Papal preparation

Catholics from central and southern Indiana anticipate Holy Father’s visit to St. Louis Jan. 26-27; archdiocesan plans include pilgrimage

By Mary Ann Wyand

Four Catholic high school students who will report on the Holy Father’s Jan. 26-27 visit to St. Louis for WRTV Channel 6 in Indianapolis, also interviewed Archbishop Daniel M. Buechlein Jan. 18 at the SS. Peter and Paul Cathedral Parish rectory for an advance feature about the papal trip.

Bishop Chatard High School junior Ryan Moran (left), of St. Luke Parish in Indianapolis, interviews Archbishop Daniel M. Buechlein at SS. Peter and Paul Cathedral rectory on Jan. 18 for an advance feature on the Holy Father’s visit to St. Louis next week. The videotaped segment will air on WRTV Channel 6 in Indianapolis. Cardinal Ritter High School juniors Victoria Raymond (center), of St. Gabriel Parish in Indianapolis, and Sarah Pollard, of Holy Trinity Parish in Indianapolis, await their turns to interview the archbishop. Bishop Chatard junior Ian Bryant (not shown) of Indianapolis also will participate in the pilgrimage as a videographer at the papal Mass and youth rally in St. Louis.

The students also questioned the archbishop about how he thinks the pontiff’s visit to Mexico and the United States next week will affect Catholics in the Americas.

The students will work with Channel 6 anchor/reporter Kevin Doran, and two other reporters from the station, on a series of videotaped reports during the two-day papal visit in the Archdiocese of St. Louis. Their participation as youth reporters was made possible by a grant from the archdiocesan chapter of the Catholic Order of Foresters, a national fraternal insurance society, and the archdiocesan Office of Catholic Education.

During the half-hour interview, Archbishop Buechlein told the students that Pope John Paul II is a warm and personable man who enjoys his pastoral trips in spite of the rigorous demands of world travel for a man his age.

Pope John Paul II frequently affirms young people, Archbishop Buechlein said, and encourages youth to become active in the Church and to share their gifts and talents in a variety of ways.

The archbishop also said the papal visit will generate hope and affirm Gospel teachings about social justice.

And he said time spent with the Holy Father inspires him in his ministry as the spiritual leader of Catholics in central and southern Indiana.

Sarah, Victoria and Ian also worked together as volunteers on a new video documentary about the life and ministry of Cardinal Joseph Ritter, who served as archbishop in both the Archdiocese of Indianapolis and the Archdiocese of St. Louis. Ian helped with production of that video and will videotape the students’ reports from St. Louis.

The students’ coverage of the papal visit also will be reported by The Criterion in the Feb. 5 issue and aired on educational access.

Accountability Report

The 1998 Archdiocesan Accountability Report is included in this issue. See Page 11.
Pope asks prayers for Mexico, St. Louis trip

VATICAN CITY (CNS)—Pope John Paul II said his trip to Mexico and St. Louis was aimed at highlighting the ties of unity and solidarity necessary for the “new evangelization” in the Americas. The pope, speaking at a Sunday blessing Jan. 17, asked the faithful to accompany him with prayers on the Jan. 22-28 trip, his fourth to Mexico and his seventh to the United States.

During the visit, the pontiff was to unveil his apostolic exhortation on the Synod of Bishops for America, held in late 1997. The pope said he would go as a “pilgrim” to Our Lady of Guadalupe, the patroness of Mexico and all the Americas.

“To her intercession I entrust the new evangelization of America, home of the majority of the world’s Catholics and Christians,” he said.

“May the Mother of the Church help all believers in Christ to strengthen the bonds of unity and solidarity, so that the Gospel witness can always be credible and effective,” he said.

Earlier in the day, visiting a parish in a northern Rome suburb, the pope spoke lightly with young people about their own age and the coming new millennium.

“How old will the pope be in the year 2000?” he asked young people at the San Libonio Parish. In response, hesitant guesses gradually turned into shouts of “80!”

“That’s right. The pope was born in 1920. Thanks be to God, to the year 2000 he’ll be 80,” the pope said, alternately leaning on a cane or a chair.

“I thank God for all the favors he has given us throughout life: short lives and rather long lives, like that of an 80-year-old,” he said.

“I ask for your prayers, because an older man needs to be helped by young people,” he said.

He talked about the importance of World Youth Day celebrations planned for Rome during Holy Year 2000, and told the children not to worry. “It will go well, it will go well.”

After explaining how some countries were organizing youth events as a follow-up to the Holy Year, the pope added: “One has to think beyond the year 2000.”

“The third millennium belongs to you—as for us, we don’t know,” he said with a smile.

Correction

In the Cardinal Ritter West Deanery Recognition Awards advertisement that appeared on Page 10 of the Jan. 15 issue, Benedictine Sister Lucia Bartz is listed as a Sister of Providence. Sister Lucia is a Benedictine sister and a member of Our Lady of Grace Monastery in Beech Grove.

THE SERRA CLUB OF INDIANAPOLIS
Together We Seek the Face of God

The Serra Club has supported the "Called by Name" program that has been held three times in the archdiocese. This is a program that was originally begun by Serra Club of St. Louis and has been sponsored in many dioceses in the United States.

The Indianapolis Serra Club is one of the 40 clubs with 20,000 members in 34 countries throughout the world. It has been privileged to have provided two presidents for Serra International—Father A. C. McDonald, who was still a layman, and George Maley.

The Serra Club of Indianapolis is pleased to support the work of the archdiocese in practical ways to increase vocations to the priesthood and religious life.

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Females 73

Adult Literacy rate 80

Life expectancy 7,819

Energy consumption Kilograms of oil equivalent per person (1994) 89.2% 99%

Themes of freedom, social justice, unity at services for Dr. King

By Margaret Nelson

Snow flurries did not prevent the Jan. 18 assembly at SS. Peter and Paul Cathedral of those gathered for a prayer service to mark the birthday of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Prayers, Scripture readings, quotations from Dr. King, psalms and other songs followed the themes of freedom, racism, social justice and unity.

“The words of Martin Luther King say much about the multicultural nature of all of us who believe in God,” said Archbishop Daniel M. Buechlein, who presided at the prayer service.

“In the eyes of God, we are of many colors, but we are of one human family redeemed by Christ,” the archbishop said, adding that the human family is made up of many distinct and beautiful cultures.

He cited a 1989 instruction on racism by Pope John Paul II, which notes that what Catholics believe and what they practice have not always been the same.

Archbishop Buechlein asked those present to become bridge builders in “the wise way of Jesus in the Gospels.”

The archbishop said, “With faith, with humility, we are to build on the good will of people of faith.

He asked that the faithful “use every bit of our ingenuity to build bridges. If we’re not part of bridge building, then we are part of the division.”

“Remember that faith is a gift from God and a gift to be shared,” said Archbishop Buechlein.

Lillian Hughes, pastoral associate of the parish, read King’s “I Have a Dream...” speech: “I say to you today, my friends, so even through we face difficulties of today and tomorrow, I still have a dream. It is a dream deeply rooted in the American dream."

“I have a dream that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin but the content of their character."

King’s speech ends with the words: “And when this happens, and when we allow freedom to ring, when we let it ring from every village and every hamlet, from every state and every city, we will be able to speed up that day when all of God’s children, black and white, Jews and Gentiles, Protestants and Catholics, will be able to join hands and sing in the words of that old Negro spiritual, ‘Free at last! Free at last! Thank God Almighty, we are free at last!”

Holy Angels Parish in Indianapolis hosted a Jan. 15 celebration of Dr. King’s legacy that included a Mass and neighborhood march. Jesuit Father Joe Folzenlogen, evangelization coordinator for the archdiocese, presided at the Mass for students of Holy Angels School.

Father Folzenlogen asked the students about the qualities of a leader. The young people agreed that good leaders learn from their own families and from God’s family.

“Who can be a leader? Can you be a leader?” he asked. He got a resounding yes from the students.

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Editorials

Year of God the Father

W e are now in the third year of Pope John Paul’s three-year program for Jubilee Year 2000. His letter Tertio Millennio Adveniente (As the Third Millennium Draws Near), issued in 1994, called for 1999 to be the “Year of God the Father” (1997 was the “Year of God the Son” and 1998 was the “Year of God the Holy Spirit.”)

The pope is looking forward to the new millennium as a “springtime of world evangelization.” For this final year of preparation, though, he calls us to do more than contemplate the omnipotence of God the Father. He wrote in his letter: “In this third year the sense of being on a ‘journey to the Father’ should encourage everyone to undertake, by holding fast to Christ the Redeemer of man, a journey of authentic conversion.”

He wrote that his “call to conversion as the indispensable condition of Christian love is particularly important in contemporary society, where the very foundations of an ethnically correct vision of human existence often seem to have been lost.”

Then he got specific. He asked us, during this year—to emphasize the theological virtue of charity: reminding us of the words of the First Letter of John: “God is love” (4:8,16). He pointed out of the words of the First Letter of John: “God is love” (4:8,16). He pointed out...
Buscando la Cara del Señor

Nuestro día nacional para Martin Luther King Jr. y la celebración nacionsal de la vida es un punto de referencia de todos los humanos, sobre todo los más vulnerables y sin voz. La preocupación por una respuesta no violenta a la opresión de la humanidad es cada vez más una responsabilidad social urgente. La violencia engendra violencia.

