Pope mourns slain Colombian archbishop

VATICAN CITY (CNS)—Pope John Paul II condemned the slaying of a Colombian archbishop, saying the prelate had paid with his life for his pastoral and peacemaking efforts.

The pope joined millions of Colombians who mourned the death of Archbishop Isaias Duarte Cancino of Cali, who was shot and killed two days before walking to fulfill pledges collected for donations for school supplies.

Speaking at a noon blessing at the Vatican on March 17, the pope said the archbishop had been "barbarously murdered" and expressed his closeness to all Colombians in their loss.

"A pastor who was generous and brave in announcing the good news, he paid the highest price for his energetic defense of human life, his firm opposition to every type of violence and his dedication to the social promotion," the pope said.

The pope urged Colombians to "proceed along the way of dialogue, rejecting every type of violence, blackmail and kidnapping."

In a telegram to Colombian bishops, the pope said Archbishop Duarte had served "God, the Church and his brothers" in a career of generous pastoral leadership. He said the archbishop's killing was the latest sad chapter in a civil conflict that has plagued Colombia for decades.

The pope asked the people and authorities of Colombia to decisively take up the way of peace and dialogue.

Archbishop Duarte, 63, recently had spoken out against unnamed politicians, saying the archbishop Duarte had served "God, the Church and his brothers" in a career of generous pastoral leadership. He said the archbishop's killing was the latest sad chapter in a civil conflict that has plagued Colombia for decades.

The pope asked the people and authorities of Colombia to decisively take up the way of peace and dialogue.

Young Hearts to Honduras

Editor's note: "Stewards Abroad" is an occasional series that will look at the missionary efforts of Catholics from the Archdiocese of Indianapolis throughout the world.

By Jennifer Del Vechio

When it comes to performing acts of kindness, these kids are all heart.

At Immaculate Heart of Mary School in Indianapolis, students in the Young Hearts to Honduras Club are busy saying prayers, making small sacrifices by bringing in jars of pennies, and sharpening colored pencils to send to Honduran students for school supplies.

"This is about connecting," said fourth-grade teacher Ginny Forbes, who started Young Hearts with school librarian Ann Moreau. "The most important connection is spiritual. We pray for them, and they pray for us."

About 65 students in grades four through six meet before school at least twice a month to pray and discuss projects they can do to help children in Honduras, the third poorest country in the world.

Currently, Young Hearts members are walking to fulfill pledges collected for donations to purchase tennis shoes for children in Honduras.

Their counterparts are staying in touch by saying prayers and sending thank you notes with drawings to the American students.

The connection with Honduras at Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish began two years ago when a medical team visited Nuevo Paraiso (New Paradise), Honduras, located about 45 minutes southeast of Tegucigalpa, the country's capital.

The first team helped equip a clinic, and provided a year's supply of medicine. They also planted vegetable gardens and renovated a youth hall.

The goal is to help the community of New Paradise by supporting School Sister of St. Francis Maria Rosa Leglog in her mission to help mothers and children get off the street and out of extreme poverty.

Many Hondurans were displaced in the wake of Hurricane Mitch, which struck the country in the world.

Cemetery plans Way of the Cross ceremony March 29

By Mary Ann Wyand

Just in time for Holy Week, 14 historic Stations of the Cross have a new home at Our Lady of Peace Cemetery in Indianapolis.

The metal and wood stations are a gift to the Catholic cemetery, located at 9001 N. Havensick Road, from the Benedictine monks of St. Maur Priory in Indianapolis. Msgr. Joseph F. Schaedel, vicar general, will dedicate the Stations of the Cross and lead prayers at 3 p.m. on Good Friday, March 29, at Our Lady of Peace Cemetery.

The public is invited to participate in the Good Friday observance.

Benedictine Father Charles Henry, St. Maur's prior, and fourth-degree members of the Knights of Columbus will assist Msgr. Schaedel with the solemn procession.

Last summer, the Benedictine monks sold the St. Maur property at 4615 N. Michigan Road, which includes a spring-fed lake, to Christel DeHaan of Indianapolis for residential development.

The three elderly monks who still live on part of the large wooded grounds decided to donate their outdoor Way of the Cross to the Catholic Cemeteries Association for use at the north side cemetery.

The monks wanted people who are...
HONDURAS

Central American country in November 1998

Father Jeff Godecker, Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish, told parishioners about Sister Maria Rosa’s mission. Sister Maria Rosa, who visited Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish last year, has homes built for the women and children through her Sociedad Amigos De Los Niños organization that helps the poor find food, shelter and clothing.

The organization also works to empower the people through faith, health, education and self-sufficiency. As the children attend school, the mothers are taught job skills to help support their families, such as starting a community bakery.

Commitment to the project is strong for Immaculate Heart of Mary parishioners, students and teachers as they continue to think of ways to help the Honduran people.

“ar the general feeling is that we have so much more than we need and they have so much less,” Forbes said.

She saw the poverty firsthand when she journeyed to Honduras shortly after the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks.

Honduran schoolchildren have very little, Forbes said. There are no school textbooks, and each child has only one pen or pencil. Classrooms have blackboards and little else, but the students are eager to learn and the teachers are determined to help the next generation better themselves.

However, Forbes said, “the children are beautiful despite the poverty. “They are poor monetarily but not in spirit,” said Bch MUrphy, a parishioner who volunteered for the mission trip.

The village has a strong faith, and much of their daily life revolves around the parish church, Forbes said.

While visiting Honduras, Immaculate Heart of Mary teachers focused on Catholic religion lessons and helped the students make rosaries. Before the trip, Immaculate Heart of Mary students counted the beads and prepared the rosary packages for the Honduran children to assemble later.

Members of the Young Hearts club also wrote letters to the teachers who traveled to Honduras as part of being their prayer partners.

“We could feel their prayers when we were down there,” Forbes said.

Previously, a group of Immaculate Heart of Mary teachers traveled to Honduras in September 2000 with a team of specialized teachers, who brought physical education, art and library skills to the village school.

There are plans for a trip there this year that will be open to all diocesan school teachers interested in helping with the project.

Forbes said having a partnership with the school in Honduras helps the Immaculate Heart of Mary schoolchildren understand how much they have when other children have nothing.

It also helps them to see that this is “part of what we do as a Catholic,” she said.

By using education, the students are learning about stewardship through prayer and sacrifice.

“They are reaching beyond their boundaries,” Murphy said.

Students also learn about the dignity of the human person by realizing that prayers are necessary and that you can’t always just pour money on a problem to fix it, Forbes said.

Traveling to Honduras also made a difference to the families there.

“They were so thankful that we came, and that we cared enough to come and help them, rather than just sending them money and supplies,” she said.

Fourth-graders said they are learning a lot about others and how to help the poor.

“Even if you can’t give something, you can pray about it,” said Andrew Perry.

“This is making the people in Honduras feel a lot better,” said Hunter Goode.

Student K elly Hartman said she prays for the people of Honduras at school and also at home before bedtime.

“Just say, ‘Help them,’ ” Kelly said.

The project also has helped students learn more about themselves.

Monks invite public to Holy Week liturgies at Saint Meinrad

The general public is invited to celebrate Holy Week at the Benedictine monks of Saint Meinrad Archabbey.

The blessing of palms and procession that is common to Palm Sunday weekend will take place at 5 p.m. on March 23. Vespers will follow in the archabbey church.

There will be a Palm Sunday Mass at 10 a.m. on March 24. Benedictine Archabbot Lambert Reilly will be the main celebrant. Vespers will be prayed at 5 p.m. that night.

