Catholic leaders urge end to capital punishment

WASHINGTON (CNS)—Vatican, Filipino and U.S. Catholic leaders have stepped up efforts to end capital punishment. Archbishop Renato R.Martino, Vatican nuncio to the United Nations, said the Vatican will support a General Assembly resolution calling for a moratorium on capital punishment.

In the Philippines, responding to the first execution of a convict in 23 years, Archbishop Oscar Cruz of Lingayen-Dagupan noted the urgency of a "catechism on capital punishment." Archbishop Cruz commented on the need for "urgent formational and transformational work" in the Philippines the day after Leo Echegaray was executed by lethal injection for repeatedly raping his young stepdaughter. He had maintained his innocence.

The archbishop said Filipino bishops "urged the state Legislature to follow 10 laws that would promote the dignity of life and calling for an end to capital punishment in Missouri, was to be published in March on the 10th anniversary of an earlier condemnation.

But it was released Feb. 5 in light of the pope’s remarks and his personal plea to Missouri Gov. Mel Carnahan to commute the death sentence of inmate Darrell Mease, which the governor did Jan. 28.

But a Missouri prosecutor has since said that Mease still could be tried on the two murder charges dropped in the original prosecution of his triple-murder case. In their statement, the bishops urged citizens to speak out on the issue, saying "it is only through the witness and action of Christians that the executions in our state will come to an end." They said Missouri has executed 33 people since the death penalty was reinstated 10 years ago.

Texas bishops also reiterated their opposition to capital punishment, and urged the state Legislature to follow 10 other states that have banned capital punishment for the mentally retarded. Issued by the Texas Catholic Conference, the bishops’ statement asked lawmakers to stop executing people whose IQs test below 70, the level generally considered to define mental retardation.

In his weekly column in The Criterion last week, Archbishop Buechlein discussed Pope John Paul II’s pro-life message during his visit to St. Louis last month. Archbishop Buechlein recalled the pope’s teachings that "we must not take life away."
Richmond honors Seton alumnus for values, generosity

RICHMOND—For the third year, the Richmond Catholic Community honored a graduate of its Catholic schools at its Seton Star Spectacular dinner.

On Jan. 30, Raymond E. Imperial was the recipient of the National Catholic Educational Association’s Distinguished Graduate Award for Richmond. A manufacturer of housing materials, he was honored because he “valued that gifts God has given him and has given them back tenfold.” Besides his generosity to the Richmond community, he supports a facility in Florida that helps children who are the victims of abuse.

Annette “Mickey” Lentz, executive director of the archdiocese, was the dinner speaker.

Pilgrimage to Woods still has room

Places are still available for the Feb. 28 pilgrimage to Saint Mary-of-the-Woods to celebrate the beatification of Mother Theodore Guérin with Catholics from throughout the state. The celebration of last October’s beatification of the Foundresses of the Sisters of Providence of Saint Mary-of-the-Woods and Saint Mary-of-the-Woods College will include a 3 p.m. Mass in the Church of the Immaculate Conception at Saint Mary-of-the-Woods.

Archbishop Daniel M. Buechlein will preside and the bishops of the other four Indiana dioceses will concelebrate. A reception will follow the Mass.

Lentz spoke of the importance of students, parents, staff, teachers, principals, curriculum directors and the greater community to Catholic schools. “Catholic schools—our schools—teach the whole person,” she said. “They are beacons of hope” that pave the way for high academic performance and practice of Christian values.

The students learn to lead and serve, Lentz said. “They become ambassadors of faith.”

She used the example of St. Mark School in Indianapolis, where she was principal 10 years ago when it was named a national Blue Ribbon School. Lentz listed the components of a good Catholic school: true Catholic identity; teachers committed to the development of every boy and girl in the school; communications with the parents and community; parental involvement; a solid core curriculum and ancillary program; and community involvement.

Imperial attended St. Mary before it became part of Seton. He claimed the reason he received the award was that “I out-lived everybody body.”

Imperial said that the nuns who taught him “taught the basics, the fundamental things of life—the things most important, I think, that form the fabric of your lives.

“No one is more appreciate of this award than I,” said Imperial.

Father Todd Riebe, pastor of the parishes that comprise the Richmond Catholic Community, launched plans for a new high school. He said that the Catholic educators would appeal for support from community leaders with a mailing information that clearly shows that Catholic schools have contributed leaders to the Richmond community.

The material will also show that Catholic schools score higher in state tests. “Our studies show that the longer a child is exposed to a Catholic education, the higher his or her results,” said Father Riebe.

Sixth-grade students from St. Elizabeth Ann Seton elementary school provided musical entertainment. A non-Catholic who volunteered for the pilgrimage to Woods and still has room for the Feb. 28 event is archdiocesan associate director for special events at 317-236-1400 N. Meridian St. in Indianapolis, IN.

DEATH PENALTY continued from page 1

human life even in the case of someone who has done great evil.” He also quoted another of the pope’s messages: “The death penalty is cruel and unnecessary.”

Writing in The Catholic Moment, Lafayette’s diocesan newspaper, Bishop William L. Higi encouraged support for a bill to abolish the death penalty in Indiana.

“As followers of Jesus, we must seek ways to break the culture of violence that grips our society,” he wrote. “Popular? No. The right thing to do? Yes. Jesus showed us the way when he forgave his executioners.

The Worcester Diocese’s prayer campaign to prevent reinstatement of the death penalty in Massachusetts was launched by the social justice office.

Diocesan officials are asking individuals and groups to pray as often as possible “A Prayer to Abolish the Death Penalty” more than 30 years, Emie Bietry received a Friend of Seton award for his service to the Richmond Catholic schools.

by Sister Helen Prejean, well-known author of Dead Man Walking and a Sister of St. Joseph of Medaille.

The campaign also includes educational efforts, as well as media and legislative advocacy.

Meanwhile, speaking in the U.S. Capitol Feb. 2, Sister Prejean said the “loophole” in Catholic teaching permitting capital punishment is slowly closing.

The nun said Pope John Paul II’s encyclical, The Gospel of Life, helped narrow Catholic teaching allowing capital punishment in certain cases. She said the pope used even stronger language in his 1998 Christmas message, when he called for an end to the death penalty.

She said people tend to be very selective in quoting from the Bible to support capital punishment, and often overlook biblical calls for the death penalty for adultery or blasphemy. In the book of Genesis, she noted, Cain, the first murderer, was marked so that others would not harm him, much less kill him.

PATRIOTIC HERITAGE

This week, The Criterion is featuring the life of St. Valentine’s Day (February 14).

On February 14 Emperor Claudius allowed Romans to marry only after several years of military service. Ignoring the order, St. Valentine, a Catholic priest, married young Christians in love with the blessing of the Church. Condemned to death, he wrote letters from prison to the faithful and signed them: “Love, Your Valentine.” He was martyred on February 14.

Writing in A Prayer to Abolish the Death Penalty, Diocesan officials are asking individuals and groups to pray as often as possible “A Prayer to Abolish the Death Penalty” more than 30 years, Emie Bietry received a Friend of Seton award for his service to the Richmond Catholic schools.

Material will also show that Catholic schools have contributed leaders to the Richmond community.

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Comedian Doug Brummel sows seeds of faith

By Mary Ann Wyand

Comedy routines, mixed with faith stories, generated frequent cheers, laughter and applause from 400 Archdiocesan Youth Conference participants Feb. 6-7 when comedian and vocalist Doug Brummel of Littleton, Colo., took the stage for keynote addresses at the Indiana Convention Center in Indianapolis.

Teen-agers from all 11 deaneries enjoyed Brummel's sometimes silly and sometimes serious characterizations of a little boy, a disillusioned young man, an elderly widower and a chubby cherub.

The nationally known Catholic youth ministry speaker also shared stories of the ups and downs of life with his own family and some of the challenges of his personal faith journey, then he related these narratives to the youth conference theme of "Seeds of Faith Rooted in the Spirit."

"I think so much of our faith life comes from our families and friends," Brummel said. "Sometimes we get caught up in our own little worlds, and we just hang around with people our own age. I think the challenge as Christians is to reach outside of ourselves, look to people younger and older, and ask them to share their stories. In those stories, we can truly gain the seeds of faith that we need in our lives right now as we plan for our future and make peace with our past."

