Let us pray for peace and wisdom

Our first concern in this time of war is the need for prayer. We need to pray for those who serve us in the military and for our government leaders. We need to pray for the victims of terrorism and for the terrorists themselves. We need to pray especially for the wisdom to find our way to peace in the world.

The Catholic Church’s commitment to foster world peace and a culture of life causes us to express grave concern about the war with Iraq. However, the phenomenon of international terrorism makes the moral judgment of war complex in new ways that we haven’t really dealt with before. The requirements necessary to justify war are clearly stated in the Catechism of the Catholic Church:

- The just war is one of the worst of all afflictions. The Catholic Church insistently urges everyone to pray for peace. We need to pray especially for the victims and those called on to give their lives for the sake of another.
- The use of arms must not produce evils and disorders graver than the evil they are meant to prevent.

Catholics across archdiocese pray for safety of family and friends

By Jennifer Lindberg

Schools and parishes across the Archdiocese of Indianapolis are holding peace vigils and working to help families who are directly affected by the war in Iraq.

Arnold and Veronica Gaskill of Holy Name Parish in Beech Grove said knowing others are praying for their son, Navy Lt. Christian Gaskill makes them feel more at peace.

He is stationed at an undisclosed location in the Persian Gulf on the USS O’Kane.

Christian Gaskill, a graduate of Roncalli High School in Indianapolis, was a line-backer and an academic All-American in 1993 on the undefeated state championship football team.

His mother has been trying to form a prayer circle around her son’s life and job, and my job is to pray and encourage others and to live my life as peacefully as I can,” she said.

As America and Iraq continue at war, parishes and schools are trying to give moral and prayer support to families who have sons, daughters or spouses serving in the Gulf.

Schools are offering any needed counseling to students who have parents fighting in the war, and also trying to show students how to lean on their faith and pray for peace as the war rages.

St. Rose of Lima School in Franklin had students stop what they were doing every half-hour on March 18—just prior to President’s Bush deadline for Saddam Hussein to surrender—to pray for peace.

Using prayers from the saints, students asked for the intercession of saints known for their stance on peace or those called on to give their lives for the sake of another.

These are the traditional elements enumerated in what is called the ‘just war’ doctrine. The evaluation of these conditions for moral legitimacy belongs to the prudential judgment of those who have responsibility for the common good (#2309). The president of the United States and other world leaders are responsible for the common good of our global society that is plagued by terrorism. Individuals may rightfully embrace pacifism as a matter of conscience. However, governmental leaders—while they are responsible for crafting and maintaining world peace—do not have the option of being pacifists.

In a world of global terrorism, the only possible moral justification for this war with Iraq is if the president, other governmental leaders, and the world’s intelligence community have hard information that they are not free to communicate to the world. This information would concern Iraq’s possession of weapons of mass destruction and its plans for their impending use or an established link between the regime of Saddam Hussein and al-Qaeda or other terrorist organizations.

Recent world history demonstrates that war is one of the worst of all afflictions. The Catechism of the Catholic Church reminds us: “Because of the evils and injustices that accompany all war, the Church insistently urges everyone to pray and to action so that the divine Goodness may free us from the ancient bondage of war” (#2307).
Canon law group issues guide on implementing sex-abuse norms

WASHINGTON (CNS)—The Canon Law Society of America (CLS A), in cooperation with the Diocesan/Eparchial Pastoral Policies Dealing With Allegations of Sexual Abuse of Minors by Priests or Deacons, has published a 47-page guide to following Church law in implementing the U.S. Bishops’ norms on clergy sexual abuse of minors.

The booklet was written by a CLSA task force headed by Msgr. Frederick C. Easton, judicial vicar of the Indianapolis Archdiocese.

Titled “Guide to the Implementation of the U.S. Bishops’ Ethical Standards for Dealing with Allegations of Sexual Abuse of Minors,” the booklet is divided into three main sections: the rights of abuse victims, the rights of the accused and a summary of the processes to be followed when an allegation is made that a priest or deacon has sexually abused a minor.

The summary of the processes approaches each step in procedures from the standpoint of the rights of the accuser, the rights of the accused and the responsi-

Among victims’ rights, the guide cites the right to be heard and rights of reputa-

tion and privacy that are not lost once processes available to victims to vindicate their rights, including the right to challenge a bishop’s decision if his feel his response to a complaint has been inadequate.

“Canon law also provides that an inquiring party has the right to place a con-

tentious action before the diocesan tri-

bunal for the specific purpose of seeking reparation for the damages that have been incurred personally as a result of the abuse that has been suffered,” it says.

The guide illustrates some of the com-

plexities and nuances of the Church’s criminal law.

Church law says, for example, that imputability, or moral responsibility for a crime, may be mitigated if the offender committed the act while his judgment was impaired by drunkenness or drug abuse. But the guide also notes that if the offender deliberately got drunk or used drugs “to commit or excuse an offense” then the alcohol or drug abuse “cannot be considered as a mitigating or excusing factor.”

Similarly, while pedophilia as a psy-

chological illness might be invoked as a mitigating factor in the culpability of some who have abused children, the guide points out that “such a condition has to be balanced against the aggravating factor of Canon 1326.1.3.1. that a person who foresees the likelihood of com-

mitting an offense and did not take pre-

cautions to avoid it is subject to more severe punishment.”

It also points out that both canon law codes, for the Latin and Eastern Churches, have provisions that “one who is afflicted with insanity or some other psychic defect is impeded from the exercise of sacred orders.”

The guide also explains that a bishop or diocesan official and professor at St. Patrick Seminary in Menlo Park, Calif.†

New Orleans (CNS)—A new model for seminary training, in which men take academic courses at the seminary but live in a parish setting while studying for the priesthood, was introduced in the wake of the scandal of sexual abuse by clergy, Dallas Coadjutor Bishop Joseph A. Galante said in a speech at Tulane University in New Orleans.

Bishop Galante’s suggestion came in a question-and-answer session following his March 13 lecture, “Renewing the Hope for the Church in the Wake of the Scandal of Sexual Abuse,” delivered as part of the university’s annual Judeo-Christian Lecture Series. Bishop Galante is a mem-

ber of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops’ Ad Hoc Committee on Sexual Abuse.

“I personally think we should look at formation in terms of whether or not seg-

regated seminary training for secular (diocesan) seminarians is the ideal,” Bishop Galante said.

He suggested having a small group of two to three seminarians live in a parish setting while receiving spiritual direction from a priest and working with a forma-

tion team, “a community of lay people and religious within that parish.”

“The seminarians could go to a seminar for academics, but the [priestly] formation would be done in the parish world,” Bishop Galante said. “I would like very much for us to seriously look at that.”

As for whether or not the Church should examine its current practice of ordaining men who had been in a homosex-

ual orientation, Bishop Galante said, “Orientation itself is not an impediment to ordination. It’s there anything that says God can’t give them the gift of celibacy?”

Commenting on the clergy sexual-

abuse crisis, he said the statistics revealed so far indicate most cases of abuse of minors involved priests who attended seminaries in the 1950s and 1960s.

Therefore, he said, any analysis of what caused the scandal should examine the nature of the seminary system during those years.

“What was it in those years of forma-

tion that allowed these men to be ordained and to get involved in such terrible and horrible vices and crimes?” he asked.

Bishop Galante himself entered the seminary for the Archdiocese of Philadelphia in 1954. He said he was part of an entrance class in 1956 and that year there were 535 seminarians at all levels of the forma-

tion program.