The Mass as the Lord’s Supper, which takes place on Holy Thursday, March 28, will be celebrated at 5 p.m., with the archabbey presiding. No vespers services will occur on this night.

On Good Friday, March 29, the Benedictine monks will participate in the Litrify of the Passion and Death of the Lrd at 3 p.m. with the archabbot. Later that evening, there will be an observance of Good Friday in the Blessed Sacrament, which are special prayers that the monks normally pray in the morning. This will be at 8 p.m.

Vespers will be celebrated at 5 p.m. on Holy Saturday, March 30. The Easter Vigil will begin at 8:30 p.m. The lighting of the Easter fire and the Easter candle and five of the seven readings will be proclaimed in the church.

At that point, the monks and general public will be dismissed for the evening. Those who wish to stay and keep vigil may remain in the archabbey church. This is a time for private prayer and devotion, and 149 psalms will be recited.

The congregation will reassemble at 5 a.m. on March 31, Easter Sunday, with the rest of the readings and a Mass as prayed over by the archabbot. Forward, there will be morning prayer and the reading of Psalm 150.

On Sunday evening, vespers will be prayed at 5 a.m. A Mass will be celebrated at 9:30 a.m. on Easter Monday and prayer 1 vespers will be prayed at 5 p.m. A Mass will be celebrated at 8 a.m. on Easter Tuesday. Vespers will be prayed at evening 5 a.m.

The Abbey Gift Shop will be closed on Good Friday and Easter Sunday, but will be open on Holy Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The Chrism Mass will begin at 5 p.m. on Holy Saturday. The archbishop will be present at the Mass, which will include the blessing of holy oils that are used throughout the year for such sacramental anointings as baptism, confirmation and holy orders. Also, the priests of the archdiocese will renew their commitment to the Church.

On Holy Thursday, March 28, the Mass of the Lord’s Supper will begin at 6:30 p.m. and include the washing of the feet. A archbishop Buechlein will serve as the main celebrant. After Mass, adoration will open the Blessed Sacrament Chapel until 11 p.m.

The Good Friday Liturgy will begin at 1 p.m., on March 29, with the archbishop presiding. Vespers will be prayed beginning at 7 p.m.

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

A 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.

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

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

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O’Grady is keynote speaker for Spirit of Service

By Jennifer Del Vecchio

When Scott O’Grady ponders the heavens, he’s not doing it from his F-16 fighter jet anymore.

Instead, the former Air Force captain—who survived for six days in the Bosnian wilderness by avoiding capture after his jet was shot down by enemy soldiers during a routine NATO flight—is pondering God’s heavens by leaving the military to study the Bible full time.

O’Grady will speak about his 1995 rescue from Bosnia and his love of God, family and country during the Spirit of Service Awards Dinner that begins at 5:45 p.m. on April 30 at the Indiana Roof Ballroom in downtown Indianapolis.

The event supports Catholic Social Services of Central Indiana, which provides family support, eldercare, crisis assistance and shelter to the Indianapolis community while serving as an advocate for peace and social justice based on the Gospel teachings. Catholic Social Services is a member agency of archdiocesan Catholic Charities.

The dinner highlights the accomplishments of three Indianapolis-area volunteers for their dedication to serving those who are less fortunate.

Spirit of Service Award recipients are:

- Marc E. Guess, a member of St. Rita Parish in Indianapolis, for his service to the youth of St. Rita Parish and other center-city neighborhood children;
- Bob Havestick of Indianapolis for creating the “Never Too Late Project,” a program for senior citizens dedicated to making their wishes come true;
- Jane Rudolph, a member of St. Barnabas Parish in Indianapolis, for her service to the less fortunate.

The Corporate Leadership Award will be presented to WTHR Channel 13, Tuchman Cleaners and the Salvation Army for their annual “Coats for Kids” project. St. Luke parishioner W. Tobin McClamroch of Indianapolis will receive the Community Service Award for his service to youth, the elderly and Holy Family Shelter, a Catholic Social Services ministry.

In a recent telephone interview, O’Grady said his experience in Bosnia, where he prayed for six days straight, brought him closer to Christ and strengthened his faith.

During his time in the wilderness, O’Grady said he prayed the rosary, the Our Father and other prayers. While it’s been seven years since the U.S. plane he piloted was shot down over Bosnia, O’Grady said the experience sometimes feels like it happened yesterday and at other times seems like it was long ago.

He said one of his most meaningful Scripture verses is Psalm 23, which reads in part: “The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want … Even though I walk in the dark valley I fear no evil; for you are at my side …”

O’Grady said he lived those Scripture verses as he was shot at by enemy soldiers while hiding in the bush in the rugged Bosnian countryside. One day, as he prayed, soldiers looking for him came within five feet of his hiding place without seeing him.

During the last few years, O’Grady, 36, has said he has been reading the Bible to learn about how God has worked in time and history. He is studying theology at the Dallas Theological Seminary. His goals are to marry and have a family, and to do some type of ministry work.

While O’Grady has been called a hero, he doesn’t call himself one.

“A hero is someone who does something for someone else,” he said.

He called the Marines who rescued him “heroes” and said his personal hero is Christ.

O’Grady grew up in Spokane, Wash., where he attended Cataldo Catholic Grade School. In high school, he was a wide receiver on the football team.

His father, who would take him for rides in a Cessna airplane, instilled a love of flying.

O’Grady, who grew up Catholic, said the one lesson he’s learned in his faith journey is that he needs to trust God completely and wait for him to light up other plans for him.

He’s also inspired by Christ’s gift of eternal salvation, and said he prays for others to know Christ.

“Right now, I just want to become more knowledgeable of the Bible,” O’Grady said. “I want to serve him. My heart goes out to those who don’t know Jesus Christ, who don’t put their trust in him as Savior.”

If you’re a sponsor of shut-ins, you can use the program to highlight your program, cooperate with churches. Or if you have another cause, call the director at 317-236-1572.

For more information on the Spirit of Service program, call Rex Camp at 317-236-1447 or 800-382-9836, ext. 1447.

O’Grady, who grew up Catholic, said his study of the Bible is helping him understand the Mass better.

He said Bible study also has helped him understand the words of a nun he knew in grade school.

The nun said he could never read the entire Bible in his lifetime.

At the time, O’Grady didn’t understand her remark because the Bible is a book with a beginning and an ending that he thought would be easy to read.

“Now when I read the Bible, even the same passage over and over again, I realize that you can still learn from it and you never stop learning from it.”

O’Grady said. “Now I realize what [the nun] meant.”

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Editorial

Signs of hope in the Middle East

L ast week, terror and violence con-
tinued to escalate in the Middle
East as Palestinians and Israelis
traded bullet for bullet, bomb for
bomb, missile for missile, killing for
crime. Commentators and others are begin-
ing to call the conflict a full-scale war. The
number of Israeli troops in Palestinian
territories has not been this great since the
1967 war. It is estimated that in just the first
10 days of March the war took the lives of
more than 100 Palestinians and 50 Israelis.

Latin Patriarch of Jerusalem Michel
Sabbah, in an emotional plea on March 12,
cried out for peace during a Mass celebrated
in Bethlehem.

“Violence leads nowhere,” the patri-
arch said. “Peace cannot be attained through
war.”

The plea for an end to the violence
began at the height of what to that time
had been the most violent and bloody
uprising. It came at the height of what to that
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March 12, 2002, called for peace in the
Middle East.

The day before the pope’s address,
Cardinal Achille Silvestrini, a member of a
panel discussing the pope’s trip to the
Holy Land two years ago, said that an
international emphasis on Israel’s
right to exist might help the
peace process. He said that
Israel did not need to
capitalists 1001

Peace cannot be attained
trough war.

