Building Communities of Hope raises $27 million

By Sue Hetzler

It’s a partnership that’s been a year in the making, and its success is bigger than anyone could have imagined. The Archdiocese of Indianapolis Building Communities of Hope capital and endowment campaign to benefit Catholic schools and social service agencies in the center city of Indianapolis achieved more than $27 million in gifts and pledges—reaching 135 percent of its minimum goal set last January when the campaign began.

“This past year has been a great blessing for our city and for the Catholic Church in Indianapolis,” said Archbishop Daniel M. Buechlein. “Our partnership with the civic, business and corporate leaders has produced results beyond our expectations, and I am so grateful for their trust and faith in our mission to the center city.

Building Communities of Hope is a campaign that will invest corporate and foundation support in the eight center-city Catholic schools in Indianapolis and the agencies of Catholic Charities located in the capital city. It is an effort to help students and their families break the cycle of poverty. More than 100 Indianapolis area corporations, foundations and individuals contributed gifts to the campaign that set an initial $20 million minimum goal. The combined effort has helped the archdiocese maintain a solid presence in the center city, despite the shrinking Catholic population there and the challenges of increased poverty. It’s a partnership that has worked so well that other Catholic and city leaders from across the country in places like Cincinnati, Denver, Toledo, New York and Washington, D.C., have taken notice and inquired about how to make it work in their own inner cities.

“If we can provide other cities with the foundation for building up their downtown communities through partnerships like we have created here, everyone will benefit, especially the children and families who are looking to rise from poverty and improve their opportunities for the future,”

said Archbishop Buechlein. At least $16 million of the campaign funds will go toward tuition assistance and capital improvements at the downtown schools and help build two new schools that are more than 100 years old—Holy Angels School, which will be dedicated on Oct. 3, and Holy Cross Central School, slated to break ground this fall. Another $9 million will be invested in endowments, producing nearly $500,000 in annual tuition assistance for center-city children.

The building of two new schools is a move that has been literally absent in cities across the country for more than a decade. The Archdiocese of Indianapolis has been aware of the need for these improvements.

By Mary Ann Wyand

SAIN TIARY-OF-THE-WOODS— Blessed Mother Theodore Guérin, foundress of the Sisters of Providence of Saint Mary-of-the-Woods, was honored as a courageous and inspirational woman of faith Feb. 28 at the motherhouse church during the Indiana celebration of her life and ministries.

The 3 p.m. eucharistic liturgy continued the celebration of her Oct. 25 beatification by Pope John Paul II in Rome, and highlighted her love for God and the brave missionary spirit that brought her to the wilderness of west-central Indiana on Oct. 22, 1840, to found a congregation, mission and academy. Providence Sister Diane Ris, general superior of the congregation, welcomed Archbishop Daniel M. Buechlein, four Indiana bishops, Benedictine Archabbot Lambert Reilly, major superiors of various orders of Indiana religious women and men, and other guests to the Mass in honor of Blessed Mother Theodore.

“All are welcome to share this holy ground with us,” Sister Diane said in her opening remarks. “Blessed Mother Theodore said on her return from France, ‘With inexpressible joy I saw once more my Indiana. I would have loved to kiss its soil. This land was no longer for me the land of exile; it was the portion of my inheritance, and in it I hope to dwell all the days of my life.’”

In 1840, Sister Diane said, “when Mother Theodore came to Saint Mary-of-the-Woods, it was a wilderness. Day after day she spent herself transforming the land for the mission of education, the establishment of her new community of the Sisters of Providence, and the mission of love, mercy and justice for all of God’s people.”

With Mother Theodore’s guidance, Sister Diane said, Providence sisters began schools, provided education, and in 1840, Sister Diane said, “when Mother Theodore came to Saint Mary-of-the-Woods, it was a wilderness. Day after day she spent herself transforming the land for the mission of education, the establishment of her new community of the Sisters of Providence, and the mission of love, mercy and justice for all of God’s people.”

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We have her here with us today, blessing over this house which I have built,’ Guérin continues, the general superior said. “She loved its people. She knew, and made known, God’s presence here in life and in death. She rests here in her tomb in this church and in her shrine at the entrance to the church. In her own words, ‘I sleep but my heart watches for you’ in this church, in the United States, and in the whole world.”

Blessed Mother Theodore loved Indiana, Sister Diane said. “She loved its people. She knew, and made known, God’s presence here in life and in death. She rests here in her tomb in this church and in her shrine at the entrance to the church. In her own words, ‘I sleep but my heart watches over this house which I have built.’”

The legacy of Blessed Mother Theodore Guérin continues, the general superior said. “We have her here with us today, blessing us, as we bless her for her trust in the Providence of God that never failed her. May her life touch ours in very special ways on our journey of life.”


In his homily, Archbishop Buechlein praised Blessed Mother Theodore as “a model of authenticity ... a model of spiritual courage ... a model of devout prayer ... a model of balance in everyday life ... a model of zeal for missionary evangelization ... and a model of patience in sickness.”

Blessed Mother Theodore gave “herself over to the Providence of God,” the archbishop said, and “truly spent all of her life to make Jesus Christ known and loved.”

Blessed Mother Theodore also was “a major figure in establishing Catholic schools as a unique treasure in the Church in the United States,” Arch- bishop Buechlein said. “Through the trying years of her pioneering work in mission- ary education, she struggled with physical illness much of the time,” yet unfailingly demonstrated “perseverance and hope in the face of suffering ... a sure mark of holiness.”

Concluding his remarks, Archbishop Buechlein asked the faithful to “find a friend and intercessor in our new and spe- cial patroness” and “make her story our story.”

PROVIDENCE
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seen as a trend-setter in strengthening its center-city Catholic education presence: a handful of other inner cities are now also beginning to plan for new Catholic schools. The $4 million earmarked for center-city Catholic Charities will help meet capital needs at their facilities and will endow the Catholic Charities services and programs. According to Thomas Gaybrick, secretary for Catholic Charities and Family Ministries for the archdiocese, some of the money for both education needs and social service programs will go to many of the same people.

“The people served by our center-city Catholic schools and Catholic Charities agencies are not exclusive of one another,” Gaybrick said. “Many of the families who have children in our schools also benefit from programs offered by our Catholic Charities agencies.”

While the campaign has been an unmatched success, Jerry Semler, chair- man, president and CEO of American United Life Insurance Company in Indianapolis and general chair of the cam- paign, said much work remains for the Church and its partners. He noted that prior to the start of the campaign, needs for center-city schools and charity pro- grams were documented at $39 million. “Even though we’ve exceeded our goal, our work has not ended,” said Semler. “We will continue to work together for the chil- dren and families of Indianapolis and make strides for our city’s future.”

(Sue Hettler is director of communica- tions for the Archdiocese of Indianapolis.)

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Video and books tell Mother Theodore’s story

By Ann Ryan
Special to The Criterion

SAINT MARY-OF-THE-WOODS—The excitement at Saint Mary-of-the-Woods over the beatification of Blessed Mother Theodore Guérin last October is not subsiding.

The Sisters of Providence are continuing their official year of celebration, which began on Oct. 25, 1998, with the beatification of their foundress by Pope John Paul II in Rome.

Media attention and public awareness of that event have generated a growing interest in the life of Mother Theodore. Inquiries from individuals and the media are coming in via mail, phone and the World Wide Web. Teachers are arranging class trips to Saint Mary-of-the-Woods to learn more about Mother Theodore’s role in Indiana history and Church history. Prayer requests and stories of Mother Theodore’s intercessions are arriving from around the world. Parish and civic groups are requesting that Providence sisters come and speak about their foundress.

These varied requests for information about Mother Theodore prompted the Sisters of Providence to produce a new video which they hope will make her story accessible to all audiences. The video which they hope will make her story more accessible to all audiences. The video was originally planned to be an in-house piece. The staff of Providence Center, which is the welcoming facility for Providence celebrations at Saint Mary-of-the-Woods, are included in the video. The production of the video was expanded. We want to make it available to parishes, individuals and schools as a resource they can use.”

“We chose to do a video because we wanted various audiences to, in some way, become interested in learning more about Mother Theodore. When people view the video they also will be able to parishes, individuals and schools as a resource they can use.” Sister Margaret said. “Hearing her words and learning her story in this visual way will put the fire of a love for Mother Theodore in the hearts of new audiences, and it will rekindle it in the hearts of those who already know and love her.”

Providence Center selected Nineteenth Star, LLC, an Emmy Award-winning Indianapolis video company, and Ann Ryan Communications, Inc. to produce it. “The entire production team really fell in love with Mother Theodore’s story, and it shows in the video,” Sister Margaret said. “They have captured the story of her life—and all of its challenges and its graces—in a warm, moving way.”

Since Mother Theodore’s story is interwoven in Indiana history, the production company taped on location at the Old Cathedral in Vincennes, as well as in Madison, New Albany, Indianapolis and several locations in Vigo County. The grounds and buildings at Saint Mary-of-the-Woods also help to convey Mother Theodore’s legacy. The Sisters of Providence Archives yielded many treasures, some of which have seldom been on public display. Indianapolis actress Priscilla Lindsey voices Mother Theodore’s words in a French accent.

Highlights from the beatification ceremony in Rome and from the Sisters of Providence celebrations at Saint Mary-of-the-Woods are included in the video. “It is quite moving to see the pope, the cardinals and bishops, the sisters and the pilgrims in St. Peter’s Square celebrating Mother Theodore’s life and legacy,” Sister Margaret said. “She truly was an ordinary woman who is honored for her extraordinary faith, hope and love.”

Sister Margaret said she hopes that as people view the video they also will become interested in learning more about Blessed Mother Theodore. The video complements the recently produced biography, Mother Theodore Guérin: A Woman for Our Time, and the children’s book and audio tape of The Story of Anne-Thérèse.

“The Mother Theodore’s story is an important part of Indiana history, Church history and women’s history,” Sister Margaret said.

