Pope, Vatican officials urge Catholics to welcome newcomers

VATICAN CITY (CNS)—Pope John Paul II, Vatican officials and those who assist migrants and refugees urged all Catholics to overcome fear and selfishness and to see that in welcoming newcomers they put their faith into action.

About 300 people from 99 countries participated in the Nov. 17-22 World Congress for the Pastoral Care of Migrants and Refugees in Rome.

In their final statement, the delegates urged governments to do more to protect the human rights of migrants and refugees and expressed hope that international efforts to stop terrorism would not be “used as a pretext” to curtail individual freedoms and rights, including the rights of those seeking to migrate.

Pope John Paul welcomed the group to the Vatican on Nov. 20 and encouraged the Pontifical Council for Migrants and Travelers, which is preparing a document on assisting migrants and refugees, to present migration as “as a way of fostering dialogue, peace and the proclamation of the Gospel.”

Cardinal Stephen Fumio Hamao, council president, told participants that the world’s 175 million migrants and 40 million refugees and displaced people “have a right to know Christ and experience his love for all men and women of all nations, ethnic groups and from all history.”

Escaping violence, persecution, famine and poverty, hundreds of thousands of people leave their homelands every year, Cardinal Hamao said.

“All this obviously brings with it untold suffering and pain, problems that need urgent attention,” he said.

The Church, he said on Nov. 18, is

World’s hungry rising by 5 million per year, according to U.N. report

WASHINGTON (CNS)—About 842 million people worldwide are undernourished, with the number of chronically hungry people growing at a rate of nearly 5 million a year, according to a report by the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization.

The report, released on Nov. 25, said the fight against world hunger was being lost and that countries would not meet the goal set at the 1996 World Food Summit in Rome to reduce by 50 percent the number of undernourished people by 2015.

“FAO’s latest estimates signal a setback in the war against hunger,” the report said.

Data compiled from 1995-97 and from 1999-2001 showed an increase of 18 million undernourished people, wiping out decreases attained in the early 1990s.

“Unless significant gains are made in large countries where progress has stalled, it will be difficult to reverse this negative trend,” the FAO report said.

The report said there were 798 million undernourished people in developing nations, with the number of hungry continuing to rise in sub-Saharan Africa, North Africa and the Middle East.

“Worse yet, it appears that the number of undernourished people in the developing world is no longer falling but climbing,” the report said.

The U.N. agency called for an international alliance against hunger.

The appeal, FAO said, was “based not on a plea for charity but on a demand for justice and an appeal to the self-interest of almost everyone, recognizing that the suffering of almost 800 million hungry people represents not only an unconscionable tragedy, but a threat to economic growth and political stability on a global scale.”

The report cited a variety of environmental, economic and political factors for the increase in world hunger.

“Bluntly stated, the problem is not so much a lack of food as a lack of political will,” it said.

“The vast majority of the world’s hungry people live in rural areas of the developing world, far from the levers of power and control,” the report continued.

The U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), which released the report, estimated there were 798 million chronically hungry people worldwide in 1999-2001.

The report said the world’s hungry number has increased in every year since 2002, when FAO estimated there were 783 million people undernourished.

FAO estimated there were 793 million undernourished people in 2003.

A FAO report released Nov. 25 estimated that 842 million people worldwide are hungry, with 798 million suffering from chronic undernutrition.

The U.N. agency said the hungry are among the world’s 1.5 billion poor, who account for about 12 percent of the world’s population.

The report said there were 40 million additional chronically undernourished people in 2003 compared to 2002.

World hunger has increased in every year since 2002, when FAO estimated there were 783 million undernourished people.

The report said the number of undernourished people in 2003 was 798 million, up from 793 million estimated in 2002.

The report also estimated that 1.5 billion people worldwide suffer from chronic hunger, with 798 million of those undernourished.
A day in the life of Holy Rosary Parish’s servers

By Brandon A. Evans

Several of the boys, thinking beyond their days of close-knit “community” life as a server at Holy Rosary, have considered their priesthood more because of their work.

