.m. on PBS. (Check local public broadcasting station listings to verify the program date and time.)

Nearly 400,000 Americans are afflicted with autism, and the vast majority are considered mentally retarded, and with little or no speech are seemingly cut off from the That barrier "dissolved" a few years ago with the

arrival from Australia of facilitated communication, or

FC, as it is called. The technique uses a trained facilitator

FC, as it is called. The technique uses a trained facilitator to help control the sometimes jerky movements of an autistic person's hand, allowing the autistic individual to type his or her thoughts on a keyboard.

Teachers, parents and social workers embraced FC, with astounding results. A nonverbal teen-age girl with an IQ of 10 typed 120 poems and nine short stories. Autistic persons formerly thought to have no language or communications skills were studying biology and algebra, and nications skills were studying biology and algebra, and children at age 6 were constructing perfectly spelled and grammatical sentences.

Millions of dollars in public funds were used to set up millions of dollars in public times were seed to the seed of the training programs, based on the new theory that autistic individuals have normal intelligence trapped inside their handicapped bodies. Scientific testing of FC was later demanded, and a dozen studies pointed to facilitator controlled to the seed of the trol, however unconscious it may be. The debate over FC continues, especially by earnest teachers and parents who desperately want to reach out and help the autistic.

TV Programs of Note
Monday, Dec. 16, 6:30-8 p.m. (Family) "The Willows
in Winter." This animated holiday story is a sequel to the
1908 classic tale of "The Wind in the Willows," which continues the adventures of Toad, Rat, Mole and Badger

wintery Riverbank.

Wednesday, Dec. 18, 10-11 p.m. (NBC) "Christmas in Washington." The annual holiday special from the nation's capital features live performances by recording artists, the U.S. Naval Academy Glee Club, and the U.S.

Saturday, Dec. 21, 10 p.m.-midnight (CBS) "The Homecoming: A Christmas Story." This rebroadcast is a touching story about a rural Depression-era family (Richard Thomas, Patricia Neal, and Ellen Corby, among others) which later became the basis of the long-running television series "The Waltons."

(Check local listings to verify program dates and times. Gerri Pare is on the staff of the U.S. Catholic Conference Office for Film and Broadcasting.)

#### Third Sunday of Advent/Msgr. Owen F. Campion

## The Sunday Readings

Sunday, Dec. 15, 1996

- Isaiah 61:1-2, 10-11
- 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24
- John 1:6-8, 19-28

The Book of Isaiah is the source of this Advent weekend's first biblical reading.



The fortunes of God's people changed during the many centuries recorded by the Old Testament, but usually the change was from bad to worse or from terrible to endurable. As such, the prophets very often reminded the people

reminded the people that God was their protector and savior. To realize God's mercy, however, the prophets emphasized that it was necessary to obey the divine law.

This weekend's first reading is very specific in its promise of divine protection. God will send to the people a protector, especially selected and commissioned by God to redeem the people from all their miseries.

Christian leaders long have seen the person of Jesus in this reading from the Book of Isaiah. Jesus is the savior, the perfect messenger from God, the supreme figure sent into human affairs to call people to God.

As is all the Book of Isaiah, in its three distinct sections, this passage is moving in its eloquence and gracefulness. The excitement of realizing that God will not forget the faithful gleams in every line. For the prophet Isaiah, God is the "joy of his soul."

St. Paul's First Epistle to the Thessalonians provides this liturgy with its

second reading.

While the early Christians mentioned by Paul in his mentions often included men and women steadfast in their devotion to Jesus and now revered as saints, they all

were converts from other beliefs. Some had been pagans. Some had been practicing Jews. Surely many had been unexcited about religion.

So, Paul always encouraged and challenged those to whom he wrote in the

In this reading, the apostle bids his audience to be joyful in the knowledge of God's love and to search for manifestations of God's love and mercy. But, to be wise, Paul said, everything must be tested. The Gospel is the testing standard.

The Gospel is the testing standard.

This weekend's Gospel reading, from
St. John's Gospel, tells us of a figure so
beloved by the church throughout Christian history and so much a part of the
Advent liturgies. The figure, of course, is
John the Baptist, the Lord's kinsman and
forerunner.

John spoke with great religious authority. Religious leaders of the time wondered who he might be, and upon what authority did he rest his demands and bold insistence. So, as reported in this reading, they sent representatives to John to inquire about his identity.

In response, John reminded these visi-

In response, John reminded these visitors that he was not Elijah, returned to earth after death, nor was he the messiah who was to come, the one whom God had promised.

Instead, John told these religious figures that he was laying the pathway for the savior whose sandals he was not worthy to untie.

#### Reflection

John the Baptist quoted the ancient Book of Isaiah (Isaiah 40:3) when he reminded those who had come to him that he was not the messiah.

he was not the messiah.

Instead, John said, he was the "voice crying in the desert."

Throughout the New Testament, stories appear about people who were lost in the deserts of guilt, confusion, and unhappiness. Into these parched circumstances

#### **Daily Readings**

Monday, Dec. 16 Numbers 24:2-7, 15-17a Psalm 25:4-9 Matthew 21:23-27

Tuesday, Dec. 17 Genesis 49:2, 8-10 Psalm 72:3-4, 7-8, 17 Matthew 1:1-17

Wednesday, Dec. 18 Jeremiah 23:5-8 Psalm 72:1, 12-13, 18-19 Matthew 1:18-24

Thursday, Dec. 19 Judges 13:2-7, 24-25a Psalm 71:3-6, 16-17 Luke 1:5-25 Friday, Dec. 20 Isaiah 7:10-14 Psalm 24:1-6 Luke 1:26-38

Saturday, Dec. 21 Peter Canisius, presbyter, religious and doctor of the church Song of Songs 2:8-14 or Zephaniah 3:14-18a Psalm 33:2-3, 11-12, 20-21 Luke 1:39-45

Sunday, Dec. 22 2 Samuel 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16 Psalm 89:2-5, 27, 29 Romans 16:25-27 Luke 1:26-38

Jesus poured the life-giving waters of the Spirit. He reached out to help and comfort the broken-hearted, the angry, and the troubled.

This weekend, the church celebrates the third weekend of Advent. It's theme is joyfulness. The Latin rendering of the first word of the entrance verse is "Gaudete!" which means "Be joyful!"

word of the entrance verse is "Gaudete!"
which means "Be joyful!"
For this reason, the weekend is called
"Gaudete Sunday." The stern violet of
Advent is brightened, as if touched and
brightened by the distant glow of Beth-

lehem. The liturgical color may be rose on this Advent weekend.

