Four archdiocesan schools named national Blue Ribbon Schools

By Brandon A. Evans

Of the 47 private schools around the United States named No Child Left Behind Blue Ribbon schools this year, four of them are Catholic Schools from the Archdiocese of Indianapolis.

The Department of Education announced last week that Roncalli High School in Indianapolis, St. Jude School in Batesville, and St. Paul School in Sellersburg have received the national award.

Longtime married couples honored at Golden Jubilee Mass

By Mary Ann Wyand

“Love is a decision that married couples must make every day with help from God,” Archbishop Daniel M. Buechlein told 160 longtime married couples and their families during the 19th annual archdiocesan Golden Jubilee Mass on Sept. 21 at SS. Peter and Paul Cathedral in Indianapolis.

“The fact that you are here this afternoon tells us that when all is said and done, the meaning of your life together, the meaning of your love for each other and the trust that you have for each other had to be rooted in God,” the archbishop said in his homily.

“You know that you have needed God’s blessing on your marriage over and over again,” he said. “No one can go it alone through life. And you as couples could not go it alone in marriage.”

A total of 214 public and private schools were named Blue Ribbon schools, and will be honored at ceremonies in Washington, D.C., on Oct. 30-31. The Blue Ribbon Schools program honors schools that are either academically superior in their states or that show dramatic gains in student achievement.

“In the golden years, you know that even your love needs to be tended and nurtured,” he said. “No couple’s love on the day of their wedding is enough for a lifetime because love is not static. Love is a decision that grows and is pruned and is tempered by life’s experiences and, yes, it is a decision that must be renewed.”

Longtime married couples understand that they need God’s blessing on their love, the archbishop said. “That was why you wanted your marriage witnessed and blessed in the Church. I think the older we get, the more we realize how much we need God.”

Indianapolis seventh-grader spreads pro-life message through her artwork

By Mary Ann Wyand

“All Life Is Precious” is the theme for the 13th annual Central Indiana Life Chain, a one-hour pro-life prayer vigil that will be held as part of Respect Life Sunday observances at 2 p.m. on Oct. 5 along North Meridian Street in Indianapolis.

St. Matthew School seventh-grader Carly Sobolewski of Indianapolis wants to help people promote that important life-saving message. Her award-winning poster featuring drawings of multicultural babies will help Central Indiana Life Chain participants do just that.

Janet Smith of Indianapolis, president of the Central Indiana Life Chain, said about 1,000 Life Chain T-shirts and sweatshirts have been printed with Carly’s poster design and a quotation from the late Mother Teresa of Calcutta that reads, “It is a poverty to die in childhood that the secret to a happy marriage is the tempering by life’s experiences and, yes, it is a decision that must be renewed.”

“Life is a gift from God, other people,” Carly said. “It’s a real honor that my drawing was chosen for the contest last year.”

In an essay that accompanied her pro-life poster for the school contest, Carly wrote, “Life is a gift from God, a gift to each and every one of us. Students and staff members at the schools are excited and pleased.

Donna Frances Matsusky, principal of St. Paul School, said that the school and parish have blue ribbons up all over, a sign announcing the award has been put on their fence and special T-shirts have been ordered.

“It’s really a feather in the cap for the whole archdiocese,” said Joseph Hollowell, president of Roncalli High School.

“I’ve done enough traveling around the country,” he said, to know that the archdiocese is the exception to the rule and is blessed with an excellent education system.

Michael Amrhein, principal of St. Louis School in Batesville, said that he thinks the four awards say a lot about the archdiocese—and its high standards.

Providence Sister James Michael Keesterton, principal of St. Jude School, said that the award is really a thank you to all Catholic schools.

Parents see Catholic schools as disciplined learning environments, and Sister Donna Frances Matusky, principal of St. Matthew School, said that the award is really a thank you to all Catholic schools.

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See LIFE, page 2

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SCHOOLS

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James Michael said that they are a place for children to receive a total education: they should grow not only in academics but in faith as well.

This is the second time that St. Jude School has been named a Blue Ribbon School; the other time was in 1997. Roncalli High School has received the honor twice before, once in 1993 and in 1998.

To apply for the award, a school must have a significant number of students scoring in the top 10 percent in state achievement testing or the school must have at least 40 percent of its students coming from disadvantaged backgrounds and making dramatic academic improvements.

The application itself is 20 pages long and asks teachers to fill out. Martin Hollowell says that it is significantly smaller than in previous years.

This year, he said, the application focused on the results of academic testing to show a school’s level of academic success.

He also included on Roncalli’s application details about the opportunities the high school’s students have for professional development and the ways that students are encouraged to be active in social ministry in their community.

Each school has its reasons why beyond academic excellence, it is a Blue Ribbon School.

It was about 15 years ago that Matsuyy would have described St. Paul School as a sinking ship.

Five principals had come and gone in the span of a decade and the teacher turnover rate was high. Enrollment was down and many thought that the school would close.

Matsuyy was appointed principal and immediately began to find ways to enroll more students—and to hire teachers that had, above all, a love for children. The result has been that enrollment has tripled.

“We feel like our school is a place that puts children at the heart of the school,” she said. “We have great expectations for our children. They are held accountable and expected to take their schoolwork seriously.”

She said that the Blue Ribbon award is a reward for all those, past and present, who have made the school what it is.

That includes parents, of whom there are 2,700 that volunteer weekly at the school. Parents, Matsuyy said, have a vested interest in Catholic schools and are often more involved.

“I think we get a lot of parental support,” Amrhein said. His school also receives support from the community. Lentz said that this kind of cooperation, this kind of teamwork, is essential to Catholic schools.

She also said that the awards show that “we are doing the right things” and that people look to the archdiocese to see a good example of education.

But there is room for improvement. At Roncalli High School, Hollowell said that they are eligible to apply for the award again, they hope to—and they hope to include many improvements on their applications.

The school knows the areas that it needs to improve and is ready to do it. “We have a work commitment,” Lentz said. “We are working hard to continually raise the standards.”

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The babies’ faces have Hispanic features and making dramatic academic improvements.

The babies’ faces have Hispanic features but in faith as well.

By Mary Ann Wyand

Archdiocesan Respect Life Sunday events begin at 1 p.m. on Oct. 5 with the Respect Life Mass celebrated by Archbishop Daniel M. Buechlein at St. Peter and Paul Cathedral in Indianapolis.

The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops’ Secretariat for Pro-Life Activities in Washington, D.C., has chosen the theme “Life Is a Miracle” for the Church’s 2003 observance of Respect Life Sunday.

At the conclusion of the archdiocesan pro-life rally, Archbishop Buechlein will present the Archbishop Edward E. O’Meara Respect Life Award and the Our Lady of Guadalupe Pro-Life Youth Award to two archdiocesan residents.

The archdiocese also will recognize St. Andrew the Apostle Parish in Indianapolis for hosting the monthly archdiocesan Helpers of God’s Precious Infants pro-life Mass from its inception in August 1997 until last year when the pro-life liturgy was moved to St. Michael the Archangel Parish in Indianapolis because of an east-side abortion clinic relocated to the west side.

Following the Respect Life Sunday Mass, Catholics will join Christians for many of the Central Indiana Life Chain prayer vigil from 2:30 p.m. until 3:30 p.m. on North Meridian Street.

The archdiocesan pro-life youth rally begins at 3:30 p.m. with an inspirational talk and concert by Christian musician Tony Avallana of Carmel in the Assembly Hall at the Archbishop O’Meara Catholic Center.

The archdiocesan Life Fair also is scheduled in the Assembly Hall from 3:30 p.m. until 5 p.m. A variety of pro-life ministries and organizations will offer educational information about life issues during that time.

The public is invited to participate in the Mass, Life Chain, youth rally and Life Fair.

(For more information about Respect Life Sunday events, call the archdiocese Office of Pro-Life Activities at 317-236-1569 or 800-382-9836, ext. 1569.)

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By Mary Ann Wyand

Author tells teens to take God along on their dates

Nationally known chastity speaker Jason Everett of San Diego, Calif. likes to talk about sex with teen-agers because he wants to encourage them to postpone sexual activity until marriage.

His chastity presentations mix humorous stories about teen-age life situations and peer pressure with sobering statistics about sexually transmitted diseases and teen pregnancy that also are intertwined with helpful advice on ways that young people can live happy lives by following God’s commandments.

He’s not preachy. He’s funny. But he’s also direct about the harsh and harmful realities of sexual activity before marriage. And he continually reminds the teens that God wants them to choose abstinence until marriage so they can live fun and fulfilling lives while planning for future careers and waiting for the life partner that God has chosen for them.