On this late April day, Vincent and Andrew, now recent middle school and high school graduates, respectively, leave the other servers to help the monsignor lead the assembly in a special monthly novena to Our Mother of Perpetual Help.

The two flank their pastor during the prayers and Benediction, seamlessly assisting him with the thurible—used to incense the monstrance—and the humeral veil that Msgr. Schaedel lifts the monstrance with.

They bow their head when he does, kissed with him and stay at his side when he moves. Afterward, they rejoin the six other servers that have arrived.

Eight is a good number of servers, Vincent contends. That is usually the maximum that Msgr. Schaedel uses, though he has a policy of not turning any of them away.

Nor is there a schedule. More than enough show up almost every time. When Msgr. Schaedel saw how many younger wanted to serve each Mass, he dipped into the vast amount of “optional” jobs that the Sacramentary provides for altar servers—jobs that have, after Vatican II, fallen to the wayside at most parishes.

As the servers prepare, Msgr. Schaedel jokes with them and helps one get vested. Vincent and Andrew talk about which incense they will use. Andrew picks out sweet myrtle while Vincent muses about sandalwood.

When the eucharistic prayer is about to begin, the servers in the sanctuary, pulling the liturgical vessels swiftly and quietly, take another job, all depending on who is in the right place.

Keeping his hands firmly together in a symbol of prayer, just like all the other boys, Andrew constantly oversees who will be doing what and when. The purpose of the servers is to assist the priest and to blend into the background. With eight servers, they have to be pretty smooth to blend in—and they are.

Right before the Gospel, Andrew and Vincent quickly allow Msgr. Schaedel to refill the thurible, then as he rises Andrew sits while two candle-bearers and Vincent stay close to the priest.

After walking to the ambo, Msgr. Schaedel incenses the book and proclaims the Gospel while the candle-bearers keep silent vigil before him—and before the spoken Word of God.

Though the symbols of light and incense are prevalent here, they are even more so during the central moment of the sacrifice of the Mass.

When the eucharistic prayer is about to start, and while the assembly is singing the Sanctus in English, Vincent goes to the stairs in front of the altar—flanked by four candle-bearers—and kneels with the rest of the assembly and servers at the end of the song of praise.

Andrew, the emcee, remains standing to help Msgr. Schaedel turn the pages in the Sacramentary, though even he kneels at the epiclesis: the moment when the Holy Spirit is called down unto the gifts. At the same time, one of the two remaining servers that are kneeling near the side of the altar gets up and goes in the back.

All the while, Vincent gently swings his thurible.

As the priest begins to pronounce the words of consecration, and the moment comes when Christ is offered again to the Father, all the servers bow their heads.

When Msgr. Schaedel lifts up the consecrated host—the very body and blood of the Lord—the servers all look up. The lay people in the pews either look down in reverence or gaze up at the elevated host in the priest’s hands.

Vincent swings his thurible high and in reverence.

The server at the side of the altar rings the tiny set of hand bells while the server in back rings a larger set of his church bells.

The candle-bearers clutch their torches, and Andrew gets a view of the sacred moment unlike anyone else present.

One of the older servers, thinking about it, says the motions, the same acts of praise on the part of the servers, are more so during the central moment of the Mass.

The same motions, the same acts of praise on the part of the servers, are repeated as the wine is consecrated.

After assembly has completed the eucharistic prayer about to start, and while the assembly is singing the Sanctus in English, Vincent goes to the stairs in front of the altar—flanked by four candle-bearers—and kneels with the rest of the assembly and servers at the end of the song of praise.

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Catholic school social worker earns state award

By Brandon A. Evans

When David Bethuram first heard the news, he thought, “Of course.”

Bethuram, the executive director of Catholic Social Services and the archdiocesan Office for Family Ministry, had just found out who had received the annual award for Indiana School Social Worker of the Year from the Indiana School Social Work Association and the Indiana Department of Education.