Como personas de fe, sabemos que el respeto a la dignidad y derechos iguales de cada ser humano están relacionados por el hecho de que cada uno tiene una imagen de Dios. Ante los ojos de Dios todos tenemos el mismo valor. Es así porque somos Su imagen, sin excepción, todos tenemos el derecho de la vida y la búsqueda de la felicidad desde el momento de concepción hasta la muerte natural.

Como personas de fe reconocemos que Dios es el creador de la vida y El Creator determina "quién vive" y "quién se muere". Ningún ser humano puede asumir la vida de otra persona. Como seres humanos somos todos iguales, cada vez más que es inconcebible que las condiciones de estos tiempos justifiquen la pena de muerte. La violencia engendra violencia. Ahora es el momento perfecto para examinar la declaración pro vida de los obispos de los Estados Unidos en noviembre titulado "Vivir el Evangelio de la Vida: Un Reto a los Católicos Estadounidenses". Es una declaración de los principios para guiar el pensamiento católico acerca del respeto por la vida y la responsabilidad de apoyar la vida humana tanto en público como en privado. La declaración destaca la importancia de la vida humana; "Porque la vida humana establece el fundamento de todos los derechos humanos". En enero, el documentó también ayuda a clarificar el etico consecuente de la vida humana para las personas que posiblemente no entendan la mal. Clarifica el hecho de que se da prioridad al moral absoluto contra matar mientras también habla eclesiásticamente sobre la necesidad de un compromiso con cada ser humano, particularmente a aquellos que más necesitan la ayuda. Por ejemplo, el cuidar a los pobres es verdaderamente una cuestión de pro vida. ¿Cuál es nuevo en esta última declaración pro vida de los obispos? Primero es la claridad del requisito para dar prioridad a los asuntos de la vida y la muerte. Segundo es el requisito para integrar la vida personal y pública de un no se acepta cuando uno dice "personalmente, yo me opongo al aborto, pero públicamente no puedo imponer mis opiniones personales, para que apoye el derecho de las mujeres a tener un aborto". Tercero el documento muestra la relación entre los principios y los ideales en los cuales se basan nuestro país y los principios de nuestros fundadores y el enfoque pro vida. Finalmente, hay la noticia de urgencia por el debate continúa acerca del aborto de hasta la ciudadanía. Recientemente un ministro en la Florida decidió que un legislador estadial no tenía el derecho de prohibir a un que expresar sus opiniones antabortiono ya que el aborto está incluido en la vida humana como un derecho. El aborto es el derecho de cada ser humano puede ser una cosa "religiosa". [En absoluto! La defensa de la vida humana es el valor americano más alto. La mayoría de los norteamericanos creen que nuestros fundadores entenderon que los derechos inalienables de cada ser humano fluye de la igualdad durante la creación. La priorización de los asuntos de la vida y la muerte se basa en la doctrina. En Evangelium Vitae, el Papa Juan Pablo II confirma que "prohibir y proponer" principal de los derechos que naturalmente pertenecen a la persona es el derecho inalienable a la vida de cada ser humano". [74] El aborto y la eutanasia, "los mandatos morales negativos", "siempre y por todas partes son válidos, sin excepción" [75] ellos son el mínimo del que empezamos para decir que "si", una respuesta afirmativa que gradualmente abrazar el triste coro de la muerte". [75] En otras palabras, no son damos prioridad al derecho básico de la vida, el resto de nuestras responsabilidades sociales se basa en ella. Traducido por: Language Training Center, Indianapolis

La intención del Arzobispo Buechlein para vocaciones en enero:

Pedres: Que ellos puedan permanecer fieles a su vocación y puedan alentar a sus hijos a considerar la llamada de Dios para servir en la iglesia, especialmente como sacerdotes y gente religiosa.

Dr. King, celebración de pro vida destacan preocupación por la dignidad de todos los humanos

As the new year began, in the midst of all the predictions of Y2K computer problems, we were, by contrast, given a message of hope by the pope.

In a speech to mark World Peace Day, a document was established by Pope Paul VI in 1967 and celebrated every Jan. 1. Pope John Paul II spoke out bril.

The document also emphasizes that people should "walk the path of authentic conversion, which involves rejecting evil and making a positive choice for good."

That’s not an easy state to achieve, but I can think of no greater way to work.

As for war and armed conflicts and "their countless victims," Pope John Paul said, "We can do much more to end the violence which engenders violence, yet we must do more to end the violence which engenders violence."

Inspiration for peace

Father Eugene Henrick

A book that parish councils and their people will welcome is Rick Warren’s The Purpose-Driven Parish (Zondervan). A Church (Zondervan Publishing, Grand Rapids, Mich.) are particular those parishes trying to make the services they offer more effective. Its thought-provoking insights and suggestions might be just the ingredients needed to energize your parish.

Let me point out a few of my favorite passages in the book.

"The best way to find out the culture, manner and lifestyle of people is to talk to them!"

This simple advice reminds me of a blunder I once made with one of our parishioners. Every Sunday she would faithfully get people to carry up the offerings at Mass. Every Sunday I would say "Buenas dias" to her, thinking she was Spanish.

One evening she was at a social gathering I attended, and I said to her, "Buenas noches," and she replied, "Father, I am not Spanish. I am Filipino. I had to take a course to talk to her on the many Sundays I saw her. I would have learned that a whole lot sooner.

Warren reminds us that there is no substitute for face-to-face conversations with others if you want to find out who they are.

Many people tend to often read people from a distance, to categorize them quickly and to feel secure that they "know" who they are. It is a common error of many leaders when dealing with large numbers of people. It is also an hindrance to good parish spirit.

"Grow the Church from the inside out, rather than from the outside in!" is a Warren principle well worth pondering. An old friend once told me that to be a really good priest I needed to go after parishioners who fall into the crevices: those angry at the Church, unable to get to it because of aging or health problems, who are marginalized because of a prob- lem marriage or other obstacles in life.

I pray that next to me not so close to the core people of a parish I neglect those on its periphery. "The vitality of a parish," he said, "depends more on befriending those who are friendless than being friends with those who are always friendly.

"Don’t focus on growing a Church with programs, focus on growing a people with a purpose. And another Warren insight that caught my eye. Too often parish councils create programs but forget to cultivate the soil of those who run them. The question prompts me to ask: Do parish leaders make prayer integral to work? Do they work on helping people understand the questions and trying to increase their resources?

Warren’s five main dimensions of Church growth are well worth pondering: Churches grow warmer through fellowship, deeper through discipleship, stronger through worship, broader through ministry and larger through evangelism.

In other words, the backbone of a parish is its people. One encouraging sign is that more and more parishes are trying to inspire people to follow Christ’s example, meaningful liturgies and an emphasis on catechists, social justice and spiritual witness.

(Father Eugene Henrick is a regular columnist for Catholic News Service.)

The Bottom Line/Antoinette Bosco

Tips for ensuring a dynamic parish

"Seeking the Criterion" Friday, January 22, 1999

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(Father Eugene Henrick is a regular columnist for Catholic News Service.)
“The Face of God Revealed,” a married couples retreat, will be held Feb. 12-14 at Mount St. Francis Retreat Center in southern Indiana. The retreat is geared toward married couples and focuses on the image of God the Father as revealed in the life and teaching of Jesus. For more information, call 812-923-8817.

St. Michael Parish in Greenfield received a new crucifix from the local St. John Neumann Knights of Columbus Council #10713. The 11-foot crucifix, carved by artisans of the Weberg German Carving Shop of Batesville, was blessed by Benedictine Father Severin Messick, pastor, in December.

The Girl Scout Cadet Troop 109 of St. Michael School in Indianopolis participated in the Angel’s Attic Craft Fair. The troop hosted a booth and used half of their profits to purchase gifts for four needy children whose names came from the St. Michael School in Indianapolis parish, part of the St. Michael Parish in Greenfield, presented by Benedictine Father Severin Messick, pastor, in December.

“Pastoral Dimensions in the African-American Catholic Community” at 8 p.m. in the Newman Conference Center. Msgr. East was ordained a priest in 1981. Since then, he has served as associate pastor or pastor in parishes in Washington D.C. He was named monsignor in 1991. Msgr. East serves on the Archdiocesan College of Canons, as well as on the Council of Priests. lizard is to be free to the public. For more information, call Barbara Crawford at 812-357-6501.

“The Future of Our Farmland” conference will be held Feb. 6 at the Sisters of St. Francis Motherhouse in Oldenburg. The conference will explore options to preserve and protect land and the way of life, as well as identifying future action steps. The cost is $10, or $5 for each family or congregate family. For more information and to register, call Franciscan Sister Anita at 812-933-0661 or Franciscan Sister Janet at 513-784-9738.

The sixth annual Strike Out Crohn’s Bowl-A-Thon, sponsored by the Indiana chapter of the Crohn’s and Colitis Foundation and WMYS radio, will be held at Woodland Bowl in Indianapolis Feb. 13 at noon. The Bowl-A-Thon theme is “Beach Blanket Bowl.” Teams and individuals are encouraged to participate and to dress in their best tropical attire. Prizes will be awarded to the team and individual who raise the most money for CCFA and wear the best tropical costume. Proceeds will help the estimated 2 million Americans who suffer from Crohn’s disease and ulcerative colitis. For more information or to register, call 317-259-8071.