The author of Pure Love, Everett was supposed to share a series of 10 chastity presentations in Indiana Sept. 8-11 with his wife, Crystalina, but she is expecting their first child and won’t feel well enough to travel with him for appearances at eight locations in central and southern Indiana.

Everett begins each presentation with prayer, entrusting the time to Jesus and Mary. He began the day speaking to Roncalli High School students and started the afternoon by addressing Father Thomas Scocena Memorial High School students. During his evening presentation for Indianapolis South Deeney teen-agers at St. Jude Church, he was still energized and enthusiastic while talking with teens about sex and God.

“How far is too far to go on a date?” he asked the teens. “None of us guys would deliberately take a girl we love to a dangerous place. But when I was in high school, a big Catholic high school, this was the one question we always asked our religion teacher. ‘Well, how far can we go? Can we do this with our girlfriends? Can we do that?’ Can we do this? We’d always bug him about that. So one day, he said, ‘I think you need to start bringing Jesus with you on your dates.’

All the boys laughed, Everett recalled, when he asked his teacher, ‘Don’t you think it will get a little crowded with three of us in the back seat?’

That’s exactly the point, the teacher replied. God needs to be a part of your love life.

That’s the crux of the chastity message that Everett talks about with teen-agers throughout the United States.

“God actually has a plan for your love life,” he said. “You might even be sitting next to your future spouse right now.

When I was in high school, I didn’t think that God would have this big plan for my love life,” Everett said. “and so the kind of relationships that I was involved in during high school got pretty physical pretty fast.”

His teen-age romantic relationships were characterized by an absence of love and respect for the girls he dated. Everett said, until his conscience or the Holy Spirit intervened in the midst of intimate moments.

“I remember when I hooked up with one girl,” he said, “we came right up to the line and I had to ask myself, ‘Well, should I give this girl my virginity? Do I love her? I’ve known her for three days.’ But I could hear in the back of my heart a voice saying, ‘Jason, this gift is meant for me. Please wait for me.’ And so we cooled things off and went our different ways.”

When he dated another girl, she asked him, “Jason, you’re not going to leave me like all the other guys did, are you?”

Again, he heard the same voice in his heart asking him to wait for his future life partner, and he listened to that voice.

“For those of you who are virgins, I say ‘good for you’ because people who get married as virgins have a divorce rate that is about 60 to 70 percent lower than those who don’t wait for marriage,” he said. “Some of you may be saying, ‘Well, great, but I’m not a virgin.’ Some of you may even have had your virginity taken from you.”

But don’t feel discouraged, he said, because reclaimed chastity transforms a teen-ager’s relationship with God, self and others.

“Even if you’re not a virgin, no matter what happened in the past, if couples who meet and fall in love and save sex with each other for their wedding night, couples who do that triple their chances of making their marriage a success,” Everett said. “They’re three times more likely to never get divorced. On the contrary, researchers found out that once sex enters a high school relationship, the national average is 21 days and then it’s over. Some last three years, some last one night, but the average is three weeks and then it’s done.”

If you want real love, he told the teens, build the foundation of that relationship with friendship and wait until marriage for sexual intimacy.

When you finally meet the man or woman of your dreams, Everett said, you will be glad that you waited for him or her, and you will be glad that he or she waited for you.

Another way to understand the importance of saving sex until marriage, he said, is to imagine your future son or daughter going out on a date and to think about how that makes you feel as a parent.

Margaret Hendricks, associate director of the archdiocesan Office of Catholic Education’s A Promise to Keep: God’s Gift of Human Sexuality peer mentor program, accompanied Everett during four days of presentations at schools and parishes in the archdiocese and said they prayed together en route to each program.

“When we started out at Cardinal Ritter High School [in Indianapolis on Sept. 8], and the students stood and applauded after Jason’s presentation, I felt overwhelmed,” Hendricks said. “I have watched students at every school sit in gymnasia where it’s not very comfortable and it starts to get stuffy, and they hang on to every word he says, they stay attentive, they lean forward in their seats, and they stand and applaud. Their spontaneity comes from the heart. The Holy Spirit is doing that.”

Hendricks said she was sorry that her husband wasn’t feeling well enough to join him, but he is excited about their pregnancy because they have a God-centered marriage and will be great parents.

“I see many other young adults that are also going to be awesome parents,” she said, “because they heard the chastity message as teen-agers and they waited for their life partner.”

(Next week: Everett’s straight talk about sex and teen-agers’ reactions.) —

Chastity speaker Jason Everett of San Diego, Calif., the author of Pure Love, talks with Father Thomas Scocena Memorial High School students about keeping God in their dating relationships during a Sept. 10 program at the Indianapolis East Deanery inter-parochial high school. Everett also gave away copies of his book If You Really Loved Me. His four-day visit to the archdiocese was made possible by the archdiocesan Office of Catholic Education in partnership with six Catholic high schools, the New Albany Right to Life Office and Our Sunday Visitor.

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(Next week: Everett’s straight talk about sex and teen-agers’ reactions.) —

Every building has a story! Opens Sept. 27

Raise the Roof on a collapsible dome, blast away in the demolition theater, build a virtual doghouse and more in this hands-on exhibit about buildings. From Mongolian geris to big city skyscrapers, get the inside scoop on buildings and how they work.

Produced by the Science Museum of Minnesota. This exhibit was made possible with support from the National Science Foundation. Presented locally by: —
Research for the Church/James D. Davidson

Work, setting affects lay ministers' spiritual practices

Several colleagues and I have just completed a new book on the spiritual lives of lay ministers. The book explores lay ministers' participation in a wide variety of practices, such as attending worship services, praying privately, helping the poor, reading the Bible, sharing spiritual readings, keeping a spiritual journal and participating in prayer groups.

It also identifies factors that foster and stifle participation in such activities, which we believe are important components of lay ministry and, therefore, should be encouraged.

Four important influences have to do with the context in which lay ministers work. Let me explain what we found with regard to each influence and suggest some policy implications for lay ministers and the people they work with.

1. Lay ministers may work full-time, others are part-time employees and still others are unpaid volunteers. As we hypothesized, those who work full-time are more actively involved in spiritual practices than part-time and volunteer lay ministers. This finding suggests the value of affirming full-time work among lay ministers. In our view, such affirmation also needs to be accompanied by supportive working conditions, such as respect from pastors and parishioners, written personnel policies and decent wages (compensation). Whether the lay ministers report are often lacking).

2. A majority of lay ministers view their work as a calling or vocation, while others see it as a career or profession and still others look at it as a job. As expected, we found that lay ministers who view work as a calling are more involved in a variety of spiritual practices than lay ministers who consider their work either as a career or a job. This finding suggests that dioceses and parishes should promote an understanding of lay ministry as a vocation. They should also impart the view that people engaged in lay ministry as a vocation. They should also impart the view that people engaged in lay ministry are not simply pursuing a career or job. They should impart the view that people engaged in lay ministry are not simply pursuing a career or job.

3. Lay ministers who work in parishes where they are registered as parochial associates, directors of religious education, RITA coordinators and other lay ministers are more actively involved in spiritual practices than business managers and parochial school principals.

This finding lends further consideration of the reasons why some lay ministers are not as actively involved in lay ministry. For example, it might be that their job descriptions, compared to those of other lay ministers, are less likely to include spiritual practices as part of their work. To encourage more participation in spiritual practices.

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Letters to the Editor

The future of the Church is in good hands

For those fellow Catholics who fear for the future of the Church, who have thrown up their hands in desperation over the current problems, which seem so insurmountable, take heart. There is a group of young men, in formation for the priesthood, who give renewed hope to our Church, who give renewed promise to better days ahead.

There are many good priests in our parishes, and there are more on the way.

On Sept. 13, a group of Saint Meinrad seminarians presented a pro-life rosary program featuring Father Frank Pavone, head of the Pristis for Life organization. The afternoon and evening event was completely planned and orchestrated by this group, and was done in a very effective and welcoming manner.

Father Pavone, in his two talks, was an excellent speaker, inspiring all to persevere in the efforts to protect the life movement in its conception. The evening also included a cookout (excellently prepared by the seminarians), evening vespers prayed with the monks, and ending with a pro-life rosary.

The seminarians are from many different dioceses all over the country, attending Saint Meinrad School of Theology with the intention of serving God through the priesthood. When asked how many of the 60 or so seminarians at Saint Meinrad are pro-life, the answer was “all of them.”

This may seem like a simple question, but the answer would not have been the same in some years past. God has taken care of his Church for almost 2,000 years, and he’s no quitter. If you don’t believe me, go spend a little time at Saint Meinrad and talk to those young men preparing themselves for God’s service.