To that time, there had been more and
more difficult to tell just who
the terrorists are—the Israelis who are
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no sign of hope.
¿Qué significa nuestro bautismo para nosotros? Esta semana yo invito a todos a reflexionar en esta pregunta. El Domingo de Pasión la Iglesia nos invita a renovar las promesas y la profesión de Fe que nos hicimos en nuestro bautismo. Durante la Cuaresma es bueno que vengamos sobre el significado de esta renovación.

¿Por qué nos pide la Iglesia que renovemos las promesas para todo año? Ya que muchos de nosotros fuimos bautizados como niños, quizás no estábamos muy conscientes de la importancia de nuestras palabras. Aquellos que fueron bautizados como adultos, por ejemplo, aquellas personas que han ingresado a la Iglesia por medio del proceso del Rito de la Iniciación Cristiana de Adultos, probablemente tienen un recuerdo más claro y profundos sentimientos de profusión de esas palabras.

El hecho es que el día de nuestro bautismo es, sea como niños o como adultos, es el día más importante de nuestras vidas. Somos más que cualquier otro día configurados en Jesucristo para siempre. Asumiendo que vivimos de acuerdo al Evangelio, el día de nuestro bautismo nos da el derecho a entrar al Reino de Dios. La configuración en Cristo es permanente, sin embargo tenemos la libertad de elegir alejarnos de Dios y así rechazar nuestro derecho a entrar al Reino de Dios. La vocación a Cristo y la identificación pasiva puesta a un lado. La Cuaresma es una época que tiene implicaciones para cada uno de nosotros. Necesitamos renovar nuestro derecho. No es un regalo para ser puesto a un lado. La Cuaresma es una época que tiene un recuerdo más claro y sentido profundo de ese bautismo de traer a Cristo en el mundo.

Concilio Vaticano II hizo énfasis en el papel del ministerio laico. Este es un gran regalo de la Iglesia y especialmente en nuestra arquidiócesis. En los años más recientes, en cooperación con otras Opciones de Ministerio, hemos comenzado un Programa Eclesiástico de ministerio laico como una forma de realizar espiritualmente y socialmente el don del ministerio laico. Este programa provee una formación básica y contiene tres partes, formación espiritual, prácticas pastorales y estudios teológicos. El programa está diseñado especialmente para personas que sirven en las iglesias de forma formal o no oficial. Ya que ha sido probado a través de la preparación de personas para el ministerio del ministerio de la arquidiócesis se ha escogido a la Escuela de Teología de Saint Meinrad para ofrecer los componentes espirituales, académicos y prácticas pastorales y estudios teológicos. Además de Saint Meinrad, la arquidiócesis provee oportunidades para la dirección espiritual, tutoría y la educación continua.

Los programas están disponibles en las instalaciones del Maran College en Indianapolis y en Saint Meinrad y otros lugares de reunión de la arquidiócesis. Si usted está interesado en estos programas, por favor contacte nuestra oficina del Ministerio Laico en el 317-237-7325 o 802-382-9836 ext. 7325.

La necesidad de servir en el ministerio de la Iglesia en el centro y sur de Indiana es increíble. Recuerde, el don de nuestro bautismo no es un regalo para ser puesto a un lado. En la vida de un especialista perfecta para rezar sobre la voluntad de Dios para nosotros y ayudarnos a hacer una diferencia.
There will be a **Divine Mercy Sunday service** from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. on April 7 at St. Gabriel Parish, 232 W. Ninth St., in Indianapolis. There will be exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, praying of the Divine Mercy Chaplet, a procession in the church and Benches. There will be a benediction of the Blessed Sacrament, followed by an “hour ofmercy” from 9 a.m. to 10 p.m. The Divine Mercy novena starts on Good Friday, March 29. For more information, call 765-825-3362.

**Safe Haven for Bereaved Parents** is an eight-week discussion group for those who have experienced the death of a child between the ages of three months and 21 years. The second presentation will be at 3 p.m. on March 29, and the third, from 12:45 p.m. to 1:45 p.m., is titled “Spiritual Wellness.” Free health screenings also will be available for blood pressure, cholesterol, hearing, pulmonary function, sickle cell anemia and other tests. For more information, call 317-358-2278.

Mount Saint Francis Retreat Center in Floyd County is offering a **Vocation Retreat** by the Conventual Franciscans from April 5-7. The retreat is for those who are interested in learning more about the priesthood and brotherhood. There is no fee. For more information, call Conventual Franciscan Jim Kent at 800-424-9955 or e-mail him at frjimke@cmendo.com.

There will be an **RCIA Preachetechnumate Workshop** from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on April 20 at the Archbishop Charles J. Thompson, archbishop of Indianapolis, will host a **RCIA Precatechumenate Workshop**.

**Safe Haven for Bereaved Parents** is an eight-week discussion group for those who have experienced the death of a child between the ages of three months and 21 years.

**Tuesdays**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Presenter</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>March 25</td>
<td>11 a.m.</td>
<td>“Fit After 50”</td>
<td>Dr. Dan G. Seltz</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 31</td>
<td>11 a.m.</td>
<td>“Find Your Kids from Tobacco”</td>
<td>Dr. Carol S. Greer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 1</td>
<td>11 a.m.</td>
<td>“Safe Haven for Bereaved Parents”</td>
<td>Dr. James E. Coultier</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 11</td>
<td>11 a.m.</td>
<td>“Catholic Men’s Ministry”</td>
<td>Dr. Michael J. O’Leary</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 18</td>
<td>11 a.m.</td>
<td>“Racial Justice”</td>
<td>Dr. Thomas A. Davis</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 25</td>
<td>11 a.m.</td>
<td>“Safe Haven for Bereaved Parents”</td>
<td>Dr. James E. Coultier</td>
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**Resident Evil** (Screen Gems) Rated PG-13 (Parents are Strongly Cautioned) because of graphic violence with many vile images, a fleeting sex scene with partial nudity and recurring loud language and profanity.

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rating</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>All</td>
<td>Suitable for all audiences</td>
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<tr>
<td>G</td>
<td>Suitable for children 7 and older</td>
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<tr>
<td>PG</td>
<td>Parental guidance recommended for children under 13</td>
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<tr>
<td>PG-13</td>
<td>Parents are strongly cautioned</td>
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<tr>
<td>R</td>
<td>Restricted; not recommended for children under 17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NC-17</td>
<td>Not recommended for children under 17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>X</td>
<td>Exempted from rating</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

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(Omeara Catholic Center, 1400 N. Meridian St., in Indianapolis, and from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on April 27 at St. Augustine Parish, 315 E. Chestnut St., in Jeffersonville. The workshop is intended for those who wish to gain a deeper understanding of the purposes and activities of the period of the precat-echumenate. Parish RCIA teams are encouraged to register. The registration fee is $10 per person and includes morning hospitality and lunch. For every four people from a parish, the fifth registration is free. For more information, call Karen Oddi, associate director of religious education and sacramental adult and family catechesis for the archdioce- san Office of Catholic Education, at 800-382-9836, ext. 1432, or 317-236-1432. †

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growing the loss of loved ones to have opportunities to pray and reflect on each step of Christ’s journey to Calvary while visiting the cemetery grounds. The stations now line a quarter-mile section of the west road inside Our Lady of Peace Cemetery, which opened in March 1996.