Brummel's first characterization, a 5-year-old boy named Timmy, told the teen-agers that, "My grandma says in God's eyes, we will always be a child, no matter how old we are. And even though God is very, very busy, my grandma says God always has time to listen to me. She says the most important thing is to talk to Jesus and make him your best friend!"

For his second characterization, Brummel portrayed a "30-something" man talking to God.

"I thought that if it feels good, God, that it had to be good," the man said. "There's a lot of things, God, that you and the Church told me not to do. I just wish I could go back and not do all the stupid things I did. I just caught up in the lies. Now I know that being good is a lot more important than feeling good."

Pacing the stage, Brummel's character lamented that, "Life gets busier and busier every year. I get so stressed out, and start thinking that stuff is more important than you, God, and I know that isn't true. Life gets real tough. I know now that what feels good, and what is good, is talking to you, God. I guess that's all prayer is—talking to you and listening. Now I know I've got to listen." Brummel's third characterization was an elderly man who fondly recalled his late wife and 57-year marriage.

"My wife was the biggest gift I ever got from God," the widower said. "We had a wonderful marriage. I always thought I knew what love is all about. But, you know, I really didn't know what love is until Ethel died. When she died, part of me died, too."

"I miss my wife," the widower told the youth. "I hope all of you find someone in your life as special as Ethel was to me. Don't ever settle for less. You wait until you find that special someone you will commit to for life."

Fr. Joseph Beechem was pastor, educator

Father Joseph V. Beechem, pastor at St. Lawrence Parish in Indianapolis for 20 years, died on Feb. 4—eight days before his 83rd birthday.

A funeral Mass was celebrat- ed at St. Lawrence Church on Tuesday, Feb. 9. Burial was at Calvary Cemetery.

Father Beechem received his theological degrees from the Catholic University of America, Washington, D.C. Ordained at Oldenburg by then-Archbishop Joseph E. Ritter on June 9, 1940, Father Beechem began his priesthood as assistant pastor at St. John the Evangelist Parish, while teaching at St. John Academy in Indianapolis. In 1944, he moved to Our Lady of Lourdes Parish, where he was leader of the youth group.

In 1952, Father Beechem became assistant pastor at St. Patrick Parish in Terre Haute. He supervised the construction and became principal and superintendent of Schulte High School there. He also served as chaplain at the Newman Center at Indiana State University-Rose Hulman in Terre Haute.

In 1971, he returned to Indianapolis to serve as pastor of St. Lawrence. While there, he was president of the Archdiocese of Indianapolis Deanery and the archdiocesan boards of education. He was president of the archdiocesan Priests' Senate, a forerunner to the Council of Priests.

Father Beechem was also president of the Metropolitan Area Citizen's Organization, which renovated community housing and businesses. He was a member of the board of directors of the Indianapolis chapter of Habitat for Humanity. He was chaplain of the Notre Dame Club of Indianapolis for 16 years and of the Lawrence Optimist Club for two decades. He was active in the Lawrence Ecumenical Ministerial Association.

Father Beechem retired in 1991, but continued to celebrate Mass, taking the Holy Week liturgies for one parish three years ago. In his retirement, he enjoyed golfing and bowling with his priest friends.

When he returned to the mortgage burning for the new church last year, he joked about living to see St. Lawrence Parish pay off its debts twice.

He is survived by one brother, Thomas Beechem, and one sister, Mary Beiber.
The sign of the cross

Next Wednesday is Ash Wednesday, when Christians across the world mark the beginning of a three-day solemn period leading up to the season of Lent.

It is one day in the year when a person’s Catholicity is very evident and very public—by the smudged, ash-covered faces on our foreheads. In offices and factories throughout the world, “dirty foreheads” usually result in discussions of religion, Catholic practices and the meaning of Lent. It’s a good time for us to give witness to our faith (and, perhaps, to invite those co-workers around the water cooler or in the break room to join us on our Journey of Hope).

The wearing of ashes as a religious gesture can be found in the Old Testament (9:11; Dn 9:3; Jon 3:6). The Church adopted the practice very early as a sign of public penance.

Since the imposition of ashes is traditionally done in the form of a cross, it would be good for us this Ash Wednesday—a day of penance and the Triduum—to be especially reflective about the meaning of the cross in our lives.

During Lent, the Church calls us to prayer, fasting, and works of charity and, in its lectionary readings and in its rites, those co-workers around the water cooler and co-workers will “see” the sign of the cross on our bodies—at our ordinations.确认，在我们的信仰中，生命里，我们可以找到十字架的迹象。当我们在同一个俱乐部中，一个基督徒正在做一个决定。爬上十字架，我们会被主和他与我们同在和一起活过和度过每一天。我们将完全地与他在一起，他的王国是完整和完整的。

So let us recall on this Ash Wednesday that when we “brand” our babies, our catechumens, or ourselves with the sign of the cross, we are uniting them and ourselves with the Lord Jesus in his passion and death as well as in his resurrection.

And let us pray that our neighbors and co-workers will “see” the sign of the cross on us every day in our words and in our actions and not just on our Ash Wednesday-smudged foreheads.

—William R. Brunts

God is Father like no other father

Our archdiocesan preparation for the celebration of the Great Jubilee 2000 and the new millennium is called the Journey of Hope 2001. On this symbolic journey we set three themes to which we wish to give greater focus in our mission: spiritual development, authentic Christian stewardship and evangelization, a new sense of mission. The symbolic journey has caught our imaginations and focused well on our way in living these themes.

At the same time, Pope John Paul II has proposed that for each of the last three years, and this second millennium a person of the Blessed Trinity be given our prayerful consideration. The year 1997 was dedicated to reflection on the person of Christ, and 1998, the Holy Spirit. This year, 1999, we prayerfully reflect on God the Father.

I can’t think of a better source to clarify and enrich our understanding of God as our Father than the Catechism of the Catholic Church.

We need help in our reflection because, as the catechism reminds us, “The Trinity is a mystery of faith in the strict sense, one of the ‘mysteries that are hidden in God, which cannot be known unless they are revealed by God…’ To be sure God has left traces of his Trinitarian being in his work of creation and in his Revelation through-out the Old Testament. But his most being as Holy Trinity is a mystery that is inaccessible to reason alone or even Israel’s faith before the Incarnation of the God’s Son and the sending of the Holy Spirit” (#237).

Yet, just as we know another person by what he or she does, and just as the better we know that person, the better we understand his or her actions, so is it with God’s revelation of himself. There is the inmost (hIDDEN) life of God. And there is God’s action in this world of ours. “God’s works reveal who he is in himself; the mystery of his inmost being enlightens our understanding of all his works” (cf. #236). St. John of the Cross writes of the Holy Trinity is a mystery of faith that we can never fully comprehend.

The catechism reminds us that many religions invoke God as Father.

“Father” as the deity is often considered the father of the family. The language of God as Father can be understood in the context of all historical and cultural factors. The word “Father” has multiple meanings and connotations in various cultures and religious traditions.

In Christianity, the word “Father” is used to refer to God. The concept of God as Father is central to the Christian tradition, particularly within the context of the Trinitarian doctrine. In Catholicism, the term “Father” is used to denote various hierarchical positions within the church, from the pope to priests and bishops. The use of “Father” as a title for God reflects the belief in a loving, fatherly God who is accessible to humanity.

However, the use of “Father” as a title for God has been a subject of controversy and debate. Some argue that it is a misrepresentation of God’s nature and should be avoided. Others see it as a historical and cultural expression of the belief in a loving, fatherly God.

In conclusion, the use of “Father” as a title for God reflects the complexity of religious expressions and the diversity of how people understand and express their faith. It is important to engage in respectful and thoughtful dialogue about religious language and the roles of different religious leaders. The use of “Father” as a title for God is a matter of personal and cultural expression, and it is important to recognize and respect the various perspectives and interpretations.

The criterion offers an accessible and informative perspective on religious language and the role of religious leaders. By providing a platform for dialogue and discussion, the criterion can contribute to a deeper understanding and appreciation of the complexities of religious expressions and the roles of religious leaders.

Archbishop Buechlein’s intentions for vocations for February

Young Adults: That they may realize the importance of their presence in our parishes and have the generosity and courage to consider service in the Church, especially as priests and religious.
Dios es un Padre como ningún otro padre

La intención del Arzobispo Buechlein para vocaciones en febrero

Adultos jóvenes: que se den cuenta de la importancia de su presencia en nuestras parroquias y tengan la generosidad y el valor de considerar el servicio en la iglesia, especialmente como sacerdotes y religiosos.