The Wheeler Mission in Indianapolis is in need of clean used or new men’s pajamas (sizes Large XX and Large X are the most urgent needs). The pick-up dates are Jan. 20 and Jan. 26. For more information call, 317-226-5550 or 317-226-7401.

“Healing Through Consecration,” by St. Louis de Montfort, is nine-week family hour with the formula for formalizing this act of consecration on March 25, the Feast of the Annunciation. The program will be held at St. Anthony of Padua Parish in Clarksville beginning Jan. 24 from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. For more information, call Bob and Phyllis Burkholder at 812-264-2522.

Saint Meinrad School of Theology is offering a graduate-level weekend course on canon law at its Indianapolis site located at Marian College. The three-credit course, “Canon Law: Principles and Practice,” will be held one weekend a month in February, March and April. Course dates are Feb. 20-21, March 20-21 and April 17-18. Benedictine Father Nathaniel Reeves, academic dean and instructor in canon law for the School of Theology, is the instructor. The course will address principles of canon law, focusing on historical development, general norms, and obligations of the Christian faithful. The remaining two weekends will focus on three or four areas in the practice of canon law chosen by the students. For more information or to register, call the Saint Meinrad, School of Theology, Office of Enrollment, at 800-634-6723.

Cardinal Ritter High School in Indianapolis will host the second annual West Deeney Recognition Awards dinner Feb. 4. Honorees for the evening will be Fathers William Cleary and Clarence Waldon, Frank Velikan, Mike and Sharon Morley, and Joe Pleming. Also being recognized for 20 years of service to the West Deeney are Mary Frances Mohr, Erika Hall, Mary Jo Thomas Day, Benedictine Sister Lucia Betz, Franciscan Sister Timothy Kavanagh and Providence Sister Mary Quinn. The evening will begin with a reception at 6:30 p.m. Dinner will be at 7 p.m. Tickets are $300 per table, which seats 10, or $40 per person. Gifts to Cardinal Ritter High School in tribute to the honorees will also be accepted. For more information or to reserve tickets, call the Cardinal Ritter development office at 317-927-7825.

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Full Page
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Strong stewardship will take St. Mary-of-the-Woods Parish into the new millennium

ST. MARY-OF-THE-WOODS—St. Mary-of-the-Woods Parish has plans for tomorrow. In terms of stewardship, "This parish knows what it wants to leave for the parish beyond them," said Providence Sister Margaret "Peggy" Lynch, parish life coordinator of St. Mary-of-the-Woods Parish. The 127-household Terre Haute Deanery parish recently finished its Legacy of Hope from Generation to Generation campaign and surpassed its $66,000 goal. The last count was $110,000.

Sister Peggy said all the people in the parish did their part with the campaign. She said parishioners have a way of taking care of things that need to be done. "I think part of that is because the heritage of the people here is so strong," Sister Peggy said.

She added that the parishioners are well aware of how the parish got started 162 years ago and how its founders made sacrifices to keep it going. "The stewardship of how people really looked at how their gifts were going to be given for the parish really touched my heart," she said.

Sister Peggy recalled the discernment stories from some of the families. She said one parishioner called her and told her she didn’t know what she was going to do about the Legacy of Hope campaign—until she received a surprise pay raise from her employer. "But now I do, now that I got this raise, and that will be my Legacy of Hope contribution," Sister Peggy recalled the parishioner saying.

Sister Peggy said another parish family who typically would go out to breakfast after religious education on Sundays decided to give that up one Sunday per month. "When they as a family discerned about the Legacy of Hope they thought one of the things that would be sacrificial giving for them would be to give up one breakfast a month. When they added it up over the three-year span of time they had a very tidy little sum," Sister Peggy said.

Sister Peggy said this type of sacrificial giving is one of the greatest gifts people can give the parish. "As I listened to the people’s stories, I was awed and humbled by their generosity to the parish and to the sense that we want to do something here. We want to be a viable parish," Sister Peggy said.

The parish has a few ideas of how it would like to use its portion of the capital campaign money. Rhonda Maher, director of religious education, said these include remodeling the restrooms in Galvin Hall, making the facilities handicap-accessible, and refurbishing the Stations of the Cross and baptismal font.

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The parish heritage

The Sisters of Providence are strongly present in the parish’s history. The Sisters of Providence arrived at St. Mary-of-the-Woods in 1840 under the direction of Mother Theodore Guérin. Maher said parish ties with the Sisters of Providence remain strong today.

To celebrate the beatification of Blessed Mother Theodore, children in the religious education program put on a pageant during an open house the weekend before the ceremonies in Rome, which were held Oct. 25. Sister Peggy said the pageant conveyed "the sense of Mother Theodore being so uniquely connected to this parish."

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Right to Life of Indianapolis sponsors ecumenical service

For the 26th year, Right to Life of Indianapolis is sponsoring an ecumenical memorial service to commemorate the lives of more than 35 million babies who have died in abortion since it was legalized by the Supreme Court in 1973.

The memorial service begins at 2 p.m. on Sunday, Jan. 24, in the north atrium of the Indiana Statehouse in downtown Indianapolis. The one-hour pro-life program will include prayer, music, speakers, a solemn rose ceremony to symbolize each year of legalized abortion, and a prayerful Walk for Life around Monument Circle.

"Central Indiana residents from many denominations will gather to remember the millions of lives prematurely cut short through abortion, and to encourage one another through the love of God," said Joan Byrum, the president of Right to Life of Indianapolis and a member of St. Luke Parish in Indianapolis.

Entrance to the statehouse is through the north doors only. The memorial ceremony is free and open to the public.

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New papal nuncio arrives in United States

WASHINGTON (CNS)—Archbishop Gabriel Montalvo, the new Vatican ambassador to the United States, arrived in Washington to take up his post Jan. 16. Among those greeting him at Reagan National Airport were Vatican Embassy and U.S. State Department representatives; Cardinal James A. Hickey of Washington; Bishop Joseph A. Fiorenza of Galveston-Houston, president of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops (NCCB); Bishop Wilton D. Gregory of Belleville, Ill., NCCB vice president; Msgr. Dennis M. Schnurr, NCCB general secretary, and Msgr. William P. Fay, NCCB associate general secretary.

Colombia-born Archbishop Montalvo, who celebrates his 69th birthday Jan. 27, is a veteran of more than 40 years in Vatican diplomatic service. He worked in Vatican embassies in Bolivia, Argentina and El Salvador before he was called to Rome in 1964, where he spent 10 years as an Eastern Europe specialist in the Vatican Secretariat of State.

Pope Paul VI named him nuncio to Honduras and Nicaragua in 1974. Since then he has also served as the chief papal representative in Algeria, Tunisia, Libya, Yugoslavia and Belarus. Since 1993 he has been head of the Pontifical Ecclesiastical Academy, the Vatican’s diplomatic training school in Rome. Archbishop Montalvo is the first papal representative in the United States to hold the title of nuncio. Until 1984, when formal U.S.-Vatican diplomatic relations were established, papal representatives in Washington were called apostolic delegates. They were officially responsible only for Vatican dealings with the U.S. Catholic Church and their contacts with the government were informal and unofficial.

The first two Vatican ambassadors to the United States, Archbishop (now Cardinal) Pio Laghi, 1984-90, and Archbishop Agostino Cacciavillan, 1990-98, had the title of pro-nuncio because at the time of their appointments the Vatican reserved “nuncio” for ambassadors who held the rank of dean of the diplomatic corps in the countries where they served.

Shortly after Archbishop Cacciavillan was appointed, the Vatican decided to drop the title of pro-nuncio and start calling all its ambassadors nuncios, regardless of their rank in the local diplomatic corps. But those who had been appointed as pro-nuncios retained that title.

The new ambassador speaks Spanish, French, English, Italian and German.
1998 Accountability Report

To the People of the Archdiocese of Indianapolis

E very year I provide you with a report on the state of our archdiocese. This report normally covers the full range of Church life—from our spiritual life and the vitality of our pastoral ministry to our financial condition and the progress on our strategic plan. I take this stewardship responsibility seriously. Published here in The Criterion, along with a summary of our audited financial statement for the fiscal year (July 1–June 30), for the benefit of all Catholics in central and southern Indiana.

Every five years I am required to report to the Holy See on the state of our archdiocese during my ad limina visit to Rome. The Latin words ad limina may be translated as “at the threshold,” meaning at the entrance to the tombs of the Apostles Peter and Paul. Every bishop is required to make this journey every five years as a sign of the bishop’s solidarity with (and accountability to) the successor of St. Peter, the pope.

Meeting with Pope John Paul II is always a thrill. I think this pope is the greatest gift God has given our Church in this century, at least. In spite of his ill health, Pope John Paul serves the Church with great vigor and with an equally great humility (and humor). Getting to know this wonderful, holy man has been one of the true joys of my 11 years as a bishop!

I am pleased to share with you now a summary of the quinquennial, or five-year, report that I submitted to the Holy See earlier this year. I’m sure that you will agree that this report shows signs of tremendous growth and vitality here in the Archdiocese of Indianapolis. Some of the statistics noted below have changed since this report was submitted last spring. That is also a sign that we continue to change and grow!

Following this report, I will offer just a few comments on its contents.

Quinquennial Report: A Summary

The Archdiocese of Indianapolis, the Church in 38 counties and one township in central and southern Indiana, is a growing Church with nearly 220,000 members, a 6.4 increase from 206,000 members in 1993.