Funding for the video was provided by the Sisters of Providence Congregational Advancement Fund and Our Sunday Visitor Institute.† (Copies of Blessed Mother Theodore Guérin: Her Journey of Faith and Courage are available for $19.95 plus $4.05 for shipping and handling, from the Gift Shop at Providence Center by telephone at 812-515-3313, ext. 143, or by e-mail at giftshop@spsmw.org. Providence Center is scheduling spring and summer tours and pilgrimages highlighting the life of Blessed Mother Theodore Guérin. For information, call 812-533-3313, ext. 147, or e-mail mmadden@spsmw.org. Ann Ryan is media relations coordinator for Providence Center.)

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Preventing incitement in the Middle East

It has been reported that the first five meetings of the committee were pretty heated, with both Israelis and Palestinians arguing over how to define “incitement.” At the suggestion of the American delegation, they finally decided not to define the word but to recognize it when they see it. Not surprisingly, both sides have accused the other of incitement—blamed with justification. For example, despite the Palestinians’ diarowal of terror, Arafat and his officials have wanted to “keep the rifles ready” and “use all means” to achieve a Palestinian state. On the other side, Israeli Foreign Minister Ariel Sharon has called for Jewish settlers to seize additional lands and Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has encouraged settlement expansion.

As the committee continued to meet, arguments became less heated and discussion more constructive. One of the most constructive meetings, it has been reported, was a session that included both Israeli and Palestinian journalists so the media can begin to understand that what is said, and how it is said, can create incitement.

Both the Israelis and the Palestinians are now bringing to the committee examples of what they consider incitement and the committee is passing them on to the government officials or media involved. It is hoped that calling attention to these cases will make the government officials and media more aware of things that incite hostility.

As the task of this committee is not easy. Israelis and Palestinians have lived all their lives with mistrust and hatred of the other side. It’s very difficult to change attitudes and prejudices and that’s basically what this committee is trying to do. But anything that will help Israelis and Palestinians understand each other better is worth a try.

— John F. Fink

L ast Sunday afternoon, the bishops of our five Indiana dioceses along with many of the major superiors of religious communities in Indiana were joined by clergy, religious and laity to celebrate a Mass in honor of Blessed Mother Theodore Guérin at Saint Mary-of-the-Woods. (See story, Page 1.)

The Sisters of Providence offered gracious hospitality and joined the celebration in their beautiful church. The celebration was a historic first for Indiana. More and more the marvelous reality of having someone who was a vital part of Church history in Indiana as a solemnly beatified member of our Church is sinking in.

The experience of the beatification of Mother Theodore in Rome was overwhelming for those of us privileged to participate. One could hardly take in the significance of the occasion. Yet we need to do that; all of us do.

While canonization as a saint requires the testimony of one more miracle attributed to Blessed Mother Theodore, nonetheless she is formally beatified, and we so already have the testimony that we have a spiritual intercessor between heaven and earth.

Blessed Mother Theodore is a model of authenticity. I am struck and encouraged by her ability to keep her feet firmly planted on the ground while being a wonderfully spiritual person. Her kind of “realistic spirituality” is a half of the authentic spirituality. As we read her journals and letters, we meet a person who has given herself over to the Providence of God but who continues to reflect, plan and make down-to-earth decisions that deal with the everyday needs of life. She is a marvelous intercessor and patroness for those of us responsible for the spiritual and material administration of our Church and communities, indeed for our families. One of her statements comes to mind. “But again I must talk about money. When will the day come that we shall be able to be occupied only with God? Our consolation is that it is for him that we engage in other things.”

Blessed Mother Theodore is a model of spiritual courage. She was a true pioneer who led her native land of France and “brought the way” for the Northwest Territory of the United States, which had been in existence as a nation for only 64 years at the time. Some of our own ancestors in the faith were contemporary with her and her sister companions. We can only admire what Mother Theodore and her sister-companions went through in order to help bring the faith to this Indiana mission. To read her letters and journals is to share an experience of courage in the face of sufferings and trials.

Blessed Mother Theodore is a model of devout prayer. She was unwavering in her conviction about the importance of prayer and her devotion to the Blessed Sacrament and to the protection of Our Lady of Providence. Her devotion to the Way of the Cross is a timely reminder in this season of Lent. It is telling to note that the first thing Mother Theodore and her sisters did when they arrived in the woods was go to silently to pray before the Blessed Sacrament in the log cabin chapel. She showed us the value of prayer and spiritual communion with our Lord.

Blessed Mother Theodore is a model of balance in life. Once she wrote to a friend: “Please give me a little more freedom in your prayers. After a life of such activity and dissipation, I need special grace in order to bring myself back to recollection of spirit and to dreams of purity.” She also wrote the consoling words: “What strength the soul draws from prayer! In the midst of a storm, how sweet is the calm it finds in the Heart of Jesus. But what comfort is there for those who do not pray?”

Blessed Mother Theodore is a model of zeal for missionary evangelization. She truly spent all of her life to make Jesus Christ known and loved. She did so with a special care for the education of young women. She did so in virtually founding Catholic grade schools here in Indiana. Her mission in education was much of what challenged her balance in the spiritual and religious life.

Blessed Mother Theodore is a model of patience in sickness. Through the trying years of her pioneering work in missionary education she struggled with physical illness much of the time. Yet she continued to carry on her ministry as founding superior of the motherhouse at Saint Mary-of-the-Woods as well as many Catholic schools throughout the state of Indiana. She did not disengage from her mission because of illness, though she certainly would have had cause to do so.

In a word, all of us can find a friend and intercessor in our new and special patroness.

Archbishop Daniel M. Buechlein, O.S.B.
Buscando la Cara del Señor

Arzobispo Daniel M. Bechlein, O.S.B.

L a tarde del domingo pasado, los obispos de nuestras cinco diócesis de Indiana, junto con muchos de los mayores líderes de las comunidades religiosas en Indiana, se reunieron con los cleros, religiosos y laicos para una Misa en honor de la Bendita Madre Theodore Guérin en Saint Mary-of-the-Woods.

Las Hermanas de Providence ofrecieron hospitalidad graciosa y tomaron parte en la celebración en su hermosa iglesia. La celebración fue la primera de este tipo en la historia de Indiana. Casi ciertamente, la realidad maravillosa de tener alguien que era una parte vital de la historia de la Iglesia en Indiana como un miembro solamente testificó de nuestra Iglesia. La experiencia de la beatiﬁcación de la Madre Theodore en Roma nos impresionó mucho a quienes tuvimos el privilegio de participar. Uno apenas podía comprender la importancia de la ocasión. Sin embargo, todos necesitamos comprenderla.

Aunque la canonización como un santo requiere el testimonio de mil milagros, la canonización de un santo requiere el testimonio de un milagro más atribuido a la Bendita Madre Theodore. No puedo describirla de otra manera con comprensión total, y por lo tanto ya existe el testimonio que tenemos un intercesor especial en el cielo.

La Bendita Madre Theodore es modelo de la autenticidad. Su habili- dad de mantener sus píldoras de feromonas plantadas en la tierra mientras siendo madre de mantener sus pies firmemente plantados en la tierra nativa de Francia y viajó a nuestro país. Theodore, no obstante ella está beatificada. Aunque la canonización como un santo requiere el testimonio de mil milagros, la canonización de un santo requiere el testimonio de un milagro más atribuido a la Bendita Madre Theodore. No puedo describirla de otra manera con comprensión total, y por lo tanto ya existe el testimonio que tenemos un intercesor especial en el cielo.

La Bendita Madre Theodore es modelo de la personalidad. Ella compartió la bendición de Dios en su vida. Dios es nuestro consuelo, y usted será el consuelo de nuestra Iglesia y comunidades, en efecto de nuestras familias. La bendición de mantener sus píldoras de feromonas plantadas en la tierra mientras siendo madre de mantener sus pies firmemente plantados en la tierra nativa de Francia y viajó a nuestro país. Theodore, no obstante ella está beatificada. Aunque la canonización como un santo requiere el testimonio de mil milagros, la canonización de un santo requiere el testimonio de un milagro más atribuido a la Bendita Madre Theodore. No puedo describirla de otra manera con comprensión total, y por lo tanto ya existe el testimonio que tenemos un intercesor especial en el cielo.

La Bendita Madre Theodore es modelo de la oración devota. Ella se mantuvo firme en su creencia sobre la importancia de la oración y su devo- ción al Santísimo Sacramento y a la protección de Nuestra Señora de Providencia. Su devoción a la Manera de San Juan de los Reyes es un rito que la impulsa a estar en esta temporada de la Cuaresma. El hecho de que la primera cosa que la Madre Theodore y sus hermanas hicieron al llegar a los bosques era ir a orar silenciosamente antes del Santísimo Sacramento en la capilla de troncos nos revela mucho. Ella nos mostró el valor de la oración y la comunión espiritual con nuestro Señor.

La Bendita Madre Theodore es modelo del equilibrio en la vida. No tenía una actividad que tomara un tiempo en desmedro de la otra. En su vida de ser madre de mantener sus píldoras de feromonas plantadas en la tierra mientras siendo madre de mantener sus pies firmemente plantados en la tierra nativa de Francia y viajó a nuestro país. Theodore, no obstante ella está beatificada. Aunque la canonización como un santo requiere el testimonio de mil milagros, la canonización de un santo requiere el testimonio de un milagro más atribuido a la Bendita Madre Theodore. No puedo describirla de otra manera con comprensión total, y por lo tanto ya existe el testimonio que tenemos un intercesor especial en el cielo.

