Children, sexual abuse and the Church

Reports of sexual abuse of children by Catholic priests have filled the news media in recent weeks. Once again, we are forced to focus our attention on a horrible tragedy which causes such anguish and which can scar its victims for life. While the sexual abuse of children is a societal problem, it is particularly painful when it is committed by Church leaders, who hold positions of authority.

Children are a precious gift of life, and we are deeply troubled when we hear of their being physically or sexually abused by adults. We are especially hurt when we read or hear allegations of sexual abuse of children by our own clergy. Church employees or Church volunteers. Our hearts and our prayers go out to the victims of such crimes.

Today, the Roman Catholic Church—as well as society in general—knows a great deal more about the sexual abuse of children than it did 20 years ago. Over the last two decades, the Church has made changes in the way it addresses these problems. For example, heightened seminary screening processes have been put in place in an attempt to prevent people who may suffer from sexual disorders from becoming candidates for the priesthood. We also have background checks performed on all potential employees. Dioceses, including our own, also have adopted stringent policies that address allegations of child abuse and sexual misconduct by Church personnel. In 1994, the Archdiocese of Indianapolis published its policies, which provide a consistent response to reports of child abuse or sexual misconduct. Each of our priests, employees and volunteers is required to read, acknowledge and abide by the policies.

In our policies, we emphasize that under the laws of the state of Indiana, all persons (not just physicians, teachers and social workers, as is the case in some other states) are required to report allegations of child abuse to the proper authorities. All Church personnel must follow the law. Allegations of child abuse by Church personnel—clergy, employees or volunteers—must be immediately reported to the proper authorities.

Archbishop to lead pilgrimage to Mexico

Archbishop Daniel M. Buechlein has announced that he will lead a pilgrimage to Mexico this fall.

Pilgrims will depart on Nov. 16 and return on Nov. 21. The pilgrimage will include visits to the Church of Santo Domingo, with its Rosary Chapel; the Church of St. Francis that houses the incorrupt body of Blessed Sebastian de Aparicio, the Shrine of Our Lady of Ocotlán; and the Blessed First Martyrs Shrine and the Church of San Francisco in Taxco. The first converts to Catholicism came from this province.

Mass will be celebrated at the Shrine of San Miguel del Milagro, the site of reported apparitions of the Archangel Michael to Diego Lazo in 1631. A day will be spent at the Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe. This visit will include a tour of the basilica and the grounds, the opportunity to ascend Tepeyac Hill, and Mass celebrated in the shrine.

In Mexico City, the pilgrims will visit the shrine of Los Remedios (the site of Our Lady of Guadalupe).

Los Angeles museum restores priceless painting from Kentucky church

LOS ANGELES (CNS)—If the saint’s flayed flesh, newly visible, isn’t sensational enough, try the tale behind the painting Martyrdom of St. Bartholomew by Italian Baroque master Mattia Preti (1613-1699).

The painting was recently restored by the J. Paul Getty Museum in Los Angeles for its owner, the Basilica of St. Joseph Proto-Cathedral in Bardstown, Ky. The newly restored work will be on display at the Getty museum until July, when it returns home to the Bardstown church.

These before and after pictures of the Martyrdom of St. Bartholomew reveal the work of conservators at the J. Paul Getty Museum in Los Angeles.

The baroque painting by Mattia Preti belongs to the Basilica of St. Joseph Proto-Cathedral in Bardstown, Ky. The newly restored work will be on display at the Getty museum until July, when it returns home to the Bardstown church.

Saintly Restoration

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Mother Teresa’s letters reveal isolation, doubts

VATICAN CITY (CNS)—As Missionaries of Charity Father Brian Kolodiejchuk pores over the letters of Mother Teresa of Calcutta and the reports of her spiritual directors, he is increasingly struck by the enormous difficulty of all she accomplished.

The priest, who is in charge of preparing material for Mother Teresa’s beatification, is not surprised by the effort it took to open houses for the dying, the sick and the home-
The pilgrimage includes superior first-class hotels, five continental breakfasts and five dinners. Sightseeing will be by modern motor coach, and will include the services of English-speaking guides and entrance fees to places included in the itinerary. The tour price from Indianapolis is $1,499, based on double occupancy. Single-room supplement is $55 per night.

(For a brochure and more information, call Carolyn Noonan, associate director of special events, at 317-236-1428 or 800-382-9836, ext. 1428, or e-mail cnoonan@archindy.org.)

The restoration and conservation of the Preti painting began in November 1999 after a representative from the Getty had seen the work in Bardstown. The painting will be displayed at the Getty until July, when it returns to the proto-cathedral.

Over the last 10 years, the museum has restored 75 paintings from institutions around the world. While the Getty restores the paintings for free, the museum displays the works after finishing them to give local patrons access to treasures they ordinarily would be unable to enjoy.

The Getty’s Leonard pointed out that works of art, like the people who admire them, suffer the effects of time.

“Paintings are ... like living things,” Leonard said. “Even though they age and change at a slower rate than you and I, they do still age and change with time. They’re not static.”

Leonard acknowledged the inability of his craft to completely arrest history.

“We as restorers can never make a work of art look like the way that it did the day it left the artist’s easel,” Leonard said. “All we can do is sort of work with what’s there and make it read as a whole.”

Father Medley believes the restored 17th-century painting of an ancient Christian martyr still speaks to modern audiences. Linking the martyrdom of early Christians to that of Christ himself, the priest described the theme of dying for the faith as “a profound reflection for Christian thought.”

“This painting invites you to consider the suffering of those who have been asked to pay that price to be a follower of Christ,” he explained.

Asked if the image of the flayed saint was too much for modern tastes, Father Medley replied, “Is Sept. 11 too gruesome for modern people?” He added, “There’s never been a limit ... on human cruelty. If that’s too gruesome for modern people, they’re not going to cope very well with the 21st century, are they?”

— Birthline presents —

“Love Works Magic”
Fashion Show & Luncheon
Saturday, March 23, 2002
11:30 a.m. — Cash Bar
12:00 noon — Lunch

Ritz Charles, Inc.,
12156 North Meridian Street
Fashions by Stein Mart
For reservations call 317-606-0836 by March 10, 2002
$22.00 Donation
Eighteen-year-old Erica Basile of Indianapolis gave up some of her long brown hair—12 inches of it—for Lent.

The Bishop Chatard High School senior from St. Thomas Aquinas Parish in Indianapolis said she felt called by God to help someone in need during this Lenten season.

After she heard about a community service project called Locks of Love, Erica logged on to the not-for-profit organization’s National Web site at www.locksoflove.org and learned that donated hair is used to make hairpieces for children aged 6 to 17 who are experiencing hair loss due to illness and medical treatments.

Erica decided to donate a foot-long section of her dark brown hair, which fell to her waist, so a child would not suffer embarrassment caused by baldness.

Tammy Ruffin, a stylist at Cookie Cutters in Indianapolis, a children’s hair salon owned by St. Christopher parishioner Cookie Shelton, braided Erica’s hair before cutting it in a shoulder-length style on Feb. 28.

“I decided that I could give up some of my hair,” Erica said. “I thought it would be a good thing to do, especially during Lent. I wanted to help make a child’s life a littler easier. It’s easier for children [experiencing hair loss] to go to school if other kids don’t stare at them.”

Locks of Love, which is based in Palm Springs, Fla., requires about 10 to 15 inches of hair on Feb. 28. For Lent, Erica donated 12 inches of her hair to Locks of Love, a not-for-profit organization based in Palm Springs, Fla., which makes hairpieces for children aged 6 to 17 that experience hair loss as a result of illness and medical treatments.

Erica was born and baptized into the St. Thomas Aquinas community and thus into a community of service,” parish youth ministry coordinator Norma Seib said during the In Praise Award presentation.

“St. Thomas has been her ‘village’ and one to which she plans to return after college,” Seib said. “People who have known Erica all her life have teased her about doing service even before she was born. While still in her mother’s womb, she frequented the Soup Kitchen [now the Cathedral Soup Kitchen] and the Indiana Women’s Prison. When she became old enough to volunteer on her own, she did so readily and without prodding from her parents.

“Erica has a real love for children and has used that gift, along with her faith, to serve our parish as a teacher in the ReKids [religious education] program,” Seib said. “She is now serving her third year in this biweekly ministry. After homework and her part-time job, she often stays up late to prepare her lessons for the following Sunday. As is her habit, she gives 110 percent to this endeavor, putting extra effort into presenting the lesson in a way in which the particular age group will relate. Maybe the greatest lesson is in the unspoken message to her students that they need not be adults to offer their gifts to God and their community.

Her love for children also is expressed in her two-year friendship with Hugo, a 10-year-old Guatemalan boy she sponsors with monthly financial support. “Hugo is learning to write in English,” Erica said, “and he writes letters to me in ‘Spanglish.’ ”

Erica is president of Bishop Chatard High School’s Spanish Club and can communicate with her young friend in his language, too.

At Bishop Chatard, Erica also is a member of the National Honor Society, Show Choir, retreat team and the Ambassadors, a service club that organizes school activities ranging from the
Catholic observers in Sudan, including priests and the country’s bishops, are said to be “cautiously optimistic” about the recent signing of a truce between two major hostile rebel groups, the People’s Liberation Army and the People’s Defense Force.

The peace accord, however, represents only a small step in what has been a seemingly unending and tragic civil war. Perhaps the alliance of the two rebel groups in southern Sudan will give more weight to peace talks with the Sudanese government, headquartered at Khartoum, the country’s capital in the north.

The ugly Sudanese civil war, which has been raging for nearly two decades, is estimated to have caused more than 2 million deaths either directly or through famine.

Political analysts believe that the war has become a means to secure access by the government to Sudan’s vast amounts of oil. In the south. Sudan began exporting oil from government territory in the north in 1999. Now its eyes have turned south.

Last September, Sudan’s Catholic bishops accused foreign oil companies of complicity in human rights violations. “In Sudan,” the bishops said, “the companies are profiting from gross and systematic violations of human rights. They are complicit in the protection of rebel troops and militias who commit human rights abuses with impunity.”

The bishops accused the Khartoum government of displacing civilians in the south to make way for oil exploration. Other international human rights groups and aid agencies have made similar charges.

We will continue to pray that the truce among the rebel groups holds and that their unity might bring more bargaining chips to the peace table. Let’s also pray that we can take Secretary Powell at his word that “we are doing all that we can.”

— William R. Bruins

Feeling the weight of the tragedy of child abuse

This week, my column concerns a topic that I would much rather not address because it is so sad. Children are such a precious gift of life and, like all of us, I am deeply troubled when I hear of their being abused physically or sexually by adults. It is particularly dreadful when we hear of allegations of sexual abuse of children by clergy or Church employees or volunteers.