An archdiocesan strategic plan, developed and promulgated in 1993 and revised in 1996, sets the direction and thrust of the Church’s mission and ministries. Initial steps for its second triennial revision are now under way by the Archdiocesan Pastoral Council. The council develops and monitors the strategic plan and its revisions.

Since 1993, the number of men in seminaris has increased by more than 19 percent, and active programs to recruit and support vocations to the priesthood and religious life are being developed and carried out. Vocational recruitment is much more visible in the archdiocese, with regular features and advertising in the archdiocesan newspaper and with regional vocations events being conducted several times each year. “Dinners with the Archbishop” are held twice a year.

The archdiocese looks forward (in October 1998) to the beatification of the Venerable Mother Theodore Guérin, who founded the Sisters of Providence of Mary-of-the-Woods in the archdiocese in 1840. A strong devotion to Mother Theodore exists in the faithful of the archdiocese, especially in those who have a relationship to the Sisters of Providence or to Saint Mary-of-the-Woods College, which she also founded.

The enrollment growth in our Catholic elementary and secondary schools, which began to turn around in 1990, has continued unabated, with marked increases each year. Since the beginning of the decade, enrollment (preschool through grade 12) has risen 25 percent—more than 5,000 students. In the five-year period since the last report, enrollment has increased by more than 15 percent.

In the center city of Indianapolis, the archdiocese and 16 center-city parishes support eight elementary schools that serve some of the poorest children and their families in the city. Of these students, 67 percent are non-Catholic, 62 percent are members of racial minorities, and 53 percent are poor enough to participate in the federal government’s free lunch program. Efforts to involve the corporate and business communities of the city have been very successful, with one campaign raising nearly $1.4 million for scholarship aid. The current Building Communities of Hope phase of the archdiocesan-wide capital and endowment campaign seeks to raise an additional $20 million for these schools and the Catholic Charities agencies that serve the children and families of the center city.

In 1997, the archdiocese developed, and I promulgated, “Rooted in Jesus Christ,” the strategic plan for lifelong faith formation. The plan affirms that religious education and formation are lifelong activities, and it has a special emphasis aimed at young adults, ages 18 to 35. As part of our Journey of Hope 2001 preparation for the celebration of the coming third Christian millennium, the priests of the archdiocese are participating in a program of spiritual renewal from the Institute for Priestly Formation sponsored by Creighton University. The program consists of retreats, days of prayer, and a clergy convocation.

Archdiocesan Catholics continue to generously support the foreign missions. Well aware that we were not long ago a mission territory ourselves, the faithful donated nearly $2 million last year alone to missionary endeavors.

Involvement of the laity in the mission and ministries of the Church continues to increase. During this reporting period, much work has been accomplished by an Indiana interdiocesan commission studying ways to assist the laity in their education and development in order to become more effective and faithful ministers of the Gospel. In response to the needs of our people, archdiocesan administration has been reorganized to focus attention on the importance of lay ministry development.

Our major ecumenical efforts consist of two major initiatives: the involvement of the Ordinary as a co-chair of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)-Roman Catholic International Dialogue and our continuing informal meetings with representatives of the Central Indiana Council of Orthodox Christian Churches.

Financially, the archdiocese is sound. On June 30, 1998, net assets stood in excess of $62 million. Total cash and investments exceeded total liabilities by $9.7 million. Permanent endowment funds stand at nearly $30 million. Unprecedented growth and attention to deferred maintenance, loans from the Archdiocesan Deposit and Loan Fund (ADLF) increased 203 percent since 1992. To help meet this demand, the archdiocese issued $38 million worth of tax-exempt economic development revenue bonds to support education-related construction projects. The issuance of these bonds was significantly historical because this was the first time a religious organization:

• used the public tax-exempt finance market on the strength of its own credit (i.e., no collateral was required)
• received a rating from a national credit rating agency (A3 from Moody’s Investors Service)
• has received a bond insurance commitment (Aaa from MBIA Insurance Company)

The bonds’ average interest rate of 5.8% will save the archdiocese more than $17 million over the life of the issue over the next best form of financing.

The faithful of the archdiocese continue to grow in their generosity and in their embrace of authentic Christian stewardship. The new millennium will be met by this Church with eagerness and hope.

Concluding observations

A recent pilgrimage to the Holy Land and to Rome continued the tradition begun three years ago to help us prepare for the third millennium of Christianity. We pilgrims carried with us the prayers, hopes and dreams of all archdiocesan Catholics as we journeyed to these holy places. Following the pilgrimage, many of us had the great privilege of attending the beatification ceremony for Mother Theodore Guérin. We asked her to pray especially for the intentions of the Sisters of Providence and her family “back home in Indiana.” I am confident that her prayers and intercessions will assist us as we carry her pioneer spirit into the new millennium!

The symbolic Journey of Hope 2001 is interwoven into all of the above activities. Thus, the three Journey of Hope themes of spiritual renewal, evangelization and stewardship, have truly had a profound influence on the life of our Church here in central and southern Indiana. That’s why I can repeat with great confidence the closing words of my quinquennial report:

With immense gratitude for God’s blessings, the new millennium will be met by this archdiocese with eagerness and hope.

May the God who has blessed us so abundantly with the grace and peace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the gifts of the Holy Spirit, be with you always and forever. Amen.

Most Rev. Daniel M. Buechlein, O.S.B.
Archbishop of Indianapolis

Most Rev. Daniel M. Buechlein, O.S.B. Archbishop of Indianapolis

ARCHDIOCESE OF INDIANAPOLIS

Most Rev. Daniel M. Buechlein, O.S.B.

Archbishop of Indianapolis

1998

Photo by Rich Clark
**Summary of Financial Status**

T
this summary of the financial status of the Archdiocese of Indianapolis reflects activities of the chancery of the archdiocese and certain affiliated agencies with direct accountability to the Most Reverend Daniel M. Buechlein, O.S.B., archbishop of Indianapolis. The information presented has been condensed from the audited financial statements and does not include the activities of parishes, missions, and schools of the archdiocese. All significant transactions among entities detailed in this summary have been eliminated. As always, the complete audited financial statements are available for public inspection by contacting Jeff Stumpf, chief financial officer of the archdiocese, at 317-236-1421.

**Mission Statement**

We, the Church in central and southern Indiana, called to faith and salvation in Jesus Christ in the Roman Catholic tradition, strive to live the Gospel by worshiping God in word and sacrament; learning, teaching, and sharing our faith; and serving human needs. We commit ourselves to generosity and to the responsible use of our spiritual and material resources.

**Values**

- Prayer and spiritual growth
- Lifelong learning and sharing our faith
- Parish and family, the individual and community
- Compassion and respect for human life and all creation
- Justice and consistent moral standards
- Proactive leadership and shared responsibility
- Vital presence in urban, suburban, and rural neighborhoods
- Stewardship

**Goals**

Goal 1 Foster spiritual and sacramental life
Goal 2 Teach and share Catholic beliefs, traditions, and values
Goal 3 Provide for the pastoral and leadership needs of the people of the archdiocese
Goal 4 Work for peace and social justice through service and advocacy
Goal 5 Promote generous sharing and responsible use of all our God-given time, talent, and treasure

### Chancery and Certain Entities of the Archdiocese of Indianapolis

#### Combined Statement of Financial Position

**as of June 30, 1998** (with comparative totals as of June 30, 1997)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1998</th>
<th>1997</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>ASSETS</strong></td>
<td><strong>UNRESTRICTED</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cash and cash equivalents</td>
<td>$6,701,368</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investments</td>
<td>29,131,512</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Receivables</td>
<td>43,819,515</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fees for services</td>
<td>455,063</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amounts due from (to) parishes and other Archdiocesan entities</td>
<td>7,783,828</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pledges</td>
<td>26,870,842</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>320,209</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accrued investment income</td>
<td>1,629,512</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Allowance for doubtful accounts</td>
<td>(3,296,000)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total receivables, net</td>
<td>77,580,989</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prepaid expenses and other</td>
<td>55,748</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Burial spaces and other inventories</td>
<td>4,064,223</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Land, building, and equipment, net</td>
<td>11,512,566</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total assets</strong></td>
<td>$129,046,786</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Combined Statement of Activities and Changes in Net Assets

**for the year ended June 30, 1998** (with comparative totals as of June 30, 1997)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1998</th>
<th>1997</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>REVENUES</strong></td>
<td><strong>UNRESTRICTED</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assessments</td>
<td>$2,927,042</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Service fees</td>
<td>15,443,836</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Catholic community support:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contributions</td>
<td>1,268,321</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Requests</td>
<td>794,919</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United Catholic Appeal and Making a Difference</td>
<td>3,999,100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Capital Campaign</td>
<td>19,187,446</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total revenues</strong></td>
<td>24,296,150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>EXPENSES</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total expenses</strong></td>
<td>44,646,814</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Changes in net assets</strong></td>
<td>15,205,546</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Net assets, end of year</strong></td>
<td>$14,980,151</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
I n our opinion, the accompanying combined statements of financial position and the related combined statements of activities and changes in net assets of Chancery and Certain Entities of the Archdiocese of Indianapolis (The “Chancery”) at June 30, 1998 and 1997, and the results of their operations and their cash flows for the years then ended in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles. These financial statements are the responsibility of the Chancery’s management; our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audits. We conducted our audits of these statements in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards which require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements, assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, and evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. We believe that our audits provide a reasonable basis for the opinion expressed above.