La Trinidad es un misterio de la invocación de Dios como “Padre” es auténtico. Father Haring was especially concerned that the priest exercise compassion in the confessional. Father Haring pointed out:

“From my experience as a pastoral caregiver, I became more aware that a legalistic approach does not even resemble the law, much less the joy of the Lord. The joy of faith is after all our true strength.”

His words made me think of my own upbringing in Catholic schools in the 1940s and ’50s. We learned all the things which were binding under the pain of mortal sin and therefore subject to eternal punishment, but there was not much said about joy.

Father Haring insisted, “They got it all back, completely distortiing the fundamental truth that we live as Christians in the law of grace; our jubilation over the good news ... is a precious fountain of youth that awakens and nourishes our inner powers. God gives us free for true life, not for ever after, to love, to live as a true image of the all-merciful judge, but a true image of the all-merciful grace. Joy in the Lord, not fear, is our greatest strength.”

In conclusion, “Enjoy the Lord (Alba House, Staten Island), I tried to build on that insight, encouraging a more joyful relationship with grace.” Much of our current thinking was inspired by Father Haring’s approach to moral theology.

Spirituallity for today

Father Haring saw the Church “discov- ering new horizons and setting out with full trust in God as it tried to transform itself from a Latin (European) Church to one that would become the salt of the earth.”

He had been shocked earlier years when he first went to Rome and saw Pope Pius XII carried on a throne-like chair, which was binding under the pain of sin. He felt follow a long procession of cardinals, each one with a cape more than 30-feet-long. The thought of Jesus entering Jerusalem on a donkey made him wonder what the Lord would say about all this pomp.

Evangelization was part of the reform movement which tried to make the Church less ostentatious and more Christ-like. Haring believed the Church had to proceed to some extent, but the issue still remains.

Evangelization in many parts of the world is hurt by these externals so far extent, but the issue still remains.

The fathers of the council suggested a more straightforward, less collegial model in the exercise of authority, but we are a long way from achieving that ideal. Jesus said, “Learn of me for I am meek and humble of heart.” The Lord wanted his disciples to be humble and compassionate.

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who hears compassion, Father Haring explained, “is not to be a judge, but a true image of the all-merciful Father. He is supposed to communicate the healing love of Jesus.”

Most priests today are kind and non-judgmental, even compassionate, but it was not always so. Thank God for the reforms of the last 30 years, and thank God for the gift of Father Haring, who was a model during that 50s.
Holy Trinity Parish in Indianapolis will host its Spring Bazaar March 20. Orders for Potica for Easter are now being taken. The cost is $13 a loaf. To place orders, call 317-634-2299 or 317-636-8874 by March 6. No orders will be taken at the bazaar.

“Life Awareness,” a vocation retreat for single adults, will be held March 19-21 at Fatima Retreat House, 5353 E. 56th St., in Indianapolis. The weekend session is for single adults, ages 19 to 50, who wish to explore and learn about a life of service to God and the Church as a priest, sister or brother. There is no cost for the retreat, however donations will be accepted. The deadline to register is March 15. To register, contact the archdiocesan Office of Priestly and Religious Vocations at 800-382-9636, ext. 1492, or 317-236-1492.

“Wise and Faithful Servants,” a retreat for youth ministers, will be held March 2-4 at Fatima Retreat House, 5353 E. 56th St., in Indianapolis. Father Jeff Godecker, pastor of Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish in Indianapolis, is the presenter. Information: 317-545-7681.

The University of Indianapolis in Indianapolis will offer “The Summer Youth Academy for Spiritual Formation,” June 14-19. The program is for any junior or senior in an Indiana high school who is an active church member. The academy is offered through the university’s new Center for Christian Vocations. For more information, contact the Office of Continuing Education at 812-357-6599 or 800-730-9910.

“The Summer Youth Academy for Spiritual Formation,” Feb. 16-18 at Saint Meinrad School of Theology in St. Meinrad. The retreat will be presented by the Saint Meinrad staff. Participants will be given the opportunity for personal reflection and spiritual direction. The cost for the retreat is $150 per person or $250 per couple. For more information, contact the Office of Continuing Education at 812-357-6599 or 800-730-9910.

“Friend Cleaving to Friend in the Spirit of Christ: St. Aelred,” a weekend retreat, will be held Feb. 26-28 at Saint Meinrad School of Theology in St. Meinrad. Benedictine Father Denis Robinson, the director of continuing education at Saint Meinrad School of Theology, is the presenter. The retreat will focus on the life of St. Aelred and his theme of spiritual friendship. The cost for the retreat is $150 per person or $250 per couple. For more information, contact the Office of Continuing Education at 812-357-6599 or 800-730-9910.

“Three Sisters” by Chekov will be presented by the theater area of Saint Mary-of-the-Woods College at Saint Mary-of-the-Woods. The play opens Feb. 26 at 8 p.m. in the Mankins Theater in the Conservatory of Music. Other presentations will be Feb. 27 at 8 p.m. and Feb. 28 at 2 p.m. Tickets are $6 for adults and $4 for senior citizens and may be purchased at the door or reserved by calling the college’s public relations office at 812-535-5212.

The St. Francis Neighborhood Clinic, 234 E. Southern Ave. in Indianapolis, will now be open two Saturdays a month to serve low-income residents in the Garfield Park community. This service is made possible through a $60,000 grant from The Indianapolis Foundation. Information: 317-791-9052.

Former U.S. Ambassador Alan Keyes, a nationally-known pro-life advocate, author, radio talk show host and Republican presidential candidate in the 1996 election, will be the featured speaker for the 17th annual “A Celebration of Life” dinner at 6 p.m. March 9 at the Indiana Convention Center in Indianapolis. Keyes served as U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations Economic and Social Council from 1981 to 1987. The annual dinner is sponsored by Right to Life of Indianapolis. Proceeds benefit the organization’s pro-life ministries. Reservations are $35 a person and due by Feb. 23. Information: Right to Life of Indianapolis at 317-582-1526.

“Winter Enchantment” is the theme for Cathedral High School’s 1999 Shamrauction at 5 p.m. Feb. 27 at the private Catholic high school located at 5225 E. 56th St. in Indianapolis. Tickets are $125 a person and include admission to the wine and cheese preview party at 7 p.m. Feb. 26. Proceeds go toward financial aid for students. Information: Cathedral High School at 317-542-1481.

Father Bob Cushing will conduct a leadership workshop and lead a parish retreat at St. Bartholomew Parish in Columbus during the first week of Lent. The workshop will be held Feb. 20 from 9 a.m. to noon in the parish hall. “The Testing of the Beloved” will set the theme for the retreat, which will be held on the evenings of Feb. 22, 23, and 24. Father Cushing is working on his doctorate in Ministry in Spirituality and is currently completing the spiritual direction component at San Francisco Theological Seminary. For workshop reservations, call the parish office at 812-379-9353. Child care will be provided. †
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St. Vincent de Paul parishioners growing spiritually through Renew 2000 process

SHELBY Co.—Parishioners at St. Vincent de Paul Parish in Shelby County, said the parish’s religious education program is unusual in that there are two catechists for every grade level. One hundred students are enrolled in the program in grade level. One hundred students are enrolled in the program in each of the three years. Each session includes two six-week sessions. A session is held in the fall and another in the spring.

Parishioner Kenny Zauss, pastoral council chair, said the program is designed to enrich faith communities. The small groups consist of about 10 people who meet regularly for 90-minute sessions. Each session includes fellowship. For the fall session, 130 parishioners signed up, and this number is expected to increase for the spring session.

“These small groups are able to meet in an intimate setting without a lot of distractions,” Zauss said.

He added that in some cases, group members are given the opportunity to talk about their Catholic faith like never before.

Father Landwerlen said Renew 2000 involves Scripture and personal witnessing in these small groups—something that he believes perhaps the parishioner hadn’t experienced in the past.

“It’s something that they liked. They found it helpful in their own spiritual lives and spiritual renewal,” Father Landwerlen said.

He added that with Renew 2000 the parishioners are getting the opportunity to talk about and witness their religious beliefs in their lives.