It was very segregated,” Bishop Galante said. “You went to the seminary, you stayed in the seminary. You might get out for summer vacation, but you were also under scrutiny. Generally speak-

ing, you were in a segregated, all-male society, and there wasn’t much interaction with other persons.”

The emphasis of his seminary training, Bishop Galante said, was on academic studies. There was one spiritual director for 535 seminarians, and most spiritual for-

mation was done “through group prayer.”

There was probably little or no human formation in terms of psychological or emotional development of seminarians,” he added. “We were warned to stay away from women. They were the danger.”

If seminarians were not already emo-

tionally unhealthy before they entered the seminary or did not develop quickly after ordination, Bishop Galante said, “basically all came out of the seminary emotionally an adoles-

cent. You were pretty much whatever age you were when you entered, and maybe a little less.”

Bishop Galante said it is a good sign there have been “very, very few” abuse cases reported involving priests who were ordained in the 1990s. “So far, praise God,” he said.

In examining the scandal, Bishop Galante said some priests may have deve-

loped a warped sense of privilege or cheri-

lish by virtue of their ordination. But he said the documents of the Second Vatican Council clearly outline the Church as “a people of God who live through baptism. ‘We are all Church,’ he said. “There is no super category, super class. There is no theological cho-

ical change that takes place” when a man is ordained a priest, Bishop Galante said, “I am not more Church than you are.

‘As a bishop, do I see myself as a CEO?’” he asked. “Jesus is called the Good Shepherd, not the Good Executive. You can’t be a shepherd if you’re not walking around in sheep dip. … You’ve got to be of the sheep.”

Bishop Galante said celibacy has to be explained and taught in a fundamental, chal-

lenging way. “Celibacy is not a deprivation,” he said. “Too many people, both clergy and non-

clergy, have translated celibacy into, ‘It means I can’t get married.’ Celibacy is a gift from God that says I am being empowered to love as Jesus loved. It’s not a deprivation, but rather a positive choice.”†

Boston sex-abuse victims want to meet with pope at Vatican

ROME (CNS)—Three alleged victims of clerical sex abuse from the Archdi-

ocese of Boston traveled to Rome in late March in the hopes of telling their stories of suffering directly to Pope John Paul II.

“I would like five minutes to explain what is really going on,” said one alleged victim, Gary Bergeron, 40, of Lowell, Mass., who said he was unaware of the full extent of the U.S. clerical sex-abuse crisis.

He acknowledged at a March 24 press conference that the group did not have an appointment with the pope or any Vatican

hears their stories face-to-face. He said he would return to Rome as many times as it takes.

“It if takes five times or 500 times, we will get in, because he needs to know,” Bergeron said.

A Vatican spokesman, Passionist Father Ciro Benedettini, said the Vatican press office had no information on indi-

vidual requests for papal audiences. †

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TERRE HAUTE — Moments before his execution by chemical injection on March 18 in the U.S. Penitentiary at Terre Haute, federal death row inmate and decorated Gulf War veteran Louis Jones Jr. praised Jesus.

But the 53-year-old retired master sergeant in the Army Airborne Rangers did not speak to relatives and friends of murder victim Tracie Joy McBride, who had traveled from Centerville, Minn., to watch him die in the federal death chamber.

Jones abducted, raped and killed the 19-year-old Army private at Goodfellow Air Force Base in San Angelo, Texas, in 1995. She had only been stationed at the base for nine days when Jones beat her to death with a tire iron.

After the execution, attorney Tim Floyd, a professor of law at Texas Tech University in Lubbock, told reporters that Jones expressed remorse for attacking and killing McBride during his trial in 1995.

Floyd began the post-execution press conference by reading a statement that Jones asked him to share with the media.

“I accept full responsibility for the pain, anguish and the suffering I caused the McBrides for having taken Tracie from them,” Floyd read from Jones’ handwritten statement. “I have always been known that I could never comprehend the extent or the depth of their pain and their suffering.

“They were like a family to me. I would like them to know that I have suffered, on a regular basis, the knowledge and the fact that it was I that ended a beautiful life which almighty God created, which I had no right to take,” Jones wrote. “I have always been remorseful for this heinous crime, for the terrible sin I committed on Tracie and to almighty God.

“Please know that it has never been my intent to ask the McBrides for forgiveness for the awful things which I did to Tracie,” Jones said in his written statement. “It hasn’t been my intent to ask for forgiveness because I’m certain that anguish and pain is still felt by them. I’ve always felt that forgiveness for what I have done to Tracie and to the McBrides is something that I have no Godly right to ask for. I do think I understand, maybe, why it is that you seek to end my life. I have thoughts about the legal process in my case, but I prefer to let my attorney speak on my behalf.”

Floyd and the Rev. Jason Fry, a Methodist minister from Kingsville, Texas, and Jones’ spiritual counselor, witnessed the execution and said Jones’ final words in the death chamber included verse 18 from Psalm 118 of the King James edition of The Bible, which reads, “The Lord hath chastened me sore, but he has not given me over unto death.”

Jones’ attorney also read his own statement, which noted, “It is a cruel irony that on the day that we mobilized [troops] for war in Iraq, the life of a U.S. citizen was ended at the hand of the government that he proudly served, the same government that failed to acknowledge the impact of nerve agents on Sgt. Jones, the brain damage that it caused and the fact that jurors could not have known about this at the time of his trial.”

Rev. Fry said he had known Jones for about eight years, since before his trial, and during that time “Lou Jones lived his life faithfully as a disciple of Jesus Christ … to the best of his ability and faithful to the end.”

The minister said his “heart goes out to the McBride family” because “they have suffered a terrible loss,” but “nobody has been helped here today by what has taken place.

In a separate post-execution press conference, Irene McBride, Tracie’s mother, said her family decided to talk with the media because “so often, in these cases, the focus is on the criminal, and the criminal is not the victim. We didn’t want Tracie lost. The reason we’re here, the reason Louis Jones went through that [execution] today, was because he chose to put everybody in this position, including himself, and we wanted Tracie to be remembered.”

Above, Irene McBride of Centerville, Minn., said in a post-execution press conference that the family is upset that Louis Jones Jr. tried to blame the violent murder of her daughter, Tracie, on injuries he suffered as a result of exposure to chemical weapons in combat.

Left, attorney Tim Floyd and Rev. Jason Fry, at right, speak on Jones’ behalf.

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Peace in Iraq

“We worked and prayed and hoped that war would be avoided. The task now is to work and pray and hope that war’s deadly consequences will be limited, that civilian life will be protected, that weapons of mass destruction will be eliminated, and that the people of Iraq will soon enjoy a peace with freedom and justice.”

Bishop Wilton D. Gregory, President of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops

The Criterion is on record (Oct. 4, 2002, and March 21, 2003) as opposing war with Iraq. We joined with Pope John Paul II and the Catholic bishops of the United States in expressing our conviction that war was not justified. We also acknowledged publicly (March 21, 2003) that many Catholics, including some respected theologians, disagreed with us. We also noted that the official teaching of the Catholic Church leaves the final decision about the moral legitimacy of a war to “the prudential judgment of those who have responsibility for the common good” (Catechism of the Catholic Church, #2309).

Now that our nation’s leaders have made their decision, and war has begun, we must set aside our differences in order to support our president and to demonstrate our solidarity with the women and men who are risking their lives to defend our nation and to liberate the Iraqi people.