In our report, dated September 26, 1997, we expressed an opinion that the 1997 financial statements did not fairly present combined financial position, changes in net assets and cash flows in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles because the Chancery had not adopted Statement of Financial Accounting Standards (SFAS) No. 87 and SFAS No. 106 as they relate to the practice of making retirement payments and payments for supplemental medical coverage to the retired diocesan clergy. During 1998, it was determined that these obligations were not liabilities of the Chancery, but that of the Archdiocese. Accordingly, our present opinion on the 1998 financial statements, as presented herein, is different from that expressed in our previous report.

Growth of Foundation Assets ($000) Balances as of June 30 of years indicated

Investment Returns for the 12 months ended June 30, 1998

The restricted fund balance found on the balance sheet of the Archdiocese of Indianapolis reflects the continuing success of the Catholic Community Foundation. This foundation is a separate, not-for-profit corporation established by the archdiocese to professionally invest and administer numerous individual endowment funds for the benefit of participating parishes, schools, agencies, and other institutions affiliated with the Archdiocese of Indianapolis. Assets of the foundation increased $6.723 million, or 22.9 percent, during fiscal 1998. As of June 30, 1998, the Catholic Community Foundation comprised 194 separate endowment accounts worth $34.984 million.

Asset Mix as of June 30, 1998

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Domestic Large-Cap Equities</th>
<th>Domestic Small-Cap Equities</th>
<th>Fixed Income</th>
<th>International Equities</th>
<th>Cash</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>58%</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>23%</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* 1996 figures not directly comparable due to changes in accounting.

Catholic Community Foundation, Inc.

Report of Independent Accountants
Accountability is an integral part of our stewardship efforts. Each year, the archdiocese subjects itself to the scrutiny of an independent audit. The firm of PricewaterhouseCoopers performed the audit for 1998. Their opinion follows the financial statements on the preceding pages.

Archbishop Buechlein has established and regularly confers with the Archdiocesan Finance Council, another important part of maintaining fiscal accountability. The council, whose existence is required by canon law, focuses on financial policies, procedures, and activities of the Church in central and southern Indiana. Current members of the Archdiocesan Finance Council are:

- Most Rev. Daniel M. Buechlein, O.S.B., archbishop, chairman
- Rev. Msgr. Joseph F. Schaedel, vicar general, vice-chairman
- L. H. Bayley, president
- Michael Binder, vice-president
- Joseph Naughton, secretary
- Jay Brehm
- Jackie Byers
- Patrick Carr
- Michael Dits
- Dennis Schlichte
- James Shanahan
- Donald Williams
- Jeffrey D. Stumpf, chief financial officer, staff

In 1998, as in 1997, the Archdiocese of Indianapolis experienced record-breaking levels of construction, both in renovation and expansion. Parishes, schools and agencies are participating in or preparing for construction projects valued at nearly $100 million. Funding for construction efforts has come primarily from two sources: the November 1996 issuance of $38 million of tax-exempt economic development revenue bonds and the successful efforts of the parish-based, archdiocesan-wide Legacy of Hope from Generation to Generation capital and endowment campaign and its related corporate-based phase called Building Communities of Hope. The capital campaign raised $18.2 million in revenue during the year for priorities designated by the archbishop and his staff. An even larger amount was raised for the 60 parishes that conducted their campaigns in the spring of 1998. Ninety parishes conducted their campaigns in the fall of 1998.

Expenses continued to climb in 1998. Amounts contributed to needy parishes, schools and agencies reached an all-time high, more than $2 million. Health insurance costs increased $1.9 million over 1997 levels, or 39 percent. Our Catholic cemeteries faced an operating deficit of $725,000. These factors place an ever-increasing burden on our archdiocesan agencies to keep expenses low and to freeze or decrease budgets.

All said, 1998 was another strong year in financial terms. We continue to increase operating revenues and keep expenses at a reasonable level. The capital and endowment campaigns have provided funding for much-needed renovation and construction. Contributions will also seed endowments to fund Catholic education, social services, priests’ retirement and seminarian education. These accomplishments are evidence of our strong commitment to Christian stewardship.

Respectfully submitted,

Chief Financial Officer

Archdiocese of Indianapolis
Priorities for 1997-1998

1. Implement Journey of Hope 2001 goals for spiritual renewal
   - More personal prayer in our homes
   - Much larger attendance at Sunday Mass
   - More frequent confession

2. Implement Journey of Hope 2001 goals for evangelization
   - Increase in vocations to the priesthood and religious life
   - Larger participation in our lifelong religious education programs
   - More people returning home to the church

3. Implement Journey of Hope 2001 goals for stewardship
   - More generous support for our church’s mission
   - A successful capital and endowment campaign—our “Legacy of Hope from Generation to Generation”
   - Fewer meetings and more pastoral ministry

Prayer

Journey of Hope 2001

Lord God, we want to be pilgrims of hope as we journey into the new millennium.

May your Holy Spirit be set free in us in new ways because of our desire for a pure love of you.

With firm faith in the power of your Word and the sacraments of your Church we long for a new sense of mission.

Through the intercession of Mary, Mother of the Church, and Saint Francis Xavier, our patron, help us to be generous stewards of the blessings and challenges you give us.

We offer this prayer in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Amen.
Our vision of new century must be realistic

By Fr. Richard Rice, S.J.

Our vision of new century must be realistic. Our faith of the century includes: from our living. We want to look back at this past century to the sudden fall of the Soviet Union. By Fr. Richard Rice, S.J.

Some of the most memorable events of the 20th century include:

- the two World Wars,
- the Holocaust,
- the creation of the United Nations,
- Vatican Council II,
- the stock-market crash and resulting world Depression,
- the rise and collapse of communism,
- the emergence of women as equal human beings,
- the ending of apartheid in South Africa,
- the Vietnam War,
- and the landing of humanity on the moon.

Major developments of the 20th century include:

- the emergence of women as equal human beings,
- the rise and collapse of communism,
- the Holocaust,
- the two World Wars,
- the Holocaust, the Depression, and the landing of humanity on the moon.

Major places of the century reach:

- from our living. We want to look back at this past century to the sudden fall of the Soviet Union.

Perhaps, finally, we are realizing that change is the only permanent reality. As we enter the new century, less sure of our own powers, it seems to be an important time to rethink these questions, to re-explore the relation of faith and human reason, as Pope John Paul II called us to do in his recent encyclical on philosophy, “Faith and Reason.”

This requires that we recover the relation between faith and history, science and belief, technology and humanistic culture—in a form that can sustain us in this new era, with all the surprises it may bring.

We do not know what the future has in store or the challenges it will bring. We hope we can enter it with a deeper recognition of our own limits than our forebears may have thought necessary a century ago, as well as with deep faith in the goodness of the world and the preciousness of human life.

(Professor Phillip R. Sloan is the director of the John J. Reilly Center for Science, Technology and Values, and a faculty member in the program of liberal studies at the University of Notre Dame, Ind.)

This century offers panorama of life

By Fr. Richard Rice, S.J.

On the eve of the new millennium, I want to look back at this past century to consider the lessons God and life intend from our living. Some of the most memorable events of the century include:

- the two World Wars,
- the Holocaust,
- the creation of the United Nations,
- Vatican Council II,
- the stock-market crash and resulting world Depression,
- the rise and collapse of communism,
- the emergence of women as equal human beings,
- the ending of apartheid in South Africa,
- the Vietnam War,
- and the landing of humanity on the moon.

Major developments of the century stretch from the ascendancy of the automobile to the invention of antibiotics and the computer. Time teaches a variety of lessons.

This week’s questions: What lesson about times of change—drawn from the 20th century—do you hope will be communicated to the children of future generations?

“I would say the lessons of patience. And by that I mean that we must react quickly to the situations around us, not only in our personal lives but in public life. This leads too often to knee-jerk reactions instead of to a more considered and thoughtful reaction.” (Jim Piwowarski, Milwaukee, Wis.)

“…” (Father John Maas, Wright, Kan.)

To work more toward the equality of people—people of color and women, that we affirm the basic human dignity of every person as a child of God.” (Mary Schneider, Northvale, N.J.)

“That we need to put a higher value on truthfulness and integrity in public life.” (Marilyn VanHamme, Brooklyn, Iowa)

Lend Us Your Voice

From the Editor Emeritus/John F. Fink
More of my favorite psalms

L ast week I wrote about seven of my favorite psalms—numbers 8, 15, 23, 27, 42, 51 and 84. Here are eight more:

Psalm 90 reminds us of God’s eternity and the shortness of our lives: while “a thou- sand years in your eyes are merely as yesterday, humans are but a breath.” It says, “Seventy is the sum of our years, or eighty, if we are strong;...”

Psalm 103 reassures us that there is security under God’s protection. It’s a good night prayer which the Church includes as part of compline in the Liturgy of the Hours.

Psalm 109 praises God’s goodness. It reminds us, “Do not forget all the gifts of God, who endows all your sins, heals all your ills, delivers your life from the pit, surrounds you with love and compassion, fills your days with good things.” As did Psalm 90, it says, “Our days are like the grass; like flowers of the field we blossom. The wind sweeps over us and we are gone. But the Lord’s kindness is forever.”