Bette Lux, parishioner, said Renew 2000 is a learning tool as well as a faith-sharing opportunity. She said the experience helps participants become comfortable with faith sharing and even with the Bible itself.

“I had a few in my group who weren’t familiar with the Bible at all. They really felt proud of themselves because they were able to find passages that we were to read,” she said.

A goal of Renew 2000 is for the small groups to continue meeting on a regular basis, even after the end of the formal sessions. Although it’s too soon to tell if that will be the case, Zauss believes parishioners will value the opportunity to talk about and practice their Catholic faith.

Story by Susan Bierman

Batesville Deanery

St. Vincent de Paul
Shelby County

Fast Fact:

Linda Robertson, coordinator of educational programs at St. Vincent de Paul Parish in Shelby County, said the parish’s religious education program is unusual in that there are two catechists for every grade level. One hundred students are enrolled in the program in preschool through 12th grade.

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are headed in that direction.

“We already have groups that are interested in continuing between the seasons. I’m pretty certain it will be an ongoing thing. Already I feel like it will be,” he said.

Initially, a number of parishioners were asked to be group leaders for Renew 2000. They attended several workshops at St. Luke Parish in Indianapolis and Our Lady of the Greenwood Parish in Greenwood.

“We became a faith-sharing group of our own, which we almost had to do to understand what we were trying to accomplish,” Father Landwerlen said.

Aside from spiritual renewal, Renew 2000 has proven to be an evangelization tool at the parish as well.

“People have gone to these meetings and talked about them, then other people say, ‘Can I join?’ So the word is getting out,” Father Landwerlen said.

Zauss said there is a member in his group who isn’t Catholic. She had heard about the renewal from another group member.

“She is probably one of the strongest members of our group,” Zauss said.

He added that this member is considering joining the Church.

“I really feel like that participation [with Renew 2000] has been a part of her evangelization,” Zauss said.

Zauss said through this renewal process, the group becomes a “family in Christ.” Although it would be wonderful for the entire 299-household parish to go through Renew, Father Landwerlen said sometimes that’s not possible.

“Some people are just afraid of small-group sharing,” Father Landwerlen said.

However, some of the Renew 2000 participants were a bit fearful too, but once they got involved they liked it, he added.

Lux said she has seen change in the Batesville Deanery parish since the program began and in the past few years.

“There is no doubt about it—there has been spiritual, uplifting growth in our parish,” Lux said.

She said the parish’s spiritual renewal is reflected in the response to the Legacy of Hope Generation to Generation Capital Campaign. The parish goal was $132,900. The parish has pledges of $320,882.

With a portion of the parish’s share of the campaign money, the church steeple was replaced and the bells were refurbished. They were reinstalled last December.

The old steeple was made of concrete and was erected in 1926. The new steeple is made of steel with an aluminum exterior. Zauss said when the old steeple was removed from the church building, people in the community, even the non-Catholics, missed its presence.

“This church is a spiritual anchor for the community,” Zauss said.

After being refurbished, the bells, which hadn’t rung since the mid-’60s were blessed, reinstalled on Dec. 20 and now are heard in the community.

St. Vincent de Paul, Shelby County (1837)
Address: 4218 E. Michigan Rd., Shelbyville, IN 46176
Phone: 317-466-9656
Church Capacity: 300 & Number of Households: 299
Pastor: Rev. Paul Landwerlen; Music Director: Janet Brewer
Pastoral Council Chair: Kenneth Zauss; Parish Secretary: Rita Wertz
Masses: Saturday Anticipation — 6:00 p.m.
Sunday — 8:00, 10:00 a.m.
Holy Day — 8:00 a.m.
Weekdays — 8:00 a.m.

“Love Works Magic”
Fashion Show & Luncheon
Saturday, March 13, 1999
11:30 a.m. — Cash Bar
12:00 noon — Lunch

Ritz Charles, Inc.
12156 North Meridian Street
Fashions by Lilly’s Boutique Gallery

For reservations call
317-466-9656
before March 1st
$20.00 Donation

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A new steeple made of steel wrapped in aluminum skin is lifted to its position in December 1998. This steeple replaces a 1926 concrete steeple. Below, Father Paul Landwerlen, pastor, blesses the refurbished bells before their replacement.
SS. Peter and Paul Cathedral was filled to the choir loft as 608 archdiocesan scouts and their families gathered for the Jan. 31 Religious Emblems Presentation. Archbishop Daniel M. Buechlein, an Eagle Scout himself, presided at the prayer service. He presented Girl Scout, Boy Scout and adult leader awards to individuals, who gathered in the front with others in their parishes. Names were announced by Father Thomas Schliessmann, archdiocesan chaplain for the scouts.

The gathering hymn was “I Say Yes.” In his greeting, the archbishop reminded the scouts that the Holy Father had asked the youth to say yes during his visit to St. Louis just five days before. In his homily after the Gospel reading about the beatitudes, Father Schliessmann told the scouts to wear their uniforms with “style—remember they proclaim that you promise to help people a little bit more.”

Those who received awards from some parishes filled the sanctuary space in front of the altar. St. Bartholomew Parish in Columbus and St. Barnabas Parish in Indianapolis each had 67 recipients for seven or eight awards. Members of both parishes had earned Family of God, I Live My Faith, Spirit Alive, Light of Christ, Parvuli Dei and St. Elizabeth Seton awards. A St. Bartholomew girl received the Marian Medal and St. Barnabas had three Ad Altare Dei awardees and a Bronze Pelican recipient.

At the end of the awards presentation, Father Schliessmann surprised Archbishop Buechlein by presenting him with a framed grouping of all the religious scouting awards. The archbishop said, “Scouting gave me an opportunity to learn to be a leader and get along with fellow scouts. It was in scouting that I had hints of knowing I wanted to be a priest. I hope some of you will do the same.”

“Scouting is as good as its leadership,” said Archbishop Buechlein. Speaking of the pope’s call to youth as leaders of the future Church, he relayed the Holy Father’s message, “If you want to do that, you have to talk to Christ.” After the presentations, scouts and their families gathered in the Archbishop O’Meara Catholic Center assembly hall for punch and Girl Scout cookies.

Also on the morning of Jan. 31, St. Matthew Parish in Indianapolis celebrated 40 years of scouting during the 11 a.m. Mass and a celebration that followed the liturgy.

Local donations for Hurricane Mitch victims reach $61,731

The archdiocese has sent a total of $61,731 to Catholic Relief Services to be used for Central American victims of Hurricane Mitch. Providence Sister Marian Kinney, director of the archdiocesan Mission Office, announced last week.

The national office of Catholic Relief Services had sent $675,500 in funds for emergency relief and rehabilitation efforts in Honduras by late December. Beneficiaries numbered more than 44,500. Activities in Honduras alone included provision of $214,115 in water supply equipment; six medical brigades, with supplies, who reached 1,500 remote patients; corn and bean seeds and fertilizer distributed to 1,000 farmers; and $200,000 to the national Caritas, for establishment of community tools banks, repair of damaged houses and rehabilitation of water systems. Catholic Relief Services had provided similar assistance to 74,430 families in Nicaragua, 29,730 families in Guatemala and 2,000 families in El Salvador by the end of December.
Mercy heals us like ‘gentle rain from heaven’

By Fr. Eugene LaVerdiere, S.S.S.

I was amazed at Shakespeare’s description of mercy when I reread these words of Portia in Act IV, Scene I of The Merchant of Venice:

“The quality of mercy is not strain’d, / It droppeth as the gentle rain from heaven / Upon the place beneath: it is twice blest; / It blesseth him that gives and him that takes.”

Shakespeare was an excellent exegete, at least in this area. He really caught the quality of mercy. Portia’s speech reads like the Old Testament wisdom literature. The speech continues:

“‘Tis mightiest in the mightiest: / It becomes the crowned monarch / Better than his crown; / His sceptre shows the force of temporal power, / The attribute to awe and majesty, / Wherein doth sit the dread and fear of kings, / But mercy I above this sceptred sway; / It is enthroned in the hearts of kings, / It is an attribute to God himself.”

