GIFT OF ‘MILLENNIUM CROSS’ INSPIRES PARISH IN ITS EFFORTS TO BUILD A NEW CHURCH

By Mary Ann Wyand

TERRE HAUTE—St. Margaret Mary parishioners and visitors to the south side Terre Haute parish can reflect on the birth, crucifixion and resurrection of Christ by watching “The Cross of the Millennium” rotate on a lighted, moving pedestal in the church.

The unique spiritual gift from Dr. Primo and Sylvia Andres, longtime St. Margaret Mary parishioners, is a limited edition, one-third-life-size acrylic resin cross that was created by renowned American sculptor Frederick Elliott Hart, who designed the cross in 1992.

To form the sculpture, Hart made a complex mold of ancient images of the Star of Bethlehem, Jesus crucified on the cross, and the resurrected Christ embedded inside it that appear to “melt” into one another as the cross is turned in a circle.

Hart, an Episcopalian who joined the Catholic Church during the 1970s, presented a limited edition, one-third-life-size “Cross of the Millennium” to Pope John Paul II at the Vatican in May 1997 to mark the upcoming millennium and the Holy Father’s 50th anniversary of ordination to the priesthood.

During the private ceremony at the Vatican, the pope praised Hart’s sculpture and said it “represents a profound theological statement for our day.”

Hart also created the processional cross that was used by the pope for the 1979 papal Mass at the Mall in Washington, D.C., as well as many well-known public and private sculptures in the nation’s capital and other cities. He died on Aug. 13, 1999, of lung cancer at the age of 56.

“’It’s quite an honor for St. Margaret Mary Parish to receive Hart’s ‘Cross of the Millennium,’” Father Ronald Ashmore, pastor, explained, especially since he was such a noteworthy artist and his religious sculpture also is on display at the Vatican.

“Good art has the ability to express the power of Christ from any angle and from any point of view,” said Hart’s daughter, Frederick Hart, a sculptor, during a processional blessing of the Millennium Cross in Terre Haute.

“Those discussions, I’m very happy to say, were very forward-looking, discussing how we can work together to fulfill the goals we have, which are to free the people of Iraq and provide them with humanitarian assistance in the short term, and the means to live as a free, self-sufficient country,” he added.

“Vatican officials, including Pope John Paul II, had argued before the war began that there was still room for a diplomatic solution to the crisis in Iraq,” Nicholson said.

In the aftermath of the main military phase of the war, he said, “he has heard no
Two decades, donated half of the 20-acre Drs. Ramon and Zenaida Contreras, perfect gift for the parish because of the parishioners. We thought it would be the said, “but we wanted to share it with other said, “but we wanted to share it with other

to acquire, but we were able to purchase a
died, I kind of panicked because I knew the
during that era, "some abuses have occurred, leading to confusion with regard to sound faith and Catholic doctrine concerning this wonderful sacrament.

In some places, he said, eucharistic adoration has almost disappeared, and some people focus so much on its charac-
ter as a "fraternal banquet" that they

translucent media that reflects light and draws us into the mystery of God.

Father Ashmore said Primo and Sylvia Andres purchased the cross as a gift to the parish in response to the archdiocesan Legacy of Hope from Generation to Generation capital and endowment cam-
paign, which addressed St. Margaret Mary’s need to build a larger church, a school and other parish facilities at a new south side location.

St. Margaret Mary pastoral associate Jerry Moorman said the cross is “such a striking piece, and such a statement of faith, that I think people will be inspired by it and inspired to work even harder to construct a new church to house it.”

The Terre Haute cardiologist and nurse, who are natives of the Philippines and have been parishioners for 23 years, pre-

sent it to St. Margaret Mary Parish at Easter last year. They also gave the parish a smaller replica of the cross.

“We've always followed Frederick Hart’s work,” Primo Andres said, “and we've always wanted to acquire a piece of his art. When I learned that the Holy Father had received a copy of this sculp-
ture, I decided that it was the piece I'd like to have.

"Since St. Margaret Mary Parish and the Archdiocese of Indianapolis have been mov-
ing the parish property, Sylvia and I thought it would be a nice centerpiece for the new church," he said. "When Hart died, I kind of panicked because I knew that his pieces may become very difficult to acquire, but we were able to purchase a copy of the cross."

The millennium cross "would be beauti-

ful to have in our church," Sylvia Andres said, "but we wanted to share it with other parishioners. We thought it would be the perfect gift for the parish because of the plans to build a new church. You can even see the nails in the image of the crucified Christ."

Also in response to the Legacy of Hope campaign, Dr. Ted and Cathy Lim and Dr. Ramon and Zenaida Contreras, Filipinos who have been parishioners for two decades, donated half of the 20-acre parcel of land needed on the south side for construction of the new parish campus.

Architectural plans for a new church and school on the 20-acre site will be directed by John Byers Associates of Bloomington, the project architect. Father Ashmore said. The developers and the city of Terre Haute will be working together to create access roads to the parish property and residential neighborhood that will be developed around it.

"When Father John Dede was getting ready to retire seven years ago, St. Margaret Mary parishioners began pastoral planning in order to describe parish life for a new pastor," he said. "When I came six years ago, we continued another year of pastoral planning.

"What became evident was that the things that the parish desired to do in terms of worship, religion, education and social life could not be done adequately in the facilities that we have," he said. "We like our church. It’s a good environment for worship, but our facility is not ade-
quately or big enough for our needs."

In a chapter on the Blessed Virgin Mary and the Eucharist, Pope John Paul described Jesus’ mother as “the first tabernacle in his life,” the vessel “in which the Son of God, still invisible to our human gaze, allowed himself to be adored by Elizabeth” as the pregnant Mary visited her cousin.

Mary’s “yes” to the Incarnation and believers “Amen” to receiving Christ the Eucharist are analogous, he said. The Gospels do not mention Mary as being with the disciples at the Last Supper, but said, "Mary must have been present at the eucharistic celebra-
tions of the first generation of Christians.

“For Mary, receiving the Eucharist must have somehow meant giving once more into her womb that heart which had beat in unison with hers and reliving what she had experienced at the foot of the cross,” the pope wrote. †
A Promise to Keep program prepares for 10th year

By Mary Ann Wyand

A Promise to Keep: God’s Gift of Human Sexuality, the archdiocesan Office of Catholic Education’s peer mentor chastity program, begins its 10th year in the fall.

During the 2002-03 school year, more than 150 teen-age peer mentors presented the Church-approved, abstinence-only curriculum at parish grade schools and religious education classes in six of the 11 deaneries in central and southern Indiana.