Psalm 119 is a prayer for pardon and mercy: “Out of the depths I call to you, Lord; Lord, hear my cry! May your ears be attentive to the prayers that are made in secret. Your eyes foresaw my actions; in your book all are written down; my days were shaped, before one came to be.” It’s a reminder of God’s omnipresence and omniscience.

Psalm 145 is one of two psalms of praise toward the end of the Psalter. It’s a good one to use at the beginning of one’s prayers. It summons all creation to praise God—angels, hosts, sun, moon, shining stars, highest heavens, sea mon- sters, lightning and hail, snow and clouds, storm winds, mountains and hills, trees, animals, and all peoples, young and old alike. It says, “The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear?”

Psalm 150 is the other psalm of praise, this one best at the end of one’s prayers. It opens with a call to praise God for his mighty deeds and his great majesty, and it says we should praise him with stringed instruments, tambourines and drums, flutes and strings, and crashing cymbals.

Be Our Guest/Shirley Vogler Meister

The light: our salvation and our stronghold

Last summer I was asked to deliver a Sunday message at Valley Mills Friends (Quaker) Meeting in Indianapolis. Because the theme related to faith journeys, I chose the first five lines of St. John’s Gospel, since they’ve attracted me since childhood. I read them in Latin, then in the following English translation:

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God; and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through Him, and without Him was nothing that has been made. In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. And the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness grasped it not. Even if I cannot understand Latin, I loved this—just as many of us enjoy a poem in its native language. Not fully knowing the meaning doesn’t detract from the beauty—or the sacred-ness—of what is said or sung.

It’s the meaning, however, that sticks with me most. It was especially appro- priate for Quaker listeners, because, like Catholics, Quakers believe the light of Christ—the light of God—is within every human being. It’s up to us to recognize that light to fan the flame in our souls and in others.

Once, a Catholic friend shared these words with a discussion group I led at St. Augustine’s, an Indianapolis retirement community:

The Lord hath opened to me by His invincible power, by His eye every unenlightened by the divine Light of Christ, and saw it shine through all; and that they believed in it came out of condemnation and came to the Light of Life and became children of it… I saw in that Light and Spirit… that all must come to that Spirit—if they would know God or Christ or the Scriptures are right.

These are the words of George Fox, the founder of the Society of Friends—the Quakers. He later con- firmed his revelations through additional visions. Naturally, I used Fox’s words in my mes- sage to Valley Mills Quakers—a message that emphasized the similarities between Catholic and Quaker faiths. Later, I wished I had made use of the 27th Psalm of David, a favorite from the Old Testament:

For example, they could go through the Scriptures. More comfortable with paradox, language of “both/and” and a faith that is not “liturgically correct.” But let us be more comfortable with paradox. The practically inclined might take the time to dig their way out of the snow and to “flow on in endless song” hailing the new creation.

Matters Liturgical/Charles Gardner

Galilee, Jerusalem and ‘How Can I Keep From Singing?’

This past October, I was privileged to be a leader of music and prayer for a pil- grimage to the Holy Land, conducted by Archbishop Daniel Buechlein. My favorite parts of the pilgrimage centered around the Sea of Galilee and the Old City of Jerusalem. The Sea of Galilee is really a large lake nestled in the beautiful hills of Galilee, and it does not take a lot of effort to imagine what it may have looked like 2,000 years ago when Jesus taught and healed along its shores. One evening, our group took a twilight boat ride on the lake. As night was falling, the boat’s motor was shut off, and we sat in silence for several minutes. After hearing the Gospel story about Jesus calming the storm, we sang together. “My life flows on in endless song/ Hymns to the God of Ages/ Those unfortunates with snowbound kids will spend a lot of time buttoning the snowsuit, wearing the snow- tens, earmuffs, boots and the like so they can go outside (somewhere, any- where) to play. Naturally, since the kids will no sooner hit the cold than they’ll be back inside claiming they need to go potty. This routine should be good for long stretches of snowbound time.

Romantics could scrutinize the Burgtheater’s seed catalog, planning English gardens and growing state fair veggies in their, uh, fertilized imaginations. Others could journey to Rome, Paris, Madrid and most of the unknown weird places of the world in one snowbound situation.

The practically inclined might take the time to dig their way out of the snow and to “flow on in endless song” hailing the new creation.‡

We see light in the light of the people of God, and so the Body of Christ is present both “on the table” and “in the air.”

‡ (Charles Gardner is secretary for spiri- tual life and worship.)

Corncobia/Cynthia Dewes

Snowbound: a forced meditation

Everyone should be snowbound at least once a winter. I've heard through the Grapevine that Hawni and Palm Springs could profit from this too. When they severe-ly enforced slow- down is the newest translation of the word regeneration and will no doubt be written right into the Bible and discussed on popular TV talk shows.

The thing about being snowbound: no distraction is possible. Not only are we constrained to stay at home, the snow surrounds us, but also we come to realize that no distraction is going on or will go on in the near future. None. Nada.

The practically inclined might take this as an opportunity to do all the things they normally never get around to doing, or that are usually “too much like work.”

We see light in the light of the people of God, and so the Body of Christ is present both “on the table” and “in the air.”

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Realists might be more likely to fill their new stretches of time with what’s close at hand: the things that are yes- even too much like work.”

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Realists might be more likely to fill their new stretches of time with what’s close at hand: the things that are yes-
The Book of Isaiah is the source of this week’s first reading. The religious history of the Jews is a story of their struggle to maintain a true and undivided faith in the midst of constant trial. Isaiah foresees a relatively brief period of time, during the reigns of Kings David and Solomon, from 1000 to 922 B.C., when Israel was united and truly a power. At all other periods of its ancient history, the land of God’s Chosen People was either in stages of development, turmoil and subjugation before more considerable neighbors. Isaiah wrote during a time when the land was greatly beneath the shadows of foreign threats and coercion. The country was still independent, but its fortunes were not good. Nevertheless, despite the risks ominously standing all around them, Isaiah called his people to a strong and renewed faith in God. He urged them to abandon what he saw as their evil ways and to be faithful to God. These appeals asked the Jews to assume great risk. He was speaking of faithful to God. 

The Church, continuing this weekend, is introducing us to Jesus, to the revelation of Jesus, and to discipleship. It proclaims the Son to be God’s gift, the messenger of God, unequaled by any other. He came as Isaiah the prophet predicted, in the circumstances Isaiah predicted. John the Baptist, heroic in his own faith even to the point of martyrdom, recognizes and acclaims Jesus. Succinctly, the Church gives us the message of Jesus. It is to repent. We must return our lives. We must abandon sin.

It may be a challenge. Indeed, it may be as challenging for us as it was for the Jews in the days of Isaiah. The world all around us is quite conviving and quite inviting in its allurements. However, the words of God in Christ are with us still. Christ is with us still in the Eucharist, in the acts of Jesus, in salvation in Christ going forward in our day in the Church, built upon the apostles. It is their recollection that we hold in our faith. It is through them, and the Church they led and formed, that we find Jesus with God’s light, truth and strength.

Question Corner

Fr. John Dietzen

Mass consists of Liturgies of the Word, Eucharist

In the nursing home where my father resides, a deacon comes every Friday with consecrated hosts and celebrates Mass, minus the consecration. Is this permitted by the Church? (Florida)

A What your deacon is doing is perfectly normal and legitimate, but it is not Mass! For some reason, it is not uncommon today for people, not excluding Catholics, by the way, to refer to nearly any Catholic liturgy, even communal penance services, as Mass. That is, of course, improper and incorrect. The name “Mass” in Catholic liturgical practice refers solely to celebrations which include both the Liturgy of the Word and the Liturgy of the Eucharist, as is common, for example, in Sunday liturgies. The Church advises and instructs that the administration of all sacraments will normally include at least a Liturgy of the Word and not also the Liturgy of the Eucharist. That means all those parts of the Mass from the bringing of the gifts to the final prayer after Communion. The deacon, as well as priests and extraodinary eucharistic ministers who minister Communion to the sick, are following those instructions.

Thus, when giving Communion at home or in a nursing home, your deacon does not need to “get married” to do it. However, it’s clearly you still have a lot of healing and growing to do together, for which you will need all the spiritual strength and grace you can get. It would be quite appropriate for you to begin an engagement, receive the sacraments together and in that context renew your marriage vows. At the present time, of course, because of your divorce, you are not married according to civil law. You will need to obtain a marriage license and give your consent to the “new marriage” before a qualified official.

According to Catholic Church law, however, the union of marriage which you and your husband entered years ago continues. Thus, you do not need to “get married” to do it. However, it’s clearly you still have a lot of healing and growing to do together, for which you will need all the spiritual strength and grace you can get. It would be quite appropriate for you to begin an engagement, receive the sacraments together and in that context renew your marriage vows.