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La Bendita Madre Theodore es modelo del respeto. Ella verdadera- mente pasó toda su vida trabajando para que todos conocieran y amaran a su Señor. Esa cualidad cuidado especial para la educación de sus propios antepasados en la fe eran como una nación durante sólo 64 años en Estados Unidos que habían existido desde 1783 a 1791. La bendición de mantener sus píldoras de feromonas plantadas en la tierra mientras siendo madre de mantener sus pies firmemente plantados en la tierra nativa de Francia y viajó a nuestro país. Theodore, no obstante ella está beatificada. Aunque la canonización como un santo requiere el testimonio de mil milagros, la canonización de un santo requiere el testimonio de un milagro más atribuido a la Bendita Madre Theodore. No puedo describirla de otra manera con comprensión total, y por lo tanto ya existe el testimonio que tenemos un intercesor especial en el cielo.

La Bendita Madre Theodore es modelo de la oración devota. Ella se mantuvo firme en su creencia sobre la importancia de la oración y su devo- ción al Santísimo Sacramento y a la protección de Nuestra Señora de Providencia. Su devoción a la Manera de San Juan de los Reyes es un rito que la impulsa a estar en esta temporada de la Cuaresma. El hecho de que la primera cosa que la Madre Theodore y sus hermanas hicieron al llegar a los bosques era ir a orar silenciosamente antes del Santísimo Sacramento en la capilla de troncos nos revela mucho. Ella nos mostró el valor de la oración y la comunión espiritual con nuestro Señor.

La Bendita Madre Theodore es modelo del respeto. Ella verdadera- mente pasó toda su vida trabajando para que todos conocieran y amaran a su Señor. Esa cualidad cuidado especial para la educación de sus propios antepasados en la fe eran como una nación durante sólo 64 años en Estados Unidos que habían existido desde 1783 a 1791. La bendición de mantener sus píldoras de feromonas plantadas en la tierra mientras siendo madre de mantener sus pies firmemente plantados en la tierra nativa de Francia y viajó a nuestro país. Theodore, no obstante ella está beatificada. Aunque la canonización como un santo requiere el testimonio de mil milagros, la canonización de un santo requiere el testimonio de un milagro más atribuido a la Bendita Madre Theodore. No puedo describirla de otra manera con comprensión total, y por lo tanto ya existe el testimonio que tenemos un intercesor especial en el cielo.
Applications are now available for summer camping experiences at the archdiocesan Catholic Youth Organization’s Campaus Praesuma in Brown County. For information or a brochure, call the CYO Youth Center in Indianapolis at 317-632-9311 or the CYO Outdoor Ministry Office at Nashville toll-free at 888-988-2839 or by e-mail at cyo@cyoindianapolis.com. The CYO web site is http://members.aol.com/cyocamp/fras.html.

The Indiana Branch of the International Dyslexia Association is sponsoring a two-day conference for educators, parents, and dyslexics March 5-6 in Indianapolis. Teacher training will be offered March 5 from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at Indiana Interchurch Center, 1100 W. 42nd St., in Kranert Conference Hall. Survival Saturday will be held from 8:30 a.m. to 3:40 p.m. at Cathedral High School. $225 East 56th St. Information: 317-926-1450.


A weekend retreat for spiritual companions and mentors will be held March 12-14 at Fatima Retreat House, 3353 E. 56th St., in Indianapolis. The fee is $110. Information: 317-545-7681.

The Sisters of St. Francis will sponsor “Prayer Is Where We Live,” the 1999 Lecture Series March 4, 11, 18, and 25. Franciscan Sister Barbara Leonhard, a member of the Sisters of the Third Order of St. Francis, Oldenburg, is the presenter. She will be joined by Julianne Hipkind. The lectures will be held from 2 p.m. to 3:30 p.m., then will be repeated from 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. in the Community Room of the convent. Admission to the series of four sessions is $20. Information: 812-934-2475.

Check It Out . . .
Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish, Jeffersonville realizes a dream

By Susan M. Bierman

"We always had this dream in the back of our heads -- we’re going to have a church one of these days," said Hank Striby, a charter member of Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish in Jeffersonville.

"Well, here it is 45 years later, and I can just feel the spirit of the people coming back like it was many years ago," he added, during a taped interview for the parish’s Legacy of Hope from Generation to Generation capital campaign video.

Striby is remembering the establishment of Sacred Heart Parish in 1953 and the spirit that he and other founding members had when the Jeffersonville parish was put on the map.

Jim King, another founding member, said also in the taped interview, that parishioners were told back in 1953 that the present worship space would be a gymnasium and a new church would eventually be built.

He went on to say that 10 years passed and the school grew rapidly and needed an addition. Then, the parish had to build a convent and rectory.

"Consequently, the church got put on the back burner," King said.

After nearly 50 years of celebrating in a "temporary" worship space, Sacred Heart Parish in Jeffersonville will realize the dream of its founding members.

The 844-household New Albany Deanery parish is building a church. Groundbreaking is expected in 2001. The new facility will seat 700 and will be built on the front lawn of the current parish grounds in southern Indiana.

Bruce Wright, one of four co-chairs of the parish’s Legacy of Hope from Generation to Generation capital campaign, believes it’s time a new worship space became a priority.

"The church needs to be obviously the central focus point of the parish, and it’s God’s house and you need to take care of it," Wright said.

Rodney Bramer, campaign co-chair, said a new worship space is indeed needed. Sacred Heart Parish is lacking some growth opportunities and the campus has some maintenance issues that need to be addressed in the future.

The Legacy of Hope from Generation to Generation capital campaign is believed to be the catalyst that started the wheels turning toward building a new worship space at this time.

Sacred Heart surpassed its campaign goal of $1.8 million by pledging $1,841,000. The new church building is estimated to cost $1.4 million.

Wright said the entire parish is responsible for this campaign’s success.

"A total parish effort," he said. "The people just came together for the right reason to do something to serve God."

Phil McCauley, campaign co-chair, said the parish was ready for a capital campaign from the fiscal standpoint. He added that parishioners were willing to help out with the campaign, some not knowing what their responsibilities would be.

"I said this is just such a big project, and I think you need to be a part of it. You are just going to feel good someday knowing you had a big part in helping build this church," McCauley said.

According to McCauley and the other campaign co-chairs, along the way some obstacles challenged the campaign and building project. One such challenge was that the parish was without a resident pastor when the planning stages of the campaign began in June of last year. So, the organization of the campaign relied heavily on the parishioners.

The parish’s new pastor, Father Raymond Schafer, arrived in mid-August. The actual campaign kick-off followed in September 1998.

Ever with this challenge, among others, the parish viewed the campaign goal and building project as something that would be a success.

"We basically said we’re going to make it. We didn’t have a fall-back position for not making it," McCauley said.

Not just bricks and mortar

The campaign has allowed the church to be built, not just physically, but spiritually, as well.

"I think that it was real important to the congregation that they see that we were a Catholic Church family and not just a bunch of people building a building," Keith Stormes, campaign co-chair, said.

Wright added that when the campaign first started it was about building a building.

"As this thing evolved, we unified as a parish. The spirit was raised and took center stage over bricks and mortar," Wright said.

The co-chairs said the "old Sacred Heart spirit" had returned as a result of the campaign and building project.

Even some of the founding members were feeling that same spirit they felt nearly 50 years ago when they were rallying to start the new parish.

This spirit was present during the big event held last November to wrap up the campaign, they said.

The well-attended event was held in a large tent erected on the turf where the new church will be built.

Sacred Heart School children created stained glass "windows" from paper to set a church-like atmosphere inside the tent. The liturgy committee and music ministers concentrated for about two months prior to the event to make it "the most spectacular liturgy they possibly could," Wright said.

The video the parish had prepared for the capital campaign was aired on television screens placed throughout the tent. The video features the pastor, founding members, various parish leaders, and other parishioners speaking about what Sacred Heart Parish means to them.

"There were people who came to the big event who had tears running down their faces when they saw this video," Wright said.

Giving back, realizing a dream

Building this church may have been a driving force behind the campaign’s success.

However, at the same time, building this new church is something the parishioners wanted to give back to the founding members of the parish.

"While we’re sure going to benefit from a new church, it’s like we owe them the debt to get it to them," Stormes said.

Bramer agrees.

"It’s really our turn. The older generation had come to the table a number of times and it’s our turn now," Bramer said.

He added, "We really don’t get in our lifetime much of an opportunity to do the kind of thing that we did here at Sacred Heart, so we just had to ask, ‘How many times does God call on you to do something of this magnitude?’"
90-year-old Lourdes Parish renews members’ faith, health

Our Lady of Lourdes Parish is meeting the changing needs of its parishioners as it celebrates its 90th year. Though it has the rich heritage of the Irvington area of east Indianapolis, it has seen consistent growth and change throughout the years, said Father James Farrell, pastor.

“It has benefited from a history of tremendous pastoral leadership, as well as great lay leaders,” he said, mentioning Father Richard Mueller, pastor from 1973 to 1982, and Father Francis Buck, pastor from 1982 until his death in 1994.

“The parish, deaconry, and archdiocese have benefited from their leadership,” said Father Farrell.

“The principals the school has had have been a tremendous asset to the school and the parish. That includes the present principal, [Benedictine] Sister Mary Nicolette [Etienne],” he said.

“On the eve of the millennium, I see new growth in the spiritual life of the parish under the Christ Renews His Parish program,” said Father Farrell.

“It is just getting off the ground,” he said of the program that will begin in the fall of this year. “I hope it will touch the hearts of the adults.”

Vic Berlage is coordinating the renewal program. He said, “We hope to renew as many parishioners as we can and get them excited about their faith—so they can live it more fully each day.”

Berlage explained that Lourdes parishioners will start to hear about the October weekends after Easter. They are the One Christ Renews His Parish weekend will be for 20 to 30 women, and one for a similar group of men.

The pastor talked about a second program that is benefitting the parish—the parish nurse program.

Paula Bittelmeyer, a registered nurse for 28 years, completed the parish nursing course last spring at the University of Indianapolis.

“It has already provided a variety of opportunities for the parish to be more health conscious,” said Father Farrell. She has approached it in a holistic fashion.”

