State legislature closes with mixed results

ICC efforts to educate people about the death penalty prompted extensive debate, publicity

abolition of the death penalty, insurance mandates and educational initiatives kept staffers of the Indiana Catholic Conference (ICC) busy during the 1999 Indiana General Assembly’s budget session. The ICC, which is the public policy arm of the Catholic Church in Indiana, lobbies the state legislature in the interest of the Church.

“The effort to get a hearing for a bill to abolish capital punishment in Indiana tapped a nerve in and outside of our faith community,” ICC executive director Dr. M. Desmond Ryan said. “This issue was the number one priority for the state ICC directors. Some people said the Senate death penalty hearing was the talk of the Statehouse in February.”

The second phase of the spring legislative session was dominated by insurance mandates dealing with infertility treatments and contraceptive coverage, Ryan said. During the final phase of the session, in the conference committee, the ICC tried to salvage education initiatives in the budget.

Lead issues

Capital punishment—Last December, the Indiana Catholic Conference board urged Ryan to find an author for a bill to abolish capital punishment.

“A preliminary search for a sponsor among Catholic legislators pointed out the divisions within our faith community on the death penalty as a pro-life issue,” Ryan said. Unable to find a Catholic sponsor, Ryan turned to Sen. Morris H. Mills of Indianapolis (R–Dist. 35, Johnson, Marion and Morgan counties), a Quaker and Senate leader, who introduced SB 298 along with co-sponsors Sen. J. Murray Clark of Indianapolis (R–Dist. 29, Hamilton and Marion counties), Sen. Earline S. Rogers of Gary (D–Dist. 3, Lake County), and Sen. Cleophus Washington of South Bend (D–Dist. 10, St. Joseph County).

Sen. Mills requested a hearing for SB 298 from Sen. Robert Meeks of LaGrange (R–Dist. 13, Dekalb, Kosciusko, LaGrange, Noble and Steuben counties), who is known as a strong proponent of capital punishment. Sen. Meeks granted Sen. Mills’s request and a Corrections, Criminal and Civil Proceeding Committee hearing was held on Feb. 17.

Working with Larry Landis, executive director of the Indiana Public Defender Council, and his staff, the ICC staff put together testimony. After four hours of testimony from a number of religious leaders led by Archbishop Daniel M. Buechlein, as well as from key judges, prosecutors and public defenders, the bill failed to pass to the full Senate by a 4–7 committee vote.

“Considering that this was the first public hearing on the death penalty since it was reintroduced in Indiana 20 years ago,” Ryan said, “we believe that it was a positive first step in the ongoing effort to change this law to the penalty of life without parole.”

Romanian Orthodox Patriarch Teoctist reaches out to embrace Pope John Paul II on May 9 in Bucharest. During his three-day visit to Romania, Pope John Paul attended a Sunday Divine Liturgy with the patriarch.
St. Paul Parish to pay tribute to school's service to Tell City area

TELL CITY—After 121 years of service to the Tell City community, the doors of the school at St. Paul Parish will close at the end of the school year.

St. Paul School first opened in 1878 as a two-room Catholic school. In 1934, during the depression, an agreement was formed with the public school system to rent the building and take over the expense of running the school. The nuns were kept on staff at the school and time release was allowed for religious education.

A new elementary school building is under construction in Tell City, so St. Paul School is no longer needed by the school corporation. St. Paul Parish will recognize the school’s many years of service to the community during Masses on Pentecost weekend May 22-23. Mass times are Saturday at 5:30 p.m. and Sunday at 9 a.m. and noon. A reception will follow each Mass, and the school building will be open for touring. Past and present teachers and students are invited to attend. Current and former faculty members are asked to check in at the “teachers’ table” in the narthex off the main parking lot.

St. Vincent de Paul Society warns churches about scam

Parishes and Protestant churches in the Indiana area should be aware of a scam involving the St. Vincent de Paul Society’s name, council president Don Striegel of Indianapolis said in a recent letter sent to members of the Church Federation of Greater Indianapolis.


“Recently a Protestant church on the west side of the city was the object of a scam using the name of St. Vincent de Paul (SVDP) to obtain money for, or by, persons unknown to us,” he said.

“This is only the latest in a long list of such operations dating back many years,” Striegel said. “We have made no attempt to pursue the perpetrators, but only to warn our (Church Federation) members of that kind of activity. However, as many of these operations have been successful, we have an interest in trying to keep them from happening.”

Each legislative session provides opportunities for the Church in Indiana through the ICC to address a broad range of moral, ethical and social justice issues.

Bishop Dale Melczek of Gary urged the ICC to take a leadership position with the Indiana Non-Public Education Association (INPEA) on education issues.

Ryan and INPEA director Glenn Tebbe, assisted by ICC attorney William Wood, worked to tell the non-public school story to legislators.

Rep. B. Patrick Bauer of South Bend (D-Dist. 6, St. Joseph County) included non-public schools in HB 1972, but the safe school funding was taken out of the budget by the Senate leadership. Then, in the conference committee, the safe school money was returned to the budget, but non-public school children were excluded.

However, Ryan said, accredited non-public schools were retained in the budget as eligible for Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test (PSAT) and advanced placement test fees.

“Most of the other equity concerns for non-public school students failed to survive the conference committee process,” Ryan said.

“During the session, the ICC and INPEA team presence made the issues of non-public students visible to legislators and the education community,” Ryan said.

Other issues

Child Health Insurance—CHIP, the Child Health Insurance Program, was an important aspect of the 1999 state budget. The number of eligible children under age 19 has been expanded because of additional funding. This program is a three-to-one federal/state match. A significant change includes coverage for mental health to the same degree as physical health.

Landlord-Tenant—ICC concern on landlord-tenant issues dates to the conference’s early years.

HB 1653, authored by Rep. Brian K. Hashler of Evansville (D-Dist. 77, Vanderburgh County) and sponsored by Sen. Richard D. Bray of Martinsville (IR-Dist. 37, Clay, Morgan, Owen, Putnam and Vigo counties), passed both chambers and will be signed by the governor.

“This is the first such landlord-tenant reform by Indiana since the 19th century,” Ryan said.

Indiana Family Leave Act—HB 1127, the long-standing ICC concern, was authored by Rep. John J. Day of Indianapolis (D-Dist. 100, Marion County) and passed the House by a 51-47 vote, but was not given a hearing in the Senate.

Marriage Deception and Adoption Expenses—SB 310 passed the Senate 50-0, but attempts to amend it to limit adoption to married couples and exclude single persons, including homosexual persons, caused the authors to table the bill in the House.

Taxation—As originally written, HB 1105 could have negatively affected Church properties. However, Rep. Reiner, author of the bill, amended it to exclude religious organizations from taxes if Church activities are within the stated purposes of the organization.

Medically Accurate Education—ICC monitoring raised concerns about the intent of this legislation, Ryan said. The bill would challenge sexual abstinence education as the ideal.

“If the bill passed the House, at the ICC’s suggestion, the education chair refused to give it a hearing in the Senate,” Ryan said. “Efforts during conference committee meetings to have other bills carry it as an amendment failed during this session.”