We join with all Americans in praying for the safe return of all members of our armed forces. We call on President Bush and all our military leaders to do everything in their power to avoid civilian casualties, to reduce the risk to our troops and to respect the people and the holy places of Iraq.

We call on the leaders of Iraq to abandon weapons of mass destruction, to avoid using innocent people as “shields,” and to protect Iraq’s natural resources. We urge people of good will everywhere to participate in humanitarian efforts to provide food, shelter, clothing and medical assistance to all victims of this war’s deadly consequences.

To all those who argued against this war, as we did, we pledge our continued efforts to work, pray and hope that the day will come when war is no longer an option in settling international conflicts. To all those who disagreed with us, we promise to be faithful in working, praying and hope that this war will be concluded successfully (as quickly as possible) with minimal loss of life and with freedom for the Iraqi people.

Above all, we pray that the one God who is worshipped by Jews, Christians and Muslims will inspire all the children of Abraham to work for peace with justice, and to hope for freedom for Iraq and for all God’s people in every region of the world.

“Peace if we really want it, is always possible” (Pope John Paul II).

— Daniel Conway

(Daniel Conway is a member of the editorial committee of the board of directors of Criterion Press Inc. )

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It is instructive to realize that Jesus’ time in the desert evokes the 40 years Israel spent roaming in the desert before finally entering the Promised Land. It is a long journey Israel was seeking to discover itself. And, as we know from the Bible, Israel was severely tested along the way.

But it was also in the desert that God revealed his name to his chosen people. The desert was the birthplace of Israel as an ancestor to Christ. It was there that the people were promised that God would be with them, would provide for their every need and that the people would live as a holy nation.

Now that our nation’s leaders have decided, and war has begun, we must set aside our differences in order to support our president and to demonstrate our solidarity with the women and men who are risking their lives to defend our nation and to liberate the Iraqi people.

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(Daniel Conway is a member of the editorial committee of the board of directors of Criterion Press Inc. )
Los sacramentos son nuestra tabla de salvación al mundo real

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Tatiana, a Catholic singer and former pop star in Croatia, will perform in “H Thirst: The Crucifiction Story” at 7 p.m. on March 30 at St. Joseph Parish, 2605 St. Joe Road West, in Sellersburg. The program will be a prayerful musical performance. For more information, call the parish office at 812-246-2512.

A Music Menagerie: Preludes, Meditations and Postludes for Organ and Piano is a new CD recording available from St. John the Evangelist Parish in Indianapolis. Thomas Nichols, the parish music director, is featured, performing on St. John’s 50-foot Gouding and Wood pipe organ and Baldwin grand piano. Most of the selections are pieces of his own composition or his arrangements based on well-known Catholic melodies from a variety of periods. The cost is $15, a portion of which will benefit the parish music program. For more information or to order the CD, call the parish office at 317-635-2021 or e-mail ThomasNichols@prodigy.net or write to ThomasNichols, St. John Church, 126 W. Georgia St., Indianapolis, IN 46225-1004.

Saint Mary-of-the-Woods College is offering its spring open house on April 11-12. The open house is a time for students to experience life at The Woods by visiting with current students and faculty. Prospective students can get a firsthand look at college life by staying on campus overnight with current students. For more information, call the Office of Admissions at 812-555-5100 or 800-926-7692.

St. Francis Hospital and Health Centers is offering a course titled “Freedom from Smoking” that was developed by the American Lung Association. It is designed to help smokers become nonsmokers by offering a step-by-step plan to break their habit. Beginning April 7, the seven-week class will meet from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. on Mondays at St. Francis Hospital, 811 S. Emerson Ave., in Indianapolis. The cost of the program is $75 and is discounted to $50 with a physician’s referral. For more information or to reserve a space, call Kim Modglin at 317-782-7999, ext. 2999.

The youth ministry program of St. Mary Parish, 212 Washington St., in North Vernon, is presenting the Living Way of the Cross in April. This drama of the last hours of Christ has been presented by teams from the North Vernon area since 1980. They will perform at 2:30 p.m. on April 6 at St. John the Apostle Parish, 4607 State Road 46, in Bloomington; at 2 p.m. on April 13 at the St. Francis convent in Oldenburg; and at 3 p.m. on April 18 at St. Mary Parish in North Vernon. For more information, call the parish office at 317-364-3406.

Marian College, 3200 Cold Spring Road, in Indianapolis, is hosting a free information session on parish nursing from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. on March 29. It will be an opportunity to put faith into practice as a nurse in the parish community. Some of the topics covered will be the role and functions of the parish nurse and how to get started in the faith community. Marian College also offers a parish nursing course over six Saturdays. Interested parish members, laypeople and nurses are invited to learn about how to get a parish nursing program started through Marian College’s Parish Nursing Program. For more information or to register, call 317-655-6132.

The Sisters of Providence at Saint Mary-of-the-Woods are hosting a Vocation Discernment Weekend on April 4-6 for women ages 18 to 42 who are searching for ways in which they can make a difference in the world. Housing and meals are provided. Information will be presented about the discernment process and the stages of formation, along with a panel discussion, personal prayer time and a candid conversation. For more information or to register, call Providence Sister Bernice Kuper at 812-533-3131, ext. 124, or e-mail her at bkuper@uspnw.org or log on to www.sistersofprovidence.org.

Information programs on spiritual direction are scheduled for March. The first program is sponsored by the Benedict Inn Retreat and Conference Center in Beech Grove and will be presented by Benedictine Sister Betty Drewes. Sessions will be held at 7 p.m. on April 7 at the retreat and conference center, 1402 Southern Ave., in Beech Grove; at 7 p.m. on April 8 at St. Luke’s Methodist Spiritual Life Center, 100 W. 86th St., in Indianapolis; at 7 p.m. on April 9 at St. Paul Catholic Center, 1413 E. 17th St., in Bloomington; and at 7 p.m. on April 10 in the St. Francis Chapel at Marian College, 3200 Cold Spring Road, in Indianapolis. Each session will provide information about spiritual direction, how to find a director and how to become a director. For more information, call 317-788-7581 or e-mail benedict@indy.net or log on to www.benedicton.org.

In the Feb. 21 issue of The Criterion, the Cardinal Ritter High School Values Awards were featured. Not mentioned were the St. Thomas More Parish Knights of Columbus from Mooresville, who won a Values Award for their exemplary service to the Indianapolis West Deanery.

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The Sisters of Providence at Saint Mary-of-the-Woods are hosting a Vocation Discernment Weekend on April 4-6 for women ages 18 to 42 who are searching for ways in which they can make a difference in the world. Housing and meals are provided. Information will be presented about the discernment process and the stages of formation, along with a panel discussion, personal prayer time and a candid conversation. For more information or to register, call Providence Sister Bernice Kuper at 812-533-3131, ext. 124, or e-mail her at bkuper@uspnw.org or log on to www.sistersofprovidence.org.

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Marianist priest and political scientist warn about relativism in U.S. law

By Brandon A. Evans

The understanding of law on which the United States was founded is slipping away at a grave cost.

This is what Marianist Father John Putka, a professor of political science at the University of Dayton, said in his presentation “From Jefferson to Nuremberg to Now” on March 12 at Holy Rosary Parish in Indianapolis to an audience of about 175 people.

His presentation was the first of five to be repeated on consecutive Wednesdays at the parish as part of its “Spaghetti and Spirituality” adult education series.