St. Thomas Aquinas parishioner Patricia “Tish” Pyritz of Indianapolis has worked for Catholic Social Services in the archdiocese for more than 16 years. When three peers nominated her for the state award, Bethuram helped them by writing a letter of recommendation.

Bethuram said Pyritz is one of the most dedicated people he knows and that she can take a group of workers and make them the best that they can be.

Pyritz was honored at two events in the archdiocese. Besides have what she calls “the pleasure” of offering direct service once a week at Immaculate Heart of Mary School in Indianapolis, Pyritz also visits the schools where her social workers minister, makes herself available for consultation to her staff and to principals, and chairs the School Crisis Response Team, which assists any archdiocesan school facing a traumatic event.

She is also a liaison to the School Safety Commission of Marion County. Pyritz said that when she was notified of her nomination, she had to complete a questionnaire and was surprised at how much she has been involved in school social work.

“Schools and the Department of Education usually work with the caliber of people I do, are committed to what they do and find such satisfaction in the work, those activities and involvements seem like normal expectations rather than out of the ordinary,” she said.

Annette Karnak, a member of her staff, serves at Roncalli High School in Indianapolis as a full-time school social worker. She also was one of the people who nominated Pyritz.

“I did [so] because she has such a wealth of experience in working with children in general and [in] schools,” Karnak said. “She’s an excellent supervisor and trainer.”

Karnak has worked with Pyritz since the fall of 1990—when Pyritz was her co-worker as another social worker. Karnak said she was pleased to see Pyritz promoted to director.

“When I first heard I had been nominated, I honestly was a bit embarrassed,” Pyritz said. “I know so many creative, hard-working, caring school social workers [that] it was hard for me to think of myself as that ‘special.’”

Karnak agreed that the school social work staff is excellent, as did Bethuram.

He said the CSS School Social Work Services Program staff members definitely have the qualifications to someday receive the award themselves.

But for now, Pyritz has broken ground for them in an important way, and one that Bethuram said is wonderful for Catholic Social Services. She is the first non-public school social worker to be named the Indiana School Social Worker of the Year.

Pyritz began her work with the archdiocese after talking with a friend after Mass. At the time, she was operating a day care business in her home, and she wanted to think about work outside the home.

She had earned an undergraduate degree in psychology from Marian College in Indianapolis, and was interested in studying developmental psychology.

After reading an article about social work in a magazine, she became interested in the ministry and returned to college to earn her master’s degree in social work.

Following that conversation with a friend after Mass, Pyritz talked with St. Thomas Aquinas parishioner Millie Brady of Indianapolis, who recently retired as a social worker in Catholic Social Services.

That led to an interview in the School Social Work Program and to a job with the archdiocese.

Sixteen years later, Pyritz has continued to pursue social work for Catholic school students.

Bethuram said that she now has an award to honor her hard work. Pyritz hopes to continue in the field, which she describes as challenging and fulfilling.

“My job very much gives me a sense of ministry,” Pyritz said. “I am supported by the dedication, commitment and professionalism of the program staff, who really give so much to the students and to their schools.”

As for why her work is important, Pyritz pointed to the children.

“All children deserve the best possible chance to develop to their fullest potential—academically, socially, emotionally and spiritually,” Pyritz said. “At times, things get in the way … problems or difficulties which may have a significant impact on the child, or young person’s, development.

“It is important, as part of a team involving the school, the home and the community, to address those difficulties, provide support, challenge [and] problem-solve,” she said. “Some of the problems are very daunting, others are relatively small, but all are significant to the students experiencing them.”

Readers may share Christmas memories

Again this year, The Criterion invites readers to submit personal holiday memories for publication in the annual Christmas Supplement as part of the Dec. 19 issue.

Christmas memories should be brief stories related to faith, family and friends. They may be written about humorous or serious topics.