Mary Casabella, Corydon
El razonamiento de los comentaristas y los analistas de noticias y los analistas de la objetividad y civismo con respecto a los últimos han transgredido los límites de la inalienable libertad del ser humano.

Así como no se puede negar que algunos obispos tomaron las decisiones imprudentes y los pronunciaron en la infausta significación de las imprudentes decisiones y pronunciamientos de algunos obispos. Estoy diciendo que, a pesar de estos errores, la verdad moral que sostenemos prevalecerá. También estoy insistiendo que la verdadera moral del evangelio de Jesús prevalecerá, aunque cause molestias y temor y por ello sea refutada en nuestra cultura secular e individualista.

En una oportunidad, cuando estaba celebrando la Misión conjuntamente con el Santo Padre en Roma, se publicó en los medios estadounidenses una informada historia de una conducta inapropiada por parte del clero. Después de la Misa el Santo Padre regresó al santuario y volviéndose a nosotros los obispos, dijo: “Temo por el alma de Estados Unidos. Hay tanto interés en los pecados lascivos de la sociedad... y tan poco perdón. Oremos a Dios pidiendo misericordia.”

Traducido por: Language Training Center, Indianapolis


daños, por el cual el Papa (o los obispos) no perdieron credibilidad moral.

Es cierto que soy inequívocamente leal al Santo Padre, pero no me gustaría suponer que esta fórmula aseveración sigue mucho razonamiento. Solo supongo que es notoria.

El papa asume que el sistema comu-

La respuesta del Santo Padre a estas evaluaciones de la calidad de la filosofía de la Iglesia Católica es una línea que retum-

bante no se ocurre que no es así porque lo ha ocurrido. Afirma que la filosofía impuesta del comunismo se autodestruyó debido a que no estaba basada en la veracidad fundamental sobre Dios, el mundo y la inalienable libertad del ser humano.

El papa asume que el sistema comunista estaba destinado a desmoronarse desde el principio porque no era un sistema basado en la verdad y la dignidad del ser humano.

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St. Mary Parish, 317 N. New Jersey St., in Indianapolis, is having its annual International Festival from noon to 8 p.m. on Sept. 27. There will be music, games and international foods. For more information, call 317-637-3983.

St. Michael Parish, 11400 Farmers Lane, in Bradford, is having its picnic and festival from 10:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Sept. 28. There will be a chicken dinner. For more information, call 812-364-6646.

Holy Angels Parish in Indianapolis will have a 100th anniversary banquet at 6 p.m. on Oct. 11 at the Riverwalk Conference Center, 6729 E. Westfield Blvd., in Indianapolis. Francesca Sister Francesca Thompson will be the keynote speaker. She has been in the Oldenburg community for more than 50 years. Members of the Sisters of St. Francis Justice and Peace Committee have established the Sister Francesca Thompson Scholarship Endowment for African-American students who wish to attend a Catholic high school. She has taught high school and college level courses in theater, speech and black studies. The banquet will begin with a reception and silent auction. The cost is $50 per person and reservations are required. There will also be a Mass of Thanksgiving at 11 a.m. on Oct. 12 celebrated by Archbishop Daniel M. Buechlein in the parish church, 740 W. 28th St., in Indianapolis. For more information or to make a reservation for the Oct. 11 event, call 317-283-2935.

There are two upcoming retreats at the Benedict Inn Retreat and Conference Center, 1402 Southern Ave., in Beech Grove. The first is “The Reconciliation of Mother Teresa” on Oct. 27 to celebrate Mother Teresa’s beatification. Benedictine Archabbot Lambert Reilly from St. Meinrad Archabbey and Father Henry White of the liturgy team will lead the event. There will be a Mass of Thanksgiving at 11 a.m. on Oct. 12 celebrated by Archbishop Daniel M. Buechlein in the parish church, 740 W. 28th St., in Indianapolis. For more information or to make a reservation for the Oct. 11 event, call 317-283-2935.

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And sponsoring is easy! Just fill out the convenient form below or call us toll free at (800) 875-6564. Or visit us at www.cfcusa.org. You’re invited to sponsor a today. You’ll be so glad you did!

Sister Diane Carollo, director of the archdiocesan Office of Pro-Life Activities, at 317-236-1521 or 800-382-9836, ext. 521.

“Late Night Catechism,” a one-woman interactive live show based on Catholic school days decades ago, will be performed at 7:30 p.m. on Sept. 27 in the auditorium of Lawrence Central High School, 7601 E. 35th St., in Indianapolis. Tickets are $270. For more information or to reserve, call 317-545-7681 or e-mail dance@archindy.org.

Fatima Retreat House, 5353 E. 56th St., in Indianapolis, is offering a Scripture retreat titled “Praying the Scriptures” on Oct. 10-11. Father Keith Hesey and Sister of the Precious Blood Maureen Mangen, co-directors of the Pope John XXIII Center in Hartford City, Ind., in the Diocese of Lafayette, will present the retreat, which will help participants pray the Scriptures more intentionally as a way of connecting with the blessings of being a Christian. The weekend is based on the spiritual exercises of St. Ignatius. The cost is $145 per person or $270 per couple. For more information, call 317-545-7681 or e-mail fatima@archindy.org.

There will be a “Bosom Day Retreat” from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Oct. 15 at the Providence Center at Saint Mary-of-the-Woods. Christian Brother Barry Donaghy will present the retreat, which will help participants pray the Scriptures more intentionally as a way of connecting with the blessings of being a Christian. The weekend is based on the spiritual exercises of St. Ignatius. The cost is $145 per person or $270 per couple. For more information, call 317-545-7681 or e-mail fatima@archindy.org.

The Saint Meinrad Abbey Guest House in St. Meinrad is the site of the annual nine-day novena to Our Lady of Fatima. The novena will begin at 6 p.m. on Sept. 29. Almost every night at 6:30 p.m. there will be talks, programs or other activities to honor the Mother of God. There will not be a formal meeting on Oct. 4-5, but there will be a novena prayer after each Mass. For more information, call the parish at 317-988-2661.

Birthline, an outreach service of the archdiocesan Office of Pro-Life Activities for women in crisis pregnancies and poor mothers in need of material assistance, needs volunteers to work in the Archbishop O’Meara Catholic Center, 1400 N. Meridian St., in Indianapolis, from 9 a.m. to noon and 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. on Mondays and Wednesdays. Volunteers are needed who can sort clothing, clean equipment, make up layettes and greet the women that are referred for help. Also needed are telephone volunteers for Birthline’s crisis pregnancy hotline. Training will be provided. For more information or to register, call 317-357-1505.

St. Francis Hospital-Indianapolis, 8111 S. Emerson Ave., will present a free film and discussion titled “Cancer 101” from noon to 2 p.m. on Oct. 3. To dispel myths and misconceptions about cancer. It is designed to help cancer patients and their loved ones begin to overcome the psychological challenges of cancer by providing an opportunity to learn the basics of cancers, have questions answered and interact with others who are in the same situation. For more information or to register, call 317-357-1505.

Our Lady of the Greenwood Parish, 335 S. Meridian St., in Greenwood, will celebrate its parish feast day at 6:30 p.m. on Oct. 7. The event will begin at 5 p.m. up to that event there will be a nine-day novena beginning at 6:30 p.m. on Sept. 29. Almost every night at 6:30 p.m. there will be talks, programs or other activities to honor the Mother of God. There will not be a formal meeting on Oct. 4-5, but there will be a novena prayer after each Mass. For more information, call the parish at 317-988-2661.

The first annual Helping Hands Festival will take place from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Sept. 27 at St. Thomas Aquinas Parish, 1130-8th Street, and Illinois streets, in Indianapolis. It will showcase the connections that local congregations and nonprofit groups have to communities around the globe. These local groups will be displaying and selling the work of artists living in impoverished regions in Asia, Africa, South America, Central America and the Caribbean. Proceeds will be channeled back to the artists and to projects benefiting their communities. Also that day, there will be a Quad Paish 30-year neighborhood celebration hosted by St. Thomas Aquinas Parish, 1130-8th Street, and Illinois streets, in Indianapolis. The presentation in Indianapolis is a fund-raiser for the Men’s Club of St. Matthew Parish. The cost is $25 per person. Tickets are available through the parish office or at the door. For more information or for tickets, call the parish office at 317-527-4249.

Stephen Peterson, a former resident of Indianapolis and graduate of Father Thomas Sceina Memorial High School, recently published Profiles in Faith, Hope and Courage, a collection of fictional, inspirational stories. Peterson is a counseling psychologist and therapist in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. The book can be found at www.firstbooks.com and www.amazon.com.