“I think there is a critical need for Catholics to be more informed about their faith, their traditions and the teachings of the catechism on various subjects,” said Msgr. Joseph F. Schaedel, vicar general and the pastor of Holy Rosary Parish. “Lent is the perfect time to discipline one’s self to take the time to study these topics.”

Father Putka, in trying to explain the current political and judicial situation, went back to the birth of our nation.

In 1776, when Thomas Jefferson set down to draft the Declaration of Independence, he said, “We have a society that is never proper in American law,” Father Putka said, “that our courts have become runaway courts, that our judges, basically, are redesigning society the way they think it should be, and they’re totally ignoring our history, our moral history [and our] cultural history.

One problem we have, that every society, in general, is liberal, he said. Father Putka cited Vaclav Havel, the former president of Czechoslovakia, who lived behind the Iron Curtain for 25 years and discussed his experience.

“They all knew the system did not work,” Father Putka said. “They all knew there was something seriously wrong. They all knew there were massive problems in the system. But they all pretended that everything was OK, that everything was going to work out, and . . . they called it ‘living the lie.’”

Speaking about America today, Father Putka said, “We have a society that doesn’t realize how serious the situation is.”

He urged members of the audience to be involved in trying to restore a clearer understanding of the moral law. First and foremost among the various ways to get involved is to pray. “The Holy Father has said over and over and over again, we are involved in a cultural battle, we are involved in a knock-down, drag-out battle between good and evil, and this battle is being fought on the spiritual plane, that is, we are talking about the hearts and souls of people, that we are talking about their eternal life and our welfare, and we are not talking about the truly important things: what happens in eternity?”

He suggested the Eucharist, the sacraments and a personal prayer life as the most important weapons.

Additionally, he praised Pope John Paul II for all the materials he has provided for people to learn about these issues.

“As Catholics, we have no excuses to not be informed, to not know what’s going on, to not know what the issues are,” he said.

There are many other opportunities that Catholics have to make a difference, from conversations with others to being involved in the right to life movement.

Father Putka said we must not forget that history is filled with individuals who made a great difference in the world.

“There are great people whom the Lord calls forth at every point in history to provide the leadership to do what has to be done,” he said, “and those people are among us and there are more coming, and all we have to do is cooperate with them and we can change the world, and as Christ started to change it 2,000 years ago.”

(“The “Spaghetti and Spirituality” series will continue on the two remaining regular Wednesdays in Lent—through April 9—starting with an English Mass at 3:45 p.m. Confessions will be offered before Mass. Afterward, there will be a light, meatless dinner, followed by a speaker at 7 p.m. By 8:30 p.m. the question-and-answer segment will end. There is no charge for the series except a free-will donation.

Advance registration is required by the Monday before each presentation. To register, call 317-636-4478.”)
Pope prays for victims of U.S.-Iraqi war, their families

VEN CITY (CNS)—As the death toll in Iraq rose and television stations broadcast pictures of captured U.S. soldiers, Pope John Paul II prayed for all the victims of the war and for their families.

Raising his voice in an emphatic prayer, the pope also prayed on March 23 for “the gift of peace.”

At the end of a beatification Mass in St. Peter’s Square on the fourth day of the U.S.-led attacks on Iraq, the pope asked the Blessed Virgin Mary’s intercession to bring peace to the region.

“To her, we particularly entrust the victims of these hours of war and their families who are suffering,” the pope said as dozens of people in the square waved rainbow-colored peace banners.

The pope said his affection and prayers are with all those suffering because of the war.

Pope John Paul also spoke about the fighting in Iraq on March 22 as he welcomed the employees of Telepace, an Italian-based Catholic television and radio network celebrating its 25th anniversary.

“When, as in Iraq, in these days, war threatens the fate of humanity, it is even more urgent to proclaim with a strong and decisive voice that peace is the only path for building a society which is more just and marked by solidarity,” the pope said.

“Violence and weapons can never resolve the problems of man,” he said.

Pope John Paul II greeted a young girl at the Vatican on March 22. Calling peace a gift, Pope John Paul II declared that weapons can “never resolve the problems of man.”

The pope “did not stop the war, but he touched the heart of the world,” the cardinal told the Italian newspaper Corriere della Sera on March 22.

“He made the same appeals against violence even though the war is under way. "Showing them like trophies offends human dignity," said the newspaper, "but Our Lord saved me.”

French Cardinal Paul Poupard, president of the Pontifical Council for Culture, said Pope John Paul’s efforts for peace cannot be considered a failure even though the war is under way.

“The pope ‘did not stop the war, but he touched the heart of the world,’’” the cardinal told the Italian newspaper Corriere della Sera on March 22.

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Catholic Relief Services initiates humanitarian response in Iraq

Catholic Relief Services (CRS) is providing food and medicine to the people of Iraq as the war threatens to greatly worsen the country’s humanitarian crisis. The agency is responding to humanitarian needs inside Iraq as well as in neighboring countries to support Iraqi refugees.

“We have worked and prayed for a peaceful resolution to this crisis, and we regret painfully that war was not avoided,” said Chris Tucker, Catholic Relief Services regional director for the Middle East and North Africa. “We will renew our efforts to assist the Iraqi people in addressing the immediate needs of this crisis and in rebuilding.

“Our prayers are with all people most directly affected by this war, particularly the people of Iraq, those providing for their humanitarian needs, the men and women who risk their lives in service of our nation, and peace-loving families and loves ones,” he said.

CRS is working with local Church organizations, particularly Caritas, in Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Syria and Turkey to enhance their capacity to respond to the immediate needs of Iraqis, including refugees.

“The needs in Iraq—particularly health—were acute even before the onset of war, with high rates of infant mortality and a dire shortage of medicine,” Tucker said.

In addition to concerns regarding the safety and basic needs of Iraqi civilians and the urgency of providing food, water and medicines to affected populations, an estimated 600,000 to 1.5 million Iraqis could flee the country because of the conflict, with as many as 2 million people potentially displaced within Iraq. Iraq is already home to nearly a million displaced citizens.

CRS has provided substantial humanitarian assistance to the people of Iraq throughout the country since the end of the first Gulf War, targeting undernourished children, pregnant and lactating mothers, and the elderly, hand-capped and very needy. In 2002, the program reached more than 30,000 vulnerable persons throughout Iraq. CRS also assisted in the rehabilitation of water systems in several areas, reaching 175,000 people.

In addition to serving the vulnerable Iraqi population inside the country, CRS has also assisted Iraqi refugees in Jordan, Syria and Lebanon.

To contribute to Catholic Relief Services efforts in Iraq, send donations to:

Archdiocese of Indianapolis
Iraq Humanitarian Response
1400 N. Meridian St., P.O. Box 1410
Indianapolis, IN 46206-1171

Parents of children in the Gulf said the prayers help them.

“I am scared and I think other kids are too,” she said. “The war is all over the TV and radio, and it is nice to be together here at school, praying, and then return to the everyday tasks of school and not have to think about it for a few hours.” Parish staff said many parishioners are worried and concerned about the war. Providence Sister Mary Beth Kinzel, pastoral associate at St. M. Margaret Mary Parish in Terre Haute, said names of soldiers from the parish are listed in the parish bulletin along with their addresses so parishioners can write notes of support or send food supplies to them.

“So many people in the parish are concerned and inquire about those in the military,” said Sister Mary Beth. “They say, ‘We are praying for them, and that means a lot to people.’