Their age-appropriate chastity education presentations reached about 4,000 sixth-, seventh- and eighth-grade students throughout the archdiocese.

“I have chosen to live a chaste life because I want to share a love with my husband that I have not shared with anyone else,” Roncalli High School senior Amanda Klaiber, a member of St. Mark Parish in Indianapolis, said recently about her decision to be a Promise to Keep peer mentor.

“There is no stereotype of what a virgin looks like because everyone is different,” Amanda said. “We are all using our gifts and talents from God to be a mentor to our peers and encourage them to make a promise to keep.”

Margaret Hendricks, assistant coordinator for adolescent growth programs for the Office of Catholic Education and coordinator of the A Promise to Keep program, said she believes the archdiocese’s peer mentor ministry, created by author and developer Eve Jackson in 1994, has been blessed by God because early adolescents eagerly embrace the Church’s abstinence message and look forward to being peer mentors in high school.

“The program has grown from the Catholic grade schools and religious education programs in the four Indianapolis deaneries to include the grade schools and religious education programs in the Batesville and New Albany deaneries,” Hendricks said. “This spring, we are inviting the other five deaneries and four Indiana dioceses to become involved in the program. The goal is to offer the curriculum in every Catholic school and parish religious education program in the archdiocese.”

Hendricks said Seymour Deanehy parishers offer the Peers Educating Peers About Positive Values curriculum, the secular version of the A Promise to Keep program, which is coordinated by Eve Jackson.

During the past nine years, Hendricks said, there have been “a little more than 6,000 peer mentors for the A Promise to Keep and Peers Educating Peers programs.”

Last year, the first set of sixth-graders who participated in the A Promise to Keep program graduated from high school, she said. “Many of those teen-agers who received the curriculum in junior high school became peer mentors in high school. That speaks volumes about the impact of the program. The first high school peer mentors have graduated from college, and several of those students are now teaching in Catholic schools.”

Hendricks volunteered to train a Promise to Keep peer mentors from Roncalli High School for the pilot program in the Indianapolis South Deanery in 1994 and later was hired by the archdiocese to help Jackson coordinate the curriculum. She became the full-time coordinator last year when Jackson accepted full-time responsibility for the secular version of the curriculum. Sylvia Brunette is the part-time coordinator for the Indianapolis North Deanery and Yvonne Ray is the part-time coordinator for the New Albany Deanery.

Yvonne Ray is the part-time coordinator for the Indianapolis South Deanery and was hired by the archdiocese to help Jackson coordinate the curriculum. She became the full-time coordinator last year when Jackson accepted full-time responsibility for the secular version of the curriculum. Sylvia Brunette is the part-time coordinator for the Indianapolis North Deanery and Yvonne Ray is the part-time coordinator for the New Albany Deanery.

Recent grants for the curriculum have come from St. Vincent Hospital in Indianapolis and Our Sunday Visitor in Huntington, Ind.

“What pleases me is that, when I look back at those early peer mentors, I know they were strong and confident in their beliefs and commitment to chastity,” Hendricks said. “And when I look at the peer mentors today, I am even more encouraged because they went through the program as early adolescents and have a better understanding of abstinence as it relates to respect, equality and social justice. They see it in terms of helping improve young people’s lives and contributing toward God-centered marriages.”

Curriculum addresses friendship, peer pressure, media influences, consequences, moral choices, assertiveness training, health risks, love versus infatuation and financial responsibilities of parenthood, she said. “This year, we are piloting a new session called ‘Linking Sex and Drugs’ that focuses on the interconnectedness of at-risk behaviors. But it’s not just health education. It’s religious education, and that faith component in the curriculum makes all the difference. It’s a really wonderful program, but it’s the peer mentors that make it so successful.”

The A Promise to Keep sessions for high school students, presented by teachers, are called “Guard Your Heart,” “The Difference Between Males and Females,” “Sexually Transmitted Diseases” and “Marriage: A Goal Worth Waiting For.”

Again this year, Archbishop Daniel M. Buechlein joined the peer mentors at the annual A Promise to Keep recognition luncheon on April 10 at the Archbishop O’Meara Catholic Center in Indianapolis to offer his thanks for their outstanding volunteer ministry.

“I want to say how important I think you all are and how much I admire you for what you are doing,” Archbishop Buechlein told the youth. “In standing up and bearing witness to the importance of chaste abstinence, what you are doing is offering other people, who probably don’t think about those things very much, a pathway to true personal freedom. You’re giving a gift that is going to keep on giving to the folks to whom you witness, and I really appreciate that. Certainly God blesses you for that.”

By promoting abstinence to younger students, the archbishop said, high school peer mentors are strengthening their own convictions about the importance of living God-centered lives.

“It’s really great to see how many young people value chastity,” he said, “and are doing what you’re doing to help others.”

During his visit to Rome this week, Archbishop Buechlein delivered a scrapbook of Hendricks prepared about the archdiocese’s A Promise to Keep peer ministry for Pope John Paul II.

Hendricks said her “heart’s desire is to be able to tell the peer mentors at the luncheon next year that the Holy Father knows about their ministry and has prayed for them.”

(Next week: Peers Educating Peers About Positive Values.)
Companions on the journey

A

illeuia! Last weekend, during the cele-

Abubcation of the great Three Days, the

Triduum, the Church in southern

and central Indiana welcomed more than 800 new Catholics.

In the early fifth century, St. Augus-
tine, the bishop of Hippo in North

Africa, welcomed the new Catholics of his diocese as “little children in

Christ … the new offspring of the Church, gifts of the Father and proof of the Church’s fruitfulness … my joy and my crown.”

We can say the same about the new Catholics of the Archdiocese of Indianapolis: Welcome! You are our joy.

You are confirmation that our Church is vibrant and growing. You are certainly God’s gifts to us.

While you may feel as if you have “arrived,” we want to assure you that you have just begun the journey. But we also want to assure you that you now have family members who will share that journey with you.

Together, we will laugh and cele-
brate. Together, we will cry and mourn.

We’ll be there for each other—to urge each other on when the going gets tough, to help each other up when we stumble and fall, to be companions on the journey, people who break bread together. (The word companion comes from the Latin meaning to share bread with.)

Another fifth century saint, Pope Leo

the Great, told his people that in the sharing of the consecrated bread and wine of the Eucharist, we are “filled and inebriated with the Lord himself. For the effect,” Leo said, “of our shar-
ing in the body and blood of Christ is to change us into what we receive. As we have died with him, and have been buried and raised to life with him, so we bear him within, both in body and in spirit, in everything we do.”