Conscience Clause—Insurance mandates in HB 1331 and HB 1443 were amended in the House to protect organizations such as Catholic insurance companies from having to cover medical procedures in conflict with Church teaching, such as infertility treatment and contraception.

“In the Senate, ICC efforts maintained the conscience clause provisions,” Ryan said. “Extensive Senate floor debate raised numerous concerns about legislating and mandating in this sensitive area.”

The two bills failed by a large margin. HB 1331 was voted down 10-40, and HB 1443 failed by an 8-42 vote.

“Each legislative session offers special challenges for the Indiana Catholic Conference,” Ryan said, “but always provides opportunities for the Church in Indiana through the ICC to address a broad range of moral, ethical and social justice issues.

“This year, life and school issues predominated,” he said. “Other sessions would have found us spending equal time with social justice issues, but welfare reform in June temporarily reduced our involvement.”

Greg A. Otolski is named Criterion managing editor

Greg A. Otolski, business editor of Louisville, Kentucky’s nationally acclaimed newspaper, The Courier-Journal, has accepted the position of managing editor of The Criterion. He will begin work on May 24.

Otolski, a member of Holy Family Parish in New Albany, comes to archdiocesan service with a wealth of experience. He has been a newspaper editor and reporter for the last 16 years and has worked for The Jasper Herald and United Press International as well as The Courier-Journal. As business editor, he leads a staff of two assistant editors, eight reporters and two news clerks.

As managing editor of The Criterion, Otolski will handle the day-to-day operations of the newspaper and participate as a member of the editorial committee of the board of directors of Criterion Press, Inc., whose members help develop policy and write editorials.

He is a graduate of the Indiana University University of Journalism and has earned numerous awards during his career, including, in 1997, the Best of Gannett Award and a Metro Louisville Journalism Award for Business Reporting.

He will report to William R. Bruns, executive editor. Reporting to Otolski will be Margaret Nelson, senior editor, and Mary Ann Wyand and Susan Bierman, assistant editors.

G. A. Otolski

This Ad’s
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Providence House expands to Georgetown site

By Susan M. Bierman

GEORGETOWN—Some people know firsthand the importance of ministry to neglected and abused children. Others make it their mission to provide this ministry.

Guerin Inc., a new not-for-profit corporation in Indiana, plans to build a $1.6 million complex in Georgetown for the expansion of services provided by Providence House, a program of Providence Self-Sufficiency Ministries Inc.—a ministry sponsored by the Sisters of Providence of Saint Mary-of-the-Woods.

Ground is expected to be broken in November or December. Established in 1994, Providence House, currently housed in the former Holy Family Parish convent, 225 W. Daisy Lane in New Albany, is a group home licensed by the state of Indiana to provide foster care for 10 children ages 4 to 16 years. Most of the children who reside at Providence House are wards of the state and have been removed from their homes because of abuse or neglect—and it’s not uncommon that at any given time several of the children are siblings.

Phase I of the new Providence House facilities calls for the construction of three group homes and two transitional homes on 12.48 acres of wooded land that was donated by the Archdiocese of Indianapolis.

One group home will provide care for six developmentally and/or emotionally challenged children; another for 10 children ages 4 to 9 years; and a third for children ages 10 to 14 years. The transitional homes will shelter families who otherwise could not be reunited because they are homeless or live in substandard housing.

Msgr. Joseph F. Schaedel, vicar general of the archdiocese, presented the land deed to Guerin Inc. during a ground blessing ceremony on May 7 at the site located on the north side of State Highway 64 on the east side of Georgetown.

During the ceremony, Msgr. Schaedel said it would be impossible for him to imagine what “the history and present status of the archdiocesan family would be like without the Sisters of Providence.”

“So many people’s lives are touched — by the ministry of the Sisters of Providence,” he said.

Providence Sister Barbara Ann Zeller, director of Providence Self-Sufficiency Ministries, said the project wouldn’t be where it is today if it weren’t for the priests of the New Albany Deanery, Msgr. Schaedel, and Archbishop Daniel M. Buechlein.

She said a group of five people from the New Albany Deanery traveled to Indianapolis last September to meet with Msgr. Schaedel to check on the possible purchase of this 12.48 acres of land in Georgetown.

“We didn’t even have to mention purchase,” Sister Barbara said.

She said Msgr. Schaedel and Archbishop Buechlein had decided—with the support of the New Albany Deanery priests—they would donate the land for expansion of Providence House.

“If it had not been for the graciousness of the archdiocese we would not be where we are right now,” Sister Barbara said.

She said it would be impossible for him to organize the project, and now everything is falling into place.

Sister Barbara said Guerin Inc. has received a planning grant from the Indiana Housing Finance Authority for the expansion. The corporation is also applying for participation in the Neighborhood Assistance Program, a tax-credit program offered through the Indiana State Department of Commerce, and a grant from a local foundation.

Providence House will receive $250,000 in Build Indiana funds. Sister Barbara credited Rep. Bill Cochran of New Albany (D-Dist. 72, Floyd and Clark counties) with including the project in the distribution of Build Indiana funds which are administered by the Indiana General Assembly.

Sister Barbara said the town of Georgetown, the town council, and the neighborhoods have been warm and welcoming.

“It has just been an enchanting and engaging experience to see the excitement and positive spirit from everyone,” she said.

Jim Deddo, Georgetown Town Council president, said he can personally relate to the importance of offering foster care to children.

“I was raised in a home like this when I was a child,” he said.

Deddo said the children feel cared for in a home like Providence House.

“You get love and affection that you’re not getting otherwise,” Deddo said.

Sheila Galvin, Providence House administrator, said the Floyd County community, as well as the surrounding region, will benefit from this project.

“Ultimately what we’re doing is building stronger family relationships,” she said.

Galvin explained that by building stronger families the children can grow into adulthood with positive relationships and learn more positive ways of coping and dealing with their feelings in the hard times as well as the good times.

“In turn, generations to come will benefit,” Galvin said.

Phase II of the expansion will include construction of two homes for foster families and a center where self-sufficiency and life-skills classes will be taught. The center will also serve as a meeting place for support groups and will house Providence House administration offices.

Sister Barbara said this is just the beginning.

“Eventually it will be a total living environment campus for children and for family reunification,” Sister Barbara said.

She said that, given the amount of acreage, up to 250 children could be comfortably housed on the Providence House campus.

She added that it was important to develop an excellent master plan so the entire 12.48 acres would be used to their greatest potential.

“My dream is to have it fully done in seven years,” Sister Barbara said.

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“Helpers of God’s Precious Infants”

Monthly Pro-Life Mass
at St. Andrew the Apostle Catholic Church
3922 E. 38th Street, Indianapolis

May 15, 1999 
June 19, 1999
July 17, 1999
August 21, 1999
Sept. 18, 1999
Oct. 16, 1999
Nov. 20, 1999
Dec. 18, 1999

Schedule of Events
8:30 Mass at St. Andrew
9:00 Prayerful March to Clinic
9:30 Rosary at Abortion Clinic
10:00 Return March to Church
10:30 Benediction
Elections in Israel

The citizens of Israel could be taking a decisive step on Monday toward Middle East peace. But it probably won’t work out that way.