Submissions should include the writer’s name, address, parish and telephone number, and should be mailed to The Criterion, P.O. Box 1717, Indianapolis, IN 46206 or sent by e-mail in care of criterion@archindy.org by the Dec. 2 deadline.

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 Jim Wathen at 800-382-9836.

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The Criterion Friday, November 28, 2003 Page 3
Advent is a time to reflect on God’s abundant blessings and gratefully share the fruits of God’s garden with others.

The season of Advent, the beginning of the liturgical year, challenges us to “be ready” when the Lord comes again and to be “born again” with Jesus through self-giving. Advent also invites us to be faithful stewards of the gifts we have received from God’s unfaithing generosity.

According to the book of Genesis, the loving God who made heaven and Earth gave humanity (the most complex of all his earthly creatures) dominion over the Earth and all that it contains—animal, vegetable and mineral. God’s decision to entrust all of his creative handwork to us is the fundamental source of our stewardship responsibility. We are not “masters of the universe.” Instead, we are stewards of all God’s creation who will be held accountable for how well we have nurtured, developed, and shared the precious gifts entrusted to our care.

To have dominion over all God’s creation does not mean that we can be domineering or that we can take God’s generosity for granted. Stewardship calls us to a more reverent care for our earthly habitat.

As St. Francis of Assisi so vividly reminded us, we are sisters and brothers to all living things (birds and beasts, sun and moon, wind and water, even the soil we cultivate and the stones under our feet). We have dominion over the whole of creation in order to act in God’s place as loving and life-giving guardians of all that we have been given.

Good stewards take care of, and share, the gifts they have received from a good and gracious God. But stewardship is not a passive virtue. Good stewards also develop the gifts they have received from the Creator. In fact, like the faithful stewards in the parables of Jesus, we are called to multiply our gifts and talents and give them back to God “with increase.”

As good stewards, we are invited to be producers, entrepreneurs and developers. We are challenged to cultivate the soil, nurture and protect the delicate seedlings, and gather in a rich harvest—returning to God “the first fruits” of their labor.

Modern life sometimes makes it difficult to exercise our stewardship responsibilities with “reverent care.” It is too easy in our culture to neglect or abuse our physical environment (the air we breathe, the water we drink, the plants and animals who cohabit with us). The challenge of stewardship is to never lose sight of who we are and what we are called to do as guardians of God’s creation and developers of his earthly garden.

What better way is there to celebrate Advent—and to prepare for new life in Christ—than to reflect on God’s abundant blessings and gratefully share the fruits of God’s garden with others!

—Daniel Conway

(Daniel Conway is a member of the editorial committee of the board of directors of Criterion Press Inc.)
Enter into the silence that leads to Christ

D

 narcismo necesario para adentrarnos que por lo general encontramos a Dios de personas santas nos damos cuenta de presencia del Señor en el silencio más historia de Elías? Él experimentó la de nuestros corazones. ¿Recuerdan la sentir la presencia de Dios en el silencio convicciones al respecto).

sobre el papel que desempeña el silencio valor del silencio. Esto resulta de Su Reino entre nosotros. Durante esta nueva temporada litúrgica oportunidad para profundizar nuestra temporada de Adviento sea una ¿

Nuestra cultura no fomenta el estar en silencio. Bannon escribe que: "Cristo es mucho más moderno, mucho más flexible y universal de lo que nosotros generalmente somos. El nos llama a encontrar silencio en nuestro interior, a apartar una parte de nuestras almas del mundo donde podamos adentrarnos en secreto y elevar nuestra conciencia y nuestro corazón a Él, donde podamos estar a solas con Él."