Augustine reminded his new Catholics that even though they were still on pilgrimage, “be to whom your steps are directed is himself the sure home to the Father.

In this Easter season, may we become dedicated and committed disci-

ples of the Risen One who will lead us home to the Father.

— William R. Brans
La importancia de la catequesis en la misión de nuestra Iglesia

En la Vigilia de Pascua nuestra iglesia recibió cientos de nuevos católicos, un símbolo de bienvenida a la esperanza en nuestros tiempos. Estas personas están verdaderamente comprometidas con nuestra fe.

De hecho, la mayoría pasó al menos una buena parte del año en ferviente preparación y formación antes de recibir los sacramentos pascuales. Han tomado su catequesis muy en serio y tenemos mucho que aprender de su dedicación y fervor. El ejemplo de su compromiso podría muy bien servir como estímulo para aquellos que hemos sido católicos por muchos años, para aprender más sobre nuestra fe y el significado de ser católicos.

Ocho de mis diez años como arzobispo han estado dedicados intensamente a la misión de catequesis de nuestra Iglesia. Durante ocho años fui director del comité de obispos estadounidenses encargado de supervisar e implementar El Catecismo de la Iglesia Católica. En el ejercicio de mis funciones supervisé la elaboración de un proyecto de catecismo nacional para adultos, el cual está a punto de culminar.

En noviembre del año pasado fui elegido director de un comité recientemente creado de catequesis para nuestra conferencia nacional de obispos. Estas responsabilidades suelen trazar trabajo adicional a mi ministerio pastoral en la arquidiócesis, las cuales he aceptado voluntariamente debido a la importancia de la catequesis en la misión de nuestra Iglesia.

Recientemente también fui designado para presidir el comité recientemente creado de catequesis para nuestra conferencia nacional de obispos. Estas responsabilidades suelen trazar trabajo adicional a mi ministerio pastoral en la arquidiócesis, las cuales he aceptado voluntariamente debido a la importancia de la catequesis en la misión de nuestra Iglesia. Estas responsabilidades suelen trazar trabajo adicional a mi ministerio pastoral en la arquidiócesis, las cuales he aceptado voluntariamente debido a la importancia de la catequesis en la misión de nuestra Iglesia.

Unentiendo también las siguientes dos prioridades que los arzobispos mencionaron fueron “la identidad y la espiritualidad de sacerdotes”, por ello y recibí con agrado la necesidad de enfrentar el descenso de la educación religiosa, habían ocurrido recientemente.

Identificaron algunas de las necesidades de los adultos en la formación religiosa y el conocimiento catequético. Los obispos citaron en los objetivos de catequesis para abordar las necesidades de los adultos en nuestro mundo moderno, personas que están claramente conscientes de su libertad personal, seguros de su propia inteligencia, que buscan respuestas a sus preguntas, que exigen ser escuchados en su “religiosidad natural” y en una filosofía elemental de la vida. Creemos que los catequistas en nuestro país, que han adquirido este conocimiento, pueden hacerlo un poco más fácil buscar un acuerdo conveniente con el mundo. Nuestras buenas intenciones por sí mismas no pueden apartar el camino y conducirnos a cometer todo tipo de errores. “Tal vez, estos son los peligros que han guiado equivocadamente nuestros esfuerzos en la educación religiosa en el pasado reciente.”

El cardenal invitó a los catequistas a dar prioridad a las necesidades de los adultos en la formación religiosa y el conocimiento catequético, a abordar las necesidades de los adultos en nuestro mundo moderno, personas que están claramente conscientes de su libertad personal, seguros de su propia inteligencia, que buscan respuestas a sus preguntas, que exigen ser escuchados en su “religiosidad natural” y en una filosofía elemental de la vida. Creemos que los catequistas pueden hacerlo un poco más fácil buscar un acuerdo conveniente con el mundo. Nuestras buenas intenciones por sí mismas no pueden apartar el camino y conducirnos a cometer todo tipo de errores. “Tal vez, estos son los peligros que han guiado equivocadamente nuestros esfuerzos en la educación religiosa en el pasado reciente.”

A pesar de ello, el cardenal insistió en que los catequistas predicen el evangelio con la simplicidad conviviente de los primeros cristianos, que con palabras y obras que vencían las objeciones intelectuales de los greñudos y el paganismos de los romanos. Nos recordó que los catequistas deben afirmarse en Cristo y adherirse al paganismo de los romanos. Nos recordó que los catequistas deben afirmarse en Cristo y adherirse al paganismo de los romanos. Nos recordó que los catequistas deben afirmarse en Cristo y adherirse al paganismo

La intención del Arzobispo Buechlein para vocaciones en abril

Sacerdotes: “Qué ellos realicen sus promesas como sacerdotes con júbilo y fe y den asiento a otros hombres para que contengan el llamado de Dios al sacerdocio!”
Check It Out . . .

The Knights of Columbus will sponsor their 45th annual Spring Concert at 8 p.m. May 2 at 511 E. Thompson Road, in Indianapolis. Performing at the concert will be the Columbians, the Indianapolis Mannechor and the Murat Chanters. All are welcome and the event is free. For more information, call Eckstein Shoes at 317-786-7086.

Good Shepherd Parish, 1109 E. Cameron St., in Indianapolis, will offer a 10th anniversary mission conducted by Conventual Franciscan Father Donald Blaeser. The mission will be at 4:30 p.m. on May 4 and at 7 p.m. on May 5-7. Father Donald will preside at the weekend Masses on May 3-4. Also, the parish will sponsor a 10th anniversary banquet at Primo South, 2015 National Ave., in Indianapolis, at 6 p.m. on May 4. The cost is $15 for adults (age 13 and over). For more information about either event, call 317-783-3158.

Marian College, 3200 Cold Spring Road, in Indianapolis, is hosting a free information fair on parish nursing from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. on May 3 at St. Francis Hall. It will be an opportunity to put faith into practice as a nurse in a 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 has a parish nursing course that is offered over six Saturdays. For more information or to register, call 317-955-6132.

The fifth annual Special Religious Education Archdiocesan Liturgy (SPRED) will take place at 3 p.m. on April 27 in SS. Peter and Paul Cathedral, 1347 N. Meridian St., in Indianapolis. For more information or to register, call 317-637-6592.