Monday is election day in Israel. Israelis will be voting for a prime minister because President Benjamin Netanyahu was forced to dissolve the Knesset last January and call for early elections.

Polls taken in Israel indicate that three-fourths of Israelis support the peace accord with the Palestinians that were agreed upon in Oslo, Norway, in 1993. Netanyahu opposed those accords at the time and, as prime minister, has managed to delay their implementation. It seems logical, therefore, that the Israelis will not reelect Netanyahu.

In Israel, though, things aren’t that simple. Netanyahu is a superb politician who has always managed to gain and retain power through combinations of various disparate groups. Now he seems to be taking advantage of some of the ethnic and social resentments that have long been part of Israeli society. He has made them the issue in the election instead of the peace process.

His main opponent on Monday are Ehud Barak of the Labor Party, and Yitzhak Mordechai of the Center Party. Mordechai is an ex-general and former defense minister who was fired by Netanyahu over peace issues.

Netanyahu is taking advantage of the fact that about half the populace dislike the Labor Party for one reason or another, even though it has done the most to further the peace process. Sephardic Jews have long resented Labor’s rule in earlier days. (Sephardic Jews are usually described as those of Middle Eastern origin, but actually they trace their lineage back to the Spanish Jews who were expelled, mainly to the Middle East, by Ferdinand and Isabella in 1492. Orthodox Jews and members of the Religious Party will not support Labor.

Most of the large number of Russian immigrants are anti-Labor Party.

According to syndicated columnist J.J. Goldberg, “Netanyahu has united these groups into a governing coalition employing stalling tactics that keep the Israeli-Palestinian dialogue alive, but just barely. When last November’s Wye River Agreement forced him to make decisions, the coalition fell apart.

The Jewish settlers on the West Bank support Netanyahu, who has encouraged settlements despite the strained relations with the United States that has that caused. According to Peace Now, an Israeli group that backs the peace process, Jewish settlers have established at least 19 new settlements in Palestinian territory since the Wye River Plantation agreement was signed.

Foreign Minister Ariel Sharon says that there are now 180,000 Jewish settlers on the West Bank and Gaza and he hopes to increase that number to 200,000.

Most recent polls indicate that Barak is ahead of Netanyahu by 47 percent to 38 percent. Mordechai, who earlier was at 12 percent, has seen his support slip. Right-winger Benny Begin might get 5 percent. If no one gets a majority of the vote, a runoff election between Netanyahu and Barak in three weeks is probable.

Meanwhile, Yasser Arafat has been trying to keep from influencing the election. For a long time, he had pledged to declare a Palestinian state on May 4, the target date for a permanent peace agreement according to the Oslo Accords. He agreed to delay that declaration despite some demonstrations by Palestinians disappointed by his decision. A unilateral decision on Arafat’s part might have helped Netanyahu at the polls. During the Israeli elections of 1996, Netanyahu came from behind to win after Palestinian terrorists purposely sabotaged the peace process.

In return for delaying the declaration of a Palestinian state, Arafat managed to get pledges from the European Union and Japan that they will recognize Palestinian statehood when the right time comes for its declaration. The United States supports Palestinian self-determination but has not promised acceptance of statehood.

We can only wait and see if the Israelis will move toward peace on Monday.

—John F. Fink
Buscando la Cara del Señor

Oración: Todo lo que tenemos que haceres practicarla

A

metodo la gente me pregunta si todavía tengo tiempo para
trotar y si todavía oro el
rosario al hacerlo.

A

hielo, la curia de la
espalda en agosto de el año pasado, el
curial me recomendó que deje de
trotar, entre otras actividades.

Amel, me descubrió que dar
un buen resultado si reso el rosario
bajo mi rutina de natación en
la piscina. Quizás sea aún mejor
que hacerlo mientras hacía trotando.

Es un ejercicio mental y físico, y
visto desde otro ángulo, es
tan entrelazados como los misterios
angélico, es decir el Padrenuestro y la
oración espontánea que tiene como objeto los mismos even-
tos de piedad mariana en la
familia. Como de mi seminario y edu-
dación desde el momento en que
me dediqué a la obispo en 
la piscina. Quizás sea aún mejor
que hacerlo mientras hacía trotando.

Estoy pensando en el rosario
mientras estoy escribiendo esta sem-
ana ya que lo entiendo como una meditación
de lo que uno lee y las meditaciones
que leo regularmente. (Conversaciones con Dios por
Francis Fernandez) “la meditación es una
reflexión acerca del rosario y de la
devoción a la Santísima Madre el 
Pascua. Por tradición, los sábados se
da atención especial para devoción
Mariana, así como los meses de mayo
y octubre. Esta semana quiero fortale-
cer esta devoción, la cual heredé

a través de mi familia y de la
mí mismo como de mi seminario y edu-
cación monacal en la

Para que los lectores entiendan lo
que significan nuestras oraciones (es
una bendición. Realmente no toma
la misma encíclica, escribió también que
el rosario es “una de las mejores y
más veces oraciones que tiene la
familia cristiana en común y dicha
familia está invitada a recitarlo
(54).

Durante uno de sus discursos dom-
icales Angelus, el Papa Juan Pablo II dijo,
“El refinerio es espiritual durante el
curso del día para cada
cristiano y especialmente para las
familias cristianas, permitiéndonos
sacar fuerza y confianza” (5 de octubre de 1980).

Más tarde en una homilía, él dijo, “Guarde celosamente
aquel amor tierno y seguro por nues-
tro Señor que lo caracteriza. No per-
mita que el mismo nunca se enfríe
... Sea fiel a los ejercicios tradi-
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“Education: It’s All About You,” a free seminar to help adults who are considering college, will be held on June 3 at Marian College, 3200 Cold Spring Road, in Indianapolis. The seminar, sponsored by the ASPIRE Program for adult students, will be held from 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. in Stokely Mansion. For more information, call 317-955-6125.

Caregivers/hospice will be the focus of the Partners in Wellness free educational workshop to be held on May 19 from 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the Regenstrief Clinic, 1001 W. 10th St., in Indianapolis. The workshop will be held in the ENF Conference Room on the third floor. Cancer patients, their family members and caregivers are invited to attend this workshop. Partners in Wellness is a collaborative effort between Little Red Door Cancer Agency and The Wellness Community of Central Indiana. Free transportation to and from the workshop is available by contacting Little Red Door Cancer Agency at 317-925-5595.

An explanation of the why’s, what’s, and how’s of the annulment process will be the focus of a two-hour session for men and women interested in learning more about requesting an investigation into the possible nullity of a marriage. The program, sponsored by the Metropolitan Tribunal and the Office for Youth and Family Ministries, will be held on June 8 from 7:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. The program is free. To register or for more information, call Marilyn Hess at the Office for Youth and Family Ministries at 800-382-9836, ext. 1586, or 317-236-1556.

Ministry with the Aging VI: “Aging: God’s Challenge and Gift,” a conference for clergy, lay persons, health care and social services professionals, family caregivers and others concerned with late life issues, will be held May 20-21 at the Holiday Inn Conference Center in Columbus. The registration fee is $70 excluding overnight accommodations. The conference is sponsored by the Bartholomew Parish and other area churches. For more information, contact Wendy Shuler, director of community relations, Baptist Homes of Indianapolis, at 317-873-3371.