I sincerely apologize to anyone who has been harmed by any person serving out a vocation in the Church. Such abuse is totally unacceptable. Please forgive us.

Elsewhere in this issue of The Criterion, you will find a published statement concerning the written policies of our archdiocese on “Child Abuse and Sexual Misconduct and Ministry to Minors.” Our written policies—which we have published in the past—were consolidated and published in 1994; they had already been in effect for years. Out of pastoral concern, we again urge anyone who has been abused or who knows of someone who has been abused to contact us so that we can take appropriate action and provide pastoral care.

I hope we all agree that it is right that our Church should be held to a higher standard of trust than the rest of society on something as heinous as child abuse. Our policy is written with that high standard in mind and we follow the policy strictly. Rightly, unlike many other states, Indiana’s reporting procedures are also strict, and we comply with them exactly. At the same time, I assure you that should there be any requests from the news media or the general public for names of alleged victims or alleged perpetrators, those names will not be released.

Since the beginning of the recent publicity two months ago concerning clergy misconduct in Boston, and since the veritable flood of continuing publicity, I am more and more concerned for our Catholic community and especially for our priests. We, especially the clergy and all our Church employees, should be held to a higher standard. Clearly, even one incident of child abuse is horrendous.

I want to suggest that we read carefully and then carefully to what is being reported. Generalized statements that speak of “an epidemic of clergy sexual misconduct or a “massive cover-up” by Church authorities is at best misleading and unfair. Child abuse is horrible, but it is not helpful to make statements that are careless and even abusive in their own right. History is important and is largely overlooked in much of the current publicity. Let’s keep in mind that many of the cases being decreed are from past decades. It is important to recognize that 50 years ago things were said that would be unknown word and the problem was considered a grave moral fault that a person could correct. Decades ago, professionals in medicine were largely of the same mind. More recently, psychiatrists and others in the mental health professions began to understand that child abuse is a grave psychological illness that requires hospi- talization and therapeutic treatment. Within the last decade or so, it has become clear that reprise that takes place in an abuser is a high risk with pedo- philes. The bishops of the United States have also grown in our understanding of pedophilia. We have responded and are trying to respond accordingly. We will never knowingly place a diagnosed pedophile in a position of trust with children.

Because we are rightly held to a higher standard, our Catholic clergy is being dramatically singled out as perpetrators of the tragic crime of child abuse. One could get the impression that this is largely a problem of the clergy, and many claim that celibacy is the cause. However, experts tell us there is no evidence that priests are more likely to engage in sexual misconduct with minors than persons in other professions. I believe that needs to be said.

I am sorry for the embarrassment the current situation is causing all of us. I feel particularly bad for those who wear the Roman collar. I do not need to remind you, our lay and religious sisters and brothers, of the untiring dedication and generous ministry of our priests. Maybe I don’t need to tell you how much more we love our priests than persons in other professions. I believe that needs to be said.

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Sintiendo el peso de la tragedia de los niños abusados

E
sta semana, mi columna refiere un tema al cual yo no me refiero fre-
cuentemente porque es muy triste.
Los niños son un precioso regalo de la vida y, como tales, son un tesoro
profundamente cuando escucho que ellos han sido abusados física o sex-
ualmente. En realidad, este es un tema que es muy doloroso escuchar.
Por lo tanto, en el clero o un masivo
rieran “una epidemia” de conducta sexual
mente lo que está siendo reportado.
Solo caso de abuso infantil es horrendo.
clero y todos nuestros empleados de las
católica y especialmente por nuestros sac-

continua publicidad, yo estoy más y más
mencionados.
que debería haber alguna solicitud por los
procedimientos reportados en Indiana
nosotros las cumplimos de manera estricta.

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podamos tomar las acciones apropiadas y
proporcionarle ayuda pastoral.
Yo espero que todos nuestros estemos de acuerdo en que es correcto que a
nuestra iglesia se le deba exigir un mayor estándar en esta materia, esto es de la
sociedad, en cosas tan atrocios como el abuso de los niños. Nuestras políticas están
escribidas con este objetivo, de que nosotros las cumplimos de manera estricta.
Justamente, tal como en otros estados,
los procedimientos reportados en Indiana
son también estrictos, y nosotros cumplimos con ellos exactamente como se
describen.

Al mismo tiempo, yo les digo a ustedes que debería haber alguna solicitud por los
medios de comunicación, especialmente en general en efecto de nombrar a
las alegadas víctimas o a los alegados perpe-
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Check It Out . . .

All members of the archdiocesan Church are invited to attend Holy Week liturgies at SS. Peter and Paul Cathedral, 1347 N. Meridian St., in Indianapolis.

For Palm Sunday, March 23 and 24, the assembly will participate in the procession of the Passion according to Matthew. The Saturday anticipation Mass will be at 3 p.m. Archbishop Daniel M. Buechlein will preside at the 10:30 a.m. Mass on Sunday. Vespers will be at 5 p.m. on Sunday.

The Chrism Mass will be at 7 a.m. on March 26. The archbishop will preside at the Mass, which will include the blessing of holy oils that will be used throughout the year for such sacramental blessings as baptism, confirmation and holy orders. Also, the priests of the archdiocese will renew their commitment to the Church.

On Holy Thursday, March 26, the Mass of the Lord’s Supper, with the washing of feet, will begin at 6:30 p.m. The archbishop will serve as the main celebrant. After Mass, adoration will be held in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel until 11 p.m.

On Good Friday, March 29, the service will begin at 1 p.m., with the archbishop presiding. Vespers will begin at 7 p.m.

On Holy Saturday, March 30, the Vigil Mass will begin at 8 a.m. and will be celebrated by the archbishop. After Mass, the parish will have a reception for newly received Catholics.

On Easter Sunday, March 31, there will be a Mass with the renewal of baptismal promises at 10:30 a.m., presided over by the archbishop.

An opportunity for the sacrament of reconciliation will be offered before the Holy Saturday Vigil Mass, from 3:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

For more information on any of these events, call the parish office at 317-634-4519.

The public is invited to participate in a city-wide Ecumenical Taize Prayer Service at 5 p.m. on March 17 at the Christian Theological Seminary Chapel, 1000 W. 42nd St., in Indianapolis. For more information, call the seminary at 317-931-2377.

There will be a Luncheon Fashion Show sponsored by the archdiocesan Birthline Guild on March 23 at the Ritz-Charles, 12156 N. Meridian St., Carmel, Ind. A social will start at 11:30 a.m. and the luncheon will begin at noon. A $22 donation is asked for each ticket. Birthline helps meet the needs of pregnant women and unbirh children. For more information or for tickets, call Mary Ann Beckerich at 317-466-9656. The guild also will appreciate donations for door prizes, which in the past have included theme baskets, gift certificates, decorative home accessories and jewelry. For more information on donating items, call Annie Darragh at 317-259-4373, ext. 227.

The Lenten Pro-Life Speaker Series continues at Holy Rosary Parish, 520 Stevens St., in Indianapolis, on the regular Wednesdays in Lent through March 20. Each evening will begin with Mass at 5:30 p.m., dinner at 6:15 p.m. and a presentation at 6:45 p.m., with a question and answer session ending by 8 p.m. A book sale will follow the program. Reservations are required, and a free-will donation will be taken. “The Culture of Death’s Influence on Society” will be presented on March 13 by T. Patrick Monaghan, the founder and general counsel of New Hope Life Center. “Catholic Perspectives on Assisted Reproduction Technology and Contraception” will be presented on March 20 by Dr. Gary R. Wright, an anesthesiologist and physician ethicist at St. Vincent Hospitals and Health Services in Indianapolis. For more information or to register, call the parish at 317-636-4478.

“The Counter-Reformation (1545-1650) and the Shape of the Tridiumtine Church” will be presented as part of the “Exploring Our Catholic Faith Workshops” on March 15-16 at Our Lady of the Greenwood Parish, 335 S. Meridian St., in Greenwood. The program will meet from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. on March 15 and from 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. on March 16. The workshop, given by Benedictine Father Matthias Neuman, will explore the response of the Catholic Church to the Protestant Reformation and the many issues it opened. It will discuss the decrees of the Council of Trent and how Catholic reformers used it to reshape the beliefs and practices of Catholics into an ecclesial form and life that lasted for 400 years. This look at history also provides a background to better understand the Second Vatican Council. The cost of the program is $50 per person or $40 for seniors. For more information or to register, call the Saint Meinrad School of Theology Office for Indianapolis Programs at 317-955-6451.

There will be a Schoenstatt Covenant Sunday Holy Hour titled “Instrument Spirituality” at 2:30 p.m. on March 24 at Mary’s Village Schoenstatt near Rensville, located on 925 South, .8 mile east of 421 South, 12 miles south of Versailles. Father Elmer Burwinkel will celebrate Mass at 3:30 p.m. For more information, call 812-689-3551 or e-mail erbwerk@seida.com.

The Providence Center at St. Mary-of-the-Woods is offering a Mother and Daughter Retreat from March 22-24. The weekend will be led by Rosalie and Jennifer Kelly, and will honor and reaffirm the joys and pangs of birth, growing up, separating and becoming friends. The cost is $130 per person or $100 per person for commuters. For more information, call 812-535-4531, ext. 140, or e-mail bdkonahut@spsumw.org.

“The Colombians” from the Knights of Columbus Mater Dei Council 437 will join “The Chanters” from the Murat Shrine and the Indianapolis Maennerchor for the 58th annual Triad Concert at 7:30 p.m. on March 23 and at 3 p.m. on March 24 at the Scottish Rite Cathedral, 650 N. Meridian St., in Indianapolis. The theme for this year is “The American Heritage of Faith of the Common Good.” Tickets are $6 each. For more information or to order tickets, call Larry Litzelman at 317-925-4190.

There will be a healing Mass at 11 a.m. on March 10 at St. John the Evangelist Church, 126 W. Georgia St., in Indianapolis. All are welcome to come pray for the physical and spiritual healing power of the Holy Spirit. The church is handicap-accessible from the parking lot entrance. For more information, call the parish office at 317-635-2021.

VIPs . . .

The Multicultural Ministry Commission of the Archdiocese of Indianapolis has chosen its officers for the year 2002. The chairperson is Carmen Montanez, a member of St. Joseph Parish in Terre Haute. The vice-chairperson is David Weir of St. Thomas Aquinas Parish in Indianapolis. The secretary is Karen Ohl, associate director of religious education and sacramental, adult and family catechesis for the archdiocesan Office of Catholic Education.