Roncalli High School will host “Red Carpet Rebellion: ‘A Night of 1,000 Stars’” on May 3. Rebellion is the school’s annual fundraising event designed to provide an opportunity for the Roncalli extended family to come together in celebration and to raise money for financial assistance for Roncalli students. The evening consists of a dinner, and a live and silent auction. The cost is $50 per person. Corporate sponsorship is available for $1,200 per table of 10. For more information, call Kim Silmam at the high school at 317-787-8277, ext. 239.

St. Philip Neri Parish, 550 N. Rural St., in Indianapolis, is hosting its 13th annual Walk, Run and Pray-a-Thon on May 27. There will be an English Mass at 10 a.m. and a Hispanic Mass at 11:30 a.m. as well as an hour of prayer from 12:30 p.m. to 1:30 p.m. From 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., there will be a school open house. The 5K run begins at noon at Brookside Park, and the 5K walk begins at 12:15 p.m. in the parish parking lot. There will be a pitch-in luncheon at the gymnasium at 1 p.m., complete with music and entertainment. Registration begins at 11 a.m. for walkers in the parish community room and for runners at the Brookside Park swimming pool parking lot. For more information, call the parish office at 317-631-8746.

There will be an Earth Day celebration at Saint Mary-of-the-Woods from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. on April 26 sponsored by the White Violet Center for Eco-Justice, a ministry of the Sisters of Providence. Featured will be animals, birds, plants, food, displays, an obstacle course, trolley rides, tours, baked goods, plants, pottery and educational programs. A Peace Pole will be dedicated at 6 p.m. in front of the Church of the Immaculate Conception. For more information, call 317-555-3131 or log on to www.whiteviolet.org.

Pilgrimages to the Monte Cassino Shrine to honor the Blessed Virgin Mary are scheduled for the four Sundays in May at Saint Meinrad in St. Meinrad. Each pilgrimage begins at 2 p.m. CDT with an opening hymn and a short sermon followed by a rosary procession. The one-hour service ends with a 5K run and Vespers and a blessing of the public is invited. On May 4, Benedictine Father Anselm Russell will present “Mary, Model of the Virtues.” On May 11, Benedictine Father Godfrey Mullen will present “Mary, Guest at the Wedding Feast.” On May 18, Benedictine Father Julian Peters will present “Mother Forest—No Fear Woman.” On May 25, Benedictine Father Gabriel Hodges will present “Mary, Gazing on the Face of Jesus.” The Monte Cassino Shrine is located one mile east of the intersection of State Highway 237 and State Highway 145. For more information on the Monte Cassino pilgrimages, call Saint Meinrad at 317-837-6501 during business hours.

“The Rise to the Challenge: End World Hunger,” Bread for the World’s 2003 offering of letters legislative campaign workshop, will be held from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. on April 30 at the Terre Haute Deanery Pastoral Center, 2931 Ohio Blvd., in Terre Haute. Registration is requested by April 25. For more information, call 812-232-8400 or e-mail thedevnews@aol.com.

First Saturday Devotions will be held at 10 a.m. on May 3 at Ushere Ridge, located between State Highway 37 and State Highway 145 in Perry County on State Highway 62. Services will begin with a walking rosary followed by Mass at 11:30 a.m. Benedictine Brother Maurus Zoeller will speak at 1 p.m. about Pope John Paul II’s letter on the rosary. Individuals and families are encouraged to bring a picnic lunch. The day is sponsored by St. Joseph’s Holy Family Inc. in conjunction with Catholic Charities of the Tell City Deanery. For more information, call the Tell City Catholic Charities office at 812-547-6414.

If you or someone you know has experienced relationship abuse, help is available from Breaking Free. Breaking Free offers support groups for survivors of domestic violence who reside in Indianapolis and surrounding counties. The location of support groups is confidential, and support groups are available for Spanish-speaking individuals. Call Breaking Free’s new telephone assistance line Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., at 888-254-8988 for more information.

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

Bulletproof Monk (MMG) Rated A-III (Adults) because of recurring violence, minimal profanity and a few crude expressions.

Rated PG-13 (Parents are strongly cautioned. Some material may be inappropriate for children under 13) by the Motion Picture Association of America (MPAA).

Chasing Papi (Fox) Rated A-III (Adults) because of mild sexual humor.

Rated PG (Parental Guidance Suggested) by the MPAA.

Holes (Disney) Rated A-II (Adults and Adolescents) because of brief violence and a crass expression.

Rated PG (Parental Guidance Suggested) by the MPAA.

Matilda’s Most Wanted (Warner Bros.) Rated A-III (Adults) because of an instance of rough language, recurring obscenities and few sexual humor and violence.

Rated PG-13 (Parents are strongly cautioned. Some material may be inappropriate for children under 13) by the MPAA.

A Mighty Wind (Warner Bros.) Rated A-II (Adults and Adolescents) because of some sex-related humor.

Rated PG-13 (Parents are strongly cautioned. Some material may be inappropriate for children under 13) by the MPAA.

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Page 6 The Criterion Friday, April 25, 2003

The Criterion Friday, April 25, 2003
New stations are dedicated at Our Lady of Peace Cemetery

By Mary Ann Wyand

During a solemn Good Friday ceremony, Msgr. Joseph F. Schaedel, vicar general, blessed and dedicated 14 new Stations of the Cross in the chapel at Our Lady of Peace Cemetery in Indianapolis then led about 130 people on an outdoor Way of the Cross in remembrance of Christ’s crucifixion.

“The Stations of the Cross are made so that a person journeys from station to station,” Msgr. Schaedel said after the conclusion of the Way of the Cross. “Originally, the stations were quite a distance apart, and people would travel from church to church to pray.”

Noting that it’s nice to have outdoor Stations of the Cross available for prayer, Msgr. Schaedel said the Way of the Cross at Our Lady of Peace Cemetery is about a quarter of a mile long, which is historically accurate.

“The original journey of Jesus was just about a quarter of a mile from the place where he was condemned up to Mount Calvary,” he said. “I especially think it’s nice when people can come and pray the stations alone, and take their time and meditate and pray for their loved ones that are buried here at the cemetery.”

The vicar general said the Archdiocese of Indianapolis is trying to enhance all of the Catholic cemeteries with sacramentals—pictures, statues, stations and other symbols of the Catholic faith—to help people feel connected to the Communion of Saints.

“It’s wonderfully generous of these people to dedicate the indoor stations in the chapel in memory of their loved ones,” Msgr. Schaedel said. “I think that people who wish to pray in all kinds of weather will benefit from being able to do that in the place where their loved ones are buried.”