St. Mary Academy Class of 1944 will hold its 55th class reunion on June 8. A gathering and luncheon will be held at 12:30 p.m. at Hollyhock Hill Restaurant, 8110 N. College Ave., in Indianapolis. For more information, call 317-255-9039.

St. Rita Parish, 1733 Dr. Andrew J. Brown Ave., in Indianapolis, will celebrate its 80th anniversary May 29-30. Events include a Friday evening “Family Night Mini-Festival,” from 5 p.m. to 10 p.m.; a Saturday night “Adult Dance” with music by the Carl Hines Trio with Mary Moss, from 8 p.m. to midnight; and on Sunday, a “Celebra tion Mass” at 10 a.m., presided by Bishop Joseph Perry, S.V.D. Current and former members of the parish, school and parish community are invited to attend. For more information, call Gloria Messer at 317-253-7199 in the evening or call the rectory at 317-632-9349.

The student council at Southport High School in Southport will sponsor a Senior Citizen prom on May 22 from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m., in the high school cafeteria. Music of the 40s, 50s, 60s, and 70s will be provided by The Continentals. The prom is free. For more information, call the school at 317-780-4317.

The Sisters of St. Francis in Oldenburg will sponsor a “Come and See” weekend on May 15-16. For more information, call Franciscan Sister Marge Wissman at 812-933-6409 or e-mail her at mwissman@seidata.com.

“Rebelation, the Celebration of Roncalli,” a fundraising dinner/auction/dance for Roncalli High School in Indianapolis, will be held May 21 at the high school. The event will feature the high school jazz band, Dave “The King” Wilson as comic auctioneer, and LighTouch. Dinner will feature food from Southside restaurants. Tickets for the event are $50 per person. Must be 21 to attend. Table sponsorships and corporate sponsorships are also available. For more information, call 317-788-4098.

The Choir of SS. Peter and Paul Cathedral in Indianapolis will perform the evening of John Bell, “Songs of Mary, Psalms of David,” at 8 p.m. on May 17. During the evening, the choir will also recognize its director, Geraldine Miller, who has served the cathedral for 12 years in the ministry of music, and who will soon begin her retirement.

The AIDS Candlelight Memorial and March will be held May 16 at White River State Park at the east end of the Old Washington Street Bridge in Indianapolis. The event begins at 6 p.m. Bring picnic lunch. The program begins at 7 p.m. For more information, call 317-331-4006.
New Albany Deanery begins youth endowment

Annual CYO awards ceremony recognizes 3 adults, 47 youth for outstanding Church, community service

JEFFERSONVILLE—Youth from 19 southern Indiana parishes presented a $20,000 check to the Archdiocese of Indianapolis during the New Albany Deanery Catholic Youth Ministries Awards on May 6 at the St. Augustine Parish Center.

The funds will be used to create an endowment to benefit New Albany Deanery Catholic Youth Ministries programming.

During the event, three adults and 47 teen-agers were recognized for dedicated Church and community involvement.

A crowd of 330 youth and adults were present to celebrate the first year of Catholic youth ministry in southern Indiana and to affirm the efforts of youth and adults who give time in service and leadership.

“The awards celebration is extraordinary on two levels,” said Ray Lucas, deanery director of youth ministry. “We have the chance to celebrate the creation of the Catholic Youth Ministries Endowment, which is a major step forward for our organization. As the endowment grows, it will ensure that youth ministry is benefiting youth from our area for generations to come.”

“The evening is also a strong reminder of the outstanding young leaders we have in our community who are actively making a difference through their community service, participation in Church activities, and the leadership they bring to their schools, churches and community organizations.”

Lucas said the deanery’s Catholic Youth Ministries Endowment was created through the generosity and long-term vision of several youth ministry benefactors.

The $20,000 endowment will be managed by the archdiocese’s Catholic Community Foundation Inc., which includes endowment funds from diocesan parishes and institutions and has total assets of more than $41 million.

Lucas said the Catholic Youth Ministries Endowment will be a vehicle for benefactors who wish to leave a planned gift to the New Albany Deanery Youth Ministries office.

The annual awards ceremony honors outstanding adult and teen-age volunteers for their leadership, dedication and Christian lifestyle.

Three adults earned the Catholic Youth Organization’s St. John Bosco Medalion for their long-term involvement in youth ministry.

Recipients of the highest honor bestowed on adult youth ministry volunteers in the deanery and in the archdiocese were Jim Davis from St. Michael Parish in Charlestown, Lynn Spellman Wilcoxson from St. Augustine Parish in Jeffersonville, and Leo Gettelfinger from Holy Family Parish in New Albany.

Fourteen New Albany Deanery youth received the Outstanding Service Award.

The deanery’s top youth honor went to Alanna Campbell, Drew Starch and Shalimar Manwani from St. Augustine Parish in Jeffersonville; Joe Ehlers from St. Mary Parish in New Albany; Vince Harshey and John Schmelz from Holy Family Parish in New Albany; Ryan Wigginton from St. Anthony of Padua Parish in Clarksville; Erin Coop from St. Mary Parish in Lansdowne; Laura Messmer, Matt Naville, Heidi Naville and Lisa Naville from St. Mary Parish in Navillot; Kristin Prechtel from St. Michael Parish in Bradford; and Brad LaMaster of St. Paul Parish in Sellersburg.

Two teen-agers received scholarships for continuing education in recognition of outstanding Church and community service during their high school years. Heidi Naville received the deanery’s Dr. Dawn Kamer Memorial Scholarship and Laura Messmer received the Father Tom Stumph Memorial Scholarship.

In addition to these youth awards, 33 other young people were recognized for their leadership and faithful service to the deanery.

Earnings certificates for leadership, service and faithful involvement were Matt Andrews, Christina Ashby, Steven Benet, Scott Bodenhender, Becky Book, Leah Boone, Kevin Briscoe, Phil Corral, Danielle Cunningham, Melissa Day and Adam DeSpain.

Other recipients of leadership and service certificates were Teresa Eickholtz, Aaron Enzoberger, Julie Ethridge, Amy Fischer, Emily Grantz, Johanna Hackney, Amanda Kane, David Kindler, Miles Krier, Brian Lenfest, Beth Lei, Stephanie Mayfield, Sarah Miller, Heather Naville, Michael Peek, Leah Rigsby, Sarah Rose, Blair Schmidt, Brian Sheehan, Eric Voelker, Gavin Wetzel and Shalon Wilt. These young leaders are from parishes in Harrison, Clark and Floyd counties.

“The awards celebration is a unique occasion when we gather to celebrate the good that we as youth-agers bring to our Church and to the community at large,” award recipient Brad LaMaster said. “We have a lot of leadership and community service to share, and it’s nice when someone thinks enough of what we are doing to stop and say ‘thank you.’”

St. Gabriel, Connersville, hosts ecumenical memorial service

CONNERSVILLE—St. Gabriel Parish hosted a youth interfaith prayer service May 7 at the church in memory of the 14 Columbine High School students and a teacher who died April 20 in Littleton, Colo.