U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops’ Office for Film and Broadcasting movie ratings

40 Days and 40 Nights (Miramax)

Rated O (Morally Offensive) because of misuse of the sacrament of penance, sexual encounters, recurring violence, intermittent rough language, crass sexual expressions and profanity.

Rated R (Restricted) by the Motion Picture Association of America (MPAA).

We Were Soldiers (Paramount)

Rated A-IV (Adults with reservations) because of constant war violence with many bloody, chilling images and some rough language with profanity. Rated R (Restricted) by the MPAA.

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Roncalli teacher is honored for 40 years of service

By Jennifer Del Vecchio

Not many teachers have the distinction that Bob Tully holds at Roncalli High School in Indianapolis. Tully, a religion teacher, has taught at least 8,000 students in his 40-year tenure and he's carried the cross in processions at every graduation since the school first opened its doors in the 1960s.

He’s also held about every job at the school from dean of students to athletic director. For Tully, it’s the work God has blessed him with.

For his peers, and those he’s taught, his legacy at the school is an example of leading young people and “teaching them the joys of a life of faith in Christ,” said Joe Hollowell, the school’s president.

Tully was honored for his work with the Pope John XXIII Award on March 7 at the St. Mary Deeney Recognition Dinner. Becoming a teacher wasn’t what Tully had in mind when he was a student at Indiana University studying criminology. He wanted to be a state trooper, but wasn’t accepted. A priest friend, Father Robert Schenken, asked him if he’d teach and Tully said yes.

Growing up in Jeffersonville, Tully remembers the value placed on a Catholic education by his family. He was driven each day to attend Our Lady of Providence High School in Clarksville. While he started out teaching social studies, he was asked to teach religion as Vatican II was being implemented.

It’s an offer he’s never regretted accepting. “I love it,” he said about teaching. “I am very blessed. I’m energized and I learn from the students as well. There are some where they are scared to have pep sessions. We come together and pray here. We have a tight-knit group.”

Walk into Tully’s classroom and you’ll find the walls painted with posters by seniors through the years. There’s a picture of a resurrected Christ, mountains with a Scripture verse and a work in progress.

Each year, the senior class chooses one of their peers to paint something on the wall, Tully said.

Over the years, Tully said he hasn’t seen the posters change much very. They all still “come in searching,” and wanting to know and ask questions about their faith.

He encourages the questions. Once the faith is explained to them, they usually walk away saying, “That makes sense,” Tully said.

The most recurring question is “Why do I do what I do?” Tully said. “I tell them they don’t have to go, but they should go.”

The reason you want to go is to develop that relationship with God. I tell them it’s about attitude and about wanting to go, and then to try and see if that doesn’t make a difference.

Attitude is something Tully stresses often. He wants his students to walk away with a positive message about God and how to invite him into their lives.

“Tully teaches students that if it’s not failure but low aim that is the crime” in class and encourages them to keep a positive attitude.

Mike Ortman, a senior, took Tully’s class last semester and said it had the right emphasis. “He taught that in religion class it’s not about grades, and stressed that the first day,” Mike said. “He said the real test would be before God at the altar in heaven. He puts more emphasis on religion than on academics, and that is pretty important.”

Tully said his goal is to make a “visible difference in one student’s life” by showing them that they can have a “true and strong relationship with God and his son, Jesus Christ.”

He wants the students to know he loves them and cares about them, Tully said. Senior Chrisy Schoettle said Tully is a teacher that students go to for questions and support.

“He got everybody involved in a service project and made it fun,” Chrisy said. “He has a great personality and gets along with everybody. No one ever dreaded going to Mr. Tully’s class.”

Tully said the greatest thing about being named the Pope John XXIII Award recipient was the ability to look back over his years of teaching and see his blessings. Those blessings not only include his Roncalli family, but his wife of 38 years and their children and grandchildren.

“I’ve been very blessed by God, who has an active role in my life,” Tully said. To be a good religion teacher, Tully said showing students by example and living the faith is the most important.

“I tell the kids I’d rather see a sermon than hear a sermon any day,” Tully said. “I want to be a physical therapist and help people,” Erica explained. “At St. Vincent, I clean medical equipment, get the hot and cold packs ready and observe physical therapy treatments. I’ve been accepted in the physical therapy program at the University of Evansville.”

She still volunteers at the Cathedral Soup Kitchen once every other month. “I help cook and serve food,” Erica said. “It’s fun. I like to do volunteer service, and a lot of the service things I do are with my friends,” she said. “Chatard and St. Thomas Aquinas are such strong communities of faith. The students don’t have any problems talking about their faith and sharing it with others. At school, Father Joe Brown, the chaplain, talks about how Christ asks us to serve others, and that he gave his life for us and the least we can do is serve others because then we’re serving Christ as well.”

Christian stewardship

Who is a Christian steward? The U.S. bishops’ document titled “Stewardship: A Disciple’s Response” defines a Christian steward as “one who receives God’s gifts gratefully, cherishes and tends them in a responsible manner, shares them in justice and love with others, and returns them with increase to the Lord.”

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Black Catholics in Chicago prepare to host national gathering

CHICAGO (CNS)—Chicago’s black Catholic community is gathering ideas, offering prayers and celebrating hopes as it prepares to host the National Black Catholic Congress in late summer.

“We are proud to be the host of the ninth congress,” said Auxiliary Bishop Joseph N. Perry. The last time Chicago hosted the congress was in 1893.

A day of reflection on Feb. 17 at Hales Franciscan High School will give a mostly African-American audience of about 80 people the opportunity to collect final feedback on eight issues the congress will consider.

The thousands of delegates expected to attend from around the country will vote on one-, three- and five-year plans of action to deal with those issues when the congress meets at the Hyatt Regency Chicago Hotel from Aug. 29-Sept. 1.

Bishop Perry said he hopes the congress will advance a “holistic approach” to produce action plans for “everything that is truly black and authentically Catholic.”

The co-chairwomen of the Chicago host committee said more ideas than would be needed, stressing that good, hard work is essential.

Opal Easter-Smith urged the participants at the Hales gathering to become involved in projects related to the congress plans at the parish, deanery and archdiocesan levels.

Msgr. Butler asked volunteers to “lift things spiritually and ... physically” before August to make the congress a success.

Butler said each diocese is entitled to 10 days in September 2002

- IRELAND, 10 DAYS IN SEPTEMBER 2002 $1,620
- ALASKA, 8 DAYS IN JULY 2002 FROM $1599

“...stressing that good, hard work is essential,” she said. Some weak schools might have to find new ways to provide self-sustaining schools with principals who don’t spend all their time “chasing after grants,” she said. Some weak schools might have to find new ways to provide self-sustaining schools with principals who don’t spend all their time “chasing after grants,” she said. Some weak schools might have to find new ways to provide self-sustaining schools with principals who don’t spend all their time “chasing after grants,” she said. Some weak schools might have to find new ways to provide self-sustaining schools with principals who don’t spend all their time “chasing after grants,” she said. Some weak schools might have to find new ways to provide self-sustaining schools with principals who don’t spend all their time “chasing after grants,” she said.

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A call to live and work with the poor.

Inspiration Day, when on a train in India she experienced a call to live and work with the Missionaries of Charity Fathers. Byzantine rite, was among the first members

The desolation of poor people must be redeemed work would just be social work. All the things, to be encouraged by others,” he said, in a February interview.

She must leave the Sisters of Loreto and “an order, a duty, an absolute certainty” that the poor.

“Without suffering our holiness, Father Kolodiejchuk said in a late-

In a 1961 letter to the Missionaries of Charity, she wrote, “Without suffering our work would just be social work... All the things, to be encouraged by others,” he said, in a February interview.

The investigations into her faith life are not idle prying, the priest said. Beatification and canonization are recognitions not of a person’s life work—which is obviously praiseworthy in Mother Teresa’s case—but of holiness.

Although he works on the cause from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. daily, Father Kolodiejchuk said he believes it will be “several months” before a beatification process can begin. Although he works on the cause from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. daily, Father Kolodiejchuk said he believes it will be “several months” before a beatification process can begin.

She experienced what theologians called an “interior imaginative location”—she distinctly heard a voice in her head tell her what to do. “And it continued for some months,” he said.

The feeling that God is far away or even nonexistent is a common spiritual experience, he said. “Maybe we won’t have the same intensity of experiences, but most of what she did was very ordinary— it just became extraordinary when it was all put together,” Father Kolodiejchuk said.

Mother Teresa died in Calcutta in September 1997. In 1999, Pope John Paul II waived the rule requiring a five-year wait before a beatification process can begin. Although he works on the cause from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. daily, Father Kolodiejchuk said he believes it will be “several months” before the Vatican formally recognizes that Mother Teresa heroically lived the Christian virtues and declares her venerable.

The Oral Health Research Institute on the IUPUI campus is looking for adults age 18 to 75 who might be interested in participating in a dental screening that will examine various oral conditions in their mouth. Based on the screening examination, subjects may qualify for various upcoming studies at the Institute, including teeth whitening studi...
Youth ministry helps make God a part of your life

By Chad Naville

Being a teen-ager is very easy one of the hardest things to do in life. You have many things to do every day, such as write essays for school that keep you writing all night, solve math problems in situations where you do the same problem so many times that you run the eraser on your pencil down to a tiny nub, memorize biology until your brain hurts, wonder what is the latest style of clothes to wear, and worry about what will be happening in your future. I know this because I live it. I am a senior at Our Lady of Providence Jr./Sr. High School in Clarksville, and I have experienced all of these high-stress situations.

During all of these demanding activities though, I have made a decision—a decision to be involved. It has not been easy to be involved, but the payoffs have been more than what I thought they would have been.

What is your first thought when you think of a parish youth group? If it has anything to do with a bunch of teen-agers sitting around and praying, just the crowd of people who stereotype youth groups.

However, this is definitely not the case. Instead, awe-some activities like basketball, volleyball and dances are happening in parish youth ministry.

I once had this stereotypical view of youth groups and thought that the teens just sat in a circle telling each other how much they love God and everyone else in the world. This idea actually scared me away for a while.

However, I decided to go to a parish youth ministry activity just to see if that was what really happened. I'm glad I did go because it sure was an eye-opening experience! I had the most fun I had ever had in a long time. Not only did I enjoy myself, but I met a ton of new people, too.

I then decided to do the next youth gathering, and then the next, and the next and the soon. Soon I was a familiar face at my own parish, where I had felt so intimi-dated before. From just attending these few activities, I became an involved youth. These youth ministry experi-ences have taught me lessons that I never would have learned. I learned who I am.