During the dedication service in the chapel, the vicar general led prayers for the faithful departed and especially for the deceased members of families present for the ceremony.

Don Masten, cemetery manager and family service adviser for Our Lady of Peace Cemetery, said the north side Catholic cemetery is open from 8 a.m. until 7 p.m. seven days a week and people are welcome to pray the indoor or outdoor Stations of the Cross there.

Assisting Msgr. Schaedel with the ceremony were 15 members of the Bishop Chatard Assembly of the Fourth Degree Knights of Columbus in Indianapolis. Jerry Erlenbaugh, a 40-year member of the Knights of Columbus and former master, carried the crucifix during the Way of the Cross.

“My honor to carry it,” Erlenbaugh said. “It’s heavy, though. I’m proud to help with Masses and charity work.”

Erlenbaugh said 40 members of the Bishop Chatard Assembly of the Knights of Columbus assisted with the Way of the Cross, a Good Friday tradition in Indianapolis which dates back to 1941 and the start of World War II.

“There were about 100,000 people present for the first Way of the Cross in downtown Indianapolis in 1941,” he said. “It’s been going continuously ever since.”

Mike Rielage, commander of the color guard for the Bishop Chatard Assembly of the Knights of Columbus, said their service to the Church for the Way of the Cross is “one of the greatest honors for us because we can be visible as Catholics honoring Christ on Good Friday.”

Rielage said the Knights of Columbus honor guard is proof that “patriotism and being a good Catholic are not incompatible.”

He said he loves marching in parades and participating in ceremonies because the knights’ presence in their formal uniform forms honors God.

“Hopefully, we contribute to the dignity of the ceremony,” Rielage said. “Today, we also helped Msgr. Schaedel as servers. We’re glad to help the priests in parishes and assist with first Masses for new ordinands. We also help with wakes and special [funeral] ceremonies for our own knights.”

Jerry Erlenbaugh, a member of the Bishop Chatard Assembly of the Fourth Degree Knights of Columbus, carries the crucifix during an outdoor Way of the Cross on Good Friday at Our Lady of Peace Cemetery in Indianapolis.

Members of the Bishop Chatard Assembly of the Fourth Degree Knights of Columbus in Indianapolis assist Msgr. Schaedel with the blessing and dedication of the new Stations of the Cross on April 18 in the cemetery chapel at 9001 N. Haverstick Road.

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Scecina Memorial High School ’59
2003 Marian College commencement speaker

INDIANAPOLIS The Criterion Friday, April 25, 2003 Page 7
The oils are distributed to representatives from each parish at the Mass. Often, the oil is displayed in special cases and glass bottles in the parish until it is needed for liturgical use.

The archbishop said this Lent has been a long one for a variety of reasons, such as the war, terrorism and the clergy sex-abuse scandal in the Church.

Reiterating his heartfelt apology he made at last year’s Chrism Mass to the victims of abuse by priests, the archbishop said the apology and his pledge to protect children is fortified even more by the charter embraced by the U.S. bishops that outlines specific ways to protect children and deal with abusive priests.

Telling the more than 100 priests present that the bishops had mishandled the sexual abuse crisis, the archbishop asked them to turn their feelings of sorrow, embarrassment and shame “for the few who had fallen.” over to the healing power of Christ.

“This week, let’s embrace the mystery of the cross even more fervently,” the archbishop said. “Let’s affirm our dedication to give our lives to the service of the cross even more fervently,” the archbishop said. “Let’s affirm our dedication to give our lives to the service of the Church.”

Calling to mind that baptism initiates Christians as people of hope, he made special recognition of the catechumens who receive the holy oil of baptism at the Easter Vigil, which symbolically anoints them as people of hope.

“Sisters and brothers, the anointing of our spiritual birthright, and it is the basis of our Christian hope in good times and in bad,” the archbishop said.

Signs of hope are prevalent, the archbishop said, from the large crowd in attendance to the eight priests ordained last June and the nine new seminarians this year. Also, two priests will be ordained in June.

When the priests were about to renew their commitment to priestly service, the archbishop asked those present to call to mind a priest who had helped them in difficult moments. Later, the priests in attendance were given a standing ova-

tion.

The archbishop also asked those present to remember the symbolism of what the consecrated oils represent in the Church as a way to remember how we are united in the Church.

“We share a common starting point in our journey of faith—our anointing in baptism,” the archbishop said. “Ours is a call to respond to the passionate love of Jesus himself wherever we are on life’s journey. Jesus alone is our hope. In our respective vocations, living our faith in the twists and turns of our day-to-day life, as people of hope we respond to Christ’s awesome love for us…” together, joyfully and confidently we carry on his mission. Please God, may it be so.”

The criterion for liturgical use.

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Internet has become vital tool for evangelization

By Lino Rulli

Surprisingly, the Catholic Church does an amazingly “high” job evangelizing on the World Wide Web.

And because of its ever-increasing impact on our world, the Internet has become an essential tool in the Church’s mission of evangelization.

In the 15th century, Johannes Gutenberg invented the printing press. What Gutenberg’s invention did for putting the Bible in people’s hands, the Internet can do for putting the Catholic faith in people’s lives.

A vast number of encyclical, early Christian writings and other Church documents are available to read on the Internet.

Presuming that you don’t have lots of “free” time, you don’t want to spend countless hours searching for religious Web sites. The Vatican Web site (www.vatican.va) is a popular address, and the U.S. bishops have their own site (www.usccb.org) as well.

But beyond that, if you’re looking for sites that come with the imprimatur of your local bishop, the choice gets limited quickly. But that isn’t to say there aren’t tremendous places to get Catholic teachings online.

The cleverly named www.catholic.com offers lots of information about Catholicism. Another Web site for a wealth of information is www.ewtn.com. Even if you don’t watch their TV networks, their question and answer session on faith is always worth reading.

Why are these Web sites spreading the Gospel online?

Let’s say you’ve got a question about Catholicism. Maybe you feel that, after all those years in Catholic schools, you should know it already. Or maybe you’re embarrassed to admit to your parish priest that you’re questioning your faith. Whatever the situation, the beauty of the Internet is its anonymity.

When it comes to faith, someone can ask a question anonymously and get a straightforward answer.

Likewise, the Internet can become the “church” for the unchurched. Someone who may never set foot in a Catholic church can easily surf onto a Catholic Web site and be enriched. Suddenly, it’s not just preaching to the choir. It’s reaching into people’s homes and businesses and meeting them where they are!