“I think it’s nice to have another focal point, another reason, for people to be here,” said Don Masten, manager of Our Lady of Peace Cemetery and family services advisor. “The cemetery was designed with the idea of a park-like atmosphere. The English garden setting with hedges, rows and trees is meant to be attractive and to encourage people to visit, and I think the stations give families one more reason to visit the cemetery.” Masten said St. Monica parishioner Jay Recker of Indianapolis, the manager of Washington Park North Mortuary, learned that the Stations of the Cross were available and asked the monks to give them to the Archdiocese of Indianapolis for installation in Our Lady of Peace Cemetery.

“Next year, we will send letters to Catholic schools in the area,” office manager Mary Williams of Indianapolis said, “and offer the cemetery as a place where students can pray the Stations of the Cross.” Our Lady of Peace Cemetery is divided into four main sections named for Our Lady of Fatima, Our Lady of Lourdes, Our Lady of Guadalupe and Our Lady of Mt. Carmel. There are also special interment areas for infants, priests and veterans.

The Catholic Cemeteries Association maintains and operates eight Catholic cemeteries in the archdiocese—Our Lady of Peace, Calvary, St. Joseph and Holy Cross cemeteries, all in Indianapolis, as well as St. M, St. Aloysius North and West cemeteries in Brownsburg and Calvary and St. Joseph cemeteries in Terre Haute.

As part of the Church’s corporal works of mercy and ministry of consolation, the cemetery staff members arrange monthly and special holiday memorial Masses for families.

“I think it’s wonderful that we’re able to provide these opportunities for families to come back to the cemetery and share memories of loved ones and celebrate their lives,” Williams said. “The Stations of the Cross will help families do that here.”

“I enjoy working at Our Lady of Peace Cemetery because it’s so gratifying to me to be able to help families on the worst days of their lives,” she said, “to be there for them and to help them find some peace and calmness. That’s part of the corporal works of mercy that we’re called to do as a Church.”

Project EXCEED helps Catholic schools assist students with special needs

By Jennifer Del Vechio

Addressing the needs of students with disabilities in Catholic schools is the goal of a new project in the Archdiocese of Indianapolis.

Kathy Mears, principal of St. Roch School in Indianapolis, has been named associate director of schools, coordinator of learning resources, as part of Excellence in Catholic Expectations for Excellence, known as Project EXCEED.

Mears will begin conducting research to find out how many students in the archdiocese have special learning needs and what Catholic schools can do to meet those needs.

“We want to look at the whole scope of needs,” Mears said. “We want to be able to handle more of these students with special needs as well as we can.”

The initiative also includes helping teachers get the training they need to educate students with special needs, whether it’s a child who has a mild mental handicap or a child with autism.

Mears, who received her teacher education in Illinois, said that state requires teachers to learn how to deal with various disabilities in a classroom setting.

Indiana has no such requirement. Mears will be the contact person to help teachers receive the special training they may need to provide the right instruction for special-needs students.

Mears works parents to know that any special instruction given to a special-needs child will help the entire class learn.

“It will broaden a teacher’s ability for all learning types,” Mears said. “Also, children will learn how to accept other children as God made them, and that’s important and is part of our mission.”

Project EXCEED was made possible by a $10 million challenge grant from Lilly Endowment Inc., and a matching gifts campaign.

The multipurpose project includes ways to develop and reward teachers, oversee programs in center-city schools and improve technology.

Mears will continue as principal of St. Roch School until July 1, when she begins working full time in her new position. She has been a classroom teacher and holds a master’s degree with certification to teach students with learning disabilities and serious emotional handicaps.

Marchers

New York firefighters march up Fifth Avenue in the city’s St. Patrick’s Day Parade on March 16. In commemoration of the 343 firefighters who died at the World Trade Center on Sept. 11, 343 firefighting trainees each carried an American flag. New York Cardinal Edward M. Egan, grand marshal of the parade, called for a moment of silence mid-route.

I bequeath to the Society for the Propagation of the Faith the sum of for its work with the poor in our missions at home and abroad.

The Criterion Friday, March 22, 2002 Page 7

The Society for the Propagation of the Faith 1400 N. Meridian St. • Indianapolis, IN 46206
fearlessly decide what is best for the healing wounds and letting Colombians concentrate on rebuilding the country, the five years of peace so that “Colombians real and thorough peace agreement.”

In December, Archbishop Duarte sent letters to the country’s president and leaders of the largest guerrilla organizations proposing a five-year truce to negotiate a cease-fire, Father Cervellera, director of the Vatican missionary news agency, Fides, described Archbishop Duarte as a friendly and dynamic pastor.

The Colombian people perhaps have never found a more intense defender than this bishop, a man capable of thundering against Marxist guerrillas or paramilitary troops or politicians,” Father Cervellera said in a commentary.

Colombian Cardinal Darío Castrillon Hoyos, who heads the Vatican’s Congregation for Clergy, said Archbishop Duarte was a “great friend” and an important voice in the Colombian Church.

“He was a man who, without any fear and with great generosity, worked for the cause of peace,” the cardinal said.

Francis McDonagh, Colombia program officer for the British bishops’ Catholic Agency for Overseas Development, told Catholic News Service on March 18, “Whoever turns out to have been responsible for this crime, the lesson is the same: No human life is sacrosanct in Colombia’s bitter civil conflict.”

The best tribute to the memory of Archbishop Duarte would be a return to peace negotiations. He left a message to the Colombian people in the words he spoke, minutes before his murder, to the couples he had just married: ‘Love each other. Respect each other,’ “McDonagh said.

In Baltimore, Catholic Relief Services, the U.S. bishops’ international relief and development agency, condemned the murder. It said the “archbishop’s death, one of 40,000 in the past decade, highlights the ongoing tragedy in Colombia, but also the courage and dedication of Church and civil society leaders to create a path to peace and justice.”

Archbishop Duarte was born on Feb. 15, 1939, in San Gil. His initial seminary studies were done in Colombia then he received a degree in theology from the Gregorian University in Rome. He was ordained in Rome in 1963 then returned to Colombia as a priest of the Bucaramanga Diocese. He became archbishop of Cali in 1995. He started 45 parishes in poor areas and nine elementary schools in low-income neighborhoods. He also created the Commission for Life, Justice and Peace, which did studies on the victims of violence.
Four bills that ICC supports pass legislature, go to governor

By Margaret Nelson

Four bills of significance to the Indiana Catholic Conference (ICC) survived the short session of the 2002 Indiana General Assembly—which ended at midnight on March 14—and await Gov. Frank O'Bannon's approval.

The death penalty, which was reinstated in Indiana in 1976, has been an important concern of the ICC. This year, Senate Enrolled Act 426, which addresses capital sentences for minors, will go to the governor's desk.

State Sen. Anita Bowser (D-Michigan City) initially worked to raise the juvenile death penalty age from 15 to 16 after 15-year-old Paula Cooper of Gary was sentenced to death for murdering 78-year-old Ruth Pelke in her Gary home on May 14, 1985.

Pelke, who taught Bible lessons to neighborhood children, was stabbed to death after letting Cooper and three other teen-age girls inside her home. Cooper's capital sentence was later overturned, and she is serving a 60-year sentence at the Indiana Women's Prison in Indianapolis.

During this year's legislative session, Sen. Bowser authored Senate Bill 426 to raise the minimum age for capital sentences to 18. This bill was amended to add a provision that prevents judges from overruling jury recommendations in capital cases or life without parole proceedings. After concurrence in both chambers, the bill passed in the final hour of the short session.

Senate Enrolled Act 19 benefits not-for-profit organizations, including churches. It increases the amount of property that can be exempted from taxation when the property includes buildings owned, occupied and used for educational, literary, scientific, religious or charitable purposes.