If I did not know the source of this speech, I would attribute it to a lost book of ancient wisdom literature. In the Bible, mercy is a pervasive theme. It is a quality of God. It should also be a quality of godly people. Mercy pervades the Beatitudes:

“Blessed are the poor in spirit, / For theirs is the kingdom of heaven. / Blessed are the meek, / For they will be shown mercy. / Blessed are the peacemakers, / For they will be called children of God” (Mt 5:3-7,9).

Mercy is also a quality of Jesus. As the Son of God, Jesus reveals divine mercy in his very person. We recognize God’s mercy in the Word made flesh, dwelling among us (Jn 1:14), giving his flesh for the life of the world (Jn 6:51).

As the Christ, the anointed one, Jesus reveals divine mercy in his ministry, bringing glad tidings to the poor, proclaiming liberty to captives, giving sight to the blind and letting the oppressed go free (Lk 4:18).

Jesus challenges everyone who is with him to be merciful as the Father is merciful, even loving those who do not love us, including our enemies. Mercy should be a quality of every Christian, showing that we are children of the Most High (Lk 6:35-36).

Because it is so pervasive in the Old and New Testaments, it seems that the word “mercy” should be easy to define. But like love and life, mercy is elusive. Usually, like love and life, we recognize mercy by its absence.

The Old Testament Hebrew word for mercy, hesed, can be translated in many ways. It expresses kindness, love, generosity, faithfulness and graciousness to one in need. The divine quality of mercy is repeated as a refrain in Psalm 136. Every translation tries to render it faithfully.

The New American Bible translates it as “God’s love endures forever.”

In the New Revised Standard Version, the translation is, “For his steadfast love endures forever.”

In the New Jerusalem Bible, we read, “For his faithful love endures forever.”

As we see in various Bibles, the translation is only approximate. Together, they give us the sense of divine mercy.

And, as we see in Psalm 136, the way to respond to God’s mercy is by praising and giving thanks.

“Praise the Lord, for he is so good” (Revised New American Bible).

“O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good” (New Revised Standard Version).

“Give thanks to Yahweh, for he is good” (New Jerusalem Bible).

The New Testament Greek word for mercy, eleos, has the same range of meanings and connotations.

Like the Old Testament term, the New Testament term often is related to salvation. “Have mercy on us” is equivalent to “Please, save us.”

Thus, when the blind beggar named Bartimaeus cries out to Jesus, saying, “Son of David, have pity (mercy) on me,” he is asking for more than a cure. Bartimaeus is asking for the kind of sight that comes with saving faith.

Jesus’ response to him spells it out: “Go your way, your faith has saved you” (Mk 10:46-52).

Oh yes! To borrow again from Shakespeare, the quality of mercy was “not strain’d” in Jesus. In his steadfast love, Jesus’ mercy offers salvation to us. He offers his very life, challenging the quality of our mercy.

Jesus’ mercy is like the father’s mercy in the story of the prodigal son. When the father saw his son from afar, he was filled with compassion and ran out to meet the young man, embracing him, then welcoming him with a festive banquet.

The story challenges us to be like the father, not like the prodigal son’s older brother, who refused to attend the banquet.

The father was merciful. The older brother was not. †

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

MERCY SPEAKS OF ‘THE CHURCH’S COVENANT‘

By Fr. Lawrence E. Mick

One challenge for those who translate the Scriptures into English is figuring out how to handle words in Hebrew or Greek that do not have any real equivalent in a single English word. One such word is the Hebrew hesed.

The common English word used to translate hesed is “mercy,” but that only captures part of its meaning. The word “mercy” suggests forgiveness, and that is part of the meaning of hesed. But the Hebrew word means much more than that. It speaks of God’s covenant love—God’s faithfulness to the chosen people—and God’s will that all people be saved. It reminds us that God’s saving love was revealed in Jesus Christ.

This broader meaning is reflected in the history of the “Lord, have mercy.” At Mass, which began as early as the fourth century when it was the response to every petition in a litany. It functioned much the way “Lord, hear our prayer” does today. At its beginning, it was a prayer to address all our needs. No matter what problems we faced, we begged for hesed, for God’s constant love and care.

When we pray “Lord, have mercy,” we are asking Christ for more than forgiveness. We need forgiveness, but we really are praying for a continuation of Christ’s gracious will toward us with all that this implies. We are praying that Christ will continue to shower us with all that we need. †

(See also “The Church’s Covenant Love,” by John M. Mulvihill, in the January 1999 issue of Faith Alive!, page 11.)

When we pray “Lord have mercy,” we are asking Christ for more than forgiveness. We are praying that Christ will continue to shower us with all that we need. In his steadfast love, Jesus’ mercy offers salvation to us. He also challenges everyone to be as merciful as the Father is merciful, even loving those who do not love us, including our enemies. Mercy should be a quality of every Christian.

This Week’s Question

Lent is a time for prayer, service

What Lenten practices do you find greatly beneficial for yourself and/or others?

“Here we do a soup-and-bread meal after Wednesday evening Mass. Different service groups make the bread and soup, and I belong to one [group] that helps out. I find this activity brings together parts of the parish who normally don’t come together—probably because of the season—and it’s beneficial to all of us.” (Bonnie Sullivan, Crookston, Minn.)

“Instead of simply reciting my prayers, I try to really think about what I’m saying. I don’t give things up for Lent, I try to actively add doing kind acts to my daily life. During Lent, I focus even more on trying to treat others as if they were Christ.” (Molly Navin, Covington, Ky.)

“I would say a weekly prayer and meditation service that my co-workers and I take part in during Lent. That’s a most beneficial practice for me.” (Mary Mescher, Dubuque, Iowa.)

Lend Us Your Voice

An upcoming edition asks: Tell of a specific way a parish, motivated by charity, can contribute to the common good. To respond for possible publication, write to Faith Alive! at 3211 Fourth St. N.E., Washington, D.C. 20017-1100. †

Discussion Point

When we pray “Lord have mercy,” we are asking Christ for more than forgiveness. We are praying that Christ will continue to shower us with all that we need. In his steadfast love, Jesus’ mercy offers salvation to us. He also challenges everyone to be as merciful as the Father is merciful, even loving those who do not love us, including our enemies. Mercy should be a quality of every Christian.

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Listening with inward and outward reverence

Physical aging is just no fun. My poor body won’t do the things it used to. But the loss of some functions, the aches and pains have given me a new awareness of my body and mind, and some insights into posture and listening and reverence. Pain brings gain. A good thing.

The Liturgy of the Word, the first part of the Mass, requires our active participation—the active participation of everyone present, not just the priest and presider. It is easy to understand that what means everyone sings the psalm. But if I straighten my back, if I listen attentively if I am also attending to my own heart and ears, if I shake the cobwebs from my nostrils the breath of life, and so man became a living being.”

“Then the Lord formed man from the dust of the ground, and the dust of the ground became dry land. And the Lord said, ‘Let us make man in our image, after our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth.’” (Gen 1:26-28)

I think God made us from the earth and air and water and sun, from clouds or wind. But he made humans from dust.

I think God made us from the earth so we’d always know we are one with all nature. Maybe God made us from earth so that we could really believe him when he showed us through the resurrection of his Son that we were made for eternal life. Being made from earth, we can identify with how nature hangs onto life and so be able to believe scientifically as well as theologically that to be reborn after dying is our destiny too. I studied a lot of science. I learned that nothing in nature dies. Everything lives again in one form or another. Resurrection is the great theme of nature. How great is a God who is made our creation for eternal life!

One day I walked near a swamp where plastic pieces from discarded plastic bags, I found little sprouts in decaying leaves. I was awed at the cycle of life, even the deadness of a leaf. I was struck by the realization that we breathe the life that God put his breath into the earth. We find love, if not romance, in other relationships as well. Who can be dearer to us than the sister or brother who shares our memories, sometimes more accurately than our parents? Or the aunt and uncle, or friends, or families who’ve made us the comforting fabric of our family life?

I wonder if we ever think about that line, really. God could have made us from dust too. God could have made us in his image of days, from clouds or wind. But he made humans from dust.