Q My spouse and I are both Catholic. We have two daughters and were married for 21 years. We divorced 20 years ago. He drifted away from the faith and married another woman by a commissioner, but is now divorced and alone again. Since their divorce, we have reconciled and are pursuing a spiritual course, in all Catholic marriages with the exception of— as was reported—the highest leaders of the land, who remained seated. One nationally-known person later recanted his statements. In the nursing home where my father resides, a deacon comes every Friday with consecrated hosts and celebrates Mass, minus the consecration. Is this permitted by the Church? (Florida)

A What your deacon is doing is perfectly normal and legitimate, but it is not Mass! For some reason, it is not uncommon today for people, not excluding Catholics, by the way, to refer to nearly any Catholic liturgy, even communal penance services, as Mass. That is, of course, improper and incorrect. The name “Mass” in Catholic liturgical practice refers solely to celebrations which include both the Liturgy of the Word and the Liturgy of the Eucharist, as is common, for example, in Sunday liturgies. The Church advises and instructs that the administration of all sacraments will normally include at least a Liturgy of the Word and not also the Liturgy of the Eucharist. That means all those parts of the Mass from the bringing of the gifts to the final prayer after Communion.

The deacon, as well as priests and extraordinary eucharistic ministers who minister Communion to the sick, are following those instructions.

Thus, when giving Communion at home or in a nursing home, for example, a preceding Liturgy of the Word should include prayer, some reading from Scripture, reflection in the form of a few remarks or homilies and intercessions. These guidelines are found in the rituals for the sacraments.
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Holy Name Parish, Beech Grove, 89 N. 17th St... holds prayer group from 2:30 to 3:30 p.m.

Wednesdays
Marian Movement of Priests catechism prayer group from 3 to 4 p.m. at 3354 W. 30th St.

Thursdays
St. Lawrence Parish, Indianapolis, hosts adoration of the Blessed Sacrament in the chapel from 7 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Mass.

First Mondays
The Guardian Angel Guild holds its board meeting. Archbishop O’Meara Catholic Center Benediction Room, 1400 N. Meridian St., Indianapolis, 9:30 a.m.

First Tuesdays
Divine Mercy Chapel, Indianapolis, 3354 W. 30th St., north of St. Michael Church, holds Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament at 7:30 p.m.

First Fridays
Holy Guardian Angels Parish, Cedar Grove, 405 U.S. 52, has eucharistic adoration after the 8 a.m. Mass to 5 p.m.

—See ACTIVE LIST, page 19

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Sacrament of Reconciliation

Saturday devotions and the Mass at 2 p.m. in Little Flower Chapel, 13th and Meridian St., holds First Parish, Greenwood, 335 S. Our Lady of the Greenwood Chapel, Indianapolis.

Havenstock Rd., Mass at 2 p.m.

Third Fridays
The Catholic Charismatic Renewal of Central Indiana gathered 7 p.m. for Mass and healing service at the chapel in St. Francis Hall, Marian College, 3200 Cold Spring Rd., Indianapolis.

Third Saturdays
The archdiocesan Pro-Life Office and St. Andrew Parish, 3922 E. 38th St., Indianapolis, celebrates Mass for Life, 8:30 a.m., followed by walk to the abortion clinic at 2951 E. 38th St. to pray the rosary and return to St. Andrew Parish for Benediction.

Bingos
TUESDAY: K of C Council 437, 1305 N. Delaware, 11 a.m., St. Michael, 6 p.m.; Msgr. Sheridan K of C Council 6138, Johnson Co., 6:15 p.m.; St. Pius X K of C Council 3433, 6 p.m.; K of C, 1040 N. Post Rd., 9 a.m.-noon. WEDNESDAY: St. Christopher, 6:30 p.m.; St. Roch Parish, St. Roch School, 9003 S. Meridian, 6:00 p.m. THURSDAY: K of C Council 437, 1305 N. Delaware, 5:45 p.m.; Holy Family K of C, American Legion Post 500, 1926 George Town Rd., 6:30 p.m.; FRIDAY: St. Christopher, Indianapolis, 6:30 p.m.; Holy Name, Beech Grove, 5:30 p.m. SATURDAY: K of C Council 437, 1305 N. Delaware, 4:30 p.m. SUNDAY: St. Ambrose, Seymour, 4 p.m.; Cardinal Ritter High School, 6 p.m.; Msgr. Sheridan K of C Council 6138, Johnson Co., first Sunday of each month, 1:15 p.m.
Pope says Lent a time for sharing God’s gifts

VATICAN CITY (CNS)—Responding to the love of God the Father and his abundant gifts, Christians should make Lent a time of sharing those gifts with others, Pope John Paul II said.

“If we live Lent with our eyes fixed on the Father, it becomes a unique time of charity, manifested in our works of spiritual and corporal mercy,” the pope said in his annual message for Lent.

The theme of the pope’s 1999 message for Lent, which begins Feb. 17 for Latin-rite Catholics, is “The Lord Will Prepare a Banquet for All Peoples.”

Releasing the message Jan. 19 at the Vatican, the Pontifical Council Cor Unum announced it had collected $2.8 million from some 200 dioceses in North America, Europe and Oceania to fund “100 Projects of the Holy Father” during 1999. The projects range from $50,000 to $4 million each: construction of a seminary in Albania and construction of housing for displaced people in areas of the former Yugoslavia.

Although originally conceived as a program with 100 specific projects, requests and offers for funding expanded the program to 223 projects, said Msgr. Frank Dewane, an official at Cor Unum.

Participating agencies include the Catholic Campaign for Human Development, the U.S. bishops’ domestic anti-poverty program; Catholic Relief Services, their international relief and development agency; and the Canadian Catholic Organization for Development and Peace, the Canadian bishops’ development agency, Msgr. Dewane said.

In addition, the Archdiocese of Philadelphia joined the agency side of the program with proposals and funding for a parish nurse project and for a home for women with HIV/AIDS.

During Lent, Pope John Paul said in his message, “Our thoughts go especially to those excluded from the banquet of everyday consumerism.”

Individual and communal acts of charity and organized efforts on a social and political level are needed to help “all those who have no share in the material benefits which progress has brought,” the pope said.

“There are situations of persistent misery which cannot but impinge upon the conscience of Christians, reminding them of their duty to address these situations both as individuals and as a community,” he said.

Pope John Paul also called on international institutions and national governments to “undertake brave plans and projects to ensure a more just sharing of the goods of the earth.”

The Lord’s promise to prepare a banquet for all peoples is ultimately a promise of union in heaven with God the Father and with all peoples, the pope said.

In addition to sharing material blessings, he said, Christians must share the hope they draw from God’s promise.

“Those who are lonely, those on the margins of society, the hungry, the victims of violence, those who have no hope must be able to experience, in the Church’s loving care, the tenderness of the heavenly Father,” the pope said.

“Many of our brothers and sisters can bear their situation of misery, discomfort and sickness only because they are certain that one day they will be called to the eternal banquet of heaven,” Pope John Paul said.

Archbishop Paul Josef Cordes, president of Cor Unum, said charity is a necessary witness to the goodness of God in a world which sees poverty and suffering and is tempted to believe God does not exist or does not love his creatures.

The archbishop announced that Pope John Paul would celebrate a Mass May 16 at the Vatican with representatives of Catholic charity and development organizations and with Catholics involved in volunteer work, to underscore the importance of their activities.

He also said the council’s Pane Caritatis project, which involves Italian bakers donating a portion of special bread sales, had raised more than $300,000 in its first three months. Cor Unum has sent $100,000 to the Archdiocese of Kinshasa in the Democratic Republic of the Congo to build bread ovens for the poor. Another $50,000 was sent to the Diocese of Hoima, Uganda, for the care of refugees from Sudan, the archbishop said.

The council is examining proposals for projects in Burundi and Rwanda.
Advancement Positions with The Sisters of St. Francis

The Sisters of St. Francis, Oldenburg, are opening a search for two positions: Director of Constituency Relations and Director of Development, both within the Office of Congregational Advancement. The Sisters of St. Francis are vibrant women of prayer, committed to the Gospel values as lived by Sts. Francis of Assisi and of their foundresses, Mother Theresa Hackelmeier. They extend the mission of Jesus through their presence and service. Enraptured by the spirit of justice, the Sisters of St. Francis collaborate with others responding to the needs of the world.

Director of Constituency Relations

The new Director of Constituency Relations will be externally focused and will work closely with the other members of the Office of Congregational Advancement to meet the philanthropic goals of the Congregation. He/she will:

• Create, implement, and evaluate a major gift program and an expanded planned giving program for the Congregation within the context of a strong annual giving program.
• Cultivate, solicit, and steward major gifts to the Congregation.
• Establish and maintain a systemized method for tracking major gift prospects.
• Coordinate special development gatherings for the Congregation and assist the Congregation's special ministries in their development efforts.

He/she will have a bachelor’s degree and ideally a minimum of three years of development experience, preferably in the area of major and/or planned giving.

Director of Development

The Director of Development will be responsible for the annual fund and will work closely with the other members of the Office of Congregational Advancement to meet the philanthropic goals of the Congregation. He/she will:

• Plan, implement, and evaluate the annual fund of the Congregation.
• Coordinate the ongoing work of the Development Advisory Group.
• Manage and maintain the systems for gift acknowledgement and tracking, including all financial reports and analysis.
• Create printed materials for cultivation, solicitation, and stewardship.
• Write grant applications to identified prospects.

He/she will have a bachelor’s degree and ideally a minimum of three years of development experience, preferably in the area of annual giving.

The ideal candidate for either position must be committed to the mission of the Sisters of St. Francis, to collaborative planning, and to working with the other members of the Advancement team. Send letter of application and resume to Sr. Mary Jane English, Sisters of St. Francis, PO Box 100, Oldenburg, IN 47367. Application deadline is January 15, 1999. Applications will be reviewed in February 1999.