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

Cold Creek Manor (Touchstone) Rated A-IV (Adults, with reservations) because of a brief sexual encounter, female topless photos, instances of substance abuse, profanity and recurring rough language.

Ratied B (Recommended) by the Motion Picture Association of America (MPAA)

Secondhand Lions (New Line) Rated A-II (Adults and Adolescents) because of some thematic elements, sporadic crude mild lan-
guage and some action violence.

Rated PG (Parental Guidance Suggested) by the MPAA.
Siler named new Catholic Charities secretary

By Brandon A. Evans

For four years, David Siler worked as the executive director of St. Elizabeth’s Pregnancy and Adoption Services in Indianapolis. On Sept. 27, though, he will be putting on a new hat. He will become the new secretary for Catholic Charities and Family Ministries for the Archdiocese of Indianapolis.

One of Siler’s first tasks as part of his new responsibilities of overseeing all of the archdiocese’s social ministries will be to hire his replacement at St. Elizabeth’s. He sees the new role as “an incredible opportunity” and a chance to expand social services beyond certain agencies and straight to Catholics in the pew.

“Charitable work is the responsibility of every baptized Catholic,” he said. “It’s not optional. We’re commanded to do that.”

“The Bible tells us we will always have the poor,” Siler said. “The needs are endless.”

David Bethuram, executive director of the Office for Family Ministries and executive director of Catholic Social Services of Central Indiana, said that he is looking forward to working with Siler.

“I think David brings a strong sense of mission and embraces a comprehensive vision of social ministry,” Bethuram said. “He has an ability to motivate people.”

Jeff Byrd, director of operations at St. Elizabeth’s, said that in his 20-year career he has never had a better boss than Siler.

It will be hard to lose him, Byrd said, but added that St. Elizabeth’s wishes him well—and will be working with him in the future.

Until a replacement for his position is found, Siler said he will continue to assist the St. Elizabeth’s staff.

Byrd said that because of Siler’s leadership, focus on family, people skills and academic background, he is a good choice for his new role.

Siler graduated from Ball State University with a bachelor’s degree in business and personnel administration and a minor in counseling psychology. After a brief career in business, he earned his master’s degree in social work from Indiana University with a concentration in family therapy.

From 1987-90, Siler served as program coordinator at Fatima Retreat House in Indianapolis, and from 1990-99 he worked in various counseling and consulting roles. Those three years of that included time as a school counselor at St. Matthew School in Indianapolis.

Siler, his wife, Kathy, and their children are active members of St. Matthew Parish.

He hopes that he will be able to help individual agencies implement plans to grow larger in the near future.

With a Catholic Charities strategic planning session scheduled for Oct. 1, Siler will start his job with his eyes on the future.

He hopes that all of the Catholic Charities’ social service agencies can continue to have a common vision and be united in their efforts throughout the archdiocese.

“It’s all tied back to the work of the Church,” he said.

New parish activity center fulfills late pastor’s dream

By Brandon A. Evans

About six years ago, members of St. Michael Parish in Brookville, under the leadership of their pastor, came up with a master plan for the parish to carry it into the future.

That pastor, Msgr. Louis Schumacher, is now deceased, but his successor has seen to it that the plan was carried out.

The final phase of the plan included the construction of a new parish activity center, which would house a gymnasium, cafeteria and kitchen. That new center has been completed and a celebration has been planned for its dedication.

There will be a special Mass, celebrated by Archbishop Daniel M. Buechlein, at 5:30 p.m. on Sept. 27 at the parish, located at 250 High St. The Mass and dedication will be followed by a dinner and dance at 7 p.m.

Father Patrick Beidelman, the pastor, said that the parish is blessed to be able to construct the new center.

Franciscan Sister Dominica Doyle, principal of the school, said that the “really lovely center” will make life at the school better.

The children, she said, were very excited to eat in their new cafeteria.

Earl Stenger, chairman of the building committee, said that the parish is ecstatic about the new center. “I think it will bring the parish together,” he said, mentioning the varied events that the parish can now hold in the gymnasium.

Also, the project has already brought parishioners together, as many of them supported it with money and time. “The parish has made some unbelievable sacrifices to make this possible,” Stenger said.

During a capital campaign last fall, more than half of the families in the parish contributed $1.3 million for the project.

“There is overwhelming support from the parish for this building project,” Father Beidelman said.

Stenger said that when Father Beidelman became the pastor “he just kind of grabbed the reins and gave it new energy and just a whole new impetus to getting it done.”

He was grateful to be allowed to continue as chairman after Father Beidelman arrived and to help with the project.

Father Beidelman was glad to take on the work of his predecessor.

He said that the parish seemed truly tapped into the will of God, and he could tell that “the parish had planned well for its future [and] had spent a good deal of time discussing its present and future needs.”

Stenger said that he pointed of the project was to ensure that future generations of parishioners are provided for.

The current state of the school allows it to be ready to expand to meet future needs.

The first phase of the project, completed under Msgr. Schumacher, was the renovation of the gymnasium in St. Michael School into four classrooms and the addition of a library, computer lab, special education area, elevator and main entrance to the school.

The new parish activity center at St. Michael Parish in Brookville houses a gymnasium, cafeteria and kitchen. Though parishioners will make use of the facility, the students at St. Michael School will receive the greatest benefit. They have been without a gymnasium for three years.
Workers put up the basketball goals in the new gymnasium at St. Michael Parish in Brookville. The gymnasium is part of a new parish activity center that also contains a cafeteria and kitchen, and is connected to St. Michael School.

These changes left the children without a gymnasium for three years, during which time the Franklin County School allowed them to use their gymnasium, Sister Dominica said.

Msgr. Schumacher died in March 2001, only two months after the parish purchased the property for the new parish activity center sits on.

“When I arrived in July of 2001, the parish was very eager to move forward with that process,” Father Beidelman said.

Two months later, the building commission and their pastor began to hammer out the details of what would be the final phase of their master plan. A year later, the parish completed its capital campaign and construction started in November 2002.

Most noticeably, that new construction included the parish activity center, which provided the school children with a gymnasium and the parishioners with a place to have large functions—like their parish festival.

The school offices were moved from the center of the school building to a location closer to the entrance, while the old cafeteria became a large gathering room for students—and may one day be broken into several classrooms.

Father Beidelman thinks that Msgr. Schumacher would be pleased with the way things have turned out.

“It’s a great tribute to him,” the pastor said, and to his dedication to the parish. †

Michigan priest is happy his war duty in Middle East is over

CARO, Mich. (CNS)—The rectory door was festooned with balloons and a big “welcome home” sign. The small candle with the yellow ribbon, which had burned in the corner of the sanctuary at every service for months, was extinguished.

Parishioners of Sacred Heart Church in Caro applauded and greeted their priest with hugs and handshakes as he returned from a six-month military deployment in the Middle East.

Father Dennis Kucharczyk was home.

A Naval reserve officer for eight years, the priest was called to active duty starting with a brief deployment in California, then went to Kuwait shortly after the fall of Baghdad, Iraq.

Father Kucharczyk was assigned to a Marine helicopter wing supplying around-the-clock support to ground forces in Iraq. His job was to conduct services, do sacramental work and “walk the line.”

“I call it flight-line ministry,” he said. “Every afternoon, I would choose a group out on the flight line and just go visit. If they knew you were a chaplain or once they got to know you, they would open up.”

The priest said he was told upon arriving that services were actually better attended before combat began.

“The reality of death looms pretty large when you know you’re going to war,” the priest told The Catholic Weekly, newspaper of the Saginaw Diocese. “Once the fighting was over, not many people came to services. That’s why I had to go to them.”

Father Kucharczyk said his most difficult assignment came after four Marines died in a helicopter crash near Baghdad and a fifth soldier died when he dove into a river to try and save them. They were all members of the priest’s squadron.

“It actually hurts more when you are operating in a support mode like they were,” the priest said. “Soldiers know that when they go into combat they may die, but [not] when the fighting is supposed to have ended and you are delivering water.”

Father Kucharczyk said he believes the experience changed him.

“When you leave all of this,” he said, gesturing around to the amenities of the rectory living room, “and go into a desert where there is only row upon row of tents, life gets pretty simple.

“When eight people share a tent the size of this living room and your space is a cot on a wood floor the size of a sofa, you learn what is important, and that is that I’m here, God is here and we have a mission,” he said.

The priest remains a reserve officer and could be called up again if there is another major conflict.

He expects his transition back to parish life to be easy.