The church calls us to joy. Jesus is God. Jesus is the savior whom the Book of Isaiah long ago anticipated with such yearning. He is refreshment and strength as we cross the desert.

We are encouraged to rejoice because the Lord is near!

As John the Baptist would insist, we must prepare ourselves to meet the Lord. We must be holy. We must repent. We must turn to life, to eternal life, to true life.

#### The Tribunal: Whys and Wherefores

# Petitioners say annulment enables healing and closure

#### By the Tribunal Staff

"Why can't the church be more compassionate? Why does it take so long? How much does it cost?"

Most people who bring marriage cases to the Metropolitan Tribunal have already experienced pain at the loss of their marriage and through their experience of divorce. The tribunal process threatens to reopen old wounds or revisit painful memories. There is no denying that an annulment process can be a difficult, even painful, experience for some.

In a marriage investigation, the church

In a marriage investigation, the church tries to honor truth, compassion, and faithfulness. If the truth of the matter is that a marriage was not valid from the beginning, then justice and compassion demand that the spouses should not be bound to it. But arriving at the truth can sometimes be a difficult task.

Persons seeking annulments are asked to complete a comprehensive questionnaire that details both parties' backgrounds and the history of their relationship. Those who have completed the questionnaire frequently report it was a difficult job. But very often they also report that they found some personal benefit in doing it. They gained a new insight or experienced a laying to rest of something which had been troubling

In the interest of truth and fairness, the investigation must offer both parties the opportunity to express their views. Both parties are also invited to name witnesses to verify information. That is the only way the church can be certain it has uncovered the truth.

The tribunal cannot compel anyone to testify. It must rely on the cooperation of the parties and the witnesses.

Therefore, the time required to gather

the needed information can stretch into months. Procedural requirements and reviews by tribunal staff and psychological experts are realities which also take time. In 1996, it took over a year-and-ahalf to complete the average marriage nullity case. Some took much longer and others finished sooner.

Another reality of marriage cases is the fee. Fees range from \$35 for the simplest cases to \$350 for the most expensive. If the case requires assistance from a psychological expert, there can be an additional fee for those professional services. In all cases, the fees represent only a fraction of the actual cost of the work involved. The Archdiocese of Indianapolis subsidizes the costs which fees do not cover. The archdiocese pays the entire cost for persons who are unable to pay the requested fee. No one is ever turned away because of fees.

One secret to surviving a marriage case is timing. It is best not to begin so soon after the civil divorce that the emotional trauma has not yet subsided, nor so long after the marriage has ended that memories of the past have faded and witnesses cannot be found.

The tribunal staff is diverse—clerical, lay, single, married, divorced. Some have gone through the annulment process themselves. They strive to maintain a professional but compassionate atmosphere in order to serve others whenever they are ready to undertake a marriage case.

marriage case.
(These articles are general and not exhaustive. Readers are invited to submit comments or other questions they would like to see addressed. The Criterion will publish follow-up articles based on readers' suggestions. Please submit comments or questions in writing to: Metropolitan Tribunal, P.O. Box 1410, Indianapolis, IN 46206; FAX: 317-236-1401; or E-Mail: tribunal@archindy.com.)

#### My Journey to God

## Rosary Around a Christmas Tree

Come together one and all,
Bring the children tall and small,
To gaze upon the Christmas tree,
Decorated with love for you and me.
Placed on Earth as a simple tree,
Now adorned in beauty for us to see.

In a circle we will kneel,
The joy from love we begin to feel.
Our father will take the lead,
Now we are ready to proceed.
Rosaries held tightly in hand,
The holy candle flickers from its stand.

Crossing ourselves, "In the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit," We pray softly so the Lord can hear it. We begin the rosary with the Apostle's Creed,
To proclaim to God, all we do believe.

To continue, we recite the Lord's prayer,
While asking God to teach us to
always be fair.
Now we pray three Hail Mary's,
Our hearts fill with heavenly grace
In hope that the Lord will find us worthy
of his holy place.

We pray the "Glory Be to the Father and to the Son," Meditation on the mysteries of the rosary has just begun. Our voices join in one accord, As we send praises to our Lord.



CNS photo by Art Haas

So once again around our Christmas tree, We remind ourselves of how this season was meant to be, Thanking God for blessing us and our

By Renee Marie Bierman Book

(Renee Marie Bierman Book is a member of St. Mary of the Knobs Parish.)

The Criterion welcomes announcements for The Active List of parish and church-related activities open to the public. Please keep them brief, listing event, sponsor, date, time and location. No announcements will be taken by telephone. No pictures, please. Notices must be in our offices by 10 a.m. Monday the week of publication. Hand deliver or mail to: The Criterion, The Active List, 1400 N. Meridian St., P.O. Box 1717, Indianapolis, Ind., 46206.

#### December 13

A pro-life rosary will be prayed every Friday morning at 10 a.m. in front of Affiliated Women's Services, Inc., 2215 Distributors Dr. Everyone is welcome.

St. Lawrence Church, Indianapolis, will have adoration of the Blessed Sacrament in the chapel every Friday from 7 a.m.-5:30 p.m. Mass. Benediction will be before Mass. Everyone is wel-

St. Susanna Church, Main St., Plainfield, will hold adoration of the Blessed Sacrament from 8 a.m.-7 p.m. every Friday.

St. Christopher Parish, Indianapolis, Singles and Friends will meet to see "101 Dalmatians" at a local theater. For more information, call Orlando at 317-240-4764.

#### December 13-14

The Benedict Inn Retreat and Conference Center will hold an Conference Center will note an "Introduction to Centering Prayer" workshop starting at 6:30 p.m on Friday and concluding at 4 p.m. on Saturday. Cost for the program is \$60. For more information, call 317-788-7581.

#### December 14

Sacred Heart Parish, 1530 Union St., Indianapolis, will hold its annual Christmas party in the parish office starting at 12:30 p.m. For more information, call 317-638-5551.

St. Pius X Parish, Indianapolis, will hold its boutique and Christmas crafts from 8 a.m.-12;00 p.m. in the school gym sponsored by the St. Pius Athletic Committee. For more information, call Susie Thornburg at 317-557-8768.

Cathedral High School, Indiana-polis, will hold its placement test for all 8th grade students consid-ering admission for the 1997-98 school year. The test will be held from 8:30-11:30 a.m.

The King's Singles, Christ the King Parish, Indianapolis, will attend 8:30 a.m. Mass followed by breakfast at a nearby eatery All single adults, 21 years old and older, are welcome.