They also heard a lesson on the Scripture reading and a “Youth to Youth—Reaching Out in Prayer for the World.” They concluded the ecumenical liturgy by and prayed the “Our Father,” then shared the sign of community involvement.

Participants gathered around the altar, held hands and prayed the “Our Father,” then shared the sign of community involvement.

The Connersville youth also prepared a card, which was signed by participants at the prayer service and later mailed to Littleton as an expression of sympathy for all the Columbine High School students, their families, and other residents affected by the tragedy.

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“Youth to Youth—Reaching Out in Prayer for the Students of Columbine High School” was the theme for the community-wide prayer service organized by teen-agers from several churches in the Connersville area.

More than 75 participants sang “Amazing Grace,” then listened to a Scripture passage from 1 Peter 2:1-10 about the importance of having faith and “announcing the praises of him who called you out of darkness and into his wonderful light.”

They also heard a lesson on the Scripture reading and a contemporary story. Following quiet prayer time, the names of all the deceased—including the two teen-agers who caused the tragedy—as well as the names of the injured students, were read, then the Connersville youth discussed their fears, concerns and hopes for the future.

A vocal quartet comprised of Connersville High School girls sang “Yesterday” and “He.”

Participants gathered around the altar, held hands and prayed the “Our Father,” then shared the sign of community involvement.

During a candlelight vigil of the memorial service, participants sang “Go Light Your World.” They concluded the ecumenical liturgy by singing “Let There Be Peace on Earth.”

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Our Lady of the Greenwood in Greenwood begins its second 50 years as a parish with more than a new church building. It is a parish that is “being built from within each person,” according to its pastor.

The staff’s plans for parishioners involve personal spiritual growth and the sharing of that knowledge with others through evangelization. Msgr. Harold L. Knueven, pastor, said that, when the parish built the church last year, “We said we were not just building a church, but building the body of Christ. It turned out to be a self-fulfilling prophecy.

“We are trying to emphasize that we have to form a community with everyday body,” he said.

Father Jack Emrich, newly ordained associate pastor, said he has “never experienced a community that is more tolerant of differing views.”

“I think it is incredible how members of the parish staff like and support each other,” said Judy Koch, director of religious education. “And Father [Msgr. Knueven] is the poster boy for collaborative ministry.”

The parish has started Christ Renews His Parish, a process for members to experience personal conversion and Christian community. The Renew 2000 spirituality process, too, is helping the parish prepare for the new millennium.

Both processes help parishioners build “close relationships with God through Scripture, prayer and community building,” said Msgr. Knueven.

Small faith communities and prayer groups evolved from Renew 2000 and Christ Renews His Parish when the people involved decided to meet between the spring and fall sessions. Sandy McGill, secretary for religious education and youth ministry, said, “Since I’ve been here in the parish, I have personally grown. I have been blessed for having taken part in a prayer group.”

“There is a hunger for Catholic identity,” said Koch.

“Evangelization is strong in the parish, not as a formal program, but as an offshoot of the spiritual growth.”

On June 19, parish leaders will participate in a retreat to formulate a three-year plan. Because of the parish interest in evangelization, the gathering will focus on the U.S. bishops’ letter on evangelization, “Go and Make Disciples.” It will be distributed to members of the parish pastoral council, all commissions and anyone involved in parish leadership.

“Building a church turned out to be an evangelization tool for the parish,” said Msgr. Knueven. “People [who left the parish] have come back and re-registered.

“Our Lady of the Greenwood has about four new parishioners register each week. Newcomers are welcomed with special gatherings one weekend each month.

“We try to make the parish welcoming,” the pastor said. He said that a large parish includes members with many different theological backgrounds. Last year, Youth for the Third Millennium, an international group of young people, stayed at Our Lady of the Greenwood and Holy Spirit parishes to launch a door-to-door evangelization program. The parish will host the boys’ group again this year, starting June 25.

Ray Bessenbach, coordinator of youth ministry, said the parish is open to a variety of experiences. Last year, Youth for the Third Millennium, an international group of young people, stayed at Our Lady of the Greenwood and Holy Spirit parishes to launch a door-to-door evangelization program. The parish will host the boys’ group again this year, starting June 25.

Bessenbach said, “We try to assess how we as a parish as a whole minister to the youth. We ask if they are involved in the parish. We try to involve each person in the three goals of Catholic youth ministry [fostering personal and spiritual growth; drawing them into the work of the Church, and empowering them to witness to their faith by living and working for justice, peace and human dignity]. We try to see how all of our programs work toward those goals. We want to offer opportunities for youth to experience God in forms.

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they are comfortable with.”

Beth Perkins, coordinator of religious education, said that the parish has 35 catechists for the Sunday morning religious education program. “We have many very dedicated parents,” she said.

The summer youth camp involves entire parish families. Perkins said that the morning consists of two-hour sessions with the children. Parents are invited to join them for skills and prayers. In the evening, families come back to the youth camp for activities they can do together, including prayer, the outdoor Way of the Cross and a cookout in park. All parishioners are included.

The parish has a special ministry to children who are educated at home by their parents—known as home schooling. Parents and the parish staff.

Msgr. Knueven said the parish tries to be especially prepared for families who experience death. People of all ages and half sizes. "An overwhelming number of people participate in parish ministries," said administrative assistant Peggy Henninger. "Their talents represent every walk of life," she said. The parish has more than 50 different ministries—so they use their talents to make the parish better.” Fifty percent of the parents have college degrees.

Faculty and students pray together to bring more spirituality and community together among themselves, their parents and the parish staff.

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The parish has its own technology committee, headed by a volunteer professional who has been the technological coordinator for the school and parish center networking system. The new church dedication was on the evening of its dedication.

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Take this, all of you...

Do this in memory of me.

Like doves fluttering on a sunny day, youngsters gather for the solemn moment when the Real Presence of Jesus becomes a real part of them.

Waiting...whispering...wiggling...wondering...

Anticipation transforms into joy as each child welcomes God’s grace-filled love, absorbing with awe the Body of Christ.

By Shirley Vogler Meister
Please submit in writing to our office by 10 a.m. Mon. the week of publication to be sure to date of death. Obituaries of archdiocesan priests and religious sisters serving our archdiocese are listed elsewhere in The Criterion. Order priests and brothers are included here, unless they are natives of the archdiocese or have other connections to it.


BOSCHERT, Kathryn, 97, Holy Family, Richmond, May 1. Aunt of several.


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Sisters of St. Francis, P. O. Box 100, Oldenburg, IN 47036-0100

Franciscan Sister Rose Teresa Schneider was principal at Lourdes

Franciscan Sister Rose Schneider died on May 5 at the age of 81. A funeral Mass was celebrated at the motherhouse chapel of the Sisters of St. Francis in Oldenburg.

BORN in Cincinnati, she entered the Oldenburg Franciscan community in 1974 and finished final vows in 1984.

Sister Rose Teresa taught at St. Louis School in Bataville and Scecina Memorial High School in Indianapolis. She was principal of Old Lady of Lourdes School in Indianapolis and school president.