“I do ministry wherever I am,” he said, “but I’m glad I’m here.” †

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Cardinal George decries lack of civility in society, Church

Cardinal Francis E. George

In his column in the Sept. 14-28 edition of the Catholic New World, Chicago's archdiocesan newspaper, the cardinal noted the demise of civility over the past decade.

"Public irritability, undisguised rage, raw ambition, lack of basic honesty and plain rudeness are no longer masked by at least a veneer of politeness when a controversial subject is introduced," he wrote.

"A difference of opinion is contorted into an attack upon a person. A decline in common standards of decent speech and behavior is evidence of a lack of common standards and common goals for our society."

The cardinal noted that civility also has a religious dimension. He noted that some could describe Jesus as not being civil and would say that "he denounced his enemies as hypocrites and accused his friends of lack of faith."

But the cardinal pointed out that Jesus "revered his enemies and demanded love of enemies and patience in suffering." He said other religious examples of civility include St. Francis, who wrote: "Realize, dear brothers and sisters, that courtesy is one of the properties of God. It is one of the ways to remember the Church in your will. This represents one of the most powerful ways to remember the Church in your estate."

He said Catholicism is not about creating an alternative Church and "arrogantly touching-feely side to this type of position, you'll be disappointed, because I don't think they bring that at all," she said. "They bring a different way of looking at the situation and they find more creative ways to deal with it."

Their style of management is "not more pastoral, conservative or more linear, it's just different," she said. "You add this kind of 'let's try this instead' attitude.

Different operational styles make for better managed dioceses, Edlund said. "We need the full diversity of perspectives," she explained. "We need to have the clerical, celibate perspective at the table, but we also need to have the married lay perspective... That's how God's Spirit works. It's in that collaborative effort."

More diverse decision-making boards "look more like the Church looks now," she said. Linda Bearie, chancellor of the Diocese of San Jose, Calif., said the relational management style is nothing new to the Church, but it is forgotten.

"I think that the Church is more relational than hierarchical. That's how I operate as chancellor—it's not heavy-handed, it's not hierarchical, it's not 'you're going to do this because I say,'" Bearie said.

Women tend to be more process-oriented and collaborative in their styles, she said. "One is not better than the other. It is simply a different way of approaching it."

I believe sharing is something you never outgrow.

It isn't supposed to end in kindergarten. Or when we get older. I believe sharing is a way of life. But why stop there? Nothing can keep us from giving. The Catholic Community Foundation has a number of financial tools that can help you help the Church carry on its mission, from simple one-time gifts to endowments. For more ways to remember the Church in your estate, ask for Sandi Behringer at 800-382-9836.
Witte said, “and we thank God for all the eucharistic minister.
Richmond, helped with the Mass as a celebrated the Golden Jubilee Mass. Her daughters claimed the Gospel reading and concelebrated Mass in St. Anthony Parish in Indianapolis. He portrayed the love and care that has deepened and developed in a love that commitment to one another throughout the years marriage is as demanding and challenging as sacred,” Bethuram said. “They recognize that these couples view their marriage as special,” Bethuram said. “They recognize that marriage is as demanding and challenging as it is rewarding and pleasurable. Their commitment to one another throughout the years has deepened and developed in a love that moves beyond themselves, and gives society a wonderful model of the love and care that God has for all of us.”

St. Andrew parishioners Walter and Pauline Witte of Richmond celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary this year. They were married on Sept. 1, 1937, at St. Andrew Church and have six children, were married for 60 or more years. Of those, St. Christopher parishioners Merle and Gladys Cassidy of Indianapolis and St. Paul the Apostle parishioners Robert and Helen Munn of Greenwood celebrated their 72nd wedding anniversaries this year. Our Lady of the Greenwood parishioners Theodore and Helen Munn of Greenwood marked their 70th anniversary in 2003.

“These couples view their marriage as sacred,” Bethuram said. “They recognize that marriage is as demanding and challenging as it is rewarding and pleasurable. Their commitment to one another throughout the years has deepened and developed in a love that moves beyond themselves, and gives society a wonderful model of the love and care that God has for all of us.”

St. Andrew parishioners Walter and Pauline Witte of Richmond celebrated their 66th wedding anniversary this year. They were married on Sept. 1, 1937, at St. Andrew Church and have six children, 19 grandchildren and 18 great-grandchildren. Pauline Ryan Witte was widowed when her oldest son and daughter were little children. She later married a close friend, and their golden wedding anniversary is Sept. 26. Nearly 20 years later, Valerie and Ray Dillon were among the honored guests as 50-year jubilarians, and she read the first reading during the Mass. Their golden wedding anniversary is Sept. 26.

“I’m so touched and so thrilled, she said, “and the strange thing is that when I started this celebration [19 years ago] I really didn’t even think about the possibility that some day Ray and I would be at this point,” †

Looking at a beautiful, 25-year-old family and neighbor to include anyone in remembering Christ expanded our notion of your love with family and neighbors. And remembering Christ expanded our notion of family and neighbor to include anyone in need.

More than 8,500 years of married life were represented by the jubilee couples attending the Mass this year, said David Bethuram, executive director of the archdiocesan Office for Family Ministries, which has coordinated the annual event for nearly 20 years.

Of the 160 couples present for the liturgy, 66 couples were married in 1953 and celebrated their 50th wedding anniversaries by renewing their marriage vows with longer married couples in a ceremony led by the archdiocesan Office for Family Ministries.

Bethuram said 18 couples present at the Mass have been married for 60 or more years. Of those, St. Christopher parishioners Merle and Gladys Cassidy of Indianapolis and St. Paul the Apostle parishioners Robert and Helen Munn of Greenwood celebrated their 72nd wedding anniversaries this year. Our Lady of the Greenwood parishioners Theodore and Helen Munn of Greenwood marked their 70th anniversary in 2003.

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“We’ve always had a happy life,” Pauline Witte said, “and we thank God for all the blessings he has given us.” They pray the rosary together every night, she said, and always pray for vocations.

“For years, I prayed that God would choose one of our children to be a religious,” she said. “He chose my son to be a priest. It meant so much to me today to have him concelebrate the Mass.”

Walter and Pauline Witte believe in the old adage that the couple that prays together stays together.

To have a happy marriage, she said, couples need to “say the rosary together every day, pray together, love each other and work things out together. Set down and talk things over.”

For Betty Pope, the day was a celebration of the love that her mother and stepfather shared with each other and with their children through the years.

“I was 3 and my brother was 4 when our father died,” she said. “Later, my mother married my friend, and I couldn’t have had a better stepfather. We’re all family. The Golden Jubilee Mass was a sentimental day for St. Thomas Aquinas parishioners Ray and Valerie Dillon of Indianapolis. Early in their marriage, they worked in family ministry in the Archdiocese of Chicago and the Diocese of Trenton in New Jersey, where they started a diocesan tradition of honoring longtime married couples with a jubilee Mass.

They later moved to Indianapolis and raised their two daughters here. Valerie Dillon was working as a reporter for The Criterion in the early 1960s when the late Archbishop Edward T. O’Meara asked her to start a Family Life Office in the archdiocese. Nearly 20 years later, Valerie and Ray Dillon were among the honored guests as 50-year jubilarians, and she read the first reading during the Mass. Their golden wedding anniversary is Sept. 26.

“I’m so touched and so thrilled, she said, “and the strange thing is that when I started this celebration [19 years ago] I really didn’t even think about the possibility that some day Ray and I would be at this point,” †

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Faith Alive!

By Fr. Robert L. Kinast

A friend in the Unitarian Church recently invited me to speak to his study group about the Catholic position on population. The meeting soon turned into a question-and-answer session about Catholic teachings and practices. Toward the end, one person said she seemed as though Catholics try to impose moral judgments about abortion on the whole society, and asked why this is so.

I responded that since Catholics are in a minority, it is impossible to impose our view about anything on the whole nation. It is, however, entirely proper that we present our positions and argue for them as strenuously as possible.

I knew what the next response would be—that charity is private and should be kept out of public life.

This view gained widespread support during the 19th- and 19th-century Enlighten-ment period in Europe. Religion and morality were considered matters of personal feeling and private conscience, separated from politics, economics, and culture.

Vatican Council II opposed this way of thinking, calling the dichotomy between faith and the realms of politics, economics and culture "one of the gravest errors of our time." The council declared that Christians who shirk their responsibilities as citizens "neglect God and endanger their eternal salvation." ("The Church in the Modern World," #43).

Echoing St. Paul and St. Augustine, the council exhorted Christians as citizens of both an earthly and a heavenly world "to perform their duties faithfully in the spirit of the Gospel." (John 14:24).