The bill also calls for a study commission, which would enable ICC and other interested parties to have direct input on future discussions of how not-for-profit organizations are taxed in Indiana.

The Landlord-Tenant Bill, House Enrolled Act 1013, authored by State Rep. John Day (D-Indianapolis) culminates an 18-year effort to improve the law as they affect low-income persons, including the elderly and students.

This consumer protection legislation outlines the responsibilities of tenants to keep rental property reasonably clean and in good condition, and lists conditions that must be met before landlords can take tenants to court for damages.

The Ombudsman Bill, Senate Enrolled Act 373, was vetoed by Gov. O'Bannon last year. The veto was overturned in the House and Senate on the final night of this session. The bill will establish a Department of Correction Ombudsman Bureau within the Indiana Department of Administration to check complaints of persons who are incarcerated.

The Indiana Catholic Conference represents the interests of Catholics in the state by lobbying for important life issues. The Indiana bishops and representatives of each of the five dioceses make up the executive committee.

Archbishop Daniel M. Buechlein is the ICC general chairman and M. Desmond Ryan is the executive director. The conference also coordinates the efforts of 5,000 citizens in the Indiana Catholic Action Network.

(Margaret Nelson is a member of St. Andrew the Apostle Parish in Indianapolis and is a freelance writer for The Criterion.)

Lenten penance services scheduled in archdiocese

Batesville Deanery
March 22, 7 p.m. at St. Mary, Greensburg
March 26, 7 p.m. at Holy Family, Oldenburg

Indianapolis South Deanery
March 24, 4 p.m. at St. Jude

New Albany Deanery
March 24, 7 p.m. at Holy Family, New Albany
March 25, 7 p.m. at St. Anthony of Padua, Clarksville

Seymour Deanery
March 22, 7:15 p.m. at St. Joseph, Jennings County

Tell City Deanery
March 24, 7 p.m. for St. Michael, Cannelton; St. Pius, Troy; and St. Paul, Tell City, at St. Paul, Tell City

Terre Haute Deanery
March 24, 6 p.m. at St. Patrick, Terre Haute
March 25, 7:30 p.m. at St. Margaret Mary, Terre Haute

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One South Capital Ave., Indianapolis
Cathedral Soup Kitchen relies on volunteers

By Brandon A. Evans

Most of the people who come to the Cathedral Soup Kitchen for food aren’t planning on making it a habit, but the people who serve the poor there are committed to the ministry year-round.

“We’re for the more mobile people,” said Lucia Corcoran, the volunteer coordinator of the soup kitchen, which is located in the basement of the former parish grade school building behind SS. Peter and Paul Cathedral in Indianapolis.

Corcoran is a member of SS. Peter and Paul Cathedral Parish and is dedicated to serving the needs of the homeless and poor people who frequent the soup kitchen in the first block of East 14th Street.

“It’s a place to get over a hump,” she said. “Many of our clients are trying to find temporary jobs. They’re just trying to get it together, and when they do get it together, then they don’t come. We have many, many graduates.

The Cathedral Soup Kitchen, in existence since 1983, offers hot meals for the hungry and a food pantry for those who need a little extra help.

“We share what we have,” Corcoran said. “They can come as often as they’re hungry.”

Corcoran has volunteered 30 hours a week at the soup kitchen for more than four years.

While some people give their time to charities during Advent or Lent, Corcoran and others who help at the soup kitchen continue their charitable service all year.

A typical weekday at the soup kitchen begins at 8:45 a.m. for the clients. During breakfast in silence. In the winter, after breakfast, men and women put on their coats and head out into the cold with steaming cups of coffee.

Each day, people stream in and out of the soup kitchen, and the volunteers only catch a glimpse of their struggles to overcome poverty.

“I have so much respect for these people,” Corcoran said, “because they have had problems so vastly greater than mine in their lives.

Many clients of the soup kitchen have just been released from jail or prison or have been kicked out of their homes. Many clients lost jobs for a variety of reasons, but Corcoran recognizes a victory in their refusal to give up.

“They’re proud of ‘living out’ [on the streets],” she said. “They’ve made it, they’ve gotten up this morning, and that’s an accomplishment. They’ve kept alive. It’s the only thing they’re doing right.”

Corcoran feels that an important dimension of her ministry is meeting the spiritual needs of the people. She said the institution of a simple prayer before the meal, led by different people, brought about a much greater peace and camaraderie among the clients.

“When it became what a Christian community should be,” she said. “St. Thomas Aquinas parishioner Tom Brown of Indianapolis, who helps coordinate what Corcoran loosely called ‘the Sunday group,’ noted the same kind of camaraderie.

It is this volunteer group, which dates to 1983, that gave the soup kitchen a strong start. These longtime volunteers of cups of coffee to provide hot meals on Sunday mornings, and they work independently from the weekday volunteer group.

“It’s interesting that [the Sunday group] has survived all this time,” Brown said. “There really isn’t any formal structure to it. We started it because there was no other place in town that offered a Sunday meal [for the poor].

Brown said he feels an obligation to the poor who stems from Jesus, and he thinks it is nice to see young people volunteering at the soup kitchen.

“I think it’s a bit of an eye-opener for them,” he said.

Brown and his wife, Mary Ellen, are team leaders. Most of the Sunday morning volunteers help every other month, he said. The total number of volunteers is high, but hard to count.

“It’s amazing that it’s all volunteer,” he said. “Altogether, it’s just a nice experience.”

On Tuesday and Thursday mornings, Corcoran operates a food pantry at the soup kitchen. The pantry workers distribute extra food to people in need.

“A lot of our clientele ‘live out,’” she said. “They have to carry with them whatever they have. They are their own refrigerator. They can’t stock up on food because they don’t have any place to put it.”

Most of the people who frequent the Cathedral Soup Kitchen are just trying to make it through one day at a time.

Gary Favrot, a member of St. Anthony Parish in Zionsville, in the Lafayette Diocese, has helped at the soup kitchen for the past six years and now volunteers every day.

He began volunteering at the soup kitchen and why he still helps there are, to him, simply mysteries. Favrot works several hours each day, and said he plans to volunteer there for as long as God wants him to help the poor.

Corcoran, who is retired, said that her previous work in the court system as well as her college studies in nutrition have helped lead her to this ministry.

“My being like everything I’ve done in my life has prepared me for this,” she said.

She also plans to pursue this ministry as long as she feels God calling her to it.

The soup kitchen relies on miracles to bring in food and volunteers. Corcoran said God takes care of them.

Each day, she said, “We do it through prayer.”

(For information about helping serve the poor at the Cathedral Soup Kitchen in Indianapolis, call the Cathedral Parish office at 317-634-4519.)

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.”

Lucia Corcoran, a member of SS. Peter and Paul Cathedral Parish in Indianapolis and the coordinator of the Cathedral Soup Kitchen, unpacks cookies that will be given to the many clients who come to the soup kitchen for a meal.

Got Questions?

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Prayer enables our relationship with God

By Sr. Katherine Howard, O.S.B.

“Is there anyone here who yearns for life and desires to see good days?” The Prologue to the Rule of St. Benedict pictures God calling out daily to us in those words from Psalm 34.

Every time I hear this passage, I want to jump up and say, “Me, me! That’s what I want!” If your response is like that, some aspects of a Benedictine approach to life and prayer might be helpful for you.

Again, in the Prologue to our rule, God responds to those of us who answer “Me, me!” In effect, God says, “Great! If you want true and eternal life, turn away from evil, do good, make peace your quest and aim, then you will realize your eyes are upon you, your ears are listening, and even before you ask you will hear me saying, ‘Here I am.’”