Many teen-agers struggle with this common question today. I believe this is one of the reasons why some teen-agers are shooting other teen-agers. They may not know who they are, and are trying to get some answers.

However, instead of trying to find these answers, they get involved in the wrong group and learn the wrong answer.

There are many things in our lives that can prevent us from becoming involved in youth ministry, such as the fear of people mocking us, or just simply not having the time due to sports and homework, or just not feeling like going.

Again, I know this because this was me, and I still feel this way from time to time. However, even though the things like homework and sports don’t exactly give me much free time, I have decided to make time for youth ministry.

Adam Naville, a junior at Our Lady of Providence High School and a member of St. Mary Parish in Navilleton, has been involved in youth ministry in his parish for the past three years.

“I have been involved in youth ministry because it gives me a chance to meet new people,” Adam said, “and I have learned a lot about God in ways other than going to church. Sure, it is hard to make time, but I think it’s worth it.”

Schools also have decided to have youth ministry pro-grams. In some public schools, the Catholic group is the biggest group in the school. Even though there are current laws preventing people from “expressing their religion” by praying to God, many people still continue to show their faith by joining these groups in their school and some-times doing service activities for the community.

Catholic schools have made it easier to be involved since the “prayer” laws that public schools must follow do not apply to them. There are many things to do, such as serving as a eucharistic minister and planning the liturgies at school, becoming a lector and reading during these liturgies to your classmates, or going on a retreat and get-ting closer to God, your friends and even people whom you don’t know very well, who may become new friends. Sports, homework and a teen-age lifestyle make partic-ipating in youth ministry at both your parish and school difficult. However, if you become involved, I’m sure that you will never regret that decision.

Through youth ministry, you’ll meet friends for life, develop respect for yourself and make God a part of your life.

There is a quote that many people say about retreats that I believe also relates to life: “The more you put in, the more you get out of it.”

By being involved in youth ministry at your parish and school, I think you’ll get a whole lot more than what you bargained for. Take this advice from me, who was once a skeptic, but now is a believer with youth ministry a big part of my life. God bless and get the most out of life. Be involved!

(Chad Naville is a member of St. Mary Parish in Navilleton and is a senior at Our Lady of Providence Jr./Sr. High School in Clarksville. He also serves as the associate chairperson of the 2001-2002 Archdiocesan Youth Council.)
The National Catholic Youth Conference (NCYC) on Dec. 6-9 at the RCA Dome and Indiana Convention Center in Indianapolis was one of the most compelling and eye-opening events I have ever had the honor and privilege to attend. NCYC was an opportunity to strengthen your belief in God, and the national youth conference was exactly what I needed to confirm my faith in God.

I first heard about NCYC about two months before the event. One thing led to another, and I didn’t get signed up for the conference. About two weeks before NCYC, I got a telephone call from my youth minister saying that I could go. Little did I know that those words would change the rest of my life.

As the days passed, I thought about how much fun NCYC would be. I thought it would be great to spend time with my friends, stay in a nice hotel and, most importantly, get to miss two days of school!

I was wrong. Chills shot up my spine when I entered the RCA Dome filled with 24,000 people. I realized that I was part of something that I had never been part of before. I was part of a group of teen-agers that had gathered from all 50 states for one common goal, for one purpose. Everyone there was equal. All people in that building, but we were one voice, one heart and one person under one God.

I was part of a group where the clothes you had on your back didn’t matter, the color of your skin didn’t matter, how much you weigh didn’t matter and how much money you had didn’t play a part. Everyone there was equal. All 24,000 people had one thing in common—they were loved equally by God and by one another.

I felt the tears start to surface in my eyes as I experienced something inside me that I had never felt before. For the first time in my life, I knew what it meant to be led by God and by one another.

I looked around and realized that there might be 24,000 people in that building, but we were one voice, one heart and one person under one God.

As the days passed, I thought about how much fun NCYC would be. I thought it would be great to spend time with my friends, stay in a nice hotel and, most importantly, get to miss two days of school! If I cannot trust my life to God, then I cannot trust my life to anyone.

NCYC showed me the friend I never knew was there, and showed me the region of my heart that I had so foolishly refused to use. It showed me that I was called to serve by God just like we all are, and I saw firsthand the power of God’s forgiveness. God forgave me for not opening my heart to his teaching and to his Word.

I am changed—not changed in a physical sense, but in a spiritual sense. NCYC showed me what faith is and just how much God means to me.

(Tyler Nickerson is a member of St. Bartholomew Parish in Columbus and is a junior at Columbus North High School.)

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Pro-life group helps teens work to end abortion

By Bethany Brown

I formed the Blessed Gianna Molla Pro-Life Apostolate in the Archdiocese of Indianapolis last year because there can never be enough prayer to stop abortion, and because I wanted to provide an opportunity for young people to be able to contribute as a group to this cause.

There are many pro-life groups out there, but I haven’t heard of any geared specifically toward young people. Teens have a lot of energy, and love to give and can become passionate about things. Most teens have more time than adults and can use that time to pray about meaningful things like the end of abortion.

I think it is important for teen-agers and young adults to show that they care about what’s happening to little unborn souls, too.

The main components of the apostolate are prayer and attendance at the Helpers of God’s Precious Infants pro-life Mass at 8:30 a.m. on the third Saturday of every month at St. Andrew the Apostle Church in Indianapolis. The monthly archdiocesan pro-life Mass is followed by a rosary walk to an abortion clinic nearby. Prayers conclude with Benediction at the church.

I believe prayer is especially important in the apostolate because it is a powerful and physical way to show our loving support to mothers considering abortion, to encourage them to let their babies live, and to show them that we care and are not just condemning them.

I also think it is important to support pro-life organizations and do other things to provide an opportunity for people considering abortion to stop abortion. I also encourage teens who can change the laws concerning abortion.

The NCYC and checkered flag logo merchandise is still available at a discount from the archdiocesan Birthline Ministry, Catholic Social Services Crisis Office or other designated missions.

There’s still time to buy official NCYC items. In addition to individual items for sale, “Bags of Hope” cost $50 for 10 NCYC items, $100 for 25 conference items, $200 for 60 NCYC items and $500 for 150 youth conference items.

NCYC items also can be purchased for resale by schools, parishes and youth groups.

For more information about National Catholic Youth Conference merchandise and a list of prices, call the archdiocesan Office for Youth and Family Ministries at 317-236-1596, 317-236-1439 or 800-382-9836, ext. 1596 or ext. 1439.)

I urge therefore, first of all, that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all men; for kings, and for all in high positions, that we may lead a quiet and peaceful life in all piety and worthy behavior. This is good and agreeable in the sight of God our Savior…”

Also, James 5:16 says, “The unceasing prayer of a just man is of great avail.”

I take these Scripture passages very seriously, and that is why I have stressed prayer in the apostolate. I obtained the prayers that I include in the information packet from the prayer book of the Helpers of God’s Precious Infants pro-life ministry.

I believe that attendance at the monthly archdiocesan pro-life Mass at St. Andrew Church is important because Mass is the highest and most powerful form of prayer. Participation in the rosary walk to the abortion clinic is important because it is a powerful and physical way to show our loving support to mothers considering abortion, to encourage them to let their babies live, and to show them that we care and are not just condemning them.

I also think it is important to support pro-life organizations and do other things for the pro-life movement. I encourage members of the apostolate to donate time and items to the archdiocesan Birthline ministry, and to spend time in front of the Blessed Sacrament to pray for the cause.

Of course, these things are not necessary to be a member of the apostolate. I just suggested them to give extra ideas. Also, if a member can’t make it to the monthly pro-life Mass at St. Andrew Church, he or she can always say the prayers at home.

I chose Blessed Gianna as the patroness of the apostolate because her situation was so close to the situations of mothers considering abortion. She chose the right thing even though it cost her life. That’s why I think she is the ideal role model for the members of the apostolate.

(Bethany Brown is a member of Holy Rosary Parish in Indianapolis and is homeschooled. For information about joining the Blessed Gianna Molla Pro-Life Apostolate, call the archdiocesan Office of Pro-Life Activities at 317-236-1596.)

TheCriterion.com
Friday, March 8, 2002
Youth Supplement   Page 13
A Promise to Keep promotes chastity to youth

By Maggie Byrnes
Special to The Criterion

“Because I believe in my personal worth as a child of God and want to protect my health and future happiness, I promise God, myself, my future mate and my future children that I will cherish my gift of human sexuality by saving sex for marriage.”

Maggie Byrnes

However, this pledge includes much more than just a single sentence. We are choosing to respect ourselves and to respect those around us. We are putting our trust in God’s guidance to help us make it through the temptations of life.

A Promise to Keep: God’s Gift of Human Sexuality was designed as a peer mentoring program in which high school students speak to middle school students about chastity and teen-age sexuality.

As a senior at Bishop Chatard High School in Indianapolis, I’ve seen how the program works at building up belief in God’s Word.

There are so many rewards from serving as a peer mentor in the A Promise to Keep program. The biggest one is definitely hearing others decide to make the promise of chastity for themselves. Our biggest goal as peer mentors is being a positive influence on other youth, especially those students younger than us.

Several thousand teen-agers from throughout the United States signed this chastity pledge promoted by peer mentors for the archdiocesan A Promise to Keep: God’s Gift of Human Sexuality program during the National Catholic Youth Conference on Dec. 9-10 at the RCA Dome and Indiana Convention Center in Indianapolis. By signing the banner, the teens publicly proclaimed their commitment to live chaste lives until marriage, respect self and others, and trust in God’s divine guidance.

A Promise to Keep exhibit at the National Catholic Youth Conference held in downtown Indianapolis last December. I was so excited to see the number of people interested in the program.

We handed out cards with the A Promise to Keep pledge (listed above) so they could share our written promise. They also saw the importance in what we do and the consequences of teen-age sexuality.

So many young people want to get involved, but they felt there was nothing out there to support them and spread the message of chastity. I am so grateful and proud to have this program. A Promise to Keep allows teens to know that they are not alone in their beliefs, and that other teens are with them in their decision to save sexual relations for marriage.