#### December 14-16

St. Meinrad College will hold a "Come and See Weekend" for prospective students and their parents to tour the campus and learn more about its liberal arts program for men. For schedule and registration information, call Brian Lohr at 1-800-634-6723.

#### December 15

St. Mary's Rexville Schoenstatt

will hold a holy hour at 2:30 p.m. followed by Mass at 3:30 p.m. Directions to the center: on 925-s, .8 mile east of 421, 10 miles south of Versailles. For more information, call Father Burwinkel at 812-689-3551.

St. Lawrence Church, 4650 N. Shadeland Ave., Indianapolis, will have adoration of the Blessed Sacrament in the chapel every Sunday from 1-5 p.m. Everyone is welcome.

St. Patrick Church, Indianapolis, will have two Masses in Spanish at 11 a.m. and 6:15 p.m.

Sacred Heart Parish, Indianapolis, will Marian Prayer every Sunday from 2-3 p.m. All are welcome

St. Gabriel Church, Indianapolis, will have a Mass with a sign lan-guage interpreter at 11 a.m.

St. Mary Church, 317 N. New Jersey, St., Indianapolis, will have a Mass in Spanish at 1:15 p.m.

St. Athanasius Byzantine Catholic Church (formerly Assumption Church, 1117 Blaine, Indianapolis) will hold a Mass in Spanish at 4 p.m.

St. Christopher Parish, Indianapolis, Singles and Friends will meet at 3 p.m. at the Artsgarden at Circle Center Mall to listen to the Indianapolis Municipal Band and to take in the sights of downtown. For more information, call Mike at 317-879-8018.

St. Anthony Church, Clarks-ville, will hold "Be Not Afraid Holy Hour: Trust" from 6-7 p.m. Confession and Benediction.

and Benediction will be included. All are welcome

Father Mark Svarczkopf, pastor of St. Lawrence Parish, 4650 N. Shadeland Ave., Indianapolis, will present a talk on
"Everything You Wanted to
Know About Being Married in
the Catholic Church but Were
Afraid to Ask!" starting at 2 p.m. in the church.

#### December 17

St. Christopher Parish, Indian apolis, Singles and Friends, will hold a peer faith sharing evening at 7 p.m. in the Annex. Reflections of Christmas will be the topic of prayer and discussion. For more information, call Mike at 317-879-8018.

The King's Singles, Christ the King Parish, Indianapolis, will attend 5:30 p.m. followed by dinner at a nearby eatery. All single adults, 21 years and older, are welcome to attend.

Our Lady of the Greenwood Marian Prayer Group will meet in the chapel at 7 p.m. to pray the rosary and the Chaplet of Divine Mercy. All are welcome.

#### December 18

At Immaculate Heart of Mary Church a Marian cenacle will meet to pray the rosary every Wednesday from 1-2:15 p.m. The church is located at 57th nd Central Ave., Indianapolis. All are welcome

#### December 19

St. Lawrence Church, 4650 N Shadeland Ave., will hold adoration of the Blessed Sacrament in the chapel every Thursday from 7 a.m.-5:30 p.m. Mass. All are welcome.

Sacred Heart Parish, 1530 Union St., Indianapolis, will hold a Family Rosary Night at 7

"Why yes, Father. We have completed the estimate on the church furnace."

Schmitt

© 1996 CNS Graphics

#### December 20-22

Benedict Inn Retreat and Conference Center, Beech Grove, will hold an Advent Silent Retreat from 7 p.m. on Friday through noon on Sunday. Retreat is \$75 with a \$15 nonrefundable deposit upon regis-tration. For more information and to register, call 317-788-7581.

#### December 21

St. Christopher Parish, Indianapolis, Singles and Friends, will meet at 8 a.m. at the church to volunteer at St. Vincent de Paul distribution and client service center. For more information, call Mike at 317-

#### December 22

St. Anthony Church, Clarks-ville, will hold "Be Not Afraid Holy Hour: Misery and Mercy" from 6-7 p.m. Confession and Benediction.

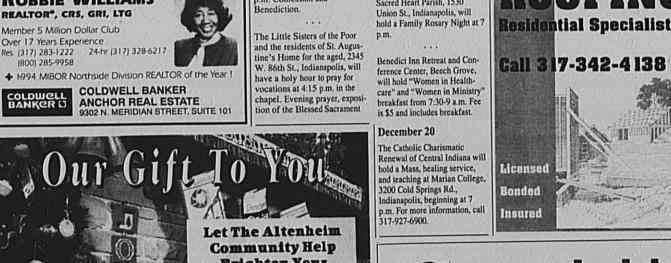
Sacred Heart Parish, Indiana-polis, will hold a Christmas concert presented by the parish choir, conducted by Dr. John Gates, at 4 p.m. All are welcome.

Holy Name Church, Beech Holy Name Church, Beech Grove, will present "Christmas Concert XXXV" at 3 p.m. and again at 6:30 p.m. in the church. Tickets are \$5 and may be obtained by calling Marcia Cleary at 317-787-1682.



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## Mother Teresa not out of danger, will not be able to resume travels

#### By Catholic News Service

CALCUTTA, India-Doctors said they were treating Mother Teresa "aggressively" for the pneumonia she contracted after undergoing angioplasty and that she was still not out of danger.

They also said that she would no longer be able to travel

the world in her service to the poor.

"She will have to be taken care of for a long time, said Dr. Tauran Praharaj, a member of the medical team treating Mother Teresa. "At her age, with this problem, it will be difficult to go back to the active life she had."

The 86-year-old Nobel laureate underwent angioplasty Nov. 29 at the B.M. Birla Heart Research Center in

#### Cardinal Bernardin's funeral homily is published

#### **By Catholic News Service**

CHICAGO-The Catholic Church Extension Society is offering a free keepsake booklet honoring the late Cardinal

Joseph L. Bernardin of Chicago.

The 16-page booklet includes the full homily delivered by Msgr. Kenneth Velo, Catholic Extension presi-dent, at the cardinal's funeral Mass, as well as a photo of the cardinal and the cardinal's favorite prayer, the

As Chicago archbishop, Cardinal Bernardin was chancellor of the Catholic Church Extension Society, which raises funds for U.S. home missions in areas that are too poor or too sparsely settled to maintain a church or personnel.

"As I mentioned at the (funeral) Mass, the cardinal

knew the U.S. missions firsthand and was a great friend of them to the end of his life," Msgr. Velo said. "So, we are very happy to publish this small booklet for those who want to remember him in a special way.