The difficulty arises when the Church's values, principles and teachings are applied to specific, often complex situations. It isn't always clear what Christians must do in areas such as abortion, euthanasia to peace between faith and life."

believers to establish a "coherence of thought and perspective" and acting "responsibly" for the environment.

moral responsibility for the environment. It is best ensured when it takes into account opposing viewpoints (such as different opinions regarding illegal immigrants), critiques them fairly (that is, without ridicule or misrepresentation) and argues persuasively for an alternative.

Exaggerating or sensationalizing an issue may gain momentary attention, but won't enlighten fellow citizens with the Gospel's truth.

advocates for positions and policies that promote Christian values, and takes action to implement them fulfills the dif-
ficult, dual role of a good Christian citizen.

(Father Robert L. Kinast is director of the Center for Theological Reflection in Largo, Fla.)

†

Parishes work to improve community

This Week's Question

Describe an occasion when your parish made its voice known on a public issue.

"Several years ago, my church was in the forefront of working to get a centrally located airport, which was near several African-American neighborhoods, moved to the outskirts of Austin. We had public forums at the church and invited numerous city officials to participate." (Johnnie Duncan, Austin, Texas)

"We [Shrine of the Little Flower Parish] took part in a petition-signing and an appearance before the liquor control board of Baltimore protesting unruly behavior at a bar-and-grill in the neighborhood. Eventually, we met with the establishment's owner and established some ground rules to improve the situation."

(Father Michael Orchik, Baltimore, Md.)

"We [St. Mary of Nazareth Parish] have a strong pro-life voice. We host an annual Cradle of Life drive when people can contribute cash or baby clothes in support of the pro-life movement, and we have a billboard on our property promoting the same message." (Msgr. Gerald Ryan, Des Moines, Iowa)

Lend Us Your Voice

An upcoming edition asks: Vatican Council II asked Catholics to participate actively in the Mass. What makes you an active participant?

To respond for possible publication, write to Faith Alive! at 3211 Fourth St. N.E., Washington, D.C. 20017-1100. †
A total of 2,860 bishops participated in Vatican II. The council was held in four sessions, each session covering the autumn months of 1962 to 1965. 

Pope John saw only the first session. He died on June 3, 1963, and was succeeded by Cardinal Giovanni Montini, who took the name Pope Paul VI. He was determined not to let the momentum of the ‘Popes’ authority, but war forced it to adjourn before it could consider the bishops’ responsibilities and the expression of the dignity of the Church as the manner in which the bishops, together with the pope, exercise their teaching office. The council formulated and promulgated 16 documents. The key documents were four constitutions, which set the ideological basis for the others. The “Dogmatic Constitutions on the Church” explained the rights and responsibilities of “the People of God” to each other. The “Dogmatic Constitution on Divine Revelation” called for study and interpretation of the Bible using modern methods.

Faithful Lines/Shirley Vogler Meister

Thorns in life not always what they seem

My friend, Jan, and I were enjoying a lunch and shopping day together a few years ago when we noticed a strange fluttering sound in the car. I pulled into a gas station and then we listened carefully, saying something bad was bound to happen. Jan’s radio was broken, but I didn’t know what. Because his station had no in-car entertainment, he had suggested that I drive to another place down the road. When that mechanic listened, he also couldn’t determine the problem. He sent us to the nearest Ford dealer for diagnosis. Fearful we wouldn’t make it to Jan’s house, I prayed. 

At the dealership, a mechanic checked the noise. After checking under the hood, she listened from inside the car while it was running. Then she asked me to turn off the engine. The fluttering was louder.

Leaning into the rider’s side, she asked Jan to open her purse. To our surprise, a battery-run toothbrush in a plastic bag had accidentally turned on, creating the noise.

The lesson learned was this: Trouble is not always what it seems to be. Janie and I have laughed about this many times. Life’s real problems are not always what they seem, and co-workers have, too. Our prayers were answered, and it took another woman solving the problem with unselfish action and honesty. (Fortunately, sometimes women who encounter automotive difficulties have more empathy and comfort for our problems than we do.)

If repairs are needed when nothing serious is wrong, I myself once nearly fell into that trap long ago.

Why did Janie have a toothbrush in her purse? Her daughter, Susie, was then a much-coveted child who had become a local celebrity. Jan’s and her co-workers have, too. Our prayers were answered, and it took another woman solving the problem with unselfish action and honesty. (Fortunately, sometimes women who encounter automotive difficulties have more empathy and comfort for our problems than we do.)

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If repairs are needed when nothing serious is wrong, I myself once nearly fell into that trap long ago.

Voltaire, author of Candide, wrote, “Life is thickly grown with thorns, and I know of no remedy to be found, except quickly through them. The longer we dwell on misfortune, the greater is their power over us.”

However, it’s in our power to discern which are the sharp thorns and which are the dull thorns that merely nip at each other, those that cut into the very essence of our spirit with grace and prayer and courage, or we can keep the spirtiuous wounds open and raw.

Working our way through small thorns with open space and sense and humor bolsters our emotional and physical strength to face the serious ones. Remember, our Lord wore thorns nobly and sacrificially—and he did this for us.

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

Faith and Family/Sean Gallagher

What can we learn from the pope’s devotion to Mary

In just about three weeks, Pope John Paul II will celebrate the 25th anniversary of his election. The entire Church will celebrate this event as a time of great blessing of life, which God has given to the Holy Father and our family. In this occasion, we might wonder, what is it that has allowed the Holy Father to live so long after his election, to provide such outstanding leadership to millions of people around the world, Catholic and non-Catholic alike, to be such a longstanding, inspiring witness to the Gospel of Jesus Christ?

In the final analysis, it is surely the grace of our Lord that has sustained Pope John Paul II in his ministry. But how has that grace been applied to him, invoked in him, and sustained in him? In considering these questions, one cannot ignore the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary. The Holy Father has had a deep devotion to the Blessed Mother throughout his life and has indeed given over his personal prayer life to her.

One need only look to his coat of arms to see evidence of this. It is dominated by a blue field as large, gold-colored, all symbols of Mary. The motto of his papacy is Totus Tuus (Totally Yours), a sign of his dedication of all of his efforts to Jesus through Mary. Given all of this, it is quite fitting that the Holy Father would select this month of October, one which (along with May) Catholics have traditionally dedicated to the Blessed Mother. I suspect that as we approach the anniversary of his election on Oct. 16, the Holy Father will give special attention to Our Lady of the Rosary, whose feast day is Oct. 7, and to the “Year of the Rosary,” which he declared at this time last year as his 25th year as pope was just beginning.

All of this should lead us to consider what we can learn from the devotion of the Holy Father to the Blessed Virgin Mary. If she has played such an important part in supporting the ministry of the Holy Father, then we must be able to be a strong intercessor for our families.

Perhaps this October might be a time when you and your family might begin to nurture a devotion to the Blessed Virgin if you have not already done so. Parents could pray a daily rosary on their own, asking Mary to intercede for the needs of their spouse and children. Families could take the time to pray a family rosary, or at least a decade if young children do not have the attention span for longer. Another way to build a love for our Blessed Mother within families would be to make a pilgrimage to the shrine of Our Lady of Monticello, Cassino, located near Saint Meinrad Archabbey, on a Sunday afternoon in October. Hundreds of people gather there at those times to hear a Benedictine monk of the monastery give a talk on the Holy Family, and then to pray the rosary together.

Ultimately, a family devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary is a devotion closer to her Son, our Lord Jesus Christ. He is the source of the entirety of the life of any family, and this person who was and will always be the closest to him. Let us, with the Holy Family, turn to her that she might reveal him to us.

(Sean Gallagher is the director of religious education of St. Joseph Parish in Shelbyville.)
The Book of Numbers is the source of the first reading for this weekend. Numbers is the fourth book in the sequence of the Bible that is attributable now appearing. It is therefore the fourth book in the series of five books called the Pentateuch, "borrowed" from the Greek word for "five." These five books are called in Hebrew the "Torah." Together, they form the basic law for Judaism, and together they are regarded as the body of the Law of Moses. Scholars say that the more apt description would be that they contain what came traditionally to be seen as the revelation of God to Moses. Moses should not be regarded as the author in the sense that Lew Wallace was the author of Ben-Hur.

The Pentateuch, including Numbers, concentrates upon the Hebrew people's long and difficult trek across the Sinai Peninsula in search of the Promised Land. Moses led the people in this demanding journey. As is so well evidenced elsewhere in these five books, at times people rebelled against Moses. They even deserted the One True God on occasion. Still, God forgave them, and, through God guided them.