"Resulta engañosamente fácil decirlo, pero a veces no tan fácil de hacer, el hecho de apartarnos de todas las distracciones y penetrar en la recámara profunda de nuestra ‘casa’ (el alma), cerrar la puerta al mundo y conversar con nuestro Padre que conoce todas nuestras necesidades. Pero con toda transparencia podemos decir que hasta que no lleguemos a ese punto, a esos momentos de silencio en los que podamos comunicarnos con Él, nuestro entendimiento de Dios será prácticamente inexistente y seremos siempre minusválidos en nuestra búsqueda de respuestas." (p. 26-27)

Por supuesto, debemos procurar lugares donde podamos estar cómodamente en silencio para lograr adentrarnos en la quietud de nuestros propios corazones. Es probable que esto suceda si visitamos nuestra iglesia parroquial y nos colocamos delante del Santificado Sacramento. Pero también podemos experimentar la presencia de Jesús en otros lugares. Debemos practicar para desarrollar el hábito, lo que significa dedicar tiempo, de adentrarnos en la recámara profunda de nuestras almas que buscan. Y esto significa que debemos tener la confianza de que podemos, de hecho, encontrar a Jesús en las profundidades de nuestras almas. Esta confianza, la fe, no siempre llega fácilmente ya que el hecho de sentirnos indignos puede interponerse en el camino. Sencillamente debemos creer que Cristo no permite que nuestros esfuerzos sean unilaterales. ¡Recuerden a la oveja perdida? Cristo extiende su amor a nosotros como una gracia no ganada. Muchas veces olvidamos que porque Él nos busca podemos encontrarlo.

El Adviento inicia un nuevo año litúrgico en nuestra Iglesia. ¿Qué mejor momento para buscar a Jesús en sus profundidades de nuestros corazones? "

Adentrémonos en el silencio que conduce a Cristo

Entonces, ¿por qué lo general encontramos a Dios en el silencio de nuestros corazones? ¿Recuerdan la historia de Elías? El experimentó el silencio más profundo. Cuando leemos sobre las vidas de personas santas nos damos cuenta de que: "Cristo es mucho más moderno, mucho más flexible y universal de lo que nosotros generalmente somos. El nos llama a encontrar silencio en nuestro interior, a apartar una parte de nuestras almas del mundo donde podamos adentrarnos en secreto y elevar nuestra conciencia y nuestro corazón a Él, donde podamos estar a solas con Él."

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### Little Maria's and eyes tell the story of her difficult life. Her large family lives on a one-room tin and cornstalk house in a village in Guatemala. They sleep on reed mat and cook over an open fire in clay pot. Poverty hampers their opportunity for a better life. But, sponsorship is helping to give Maria hope for her future. Please sponsor a child like little Maria today!

### Applications are due November 1.

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**SS. Peter and Paul Cathedral, 1347 N. Meridian St., in Indianapolis will host an Advent and Christmas Concert at 7:30 p.m. on Dec. 6. The program will include Laudis Cantores, the principal choir of the cathedral, as well as the Cathedral Trio and the Monument City Brass Quartet. Father Rick Ginther, pastor of SS. Peter and Paul Cathedral Parish, will be the featured soloist. The suggested donation for the event is $20. For more information, call Ed Greene at 317-634-4519, ext. 14.**

Fatima Retreat House, 5353 E. 56th St., in Indianapolis, is offering several retreats during Advent. There will be a Reflection Day of Healing from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Dec. 11 directed by Father James Farrell, pastor of St. Barnabas Parish in Indianapolis. The retreat will include periods of reflection and silence, as well as group prayer and Mass. The cost is $30 per person and includes lunch. “Renewing Our Spirits: Images and Stories of Advent and Christmas” will be Dec. 12-14. The Advent retreat will be directed by Father James Farrell, pastor of Holy Trinity Parish and director of the archdiocesan Office of Migration and Refugee Services. It is her ministry to travel the country and meet with immigrants from Africa and the Caribbean to see what the Church can respond to their needs. The afternoon will conclude with a meal. For more information or to register for the gathering, call Fatima Retreat House, 5353 E. 56th St., in Indianapolis. The cost is $25 per person or $20 for seniors, students and groups of 10. Reservations are required. For more information or for reservations, call 317-955-6206.