Bittelmeyer said, “The purpose is wellness in body, mind and spirit.”

Since the parish health committee was formed last year, several programs have been presented, including a self-defense program, blood pressure screenings after Sunday Masses and a talk by Benedictine Father Noah Casey on lec- tos divina, covering meditative readings from Scriptures and other religious writings.

“The response to all the programs has been good,” said Bittelmeyer.

The biggest effort of the parish nurse program will be the Spring Into Health Fair on March 20 from 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. in Lourdes’ school gymnasium. It will be open to the community and free (except for one of the blood tests).

Thirty-six hospital and health care facilities will be represented, giving information and conducting screenings. There will be four lectures.

“There will be something for everyone,” said Bittelmeyer. “I was looking for a way to take my nursing skills and give something back to my faith community,” she said.

“We have initiated a welcome committee process to make new parishioners more welcome,” said Father Farrell.

The parish also has a bereavement committee. “They have contact with people who are grieving; they let them know what we have to offer,” he said.

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know the parish supports them at the time of sadness in their lives,” he said.

For the past three months, Lourdes has been hosting a new Alcoholics Anonymous discussion group. It meets every Friday night at the parish center.

“It is quite a crowd,” said the pastor.

In its Legacy of Hope from Generation to Generation campaign, the parish is looking to future needs. There is already a shortage of space for adult meetings, such as the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults process and adult education programs.

There is even a shortage of space for the funeral meals ministry. The cafeteria is used if school is not in session. Otherwise, the meals are served at St. Bernadette Parish or in people’s homes.

“We hope when we have completed our dream package, we will be able to replace the current parish center in the old convent, which is in need of repair,” said Father Farrell. “We need four rooms—two for the school and two for adult and youth ministry use.”

One recent adult education evening was held at a new restaurant in the neighborhood, run by the daughters of long-time parishioner Neil Dufour.

“We christened the place,” said Father Farrell. Forty-one couples from the parish attended the pre-Valentine gathering. Lourdes is the site of the annual community Thanksgiving dinner, offered by the Irvington Ministerial Association. Two hundred people, who would otherwise be alone, are served at the cafeteria and about 200 meals are delivered to the homebound.

Sharon Teal is a parish representative in a new group, Irvington Congregations as Partners (ICAP). Members of eight area churches help families “on the edge economically” to avert homelessness, Father Farrell said.

The churches or parishes provide volunteers who will work with families, like they did with the refugee program a few years ago, he said.

“They help a family that is having a hard time and connect them with the social services they are entitled to,” said Father Farrell. The contact is kept up over the period of a year, “until their lives are stable,” he said.

“The school continues to have great enrollment—435,” he said. “One of the other things we hope to do when we reach our Legacy of Hope goal is to make the school building more handicap-friendly. We plan to put in a ramp to the gym and add a new ground-floor entrance.”

Parishioner Paul Deery. Paula Bittelmeyer, parish nurse from Our Lady of Lourdes Parish in Indianapolis, takes the blood pressure of fellow parishioner, Paul Deery.
Center-city campaign is a long-term endeavor

(At the celebration breakfast for the Building Communities of Hope corporate phase of the archdiocesan-wide Legacy of Hope from Generation to Generation capital and endowment campaign [See story, Page 1], Christel DeHaan delivered this address. DeHaan is president and founder of Christel DeHaan Family Foundation and Christel House, Inc. in Indianapolis, a major donor to the campaign.—Editor)

By Christel DeHaan

Thank you all for allowing me to speak with you this morning on a subject very dear to me. It is not, as some of you might think, merely the subject of education of our children. That’s too simple. It is instead the rediscovery of our children. Too many of them have become lost, I think. And even worse, too much of the world has stopped caring for them.

Children in need often have become quotas, red tape, inconveniences. Some critics say that the money we spend to help is not producing results. In many instances, that may be the case.

We also know that money is only half the equation—it takes a holistic approach, a systemic change to help children who are victims of poverty, despair, hopelessness and who are adrift without family or lack family support and nurture. These are the children desperately clinging to the edge of a vortex. And, if we don’t put our hand into that vortex and pull them out—if we don’t recognize their value and make them see it too—then they are truly lost—and so is their future and the future of their children.

What strikes me are two things that never seem to change. One, the need of young children to be educated and, two, the need to inculcate values in them that become guideposts by which they can effectively master life.

The DeHaan Family Foundation participated in the Building Communities of Hope project based on the fact that you deliver results. For quite some time, I have admired what you have accomplished. We all know it is one thing to produce great test scores in communities where the nuclear family is largely intact, where the children have access to good nutrition and home computers and current textbooks, and there exists an appreciation for learning and developing. But what you do is very different. You draw children from the poorest among us; you replace chaos with order; you tame impulse with discipline; you build, often from scratch, a reverence for learning that will serve these children throughout their lives.

Certainly, that is the stated goal of all schools. I would think the difference is, year in and year out, the seeds planted in your garden come to a fuller bloom than the seeds in other gardens. That’s why the DeHaan Family Foundation invested in this project. I use the word invested deliberately because no matter the type of business or activity we are engaged in, we expect a return on the investment.

The return we want is that the children whose lives you touch will grow to touch lives themselves. That the children whose worth you discover come to discover it in themselves. And the children who follow them won’t have to be rediscovered because they will not be lost in the first place.

Yours is a long-term endeavor, and the wonderful test scores your teachers are so proud of are there to be seen. The children whose lives you touch will grow to touch lives themselves. That the children whose lives you touch will grow to touch lives themselves. That the children whose lives you touch will grow to touch lives themselves.

And what they learn from you, at this vital juncture of their lives, can make a big difference.

We certainly will. On behalf of the DeHaan Family Foundation, we are pleased that we were able to extend a helping hand to such a noble cause. We salute you and wish you much success.
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Paper
Nun urges Michigan lawmakers to reject the death penalty

LANSONG, Mich. (CNS)—Sister Helen Prejean asked a crowd at the state Capitol in Lansing if the only way “to do justice” in murder cases “is to imitate the action and kill the killers?” The Sister of St. Joseph of Medaille, a longtime death penalty opponent and author of the best-selling book *Dead Man Walking*, made the comments at a Feb. 23 press conference. The death penalty could end up as a ballot issue in Michigan in 2000. The state abolished capital punishment in 1846 but efforts to reinstate it have begun with the introduction of two Senate joint resolutions.

U.S. mediator says the Kosovo peace proposal is the ‘only solution’

PARIS (CNS)—The chief U.S. mediator to the Kosovo peace talks said there is “no question now of proposing any other peace plan” because “everybody knows that these 83 pages of sometimes-tortuous prose represent the only solution,” said the mediator, Christopher Hill, the U.S. ambassador to the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. “Both sides have begun to understand that this is how the future of Kosovo will be decided.” Hill spoke to the French Catholic daily *La Croix* after the inconclusive end of the first phase of peace talks between representatives of the government of Yugoslavia and ethnic Albanians, the majority in the Yugoslav province of Kosovo. The initial talks were conducted in Rambouillet, a village some 30 miles west of Paris.

The Vatican will issue identity cards to visitors for Jubilee Year

VATICAN CITY (CNS)—The Vatican plans to issue identity cards to visitors to Rome during the year 2000 that will include personal health data, access to mass transportation and records of reservations for events and services. Officials who released details of the “Pilgrim’s Card” Feb. 26 emphasized that several aspects of the program, such as prices and availability dates, were still being finalized. They nevertheless were able to describe a range of potential benefits to card-holding individuals and groups. Card holders will be able to reserve places for the Church’s Jubilee Year celebrations ranging from papal general audiences to liturgical celebrations marking the beginning of the third millennium. †

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

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Baltimore (CNS) — Catholic Relief Services (CRS) has joined more than 30 religious bodies and nongovernmental groups to ask Congress to increase the Clinton administration’s emergency funding request for Central American nations battered by Hurricane Mitch.

“Specifically we urge you to add $25 million to forgive 100 percent of the debt that Honduras and Nicaragua owe to the United States,” said a letter signed by the groups and sent to each member of the House. The text of the letter was released by Baltimore-based CRS on Feb. 25.

Honduras and Nicaragua were the hardest hit by the hurricane. The emergency request bill currently stands at $956 million, which includes $613 million of direct assistance for relief and reconstruction through the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID).

The World Bank and International Monetary Fund jointly operates the Central America Emergency Trust Fund to cover multilateral debt service payments for hurricane-hit nations for the next two years.

While the administration proposal includes a $25 million appropriation to the trust fund, the letter urges a larger contribution.

“If the nations of Central America are to succeed in building the social and physical infrastructure necessary for recovery, they will need the resources freed from debt relief to channel to reconstruction,” the letter said. “Congress should encourage Central American governments to direct all savings freed up by debt relief toward development programs that give priority to poverty reduction.”

The letter suggested that Congress go beyond the administration’s plan to ease the debt burden in the region.

“Honduras and Nicaragua are among the world’s most heavily indebted poor countries, with debt burdens of $6.1 billion and $4.1 billion respectively,” the letter said. “Mitch has destroyed approximately 70 percent of Honduras’ total agricultural output, and a substantial proportion in Nicaragua, making it almost impossible for these countries to service their foreign debts,” the letter said.

The World Bank and International Monetary Fund jointly operates the Central America Emergency Trust Fund to cover multilateral debt service payments for hurricane-hit nations for the next two years. While the administration proposal includes a $25 million appropriation to the trust fund, the letter urges a larger contribution.

“While the trust fund will help in the short term, the underlying issues need to be addressed,” the letter said. “Sixty percent of Honduras’ debt, and nearly 30 percent of Nicaragua’s debt, is owed to multilateral lending institutions,” it said. “The United States should support immediate action to cancel the unpaid debts owed to these institutions.”