I used to have a hard time with Ash Wednesday. It had such a dreariness about it. “Do us a favor and do what we shall return” seemed to defy the idea of reordering eternal life. It didn’t seem hopeful or life affirming. But I’ve come to see there is a reason behind this idea of dust and ashes. It is to tell us we must face our earthly mortality, our vulnerability to weakness, our moral failures. That’s our human condition. That’s really good.
The Sunday Readings
Sunday, Feb. 14, 1999

• Sirach 15:15-20
• 1 Corinthians 2:6-10
• Matthew 5:17-37

The ancient Book of Sirach is the source for the first reading this weekend. Sirach aptly is called part of the Wisdom Literature of the Bible. It well rep- resents that particular style of writing that sought to combine faith in God with human reason. This weekend’s reading speaks both of the freedom of humans to choose for themselves and the supreme and majestic wisdom of God. Humans are limited. God is supreme. In wisdom, and in great love, God has revealed the commandments and has called people to faithfulness. St. Paul’s Second Epistle to the Corinthians provides this liturgy’s second reading. Here Paul presents himself as a teacher of the greatest wisdom. It is the wisdom of God. This wisdom is beyond human comprehension. In fact, if humans were able to grasp this wisdom, then the Lord would not have been crucified. The apostle makes an interesting point: God’s wisdom comes to the mature. The knowledge of God escapes the arrogant and self-centered. Important in understanding this pas- sage is to know the setting to which Paul wrote. Corinth was a fairly sophisticated Greek city, one of the major communities in the far-flung Roman Empire. It included an estimated 200,000 people, an enormous city for its time. The people of Corinthians were exceedingly well-versed in the ways of the world. And when Paul insists that all this knowledge and all this experience with the world mean little if unaccompanied by the knowledge of God that comes only from the Lord. St. Matthew’s Gospel furnishes this weekend’s Gospel reading. These verses, in their particulars, reveal the identity of Jesus. He is the great inter- preter of God’s Revelation. He has come to reveal the true meaning of revelation and of God’s law. He defines what is true and what is not. He insists that the people search the Scriptures for God’s truth even more earnestly than the scribes and the Pharisees. They must want to know God. This process of identification sets the stage for the next section of the reading. The call of Jesus is revolutionary. It demands, not just invites, absolute change of heart and commitment to God. Nothing less will satisfy. Jesus gives a series of six admonitions from Scripture. He then says that to obey each, the believer must be thoroughly and totally dedicated. The Lord continues. Lust is the root of adultery. It is a blut but obvious state- ment. Then Jesus forbids divorce. Matthew’s text seems to establish an exception to this ban. However, it has been problematic that some older translations of this pas- sage into English have used “adultery” to describe the exception. Actually, the Gospel itself uses the Greek word porneia from “porneia” is derived in the English language. Used elsewhere in the Scriptures, it means relationships forbidden by Jewish religious law, such as relationships of incest. Such marriages were not unknown at the time. Reflection As was the case last week, the Liturgy of the Word this weekend calls disciples to faithfulness to God in all matters of life. The first section of this rather extended reading from Matthew establishes Jesus as Lord and Master, as does the second read- ing from First Corinthians.
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 can be taken by telephone. No pictures, please. Notices must be in our offices by 10 a.m. on Monday of the week of publication. Hand delivery or mail to: The Criterion, “The Active List,” 100 N. Meridian St., P.O. Box 1717, Indianapolis, Ind., 46206.

February 12
St. Roch Youth Athletic Board, Indianapolis, 5603 E. Meridian St., will hold a winter Monte Carlo Night in the school cafeteria beginning at 7 p.m. Information: 317-783-6155.

February 13
Families will hold a Day of Reflection with Msgr. Joseph Schandelf, “Marriage and the Sacrament of Life,” at St. Lawrence Parish, 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. The day includes Mass, reconciliation and lunch. Cost: $10. Information and registration: 765-342-4905.

St. Andrew the Apostle Parish, Indianapolis, 3922 E. 38th St., will hold a winter Monte Carlo Night in the school cafe- teria beginning at 7 p.m. Information: 317-562-9297.

February 14
Rexville School will present “The Eucharist, Source and Summit of the Christian Life,” 2-3 p.m. Open to the public. Doors open at 6:30 p.m., Dinner begins at 7:00 p.m., Dancing from 8 p.m. to Midnight. PRIMO BANQUET HALL • 2615 E. National Ave. Reservations: 317-635-2021.

February 15
St. Anthony Parish, Indianapolis, 379 N. Warren Ave., will have a eucharistic party beginning at 1 p.m. in Ryan Hall. Cost: $3 per person.

All Saints Catholic School, Indianapolis, 337 N., will have a Valentine’s Day Breakfast from 8 a.m.-1 p.m. in Ryan Hall at St. Anthony. Complete menu. Information: 317-636-3739.

February 16
St. John Parish, Indianapolis, will hold its annual Mardi Gras, Shrove Tuesday dinner at the nearby Old Spaghetti Factory at 7 p.m. after a social hour at the rectory at 5:45 p.m. Reservations: 317-635-2021.

February 20
Marvin University, Indianapolis, 2171 Avondale Pl., will present the annual Frederick Douglass performance featuring faculty, staff and students in the historic Performing Arts Center beginning at 6 p.m. Free. Information: 317-767-5299.

The 10th annual Oldenburg Academy Reverse Raffle will be at the Sherman House in Batesville. Refreshments, dinner and dancing, beginning at 6:30 p.m., are $37.50. Reverse raffle ticket is $25.

St. Bartholomew, Columbus, leadership workshop by Father Bob Cushing. 9 a.m. to noon in parish hall. Child care provided.

February 21
Rexville School will present “Holy Hour” at 10 a.m. by Mass at 3:30 p.m. Information: 317-689-3551.

Little Sisters of the Poor and the residential home for St. Augustine’s Home for the Aged, Indianapolis, 2345 W. 36th St., will have Holy Hour to pray for vocations beginning at 4:30 p.m. in the chapel. Information: 317-872-6420.

February 22
St. Paul Catholic Center, Bloomington, 1413 E. 17th St., will hold a parish mission, conducted by the Redemptorist Fathers beginning on Sunday with a potluck dinner at 6 p.m. followed by “The Day” with the first session. Monday through Friday sessions will be from 6:30-7:45 p.m. Babysitting and transportation provided. Information: 812-339-5561.

February 22-24

Recurring
Daily
Our Lady of the Greenwood Parish, 335 S. Meridian St., Greenwood, hosts perpetual adoration 24 hours a day in the parish center.


Weekly
Sundays
Holy Rosary Parish, Indianapolis, 520 Stevens St., celebrates a Tridinium (Latin) Mass, 10 a.m. (formerly held at St. Patrick Parish).

St. Anthony of Padua Parish, Clarksville, has “The Not Afraid” holy hour from 6-7 p.m.

St. Anthony Church, 379 N. Warman, Indianapolis, holds a rosary and Benediction for vocations at 2 p.m.

Monday’s
Our Lady of the Greenwood Parish, Greenwood, 335 S. Meridian St., hosts a prayer group, 7:30 p.m. in the chapel.

Tuesdays
Our Lady of the Greenwood Marian Prayer Group at Our Lady of the Greenwood Parish, 335 S. Meridian St., Greenwood, meets from 7:45 p.m. in the chapel to pray the rosary and Chaplet of Divine Mercy.


St. Louis de Montfort Parish, Fishers, 11144 Hague Rd., celebrates a pro-life rosary at 9 a.m. and a pro-life rosary prayer following 7 p.m. Mass. Information: 317-842-5869.

Holy Name Parish, Beech Grove, 89 N. 170th St., holds prayer group from 2:30 to 3:30 p.m.

Wednesdays
Marian Movement of Priests cenacle prayer group from 3 to 4 p.m. at 3354 W. 30th St., Indianapolis, behind St. Michael Church. Information: 317-271-8016.

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

St. Mary Parish, Albany, Shepherds of Christ Associates gather at 7 p.m. to pray for the rosary and other religious vocations.

St. Patrick Parish, Salem, Shelby St., holds a prayer service, 7 p.m.

St. Malachy Parish, Brownsburg, celebrates Liturgy of the Hours, evening prayer at 7 p.m. Information: 317-852-3195.

Fridays
St. Susanna Parish, Plainfield, 1210 E. Main, holds adoration of the Blessed Sacrament from 8 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.

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

A pro-life rosary is recited at 10 a.m. in front of Affiliated Women’s Services, Inc., 2215 Distributors Dr., Indianapolis.

A pro-life rosary is recited at 9:30 a.m. in front of the Clinic for Women, 830 N. 3rd St. and Park Ave., Indianapolis.