(Maggie Byrnes is a member of St. Pius X Parish in Indianapolis and is a senior at Bishop Chatard High School in Indianapolis.)
Weaver when she spoke strongly of the need for role
questions grew increasingly conversational. Francesca
awards interview.
to their classes while Francesca, Allison, Weaver and the
gratulatory spot, the nervous students slowly dispersed
Child's Heart.
grew wider as she praised the REACH kids from the
Monn and junior Allison Eastman as WRTV 6 anchor
around Cathedral High School sophomore Francesca
By Diane Eikenberry
most teen-agers were when they heard of the terrible ter-
were at home or already at school? That is where
Chances are, you will never forget where you were
you heard the horrible news.
Some teens plan to enlist in the Armed Forces
By Heather Hanley
Special to The Criterion
Were you at home or already at school? That is where
so they could seek revenge on the terrorists. Other teens were so terri-
and Allison, who attends St. Mark
St. Monica Parish in Indianapolis, received the leadership award on Jan. 18
for initiating Cathedral High School’s newest service club, REACH, which stands for
Reaching Each Aspect of a
weekend conference.
To keep the momentum of NCYC rolling, the youth
rally theme will focus on “Now Chart Your Course.”
The one-day rally for teen-agers from central and
southern Indiana will be held beginning at 1 p.m. at Huber’s
Plantation Hall in Starlight. The rally begins at 1 p.m. and
ends at 7 p.m.
Brian Johnson, director of youth ministry for the
Diocese of Galveston-Houston in Texas, is the keynote
speaker.
Rally sessions include “Hayride/Stories of Faith,” “Tent
Revival/Evangelization Witness,” “World Youth Day Reflection,” “Cooperative Games/Team-Building”
and “Lakeside Scripture Sharing.”
This youth rally will be different from past confer-
ences because it will only last one day, and also because
the teens will have special energy left from NCYC and
will be excited about celebrating their faith again in a large gathering.
The rally will be a great opportunity for high school
students to celebrate their faith, celebrate being Catholic and celebrate their community. Rally organizers expect it to be
very successful.
The Archdiocesan Youth Rally on May 5 costs $25 per
person. For more information or to register for the rally,
contact your parish youth ministry coordinator or call the
archdiocesan Office for Youth and Family Ministries at 317-256-1439 or 800-382-9836, ext. 1439, before the
April 15 deadline. Late registrations cost an additional $5
per person and will only be accepted until April 22.
(Amanda Sutton is a member of St. Ambrose Parish in
Seymour and is a sophomore at Seymour High School.
She serves on the Archdiocesan Youth Council.†)

**REACH mentors serve center-city children**

By Diane Elkenberry
Special to The Criterion
A group of nervous, giggling students gathered
around Cathedral High School sophomore Francesca
Monn and junior Allison Eastman as WRTV 6 anchor
Martha Weaver gave them instructions before the conclu-
sion of the annual Archdi-
ocese Youth Conference for high school students.
But even because the arch-
diocese hosted the National Catholic Youth Conference (NCYC)
Dec. 6-9 in Indianapolis, the archdiocesan Office for Youth and
Family Ministries and the Archdiocesan Youth Council are
sponsoring “Crossing the Road of Hopes—Now Chart Your Course” as
a one-day youth rally instead of a
REACH members were picked, but
Francesca and Allison hope to offer open membership
next year and possibly spread the program to other schools—on both the giving and receiving ends—across
Indianapolis.
(Diane Elkenberry is a member of St. Luke Parish in
Indianapolis and is a senior at Cathedral High School in
Indianapolis. She serves as editor-in-chief of The Megaphone, Cathedral’s student newspaper.†)

**Archdiocesan Youth May Rally is May 5 at Starlight**

By Amanda Sutton
Special to The Criterion
It’s that time of year again! The arrival of spring means
it’s time for the annual Archdi-
ocese Youth Conference for high school students.
Although reticent when the interview commenced,
“Allison pointed out the various adults milling around
the glass of the trophy room doors.
“I feel like I’m in a fishbowl,” she said, and
Francesca and Weaver laughed.
Although reticent when the interview commenced, the
girls grew more fluent as it continued, and Weaver’s
guests grew increasingly conversational. Francesca
especially appeared well-spoken and almost impressed
Weaver when she spoke strongly of the need for role
models for the children that REACH serves.
Supporting her answers with gestures, Allison’s smile
wider as she praised the REACH kids from the
Oaks Academy in downtown Indianapolis.
“They’re innocent, they have fun and they don’t care
about what anyone thinks,” Allison said.
WRTV 6 contacted Francesca about the leadership
award on Dec. 14.
“I was going down the [Cathedral High School
access] hill with my mom, and I took my cell phone and
called Ally, screaming,” Francesca said.
They had received an anonymous recommendation.
Allison approached Francesca in November about starting
a service club and told him about an opportunity
to receive a grant from the school announcements.
Both girls volunteered as tutors with ACTS at the
Oaks Academy, but Allison remembered administrator
Marvin Gaynor saying that the kids needed something
more than tutoring after school.
Oaks Academy created REACH, which goes beyond tutoring
by providing educational and entertaining activities for the
second-graders to fifth-graders. They received a $1,200
grant and ordered supplies for the project over
the school break.
They received feedback from more than local televi-
sion stations. One of the Oaks Academy parents, who
graduated from Cathedral High School in 1986, told the
girls that she thinks it’s great that Cathedral students are
reaching out.
Currently, REACH boasts about 17 members who are
divided into three groups. The group rotates Fridays,
and sessions run from 4 p.m. to 5 p.m. at the center-city
school.
This year, REACH members were picked, but
Francesca and Allison hope to offer open membership
next year and possibly spread the program to other schools—on both the giving and receiving ends—across
Indianapolis.
(Diane Elkenberry is a member of St. Luke Parish in
Indianapolis and is a senior at Cathedral High School in
Indianapolis. She serves as editor-in-chief of The Megaphone, Cathedral’s student newspaper.†)

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Two hours of instruction per week
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Ruth Lilly Health Education Center
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Put your family’s first.

† www.FamilyTies.com
Catholic Leadership Conference empowers teens

By Michael R. Carrico
Special to The Criterion

Our identity can be shown in many different ways. We can look at our driver’s license or our birth certificate. Our Catholic identity, on the other hand, is not always quite so easily accessible.

To show our Catholic identity is more than to say we belong to the Catholic Church; it is to live the teachings, and follow the lessons, by putting your faith into action.

As Catholics, we are called to be leaders. We are to lead others to Christ by way of example. One way the youth of the Archdiocese of Indianapolis can learn how to be effective leaders is through a program called the Catholic Leadership Conference. This program covers Christian leadership, peer leadership, retreat leadership as well as parish and school leadership.

The conference helps us to understand what type of leadership traits we possess. This can help us to improve where we may be lacking or further advance our stronger traits.

Furthermore, this part of the conference can help build the confidence of those who didn’t think they had leadership skills. We also learned about various leadership styles, their benefits in certain situations, and how to best employ them.

The second day of the conference program was to show us that no matter how much we know about leadership, we cannot lead without effective communication. One of the main points that was shown here was that communication is not only verbal, but also physical. We must learn not only to talk the talk of a leader, but also to walk the walk of a leader.

On the third day of the conference, we were shown the different types of prayers, effective ways to lead small groups and also the best way to prepare a witness talk. Programming on the third day also addressed the importance of putting your whole being into it when you are on a retreat, because you only get out of the retreat what and how much you put into it.

The Catholic Leadership Conference takes place over the course of five days. A speaker from the archdiocese talks about the day’s particular theme. These speakers are energetic and interesting.

A good portion of the program is spent in song. We sing many contemporary worship songs together, such as “Awesome God” by Rich Mullins and “Lord, I Lift Your Name On High.”

We have the opportunity to share any “Yea Gods” that we experienced during the week. These are times that any of us saw God in our life or something especially good happened. Also during this time, prayer intentions are offered.

Another part of the night is a witness talk. Craig Eberle, the youth ministry coordinator at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish in New Albany, and Marlene Stammeman, director of youth ministry for the archdiocesan Office for Youth and Family Ministries in Indianapolis, gave the first two talks and both were very powerful.

In the future, it is planned to have youth and young adults give talks as well. At the end of the activity, there is time to eat and hang out with the other youth.

I am very glad that our deanery is now offering this activity because there is such a need for people my age to be able to express their faith in an active and very real way.

After an activity like NCYC or a retreat or another powerful faith experience, it is sometimes hard to stay connected with that feeling of being close to God. As I am sure any committed Catholic would admit, “Faith Rocks!” is a great way to prevent this from happening.

I think that “Faith Rocks!” offers something for every person.

If you are a person who feels especially connected to God in song, then that is a part of “Faith Rocks!”

If you like to hear about other people’s experiences with their faith, that also is a part of “Faith Rocks!”

If you simply enjoy the opportunity to be with other teens that share your faith, this is certainly a part of “Faith Rocks!”

I hope that other deaneries and even parishes can start something similar to this activity if they don’t already have one.

The best part of “Faith Rocks!” is that it is an opportunity to take time out of our busy lives, and spend it in prayer and worship and truly connect with Jesus.

(Michael Carrico is a member of St. Augustine Parish in Jeffersonville. She is a homeschool senior and serves on the Archdiocesan Youth Council.)
Do we really know what the heart desires?

By Fr. Dale Launderville, O.S.B.

Attention to the desires of our hearts is a central discipline of the Christian life. The struggle to allow God to rule at the center of our lives lasts a lifetime.

The Christian life has a paradoxical character, and the first Beatitude brings us face to face with it. “Happy are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven” (Mt 5:3).

Jesus teaches that suffering, anxiety and distress can be opportunities for blessing. In these situations, we can come to realize that all our best efforts to find happiness and fulfillment fall short of our expectations. When everything seems to fall into place for us, it is possible to be lulled into thinking that we enjoy success primarily because of our hard work, cleverness and discipline.

These virtues are important for the well-being of a community and the character of its members. However, if we trust solely in the power of our virtuous conduct and the goods it produces, we live as if we have no need of God.

The poor in spirit are aware of their vulnerability. A petition central to Psalm 90 prepares us to come to terms with trying times: “Teach us to number the days of our life that we may gain wisdom of heart.”

Awareness of life’s brevity can make us think more seriously about how we are given life within a larger network of relationships within creation. If we try to operate as independent, autonomous units without regard for this larger creation, we will weaken and perish.

This realization of our limitations is a critically important opportunity to understand who we are in relation to God. This experience of humility—of being “poor in spirit”—is the point at which Jesus’ promise that we are to inherit the kingdom of God can strike home.

The center of our lives cannot be our wealth, security or other objects we have produced. Rather, with our hearts centered upon God, we can enter his realm, which spans both heaven and earth.

To come to a greater awareness and acceptance of our limitations is an ongoing struggle. In Chapters 7 and 8 of his Letter to the Romans, St. Paul instructs us on the battle between the flesh and the spirit that rages in the hearts of all the baptized.

The mind of the flesh centers upon the self. The mind of the Spirit centers upon God. When God’s Spirit dwells within our spirits at baptism, we are made children of God and are incorporated into the divine life.