“The parish is also offering prayers for peace and for all the military at every liturgy. St. Patrick Parish in Terre Haute is also sending names in the bulletin. Msgr. Lawrence Moran asked those who take a holy hour in the parish adoration chapel to pray for peace and asked every parishioner to pray a rosary for peace.

“Any parishes are just beginning prayer activities directed toward the war and military personnel.”

Father Clement Davis, pastor of St. Bartholomew Parish in Columbus, is trying to find out how many of his parishioners are serving in the military. Those he knows of are receiving prayer and moral support, he said.

Talking to children about war

Parents, teachers and catechists who need resources on how to talk to children about the war may find these sites helpful.

The National Conference of Catechetical Leadership has responses to talking to children and teens at www.nccl.org.

The New Albany Deanery also has separate links for parents and young adults and teens at www.nadyouth.org.

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sites around the world, millions joined in prayers for peace, while elsewhere Catholics and others chose to continue their protests against the U.S.-led war in Iraq.

Jesuit Father Denis Como, a Boston priest who has been stationed in Amman for five months, was bracing for the arrival of more Iraqi refugees in Jordan with the start of the war. He said there are already 400,000 refugees there from Iraq, 10,000 of them Chaldean Catholics.

“When the war begins, there will be millions coming over the border,” he told The Pilot, Boston archdiocesan newspaper, in an e-mail shortly before the war began.

“The children suffer the most,” Father Como added. “And the elderly suffer because they know they may die on the way to a city in the U.S., Australia or Sweden.”

At the Army Reserve Center in Denver, 20 men and women in camouflage fatigues called on their Catholic faith to strengthen them as they prepared to meet the greatest challenge of their young lives.

Benedictine Father Ed Kucera advised them to “bond together and help each other through” when they are deployed to a war zone, and to “look to each other to help, to pray for each other through” when they are deployed to “bond together and help each other through” when they are deployed to a war zone, and to “look to each other to help, to pray for each other through” when they are deployed to a war zone, and to “look to each other to help, to pray for each other through” when they are deployed to a war zone, and to “look to each other to help, to pray for each other through” when they are deployed to a war zone, and to “look to each other to help, to pray for each other through” when they are deployed to a war zone, and to “look to each other to help, to pray for each other through” when they are deployed to a war zone, and to “look to each other to help, to pray for each other through” when they are deployed to a war zone, and to “look to each other to help, to pray for each other 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Fourth mystery of light: the Transfiguration

By Sister Genevieve Glen, O.S.B.

Without light, we human beings see nothing.

With the light of day, we see the world around us.

With the light of God’s Spirit, whose image is fire, we see beneath the world’s skin to the heart of mystery.

But mystery is not what unfolds on prime-time television when a brilliant detective answers the age-old question, “Who dunnit?”

Mystery is that fascinating but frightening reality that burns at the core of things, inviting us into the Presence by hints and guesses, but flaming so brightly that we must shade our eyes or we will go blind if we stare into it too long.

God is that ultimate mystery, revealed to us in unnumbered ways through that prism of experience, prayer and story which we come to understand a bit filled with meaning.

The Spirit flickers across our path, teaching us of the mystery. Through it, the light of the resurrection shines on us in unnumbered ways through that prism of experience, prayer and story which we come to understand a bit filled with meaning.

It invites us to see the simple, sometimes even uninteresting, sacramental actions of the Church—pouring water, anointing with oil, blessing, breaking and sharing bread and wine—as Christ’s work of redemption made present in our midst.

More, it invites us to see in those who suffer and in our own suffering the passageway from death to life opening up before the feet of all peoples.

“In your light, we see light,” says the psalmist (Ps 36:12). In the light of Jesus transfigured, we see the entire world lit from within by the radiance of God’s love.

Benedictine Sister Genevieve Glen is a member of the Abbey of St. Walburga at Virginia Dale, Colo.)

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Discussion Point

Setting goals helps strengthen faith

This Week’s Question

Do you have a particular goal you are pursuing now as a Christian in terms of spirituality or of learning, for example? If so, what is it?

“I am trying to set aside 30 minutes a day for silence. I realized that my days were too noisy and hectic, so I am putting these 30 minutes aside each day to just listen to God. I confess I am having trouble establishing this habit, but I am still determined to keep trying.”

(Suzanne Gierke, Wilmington, Del.)

“I’m interested in social justice issues—the mission of the Church. I’m actively engaged in supporting community health initiatives, and we do this ecumenically, which I think is very important.” (Claudia Fiebig, Springfield, Va.)

“I’m the director of religious education at Sacred Heart Parish in Nogales, Ariz., so my focus is on teaching the faith. But it is my goal—and my daily prayer—to better show my faith by example, by the way I live my life.”

(Mary K. Espinoza, Nogales, Ariz.)

Lend Us Your Voice

An upcoming edition asks: Does your practice of faith make you a healthier person? How?

To respond for possible publication, write to Faith Alive! at 3211 Fourth St. N.E., Washington, D.C. 20017-1100.
Important events: The East-West Schism

Cynthia Dewes

From the Editor Emeritus / its unity was often threatened. As early as because it was headed by the successor of Rome. The only one in the West was archates were established—in Jerusalem, 

ration long before 1054.

1054 is the 22nd on my list of the book.

Now in his 30s, he seizes the day better

About the Salem witch investigated the
drama seemed promising.

The witch trials in 17th-century

After all, so much to

Redemption didn't seem to rate highly

War is a horrible sign of the continuing

We Catholics can do more than simply
time of unease often also advise them simply to turn

to grace us with the peace which

So we can base our actions as parents on

must take up arms to protect the freedom and the very lives of their children and so many others so located around the world. In

The Puritans were a Protestant Reform

Their sermons were full of hell

Parents reassure their children
during times of unease often also advise them simply to turn away from their

gods and their children that they will always take care of them, no matter how many bad things happen to them.

This is indeed very good advice. But it is

We have the assurance that Jesus gives to us that we will never be separated from God’s love.

We can come to experience this unending love of God and his}

The Puritans were a Protestant Reform

The only one in the West was

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The church was a relatively small colony. The

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The Sunday Readings
Sunday, March 30, 2003

Two Christs

The Second Book of Chronicles provides this Lenten weekend with its first reading.

As the title of this book implies, its purpose was to set the history in perspective of the history of God’s people. However, always the most important aspect of their history was religious. The purpose of the Scriptures was to give religious information. Originally, this book, now one of two volumes, was part of a single unit. At some point, editors divided the book of Chronicles into two distinct volumes.

Chronicles was written about 1,000 years before Jesus. The identity of its author is unknown. A constant refrain, and source of grief, among the prophets and the devout of the Land, it gathered many Jews and took hostages or slaves, but their lives were miserable.

Inevitably, these messengers met rebuke. Serpents were important in ancient iconography, more important among the pagan cultures of the ancient Near East than among Jews. Serpents symbolized eternal life since they shed their hides and seemingly were reborn to new lives. Jesus predicts being lifted up as Moses lifted up the serpent. All who would look upon Jesus would have everlasting life. Jesus was in the world as the gift of God’s love. He came to redeem humanity from sin. In Jesus would forever be eternal life.

But Jesus was not a conqueror or oppressor. People must freely choose to follow Jesus by renouncing their own sin. Still, renouncing sin is worth it. Life is the consequence for sin brings death.