Prayer is the life of God, who is within us always saying, “Here I am.”

When we begin to want to let go of the obstacles to love which blind us, we begin to notice the life, love and light of Christ not only helping us do this, but pouring out and through us in the Holy Spirit.

When we pray, we tune in to—and respond to—this stream of light, love and life, which rises constantly from our depths and draws us into the most fundamental loving relationship we have. In this sharing relationship, God takes the initiative. There is no need for any one of us to worry or fret, thinking that it is not meant for us.

Without ever thinking much about God, it can happen that some experience we have is filled with a sense of mystery reaching beyond the event itself.

You may be aware of this Presence in the unexpressible joy felt at a birth; in the unfathomable depth of beauty during a moment of communion with nature or art; in the unimaginable, and unsought, total awareness begins to permeate all of life within and around us. Gradually, this faith-conviction that God is here in the Spirit of the risen Christ not only helping us do this, but reaching beyond the event itself. When we pray, we tune in to—and respond to—this stream of light, love and life, which rises constantly from our depths and draws us into the most fundamental loving relationship we have. In this sharing relationship, God takes the initiative. There is no need for any one of us to worry or fret, thinking that it is not meant for us.

Eventually, the faith-conviction that God is here in the Spirit of the risen Christ becomes the unshakable foundation of our life. We can at any moment turn interiorly and say, “Thank you.” “Help!” and “I love you.” Or we can say nothing at all, and just rest momentarily in that wonderful Presence. In truth, we begin to then “pray without ceasing” (1 Thes 5:17).

(Benedictine Sister Katherine Howard is a member of St. Benedict Monastery in St. Joseph, Minn.)”

Favorite prayers offer insight

This Week’s Q & A

What prayer do you turn to again and again? Why is this your favorite prayer?

“Thy word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path” (Ps 119:105) is the prayer I go to when I need help in the moment. I need to feel God’s presence with me and I find comfort in just hearing this words. The words are simple, but they are so true for me. This prayer inspires me to take a step of faith and to keep fighting through life’s challenges.

(Laura H. from Jackson, Mississippi)

Lend Us Your Voice

An upcoming edition asks: Describe a parish program, symposium, retreat or other activity that married couples found beneficial.

To respond for possible publication, write to Faith Alive! at 3211 Fourth St. N.E., Washington, D.C. 20017-1100. All contents are copyrighted © 2002 by Catholic News Service.
Shirley Vogler Meister

From the Editor Emeritus/

positioned in time much more than in

that the Sabbath has preserved the Jews. It

change “wallpaper” myself, I still prefer

taken place. It evokes a light and happy

imagine Christ's Resurrection might've

ing clouds against a beautiful blue sky,

low humans, a life of worldly accomplish-

cated to a perfect God and imperfect fel-

If we can help with temporal matters as

here to be Christ for each other, to help

imperative of our lives as Christians. We're

1960 through 1972, he also participated in

Consolation Province at Mount St. Francis

in southern Indiana, and was ordained in

1932. He celebrated his first Mass at St. Benedict Church in his home-

town of Pontiac.

The young Franciscan rose in the

administration of his order, serving as

minister provincial of Our Lady of

Consolation Province at Mount St. Francis

from 1954 to 1960. Then he was

elected minister general of his order and

quartered in Rome. In that office, from

1960 through 1972, he also participated in

all sessions of Vatican Council II. Later,

Father Heiser was undersecretary in the

Vatican’s Congregation for Religious for 10 years. He served as a

diplomat and visited churches around the

world. During that time, he met and worked with Pope Paul VI. He states that the pope was still a priest in Poland.

Despite his eminence in the hierarchy of the

Church, Father Heiser forgot that he was a son of St. Benedict Parish,

dom whom he returned whenever he could.

he attended the funerals of both his

parents at St. Benedict Church, as well as

celebrating his 60th anniversary of ordina-

on there in 1992.

For years, Father Heiser corresponded

with visitors and showed them the sights of the Eternal City, taking them to
dinner and obtaining tickets for them to

audiences with the pope.

Now 93, Father Heiser has told
to church daily and continuing to serve

on a Vatican tribunal. Much of his time is

spent in prayer.

It’s a story, friends describe Father

Heiser as “a very disciplined man, but

very kind and loving,” and “a very, very

holy man.”

People like Father Heiser come into our

lives as Christ came to the people of

Jerusalem, so that we might know God.

Whether they’re important in the eyes

of the world or not, they set an example for

what we’re called to do. And, therefore

we are encouraged to love on Friday

night when the woman is not menstruating.

Most modern Jews do not strictly

refrain from all the activities forbidden, but

they try to make Sabbath different from

the rest of the week, passing from productive

work and the usual routine of Christians

should do likewise on Sunday.

The healing power of laughter helps sustain us throughout life.

I was reading the latest issue of The

Joyful NoTeJitter and, as usual, found myself laughing at nothing less than an article by an Indiana priest, Father Gregory Chamberlin, has been reading it and it went like this:

"One Sunday morning, after examining of Mass, I asked a group of children,

"What do you have to do to get heaven?"

"One young theologian yelled at the top of his voice, ‘Ya gotta die.’"

For reminding me of the importance of laughter, I once again silently thanked Cal and Rose Samara, the founders of The Fellowship of Merry Christians. There is a ministry of getting Christians to smile, precisely because they are Christians. (Before beginning this ministry with her husband, Rose Samara, was a staff member of Catholic Education in the Archdiocese of Indianapolis.)

I especially applied them for pro-

claiming April as “Holy Humor Month.” Because, Cal Samara said reverently, this is Eastertime, and Eastertime is the biggest joke in the world occurred. "The joke that God played on Satan by rising from the dead was the most brilliant and greatest and most imaginative practical joke in the history of the world."

In explaining the joke, he pointed out that the "early 80s, Samara said: "Our

modest aim is to recapitulate the spirit of joy, humor, unity and spirit of the early

Christians. We try to be more merry than twice a year." He continued, "In my life, I have often wondered why there has been no place on humor in liturgy and worship. After all, Lent and Easter are considered as Eastertime, and part of Eastertime is life, is part of God’s invention, so why we have ignored it so when it comes to religious worship in the church?"

Not that the saints did. Many of them were infamous for how they accentuated the power of laughter to heal and bring joy. St. Francis of Assisi did pretty much everything funny in his life, and he strongly recommended humor. The devil has reason to be sad.

And St. Teresa of Avila would pray, "Let there be more serious, solemn saints, save us, O Lord!"

There’s a little-known fairy tale that I always remember, precisely because it is about a woman who never laughed.

She got married and couldn’t have children. She was told she couldn’t have children until she laughed five times. The story goes on about how she learned to laugh, and then the laughing woman becomes this beautiful woman, who now has new life. And because she has her new life, she is able to have children.

It’s interesting that the key to having new life may be to learn to laugh.

Laughter is wonderful for relation-

ships. The famous comedian Victor Borge had a recurring bit where he would ask people to imagine a situation involving two people.

I explained the joke that he played on Satan by rising from the dead was the most brilliant and greatest and most imaginative practical joke in the history of the world."

Ah, but there are also Resurrection
crucifixes showing the risen body of Christ—perfect for the Easter season!