In the incident told in this reading, God inspired not only Moses, but also 70 elders, who were wise and experienced men among the people. Impelled perhaps, as of course did Moses, God empowers people to believe, to proclaim the greatness of God. The people were willing to risk their lives to be inspired to proclaim the greatness of God. As is usual in the New Testament, the identity of the author is not given in any detail because it was regarded as unimportant to as who was the author of these works. What was important was to know the message of Jesus. This reading is very frank, and it is very relevant for many people living in the so-called First World. It reminds us of the impermanence and, in the end, the uselessness of material things.

It further reminds us that the lure of material things can become nothing less deadly than a rapidly progressing cancer if we succumb to it. St. Mark’s Gospel furnishes the last reading. John, an Apostle, approaches Jesus with the news that strangers are expelling demons, invoking the name of Jesus as their authority. Are they authen-

tic? Must they not be halted? Jesus then says that anyone who truly believes in what Jesus is preaching, and therefore believes in Jesus, must be accepted. The Lord then continues. His disci-

ples must give water to the thirsty because they belong to Christ. The key is belonging to Christ. Otherwise, it is a matter of leading the unconverted astray, and dreadful punishments await those who lead the innocent astray.

Reflection

Always in reading the Gospels, it is important to realize that these four great fundamental documents of Christianity came not from the time of Jesus, but from the Christian community as it existed several decades after Jesus. When the Gospels were written, this Christian community, now called the Church, had formed. It hardly was as organized as it later became. Obviously, it was larger by the year 60 AD. It was as large as a community as it was to become. But, it had formed. In other words, there was an accumulation of people. As is inevitable in human gatherings, some people tried to assert themselves over others. The Gospel this weekend calls us away from self-interest and struggle, as it called the generation to which it was written to allow the hand of God to work and to lead the people the way. God empowers people to believe, to understand and to love. Without God, we can do little. Faith and spiritual vitality require our total commitment, but they rest upon strength generously given by God. Grace is God’s gift, not our gift either to seize or to dispense. Therefore, the message here is that we generously could follow the Lord and imitate the Lord. But the fact that we have known Jesus does not elevate us to some superior human state. Inde-


ded, as the second reading insisted, sta-

tus in human terms in the last analysis means nothing. We belong to God. We should act accordingly.

Question Corner/Fr. John Dietzen

Creation stories in Genesis contradict ‘first parents’ concept

Q You have explained in the past that Catholic teaching does not rule out the possibility of other “first parents” than Adam and Eve. I can accept that. In fact, I don’t know how you could under-

stand the story of cre-

ation in Genesis any other way. Can you tell me what else God’s story of Adam and Eve’s first child, fearsome woman will kill him after he kills Abel (Gen 4:14), and then goes to the “land of Nod,” where he marries a wife and establishes a city (Gen 11:27). God must therefore have made other people than Adam and Eve to start things off. My problem is Bible passages such as St. Paul’s remark, “Through one man [Adam] sin entered the world” (Rom 5:12). How do we explain such a statement if there were other original human ancestors” (New York)...

A First of all, the various literary tra-

ditions that went into the formation of the Genesis creation stories were not addressing anthropological questions such as polygenism—that is, whether there were more than one “first parents.” Whether there were 20 or 200 such ancestors, or where they came from, has little to do with the theological intent of the biblical story of God’s creation, which was put together in the form we have it only a few hundred years before Christ. That story is meant to convey some essential truths of our faith—that the world, including our human family, owes its existence to creation by the one true God; that as it came into existence, the Earth was good and intended for human happiness; that whatever moral evils exist on Earth result from people’s own stubbornness and sinfulness; and that, even in the beginning, God had a plan eventually to save us from that sin-

fulness.

To answer your question, preachers and writers commonly use the literary devices available to them—well-known char-

acters to make a point, with no intention of declaring judgment on the actual existence of these characters.

When a priest in a homily, for example, refers to the Prodigal Son as in some sense a figure of Christ, he is not professing a belief that this person really existed. He fits the point to be made in the homily, and that’s all the reference means.

When Jesus, for example, said that as Jonathas was in the belly of the whale three days, so he would be in the tomb for three days, he wasn’t declaring a belief that Jonathas actually lived three days in a whale’s stomach. He knew the Jonathas story was well known to his audience, so he used it to illustrate his coming Resurrection.

Thus Jesus did it, and so did Paul. If reference to a familiar Scripture story could help, they didn’t hesitate to use it to teach others.

In fact, the encyclical Humani Generis, Pope Pius XII referred to some doctrinal and scriptural problems with polygenism, some of which have been resolved, incidentally, in the 53 years since he wrote the papal document.

As I said, to answer your question, Catholics should not hold that opinion (polygenism) as a fact since “it is not apparent” how this opinion can be compatible with certain Catholic teachings.

It is commonly acknowledged, therefore, that Humani Generis labels the belief in more than one “Adam and Eve” a conjectural opinion. It does not call that opinion erroneous or heretical. This concurs with current Catholic teaching concerning biblical interpretation.

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<th><strong>The Active List</strong></th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>September 26</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Marion Inn., 1011 E. St. Clair St., Indianapolis. Third annual Fiesta Friday, dinner and dancing, 6:30-11 p.m. Information: 317-388-8544.</td>
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<td><strong>September 27</strong></td>
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<td>St. Therese of the Infant Jesus (Little Flower) Parish, 4720 E. 10th St., Indianapolis, 11 a.m.-7 p.m., $24 for single men ages 16-40, $12 for groups of four or more, seven-week course. Information: 317-631-0148.</td>
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<td><strong>September 28</strong></td>
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<td>St. Mary Parish, 313 S. Louis Pl., Batesville United Church of Christ. A community prayer service, 11:30 a.m. Information: 812-236-1593 (fax); e-mail: <a href="mailto:arhind@archindy.org">arhind@archindy.org</a> (e-mail).</td>
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**St. Mary’s Church**

- 1201 N. Madison Ave., Sellersburg, Indiana

- Mass and anointing of the sick, 8 p.m. Information: 317-831-4142.

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**Fourth Sundays**

- St. Patrick Church, 1807 Poplar Ave., Terre Haute. Eucharist, 1:00 p.m. Information: 812-232-4518.

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**Monthly**

- St. Joseph Parish, 1401 S. Mickley Ave., Indianapolis. German dances, children’s games, food, 4:30-9 p.m. Information: 317-244-7243.

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**October 6**

- Our Lady of the Greenwood Church, 335 S. Meridian St., Greenwood. Fourth night of nine-day novena, hymn and prayers, 6:30 p.m. Information: 317-888-2861.

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**October 7**

- Our Lady of the Greenwood Church, 335 S. Meridian St., Greenwood. Fifth night of nine-day novena, feast day of Our Lady of the Most Holy Rosary, 6:30 Mass, procession, social. Information: 317- 788-2861.

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**October 8**

Ensemble St., Indianapolis. Holy Rosary Church, 520 Service.
5:30 p.m. Benediction and Sacrament after 7:15 a.m. Mass.

Kessler Blvd. E. Dr., Indianapolis. Christ the King Church, 1827
First Fridays at 5:45 p.m. Information: 513-381-4142.

Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church, 1752 Scheller Lane, New Albany.
Adoration concluding with confessions at 6 p.m. Benediction 5:30 p.m.

St. Joseph Church, 1375 S. 5th St., Terre Haute: Eucharistic adoration, 9 a.m.-4:45 p.m.
Benediction, rosary, noon, Mass (with Adoration), 5:15 p.m. Information: 812-235-4996.

First Saturdays at Holy Angels Church, 740 W. 28th St., Indianapolis.

St. Therese of the Infant Jesus (Little Flower) Church, Chapel, 4720 E. 136th St., Indianapolis.
Apostolate of Fatima holy hour, 2 p.m.

St. Anthony Church, 379 N. Warren 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: 317-831-4142.

St. Nicholas Church, 6456 E. St. Nicholas Dr., Indianapolis.
Mass, 6:30 a.m. Information: 317-831-4142.

Second Saturdays at St. Pius X Parish, 7200 Sarto Dr., Indianapolis.
First Saturdays: Apostolate of Fatima holy hour, 9:30 a.m.
Apostolate of Fatima holy hour for vocations to priesthood and religious life, 7 p.m.
Second Saturdays at St. Pius X Parish, 7200 Sarto Dr., Indianapolis.
Support Group for Separated and Divorced Catholics, 7 p.m. Information: 317-236-1596 or 800-382-9836, ext. 1596.

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Healing begins with forgiveness, Father David Buckles of Lafayette, Ind., told separated and divorced Catholics from the Archdiocese of Indianapolis and the Diocese of Lafayette during a healing Mass for families on Sept. 7 at St. Elizabeth Seton Church in Carmel, Ind.