CRS is one of three Catholic groups among the 33 signing the letter. The others are the Maryknoll Office for Global Concerns and the Center of Concern, a Washington, D.C.-based think tank.†
Pope aids Mother Teresa’s sainthood cause

VATICAN CITY (CNS)—After an outpouring of requests from all over the world, Pope John Paul II has lifted the standard five-year waiting period for investigating the sainthood cause of Mother Teresa.

“Because the response was so great and insistent, the Holy Father decided to go ahead,” Father Ciro Benedettoni, a Vatican spokesman, said March 1. The move allows a diocesan investigation into Mother Teresa’s life to begin immediately.

In Calcutta, where Mother Teresa ran a home for the dying and where her cause is being initiated, Archbishop Henry D’Souza said he had been informed of the waiver by the Vatican’s Congregation for Sainthood Causes.

Church sources in Rome said it was apparently the first time such an exception had been made.

Shortly after Mother Teresa’s death in September of 1997, the pope said that he thought it was “necessary to follow the normal way” of deliberating sainthood causes, even in the case of Mother Teresa, whom many had considered a living saint.

The rules foresaw an interval of five years before any official consideration. But the pope changed his mind over the last 18 months, in part because people from many countries and walks of life wrote to the Vatican to support sainthood for Mother Teresa, according to Vatican officials.

“There was just a massive, spontaneous response on the part of all sorts of people at every level of society, both inside and outside the Church. There has been no other case like it,” said one Church official, who asked not to be named.

Vatican sources noted that the pope, as the Church’s supreme legislator, can always decide to waive a rule like this. One reason he did so was that the rule seemed superfluous for Mother Teresa.

The waiting period was established as a norm to make sure there is a true reputation of holiness before the Church begins working on a sainthood cause, but Mother Teresa “has always been a model of holiness in action who had given over the documentation and testimony available. Because Mother Teresa was an international figure who founded a religious order and established centers and hospitals all over the globe, there is a lot of evidence to consider.

The sainthood process involves declaration of a person’s heroic virtues; beatification, in which a person is declared “blessed” following certification of a miracle attributed to the person’s intercession; and canonization as a saint, after another certified miracle, in which the Church declares that the person’s life is worthy of honor and imitation by all the faithful.

Since her death, Mother Teresa has been called “a model of holiness in action who had given the kind of care and attention needed by people in the last phase of life.”

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Paper
Friendship and love are ‘essence’ of marriage

By Andrew and Terri Lyke

The term “just friends” connotes a less valued, less serious relationship when compared to a man and woman.

When that relationship progresses into a more meaningful and romantic state, it’s described as “more than just friends.”

Ironically, as reported by many committed married couples, their ability to be friends is what makes their relationship last.

Lou and Amy Carlozo of Chicago have been married two-and-a-half years. For them, friendship is the essence of their relationship.

This couple’s marital roles often define for them certain tasks that they agree to perform. However, there are times when either spouse will “slack off” for various reasons.

And sometimes one takes on chores the other usually performs because that one had a stressful day—or one simply senses the need of the other. They do these things as friends who care about each other’s well-being. In such times, friendship saves the marriage.

What saves many marriages when a period of disillusionment sets in is the couple’s ability to fall back on their essential friendship. They break free of their focus on the other’s poor role performance and begin again to look at the person, his or her strengths, weaknesses and proclivities.

This engenders new, better responses to each other. Liberated from a set of expectations that box them in, they are freer to experience each other’s uniqueness and the uniqueness of their friendship.

This was so for us early in our marriage. Our relationship began as “just friends” in high school in 1969.

Through the years, our relationship grew into a lifelong commitment, and in October of 1975 we were married.

As I was driving to see Father Paul, I recently drove two hours to see a retired priest who has incurable cancer. He has been a good friend throughout my years of priesthood.

I celebrated milestones like my ordination and his retirement, cried together at the deaths of relatives, laughed at jokes, traveled together and, most of all, accepted each other during our worst moments.

As I was driving to see Father Paul, I chanced to follow railroad tracks that ran next to the highway. Although my road had stops and turns, the tracks continued straight ahead. Their dauntless pursuit went through villages, fields and woods. They crossed creeks and went over gullies.

My reverse about Paul’s friendship merged with the view of those tracks. Like constant and steady railroad tracks, a true friendship passes through all parts of one’s life. Friendship does not let ups and downs deter it.

Friends provide companionship. Likewise, friends are great in times of pain when everyone needs someone else to call upon. Yet friendship’s value goes way beyond those experiences.

Friendship is important because it helps a person go outside of self and reach out into others’ lives.

Good friends help complete a person. A faithful friend can allow someone more fully to develop his or her personality. A friend’s honesty mingled with love can become the feedback necessary for personal and spiritual growth.

By Fr. Herb Weber

People often confuse friendship with popularity. As important as friends are in someone’s life, the development of friendship is not easy. There are often mistaken notions of what friendship is or how to treat friends.

Many people settle for friendships of convenience, but when that external bond is broken most of these friendships don’t last. A true friendship can develop only when there is a mutual willingness to go beyond what is convenient. This leads to the need to nurture friendship.

Perhaps the value of friends becomes most apparent in hindsight, when we can see that friendships, like railroad tracks, have run constant and strong through the various terrains of life. †

(Father Herb Weber is the pastor of St. Peter Parish in Mansfield, Ohio.)

Discussion Point

Friends enrich life for others

This Week’s Question

What key role do friends play in each other’s lives?

“Sometimes they’re your confessor, sometimes they fill in as family, as sounding boards. They encourage you, they help you during hard times and good times. I consider my friends part of my family.” (Brenda Beach, Marietta, Ohio.)

“They usually are always there for each other—in good times or bad.” (Gary Wollet, Jackson, Mich.)

“Faith development. I think friends, if they’re faithful people, enrich each other’s faith.” (Marjorie Venier, Providence, R.I.)

“Motivators, co-dreamers, and they should be, but aren’t always, challengers, guardians of the map of life, people who challenge us to be single-minded and single-hearted, and who will point out to us that we’re not always living out what we value.” (Maureen Beeley, Smithfield, R.I.)

Lend Us Your Voice

An upcoming edition asks: Tell of a biblical passage that has become a prayer of yours.

To respond for possible publication, write to Faith Alive at 3211 Fourth St. N.E., Washington, D.C. 20017-1100. †
the seven wisdom Books of the Old Testament is the Book of Proverbs. Proverbs is probably the one book that provides the key to a successful living that the ancient Israelites sought to live. But, of course, it isn’t only the Israelites who struggle with questions about the meaning of life.

Every culture does what it can to provide a universal appeal and significance.

The purpose of the Book of Proverbs, spelled out in its first chapter, is to teach wisdom: “That men may appreciate wisdom and discipline, may understand words of intelligence, may receive training in wise conduct, in what is right, just and honest” (1:2–3).

If then goes on, in 31 chapters, to present eight different collections of proverbs—usually short sayings that express basic truths or practical precepts—applicable to people in various walks of life. Some are addressed to children, others to young men, still others to citizens. The final chapter describes the ideal wife, whose “value is far beyond pearls.”

Many of the proverbs in these collections employ what is known as parable, usually in two parts in a poetic construction. Sometimes the second part repeats the first part with a slight variation: “On the way of wisdom, the Lord will direct you, lead you on straightforward paths” (4:1–11). More often it contrasts ideas: “Hated are all who set foot on it, love covers all offenses” (10:12). And sometimes the second part advances the thought of the first: the cheerful glance brings joy to the heart; good news invigorates the bones” (15:30).

The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge” the book tells us in verse 7 of chapter 1. This concept is repeated twice more, and verse 16 of “wisdom is the fear of the Lord.” This fear must not be understood as terror. Rather, it is a reverence and awe of God because of his sovereignty, goodness and justice. Besides being the beginning of wisdom and knowledge, this “fear” is also the foundation of religion.

The authors of these collections of proverbs believed that God created an order in nature and, if we could discern how that order operated and managed our lives accordingly, we would achieve wisdom, live successful lives, and find happiness.

The cultivation of virtue was seen as an important part of achieving wisdom and happiness. Discipline and self-control were seen as essential, and honesty, diligence, docility and humility were considered necessary for a good reputation.

Chapter 5 is a warning to young men against adultery and the seduction of women. It apparently was not deemed necessary to warn young women since, in a patriarchal society, they were kept in seclusion to prevent them from losing their fidelity and only seductresses had freedom of movement.

The Book of Proverbs doesn’t seem very popular today. Many people think that the optimistic view of life found there was somewhat naive and unrealistic, that it doesn’t describe life as it really is. But there is a great deal of wisdom to be found in this book written some 2,500 years ago.

In the ancient riddle: "I am able to speak, but love covers all offenses." (Jack Fink’s latest book, Traveling with Jesus in the Land, is available for $10 from Critter Press, Inc.)

Cynthia Dewes
Cornucopia/Be well.
A time for first and last things
Lent is a time to contemplate last–things which lead us to first things, which leads some of us to meditate on aging.

Now, age is something the young want to escape, the old wish to reverse. Kids are rarely old enough to ride their bikes around the block without supervision, so they demand a slumber party, or join Boy Scouts.

Then it’s wanting to have their ears pierced or buy the perfect, perfect job. By the time they’re plenty old enough for all that, they don’t care about looks or cars or even jobs, except for the pension. So much for human satisfaction.

Our granddaughter, Kelly, once reminded me of this phenomenon the year she turned 10. “Say,” she joked, “You’re getting really old, aren’t you? Granny can’t have you growing up so fast.”

She pulled up proudly and replied, “Yeah, I’m now in the Double digits?” But then, I’d forgotten how sweet that idea seemed to me when I was 10.

So significant, in fact, that my best friend and I spent a lot of time establishing a hierarchy of double digits: the closer to grown-up we became, the more status we earned. And since Diane was six months older than I, she gave me a powerful, if limited, advantage.