She is survived by two brothers, Charles and Cleatus Schneider, and two sisters, Rita Amschler and Gloria Almond. Memorials may be made to Sisters of St. Francis, P. O. Box 100, Oldenburg, IN 47036-0100.
The Church nurtures newborn Christians

Mystagogy, their continuing formation after baptism, occurs primarily during liturgies

By Fr. Lawrence E. Mick

Growing into our identity as baptized members of the body of Christ is a lifelong journey. Every year, from Easter Sunday to Pentecost, we return to the experiences of our ancestors to remind ourselves who we are and how we are called to live.

Consider some of the readings from Acts heard in 1999.

On the second Sunday of Easter, we heard a description of the early Church as a community that devoted itself "to the teaching of the apostles and to the communal life, to the breaking of bread and to the prayers.

These four marks of Christian life are still essential for all who wish to live as active members of the Church.

The next two weeks we listened to a sermon of St. Peter as he proclaimed the good news of the Resurrection, and we were reminded that "we are all witnesses" of this wondrous event.

Like Peter, the baptized are called to proclaim the risen Lord.

A dispute in the early Church is recalled in the reading for the Fifth Sunday of Easter, reminding us that disagreements are part of life among the baptized.

The reading shows how the Church develops new ministries to meet needs as they arise, a process that continues today.

These stories of our ancestors in the faith—recalled by the Gospel writers and in the Acts of the Apostles—guide us and challenge us to live the faith we share with them.

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

Church history is compelling reading

By David Gibson

The Church and its people are great storytellers.

Just look back in time to the Acts of the Apostles and its account of the Church shortly after the start of the first millennium.

It helps to have a map in hand as you read this New Testament book, since it tells about events in specific places as the Church moved outward into the Mediterranean regions and Christians evangelized new peoples.

A long list of individuals and groups mentioned in Acts can be easily compiled.

This book tells a big story. It also tells many smaller stories.

To call them "stories" is not to suggest they’re somehow inauthentic. It is to suggest that this story of faith makes for compelling, fascinating reading.

Which makes me wonder what stories will be recalled in the distant future about the Church at the start of the third millennium.

Will these be stories about events in times of rapid growth in Africa or Asia? Will they tell of people who charted pathways for the Church into 21st-century megalopolises?

Will our descendents 20 generations hence need a map in hand as they read our story?

I only hope they find it a compelling, fascinating story of faith.†

(David Gibson edits Faith Alive!)

Discussion Point

Titus wrote about everyday life

This Week’s Question

What somewhat “minor” figure of the New Testament captivates your imagination?

“Titus. His is a short, down-to-earth letter in the New Testament. What he said was concrete and directly applicable to everyday life. One phrase caught my attention: He talks about our transformation of life in Christ by such things as avoiding needless arguments.” (Anne Stauf, Stafford Springs, Conn.)

“The Samaritan woman. She wasn’t anyone special, but the way Jesus treated her made clear that he thought of each person as someone special.” (Diane Zawislaik, Pawley Island, S.C.)

“Lydia, the lady who made the purple cloth, who was a big help to Paul. She captivates my imagination because of her generosity of spirit. To me she is a symbol of hospitality.” (Sister Klara Lankotter, CPS, Holbrook, N.M.)

“Simon, who helped carry Jesus’ cross. He was kind of reluctant at first, but in the end he did do it, maybe a little bit like many of us when we have to do something difficult to help Jesus.” (Connie Vozza, Ardsley, N.Y.)

Lend Us Your Voice

An upcoming edition asks: Tell of a custom or holiday ritual kept special by your family that reflects your culture.

To respond for possible publication, write to Faith Alive! at 3211 Fourth St. N.E., Washington, D.C. 20017-1100. †
Love demands the truth:

ous, yet we all have a natural tendency to
ten in English. This seems blatantly obvi-
ently than people from the West.
People from the Middle East think differ-
mentality. We have a “Western” mentality.

ance as we attempt to interpret Scripture
 devices. The teachings of the Church are

The Bible was not written in 1999. It was
complied in a culture

perspective]

From the Editor Emeritus/Jon Fink

Still more about the Mass

Concupiscial/Cynthia Dewes

Removing self from righteousness

Not to be immersed or anything, but to be super-
or one in a while? Don’t we know who’s wise? We
convinced that, unlike us, he’s smart? Don’t we feel sorry for him? How could Jesus
the top of the list? When we see some men

We have a “Western” mentality.

We have a “Western” mentality.

make announcements or discuss impor-
ments required by liturgical rules for a

(Eucharist. Boys and girls, men and

women may be altar servers. Why does the priest wear the costume
he wears? What are the parts called? How

does one choose to sacriﬁce their

stole, liturgical colors, and other

in the Church?

The Billy Graham Crusade will begin

in a culture

very different from our own. Scripture

was authored by people with an “Eastern”

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The Sunday Readings

Sunday, May 16, 1999

• Acts of the Apostles 1:12-14
• 1 Peter 4:13-16
• John 17:1-11a

The Acts of the Apostles once more provides the first reading. In this reading, the apostles have just witnessed the Lord’s ascension into heaven. They stand on the Mount of Olives, the large hillside directly east of old Jerusalem. Across a pronounced valley, at the edge of the city, would have been the great temple. This temple, the site of the Lord’s discussion as a boy with the scholars, and of later events, was the crown of the Holy Land. It was destroyed when the Jews rose against Rome two generations after Jesus.

The Romans suppressed this rebellion with fury. Not only the temple, but also Jerusalem itself, lay in ruins after the Roman troops had swept through the Holy City.

At the time of the ascension of Jesus, however, it was still a Jewish city, despite the Roman overlordship and very obvious were the great landmarks of the Scriptures.

The Ascension on the mountain linked the return of Jesus to heaven not only with the Crucifixion and Resurrection, but with the great personalities and events of salvation over the centuries.

Witnesses such as the apostles, all Jews by birth, heritage and practice, certainly connected the majestic rising of Jesus from the earth to God’s heavenly kingdom with the great moments in salvation over the years.

The reading carefully lists the names of the apostles. It also reveals their faith and prayerfulness. Finally, it makes clear that Jesus, Mary, the mother of the Lord, and his kinsmen were present. This testifies to their faith also.

For the second reading, the Church offers us the First Epistle to Peter. In the first century A.D., Christians expressed official governmental hostility on many occasions. Peter himself died after having been judged a traitor to the Roman system. But, while the Roman leadership during this time certainly never embraced Christianity, official acts to destroy the new movement of the Gospel did not form until the last third of the century.

Nevertheless, Christians faced scorn and hostility from their neighbors. After all, the Christian message of love and justice with regard for every person stood in stark contrast to the accepted custom and conventional wisdom of the day.

This epistle was addressed to followers of Jesus who well knew this scorn and contempt. The epistle encouraged them. Jesus suffered. However, in the end, Jesus triumphed.

St. John’s Gospel supplies the last reading. This reading does not come chronologically after the ascension of Jesus, but it tradition has been used by the Church to convey to Christians a sense of confidence as they encounter life without the physical presence of the Lord known by the apostles.

The identity of Jesus is confirmed. He is one with God. His words are God’s words. His life is the divine life.