I’ve worked in the Catholic Internet field for about five years, and in that time I’ve been amazed at how God works through us, and sometimes even in spite of us.

Several years ago, a woman e-mailed the Catholic Internet site that I work for with a question.

“I’m not Catholic,” she wrote, “but my biggest problem with Catholicism is why women can’t be ordained priests in the Catholic Church.”

We answered her question, apparently well enough that she wanted us to answer more questions about the faith. So we answered those as best as we could.

Months went by like this, with the woman asking questions about Mary, purgatory and so on. Then one day she sent an e-mail stating that she had decided to become Catholic and would join a parish Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults process. The Internet—and most importantly, God’s grace—had helped her come to the Catholic Church. God touched her, and continues to touch millions of people online.

St. Francis of Assisi is credited with saying, “Pray the Gospel at all times; use words if necessary.” With the Internet, words are necessary. And they can be very effective.

(Lino Rulli is the host, producer, caterer and webmaster for “Generation Cross,” a cable TV show produced at St. Olaf Parish in Minneapolis, Minn.) †

Internet resources enhance faith formation

By Daniel S. Mulhall

The Internet provides wonderful resources for growing in faith.

Type “catholic” into an Internet search engine and you’ll be directed to more than 7.2 million sites where the term “Catholic” is found. Type in “spirituality” and almost 3 million sites are at your fingertips from almost all religious persuasions.

The Web site www.catholic-usa.org provides a one-stop link to 5,930 official Catholic sites.

If you’re new to the World Wide Web, you should be aware that not every site calling itself “Catholic” deserves the title.

Official Catholic Web sites are offered by the Vatican, the U.S. bishops, dioceses, parishes, Catholic colleges and universities, and religious communities.

There are many other sites run by publishers, individuals and groups, but some wish to push their own theological or political agendas. It pays to use caution when searching the Web.

To read the Bible, log on to www.ucsb.edu/catholic/bible/ online. The home of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops’ New American Bible, I go to this site for the daily liturgical readings proclaimed at Mass. It’s an easy way to pray with the Church throughout the world.

For topics on spirituality, access www.pjci-pji.org/prayer. This Web site is hosted by the Irish Jesuits. Each day, it provides a different, guided, six-step prayer journey based upon the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius Loyola for personal reflection and contemplative prayer.

For theological references, log on to www.ipj-ppj.org for the site for the Institute for Peace and Justice in St. Louis, Mo., which provides resources to think and pray about world situations.

The Internet is a source for wonderful spirituality resources, but be critical of what you read and look carefully for the name of the sponsoring person or group.

(Daniel Mulhall is assistant secretary for catechesis and inculturation for the U.S. Catholic Conference Department of Education.) †

Discussion Point

Parishes use Web for outreach

This Week’s Question

As a pastor, parish staff or committee member, how has the Internet helped you to communicate with the people you serve?

“Students away at college are able to communicate with the parish priest and our parish in Waterbury, Conn. easily.” (Jean Benjamin, Waterbury, Conn.)

“Our bulletin [for St. Andrew Parish in Orlando, Fla.] is on our Web site, and questions that come in via e-mail can be answered quickly. Similarly, we can receive information quickly from our various committees.” (Beth Enos, Orlando, Fla.)

“Phone-tag has essentially gone away, and more and more people are taking advantage of our online bulletin [for St. John Parish in Westminster, Md.]” (Msgr. Arthur Valenzano, Westminster, Md.)

“It saves time. It speeds exchanges. For example, we [Holy Spirit Parish in St. Paul, Minn.] are currently in a job search situation, and e-mail aids the process. It’s been invaluable for communicating with our school parents.” (Joy Biedrzcki, St. Paul, Minn.)

Lend Us Your Voice

An upcoming edition asks: How would you respond to someone who claimed that faith has little to do with “real life” experiences?

To respond for publication, write to Faith Alive! at 3211 Fourth St. N.E., Washington, D.C. 20017-1100. †
The Easter baskets will soon be stored away along with the plastic eggs and decorations put away for another year. But know me by the riches of Jesus proclaimed the joy of the Resurrection. If Easter is celebrated as a season in the Church at large, we must also do this in our families and homes. No hour, nor day, nor week can pass that we cannot remember how the first followers of Jesus proclaimed the joy of the Resurrection. If Easter is celebrated as a season in the Church at large, we must also do this in our families and homes. No hour, nor day, nor week can pass that we cannot remember how the first followers of Jesus proclaimed the joy of the Resurrection. If Easter is celebrated as a season in the Church at large, we must also do this in our families and homes. No hour, nor day, nor week can pass that we cannot remember how the first followers of Jesus proclaimed the joy of the Resurrection. If Easter is celebrated as a season in the Church at large, we must also do this in our families and homes. No hour, nor day, nor week can pass that we cannot remember how the first followers of Jesus proclaimed the joy of the Resurrection. If Easter is celebrated as a season in the Church at large, we must also do this in our families and homes. No hour, nor day, nor week can pass that we cannot remember how the first followers of Jesus proclaimed the joy of the Resurrection. If Easter is celebrated as a season in the Church at large, we must also do this in our families and homes. No hour, nor day, nor week can pass that we cannot remember how the first followers of Jesus proclaimed the joy of the Resurrection. If Easter is celebrated as a season in the Church at large, we must also do this in our families and homes. No hour, nor day, nor week can pass that we cannot remember how the first followers of Jesus proclaimed the joy of the Resurrection. If Easter is celebrated as a season in the Church at large, we must also do this in our families and homes. No hour, nor day, nor week can pass that we cannot remember how the first followers of Jesus proclaimed the joy of the Resurrection. If Easter is celebrated as a season in the Church at large, we must also do this in our families and homes. No hour, nor day, nor week can pass that we cannot remember how the first followers of Jesus proclaimed the joy of the Resurrection. If Easter is celebrated as a season in the Church at large, we must also do this in our families and homes. No hour, nor day, nor week can pass that we cannot remember how the first followers of Jesus proclaimed the joy of the Resurrection. If Easter is celebrated as a season in the Church at large, we must also do this in our families and homes. No hour, nor day, nor week can pass that we cannot remember how the first followers of Jesus proclaimed the joy of the Resurrection.
The Sunday Readings
Sunday, April 27, 2003

  John 20:19-31

As is so often the case in the Easter season, the Acts of the Apostles furnishes a model of faithfulness to the Word with its first reading. Acts claims to be, and scholars assume it to be, the work of the Evangelist who penned St. Luke’s Gospel. In fact, Acts may properly be seen as a continuation of the story presented in Luke’s Gospel. The Gospel closes with the Ascension of Jesus. Acts begins at this point, then traces for some years the progress of the infant Church and the plight of its first members. In the process, it provides a fascinating insight into the formation of the Church’s structure as well as a powerful lesson in the basic beliefs that so compelled absolute loyalty and devotion from the early Christians whom Acts praises. In modern Bibles, St. John’s Gospel is placed between the Gospel of Luke and Acts. For this reason, this strong message of continuity between Jesus and the early Church is obscured or even lost as the faithful today read the New Testament. Certainly, the Church officials who selected these readings for the liturgies following Easter knew well the reality offered by this bond between Luke’s Gospel and Acts. It is, more broadly, a bond between Jesus and the Apostles and the ongoing, living community formed by those who love the Lord.