Yet, with this new status, we are still part of an earthly embodied existence. The longings for happiness, pleasure, honor and peace are integral to our embodied lives in this world, which God created as good. The goodness of food and drink, of intelligence, of discipline or of strength can’t be denied.

But if these good aspects of life are called upon to provide pleasure, security or meaning to our lives beyond what they can modestly offer, then our desires for these goods can enslave us and alienate us from God, others and even ourselves.

We are confronted over and over again with the decision of whether to live according to the flesh (enslaved to self-centered desires) or according to the Spirit (obedient to the divine life and love bestowed upon us by God).

Times of anxiety and distress may initially tempt us to find ways to strengthen our defenses. But sooner or later, our strategies of relying only on ourselves or on what we can control will wear us down. Then, as one of the “poor in spirit,” we will be ready to welcome the salvation Jesus promised.

When we feel that our lives are coming apart at the edges or that chaos is churning within us, we may also fear that our lives are going to change irreparably for the worse or even come to an end.

At times like these, we are called to cry out, as St. Paul did (Rom 7:24), and to trust that God will extend his saving help.

This practice of crying out to God and trusting in him is a participation in the dying and rising of Jesus. Through God’s grace, we die to self-centered existence and rise anew to life as children of God.

Here we see that the paschal mystery of death and resurrection that we celebrate in the Eucharist is a reality that threads its way into the fabric of our daily lives. Our struggles and difficulties join with the sufferings of Christ and become a meaningful part of our process of passing into unending life with God.

Prayer helps make us happy

By Theresa Sanders

A friend from Israel explained to me that the deer in Israel are desert-dwellers. In that part of the world, riverbanks are dry much of the year, and what water there is tends to be sluggish and murky.

When finding a running stream in the desert is like finding a miracle,” my friend told me. “When you do find one, it’s so incredible you want to dance for joy.”

When I was a child, my family often went camping in the woods of Pennsylvania. No matter what activities the day held, when twilight came there was only one thing on the agenda: deer-watching.

We piled into the station wagon and drove to a quiet place where the trees thinned out and the grass grew thick. If we sat quietly, as the sun went down we could watch dozens of does and fawns step delicately out of the woods into the clearing. There they grazed to their hearts’ content.

In western Pennsylvania, Psalm 42 never quite made sense to me: “as the deer longs for running streams.” We wouldn’t look for happiness unless we already had it. We wouldn’t look for happiness unless we already knew that it was possible to find, just as deer search for streams only because they know that they exist.

When we take time to search our hearts carefully, we know what truly makes us happy. The answers are there. If we sit quietly enough, we catch a glimpse of them. (Theresa Sanders is assistant professor of theology at Georgetown University in Washington, D.C.) †
Faithful Lines/   
Cynthia Dewes  
A new series of columns about Judaism

From the Editor Emeritus/John F. Fink

Having written my series of columns about Islam, it occurred to me that I should do the same with Judaism.

One would think that Catholics would be interested in what the other religions say about their Christian-ity’s parent religion. After all, Jesus was a Jew, and Jesus’ disciples were mostly Jews who were most active in taking Jesus’ teachings to non-Jews and who insisted that Gentile converts didn’t have to teach their teachings to non-Jews and who insisted that Gentile converts didn’t have to become Jews, nevertheless carefully taught us that God’s covenant with the reason for this series.

Gentile converts didn’t have to become Jews, nevertheless carefully taught us that God’s covenant with the reason for this series.

This introduced my column, though, I can only stress that the Catholic Church teaches us that God’s covenant with the Jews (the Old Testament) has not been superseded by Christianity (the New Testament). In Chapter 11 of his Letter to the Romans, St. Paul tells us plainly that “God has not rejected his peoples whom he has foreknown.” (11:29). He says, “They are “abhorred because of the patriar-chs. For the gifts and the call of God are irrevocable.” (11:29). St. Paul also wrote that the Christian Church is like a wild olive shoot that has been grafted into it. He continues, in Paul’s metaphor, is Jewish, and the Christian Church has been grafted onto it. He warns Christians, therefore, not to boast. “If you do boast,” he writes, “consider that you do not support the root; the root supports you. But now if you boast in the branches, do not think to be haughty, being but in awe” (11:20).

The second proposition of the Vatican Council’s declaration Nostra Aetate reminded us that “in God’s plan of salva-tion the beginning of her faith and election is to be found in the patriarchs, Moses and the prophets. This declaration continued: ‘The Church cannot forget that she received the revelation of the Old Testament by way of that people with whom God in his inexpressible mercy established the ancient covenant. But she remembers that she draws nourishment from that good orlive tree onto which the wild olive branches of the Gentiles have been grafted.”

The Jews were the first monothestic people chosen to carry the message to the one God to the rest of the world’s people. Jews and Christians alike claim to be descendants of Abraham. The Jewish heroes—Isaac, Jacob, Moses, David, Elijah and the rest of the Old Testament characters—are also Christian heroes. Jewish Scripture is also Christian Scripture, read from its beginning, from our Masses. Christians reveres the Ten Commandments, which came from the Jews, as much as the Jews do. It’s regrettable, therefore, that Christianity split from Judaism—not only split but practiced an anti-Semitism that never should have existed among Christians. Pope John Paul II has apolo-gized to the Jews for the many times in the past that Catholics have demonstrated that anti-Semitism.

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Faithful Lines/   
Shirley Vogler Meister

Last month, I read the following para-graph in Jessamyn West’s 1940s best-selling novel The Criterion: “O, to be young again!”}

Cynthia Dewes, a member of the St. Paul the Apostle Parish in Greensville, is a regular columnist for The Criterion.†
The First Book of Samuel is the source of this Lectionary reading. In this story, God selects David as a special agent to speak for God and to protect the people on behalf of God. It is a selection not at first evident to, or expected by, Jesse and the others. Jesse, the father of David, at first presents others son to this divine designation. Each is rejected. God then asks if there is another son. Jesse says that there is not. It is David, David comes forward, and Chooses him.

The ancient Hebrews had a strong sense of corporate identity. They were quite conscious of God’s favor and rejection of their enemies. They were God’s people. God had selected them. In this belief, they saw themselves as possessors of God’s favor and protection, an understanding of reality not given to other peoples. Indeed, because of their knowledge of God, they were more blessed than the mighty Egyptians, Babylonians, Assyrians, Greeks and Romans, who succeeded and overwhelmed them on the battlefield and often laid waste to the land.

For all this identity, however, they could truly point only to two kings who were worthy of being monarchs over God’s people. The kings were David and Solomon, David’s son and successor. Of these two, David was the greater. His kingship resulted not from his own cleverness or from the fact that he by force overcame competitors. Rather, he held office because God appointed him to office. This reading clearly shows that David’s choice was anything but an accident. God wanted David and no one else. By design, choice was anything but an accident. God’s people. God had selected them. In this sense of corporate identity. They were quite conscious of the fact that they were God’s people. God as they knew him or of Jesus Christ. God defined sin. Only God restored perfection because God on earth. The act of restoring sight to the blind man obviously reinforces this identification.

In any case, Jesus forgave the sins and restored perfection and balance. Only God defined sin. Only God forgave sin. Only God restored perfection because only God created perfection. Pharisees are important in the story. As often depicted in the Gospel, they are not an admirable bunch. Nor are they intelligent. For all their learning, they fail to recognize Jesus. Indeed, they must ask the man who once was blind, surely a beggar, but not at all respected, to tell them about Jesus. The blind man, of course, recognizes Jesus, and he proclaims the identity of Jesus.

Reflection

For centuries, this reading centered on words used in the Gospel, called “rainbow.” The name derived from the first word of the Aramaic, or opening anthiphon, “laurerus,” Latin for “rejoice.” The Church calls us to rejoice. Easter, and redemption, are not far away. The Church rejoices in the risen Lord for his triumph over the powers of darkness. We, too, are called to rejoice at the promise of eternal life which the resurrection of Jesus Christ makes possible. Whether David and Solomon were worthy of being monarchs over God’s people is not discussed by the writer of First Samuel. Rather the focus is on the grace and favor of God as the true source of kingship in Israel. Only when we give ourselves totally to God, with faith and love, can we ever hope to live up to his expectations. The light of Easter, symbolized by the Easter fire, stands ahead of us. In these last weeks of Lent, we must prepare ourselves to look toward the light.

Question Corner/ Fr. John Dietzen

God wants to save all humankind in Christ

Q Your column some weeks ago concerned the spiritual condition of the Sept. 11 terrorists, and the implications of that for Western society. What are your thoughts on the section of the Gospels about the resurrection and its implications for the future?

A The response I gave was not simply my opinion. From the references and quotes I offered, including from the Catechism of the Catholic Church, it is clear that what I said about the possibility of salvation, even for people who do not explicitly believe in Jesus Christ, is the teaching of the Catholic Church. Scripture makes absolutely clear that Jesus is the one and only savior of the world. All efforts by human beings anywhere, anytime, to do good and avoid evil, to reverence and serve the Supreme Lord of the world under whatever name God may be known, are the work and inspiration of the Holy Spirit, and are made possible through the redemptive merits of Jesus Christ. This is and always has been Catholic doctrine; it has never changed. What has changed over the past several hundred years is the Church’s understanding of how that grace of salvation comes to individuals, especially in parts of the world and in cultures who have never even heard of God as we know him or of Jesus Christ. Is explicit, conscious, formal knowledge of these capitals is not necessary for salvation or for membership in the Church. However, one must believe in Jesus Christ as Savior to be saved. This is the Church’s teaching. It is not up for debate. The Church has always been clear that all who honestly and sincerely seek God are saved through faith in Jesus Christ. Their final answer is yes, and we believe they are saved by Jesus Christ through the presence and activity of the Holy Spirit. The Catechism of the Catholic Church, quoting the Vatican II Constitution on the Church, says, ‘Those who, through no fault of their own, do not know the Gospel of Christ or his church, who nevertheless seek God with a sincere heart and, moved by his grace, try in their actions to do his will as they see it through the dictates of their conscience—those too may achieve eternal salvation’ (No. 847).

No one has been more consistent and persistent on this theme than Pope John Paul II. In his book, Crossing the Threshold of Hope, he wrote, ‘God the creator wants to save all humankind in Jesus Christ.’ He redeemed them all “and has his own ways of reaching them” (pp. 80-81). In a general audience, he said, ‘Normally it will be in the sincere practice of what is good in their own religious tradition, the following the dictates of their own conscience that the members of other religious respond positively to God’s invitation and receive salvation in Jesus Christ, even if they do not recognize or acknowledge him as their savior” (Sept. 9, 1998).