Reflection

On this Sunday, the Church in the United States celebrated the ascension of Jesus into heaven. While this celebration recalled an actual moment in the life of Jesus, the Church uses it to remind us symbolically that the Lord lives with us despite the Ascension so long ago.

Anxiety filled the hearts of the disciples who heard Jesus speak the words recorded in this chapter of John’s Gospel. He warned of dark days ahead. The times were violent, especially for anyone thought to be challenging the established order. Any gesture, even an imagined gesture, of criticism of the Romans invited a sure and frightening rebuke.

The apostles knew that Jesus was in danger. And he knew their fears. Magnificently, firmly, the Lord reassured them.

After all, the apostles saw and heard the Lord live. They must stand with the apostles. They must pray. They must imitate Jesus. He commissioned them to forgive sins and to call people to God. Their authority, power and memories live yet today in the Church. In the Church, we meet the risen, ascended Lord. There Jesus is with us in a most special way.

My Journey to God

His Favorites

Do not belittle little ones who play around your feet in disarray, with things, they shouldn’t touch.

Guard them well, kiss them when they cry, and try not to tease them overmuch.

Never forget they’re ever in his sight, their artless innocence heaven’s delight.

Endure their noise, stumble over toys.

By Sandra Marek Behringer

An act of kindness with a good grace. These are the days the voice goes always— upon the Father’s face.

Sandra Behringer is a member of St. Luke Parish in Indianapolis.

Daily Readings

Monday, May 17
Acts 19:1-8
Psalm 62:8-25a, 6-7ab
John 16:29-33

Tuesday, May 18
John 1, pope and martyr
Acts 20:17-27
Psalm 68:10-11, 20-21
John 17:1-11a

Wednesday, May 19
Acts 20:28-38
Psalm 68:29-30, 33-36c
John 17:11b-15

Thursday, May 20
Bernardine of Siena, priest, religious and missionary
Psalm 16:1-2a, 5, 7-11
John 17:20-26

Church teaching on death penalty is evolving

Question Corner/ Fr. John Dietzen

What are the current Church teachings on the death penalty? The death penalty is a contentious issue both within the Church and society. In the United States, the death penalty is legally applied by some states to punish crimes that are considered heinous.

The Catechism of the Catholic Church (#2266) states that the death penalty is a deterrent to crime. As the Texas bishops point out, states which have the death penalty have no lower rates of crime than states without it.

Many condemned to death have been subsequently found innocent. For example, one out of seven had their sentences reversed because of new evidence. Based on this percentage, it is reasonable to assume that nearly 500 persons out of approximately 3,500 now on death row are innocent before or after they are executed for the crimes for which they are convicted.

As the only developed nation in the world which has the death penalty, the United States is in the unenviable company of countries like Iraq, Iran and China.

Church leaders (Catholic and others) often point out, in their opposition, the simple dehumanization of a society that officially kills any of its members, for any reason.

Too often revenge is the real motive behind wanting the death of a perpetrator of a vicious crime. In the estimation of the pope, that is not a worthy Christian motive for any action.

Archbishop Charles Chaput of Denver, at the time of the Timothy McVeigh trial for the Oklahoma City bombing, said the death penalty accomplishes nothing but “closure through bloodletting, violence against violence.”

The hope of the pope and the bishops is that we can be, and are, better people than that.
**May 15**
St. Francis Hospital and Health Centers, Emerson Ave. and Stop 11 Road, Indianapolis, will host free skin cancer screenings 8 a.m.—noon. Information: 317-782-7983.

**May 16**
St. Thomas Aquinas, 4600 N. Illinois St., Indianapolis, will hold a 6 p.m. Taize service. Those interested in the youth mission trip to Appalachia. Free will offering.

**May 17**
St. Louis Parish, Batesville, fund-raising breakfast, 7 a.m.—1 p.m. in the school cafeteria. Proceeds benefit the youth mission trip to Appalachia. Free will offering.

**May 18**
St. Mary Reville Schodestad, Schodestad Holy Hour followed by Mass at 2 p.m. Information: 812-689-3551.

**May 17**
The choir of SS. Peter and Paul Cathedral, 1347 N. Meridian St., Indianapolis, will present the music of John Bell. “Songs of Mary” and “Psalm of David,” at 5 p.m. Free admission.

**May 17**
St. Luke Middle School, Indianapolis, play “Find of the Sword” at 1 p.m. and 7 p.m. in the gymnasium. Admission is one unperishable food item for a charity that feeds the hungry.

**May 22**
Catholic Widowed Organization will hold a pitch-in at 4 p.m. in the Catholic Center, 1400 N. Meridian, Indianapolis. Bring a salad, vegetable or dessert. Meat is furnished.

**Weekly**
Holy Rosary Church, Indianapolis, 520 Stevens St., Triden tine (Latin) Mass, 10 a.m. (for merly held at St. Patrick, Indianapolis).

**Weekly**
St. Anthony of Padua Church, Charleston, “Be Not Afraid” holy hour, 6 p.m.

**Weekly**
St. Anthony Parish, 379 N. W aitan, Indianapolis, rosary and Benediction for vocations, 7 p.m.

**Weekly**
Our Lady of the Greenwood Parish, Greenwood, 355 S. Meridian St., prayer group, 7:30 p.m. in the chapel.

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Our Lady of the Greenwood Parish, Greenwood, 355 S. Meridian St., prayer group, 7:30 p.m. in the chapel.

**Weekly**
St. Joseph Church, Sellersburg, 2605 St. Joe Rd. West, eucharistic adoration for one hour after 8 a.m. Mass.

**Saturdays**
A pro-life rosary at 9 a.m. in front of Affiliated Women’s Services, Inc., 2125 Distributors Rd., Indianapolis.

**Weekly**
St. Joseph Church, Sellersburg, 2605 St. Joe Road West, eucharistic adoration for one hour after 8 a.m. Mass.

**Sundays**
Holy Rosary Church, Indianapolis, 520 Stevens St., Tridentine (Latin) Mass. Times and other information: 317-636-4478.

**Weekly**
Holy Rosary Church, Indianapolis, 520 Stevens St., Trid tine (Latin) Mass, 10 a.m. (for merly held at St. Patrick, Indianapolis).

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St. Anthony of Padua Church, Charleston, “Be Not Afraid” holy hour, 6 p.m.

**Weekly**
St. Anthony Parish, 379 N. W aitan, Indianapolis, rosary and Benediction for vocations, 7 p.m.

**Saturdays**
A pro-life rosary at 9 a.m. in front of the Clinic for Women, E. 38th St. and Parker Ave., Indianapolis.

**Monthly**
First Sundays
St. Paul Parish, Sellersburg, prayer group 7–8:15 p.m. Information: 812-246-4555 or 812-246-9735.

**Monthly**
First Mondays
The Guardian Angel Guild board meeting, Archdiocese O’Meara Catholic Center Benedectine Room, 1400 N. Meridian St., Indianapolis, 9:30 a.m.

**First Tuesdays**
Divine Mercy Chapel, Indianapolis, 3354 W. 30th St., north of St. Michael Church, Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament, 7:30 p.m. Confession, 6:45 p.m. St. Joseph Hill Parish, Sellersburg, 2605 St. Joe Rd. W., holy hour for religious voca tions, Benediction and exposi tion of Blessed Sacrament after 7 p.m. Mass.