Requests for the booklet may be sent to the Catholic Church Extension Society, 35 E. Wacker Dr., Room 400R, Chicago, IL 60601.

Catholic<sup>o</sup> Crossword

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ACROSS

ACROSS
1 Patient man
(James 5:11)
4 The wise man
followed this
7 Pod morsel
10 Seethe, boil
11 Gotfing goal
12 Torme and Gibson
13 Anvmend text
14 Tool for Abimelech
(Jud 9:48)
15 Greek cupid
16 Beneath the Earth's
surface
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Calcutta to remove blockages in two of her major coronary arteries.

Dr. Debi Shetty, leader of the seven-member medical

team, told news media that Mother Teresa had "a great desire to fight, but the road to recovery will not be as smooth as we would have it," reported UCA News, an Asian church news agency based in Thailand.

"The treatment Mother Teresa is receiving and her

willpower will see her through," he said.

Shetty said a pacemaker implanted in 1989 was repro-

## Natural family planning

By John Thavis, Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS)-Pope John Paul II defended natural family planning as an effective method of spacing births and said it frees women from "unjust" programs of birth control.

He called on parishes and other organizations involved

The scientific validity of these methods and their educational value make them increasingly appreciated," the pope said Dec. 7. He was addressing a group of Italian Catholics taking a natural family planning

The church teaches that contraceptive birth control is morally wrong, but it accepts methods that rely on period-

proper because they require husband and wife to cooperate in a responsible way. Unlike contraceptives, he said, they also promote a type of "human ecology," a balance between respect for nature and human behavior.

"On a worldwide level, this choice supports the process of freedom and emancipation of women and of popula-tions from unjust programs of family planning," he said.

He said these international programs have brought along with them a "sad parade of various forms of contraception, abortion and sterilization."

The pope said the church should make sure its own agencies know how to give instruction in natural methods

"The moment has come when every parish and every organization for counseling and assisting families and the defense of life should have personnel available who are

He urged bishops, pastors and Catholic lay leaders to

## respects nature, pope says

in counseling married couples to make sure an expert in natural family planning is available.

course in Rome.

ic abstinence for the spacing of births.

Pope John Paul said the church-approved methods were

of family planning.

capable of educating couples in the use of the natural methods," he said.

welcome this development.

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grammed to raise Mother Teresa's heart rate from 60 to 90, contributing to her recovery.

U.S. Dr. Patricia Aubanel told UCA News that

Mother Teresa asked her to take her home Dec. 1, but Aubanel pleaded with her, asking for "one more chance," to which she agreed.

"Mother Teresa is in the right place; God is with her," said Aubanel, who assisted in all three of the nun's heart operations in the last five years.

Mother Teresa has had long-standing lung and renal diseases, and Aubanel said the nun's heart is her most stable organ at present. Her blood vessels have been totally cleared, increasing the blood supply to her lungs and kidneys, the doctor said.
"No dialysis is necessary now, and with cleared

blood vessels there is no need for open heart surgery," the doctor said.

Aubanel said she advises Mother Teresa differently from other patients. "Each time I have to get the message across by saying, 'This is what Jesus has to say.' All in a spiritual dimension," she explained.

### Pope's book in stores

#### By Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON-Pope John Paul II's latest book, "Gift and Mystery: On the 50th Anniversary of My Priestly Ordination," started to be sold nationwide Dec. 11, according to Doubleday in New York, the book's U.S. publisher.

"What better time than Christmas to celebrate and share the special vocation and faith of the Holy Father through his spiritual testimony in 'Gift and Mystery,"' said Arlene Friedman, Doubleday president and publisher, in the company's late-November announcement.

Doubleday is a division of the Bantam Doubleday Dell Publishing Group, Inc.

William G. Berry, senior vice president of Bantam Doubleday Dell, told Catholic News Service he was con-tacted by Msgr. Francis J. Maniscalco, director of communications for the U.S. Catholic Conference, when the search for a U.S. publisher for "Gift and Mystery" was underway.

Berry said that the relationship established between Doubleday and the conference when Doubleday published the mass market edition of the "Catechism of the Catholic Church" in 1995 led to its selection as U.S. publisher for the pope's new book.

Sixteen pages of line drawings of significant places in the life of Pope John Paul are included in the 144-page hardcover text. The first printing of the U.S. edition will be 750,000 copies. Its suggested retail cover price is \$19.95.





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surface
18 Dining doth
20 Nephew of Abraham
(Gen 14:12)
21 Weapons collection
22 Weapons collection
25 "— the world
began" (John 9:32)
30 Ark builder
31 Small taste
33 Existed
34 Biblical snake
(Psa 58:44)
36 Pushed aside
36 "The angels of God
— him" (Gen 32:1)
40 Chicago trains
41 Bitter conflict

44 Paul waited here
(Acts 17:16)
48 "I smell — — I"
49 Cain dwelt here
(Gan 4:16)
51 Way out
52 Labyrinth
53 "Let me not — the
death of a child"
(Gen 21:16)
54 Story
(Mat 6:22)
56 "Abraham ran into
the — " (Gen 18:7)
57 British shipping
abbreviation

DOWN

Bible book Leave out Jesse, for one (1 Sam 16:1) Plain, simple

45 46 47

17 Long time
19 "With the jawbone of an —" (Jud 15:16)
29 Santa — winds
23 Aaron's possession (Ex 7:19)
24 Unhappy
25 God can't do this (Titus 1:2)
27 Recent
28 Unimpressive grade
29 "And then shall the — come"

29 "And then shall the — come" (Mat 24:14)
32 "Thou hast — the causes of my soul" (Lam 3:58)
37 Lunch counter order (Abbr)
39 On edge
41 "And he gave a sign the — day" (1 k) 13:3)
42 Walter's receptacle

Answers on page 22

#### Youth News/Views

## New Albany youth earn Learn and Serve grant

#### By Ray Lucas

New Albany Deanery Catholic Youth Ministries has been awarded a Learn and Serve Indiana grant by the Indiana Youth

Commission for young people to address community needs through service learning. The grant will help fund "Faith in Action," a service week sponsored by New Albany Deanery Catholic Youth Ministries for teen-agers in southern Indiana. This marks the second year for

the service week during summer vacation.

Last summer, 48 youth and adult volunteers participated in the deanery's first "Faith in Action" week.