First Sundays
St. Patrick Parish, Sellersburg, prayer group meets in the church from 7 p.m. to 8:15 p.m. Information: 317-246-4555 or 317-767-8773.

First Mondays
The Guardian Angel Guild holds its board meeting. Archbishop O’Meara Catholic Center Benedictine Room, 1100 N. Meridian St., Indianapolis, 9:30 a.m. Information: 317-852-3195.

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. Confession is at 6:45 p.m.

See Active List, page 13

Dance away the winter blues

HOLY ROSARY’S
VALENTINE BUFFET DINNER & DANCE

Thursday 7:30 St. Joseph Catholic Church
415 S. Hwy. 36
Ladies tables at $10 each
Mens tables at $12 each

Friday 8:00 PRIMO BANQUET HALL • 2615 E. National Ave.

Dinner begins at 7:30 p.m. After 8 p.m. no exceptions

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Larry McCoy
Owner

The First Active List is designed to help current subscribers and potential subscribers to find the most relevant and timely church-related information. It includes a wide range of activities, such as prayer groups, retreats, and community events, that are open to the public. The list is updated weekly and is available to subscribers of The Criterion. It is an essential resource for anyone looking to get involved in the local church community.
Holy Angels Parish, 130 Union St., holds exposition of the BlessedSacrament from 8:30 a.m. Mass, closing with communion service at noon.

St. Vincent de Paul Parish, Bedford, celebrates exposition of the Blessed Sacrament following 8:30 a.m. Mass until 9 p.m. The sacrament of reconciliation is available from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m.

St. Joseph University Parish, Terre Haute, holds eucharistic adoration after the 9 a.m. Mass until 5 p.m. with rosary at noon.

First Saturdays
St. Nicholas Parish, Sunman, has 8 a.m. Mass, praise and worship music followed by the 8:30 a.m. Mass until 9 p.m. The sacrament of reconciliation is available from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m.

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• Gift Certificates Available
Great Fermentations of Indiana
1712 E. 86th Street
(Across from North Central High School in the Northwest Mall)
317-848-6218

The Active List, continued from page 14
◆◆◆
St. Joseph Hill Parish, Sellersburg, 2605 St. Joe Rd. West, holds eucharistic adoration following the 8 a.m. Mass until noon.

Sacred Heart Parish, Indianapolis, 1530 Union St., holds exposition of the Blessed Sacrament following 8:30 a.m. Mass, closing with communion service at noon.

Second Thursdays
Exposition begins meets at 7:30 p.m. at the Indianapolis home of Millie and Jim Konom. Information: 317-257-1073 or 317-845-8133.

Third Sundays
Mary’s Requiece Schoenstatt has holy hour at 2:30 p.m. followed by Mass at 3:30 p.m. (located on 925 South, 8 miles east of 421 South, 12 miles south of Versailles.) Information: 812-689-3551.

Third Mondays
Young Widowed Group, sponsored by the archdiocesan Office for Youth and Family Ministries, meets at St. Matthew Parish, 4100 E. 56th St., Indianapolis, at 7:30 p.m. Child care available. Information: 317-236-1586.

Third Wednesdays
Catholic Widowed women’s group meets from 7 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. at the Archbishop O’Meary Catholic Center, 1400 N. Meridian St., Indianapolis. Information: 317-887-9388.

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Holy Family Parish, Oldenburg, holds a support group for widowed persons at 7 p.m. Information: 317-934-2524.

Calvary Chapel/mausoleum, Indianapolis, 435 W. Troy Ave., Mass at 2 p.m.

Third Thursdays
Sacred Heart Parish, Indianapolis, 1530 Union St., holds family rosary night at 7 p.m.

Our Lady of the Greenwood Flower Chapel, 13th and St., Indianapolis, holds our lady of the Greenwood Flower Chapel Mass at 2:30 p.m.

Third Fridays
The Catholic Charismatic Renewal of Central Indiana gathers at 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, 5392 E. 38th St., Indianapolis, celebrates Mass for Life, 8:30 a.m., followed by walk to the abortion clinic at 9:15 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, 1400 N. Post Rd., 9 a.m. noon. WEDNESDAY. St. Anthony, 6:30 p.m.; St. Roch Parish, St. Roch School, 3601 S. Meridian, 6:30 p.m.; THURSDAY. K of C Council 437, 1305 N. Delaware, 5:45 p.m.; Holy Family K of C, American Legion Post 505, 1926 Georgetown 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.; St. Rita’s Ritter High School, 6:30 p.m.; Msgr. Sheridan K of C Council 6138, Johnson Co., first Sunday.

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St. John’s Parish, Meridian Oaks, 6271 4x6 Neg

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The Criterion   Friday, February 12, 1999   Page 15

COMEDIAN
continued from page 3

“As hard as it is for me to lose my wife, I have wonderful memories,” he said. “Those seeds we planted a long time ago on our wedding day are still rooted in my heart, and those memories are the biggest gift of God I’ve got now. And it’s young people like you who help those memories stay alive when you ask us old people to share our stories.”

For his closing remarks on Feb. 7, Brummel donned props to portray a chubby angel who visits a circus and decides to dress as a clown to make people happy. To find true happiness, the cherub discovered, people need to celebrate their God-given gifts and talents.

Sometimes, Brummel said at the conclusion of the skit, people need to “call on God’s hand to touch our lives and show us how valuable we are.”

Archbishop Daniel M. Buechlein talked with conference participants during a Feb. 6 youth forum.

“At the youth rally in the Kiel Center [in St. Louis], a little over a week or so ago,” Archbishop Buechlein said, “Pope John Paul II said to the youth, ‘You can’t put off your sharing with Christ and the Church. Your time of action is now.’ He said, ‘I challenge you as a friend to live in faith. And this is a call to us as a Church to enter your hearts.’ He said, ‘Turn to Jesus, listen to him, and discover the real meaning of your life.’

“The Holy Father also said, ‘Get to know Jesus personally,’” the archbishop recalled. “He said, ‘You can only do that through prayer, so talk to God and listen to him.’”

Prayer is a unique form of communication, Archbishop Buechlein said. “If you’re going to allow the seeds of faith to grow, if you’re going to remain rooted in the Spirit, then you need to pray as the Holy Father asked you to do.”

Father Patrick Besedslam, associate pastor of St. Monica Parish in Indianapolis and chaplain at Cardinal Ritter Jr./St. High School in the Indianapolis West Deanery, pressed at the eucharistic liturgy with the youth Feb. 7. He told them that, at age 26, he is the youngest priest in the state.

In his homily, Father Besedslam quoted a Super Bowl headline in the sports section of a newspaper. After the Denver Broncos won the title for the second year, the headline noted that the National Football League team is “Still on the mountaintop.”

Quoting the Gospel of Matthew, Father Besedslam said Christians can be “the salt of the earth and the light of the world” and “be on the mountaintop” by developing a strong personal relationship with God.

“The Gospel doesn’t speak of rank or status, but of our mission, our call,” he said. “We need to embrace a new evangelization, as Pope John Paul II urged in St. Louis, and be ready for a ‘new springtime of faith.’ This conference theme, about seeds of faith, in a real way gives life to that ‘new springtime of faith’ that the Holy Father spoke of.

With you today, I commit to being a new evangelizer. We will journey together to bring hope, faith and peace to our Church.”

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Religion not key in hiring at Catholic colleges, and university faculty members at U.S. Catholic colleges and universities are creativity in teaching and commitment to the values of the institution, according to a new national study conducted for the Association for Catholic Colleges and Universities (ACCUC). Administrators at the schools also considered Catholic values to be more important in academic course development than Catholic beliefs, according to researchers from the University of Dayton Center for Family and Community Research. The study, “Hiring Practices, Academic Environments and Values at Catholic Institutions,” was presented Feb. 3 at the annual meeting of the ACCUC in Washington. (See related story, Page 15.)

Oregon House committee moves to affirm seal of confession

SALEM: Ore. (CNS)—A key panel in the Oregon House of Representatives advanced a bill Feb. 2 that gives government affirmation to the seal of confession. House Bill 2329 would allow priests and ministers to invoke the clergy-penitent privilege. Current Oregon law protects the secrecy of such sacred conversations only if the penitent wishes it. By a 7-0 vote, the House Judiciary Criminal Law Committee approved the bill. The proposed law was expected to meet with approval on the House floor before the end of February.