"(Shirley Vogler Meister, a member of Christ the King Parish in Indianapolis, is a regular columnist for The Criterion.)"
Sunday, March 24, 2002

**The Sunday Readings**

**Daily Readings**

**Monday, March 25**
- Isaiah 42:1-7
- Psalm 27:1-3, 13-14
- John 12:11-12

**Tuesday, March 26**
- Isaiah 49:1-6
- Psalm 71: 1-4a, 5-6ab, 15, 17
- John 13:21-33, 36-38

**Wednesday, March 27**
- Isaiah 50:4-9a
- Psalm 69:8-10, 21b-cd-22, 31, 33-34
- Matthew 26:14-25

**Thursday, March 28**
- Holy Thursday Isaiah 61:1-3a, 6a, 8b-9
- Psalm 89:21-22, 25, 27
- Revelation 1:5-8
- Luke 4:16-21
- Holy Thursday Evening
- Mass of the Lord’s Supper
- Exodus 12:1-12, 14-17
- Psalm 116:12-13, 15-16bc, 17-18
- 1 Corinthians 11:23-26
- John 13:1-15

**Friday, March 29**
- Celebration of the Lord’s Passion
- Isaiah 52:13-53:12
- Psalm 31:2, 6, 12-13, 15-17, 25
- Hebrews 4:14-16, 5:7-9
- John 18:1-19:42

**Saturday, March 30**
- Holy Saturday Night:
  - The Easter Vigil
  - Genesis 1:1-22

**Non-Catholics may join in most parts of the Mass**

**Q** My wife is Catholic, and I was raised Protestant. Since our marriage six years ago, we have attended Mass together. Neither she nor I, however, understand what I—and other people who are not Catholic—should do or not do at Mass. I know we should not receive Communion, but how about bowing or genuflecting before entering the pew? Can we go forward at Communion time with others who cross their arms for a blessing? Do we stand for the Gospel, for example? Do we give a sign of respect? Do we make the sign of the cross at the sprinkling of holy water? I’m sure these are trivial questions, but I know others in the parish are confused as I am. (Ohio)

**A** They’re not at all trivial or unimportant questions. My mail regularly brings the same questions from people in other areas of the country as well. Most Catholics, it seems to me, have no idea how uncertain and confused those not of our faith can be about how to act at Mass and other ceremonies, even after years of being there week after week.

The short and simple answer is that people who are not Catholic are welcome, even invited, to do everything that Catholics do at Mass, except, as you say, the sign of the cross or the genuflection. Participate in the prayers, sing, make the sign of the cross, bow or genuflect if you wish. The liturgy should become a more genuine act of worship for you if you participate this way, because you feel comfortable doing so and if your actions reflect your interior attitude of prayer and devotion with the people worshipping alongside you. It would perhaps not be a bad idea for parishes to place an occasional note in the church bulletin on these matters to put you and others like you more at ease.†
Weekend? Here, it's just a beginning.

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For more information, call: 812-357-6501, ext. 774-6135.
The Active List, continued from page 14

Our Lady of the Greenwood Chapel, 335 S. Meridian St., Greenwood Rosary and Chaplet of Divine Mercy, 7 p.m.
Archbishop O'Meara Catholic Community, 1400 N. Meridian St., Indianapolis Adult Survivors of Childhood Sexual Abuse, Catholic Social Services program, 6-8 p.m. Information: 317-636-1538.

Incommunicate Heart of Mary Church, 5062 Central Ave., Indianapolis Marian Movement of Prayers prayer chain, 1 p.m. Information: 317-257-2266.

Holy Rosary Church, 520 Stevens St., Indianapolis Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, between Masses, noon-5:30 p.m. Information: 317-636-4748.

St. Francis and Clare Church, 5901 Olive Branch Road. Greenwood Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, 7 a.m. - 9 p.m., rosary and Divine Mercy Chaplet, 11 a.m. Information: 317-659-1880.

St. Thomas Aquinas Church, 46th and Indiana St. Indianapolis Prayer service for peace, 6:30-7:15 p.m.

Thursdays
St. Lawrence Chapel, 6944 E. 46th St., Indianapolis Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, 7 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. Mass.
St. Mary Church, 415 E. Eighth St., New Albany Shepherds of Christ prayers for lay and religious vocations, 7 p.m.
St. Malachi Church, 326 N. Green St., Brownsburg Liturgy of the Hours, 7 p.m. Information: 317-852-3195.

Christ the King Chapel, 1827 Kessler Blvd. E., Indianapolis Marian prayers for priests, 5-6:30 a.m. Information: 317-455-0330.

Fatima K of C, 1040 N. Post Road, Indianapolis Eucharistic adoration after 8 a.m. Mass. 5-5 p.m. Information: 317-637-2620.

Holy Cross Church, 125 N. Oriental St., Indianapolis Mass for Catholics in recovery, 5 p.m. Information: 317-636-8416.

St. Joseph Church, 1207 East Road, Brownsburg Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament after 8 a.m. Communion service, 1 p.m.
Holy Guardian Angels Church, 4015 U.S. 52. Sacred Grove Eucharistic adoration after 8 a.m. Mass. 5-5 p.m.
St. Peter Church, 1207 East Road. Brookville Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament after 8 a.m. Community service, 1 p.m.

First Mondays
Archbishop O'Meara Catholic Center, 1400 N. Meridian St., Indianapolis Guardian Angel Guild board meeting, 9:30 a.m. Information: 317-636-8416.

Divine Mercy Chapel, 3354 W. 30th St., Indianapolis Confession, 6-45 p.m. Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament, 7:30 p.m. Information: 317-636-8416.

First Tuesdays
Divine Mercy Chapel, 3354 W. 30th St., Indianapolis Confession, 6-45 p.m. Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament, 7:30 p.m. Information: 317-636-8416.

First Fridays
St. Vincent de Paul Church, 1723 "T" St., Bedford Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, 8:30 a.m. Mass-9 p.m.; reconcilation, 4-6 p.m.
St. Peter Church, 1207 East Road, Brownsburg Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament after 8 a.m. Communion service, 1 p.m.
Holy Guardian Angels Church, 4015 U.S. 52. Sacred Grove Eucharistic adoration after 8 a.m. Mass. 5-5 p.m.
Christ the King Church, 1827 Kessler Blvd. E., Indianapolis Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament after 7:15 a.m. Mass. 5:30 p.m. Benediction and service, 1 p.m.
Holy Rosary Church, 520 Stevens St., Indianapolis Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament after 5:30 a.m. Mass-9 a.m. Saturday. Information: 317-636-4478.
Our Lady of Lourdes Church, 5533 E. Washington St., Indianapolis Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, prayer service, 7:30 p.m.
St. Joseph Church, 1375 S. Mckley Ave., Indianapolis Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, 4 p.m.; rosary, 5 p.m.; benediction, 5:30 p.m. Mass. 5-5 p.m. Information: 317-344-9002.

Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church, 1752 Scheller Lane, New Albany Adoration, concluding with confessions at 6 p.m. Benediction at 6:45 p.m.
St. Mary Church, 415 E. Eighth St., New Albany Eucharistic adoration, reconciliation, after 9 p.m. Mass-midnight.
St. Joseph Church, 113 S. 5th St. Terre Haute Eucharistic adoration, 9 a.m.-4:45 p.m. Benediction; rosary, noon; Mass, 5-5 p.m. Information: 812-235-4996.

First Saturdays
Nicholas Church, 6461 E. St. Nicholas Dr., Sunman Mass, praise and worship, 8 a.m.; then SACRED gathering in the school.
St. Thomas More Church, 1200 N. Indiana St., Mooresville Mass and anointing of the sick, 8:35 a.m.
Little Flower Chapel, 4720 E. 130th St., Indianapolis Apostolate of Fatima holy hour, 2 p.m.
Our Lady of the Greenwood Church, 315 S. Meridian St., Greenwood Devotions and sacrament of reconciliation, after 8 a.m. Mass.
Holy Angels Church, 740 W. 28th St., Indianapolis Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, 11 a.m.-noon.
St. Mary Church, 415 E. Eighth St., New Albany Eucharistic adoration and confessions after 9 p.m. Mass.