This weekend’s reading from Acts describes the early Church. Its members were “of one heart and one mind.” Love and common adherence to the Lord were central to their lives.

The Apostles bore witness to the Resurrection of Jesus. They had been the Lord’s people from the beginning, and their purpose, whom Jesus commissioned to continue the work of salvation. They literally had seen the Risen Lord. The first Christians revered the Apostles. Love within the community and toward others, for example, was a model of Jesus, were more than platitudes or ideals. The early Christians assisted the poor. Indeed, they sold their property or houses and donated the proceeds to assist the needy.

St. John’s First Epistle supplies the second reading. It defines the Christian as this definition was understood in the first century: Each believer fully gave self in love to God, through trust and faith in Jesus. As a result of this commitment, and of the Lord’s redeeming acts, each Christian was a child of God. This term meant much more than merely earthly creation. It meant eternal life. Baptism in water symbolizes this absolute commitment. The Gospel reading for this weekend is from St. John’s Gospel. It is a Resurrection Narrative, and it is a story with which most Christians are quite familiar. As risen to a new and eternal life, no longer confined by earthly space and circumstance, Jesus passes through locked doors to encounter the Apostles. Standing before them as the Redeemer and the victor over death and evil, the Lord sends them into the world.

Of the 11 surviving Apostles present at this moment, apparently only one was absent. It was Thomas, the twin. Thomas would not believe the story the others told him about this meeting with Jesus. Then Jesus appeared again. He showed Thomas that the Resurrection had occurred. Overwhelmed, utterly convinced, Thomas saluted Jesus as Lord and God.

The Lord then gave the Apostles the greatest of divine power. He empowered them to forgive sins.

Reflection
In the Easter Vigil, and on Easter, the Church celebrated the Lord’s Resurrection. Almost immediately, as in this weekend’s readings, the Church calls its people to have faith and to rejoice. Resurrection and redemption in Jesus are not memories to be commemorated. The Resurrection occurred in time and place, but it transformed the world. For those who willingly turn to Jesus, life is forever changed. It is eternal. Whatever the crosses that people may carry, if they are one with Christ then they will share everlasting life.

The Apostles, and the community that they formed, the Church, provide the path to salvation. The Apostles, and those who have succeeded them through the centuries, have the power that is the most certain conqueror of sin. They forgive sins. This forgiveness, and the means to attain it, are the Lord’s loving gifts. Thus, we celebrate. Christ lives! He lives here and now! †

Question Corner/ Fr. John Dietzen

Catholics believe the fullest aids to salvation are found in the Church

Q Members of our parish monthly study group are puzzled by two columns you wrote last year concerning salvation outside the Catholic Church.

A You quoted the Catechism of the Catholic Church that people who live good lives according to their consciences can be saved. And you quoted Pope John Paul II that people, apparently including Catholics, have the right to change another religion.

We basically agree. But if that is true, how do we explain that one religion, or no religion, is not just as good as another, and it doesn’t make any difference what we believe? (New York)

The inviolability of religious freedom, he continued, “is such that individuals must be recognized as having the right even to change their religion if their conscience so demands. People are obliged to follow their conscience in all circumstances and cannot be forced to act against it.”

To answer your question then, as the Church defends freedom of religion and conscience is based on the rights and dignity of the human person, not on an alliance of specific religions or indifference to the often contradictory beliefs of various religions and cultures.

As Pope Paul VI pointed out, in commenting on the Vatican II “Declaration on Religious Freedom,” the council does not found this freedom on the fact that all religions and teachings have more or less equal value. It is based rather, he said, “on the dignity of the human person, which demands that he not be subjected to external limitations which tend to constrain the conscience of the individual person or the true religion, or in adhering to it” (1976 address to the College of Cardinals and Roman prelates).

Thus, the freedom of conscience, which the Catholic Church defends, does not derive from a notion that all beliefs are equally good and true, so it doesn’t make any difference what you believe. Such an attitude, widely held as it may be today, is not sensible or rational.

My extravagant son gave me a rosary with gold beads, a gold chain and a gold crucifix. Since it’s very expensive, I’m afraid to take it out of the house. Could I have this blessed rosary broken into nine segments for my sons and daughters as some form of jewelry? (Florida)

There is nothing wrong or irreverent in what you propose. Blessed articles should be treated devoutly, of course, but when they lose their identity they are no long considered blessed. Most Catholics gradually accumulate more religious articles than they know what to do with. Some can be given away. When they become unusable, however, it is normally proper that status be broken, blessed pictures burned or torn, and crosses broken before discarding them.

When you disassemble your rosary, it loses its blessing as a rosary. But the necklaces and other articles of jewelry that you make from its parts may be blessed when you are finished. †
May 5
Holy Rosary Parish, Parish Council Rooms, 520 Stevens St., Indianapolis. “Reading the Bible with Understanding” from Beginning to End.” Mass, 7:45 a.m.; class, 8:15-7:45 p.m. Information: 317-638-8416. or e-mail dcarollo@archindy.org.

Monthly
First Sundays
St. Paul Church, 218 Scheller Ave., Sellersburg. Prayer group, 7:15 a.m. Information: 317-244-4555.

First Tuesdays
Divine Mercy Chapel, 3354 W. 30th St., Indianapolis. Confessions, 6:45 p.m.; Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament, 7:30 p.m. Information: 317-236-1521 or e-mail dcarollo@archindy.org.

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

First Fridays
St. Vincent de Paul Church, 1723 “O” St., Bedford. Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament after 8:30 a.m.; Mass, 9:30 a.m.; reparation, 4:45 p.m. Information: 317-236-1521 or e-mail dcarollo@archindy.org.