During this week of service, youth will be involved in a variety of community service opportunities that include:

painting and repairing a home for a family in southern Indiana,
 assisting Habitat for Humanity in

building a home for a local family

· visiting shut-ins at area nursing

· clearing trails and other environmental tasks at the Wildlife Sanctuary at Mount St. Francis Retreat Center,

organizing games and activities for children in local daycare facilities,

 and painting aging playground equipment in area parks.

In addition to these hands-on service opportunities, the week-long program will focus on educating teens about poverty,

homelessness, servant-leadership, and environmental issues that have an impact on southern Indiana communities.

The Indiana Youth Commission is comprised of a group of young people between the ages of 13 and 21 from around the state.

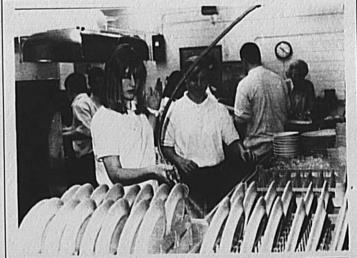
This year the youth commission reviewed over 60 applications and was able to distribute Learn and Serve Indiana grants totaling more than \$80,000 to 24 community-based organizations to involve young people in service learning projects that address challenges in education, human needs, public safety, and the environment. The Corporation for National Service

and the Indiana Commission on Commun-ity Service provided the grant money for the Indiana Youth Commission to distribute to a variety of applicants.

Under service learning, youth are viewed as resources instead of as recipients of services. Projects are designed, implemented, and evaluated by teen-agers

Other programs funded under Learn and Serve Indiana grants this year will enable youth to provide services to the homebound, high school students to produce a video to increase AIDS awareness, middle school students to produce their own tele-vision news show focusing on issues affecting youth today, and teen-agers working with the elderly to record oral history of our nation's past.

(Ray Lucas directs the New Albany Deanery Catholic Youth Ministries.)



Our Lady of Lourdes seventh-graders Sara Kennedy (top left) and Emily Schenkenfelder of Indianapolis wash dishes in the school kitchen on Nov. 27 in preparation for the indianapolis East
Deanery parish's annual Thanksgiving
Dinner for about 200 people in need in
the Irvington area of the city. Seventhgrader Stephanie Kalm (right) works on
the challenging leb of changing and on the challenging job of chopping onions for the stuffing served with the tradi-tional turkey dinner. Lourdes students ip adult parishioners prepare the holiday meal each year for people in the community.



Photos by Mary Ann Wyand

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## Roncalli students to present holiday concert on Dec. 15

Roncalli High School's Fine Arts Department will present a Christmas concert entitled "Winter Wonderat 3 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 15, at the Indianapolis East Deanery inter-parochial high school located at 3300 Prague Road.

Reserved seating is \$4. Regular admission is \$3 for adults and \$2 for Roncalli students who display the school identifi-cation card. For more information about the holiday concert, telephone the Roncalli office at 317-787-8277.

Cathedral High School senior Phillip Armstrong of St. Andrew Parish in Indianapolis is a member of the chorus for the Edyvean Repertory Theatre's production of "Camelot," which contin-

ues through Dec. 22 at the Christian

Theological Seminary located at 1000

Theological Seminary located at 1000 W. 42nd St. in Indianapolis.
The famous play is based on the 1958 book "The Once and Future King" by author T. H. White. The story of the legend of King Arthur, Lady Guenevere, Lancelot, Merlyn, and the Knights of the Round Table is receiving available traviews. ing excellent reviews.

For ticket information, call the

Edyvean Repertory Theatre box office at 317-923-1516.

Cardinal Ritter High School and Brownsburg High School students are col-lecting canned goods and non-perishable food items during the boys' varsity basket-ball game Dec. 13 at Brownsburg. Donations will be given to the Sertoma

Club for distribution to the poor.



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Youth group members from indianapolis South Deanery parishes serve an early Thanks-giving dinner to 600 low-income people on Nov. 24 at Blackburn Terrace Apartments. Helping with the noon shift were (from left) Angle Agresta, Nativity; Jack Wysock, Our Lady of the Greenwood; Katle Campbell, St. Mark; Carly Gessett; Bobby Littrell, St. Barnabas; and Chris Cain, St. Barnabas. The teen-agers spoke at Masses to raise funds for the meals and

## Kayaker's river journey raises \$6,000 for Hondurans

By Patricia Kasten, Catholic News Service

GREEN BAY, Wis. (CNS) - Brian Merline, who set out alone by kayak Aug. 31 from De Pere, Wis., and paddled three rivers to reach New Orleans Nov. 8, raised nearly \$6,000 to help set up health clinics in remote villages of **Honduras** 

He arrived in New Orleans on his 26th birthday, and was met by his parents Bernard and Agnes Merline, who had driven from De Pere.

"It's an amazing feeling, the 1,727 miles I went," Merline said during a phone call to a reporter from The Catholic Compass, a newspaper of the Diocese of Green Bay. "When I look at a map, I see Wisconsin way up north and New Orleans way down south — it's almost a feeling of disbelief." Merline, a Catholic, made the trip

down the Fox, Wisconsin and Mississippi rivers in his handmade kayak to raise money and awareness for the Honduran Health Exchange in Tegucigalpa, Honduras, where he vol-unteered for 18 months three years ago.

The exchange is run by one doctor and volunteers who treat anyone needing medical help. About 95 percent of patients cannot pay, and Merline was hoping his river journey would raise the \$10,000 it costs to run the exchange for a year. After visiting friends in Belize, the

young man now has returned to Honduras, according to his mother. She told Catholic New Service by phone Dec. 5 that he planned to do some research on medicinal plants in western Honduras before returning to Tegucigalpa and another stint of

This time, he might stay "indefinite-ly," Mrs. Merline said. "He is very devoted to the country and the people,

really the people."

All along the route, Merline said he

found people willing to listen and help.

"Quite a few times I had a feeling of desperation as the sun was going down, because I didn't know where I'd spend the night," he told the Compass. "Then, out of the blue, I'd run into a family or some group on the shore who invited me into their homes and things would turn around

Strangers offered him food, hot show-

impressed with his quest that they offered to drive ahead and meet him downstream with a hot meal.

with a hot meal.

"Almost everywhere I went along the way, it was like that," he said. "When they find you're doing something to benefit others, they want to help you."

He credits the prayers of family and friends he left back home — and made along the way — with helping him continue despite freezing temperatures, dense for and heavy storms. fog and heavy storms.

Just north of Greenville, Miss., Merline was beached for three days by storms and winds. He was running low on food and fresh water, and hadn't seen anyone for

"(Finally) I just started paddling ... and came upon this ... houseboat," he recalled. "The people filled my water bottles and invited me in for a hot shower and to spend the night."