The Lord leads us to life. He is the “light” of the world.

Reflection
This weekend often is called “Laetare Sunday,” taking its name from the Latin word “laetare,” which means “to rejoice.” This is the first word of the Entrance Antiphon, which in the Roman Rite for centuries was in Latin. The Church calls us to rejoice, even as we are in the fourth week of Lent, the season of austerity and penance. We rejoice because Jesus has opened for us the way to salvation. Our Lenten prayer and sacrifice condition us to respond eagerly to the Lord’s invitation to be with God.

In the liturgies of this weekend, priests have the option of wearing pink or, to be precise, rose-colored vestments. Rose is not the toning down of a stricter purple. Rather, it is the subdued purple brightened by the golden light of the Resurrection, awaiting us just a few weeks ahead. Then, in the burst of liturgical majesty and joy, we shall celebrate that the Lord lives! We can look upon our lives on earth as a dark and obscure time. Everyone experiences moments of less than unique joy.

Always, for the truly holy, Jesus stands before us, the sinless Son, awaiting us with the gift of eternal life. The brightness of God’s love, manifested in Jesus given in Jesus, and the brightness of heaven, rush across the darkness of any human life, providing even the most distant, with a glimpse of the glory that awaits those who love the Lord.

Question Corner/By John Dietzen

Eastern Rite Catholics observe the Great Lent

Q Could you define the present Lenten regulations for fast and abstinence?

We have observed them unchanged for several years. But now there seems to be confusion again. Catholic friends tell us that in their church they fast only until noon. Which is right? (Pennsylvania)

A The rules for fast and abstinence in the Eastern Catholic Church are the same as they have been for many years. In most places in the United States, perhaps in all dioceses now, Catholics over 14 years of age are obliged to abstain from meat, and soup and gravy made from meat, on Ash Wednesday and all Fridays of Lent.

On two days, Ash Wednesday and Good Friday, those over 18 and under 59 should fast. This means taking only one full meal and only liquids like milk and fruit juices between meals. The second marriage was annulled before he entered the priesthood. Since an annulment, as I and my friends understand it, means there was never a true marriage, does that make his children illegitimate? (Nebraska)

Q Recently, a man was ordained to the priesthood in my parish. He was married and had children. His first wife died and his second marriage ended in divorce.

The second marriage was annulled before he entered the priesthood. Since an annulment, as I and my friends understand it, means there was never a true marriage, does that make his children illegitimate? (Nebraska)

Q If a man and woman were free from any impediment at the time of their marriage (if, for example, neither of them were validly married to someone else), Church and civil law consider children born during that marriage as legitimate, even if that marriage is annulled some time later.

Some unions are called putative marriages. This means that everyone, including probably the couple themselves, thought they were married and there was no public reason to think otherwise.

The fact that some condition was present at the time of marriage that caused it to be annulled years afterward does not affect the legitimacy of their children.

(A free brochure describing basic Catholic prayers, beliefs and moral precepts is available by sending a stamped and self-addressed envelope to Father John Dietzen, Box 325, Peoria, IL 61651. Questions may be sent to Father Dietzen at the above address or by e-mail in care of jjdietzen@aol.com)
March 28
Marian College, St. Francis Hall Chapel. 3:30 Cold Spring Road, Indianapolis. Catholic Charismatic Renewal, prayer meeting, 7-8:30 p.m. Information: 317-927-6900.

St. Joan of Arc Church, 4217 N. Central Ave., Indianapolis. Rosary and Way of the Cross, 7 p.m. Information: 317-283-5508.

St. Rita Parish, 1733 Dr. Andrew J. Brown Ave., Indianapolis. Stations of the Cross, 6 p.m. Lenten fish fry, 4-7 p.m. Information: 317-545-7494.

Holy Angels School, 2822 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. St., Indianapolis. Fish fry, 12-7:30 p.m. Information: 317-926-5211.

St. Therese of the Infant Jesus (Little Flower) School, 1401 N. Bosart Ave., Indianapolis. Fish fry, 4-7:30 p.m., Lenten fish fry, 5-7 p.m. Information: 317-357-8532.

St. Therese of the Infant Jesus (Little Flower) Church, 1401 N. Bosart Ave., Indianapolis. Fish fry, 5:30-7 p.m. Information: 317-831-1431.

St. Thomas More Parish, 1200 N. Indiana St., Mooresville. Fish fry, 5-8 p.m. Information: 317-831-1431.

March 28-30


March 29
Constance House of Prayer, 6560 E. 44th St., Indianapolis. Silent prayer day, 9 a.m.-2:30 p.m., bring lunch, free-will offering. Registration: 317-543-0154.

Marian College, St. Francis Hall, 3200 Cold Spring Road, Indianapolis. Parish nursing program, information session, 9:30-11:30 a.m. Information: 317-955-6132.

March 29-April 7
Saint Mary-of-the-Woods College, Art Galleries, 132 Holman Way, St. Mary-of-the-Woods, Indiana. Gallery open Tuesday to Friday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Information: 812-355-5265.

March 30

St. Paul School, gymnasium, 7978 N. Deerborn Road, Guildford. Booster Club, whole hog sausage and pancake breakfast, 7:30-11:30 a.m., free-will donation. Information: 812-823-2631.

St. Andrew Parish, Father Hillman Hall, 333 S. 5th St., Richmond. Catholic Women United, 7 p.m. Information: 765-827-7087.

Mary’s King’s Village Schoenstatt, Rivelle (located on 925 South, 8 mile east of 421 South, 12 miles south of Versailles). "Schoenstatt Spirituality," 2:30 p.m., Mass, 3:30 p.m. with Father Elmer Burwinkel. Information: 812-689-3551 or e-mail church@shoenstatt.com or log on to Schoenstatt Web site at www.schotenstatt.com/egrubink.

March 31
St. Luke Church, Chapel, 7575 Holliday Dr., Indianapolis. "Candlelight Evening of Prayer In Our Nation’s Time of War," bring a candle, 7:30 p.m.

Mary’s King’s Village Schoenstatt, Rivelle. (located on 925 South, 8 mile east of 421 South, 12 miles south of Versailles). “Family Faith Time,” 7 p.m., Mass, 8 p.m. with Father Elmer Burwinkel. Information: 812-689-3551 or e-mail church@shoenstatt.com or log on to Schoenstatt Web site at www.schotenstatt.com/egrubink.

April 1
St. Bridge Church, 404 E. Vine St., Liberty, Mass. Healing Mass, 5-7 p.m. Information: 765-825-7087.

April 1-May 13
Archbishop Edward T. O’Meara Catholic Center, 1400 N. Meridian St., Indianapolis. Systematic Training For Effective Parenting (STEP) class, 6:30-8:30 p.m., no class April 15. Registration: 317-236-1526.

April 1
St. John the Evangelist Church, 126 W. Georgia St., Indianapolis. Lenten Parish, Women’s Club fish fry, 4-7 p.m.

April 2
University of Notre Dame, McKennan Hall, South Bend, Ind. Pro-life conference for high school students, Mass, 10 a.m., check-in, 11:15 a.m., $5 per person includes lunch and dinner. Information: 735-797-6055.

April 7
Benedict Inn Retreat and Conference Center, 1402 Southern Ave., Beech Grove. Information program on spiritual direction, Benedictine Sister Betty Dreves, presenter. 7 p.m. Information: 317-788-7581.