“It’s been said that everything we need to know in life we learn in kindergarten,” Father Buckles said in his homily. “For us Christians, it can be said that every- thing we need to know in life we learn in the Book of Genesis. It’s one of the most inspirational books in the Bible for me because it begins with God creating the world and relates how he sees everything as being good. God said, ‘Let there be light,’ and there was light. It’s so incredible to think of God speaking and all kinds of things obeying him because of his Word.”

“Christ is the Word made flesh,” he said, “and we as Christians are to proclaim the Word. That’s our ministry and our mission. Unfortunately, I think many people have forgotten the power of words. I have heard words so often abused in the ways people speak to one another. Just as the Word is powerful in its ability to create, so words are also powerful in their ability to destroy.”

Father Buckles, who ministers in the Lafayette Diocese’s Metropolitan Tribunal and reviews annulment petitions, encouraged separated and divorced Catholics and their children to remember the power of words to heal and strengthen others.

“This is a healing Mass because many of you have been hurt, have felt pain, because of things that have been said by loved ones,” he said. “We come here because we want the power of the Word to heal us. Today let’s pray for the healing that is needed and that only comes through God’s grace.”

Marriage is a great and beautiful blessing, but in an imperfect world many couples encounter marital prob- lems and need the Church’s help. Father Buckles said the diocesan tribunal staff helps people move through the suffering caused by a failed marriage and begin liv- ing life again in new ways by gaining new understand- ing about the factors leading to the divorce.

“God does not want anyone to have suffering or sad- ness,” he said, and that is why the sacrament of recon- ciliation is so important in healing.

“We must look at our lives and see where things were done that could have been better.” he said, “but we must not see ourselves as bad people because we have made mistakes.”

Instead, he said, hurting people should pray for the understanding to do things differently in the future.

“Marriage has so much potential for good and for love,” Father Buckles said, “but there can also be all kinds of difficulties and heartaches, and that’s when there needs to be healing. That is what today’s Mass is all about—to know that the Church understands, and you have to get to know the Church, and live with those consequences as best as you can in an imperfect world.”

It’s not easy to look at the painful events in life, he said, but God is constantly calling us to do that with help from the Church.

“I think some of the hurt and pain of divorce, at least from the side of the Church, comes from misunder- standings and misinformation about Church teachings (on divorce).” Father Buckles said. “I think the begin- ning of healing is to learn what the truth is and to know that the Church wants you to heal and try to help makes things right as best as we can. From birth until death, we are always learning and trying to understand the Lord. As long as we are trying to do that, then that is where forgiveness comes to us.”

“To Bring Good News to Bind Up the Broken- hearted” was the theme for the second annual Family Mass for Separated and Divorced Catholics, which was co-sponsored by the archdiocesan Office for Family Ministries and the Lafayette Diocese’s Office for Pastoral Formation. Last year, the archdiocese hosted the first healing Mass in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel of St. Peter and Paul Cathedral in Indianapolis.

Marilyn Hess, associate director of hurting and heal- ing ministries for the archdiocesan Office for Family Ministries, said “there are a lot of divorced Catholics, and the Church welcomes them and wants to find ways to support them. We look forward to hearing from peo- ple about their needs. Too often, people tend to walk away from the Church instead of seeking the kinds of help that the Church can offer them.”

(For information about the Church’s ministry to sepa- rated and divorced Catholics, call the archdiocesan Office for Family Ministries at 317-236- 1106 or 800-382-9836, ext. 1596. For information about a Nov. 14-16 retreat for separated and divorced Catholics, call Fatima Retreat House in Indianapolis at 317-345-7681.)

Mass for separated, divorced Catholics promotes healing

By Mary Ann Wyand

Healing begins with forgiveness, Father David Buckles of Lafayette, Ind., told separated and divorced Catholics from the Archdiocese of Indianapolis and the Diocese of Lafayette during a healing Mass for families on Sept. 7 at St. Elizabeth Seton Church in Carmel, Ind.

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Father Buckles, who ministers in the Lafayette Diocese’s Metropolitan Tribunal and reviews annulment petitions, encouraged separated and divorced Catholics and their children to remember the power of words to heal and strengthen others.

“This is a healing Mass because many of you have been hurt, have felt pain, because of things that have been said by loved ones,” he said. “We come here because we want the power of the Word to heal us. Today let’s pray for the healing that is needed and that only comes through God’s grace.”

Marriage is a great and beautiful blessing, but in an imperfect world many couples encounter marital prob- lems and need the Church’s help. Father Buckles said the diocesan tribunal staff helps people move through the suffering caused by a failed marriage and begin liv- ing life again in new ways by gaining new understand- ing about the factors leading to the divorce.

“God does not want anyone to have suffering or sad- ness,” he said, and that is why the sacrament of recon- ciliation is so important in healing.

“We must look at our lives and see where things were done that could have been better.” he said, “but we must not see ourselves as bad people because we have made mistakes.”

Instead, he said, hurting people should pray for the understanding to do things differently in the future.

“Marriage has so much potential for good and for love,” Father Buckles said, “but there can also be all kinds of difficulties and heartaches, and that’s when there needs to be healing. That is what today’s Mass is all about—to know that the Church understands, and you have to get to know the Church, and live with those consequences as best as you can in an imperfect world.”

It’s not easy to look at the painful events in life, he said, but God is constantly calling us to do that with help from the Church.

“I think some of the hurt and pain of divorce, at least from the side of the Church, comes from misunder- standings and misinformation about Church teachings (on divorce).” Father Buckles said. “I think the begin- ning of healing is to learn what the truth is and to know that the Church wants you to heal and try to help makes things right as best as we can. From birth until death, we are always learning and trying to understand the Lord. As long as we are trying to do that, then that is where forgiveness comes to us.”

“To Bring Good News to Bind Up the Broken- hearted” was the theme for the second annual Family Mass for Separated and Divorced Catholics, which was co-sponsored by the archdiocesan Office for Family Ministries and the Lafayette Diocese’s Office for Pastoral Formation. Last year, the archdiocese hosted the first healing Mass in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel of St. Peter and Paul Cathedral in Indianapolis.

Marilyn Hess, associate director of hurting and heal- ing ministries for the archdiocesan Office for Family Ministries, said “there are a lot of divorced Catholics, and the Church welcomes them and wants to find ways to support them. We look forward to hearing from peo- ple about their needs. Too often, people tend to walk away from the Church instead of seeking the kinds of help that the Church can offer them.”

(For information about the Church’s ministry to sepa- rated and divorced Catholics, call the archdiocesan Office for Family Ministries at 317-236- 1106 or 800-382-9836, ext. 1596. For information about a Nov. 14-16 retreat for separated and divorced Catholics, call Fatima Retreat House in Indianapolis at 317-345-7681.)
Rest in peace

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 are listed elsewhere in The Criterion. Order priests and brothers are included here, unless they are natives of the archdiocese or have other connections to it.

BANKS, Mildred Hite (Malone), 80, St. Rita, Indianapolis, Sept. 9.


DAMWOLD, Mildred, 96, Christ the King, Indianapolis, Sept. 11. Mother of Marjorie Robinson and John Dawson.


MEDVECKIS, Valerija Jass, 32, SS. Peter and Paul Catholic Church, Indianapolis, Sept. 11. Mother of John Medveckis.


THORNBURG, Joseph L., 52, St. Roch, Indianapolis, Sept. 5. Brother of Joanne Drake, Rita Kolb, Delbert, Eddie, Jerry, Jim, John and Ronald Thornburg.


WALKER, Thomas, 86, St. Therese of the Infant Jesus (Little Flower), Indianapolis, Sept. 10. Husband of Dorothy Walker. Father of Kathleen Priller. Grandfather of one.

WEISENBGER, Joan D., 79, Christ the King, Indianapolis, Sept. 4.


In memoriam

Above, Indiana Gov. Joseph E. Kernan, the state’s first Catholic governor, pays tribute to the late Gov. Frank O’Bannon during a Sept. 19 memorial service on the west steps of the Statehouse in Indianapolis.

Right, former Indiana First Lady Judy O’Bannon takes a picture of the woman who attended her late husband’s memorial service at the conclusion of the historic ceremony, which included a flyover of fighter jets in the Missing Man formation by the Indiana Air National Guard based in Fort Wayne.

Below, Drew Brown, a fourth-grader at the International School in Indianapolis, reads the first part of “The 23rd Psalm” while Luciana Lima, a fourth-grade student at Carmel Elementary School in Carmel, Ind., waits her turn to read the Scripture passage in memory of Gov. O’Bannon.

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Almighty God, Lord
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answered. D.F.P.
of Jesus and St. Jude for prayers
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