On turning age 11, we were labeled “Mommies.” The lowest of the double-digit crowd. At 12, we graduated to “Grouse.” And at 13, entering the magic Teen Age, we were finally elevated to “Louse.” Don’t ask me why, but being designated a “Louse” felt something like being knighted by the queen.

Clearly, Diane and I were far removed from the single woman who had been designated a “Louse” long after we could remember why we did it. And each time I read that signature, I remember the great times we had together, our adolescent days made memorable by sharing each other’s companionship.

Our “lousehood” was mainly taken up with sitting together in the movies twice a week, and regaled each other with descriptions of the ideal boyfriend. We sailed through Latin and hid through chemistry as one of the few girls, if not the only, by letter only, we shared the peculiarities of marriage and raising kids.

Recently, Diane wrote me—she’s even higher level of existence than “Louse”—when she died following a year’s brave but courageous battle with cancer. I’m glad she passed, we continued to write each other about the books we’d read, the movies we’d seen, the things we’d enjoyed.

First things, last things. Diane beat me to the prize again, God bless her.

Cynthia Dewes, a member of St. Paul Parish, Greencastle, is a regular columnist for The Criterion.

Be Our Guest/Shirley Vogel Meister
You’re seeing double.
An octogenarian friend always says “This time is instead of “Goodbye” when hanging up the phone. Sara Reben, who was born in Russia, tells me this is a German saying: “I’m German, I know it’s also Deutsch. “Sein gesund” (pronounced zyn gesunt) means “Be well.”

Recently, Sara learned I’d been ill for more than a year: so, in a phone chat, we caught up with one another. One of her comments stays with me: She believes that the most memorable problem was properly diagnosed and mediated, I improved because I have a positive attitude. (She probably wouldn’t have said that she’d be with me the times I nearly despised of getting better.)

Talking with Sara reminded me how important an attitude is during illness or hard times. She herself could not have survived her early cancer battle by Dr. Paula Bowes nearly 20 years ago. Dr. Bowes and her husband, Dr. Jim Bowes, created the Children’s Cancer Fund. Last spring, the Albert and Sara Reuben Holocaust Memorial Garden was dedicated at the Jewish Federations of Greater Indianapolis Campus, Indianapolis. The Reubens are members of Congregation Beth El/Zion, Indianapolis.

Sharing life with as much grace and zest as possible brings about a sense of wellness even when disease is present. Traditional doctors now find that proponents of alternative medicine have been right all along: The mind, the body, and the spirit are all parts of one whole. Many also agree that keeping the soul healthy keeps the mind and body as strong as possible—and that prayer is one of the best medicines.

No surprise! In fact, I believe prayer to be an essential factor in my own well-being—especially others’ prayers, for which I’m grateful. My own prayers and meditations—especially for others—give me a sense of peace and community.

Now it’s Lent! Just as we should have periodic checkups, eat right, and exercise in order to keep our bodies functioning well, our “lenten” time should be an opportunity to check our soul’s health. We have the opportunity to live healthily through prayer and sacrifice.

Shirley Vogel Meister with Sara Reuben while in a “Women of the Old Testament” course taught by Dr. Paula Bowes nearly 20 years ago. Dr. Bowes and her husband, Dr. Jim Bowes, created the Children’s Cancer Fund. Last spring, the Albert and Sara Reuben Holocaust Memorial Garden was dedicated at the Jewish Federations of Greater Indianapolis Campus, Indianapolis. The Reubens are members of Congregation Beth El/Zion, Indianapolis.

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My Journey to God

Joseph, faithful image of the Heavenly Father, under your sheltering care, you turned to Jesus. †

Q Our parish liturgy committee is now preparing some details for Holy Week with our pastor. For many years we have not covered the images in church during the last two weeks of Lent. I remember when that was done regularly, but liturgy documents we have read and studied suggest that this should not be done, for reasons which seem to us very sound, in light of what Holy Week is supposed to mean and how it is observed.

A I, too, have seen statues covered in some places in recent years, but there is no foundation today for this practice in the Church’s liturgical instructions or policies. Before the revised edition of the Sacramental (Roman Missal) in 1970, statues in churches were typically covered with purple cloths during what was then called Passiontide, the last two weeks of Lent. This revised missal notes, just before the text of the fifth Sunday of Lent, “The practice of covering crosses and images in the church may be observed, if the episcopal conference decides. The crosses are to be covered until the end of the celebration of the Lord’s passion on Good Friday. The images are to remain covered until the beginning of the Easter Vigil.” The most significant part of that rubric is that the practice may be continued if the episcopal conference so decides. The same concern was raised in 1988 in a “Circular Letter Concerning the Preparation and Celebration of the Easter Feasts and the Congregation for Divine Worship (No. 26).” The usual procedure in liturgical law requires bishops to vote to abolish a statute or practice to make it optional. The bishops voted some years ago, for example, to make the anointing with the oil of catechumens optional at the baptism of infants.

As the U.S. bishops’ Committee on the Liturgy explains, however, in this case the bishops must vote to continue the practice. Otherwise it ceases.

Q In your book Catholic Life in a New Century, you state that Catholics may be married before a minister or justice of the peace if a dispensation for such a marriage is obtained from the bishop. Would the Church allow such a marriage if the officiating person is a woman? Would the Church allow a female minister to participate in a marriage ceremony performed by a priest in a Catholic church?

A If a dispensation from the form has been granted, the marriage may be performed before any legally qualified person, male or female. Catholic guidelines for interfamil sharing in weddings provide for certain ways in which a non-Catholic clergy might participate when a priest is the officiating minister. Possibilities vary, depending, for example, on whether the ceremony is or is not within the celebration of the Eucharist. If such sharing is allowed, no general Catholic regulation would limit what sharing to male clergy. It would be wise, however, to check with one’s pastor about any local policies before plans advance too far.

Q One parish in our area announced that the communal penance service would “take care of” anyone who desires to receive the sacrament of penance. How do you explain that? (Illinois)

A A communal penance service, the second method provided for in the Rite of Penance, usually includes the opportunity for private confession of sins for those who wish to do so, and private absolution. The other requirements for the sacrament of penance can easily be included in a communal service. The ceremony. You announce that the communal service would provide this opportunity. †

Daily Readings

Monday, March 8

John of God, religious founder

2 Kings 5:1-15a

Psalms 42:2-3, 43:3-4

Luke 4:24-30

Tuesday, March 9

Frances of Rome, married

woman and religious founder

Daniel 3:25, 34-43

Psalm 25:4b-5, 6-7b, 8-9

Matthew 18:21-35

Wednesday, March 10

Deuteronomy 4:1, 5-9

Psalms 147:12-13, 15-16, 19-20

Matthew 5:17-19

Thursday, March 11

Jeremiah 7:23-28

Psalm 95:1-2, 6-9

Luke 11:14-23

Friday, March 12

Hosanna 1:10

Hosanna 81:6c-11b, 14, 17

Mark 12:28-34

Saturday, March 13

Hosanna 6:1

Psalms 51:3-4, 18-21b

Luke 18:9-14

Sunday, March 14

Fourth Sunday of Lent

1 Samuel 16:1b, 6-7, 10-13a

Psalm 23:1-6

Ephesians 5:8-14

John 9:1-41 or John 9:1, 6-9, 13-17, 34-38

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The Greenwood Parish, 335 S. Meridian St., Greenwood, beginning at 7 p.m. Information: 317-927-6900.

March 5

Oldenburg Academy, Oldenburg, will present the musical Godspell in the auditorium Friday at 7 p.m. and Sunday at 3 p.m. Cost: adults, $6; children 6 and under: Information: 812-934-4440.

March 6

St. Vincent Hospitals and Health Services, Warsaw Hospital and Indianapolis Woman magazine are sponsoring a free family health fair at Lafayette Square Mall, Indianapolis, 3919 Lafayette Rd. Information: 317-338-2273.

Sceena Memorial High School will sponsor a pancake breakfast at McDonald’s, 10th and Bosart, Indianapolis, from 6–10 a.m.; all proceeds to benefit the track and field program. Tickets are $3. Information and tickets: 317-356-6377.

March Madness dinner/dance to benefit St. John Childcare Ministry will be at Joe Huber's Farmyard building, beginning with a social at 6:30 p.m., then dinner at 7 p.m., and the dance from 8 p.m.–midnight. Tickets: $25. Information: 317-923-9898.

Mary, Queen of Peace Parish, Danville, 1005 W. Main St., will sponsor a lecture by Laurie Hunted, mother of four, discussing the role of parents according to the Catholic Church. Information: 317-745-4284.

March 7

St. Vincent Hospital, Inc. will host a Founder’s Day High Tea at Meridian Hills Country Club, Indianapolis, 5099 Spring Mill Rd., beginning at 3 p.m. Cost: $20 per person.

March 13

Cardinal Ritter Junior/Senior High School Parent’s Club will host a St. Patrick’s Day dance in the school cafeteria beginning at 6:30 p.m. with a catered Irish dinner, then a dance from 8:30–11:30 p.m. Tickets: $15. Information: 317-481-9404.

The Couple to Couple League will hold Natural Family Planning classes at St. Luke Parish, Indianapolis, 7575 Holliday Dr. E., beginning at 9 a.m., first of four classes. Information: 765-342-4905.

Brebeuf Jesuit Preparatory School, Indianapolis, 2801 W. 86th St., will present, “Phantom of the Auction,” a fundraising dinner and auction. Social begins at 6 p.m., dinner at 8:15 p.m., live auction at 9 p.m. Tickets are $75, raffle tickets $100.

March 14

St. Anne Altar Society’s Annual Day of Reflection, “The Secrets of the Psalms,” presented by Father Todd Rebe, at Holy Family, Richmond, 801 W. Main, beginning at noon with a salad buffet.

Rexville Schoenstatt will present “Anointing or Healing and Mercy,” at 2:30 p.m. followed by Mass at 3:30 p.m. Information: 812-689-3551.