St. Luke Church, Chapel, 7575 Holliday Dr., Indianapolis. "Candlelight Evening of Prayer In Our Nation’s Time of War," bring a candle, 7:30 p.m.

April 8
St. Luke Methodist Spiritual Life Center, 100 W. 86th St., Indianapolis. "In Our Nation’s Time of War," speaker, 7 p.m.

April 4-6
St. John the Evangelist Church, 126 W. Georgia St., Indianapolis. Men’s Club fish fry, 4-7 p.m.

April 4-6

Suggested Gifts for the New Convert

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Saturday 9:30 to 5:00

“Your grandpa’s always talking to the man upstairs. I think he was born before elevators.”

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The Active List, continued from page 14

Marian College, St. Francis Chapel, 3200 Cold Spring Road, Indianapolis. Information program on spiritual direction, Benedictine Sister Betty Drewes, presenter; 7 p.m. Information: 317-738-7581.

Daily

Our Lady of the Greenwood Church, Chapel, 355 S. Meridian St., Greenwood.

Perpetual adoration.

Holy Rosary Church, 520 Stevens St., Indianapolis. Triduum (Latin) Mass, Mon.–Fri., noon; Wed., Fri., 7:45 p.m. Information: 317-636-4478.

St. John of Ars Parish, 4217 Central Ave., Indianapolis. Leave a telephone number to be contacted by a member of the prayer group. Prayer line: 317-767-9479.

St. Therese of the Infant Jesus (Little Flower) Church, Chapel, 4720 E. 13th St., Indianapolis.

Perpetual adoration. Information: 317-357-3546.

St. Thomas More Church, 1200 N. Indiana St., Mooresville.

Perpetual adoration.

Monthly

First Sundays

St. Paul Church, 218 Scheller Ave., Sellersburg. Prayer group, 7:45 a.m. Information: 812-246-4555.

Fatima Knights of Columbus, 1080 N. Post Road, Indianapolis. Eucharute, 1 p.m. Information: 317-638-8416.

Holy Cross Church, 123 N. Oriental St., Indianapolis. Mass for Catholics in recovery, 5 p.m. Information: 317-637-2620.

First Mondays

Archbishop O’Meara Catholic Center, 1400 N. Meridian St., Indianapolis. Guardian Angel Guild, board meeting, 9:30 a.m.

First Tuesdays

Divine Mercy Chapel, 3354 W. 39th St., Indianapolis. Confession, 6:45 p.m.; Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament, 7:30 p.m.


First Fridays

St. Vincent de Paul Church, 1723 “T” St., Bedford. Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament after 8:30 a.m. Mass, 9 p.m., reconciliation, 4-6 p.m.

Holy Name Church, 89 N. 17th Ave., Beech Grove. Mass, 8:15 a.m.; devotions following Mass until 5 p.m. Information: 317-784-9454.

St. Peter Church, 1207 East Road, Brooksivle. Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament after 8 a.m. until Communion service, 1 p.m.

Holy Guardian Angels Church, 405 U.S. 52, Cedar Grove. Eucharistic adoration after 8 a.m. Mass-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.

Holy Rosary Church, 520 Stevens St., Indianapolis. Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament after 5:45 p.m. Mass-9 a.m. Saturday. Information: 317-636-4478.

Our Lady of Lourdes Church, 5333 E. Washington St., Indianapolis. Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, prayer service, 7:30 p.m.

St. Anthony Church, 379 N. Warman Ave., Indianapolis. Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament after 5:30 p.m. Mass, hour of silent prayer and reflection followed by Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament.

St. Joseph Church, 1375 S. Mcklely Ave., Indianapolis. Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, 4 p.m., rosary, 5 p.m., Benediction, 5:30 p.m., Mass, 5:45 p.m. Information: 317-244-6002.

St. Rita Church, 1733 Dr. Andrew J. Brown Ave., Indianapolis.

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, prayer service, 7:30-10:30 a.m. Mass, 6:30 a.m. Information: 317-636-5551.

Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church, 1752 Scheller Lane, New Albany. Adoration concluding with confessions at 6 p.m. Benediction, 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, 5:15 p.m. Information: 812-235-4996.

First Saturdays

Our Lady of the Greenwood Church, 335 S. Meridian St., Greenwood. Devotions, Mass, recreation of reconciliation, rosary, meditations, 8 a.m.

Holy Angels Church, 740 W. 28th St., Indianapolis. Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, 11 a.m.-noon.

St. Therese of the Infant Jesus (Little Flower) Church, Chapel, 4720 E. 13th St., Indianapolis. Apostolate of Fatima holy hour, 2 p.m.

St. Anthony Church, 379 N. Warman Ave., Indianapolis. Reconciliation, 7:45 a.m., Mass, 8:15 a.m. followed by rosary.

St. Thomas More Church, 1200 N. Indiana St., Mooresville. Mass, 8:35 a.m. Information: 317-831-1431.

St. Mary Church, 415 E. Eighth St., New Albany. Eucharistic adoration and confessions after 9 p.m. Mass.

9 p.m. Mass.

St. Nicholas Church, 6601 E. St. Nicholas Dr., Sunman. Mass, praise and worship, 8 a.m., then SACRED gathering in the school.

Second Sundays

Church at Mount St. Francis. Holy hour for vocations to priesthood and religious life, 7 p.m.

Second Thursdays

St. Luke Church, 7575 Holiday Dr. E., Indianapolis. Holy hour for priestly and religious vocations, 7 p.m.

Third Sundays

Christ the King Church, 1827 Kessler Blvd. E., Indianapolis. Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, 2 p.m.-7 p.m. Monday, rosary, 8 p.m. Open until midnight.

Third Mondays

St. Matthew Parish, 4100 E. 56th St., Indianapolis. Young Widowed Group, sponsored by archdiocesan Office for Family Ministries, 7:30 p.m. Childcare available. Information: 317-236-1586. T

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We restore joints & inspire strength.
Bishop hopes U.S. youths can renew faith of peers in Netherlands

"It is not a vital Church anymore," he said, adding that he hopes the Life Teen program will help bring youths back to God.

While in St. Louis, the bishop stayed at the provincial house of the Carmelite Sisters of the Divine Heart of Jesus in Kirkwood, Mo. Carmelite Sister Mary Joseph Hessler accompanied him on his interview with the Review on March 15. Sister Mary Joseph returned three months ago from a 22-month stint at her congregation's international mother house in Sittard, Netherlands, in the Roermond diocese, where she helped start a Life Teen group. It was through her efforts that Bishop de Jong first heard about the program's success.

The bishop previously had briefly visited St. Louis while he was in the United States to study for a doctorate in philosophy at The Catholic University of America in Washington from 1986-89.

As in any partnership, both the archdiocese and his diocese should benefit by participating, Bishop de Jong said. "Your faith will be strengthened by giving it to us."
FRANCISCIAN SISTER ROSE CELLLLA PlIAS taught at diocesan schools

Franciscan Sister Rose Cellla Pluss taught at diocesan schools

Franciscan Sister Rose Cellla Pluss taught at Holy Name School in Grove, St. Joseph School in Shelbyville and the former St. Francis de Sales School in Indianapolis. Her ministries also included hospital administration for the Franciscan friars at Holy Family Hospital. In her later years, she assisted in home care of the elderly. She retired in 1990. Surviving are two sisters, Franciscan Sister Mary Grace Pluss and Theresa Klontz and two brothers, Joseph and Tony Pluss.