He also weathered cramping and numbness in his hands from paddling 10 hours a day, "My thumbs felt like they were broken," he said. Now he plans to catch up on a journal of his trip and write to people he met along the way.

The only time it was hard to keep going, Merline told the Compass, was when his grandmother, Mary Merline, died suddenly in October. He thought about returning for her funeral, but his parents said she would want him to go on.

The night she died, they had read her a letter from strangers who had put Brian up one night at their campsite, and his grand-

mother had expressed her pride in him. Mrs. Merline said her son "raised some wonderful awareness, prayers, concern and closeness" by his trip. "He knew God was up there watching him," she said, and never experienced any dangerous situations.

In addition to his investment of time,
Merline spent about \$800 to build his

kayak and another \$300 to camp and eat

over the two months.

"He's given up everything material to do this," his mother said. "It's very inspiring." Those wishing may send donations to the Honduras Health Exchange, in care of the Merlines, 2070 Lost Dauphin Rd., De Pere, WI 54115. All funds will be wired to Honduras or taken there by an

(Contributing to this story was Nancy Hartnagel in Washington.)

## Saint Meinrad students spend break at worker farm

#### By Pat Guyette

During our Fall Break, instead of going home and perhaps "hanging out," a group of 18 students and one monk from Saint Meinrad College spent four days laboring

On Oct. 23, we departed for the John Filliger Catholic Worker Farm in Alderson, W.Va. We took a van full of food and clothing. For more than a decade, the Catholic worker farm has provided

#### Conference for young adults planned Feb. 1

The Archdiocese of Indianapolis Office

for Youth, Young Adult, and Campus Ministries will sponsor the second annual Young Adult Conference Feb. 1 at the Indiana Convention Center, 100 S. Capitol Ave., in

Indianapolis.
Themed "Beyond the
Horizon," the 1997 conference will address the needs, interests, and concerns of Catholic singles and cou-ples in their 20s and 30s.

The conference begins with registration at 8 a.m. and closes with liturgy at

The event will feature an assembly with Archbishop Daniel Buechlein. Indianapolis news anchor Anne Ryder, from WTHR Channel 13, is the keynote speaker at the event. Workshops of various topics will be offered.

The registration fee is The registration fee is \$40 per adult. The deadline to register is Jan. 10, 1997. Child care will be available at a fee of \$5 per child or \$10 per family. Checks should be made payable to the Office for Youth, Young Adult, and Campus Ministries. Attn: Beyond Ministries, Attn: Beyond the Horizon: P.O. Box 1410, Indianapolis, IN,

For more information on the conference call 317-236-1439 or 800-382-9836 ext. 1439.

shelter and food for the homeless men and women in exchange for work. There are currently six residents.

The farm is located in a serene, panoramic mountainous region. We were greeted by Anthony Kerwan, who manages the farm. He explained that the farm doesn't make money, and no one who works there collects a paycheck. We tried to maintain Saint Meinrad's

tradition of prayer even though we didn't have a chapel nearby. Each day began with a hearty breakfast before 8 a.m., immediately followed by morning prayer. We then divided into groups that undertook a variety of chores needed to keep the farm in good working condition. Some people repaired the chicken coop or the pig pen fence. Others cleaned drains along the road or raked leaves at the Catholic

mission in town. Still others cleared out the cattle guards that crossed the roads, chopped and stacked wood or organized the "Free Flea Market" in the basement of the house. All together, we collegians were able to provide the Worker Farm with more than 365 man hours of needed service over three days of work.

In between our manual labor, we would break for communal meals and, most importantly, a chance to pray. Mass was simp but inspirational. A stump served as an altar and the ground was our pew. This setting for Mass gave us all a real sense of thanksgiving for God's creations: the ground we walk on, and the work we can do. The residents of the house graciously prepared delicious home-

During our trip back to Saint Meinrad, conversation turned to the parallels

between Saint Meinrad College and the John Filliger Catholic Worker Farm. Saint Meinrad College is devoted to service to our community and our very name comes from the patron saint of hospitality. The farm depends on the service of others yet also shares its warm hospitality.

As a group, we feel proud and hon-ored to have been able to serve others in this fashion. Our Fall Break of '96 was a success and, moreover, it reinforced in us the Gospel message of love of neigh-bor. As we learn at Saint Meinrad through its service formation and other aspects of the college, service is a part of our daily lives as young Catholic leaders in today's world.

(Pat Guyette is a student at Saint Meinrad College, Guyette writes about a personal

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Please submit in writing to our office by 10 a.m. Mon. the week of publication; be sure to state date of death. Obituaries of archdiocesan priests and reli-gious sisters serving our arch-diocese are listed elsewhere in The Criterion. Order priests and brothers are included here, unless they are natives of the archdiocese or have other connections to it.

BELVIY, Estelle M., 94, Our Lady of Perpetual Help, New Albany, Nov. 23. Mother of Clark, William Belviy, Gloria Rosenberger, Doris Beets, Linda Ford; grandmother of 25; greatgrandmother of 29.

BOIKE, Richard Robert, 71, St. John, Bloomington, Nov. 27 sband of Helen Boike; father of Kebbie Kuhlenschmie ndra V. Cobb; son of Susan Boike; brother of LeeRoy, Eugene Boike.

BOYD, David Matthew, 17, St Joseph, Shelbyville, Nov. 24. Son of Herman Eugene Boyd and Rebecca (Corbin) Boyd; brother of Gina Boyd; grandson of Ina Kittle, H.D. Corbin, Morris Boyd.

ROVD Hilds M. 90 St. Michael, Brookville, Nov. 30. Mother of Sandy Page; step-mother of Shirley Ronian; sister of Frank Knecht, Catherine mother of three; great-grandmother of 10.

BRIDWELL, Louise (Habermel), 89, St. Mary, New Albany, Nov. 26. Mother of David B., Dr John F. Habermel, Jane Scharf: sister of Carl, Emmett, Cletus, Joe Clarence, Leo Ratterman Marian Gramig; grandmother of nine; great-grandmother of five.

BRODNIK, Ruth, 83, Holy Trinity, Indianapolis, Nov. 29 Mother of Carl Brodnik, Jr., Richard Brodnik; grandmother of

CHAPMAN, Patricia J., 65, St Susanna, Plainfield, Nov. 25

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Sister of James E., John A. J. Judith A. Chapman, Pamela J. Sauer, J. Sue Lee; aunt of several nieces and nephews.