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John R. Sheets, a Jesuit priest and retired auxiliary bishop of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, died on April 7. Mother of Catherine Donald and Steven Anderson. Sister of Penny Anderson. Nashville natives of the archdiocese or priests and brothers are listed elsewhere. Please submit in writing to our editor. *Interest yield based on 4.00% interest rate declared through 6-30-03.**

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Please submit in writing to our office by 10 a.m. Mon. the week of publication; be sure to state date of death. Obituaries of archdiocesan priests and religious sisters serving our archdiocese and elsewhere in The Criterion. Order prints and brochures cannot be included, unless they are natives of the archdiocese or have other connections to it.


KREUTZJANS, Mildred C., 86, St. Anne, Jennings County, March 23. Sister of Marcella Magaizeau, A, Edward, George and Josephine Krestjans.


KREIDTJANS, Mildred C., 86, St. Anne, Jennings County, March 23. Sister of Marcella Magaizeau, A, Edward, George and Josephine Krestjans.


NOBER, Mary L., (Welch), 82, St. Gabriel, Connerville, April 12. Mother of Beth, Jan, Lynn and Sherry Shepherd, Marilyn, Anthony, Donald, Mark and Melvin Noble. Nieces of Eva Wright and Martha “Sue” Vaughn. Grandmother and great-grandmother of two.


No obituary.

Bishop John R. Sheets served in Fort Wayne-South Bend Diocese

Jennifer Martin

Bishop John R. Sheets, a Jesuit priest and retired auxiliary bishop of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, died on April 16 in Milwaukee. He was 80.

The Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated on April 22 at Gesu Church in Milwaukee. Burial followed in the Jesuit sec- tion of the Calvary Cemetery in Milwaukee. A memorial Mass will be

Benedictine Sister Julia Goebel was former prioress at Ferdinand

Elizabeth D. Burt

Benedictine Sister Julia Goebel, 89, former prioress of the Ferdinand Monastery, is dead in Ferdinand, Ind., on April 14 in the monastery. The Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated on April 22 in the monastery church. Burial followed in the monastery cemetery. The former Albinia Goebel was born on Jan. 12, 1912, in Posey County, Ind. She entered the Sisters of St. Benedict at Ferdinand in 1929 from St. Philip Parish and made her first profession of vows in 1931 and her final profession of vows in 1935. She celebrated 70 years of religious profession in 2001.

She served as prioress of Monastery Immaculate Conception in Ferdinand from 1961-73. She led the religious community through major changes in the Church and in society during the 1960s and early 1970s. During that time, the religious community sent its first missionaries to Latin America, establishing missions in Bogota, Colombia, followed by missions in Guatemala and Peru. The sisters also began a founding mission to a mission in Grand Turk, Caribbean, during those years and established Queen of Peace Monastery in Belcourt, N.D., as an independent monastery. As prioress, Sister Julia directed the construction of three buildings on the monastery campus: Kordes Hall, a residential hall for St. Benedict College students, which currently serves as Kordes Retreat Center; Benet Hall, a residence for the sisters; and Madonna Hall, a residential hall for Academy Immaculate Conception/Marian Heights Academy students.

Sister Julia’s leadership, religious community also built and operated St. Joseph Hospital, formerly Stork Memorial Hospital, in Huntington, Ind. In 1970, the community closed St. Benedict College. Sister Julia began teaching in 1932 at the former St. Mary School in Tell City. She served as teacher and principal at St. Joseph School in Evansville, Ind., and St. Mary School in Huntington, Ind. She also served as diocesan secretary of the sisters in initial formation at the monastery from 1961-66. In 1966, she was assistant director of development for the former Academy Immaculate Conception/Marian Heights Academy in Ferdinand. Beginning in 1968, she served in ministry to the sick and other supportive services at the monastery. Since 1979, she had resided in the monastery infirmary and served in the ministry of prayer until her death.

She is survived by a brother, Aloysius Goebel of Evansville, Ind., as well as nieces and nephews. 
Priest on Bush panel praises parish role in Hispanics’ education

WASHINGTON (CNS)—Catholic parishes play an important role in narrowing the education gap between Hispanic youths and the rest of U.S. society, said Father Jose Hoyos, a member of President Bush’s Advisory Commission on Educational Excellence for Hispanic Americans. Churches are influential in convincing Hispanic youths and their parents of the need for a good education and for learning English well, he said in an April 16 telephone interview. Father Hoyos, a priest of the Diocese of Arlington, Va., was commenting on the advisory commission’s final report, which cited statistics showing that Hispanic educational levels are well below the national average. “Hispanic families are Church-oriented. Children listen to priests,” said Father Hoyos, pastor of Holy Family Parish in Dale City, Va. “Most of the kids who come to the Church for advice are the best students.” Churches start programs, build up Hispanic self-esteem and help inform Hispanics about available educational opportunities, said the priest.

Cardinal works to restore nation’s first Catholic cathedral

Baltimore (CNS)—By the time the Basilica of the Assumption, the nation’s oldest Catholic cathedral, turns 200 in 2006, Cardinal William H. Keeler of Baltimore wants it restored to its original magnificence—and more. “This is the most precious property of the Catholic Church in the United States,” the cardinal told Catholic News Service. Not only is it the mother church of U.S. Catholicism and a masterpiece of neoclassical architecture, but it has world importance as a symbol of religious liberty, he said. “The first place in the English-speaking world that had religious freedom by law was Maryland,” Cardinal Keeler said, referring to the Maryland Charter under which the English colony was started in 1634 and the Toleration Act of 1639 adopted by the colony’s assembly. When Pope John Paul II endorsed the basilica restoration effort during his historic visit in 2001, he described the historic shrine as “a worldwide symbol of religious freedom.”

World

At Vatican, U.S. officials discuss ways Catholic charities can help

VATICAN CITY (CNS)—Tommy G. Thompson, the U.S. secretary of health and human services, attended Holy Week services at the Vatican and held meetings to explore ways Catholic charities and the U.S. government could cooperate in health-care projects around the world. Thompson was in Rome for the April 17 signing of a coop¬erative agreement between the Italian health ministry, before flying to Afghanistan for the Easter Sunday dedication of a Kabul maternity and neonatal clinic. Speaking on April 18 to representatives of the Catholic press, Thompson said his goal was to promote better health care around the world, and greater cooperation between the U.S. government and the Catholic Church would be a step toward the goal.

News Briefs

U.S.

Principal—Elementary School

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