Second Mondays
Church at Mount St. Francis Holy hour for vocations to priesthood and religious life, 7 p.m.
Second Tuesdays
St. Pius X Parish, 7200 Sarto Dr. Indianapolis Separated and Devoted Catholics support group, 7-9 p.m. Information: 317-576-8254.
Second Thursdays
St. Luke Church, 7575 Holliday Dr. E. Indianapolis Holy hour for priests and religious vocations, 7 p.m.
St. Pius X Church, Room 1, 7200 Sarto Dr., Indianapolis The Caregivers Support Group, 11 a.m. and 7:30 p.m. Information: 317-255-4534.

Third Wednesdays
Calvary Mausoleum Chapel, 435 Troy Ave., Indianapolis, Mass, 2 p.m.

Third Thursdays
Our Lady of Peace Mausoleum Chapel, 9001 Herronwick Road, Indianapolis, Mass, 2 p.m.

Third Fridays
St. Francis Hall Chapel, Marian College, 3200 Cold Spring Road, Indianapolis Catholic Charismatic Renewal of Central Indiana, Mass and healing service, 7 p.m.

Third Saturdays
St. Andrew Church, 4052 E. 38th St., Indianapolis Mass for Life by archdiocesan Office of Pro-Life Activities, 8:30 a.m.; walk in Clinic for Women (abortion clinic), 2391 E. 38th St., rosary, return to church for Benediction.

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Leading the way to a healthier community.
Studies show adult stem cells successfully heal body tissue

By Mary Ann Wyland

Second of two parts

Ethical arguments opposing embryonic stem-cell research and cloning are based on valid scientific research, Dr. David A. Prentice emphasized during the third Lenten Pro-Life Speaker series program on March 6 at Holy Rosary Parish in Indianapolis.

In addition to tumor growth in laboratory rats that were injected with embryonic stem cells, he said, immune rejection and transplant rejection are other serious problems inherent in this type of medical research and treatment.

“The embryonic stem cells are genetically unstable and variable,” Dr. Prentice said, “which explains why you get tumors. There are many, many problems, which you tend not to hear about, with the embryonic stem cells. Instead, you’re just given this promise that we’re going to cure diseases.”

In 1999, he said, former President Clinton’s National Bioethics Advisory Commission looked at using human embryos for research and replicating embryonic stem cells.

“The commission did actually recommend that human embryos be used,” he said. “But they had a phrase in their report which said that it’s not justifiable to use human embryos if there is a less morally problematic alternative.”

In the last few years, Dr. Prentice said, “there has been a wealth of public scientific evidence that we do have a less morally problematic alternative. In fact, we have several alternatives.”

“One of these alternatives is using adult stem cells, which we have in most but not all of the tissues in our body,” he said. “And we’ve known about [the therapeutic aspects of] bone marrow for years. Bone marrow makes more blood cells, and they’ve done bone marrow transplants for years. They now do bone marrow stem-cell transplants for various diseases because we know that there is at least one if not more stem cells in the bone marrow that make all of that blood—white cells and red cells and so on—that keeps us going.”

Since 1999, Dr. Prentice said, there have been hundreds of medical research papers published showing that bone marrow isn’t the only source of adult stem cells. “Probably every [kind [of] tissue [in the body]] has a stem cell,” he said. “The brain contains stem cells, which can be turned back on to make more nerves and, in fact, they can cross-sensory tracts. You can take brain stem cells and get them to form nerves or blood or muscle or bone. Bone marrow stem cells, we now can, make not just bone marrow and blood, but bone, cartilage [and cells that rejuvenate the] liver, heart, kidney, brain and other kinds of nerve cells. The evidence now is that bone marrow stem cells can make any tissue in the body.”

Within the last month, he said, three medical reports were published about the benefits of taking stem cells from the fat pad behind the knee and growing muscle and cartilage, as well as taking knee-joint fluid and making new anterior cruciate ligaments to repair this common athletic injury.

“They grew new ligaments from these stem cells from the knee joint,” Dr. Prentice said. “In fact, last spring researchers from California found that even fat contains stem cells. Now if we need an unlimited source of stem cells, this country is all set. Virtually any tissue makes stem cells. Umbilical cord blood is another excellent source of stem cells. The cord and cord blood, which is just thrown away after the baby is born, ought to be saved.”

Research has shown that stem cells taken from umbilical cord blood are not as hard to cross-match as stem cells taken from bone marrow, he said. “The placenta also contains stem cells that can make all these other tissues. So there are lots of sources for stem cells that can make virtually any tissue in the adult body.”

Studies indicate that patients will be able to use their own adult stem cells without experiencing transplant rejection, he said, to treat spinal cord injuries, Parkinson’s disease, diabetes and other illnesses.

“There are many more clinical successes with adult stem cells just in treating animals,” Dr. Prentice said, “to repair damage from heart attacks, strokes and other degenerative diseases.”

“All you have to do is look at the science, and the overwhelming weight of evidence is that you’ve got a much more morally problematic alternative [to using embryonic stem cells],” he said, “and not only that, but one that works so much better. But it gets even better. We’re already using adult stem cells successfully to treat human beings. I mentioned the bone marrow stem-cell transplants. There are lots of cancer patients and people with autoimmune diseases such as multiple sclerosis, lupus and arthritis, who are being treated successfully with their own adult bone marrow stem cells.

Treatment of sickle-cell anemia using the patient’s own stem cells or umbilical cord blood stem cells also has proven successful.

“I heard a young man testify in the [U.S.] House [of Representatives] last summer who had a relapse of leukemia at age 14,” Dr. Prentice said. “He had an umbilical cord blood stem-cell transplant. He was 16 last summer, and as far as we know he is cured of his leukemia. But it gets even better. Now they are doing things like taking the patient’s own cord stem cells and regrowing corneas to restore sight. And the first two clinical trials successfully used neural stem cells to treat stroke victims.”

Scientists also can replace damaged skin using adult stem cells, he said. “It’s working with people successfully. We don’t have to go to the point of destroying human embryos to treat human beings for all of these diseases that we keep hearing about and getting the promises about in terms of the embryonic stem cells. In fact, the adult stem cells are a more successful route, and have proven success in the lab, in the animal treatments and even many human people. There’s no problem with tumors, no problem with transplant rejection, no problem with genetic instability, and you also avoid the ethical quandary of having to destroy one life for the potential benefit of another.”

* * *
Vatican picks 14 journalists to write pope's Good Friday meditations

VATICAN CITY (CNS)—Fourteen journalists from 10 countries have been asked to prepare the meditations and prayers for the pope's Way of the Cross on Good Friday. The journalists, who specialize in covering the Vatican, are offering a complimentary grave space of the 14 journalists whose words will guide the March 29 prayer service.

Joanne Navarro-Valls, Vatican's spokesman, told Vatican Radio that not all 14 journalists are Catholic and “naturally many others could have written them, but there are only 14 stations in the world’s media, and so these 14 represent all of their colleagues.”

Only three of the reporters work for Catholic media. Those are the reporters from the United States, the United Kingdom and Italy. The other 11 work for news agencies and other media outlets.

The writers also include Gregory Burke of the U.S.-based Fox Television News. Thavis, who wrote the meditation for the first station, said, “We are offering a complimentary grave space to all veterans. We will also explain additional benefits that are available to veterans and their spouses.”

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Ms. Annette "Mickey" Lentz
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