Youth Ministry Coordinator

Are you looking for a vibrant, faith-filled community where youth programming is supported and encouraged? Do you live out your Catholic faith daily and possess a strong commitment to personal spirituality?

St. Mary-of-the-Knobs, a 900+ family parish in Southern Indiana, may be the place for you! In this full-time position, you will be expected to organize and support a ministry to grades 7-12 and young adults and strengthen the spiritual growth and social awareness of our young people.

Send résumé to Search Committee, St. Mary-of-the-Knobs Catholic Church, 3033 Martin Rd., Floyds Knob, IN 47119 by March 1. Date of Hire: July 1. Implementation of ministry to begin the fall semester of 1999.

Bishop Chatard High School announces job openings: part-time religion teacher and substitute teachers

Bishop Chatard High School, 5885 North Crittenden Avenue, Indianapolis, has immediate openings for a part-time religion teacher and substitute teachers.

The religion position is open to practicing Catholics with college credits. Teaching experience is helpful. Substitute teachers need 60 college credits.

Interested applicants should contact Mr. James Kendra at 317-254-5428 immediately.

Positions Available

Principal

Charmandale-Jalilienne Catholic High School, Dayton, Ohio School Profile:

Charmandale-Jalilienne Catholic High School, a National School of Excellence, is a well-established independent college school located in downtown Dayton, Ohio. We are owned by the Society of Mary (Marianists) and the Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur. Our 900 students come from all over the greater Dayton metropolitan area and represent economic and ethnic diversity.

Position description: The principal, as the chief operating officer, is responsible for the day-to-day operation of the school. He/she is responsible for providing and coordinating the personnel and material resources to create, maintain, and resist a sound educational program. He/she also has a president who serves as chief executive officer.

Qualifications: Candidate must have practiced Catholicism in good standing with the Church. He/she must hold a master’s degree in education or educational administration and be qualified for principal’s certification for the state of Ohio.

Salary: Competitive, dependent upon preparation and experience.

Application procedures: Review of nominations and applications begins immediately and will continue through Feb. 22, 1999, or until a candidate has been selected. Please direct all expressions of interest to Miss Nancy A. Eghers, Chairperson, Principal Search Committee, Charmandale-Jalilienne Catholic High School, 701 South Ludlow Street, Dayton, Ohio 45402. 937-461-7440, ext. 421. Fax: 937-461-0356.

For Rent

DESTIN, FL: beachfront condo, pool, dock, 812-246-9792.
NEW SMYRNA beach, Florida: Oceanfront condo, fully furnished, 2 bedrooms, 2 baths, two pools and tennis. Visit Disney, Epcot, NASA and enjoy the beach, too. 904-427-4255.
PANAMA CITY Beach, 2 bedroom condo, Spring break and summer weeks. $600. 502-491-4687.

For Sale

JOHN HAMMANS ELECTRIC, INC.
CALL 317-253-9604 / 888-850-6279

For Rent

PRIMROSE CHALET
Affordable, comfortable, with all the amenities, sleeps 6, 365-0552 (HOOPER)
For Sale

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GUTTER SERVICE

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($1.00 for each additional line or fraction thereof.) Write your ad exactly as on this coupon and send it to Classifieds, The Criterion, P.O. Box 1717, Indianapolis, IN 46206-1717. Deadline is January 15, 1999. Applications will be reviewed in February 1999.

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TALENTED TALKER who can effect decisions in others. Established, home products company NEEDS YOU if you want a high energy, fast-paced environment. Excellent opportunity provided in our MODERN offices. You’ll work flexible hours and earn a salary and up to generous bonuses. Call Ms. Gallagher between 9 a.m. and noon for a confidential interview. 317-283-8822

Call to advertise! 317-236-1572!
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 religious sisters serving our archdiocese 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.


WILLIAMS, Irene, 90, St. Roch, Indianapolis, Nov. 27. Mother of Dr. James Weilhammer. Charlotte Austin. Grandmother of nine. Great-grandmother of nine.


WILLIAMS, Helen Marie, 63, St. Roch, Indianapolis, Dec. 19. Mother of Melodie Wirlowski, Timothy Williams Sisters of Charity. Father of Ashley Reel.


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News briefs

U.S.

**Internet one of the hottest tools in vocations promotion**

CHICAGO (CNS)—When Father Thomas McQuaid became director of vocations recruitment at the University of St. Mary of the Lake in Mundelein, he was a tad computer illiterate, he admits. But it didn’t take long before he was surfing the “net—for seminarian candidates, that is. That’s because the World Wide Web has become one of the hottest recruitment tools in the vocations effort. Hundreds of men’s and women’s religious orders throughout the world are plugging into their computers to try to ensure the future of vocations. “We get a lot of guys who were surfin’ the ‘net and stumble upon our page, then call us for more information,” Father McQuaid told The New World, Chicago’s archdiocesan newspaper.

**High court hears case over lower welfare benefits for newcomers**

WASHINGTON (CNS)—For the second time in three years, the Supreme Court is considering whether states may provide lower welfare benefits to people who have recently moved from states with different benefit levels. The court heard oral arguments Jan. 13 over whether California may legally save money and discourage poor people from moving to the state by paying different levels of welfare to newcomers for a year. The case is being closely watched by the states plugging into their computers to try to ensure the future of vocations. “We get a lot of guys who were surfin’ the ‘net and stumble upon our page, then call us for more information,” Father McQuaid told The New World, Chicago’s archdiocesan newspaper.

**Franciscans to leave some parishes, but remain in Medjugorje**

VATICAN CITY (CNS)—Franciscan priests will leave seven parishes in the Diocese of Mostar, Bosnia-Herzegovina, but no immediate change was foreseen for the parish at Medjugorje, the site of alleged Marian apparitions. Archbishop Marcello Zago, secretary of the Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples, said Jan. 13 the agreement “is connected to the fact that there are too many priests in the area—some diocesan priests have no parishes.” Medjugorje was not part of the discussion. It was not one of the parishes listed,” Archbishop Zago said. In separate interviews with Catholic News Service Jan. 13, the procurator general of the Franciscans in Rome and the secretary to Bishop Ratko Peric of Mostar confirmed the details reported by Archbishop Zago.

**In Israel, Polish president says he will ‘protect’ Auschwitz**

JERUSALEM (CNS)—In a meeting with Israeli leaders, Polish President Aleksander Kwasniewski said he would take quick action to “protect” the Auschwitz-Birkenau concentration camp, where Catholic activists have erected more than 200 crosses. Jews oppose the presence of any religious symbols at the camp and say the presence of the crosses is an affront to the Jews murdered by Nazis at the camp. Kwasniewski said in Jerusalem Jan. 10 he expected the problem to be discussed and solved by the Polish parliament, which will be reviewing a special law of how to “protect such places” in the next few months.

**Canadian bishops protest violence against Christians in India**

OTTAWA (CNS)—Troubled by increasing violence against Christians in India, Canada’s bishops urged the government of India to launch a public inquiry and bring those responsible to trial. “We are seriously concerned by the increased number of violations of basic human rights committed against Christians . . . “ said Cardinal Jean-Claude Turcotte of Montreal, president of the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops. In a letter to Rajnikanta Verma, India’s High Commissioner to Canada, Cardinal Turcotte pointed to violent attacks committed against Christian communities in the state of Gujarat since Christmas Day.

**Christianity must be allowed to affect Europe’s future, says pope**

VATICAN CITY (CNS)—Christianity, which has left its imprint on European culture, must be allowed to impact its future as well, Pope John Paul II said. “In a world where difficulties are numerous, the message of Christ opens an infinite horizon and brings incomparable energies: light for intelligence, strength for will and love for hearts,” the pope said in a Jan. 14 address to a Vatican symposium. The Jan. 11-14 meeting, sponsored by the Pontifical Council for Culture, brought more than 100 writers, artists, philosophers and scholars to the Vatican to discuss European culture in preparation for the fall Synod of Bishops for Europe. Pope John Paul said that although not all Europeans are Christians, the continent’s peoples and cultures “have been deeply marked by the Gospel.”

**People**

**Court stays convicted killer’s execution; religious leaders asked for clemency**

LINCOLN, Neb. (CNS)—The Nebraska Supreme Court stayed the execution of convicted killer Randolph Reeves Jan. 12, two days before he was to die in the electric chair. It agreed to hear arguments that his execution would violate a new equal-protection clause added last November to the state constitution. On Jan. 11 the Nebraska Board of Pardons had refused to give Reeves a last-minute clemency hearing and voted unanimously to move ahead with the execution despite pleas for clemency from the families of his victims and religious leaders, including the state’s three Catholic bishops.

**Father Vincent O’Connell, ‘sugar cane priest,’ dies**

NEW ORLEANS (CNS)—Marist Father Vincent J. O’Connell, a labor and social justice advocate known as the “sugar cane priest” for his work among Louisiana’s sugar cane workers, died of respiratory arrest Jan. 9. He was 86 years old. He died at Chateau de Notre Dame, a Catholic nursing home in New Orleans where he had resided since 1997. He was to be interred in the Marist tomb at St. Bartholomew Cemetery following a funeral Mass Jan. 14 at Holy Name of Mary Church in New Orleans, where he served 1978-82.

(These briefs were compiled from reports by Catholic News Service.)
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