March 16

St. Malachy Parish, Brownsburg, 326 N. Green St., will host a mission, “Our Life in the Trinity, Building Blocks for the Spiritual Life,” presented by Benedictine Father Noah Casey, 7–8:30 p.m.

March 18

St. Simon the Apostle Parish, 1516 Union St., Greenwood, will gather for Mass and a Healing Service at Our Lady of the Woods, 9th and Union Sts., Greenwood, beginning at 7 p.m. Information: 317-927-6900.

March 6

The Ave Maria Guild will meet at St. Paul Hermitage, Beech Grove at 12:30 p.m. for dessert and coffee; Business meeting will follow.

March 7

St. Joseph Church, 511 E. 80th St., will host an open house for junior high school girls and their families. The SSAT test will also be available. Registration begins at 8 a.m., test begins at 9:30 a.m. Information: 800-467-4MHA or 812-367-1431.

March 7

Sacred Heart Parish, Indianapolis, 1539 Union St., will present “Crossing the Desert,” a Scripture study from 9-9:45 a.m. in the parish hall. Information: 317-638-5551.

March 9

Mary, Queen of Peace Parish, Danville, 1005 W. Main St., the Journey of Hope Committee will sponsor a lecture by Laurie Hunted, mother of four, discussing the role of parents according to the Catholic Church. Information: 317-745-4284.

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March 5, 12, 19, 26
S.S. Peter and Paul Cathedral, Indianapolis, 347 N. Meridian St., will have Mass at noon fol-
lowed by adoration from 12:30–7 p.m., Stations of the Cross at 7 p.m.
March 5, 19
St. Martin Parish, Yorkville.

317-638-5551.
concluding with communion
beginning at 8:30 a.m. and
hold eucharistic adoration
The New Albany Deanery Catholic Charities will present “Child Support and Joint Custody,” a service of its Catholic Divorce Recovery Network of Southern Indiana, from 7:30–9 p.m. at St. Augustine Parish Hall, Jeffersonville, 316 E. Maple. Information: 812-948-0438.

Lenten Activities
March 4, 11, 18, 25
St. John Parish, Indianapolis, 126 W. Georgia St., will pre-
sent Lenten Scripture Reflections, a discussion of Sunday readings from 12:45–1:30 p.m. Light refresh-

March 5, 12
Sacred Heart Parish, Indianapolis, 335 S. Meridian St., Greenwood, hosts perpetual adoration 24 hours a day in the parish center.

March 10, 17, 24
Mt. St. Francis Retreat Center, Mt. St. Francis, will hold a Lenten series on the dimen-
sions of prayer from 7:30–9:30 p.m. in the family center. Information: 812-466-1231.

March 12, 26
St. Paul School’s Rosary Club, Guilford, will serve fish dinners at Father Walsh Hall in Yorkville, from 4–7 p.m. Adults $5. Children under 12.50. Due in or carry out.

March 23
Sacred Heart Parish, Terre Haute, 2322 N. 13th St., will present “The Bible—Why is It Holy?” a workshop for adults from 6:30–8:30 p.m. in the family center. Information: 812-466-1231.

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

Holy Rosary Parish, Indianapolis, 520 Stevens St., cele-

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

St. Anthony Church, 379 N. Meridian St., Warren, Indianapolis, holds a rosary and Benediction for

9:30 Mass, 10 a.m. (formerly held at
St. Patrick Parish).

St. Anthony Church, 379 N. Meridian St., Warren, Indianapolis, holds a rosary and Benediction for

vocations at 2 p.m.

Mondays
Our Lady of the Greenwood Parish, 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 7–8 p.m. in the chapel to pray the rosary and Chaplet of Divine Mercy.
Loans, grants educate educators

By Margaret Nelson

Total Catholic Education (TCE) grants help educate Catholic teachers and religious educators. Approved by the Archdiocesan Education Commission (AEC), grants and loans to educators in the archdiocese since the program began in 1993—reached $500,000 with those distributed last November.

The loans and grants have helped educators teach thinking skills to high school students, trained teachers and religious educators on the use of software in the classroom, and funded deanery workshops on how to build parish small faith communities, among other projects.

Paul Lockard, principal of Bishop Chatard High School in Indianapolis, received a grant for a training program for teachers on integrating critical thinking skills in the classroom.

A TCE grant was used to develop a plan at Bishop Chatard that would infuse these skills in the whole curriculum within two years.

Last August, Dr. Richard Paul, of the Sonoma, Calif., Center for Critical Thinking, spoke to the educators. Dr. Linda Elder of the center talked to the Indianapolis North Deanery educational leaders in October of 1997. Bishop Chatard sent its teachers to a workshop the center presented in Cincinnati in March of 1997. Further training will be offered to the Bishop Chatard staff March 16-18 at the North Deanery high school.

“We have committed funding on our own,” Lockard said of the program. “The real strength will be to apply the model for thinking skills to high school students, trained teachers and religious educators on the use of software in the classroom, and funded deanery workshops on how to build parish small faith communities, among other projects.”

Jerry Ernstberger, principal of Holy Family School in New Albany, applied for a grant to provide computer training for educators from eight schools and several parishes in the New Albany Deanery. With the $13,000 in TCE funds awarded since last April, more than 100 teachers and parish religious education directors have participated in the training, Ernstberger said.

The full-day technology training sessions in Windows, Microsoft Word and Intermediate Word are provided by a Clarksville office system firm. Half-day training also is available in Excel and Power Point software programs. “So far, the feedback has been very positive,” said Ernstberger. “We have been able to fund only 29 percent of the stated needs.

Even so, he said, seven out of 10 proposals have been funded. “We have committed funding on our own,” Lockard said of the program. “The real strength will be to apply the model for thinking skills to high school students, trained teachers and religious educators on the use of software in the classroom, and funded deanery workshops on how to build parish small faith communities, among other projects.”

Approved by the Archdiocesan Education Commission (AEC), grants and loans to educators in the archdiocese—has distributed more than $1.7 million since the inception of the TCE program, $1.3 million in the last two years. Twenty-seven grants and loans were approved for a total of $56,000 in funding.

Since the inception of the TCE program, $1.7 million has been distributed to Catholic teachers and religious educators. “The demand for TCE loan and grants continues to exceed the supply,” said Lockard. He said he hopes that the model can be used throughout the archdiocese.

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Sisters feel Mother Theodore’s inspiration

Providence sisters try to parallel their lives to example of Mother Theodore, who was devoted to Mary and Eucharist

By Sarah Gardner

“Put yourself gently into the hands of Providence.”

“Our hope is in the Providence of God, which has protected us until the present, and which will still provide, somehow, for our future needs.”

These and other journal entries by Blessed Mother Theodore Guérin, foundress of the Sisters of Providence of Saint Mary-of-the-Woods, are included in her diaries, which are being studied by Providence Sister Eileen Ann Kelley, an archivist for Mother Theodore’s archives.

Sister Eileen Ann said her journey of becoming a Sister of Providence and an archivist for the congregation was much like the message of one of Blessed Mother Theodore’s journals. It was a journey of Providence.

“My vocation was really a gift from God,” Sister Eileen Ann said. “I fought my vocation; it kept nagging me, and the Lord kept pursuing me.”

Sister Eileen Ann said she believed it was Mother Theodore’s spirit, through other Providence sisters who taught her, that eventually led her to become a Sister of Providence.

“The history didn’t touch me as much as the spirit of the teachers did through the heritage of Mother Theodore Guérin,” Sister Eileen Ann said. “They embodied Mother Theodore’s spirit, and I was influenced by that. And that spirit still lives today, among us, so that today Mother Theodore is very much alive to me.”

Sister Eileen Ann said her work as an archivist is a wonderful ministry because she can preserve and share the heritage of the Sisters of Providence.

Providence Sister Jeanne Knoerle, chancellor of Saint Mary-of-the-Woods College, said she relied on Mother Theodore’s spirit to help her through many struggles as a past president of Saint Mary-of-the-Woods College.

Sister Jeanne, who served her congregation as president of the college from 1968 to 1983, said she believes she was influenced by the congregation’s foundress through the changing times of society she experienced as college president, especially through the late 1960s.

“It was during that period,” Sister Jeanne said, “that I would get to know [her] through her journal writings. Whenever I faced difficulties, I could always find some strength in her [life and ministry].”

Sister Jeanne said this strength influenced her to become a Sister of Providence. It has been within her since she was 18, she said, and sustains her in her ministry to Saint Mary-of-the-Woods and beyond.

Mother Theodore: “came from a different culture into the wilds of Indiana,” Sister Jeanne said. “She was able to establish a women’s college.”

Providence Sister Mary Pius Regnier, who served as general superior of the congregation from 1966-1976, recalled the story of how Mother Theodore Guérin miraculously intervened through God to heal Providence Sister Mary Theodosia Mug, an educator and writer who suffered from neuritis and cancer.

On Oct. 30, 1908, Sister Mary Pius said, Sister Mary Theodosia prayed at Mother Theodore’s tomb. On that evening, Sister Mary Theodosia asked herself whether Mother Theodore Guérin really did have intervention with God, then she heard an inner voice answer, “She does.”

The next morning, Sister Mary Theodosia woke up to find that she could now tie her habit all the way around her entire swollen and sickly body, Sister Mary Pius said. It was later determined that Sister Mary Theodosia had been cured of both diseases.

Sister Mary Pius said documentation of this miracle was the first step toward sainthood for Mother Theodore, and one that is truly inspiring.

Now retired, Sister Mary Pius said she has especially felt Mother Theodore’s presence since returning to Saint Mary-of-the-Woods on Aug. 13, 1993.

“I have been here for six years,” Sister Mary Pius said. “We always call St. Mary’s home.”

She said the Sisters of Providence try to parallel their lives to the example of Mother Theodore, who was devoted to the Blessed Virgin, the Blessed Sacrament and the guardian angels.