Countless other Catholic documents and teachings say the same. No one is saved apart from the grace of Christ. But his saving desire and plan is not as narrow and exclusive as many of us think. If we have faith, however, if we believe, then we can see. Jesus will rid us of our blindness. He will give us sight. He will enlighten everything. He is the light of the world. If sin has led us into darkness, Jesus will rid us of sin.

However, we cannot find Jesus simply by human deduction. The Pharisees could never be saved in Jesus by their human deducing. Only when we give ourselves totally to God, with faith and love, can we ever hope to live up to his expectations. The light of Easter, symbolized by the Easter fire, stands ahead of us. In these last weeks of Lent, we must prepare ourselves to look toward the light.
March 8
SS. Peter and Paul Cathedral, 2304 Massachusetts Ave., 5 p.m. Lenten fish fry, student menu available.
Information: 317-631-5824.
March 9	St. Philip Neris Parish, 3900 N. Cumberland St., Indianapolis. Fish fry, 5-7 p.m.; fish dinners, a la carte available.
Information: 317-772-2268.
March 9	St. John the Evangelist Church, 120 N. Washington Ave., 8:30 a.m.-noon. Lenten meeting, 8:30 a.m.; 7:30 p.m.; $5 dinner, 7:30 p.m.
Information: 317-625-3433.
March 9	St. Anthony Parish Church, 337 N. Van Buren Ave., 5:30-7:30 p.m. Lenten meeting, 5:30-7:30 p.m.; youth dinner, 7 p.m.
Information: 317-725-6376.
March 10	St. Joseph of the Vincennes Church, 315 West Lincoln Ave., 4:30 p.m. Lenten meeting, 4:30 p.m. Information: 812-535-3911.
March 10	St. Anthony Parish Church, 337 N. Van Buren Ave., 5:30 p.m., 7:30 p.m. Fish fry, 5:30 p.m.-7:30 p.m.; student’s menu available.
Information: 317-725-6376.
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March 10	St. Peter Church, 2700 Massachusetts Ave., 7:30 p.m. Lenten meeting, 7:30 p.m. Information: 317-625-3433.
March 10	St. Augustine Parish Church, 337 N. Van Buren Ave., 5:30 p.m. Fish fry, 5:30 p.m.-7:30 p.m.; student’s menu available. Information: 317-725-6376.
March 10	St. John the Evangelist Church, 120 N. Washington Ave., 10 a.m.-noon. Fish fry, 10 a.m.-noon; $5 dinner, 10 a.m.-noon.
Information: 317-625-3433.
March 10-11	St. Peter Church, 2700 Massachusetts Ave., 5:30 p.m.-7:30 p.m. Fish fry, 5:30 p.m.-7:30 p.m.; student’s menu available. Information: 317-625-3433.
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March 12	St. Paul, 1530 N. Delaware St., 5-7 p.m. Lenten Fish Fry, 5-7 p.m.; free-will offering. Information: 317-625-3433.
March 12	St. Paul, 1530 N. Delaware St., 5-7 p.m. Lenten Fish Fry, 5-7 p.m.; free-will offering. Information: 317-625-3433.
March 14	St. John the Evangelist Church, 120 N. Washington Ave., 5-7 p.m. Lenten Fish Fry, 5-7 p.m.; free-will offering. Information: 317-625-3433.
March 17	Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church, 1347 N. Meridian St., 6:30-8 p.m. Lenten Fish Fry, 6:30-8 p.m.; $5 dinner, 6:30-8 p.m. Information: 317-259-6000.
March 17-18	St. Michael Church, 1215 S. Euclid Ave., 5-7 p.m. Lenten Fish Fry, 5-7 p.m.; $5 dinner, 5-7 p.m. Information: 317-259-6000.
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Lenten penance services are set around the archdiocese

Parishes throughout the archdiocese have scheduled communal penance ser-

vices for Lent. The following is a list of services that have been reported to The

Criterion.

Batesville Deanery
March 10, 2 p.m. at Immaculate Conception, Millhouse
March 10, 4 p.m. at St. Maurice, Napoleon
March 11, 7 p.m. at St. Peter, Franklin County
March 11, 7 p.m. at St. Joseph, Shelbyville
March 13, 7:30 p.m. at Immaculate Conception, Aurora
March 14, 7 p.m. at St. Lawrence, Lawrenceburg
March 17, 7 p.m. at St. John, Ogood
March 18, 7 p.m. at St. Louis, Batesville
March 20, 7 p.m. at St. Mary-of-the-Rock, St. Mary-of-the-Rock
March 20, 7 p.m. at St. Vincent de Paul, Shelby County
March 22, 7 p.m. at St. Mary, Greensburg
March 26, 7 p.m. at Holy Family, Oldenburg

Bloomington Deanery
March 10, 1:30 p.m. at Our Lady of the Springs, French Lick
March 10, 3:30 p.m. at Christ the King, Paoli
March 12, 7 p.m. at St. Agnes, Nashville

Connersville Deanery
March 12, 7 p.m. at St. Elizabeth, Cambridge City
March 14, 7 p.m. at St. Mary, Rushville
March 16, noon at St. Mary, Richmond
March 17, 1 p.m. at St. Anne, New Castle
March 19, 7 p.m. at Holy Guardian Angels, Cedar Grove
March 21, 7 p.m. at St. Andrew, Richmond

Indianapolis East Deanery
March 13, 7 p.m. at St. Therese of the Infant Jesus (Little Flower)
March 14, 7 p.m. at SS. Peter and Paul Cathedral
March 14, 1 p.m. at St. Philip Neri

Indianapolis North Deanery
March 12, 7 p.m. at Christ the King
March 19, 7 p.m. for St. Pius X, and St. Matthew at St. Matthew

Indianapolis South Deanery
March 11, 7 p.m. at St. Roch
March 12, 7 p.m. at SS. Frances and Clare, Greenwood
March 17, 2 p.m. for Sacred Heart of Jesus, St. Patrick, Holy Rosary and Good Shepherd at Good Shepherd
March 18, 7 p.m. at Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ
March 19, 7 p.m. at St. Mark
March 20, 7:30 p.m. at Our Lady of the Greenwood, Greenwood
March 24, 4 p.m. at St. Jude

Indianapolis West Deanery
March 10, 2 p.m. at St. Anthony
March 11, 7 p.m. at St. Gabriel
March 12, 6:30 p.m. at St. Monica
March 17, 2 p.m. at Holy Trinity
March 20, 7 p.m. at St. Joseph
March 21, 7 p.m. at Holy Angels
March 21, 7 p.m. at St. Thomas More, Mooresville

New Albany Deanery
March 10, 3 p.m. at St. Joseph, Corydon
March 12, 7 p.m. at St. Mary, Navileton
March 12, 7 p.m. at St. Mary-of-the-Knobs, St. Mary-of-the-Knobs
March 13, 7:30 p.m. at St. Mary-of-the-Knobs, St. Mary-of-the-Knobs
March 14, 7 p.m. at St. Joseph Hill, Sellersburg
March 14, 7 p.m. at St. Michael, Charlestown
March 16, 9:30 a.m. at St. Mary-of-the-Knobs, St. Mary-of-the-Knobs
March 17, 7 p.m. at St. Mary, Lanesville
March 19, 7 p.m. at St. Michael, Bradford
March 21, 6:30 p.m. at St. Paul, Sellersburg
March 21, 7:30 p.m. at St. Mary, New Albany
March 24, 7 p.m. at Holy Family, New Albany
March 25, 7 p.m. at St. Anthony of Padua, Clarksville

Seymour Deanery
March 12, 7 p.m. for Most Sorrowful Mother of God, Vevay, and Prince of Peace, Madison, at Prince of Peace, Madison
March 13, 7 p.m. for Our Lady of Providence, Brownstown, at St. Ambrose, Seymour
March 15, 7:15 p.m. at St. Anne, Jennings County
March 17, 2 p.m. for St. Rose of Lima, Franklin, and Holy Trinity, Edinburgh, at Holy Trinity, Edinburgh
March 18, 7 p.m. at St. Mary, North Vernon
March 22, 7:15 p.m. at St. Joseph, Jennings County

Tell City Deanery
March 8, 7 p.m. for St. Martin of Tours, Siberia; St. Boniface, Fulda; and St. Meinrad, at St. Meinrad, St. Meinrad
March 14, 7 p.m. at St. Augustine, Lyleston
March 19, 7 p.m. at St. Mark, Tell City
March 19, 7 p.m. at Holy Cross, St. Crox
March 20, 7 p.m. at St. Isidore, Bristow
March 24, 7 p.m. for St. Michael, Cananette; St. Pius, Troy, and St. Paul, Tell City, at St. Paul, Tell City

Terre Haute Deanery
March 12, 6:30 p.m. at Holy Rosary, Seelyville
March 12, 7 p.m. at St. Paul the Apostle, Greencastle
March 14, 1:30 p.m. deanery service at Sacred Heart of Jesus, Terre Haute
March 14, 7 p.m. deanery service at St. Benedict, Terre Haute
March 24, 6 p.m. at St. Patrick, Terre Haute
March 25, 7:30 p.m. at St. Margaret Mary, Terre Haute

Lenten Dining Guide
Official New Orleans House unique gifts!

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- Women who take on roles related to liturgy, such as lectors, eucharistic ministers, musicians and singers.
- Women who contribute to the spiritual formation and religious education of children and adults.
- Women who do all of the above.

Here are excerpts from the testimonials given for two of the women who were honored in Utah.

“Margaret has spent the last 40 plus years in Midvale serving God, her Church, and her neighbors. She has been a catechist, a Eucharist Minister, secretary of the parish council, vice-president of the altar society, as well as a lifelong member of that organization. She was a member of the Holy Cross Ministries advisory board and coordinator for Outreach Ministry for Seniors and Homebound. She was in charge of St. Therese Clothing Outlet for many years. Presently Margaret coordinates volunteers for St. Therese to work at St. Vincent de Paul soup kitchen.

“Currently she makes the banners used on the altar and helps decorate the church for every liturgical season.”

“Melva and her husband … are one of the first families in the neighborhood to help establish St. Olaf Parish. A convert to Catholicism, Mel became involved in many parish, diocesan, and civic activities.

“She served as St. Olaf’s Altar Society President in the 1950s. She reorganized it and helped it grow. During that time, she and another parishioner helped establish CCD programs for children in the diocese. She served on the Catholic Schools Scholarship Committee for many years, was a member of the first Youth Center board, and was on the board of Catholic Charities.