HUD’s Cuomo: America must overcome ‘aspiration deficit’

CHEVY CHASE, Md. (CNS)—With the economy booming and no federal budget deficit, Housing and Urban Development Secretary Andrew Cuomo said America’s next task is to cut what he called the “aspiration deficit.” “We’ve somehow gotten to a place as a people where we don’t aspire to anything better. We don’t even dream a broader vision or a brighter future,” Cuomo said Feb. 2 at a welfare policy conference meeting in the Washington suburb of Chevy Chase. “We have to aspire. We have to dream,” he told the assembly of 500 people where we don’t aspire to anything better. We don’t even dream a broader vision or a brighter future,” Cuomo said Feb. 2 at a welfare policy conference meeting in the Washington suburb of Chevy Chase. “We have to aspire. We have to dream,” he told the assembly of 500 people where we don’t aspire to anything better. 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VATICAN CITY (CNS)—The trend of religious orders sharing formation programs is positive as long as the orders provide a specific formation for their own members, a new Vatican document said. Sharing programs “manifests concrete solidarity” among communities and “offers an eloquent testimony of the communion to which the Church is called by divine vocation,” the document said. The instruction on “Inter-Institute Collaboration for Formation” was released in early February by the Congregation for Institutes of Consecrated Life and for Societies of Apostolic Life.

Cardinal Ratzinger to meet in U.S. with doctrinal representatives

VATICAN CITY (CNS)—Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger, prefect of the Vatican Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, will meet in California with bishops who head national doctrinal commissions in the United States, Canada and Oceania. Representatives of the doctrinal congregation said the Feb. 9-12 meeting at Vallyomba Center in Menlo Park, Calif., is designed to give the Vatican an opportunity “to know up close the reality of the religious situation” in the countries involved and to reflect on several themes with bishops from those countries. Participating bishops will give presentations on the role of the theologian, on feminism and on homosexuality, the congregation said in a Feb. 4 statement announcing the meeting.

Priest was active in marriage prep, help for troubled marriages

LOS ANGELES (CNS)—A funeral Mass was celebrated Jan. 8 at Divine Savior Church in Los Angeles for Msgr. Charles B. Fortier, associate director of the archdiocesan Office of Family Life, who died Jan. 5. Three days after his 80th birthday, Cardinal Roger M. Mahony of Los Angeles presided at the funeral Mass at the church where Msgr. Fortier had lived for many years. Intermem was in Louisiana. Born in St. Isidore, Quebec, Charles Fortier entered St. Paul’s Seminary in Ottawa, transferring in 1944 to Notre Dame Seminary in New Orleans, where he was to be ordained for the priesthood for the Diocese of Lafayette, La.

Father William Most, scholar, columnist, author dies

MANASSAS, Va. (CNS)—Father William G. Most, a classics scholar, columnist and author of numerous popular articles and books in defense of Catholic teaching, died Jan. 31 in Manassas. He was 84 years old. A native of Iowa and a priest of the Dubuque Archdiocese, he taught Latin, Greek and the classics at Loras College in Dubuque for more than 40 years before moving to Virginia upon his retirement in 1989. He was a longtime columnist for the National Catholic Register and in recent years appeared regularly on EWTN, the Eternal Word Television Network.

Sacramento pulpit exchange spotlights Catholic-Lutheran agreement

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (CNS)—Sacramento Bishop William K. Weigand and Lutheran Bishop Robert Mattheis exchanged pulpits Jan. 31 to spotlight a Catholic-Lutheran agreement to be signed soon that will help overcome centuries-old divisions between the Churches. Bishop Weigand delivered the Sunday sermon at St. John Lutheran Church in downtown Sacramento, while Bishop Mattheis spoke at the noon Mass at the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament. Bishop Mattheis is head of the Sierra Pacific Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America, overseeing 216 congregations with 78,000 members from Bakersfield, Calif., to the Oregon border. (These briefs were compiled from reports by Catholic News Service.)
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ABPLANALP, Diane Marie
24. Husband of Luella C.
81, Mary of the Knobs, Floyds
96, St. Roch, Indianapolis, Jan.

31. Brother of Kurt Schmiegel.
Mary Leonard, Donald and John
Rosen, Bessie (Spier), Janice

Beinor, Pricilla Weber, Patricia

ABBUCKLE, Thelma Marie,
23. Husband of Luella C.
24. Father of Barbara Kleiber,

27, St. Andrew the Apostle,

CATHEDRAL, Catherine
87, St. Roch, Indianapolis, Jan.

DOYLE, Bernard, L., 60, Holy
Name, Beech Grove, Jan. 2.

HELMICH, Edith Mae, 60.
St. Mary, Greensburg, Jan. 30.

BENTLEY, Catherine Coop, Carin
88, St. John the Baptist,

Benson, Arthur D., 97, St.
Mary, New Albany, Jan. 10.

BENTLEY, Catherine
42. Husband of Robert W.

BENTLEY, Catherine
70, Martinsville, Deborah Colip,
Pierson. Father of Cynthia
Pioneer, Deborah Colip.

CARTER, Thomas L., Sr., 79.
St. Philip Neri, Indianapolis,

CARTER, William J., 64, Our
Lady of Lourdes, Indianapolis,

CARTER, William J., 64.
Our Lady of Lourdes, Indianapolis,
Jan. 19. Husband of Theresa
Carter. Father of Anmarie Bentley,
Cathleen Carter, Cinthia Carter,
Brother of Edgar Carter.

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THANK YOU St. Jude for favor granted. — u. m.

THANKS St. Jude for prayers answered for the understanding son and friends lost on a ski trip. — u. M.

THANKS TO St. Jude and Blessed Mother for prayers answered. — 8. H.

THANK YOU St. Jude, thank you St. Theresa for all petitions granted. — b. s. s.

THANK YOU for prayers answered, St. Joseph, St. Anthony, St. Jude, c. c.

THANK YOU St. Jude, Sacred Blessing, Virgin St. Theresa for prayers answered. — 1. C. V.

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Send letter of intent, résumé and three letters of recommenda-
tion to Rev. Samme L. Malatea, Vicar General, Diocese of Gary, 9292 Broadway, Merrillville, IN 46410.

Deadline for application is Friday, March 19, 1999.

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The Lexington, Kentucky, parishes of St. Peter Claver, St. Paul and St. Peter are seeking one full-time director of youth ministry to assist them in their youth ministry to guide them in serving their diverse youth.

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Residents' Accounts

Full-time, 8 a.m. - 4 p.m., M-F.

Accounting/computer experience required; weekly medical billing experience preferred.

Seeking organized, detailed person who likes working with numbers and interacting with elderly. St. Augustine Home for the Aged, 2345 W. 86th St., Indianapolis, EOE.

Superintendent of Schools

The Diocese of Gary is accepting applications for the position of superintendent for the Office of Catholic Schools. The superintendent is responsible for guiding and coordinating the educational activities in the diocese’s 30 elementary schools and three high schools.

Major job requirements include collaboration with other diocesan offices and state and national organizations as well as working with public school administrators at both the local and state level. We are seeking candidates who are practicing Catholics, working toward or have a doctorate degree, have an Indiana Administrator license, and central office experience. The ideal candidate will have a record of achievement and dedication to Catholic education and experience in administration.

Send letter of intent, résumé and three letters of recom-
 mendation to Rev. Samme L. Malatea, Vicar General, Diocese of Gary, 9292 Broadway, Merrillville, IN 46410.

Deadline for application is Friday, March 19, 1999.

Diocesan Director of Campus Ministry

The Diocese of Toledo is seeking a dynamic person to lead the implementation of its pastoral plan to initiate and develop campus ministry throughout the diocese. The successful candidate will have a minimum of five years’ experience in campus ministry, the ability to interact with all levels of academic and pastoral leadership, strong administrative and organizational skills, and ability to work cooperatively with others. Master’s degree in pastoral ministry, theology or related area. Salary commen-
surate with experience, full discussion benefits.

The plan and position description on www.toledodiocese.org (click on depart-
ments). Send resumes and references to Michael Nachman, Campus Ministry Search Committee, PO Box 985, Toledo, OH 43697. Inquiries 419-244-6711, ext. 206 or e-mail mnachman@toledodiocese.org.