Providence Sister Marie Kevin Tighe has worked to promote Mother Theodore’s cause by coordinating events and correspondence to further the sainthood process.

Sister Marie Kevin said she remembers how Providence sister who was her eighth-grade teacher inspired her to join the congregation. Sister Marie Kevin said she later realized that this teacher embodied the spirit of Mother Theodore Guérin’s life and ministry within her.

She said the Feb. 28 Mass honoring Mother Theodore helped further promote her life of missionary service.

“To be the Church,” Sister Marie Kevin said, “we have to be in mission all the time—reaching out to serve.”

(Sarah Gardner is a senior at Saint Mary-of-the-Woods College at St. Mary-of-the-Woods.)
The following is a list of parish Lenten communal penance services reported to *The Criterion*.

**Bloomington Deanery**
- March 10, 7 p.m. at St. Mary, Mitchell
- March 17, 7 p.m. at St. Vincent de Paul, Bedford
- March 18, 7 p.m. at St. Mary, Mitchell
- March 25, 7 p.m. at St. John the Apostle, Bloomington

**Batesville Deanery**
- March 10, 7 p.m. at St. Lawrence, Lawrenceburg
- March 14, 2 p.m. at Immaculate Conception, Milltown
- March 14, 4 p.m. at St. Maurice, Napoleon
- March 16, 7 p.m. at St. Peter, Franklin Co.
- March 21, 2 p.m. at St. Joseph, St. Leon, for St. Joseph, St. Leon, and St. John, Dover
- March 22, 7 p.m. at St. Louis, Batesville
- March 24, 7 p.m. at St. John, Osgood for St. John, Osgood, and St. Magdalene, New Marion
- March 26, 7 p.m. at St. Mary, Greensburg
- March 31, 7 p.m. at St. Mary-of-the-Rock, St. Mary-of-the-Rock, for St. Mary-of-the-Rock, and St. Cecilia, Oak Forest

**Connersville Deanery**
- March 8, 7 p.m. at Holy Guardian Angels, Cedar Grove
- March 11, 7 p.m. at St. Andrew, Richmond
- March 14, 1:30 p.m. at St. Anne, New Castle
- March 16, 7 p.m. at St. Gabriel, Connersville
- March 18, 7 p.m. at St. Mary, Rushville
- March 25, 7 p.m. at St. Michael, Brookville
- March 27, noon at St. Mary, Richmond

**Seymour Deanery**
- March 5, 7 p.m. at American Martyrs, Scottsburg
- March 10, 7 p.m. at St. Patrick, Salem
- March 18, 7 p.m. at St. Bartholomew, Columbus
- March 24, 7 p.m. at Prince of Peace, Madison
- March 24, 7 p.m. at Most Sorrowful Mother, Vevay
- March 26, 7 p.m. at St. Mary, North Vernon
- March 26, 7 p.m. at St. Ann, Jennings Co.

**Indianapolis South Deanery**
- March 9, 7 p.m. at Holy Name, Beech Grove
- March 11, 7 p.m. at St. Joseph, Jennings Co.
- March 13, 7 p.m. at St. Joseph, Martinsville
- March 14, 7 p.m. at St. John, Osgood
- March 15, 7 p.m. at St. Joseph, Armstrong, North Vernon
- March 16, 7 p.m. at St. Andrew, Richmond
- March 17, 7 p.m. at St. Benedict, Terre Haute
- March 18, 7 p.m. at St. Mary’s Village, St. Mary-of-the-Woods
- March 21, after liturgy at Holy Rosary, Seelyville
- March 22, 7 p.m. at St. Patrick, Terre Haute
- March 29, 7:30 p.m. at St. Margaret Mary, Terre Haute

**Indianapolis East Deanery**
- March 11, 7 p.m. at St. Michael
- March 13, 7 p.m. at St. Rita
- March 16, 7 p.m. at St. Simon the Apostle
- March 17, 7 p.m. at Little Flower
- March 17, 7 p.m. at St. Mary
- March 23, 7 p.m. at St. Patrick, Terre Haute
- March 23, all day at Scecina Memorial High School
- March 25, 7 p.m. at Our Lady of Lourdes

**Indianapolis North Deanery**
- March 9, 7 p.m. at St. Joseph
- March 10, 7 p.m. at St. Mary, Navilleton
- March 11, 7 p.m. at Nativity
- March 11, 7 p.m. at Our Lady of Providence, Greenwood
- March 15, 7 p.m. at St. Mary, North Vernon
- March 15, 7 p.m. at Our Lady of Providence, Indianapolis
- March 17, 7:30 p.m. at St. Mary, New Albany
- March 21, 7 p.m. at St. Joseph Hill, Sellersburg
- March 23, 7:30 p.m. at Sacred Heart, Jeffersonville
- March 23, 7 p.m. at St. Bernadette
- March 23, 7 p.m. at St. Jude
- March 23, 7 p.m. at St. Luke
- March 29, 7 p.m. at St. Lawrence

**Indianapolis West Deanery**
- March 10, 7:30 p.m. at St. Christopher
- March 11, 7 p.m. at St. Malachi
- March 14, 2 p.m. at Holy Trinity
- March 16, 6:30 p.m. at St. Monica
- March 18, 7:30 p.m. at St. Gabriel
- March 18, 7 p.m. at Holy Angels
- March 22, 7 p.m. at Mary, Queen of Peace, Danville
- March 24, 7 p.m. at St. Joseph
- March 28, 2 p.m. at St. Anthony

**New Albany Deanery**
- March 9, 7 p.m. at St. Michael, Bradford
- March 11, 7 p.m. at Francis Xavier, Henryville, host St. Michael, Charlestown
- March 13, 9:30 a.m. at St. Mary-of-the-Knobs, Floyds Knobs
- March 17, 7:30 p.m. at St. Mary-of-the-Knobs, Floyds Knobs
- March 18, 7 p.m. at Our Lady of Perpetual Help, New Albany
- March 18, 7 p.m. at St. Mary, Navilleton
- March 18, 8:30 p.m. at 3 p.m. at St. Lawrence, Eastpointe
- March 19, 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Our Lady of Providence, Jeffersonville, host St. Augustine, Jeffersonville
- March 25, 6:30 p.m. at St. Paul, Sellersburg
- March 25, 7 p.m. at St. Joseph, Charlestown, host St. Michael, Charlestown
- March 28, 7 p.m. at Holy Family, New Albany
- March 29, 7 p.m. at St. Anthony of Padua, Clarksville

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**The Criterion’s Lenten Dining Guide**

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Young Adult Conference is set for March 27

By Mary Ann Wyand

“Serve as Luminaries to Shed Light Upon the Earth” is the theme for the archdiocesan Young Adult Conference March 27 at Marian College in Indianapolis.

Former Indianapolis Colts strength coach Tom Zupancic, who now serves the National Football League (NFL) team as director of business development, is the keynote speaker for the conference. A member of St. Malachy Parish in Brownsburg, Zupancic completed 15 seasons as strength coach for the Colts in 1998. He is a member of the Indiana Football Hall of Fame and was named the NFL’s Strength and Conditioning Coach of the Year in 1995. He received Indiana’s Sagamore of the Wabash Award from former Gov. Evan Bayh in 1996.

The author of a book titled Strength and Conditioning for Football and Then Some, Zupancic also has produced a motivational video on Building Inner Strength. He frequently speaks to groups about goal setting and positive thinking.

Zupancic ranks 14th in the world among all-time super heavyweights with a 600-pound bench press set in 1988. He is a graduate of Cathedral High School in Indianapolis and the University of Indianapolis. Zupancic and his wife, Carrie, are the parents of three children.

The annual Young Adult Conference is sponsored by the archdiocesan Office for Youth and Family Ministries and is intended to address the needs, interests and concerns of Catholics who are in their 20s and 30s.

The conference also is designed to call forth young adults to recognize and claim their individual and communal roles as members of the Body of Christ in the world.

Workshops will focus on personal and spiritual growth, faith development and religious education, and the diversity and gifts of young adults. Topics include “The Mighty Wind of the Holy Spirit,” “By Name I Have Called You,” “Getting Your Fiscal House in Order,” “Mars and Venus on a Date” and “Who Am I? Identity Issues of 20s and 30s.”

Archbishop Daniel M. Buechlein will talk with participants at 1:30 p.m. in the Marian College Auditorium.

The conference begins at 8:45 a.m. and concludes with a eucharistic liturgy at 5 p.m. Pizza will be served during a coffee house after the Mass. (Registrations are $40 a person and must be postmarked by March 15 to Young Adult Conference, Office for Youth and Family Ministries, P.O. Box 1410, Indianapolis, IN 46206. Information: 317-226-1439 or 800-382-9836, ext. 1439.)

By Serve Luminaries to Shed Light Upon the Earth is the theme for the archdiocesan Young Adult Conference March 27 at Marian College in Indianapolis.

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Although Benedictine Father Bede Cisco has barely had time to get settled in his new office as director of the Office for Indianapolis Programs for Saint Meinrad School of Theology, he’s already decided to spend more time out of the office.

As part of his new responsibilities, Father Bede is seeking input on the kinds of courses, seminars and workshops that Saint Meinrad can offer people in the Indianapolis area.

To do that, he intends to visit the pastoral staff of each Catholic parish in the Indianapolis area and ask for ideas and suggestions. He said he input, particularly from the pastoral staffs and parishioners, “is essential to develop programs that meet the needs of the Church.”

Although Saint Meinrad School of Theology has held a few classes in the Indianapolis area in recent years, he said, opening an office demonstrates Saint Meinrad’s commitment to serve people in the central Indiana area in a new way.

He opened the office in January at St. Francis Hall on the Marian College campus. The Franciscan college is located in the central Indiana area in a new way.

Meinrad’s commitment to serve people in the Indianapolis area and ask for ideas and suggestions is essential to develop programs that meet the needs of the Church.”

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