_Providence Sister Marie Bernardine Swygan was teacher, principal_

Providence Sister Marie Bernardine Swygan was teacher, principal.

Providence Sister Marie Bernardine Swygan died on March 20 in Karcher Hall at Saint Mary-of-the-Woods. She was 97.

The funeral Mass was celebrated on March 26 in the Chapel of the Holy Cross Conception at Saint Mary-of-the-Woods. Burial followed in the sisters’ cemetery.

The former Anne Edith Swygan was born on Sept. 26, 1905, in Lafayette, Ind. She entered the congregation of the Sisters of Providence on May 29, 1929, professed first vows on Aug. 15, 1935, and professed final vows on Aug. 15, 1936.

Sister Marie Bernardine taught in schools staffed by the Sisters of Providence in Doloree Strassler.


Two Senate pro-life bills cross to House for reconsideration

By Margaret Nelson

Pro-life legislation supported by the Indiana Catholic Conference (ICC) are among bills that have crossed over from the Senate of the 2003 Indiana General Assembly, where they were introduced, to be considered by the House.

By March 4, 275 House bills and 194 Senate bills crossed over to the House floor. Three pro-life bills were heard in Senate committees and received third reading votes. A statewide contingent of Knights of Columbus leaders heard two of these bills being debated on the floor of the Senate.

Senate Bill 145, a death penalty bill sponsored by Sen. Anita Bowser (D-Michigan City) surfaced from the Criminal Law Study Committee. It attempted to bring current law in line with a recent Supreme Court ruling that calls for the lethal injection technique to be defended by a term of a number of years or life without parole when there is a hung jury. This bill passed out of the Senate Judiciary Committee by a vote of 16-5 and failed in the Senate floor vote of 20-28.

Senate Bill 151, a bill banning human cloning sponsored by Sen. Patricia Miller (R-Indianapolis), passed out of the Health and Human Affairs Committee by a vote of 11-0 then passed third reading with a vote of 47-3. According to the ICC, this vote suggests that Indiana senators, speaking for their constituents, agreed that it is wrong to destroy a human clone, even assuming that some good results may be accomplished.

Senate Bill 173, which expands informed consent requirements for abortion, was sponsored by Sen. R. Mich-ael Young (R-Indianapolis). This bill requires a woman considering abortion to be told that she has the right, if she chooses to exercise it, to listen to the baby’s heartbeat or view an ultrasound image of her embryo.

The bill passed out of the Health and Human Affairs Committee with a vote of 7-3 then passed the full Senate with a vote of 36-2.

M. Desmond Ryan, executive director of the Indiana Catholic Conference, said the ICC has always believed that the state’s compelling interest in the physical and mental health of the mother as well as the protection of the unborn child requires full information and sufficient time to ensure that this serious decision is not made in an unnecessary haste.

Other issues that survived the crossover with ICC sup- port include several that concern the health and welfare of Indiana citizens, including low-income assistance, health care for the uninsured and alcohol treatment for minors, township assistance, property tax exemptions and support for training of all teachers.

This is the 11th session of the Indiana General Assembly. The ICC has reported the interests of the Catholic Church at the legislature for 35 years. Its board includes the bishops of the archdiocese and four dioceses of Indiana, with one coordinator from each diocese.

(St. Andrew the Apostle parishioner Margaret Nelson of Indianapolis is a freelance writer for The Criterion.)

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St. Charles Parish, third largest in the Diocese of Toledo, is searching for a PreK-8 Principal. We are a vibrant Catholic parish with an excellent learning environment that has dedicated teachers and an enrollment of 625 students. Our school is located within the Lima Catholic High School, which is located nearby. Lima is a community of approximately 88,000 people that boasts of four Catholic Churches, two hospitals, a community symphony orchestra, a concert band, two institutions of higher learning and several service clubs.

A Master's degree in administration is desirable as is five years of educational experience. The deadline for applications is April 11th. A competitive salary and fringe package will be commensurate with experience and educational preparation. A newly cut hair you can still will be offered. The new principal will start July 1st.

Interested practicing Catholics should send a letter of application, a current resume, a list of references and any additional portfolio information that would be of interest to the search committee.

St. Charles Parish, Principal Search Committee
Attention: Brian Walter, Chair
1220 West Elm Street
Lima, Ohio 45805

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All Saints Catholic School is an historic center of y school with a diverse population located on the west side of Indianapolis. We offer a strong Catholic curriculum and we enjoy a dedicated faculty with a solid track record of teaching grades K-8. All Saints operates on a year round schedule.

A qualified individual must be a practicing Catholic and an enthusiastic leader for our family oriented Catholic atmosphere.

Bilingual skills preferred.

Send resume to:
Office of Catholic Education
Attn: Carole Williams
400 North Meridian St.
P.O. Box 1400
Indianapolis, IN 46206

Graphic Designer

The Cat holic Com m unity Center of the Emmanuel Catholic is seeking a graphic designer. The individual will be responsible for the production and design of the archdiocesan Web site.

The position requires strong graphic design skills and abilities, strong knowledge of the print medium, thorough knowledge of graphic arts and design, proficiency in purchasing printing and superior working knowledge of the Adobe Photoshop and Illustrator software. Please send resume and salary history, in confidence, to: Ed Iraburuz, Director, Human Resources
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Director of Music Ministry

A large vibrant parish in Central Kentucky is seeking a person to coover music and drama. Responsibilities include working with adults and children’s choir, planning liturgy with other staff and playing for weddings and holiday Masses. Also some teaching K thru 3 (6 hours per week). Candidate should be proficient in the organ, piano, and conducting of choir instruments. Please send resume by email to: broglinn@levent.com or fax to: 317.234.1568

Graphic Designer

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The position requires strong graphic design skills and abilities, strong knowledge of the print medium, thorough knowledge of graphic arts and design, proficiency in purchasing printing and superior working knowledge of the Adobe Photoshop and Illustrator software. Please send resume and salary, in confidence, to: Ed Iraburuz, Director, Human Resources
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Youth Ministry Coordinator

Are you an act actvive ent husiastic Cat holic with a strong spiritual, faith-based background? Are you passionate about sharing your faith with youth? Interested in working in a vibrant parish community? Then we may have just what you're looking for!

The Archdiocese of Indianapolis is seeking a full-time Youth Ministry Coordinator at the Cathedral of St. Joseph.

Youth Ministry Coordinator

St. Ambrose Church in Seymour, Indiana is searching for a part-time (20 hours a week) Youth Ministry Coordinator to organize and support t the spiritual and faith formation of our youth, grades 7-12. Ideal candidate will have a bachelor’s degree and commitment to empowering our youth to develop and share their unique gifts within the parish and larger community.

Call 812-522-2086 for further information.

Community of Youth Minister

Are you an active member of the Archdiocese of Indianapolis? Are you interested in sharing your faith with others? Do you want to be involved in the ministry of the Church? Then please consider joining the Youth Ministry Coordinator team! We are looking for individuals who are passionate about sharing their faith with youth.

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Youth Ministry Coordinator

St. Ambrose Church in Seymour, Indiana is searching for a part-time (20 hours a week) Youth Ministry Coordinator to organize and support the spiritual and faith formation of our youth, grades 7-12. Ideal candidate will have a bachelor’s degree and commitment to empowering our youth to develop and share their unique gifts within the parish and larger community.

Call 812-522-2086 for further information.
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