CRAMER, Margaret C., 81, St. Gabriel, Connersville, Nov. 30, Mother of Charles B., Thomas E. Cramer; grandmother of nine; great-grandmother of 13.

DARRAH, Ceil (Enders), 92, St. Joan of Arc, Indianapolis. Nov. 14. Aunt of Margaret McGinnes

DUNN, Alijah Devin, infant, Our Lady of Lourdes, Indian-apolis, Nov. 23. Son of Clyde E. and Cassandra (Budreau) Dunn brother of Alan Budreau; grandson of Sally and Jerry Budreau, Eddy and Janie Dunn

EDWARDS, Lillian Betty, 91, St. Paul, Tell City, Nov. 26 Mother of Gloria Goffinet, Mildred Goffinet, Joy Flannagan, Bettye Butler; stepmother of I Kellerman, Charles, Maurice, her of Pat Gene Edwards; sister of Lawrence Glasco, Fern Loudenslager, Wanda Van Hook.

ELSBURY, Frances J., 77, St. Patrick, Indianapolis, Nov. 24. Mother of Ronald J., Stacey, Christy Elsbury, Brandon n: sister of Dominic. Charles, Larry, Louise Qurazzo, Rose Johnson, Theresa Comado

FITTER, John L., 93, St. Martin of Tours, Siberia, Nov. 16. Brother of Otto Fitter; uncle of several nieces and nephews.

FRANK, Marie C., 86, St. Gabriel, Connersville, Dec. 3 Mother of Christine Powell, Alvina Turner, Rita Dolan, Roman, Andrew, Leo Frank; sis-ter of Adam, Elmer, Louis, Paul Schnieder; grandmother of 25; great-grandmother of 26.

GLOVER, Catherine "Kay, 84, St. Patrick, Indianapolis, Nov. 28. Mother of Joan Riley; sister of Mary Tolen, Anna Marie Cropper, Edith Lahey, Maxine Cammack; grandmother of two;

Ouestion Corner/ Fr. John Dietzen

## About reconciliation after abortion



QYears ago I had three abortions, which my doctor recommended very firmly since my ex-boyfriend was a heroin addict. I was young and afraid, but I've never forgotten it nor can I get over wondering, "What if —?"

I could never express how I wish it never happened or how I could change things. I am now the mother of three beautiful children, and when I look at

them I only wish there were six.

Am I forgiven or am I lost or am I still a Catholic? I hope so. After all these years I'm not sure what I should do. I am sorry and afraid. (Maryland)

I wish you had some idea of the number of women Awho are in the same lonely and unhappy situation you are. It may at least help to know that you are not alone in your remorse over past abortions.

What you have done is a terrible violence against the gift of life, which you obviously realize, but God, the church and the sacraments are there waiting for you.

There may be some sort of parallel here between abortion and divorce. Having heard so forcefully the church's position on the permanence of marriage, some Catholics came to believe that once divorced, even apart from remarriage, one was out of the church forev-er. Similarly, many who have had abortions believe there is no way back to God or faith.

It's clear you will never be happy until you are once again united to your church's worship and sacraments, beginning with the sacrament of reconciliation.

There are many priests close to where you live. Pick one you don't know if you wish, perhaps one you have heard will be gentle and welcoming, look up the times for confession and come back. You have waited long enough.

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great-grandmother of two; great-grandmother of three.

HANNON, Alice, 83, Good Shepherd, Nov. 9. Mother of James, Michael, Joseph, Peggy

HARRISON, Roger Nelson, 78, Holy Angels, Indianapolis, Nov. 23. Husband of Nevada Bernice Harrison: father of Nevada Wilkins, George Robert Harrison; brother of Naomi Harden.

HAYS, F.V. LeRoy, 69, St Elizabeth, Cambridge City, Nov. 28. Brother of Carl, Stephen Hays, Eldora Prather.

JARBOE, Bertha, 82, St. ne, Leopold, Nov. 29. Wife of Alfred Jarboe; mother of Alvina Brinksneader, Linda Goffinet, Carolyn Harbaville; grandmother of 13; great-grandmother of 19; great-great-grand-mother of eight.

JAVINS, Ellen (O'Donnell), 104, Annunciation, Brazil, Nov. 22. Aunt of several nieces and

JOHNSON, James Finch, 43, Holy Family, Richmond, Nov. 18. Son of Mary (Finch) Johnson; brother of James, Patricia Johnson, Mary Anne Walker, Rita Pardieck: uncle of several nieces and nephews.

KROGER, Carl H., 83, Imma-

culate Conception Church, Millhousen, Dec. 2. Husband of Margaret (Wilmer) Kroger; father of Herb C., Bob C., Denny W., Tony E., Larry C. Kroger, Donna Ferris; brother of Maurice Kroger; grandfather of 12; great-grandfather of two.

LANE, Mary, 89, St. John, Guilford, Nov. 24. Mother of Sheila Radican, Eugene Lane; sister of Ruth Hornback, Ann Lloyd; grandmother of seven

LEPPERT, Maribel (Steele), 79, St. Patrick, Indianapolis.

McCONOCHIE, Vincent, 84, St. Christopher, Indianapolis, Nov. 29. Husband of Doris McConochie; father of Neal McConochie, Lynn Stewart; brother of Charlotte Kerr.

McDANIEL, James G., 64, St. Michael, Cannelton, Dec. 2. Father of Debra, Lisa McDaniel; stepfather of Donald Grose; son of Clara McDaniel; brother of Larry, Danny, Billy McDaniel, Vickie Harrison; grandfather of

MEYER, Arthur J., 76, St. Elizabeth, Cambridge, Nov. 23. Husband of Helen Meyer; father of Gary, Sue Meyer, Teresa Grimes, Janet Carpenter; brother of Robert, Joseph, Charles Meyer, Irene Davis, Marlene Brown; grandfather of 16; greatgrandfather of 15.

MOOREHOUSE, Martha Jo (Hadley), 71, Nativity, Indianapolis, Nov. 4. Mother of Kenneth Jr., Edward J. Fitzgerald, Maureen F., Kathleen L. Smith; grandmother of three; great-grandmother of four.