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

**First Sundays**
Our Lady of Lourdes Church, Indianapolis, 3333 E. Wash ington St., adoration and prayer service at 7 p.m.

**First Sundays**
St. Joseph Church, Sellersburg, 2605 St. Joe Rd. West, eucharis tic adoration after 8 a.m. Mass until noon.

**Sacred Heart Church, Indianapolis, 1530 Union St., exposition of the Blessed Sacrament after 8 a.m. Mass, closing noon communion service.

**St. Vincent de Paul Parish, Bedford, exposition of the Blessed Sacrament after 8:30 a.m. Mass until 9 p.m. Sacrament of reconciliation, 4–6 p.m.

**St. John University Church, Terre Haute, eucharistic adora tion after 9 a.m. Mass to 5 p.m. Rosary at noon.

---**See active list**, page 17---

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Religious life requires integrity, courage, respect

By Thomas McAmish

What will it take to be a priest, sister or brother in today's world? I wish this question could be easily answered; however, it is phrased “in today’s world” for a reason. Today’s world is full of immorality, anti-Christian principles and mistaken values.

One positive quality required is integrity. Growing up in today’s society, one needs strong parents or a strong role model. One needs someone to show right from wrong, moral from immoral, in order to make core choices.

Another positive quality required is courage. The religious life is not easy; one needs to possess courage to defend the faith and the moxie to stand up for what is right. One has to possess firm principles that are true to self and others. With these come security, guidance, wisdom and power. Anyone in religious life needs these principles, and with time and experience they will grow and develop.

A strong value system set up at home will help even more. Leadership in the religious life also helps because it shows personal freedom. This is the power to choose whom, where, when and how to handle any situation.

One must learn to manage one’s feelings, so that one’s not become reactive. To be “tough-minded and tender-hearted,” as it the late Dr. Martin Luther King said, is also important. This is explained in Matthew 10:16: “Be wise as serpents and harmless as doves.”

All these qualities combine to create proactive behavior. Priests, sisters and brothers in today’s world are becoming scarce, not because of a lack of interest but because of a lack of morals. Vocational life is demanding and only truly proactive people who can handle the forces in this world will thrive.

Respect for life, God and love will help this society turn around. Men and women should not deny their calling to religious life, but fear, I believe, is holding most back. When they can face this fear and realize the beauty of God’s grace, only then will they take up that cross like Jesus did. Faith in God will let the Church go on, and religious life will follow. It can happen. It will happen.

(Thomas McAminch is a member of Holy Spirit of Geist Parish in Fishers, in Lafayette Diocese, and is a senior at Cathedral High School in Indianapolis. He is the recipient of the first-place award for the 12th grade division of the Indianapolis Serra Club’s essay contest to promote vocations to the priesthood and religious life.)
Youth and adults who volunteer their time and talents toward the duties of ministry, “build up the Church, the body of Christ,” Msgr. Joseph F. Schaeled, vicar general of the archdiocese, told reporters traveling with the pope, the 84-year-old patriarch of the Roman Catholic Church in Alexandria, Egypt.

“The thousands of unselfish volunteers who are CYO through the years are not people who reject challenges,” said Msgr. Schaeled. “They accept challenges. And our faith tells us that when we accept these things, these persons, we accept Christ himself. The first letter of Peter says that we are living stones, forming a spiritual priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.”

“In accepting the challenge to serve others through CYO, they serve the Son of God,” he said. “That’s the kind of people we honor tonight. That’s the kind of people we are all called to be.”

During the vesper service, St. John Bosco Medallions, the highest honor bestowed on CYO volunteers for distinguished service, were presented to Jeff Dakin, St. Malachy Parish, Brownsburg; James McNulty, Holy Spirit Parish, Indianapolis; John Unborn, Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish, Indianapolis; Geri Pearson, St. Simon Parish, Indianapolis; Michael Prestel, Good Shepherd Parish, Indianapolis; Adene Ruh, St. Louis Parish, Indianapolis; Kathy Keyerly, St. Jude Parish, Indianapolis; and Mike Joseph, St. Pius X Parish, Indianapolis.

Bausch Awards, given in recognition of dedicated service to CYO by volunteers, were presented to Pam Matthews and Ed Knoop, St. Simon Parish, Indianapolis; Mary E. Vincent, Mary and Kathleen Rozens, St. Roch Parish, Indianapolis; Becky Mathauer, St. Philip Neri Parish, Indianapolis; Larry Lee, St. Susanna Parish, Plainfield; Tim Barnett and Jim Norton, St. Pius X Parish, Indianapolis; Sherry Pappas, St. Luke Parish, Indianapolis; Eric Hofmeister, Holy Spirit Parish, Indianapolis; Jennifer Flickner and Andy Flickner, St. Monica Parish, Indianapolis; and Jerry Murrell, St. Andrew the Apostle Parish, Indianapolis.

Bausch Awards also were presented to Karen Kavanagh, St. Pius X Parish, Indianapolis; Megan Miller, St. Monica Parish, Indianapolis; Jana Kleiber and Alicia Weizenbach, St. Mark Parish, Indianapolis; Andrea Smith and Lisa Rosenfeld, Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ Parish, Indianapolis; Jennifer Daily, St. Joan of Arc Parish, Indianapolis; Joan Bartley and Mary Kay Schafer, St. Jude Parish, Indianapolis; Patricia Abbott and John Strauss, St. Lawrence Parish, Indianapolis; and Larry Gates, St. Malachy Parish, Brownsburg.

A total of 660 awards were presented to Karen Kavanagh, St. Pius X Parish, Indianapolis; Megan Miller, St. Monica Parish, Indianapolis; Jana Kleiber and Alicia Weizenbach, St. Mark Parish, Indianapolis; Andrea Smith and Lisa Rosenfeld, Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ Parish, Indianapolis; Lauren Friedmeyer, St. Luke Parish, Indianapolis; Josh Holden and Benson, St. Lawrence Parish, Indianapolis; Kimberly Hizer, Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish, Indianapolis; and Todd Jordan, Good Shepherd Parish, Indianapolis.

U.S.

Public responding quickly to pleas for Kosovo refugee sponsors

WASHINGTON (CNS)—Public response has been overwhelming to requests for sponsors from Kosovo, representatives of Catholic refugee agencies said May 5. Since the administration announced April 21 that 20,000 Kosovo refugees would be admitted to the United States instead of housed in temporary quarters outside the U.S. mainland, Migration and Refugee Services of the U.S. Catholic Church has been fielding sponsors for the Kosovars. Patricia Maloof, director of refugee programs for MRS, told reporters May 5 that calls have been almost continual to refugee assistance programs run by Catholic dioceses and the MRS main office in Washington.

News briefs

Patriarch says papal visit shows serious quest for unity

BUCHARIST, Romania (CNS)—Pope John Paul II’s visit to Romania on April 29-30 demonstrated the seriousness of religious unification efforts in Romania’s Orthodox majority take the quest for Christian unity shows serious quest for unity.
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