“Besides raising four children and working full time, Mel served as the President of Catholics Women’s League, President of the Salt Lake Deanery CCW, and is a Past-President of the Diocesan Council of Catholic Women. She currently holds the position of Legislative commission chair for both the Salt Lake Deanery and the DCCW. Mel continues to stay active in parish activities, and works behind the scenes doing charitable work for both the parish and the school.”

With such distinguished records of leadership and service, these and other Catholic women all across the country are playing important roles in shaping the future of our Church.

(James D. Davidson is professor of sociology at Purdue University in West Lafayette, Ind. His latest book is American Catholics: Gender, Generation, and Commitment, Altu Mira Press, 2001).†

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Knights of Columbus information service expands to the Internet

NEW HAVEN, Conn. (CNS)—More than two dozen booklets on different aspects of the Catholic faith and a Catholic home-study course are now available on the Knights of Columbus Web site at www.kofc.org.

The booklets and course are offered by the Knights’ Catholic Information Service, which since its founding in 1948 has sought to reach as many people as possible with the Church’s message.

“The Web effort is part of the Knights’ response to the expanding needs of the religious education of children and adults. “The printed word remains at the heart of the Catholic Church’s message,” said Carl A. Anderson, supreme knight.

Information Service mission, however, Publications are sent out free or for a small fee to cover printing and mailing. The booklets are especially popular with chaplains of veterans’ hospitals, military installations and correctional facilities, and with missionaries.

In 2001, more than 35,000 copies of a 30-booklet set on the basics of the faith, written by Catholic evangelist Peter Kreeft, were mailed to those who responded to advertisements in secular publications. Angels was the most popular single topic offered by the service, with 24,548 copies of the booklet titled “All About Angels” mailed out last year. In 2000, after advertisements in USA Weekend and Parade magazine, more than 80,000 copies of the booklet were requested.

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Helpers of God’s Precious Infants saves lives

By Mary Ann Wyand

“Abortion is evil because it denies the goodness of life—the sanctity and dignity of life—and it’s blasphemy to make a choice to destroy that which God has willed into existence,” Servants of the Gospel of Life Sister Diane Carollo told more than 100 people attending the Lenten Pro-Life Speaker Series on Feb. 27 at Holy Rosary Parish in Indianapolis.

Sister Diane, who is director of the archdiocesan Office of Pro-Life Activities, discussed the international Helpers of God’s Precious Infants ministry as the keynote speaker for the second of five pro-life programs in the series.

Dr. Charles Rice, a professor emeritus of law at the University of Notre Dame Law School and a visiting professor of law at Ave Maria School of Law in Ann Arbor, Mich., was scheduled to speak on “How to Handle ‘End of Life’ Issues: The Law and Common Sense,” but a winter storm and icy roads in northern Indiana prevented him from traveling to Indianapolis last week.

“Abortion always claims more than one victim,” Sister Diane said. “Abortion takes the life of the unborn child and, of course, the spiritual consequences for the woman are incredible.

Sister Diane said, “And it works. It does save lives.”

While praying before the Blessed Sacrament, she said, “They are volunteers committed to maintaining a loving and prayerful presence outside abortion clinics. They unite themselves [in prayer] to the victims [of abortion]—the unborn children who are sacrificed and by interceding [outside abortion clinics].”

Sister Diane said, “They work. They do save lives.”

“If a culture is immersed in a culture of evil by doing good, by praying, by fasting, by sacrificing and by interceding [outside abortion clinics],” she said. “They pray for the women who are going in, for their conversion,” Sister Diane said, “and they pray for the abortion clinic staff—the doctors, nurses and clerical workers—that they will come to see the error of their ways.”

John stood lovingly beneath the cross of Jesus, they wish to remain with these children in their hour of need.”

They unite themselves [in prayer] to the victims [of abortion] in solidarity with their pain as the babies are put to death at this modern-day Calvary. They pray in reparation for the injustices being performed and, just as Mary and John stood lovingly beneath the cross of Jesus, they wish to remain with these children in their hour of need.

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ways. And they pray, above all, for the salvation of souls.

"And she said, that 'the Helpers of God's Precious Infants really is a life-saving ministry.'"

"I asked God's blessing upon her as she entered the clinic."

"I didn't see her again for several hours. When she emerged, she came over to me and said, 'May I speak with you?' And I said, 'Of course!' And she didn't do it all there and I thought and I thought, and then I prayed, and I didn't do it! And then she cried. I knew it was the prayers of people that were outside the clinic that day that kept her from aborting her baby.

"But not all of the stories end that way," Sister Diane said. "I remember a black woman who had gone into the clinic and was having second thoughts, but it was too late. She had already injected her with chemicals. She just fell apart when she left the clinic."

"Sister Reilly was there for her that day."

"Msgr. Reilly introduced the distraught woman to Sister Diane, who began a friendship with her and later helped her begin the Right of Christ Initiation of Adults process. The following year, at the Easter Vigil Mass at St. Malachy Parish in East Brooklyn, the woman was baptized and welcomed into the Catholic Church.

"On the night of the Easter Vigil," Sister Diane said, "she came to me and said, 'I can never bring back my child, but God is making me a new creation and someday I will be with my child.'"

"Here is a story of how we get another story. Sister Diane said, that 'the Helpers of God's Precious Infants really is a life-saving ministry.'"
Parish Operations Manager

St. Louis Parish in Beech Grove, IN 46107 is seeking a Parish Operations Manager. The primary responsibilities for this position are the oversight of all financial transactions of the Parish, including those of an accredited K-8 school of 450 students. A key part of this responsibility is developing and maintaining the Parish budget. The successful candidate will also manage a maintenance staff responsible for upkeep of the church, school, and other properties. The ideal candidate will have a four year business-related degree, preferably in Finance or Accounting, along with at least 5 years of experience in a position with similar responsibilities. Experience within another Catholic parish community is not required, but is a definite plus. Person with similar experience at non-profit or volunteer organization will also be strongly considered. The person selected will also possess effective communication skills, including the ability to interact with parishioners and others from a variety of backgrounds and experiences.

St. Louis offers a competitive salary and full range of benefits, including health care, vacation and 401K. If interested please send resume to:

St. Louis Parish, Parish Operations Manager
15 S. St. Teresa Place
Beech Grove, IN 46107
Deadline March 27, 2002

Employment Opportunity

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Parish Principal

Parish Elementary School

Saint Albert the Great Parish in Beech Grove, IN 46107 is seeking a principal. The principal will have the support of the pastor, faculty, staff, students and families. The principal will be an integral member of the Pastoral Management Team. Applicant requirements: practicing Roman Catholic, active in parish life, a dynamic leader with strong financial and managerial experience, successful teaching experience at the elementary level, Ohio State Principal Certificate, 3 years experience as a principal, certified pastoral associate in the Archdiocese (or willing to pursue certification). Please send letter of introduction and resume by March 31, 2002 to:

Rev. James M. Manning, Pastor
St. Albert the Great Parish
5035 Far Hills Avenue
Kettering, OH 45429

Pastoral Associate

St. Joan of Arc Catholic Church, a welcoming community that embraces its diversity, seeks a Pastoral Associate. Responsibilities are varied and relate to all aspects of parish life with designated responsibilities in adult faith formation & development, pastoral care, liturgy, administration, and social outreach. Job description available upon request.

Please send resumes with three references to:

Search Committee for Pastoral Associate
St. Joan of Arc Catholic Church
4217 Central Avenue
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The Search Committee for Pastoral Associate invites you to join in our search for a Pastoral Associate for St. Joan of Arc Catholic Church. We offer a unique community where我们 strive for excellence in the education of our students, and we believe that our Catholic identity is a crucial element in our school mission. We are seeking a Pastoral Associate who values our Catholic identity and is committed to supporting our Parish operations. If you are interested in learning more about this position, please contact us.

PRINCIPAL

St. Barnabas Catholic Elementary School

St. Barnabas Elementary School in southern Indiana invites qualified applicants to apply for the position of principal. Our school has over 600 students in K through 8th grade. We have a strong and committed faculty and staff in a growing area of the city. Our school is stewarded by a strong Catholic identity. We have an academic oriented school with very supportive and involved parents. Candidates must be practicing Catholics, hold an administrative license and have experience in an administrative position. Applications should be submitted as soon as possible, but no later than March 29.

Please send inquiries to:

Annette Mickey Lentz
Principal’s Search Committee
Office of Catholic Education
1-440 N. Meridian Street
Indianapolis, IN 46202
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Positions Available

Parish Operations Manager

St. Louis Parish in Beech Grove, IN 46107, a faith community comprising 1500 families, is seeking a full-time Parish Operations Manager. The primary responsibility of this position is the oversight of all financial transactions of the Parish, including those of an accredited K-8 school of 450 students. A key part of this responsibility is developing and maintaining the Parish budget. The successful candidate will also manage a maintenance staff responsible for upkeep of the church, school, and other properties.

The ideal candidate will have a four year business-related degree, preferably in Finance or Accounting, along with at least 5 years of experience in a position with similar responsibilities. Experience within another Catholic parish community is not required, but is a definite plus. Person with similar experience at non-profit or volunteer organization will also be strongly considered. The person selected will also possess effective communication skills, including the ability to interact with parishioners and others from a variety of backgrounds and experiences.

St. Louis offers a competitive salary and full range of benefits, including health care, vacation and 401K. If interested please send resume to:

St. Louis Parish, Parish Operations Manager
15 S. St. Teresa Place
Beech Grove, IN 46107
Deadline March 27, 2002

PRINCIPAL

Parish Elementary School

Saint Albert the Great Parish in Beech Grove, OH 46107 is seeking a principal for our elementary school. (www.stalbertthegreat.net) Our school is a faith-filled, welcoming community that embraces Catholic beliefs and practices. It is an active learning center founded on Catholic beliefs and practices. We are seeking a principal for our elementary school in south Indiana.

Requirements

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• Ability to maintain and promote student and staff accountability
• Knowledgeable of successful instructional strategies
• Demonstrated experience in an administrative position
• Practicing Catholic with a strong understanding and commitment to Catholic education
• Catholic educational administrative experience preferred
• Exemplary instructional leadership skills including the ability to effectively communicate academic vision and expectations
• Ability to maintain and promote student and staff accountability
• Knowledgeable of successful instructional strategies
• Demonstrated experience in an administrative position
• Practicing Catholic with a strong understanding and commitment to Catholic education
• Catholic educational administrative experience preferred

Send letter of interest with résumé to:

Ms. Mickey Lentz
Principal’s Search Committee
Office of Catholic Education
P.O. Box 1445
Indianapolis, Indiana 46206
Deadline for application, April 1, 2002

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the September issue of the student newspaper, the "D dilemma."

The Criterion  Friday, March 8, 2002
Page 27
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