NORTHENER, Sheryl Lynn, 33, St. Paul, Tell City, Nov. 26. Husband of Arvin Northerner; mother of Corey Northener;

(A)

daughter of Russell A., Genevieve Collignon

OLLIS, Magdalen, 68, St. Michael, Bradford, Nov. 24. Wife of Sonny Ollis Jr.; mother of J.C. of Sonny Ollis Jr.; mother of Jr.; Gettelfinger, Carl R. Ollis Jr., Linda Robinson, Zita Craven; sister of George, Cletis, B.J., Sister Mary Andre Gettelfinger, Rita Weiser, Margaret Baylor, Martha Oakes, Loretta Robert-son; grandmother of 16; greatgrandmother of six.

PERKON, Esther "Bonnie," St. Joseph, Indianapolis, Nov.
 Sister of Fran Mock.

PETER, Kenneth, 54, St. Paul Tell City, Nov. 24. Husband of Sandy Peter; father of Doug Peter, Angel Harper; stepfather of Brian, Scott Boehman, Shelly Mosby; son of Zelda Peter; broth-er of Paul, Richard, Marion "Joe," Vince, Pat, Roger Peter, Margaret Bolin, Carol Lautner; dfather of six.

RIOJAS, Refugia, 62, St. Philip Neri, Indianapolis, Nov. 28. Wife of Jose Riojas; mother of Fransisco, Reynoldo, Martin Riojas, Lydia Ott; sister of Giullermo Andaverde, Irene Garza; grandmother of four; great-grandmother of one.

SCHAEFER, Joseph, 98, St Boniface, Fulda, Nov. 27. Uncle of several nieces and nephews.

SCHLICHTE, Rita E., 85, St. Gabriel, Connersville, Dec. 3. Mother of William, Dennis, Gary, Anthony, Michael, Robert Schlichte, Jeanie Gronning, Mary Robinson, Eleanor Rutishauser, Carol Teebay; grandmother of 17; great-gran mother of four

SILLIMAN, Edward J., Jr., 88, Our Lady of Perpetual Help, New Albany, Nov. 28. Father of Beth Ann Payne; brother of Helen Silliman; grandfather of three; great-grandfather of two.

SIMON, Geraldine M., 75, Holy Spirit, Indianapolis, Nov. 25. Mother of Marilyn O'Reilly, Jane A. Pingleton, Thomas L., Richard A. Simon; brother of Robert Spaulding; grandmother of ten; great-grandmother of four

SPELLMAN, Willis "Bill," 72, St. Augustine, Jeffersonville, Nov. 29. Husband of Dolores Spellman; father of Thomas L. Spellman Susan M. Marquess; brother of George A. Spellman, Wilma Denton; grandfather of four.

SNYDER, Melvin, 78, Good Shepherd, Indianapolis, Oct. 31. Husband of Catherine Snyder; father of Mighael A., Dennis

VOLK, Berneice, 77, St. John, Enochsburg, Dec. 5. Wife of Ray Volk.

VOLK, Florence, 92, St. Gabriel, Connersville, De Gabriel, Connersyille, Dec. 2. Wife of Clarence Volk; foster mother of Carolyn Hall; foster grandmother of one; foster greatgrandmother of three

WHITE, Loretta, 82, St. Anne, New Castle, Dec. 2. Mother of Joyce Sharp, Carolyn Surber; sister of Elizabeth Krauser, Marcella Klenke; grandmother of seven; great-grandmother of 12.

WILMOTH, Elizabeth, 81, Good Shepherd, Indianapolis, Nov. 21. Wife of Richard Wilmoth, Peggy Opal.

WISSEL, Joseph R., 77, Holy Family, Richmond, Nov. 24. Husband of Ruth Wissel; father of Richard Wissel; broth Hilda Ripperger, Agnes Miers; grandfather of five; great-grandfather of five.

ZIMMER, Rosemary Frances, 94, Our Lady of Lourdes, Nov. 19. Cousin of Patricia Gause, Joan Kelly Wyand, Agnes Kelly Langenbacher, Mary Morrison,

#### Franciscan Sr. Mary **Judith Schmidt dies**

Franciscan Sister Mary Judith Schmidt died Dec. 4 in Oldenburg. She was 93.

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated on Dec. 6 at the motherhouse in Oldenburg.

She entered the Oldenburg Franciscans in 1924 and pro-fessed her final vows in 1930.

Sister Mary Judith taught at Holy Trinity, Our Lady of Lourdes, St. Francis de Sales, St. Mark, and St. Mary in Indianapolis, at Holy Name in Beech Grove, and St. Michael in Charlestown, as well as at schools in Ohio, Kentucky and Missouri. She retired in 1985.

#### Sister Laura Megel was Holy Spirit Missionary Sister

Holy Spirit Missionary Sister Laura Regina Megel died in the Convent of the Holy Spirit, Tech-ny, Ill., on Nov. 26. She was 90.

A funeral Mass of Resurrection was celebrated on Dec. 3 at the convent.

A native of North Vernon, she joined the Holy Spirit Missionary Sisters in 1929. She was in her 65th year of religious profession.

Sister Laura taught in Sister Laura taught in schools in Arkansas, Mississi-ppi, Pennsylvania, and Wisconsin. In 1956, she began service in St. Ann's Home in Techny. Later, she ministered at the convent there.

Sister Laura is survived by a brother, John Megel; and three sisters, Anna Heuerman, Rosena Megel and Victoria



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Optional areas for sating, and periodic and an equivalent and have maintenance experi-ence. Other requirements include knowledge of heating and some air conditioning, mentalinated, and electrical systems; well-developed interpersonal skills; good common sense; strong verbal communication skills; self-motivated, and easily lift, carry, and/or

We offer competitive compensation and excellent benefits, including medical insurance and a pension plan. Please send resume and salary history, in confidence, to: Tamberry, Office of Human Resources, The Archdiocese of Indianapolis, P.O. Box 1410, Indianapolis, IN 46206.

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#### Custodial Help Needed!

The Archdiocese of Indianapolis is seeking custodial help for a parish and school.

Assistant Custodian: This position is available at Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish. It is a full-time position requiring evening and weekend availability. Responsibilities include cleaning, light maintenance, and other duties as necessary.

Please send resume to Raymond Nahlen, Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish, 5692 Central Ave., Indpls., IN 46220.

Part-Time Custodian: This position is available at Holy Cross School. It is a 10-15 hour/wk. position that involves floor work in the gymnasium, cleaning of the kitchen, stage, area, and restrooms, and setup for events. Please send resume or letter stating interest to Sr. Paulette Schroeder, Holy Cross Parish, 125 N. Oriental St., Indpls., IN 46202.

If you do not have a resume and would like to request an application, please contact Tammy Perry, Office of Human Resources, The Catholic Center, 317-236-1594.

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