Fatima Retreat House, 5353 E. 56th St., in Indianapolis, will host an Advent retreat, which will be a way to celebrate New Year’s Eve in an atmosphere of prayer and celebration. The cost is $145 per person or $270 per married couple. For more information on any of these retreats, call Fatima Retreat House at 317-545-6761.

The Saint Mary-of-the-Woods College Chorale and Madrigals will present “An Advent Service of Lessons and Carols” at 7 p.m. on Dec. 6 in the Church of the Immaculate Conception on the college campus. The Advent service is free and open to the public. Under the direction of Sister Therese Fashnacht, a Sister of Charity of the Blessed Virgin Mary and a visiting professor, and assisted by organist Izumi Fujimori of Princeton, N.J., and harpist Megan Stout of Bloomington, the service will feature portions of “A Ceremony of Carols” by Benjamin Britten, which was composed in 1942 and reflects his fascination with the mystical Christ Child as well as his moral striving to honor the innocence of childhood and of real children in a complex world. The Advent service will be based on the Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols, which is celebrated on Christmas Eve at the chapel of King’s College in Cambridge, England. The strength and appeal of the lessons and carols derives from the repetition of familiar biblical readings interspersed with well-known carols that trace the human pilgrimage from the rebellion against God to the good news of God’s love for creation and the coming of Christ. Carols and canticles convey the preparation, hope and expectation during the Advent season will be sung by the chorale, Madrigals and the College Chamber Singers. For more information or for reservation, call Sister Therese Fashnacht at 812-533-5237 or contact her by e-mail at fashnach@smwc.edu.

St. Thomas Aquinas Parish, located at 46th and Illinois streets in Indianapolis, will host an Advent prayer service in the church. Visitors are invited to join parishioners for an evening of prayer, Scripture, silence and music. For more information, call the parish at 317-253-1461.

Laura Williams, a religion teacher at St. Barnabas School in Indianapolis, recently was honored as the 2002-03 National Catholic Daughters of America (NCDAA) Mother Theodore Guerin Award from Saint Mary-of-the-Woods College. Williams has encouraged her students to participate in the Right to Life March in Indianapolis and to volunteer at the Ronald McDonald House, the Wheeler Mission, the St. Vincent De Paul Society and the Cathedral Kitchen, all in Indianapolis. Recently, during a junior high town meeting, the students requested that religion classes be made longer so they could spend more time learning about their faith with Williams. She also organized a school-wide collection of items for the Ronald McDonald House, which provides temporary housing for parents of children hospitalized at Riley Hospital for Children in Indianapolis.

Knights of Columbus Council 1166 of Bedford earned the Columbus Cuban American Award for 2002-03 fraternal year. The Father McGivney Award is named for the founder of the international organization, and is given to recognize outstanding membership recruitment and retention efforts. The Columbus Award is presented to exceptional sponsored youth. The Church is invited to make a donation to St. Elizabeth’s Pregnancy and Adoption Services in Indianapolis. Reservations are required no later than Nov. 30. For more information or to make reservations, call Eileen Little at 317-888-1433, Norma Clark at 317-536-7836, or Norb Diekhoff at 317-888-1433, or visit the Web site of the Knights of Columbus at www.kofc.org.

### Awards

### Grants

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**Sponsors: A Chance for Children, Inc.**

Sponsors: A Chance for Children, Inc., a 501 [c] (3) nonprofit organization, with headquarters in Indianapolis, Indiana, is an innovative foundation that provides opportunities for children living in poverty. †

**The St. Francis Neighborhood Health Center in Indianapolis was awarded a $15,000 grant from the Kiwanis Club of Indianapolis-Downtown through the St. Francis Healthcare Foundation. The Neighborhood Health Center, a government and managed care insurance agency, provides health care services to the community.**

**Blessed Mother Theodore Guerin Award from Saint Mary-of-the-Woods College. Williams has encouraged her students to participate in the Right to Life March in Indianapolis and to volunteer at the Ronald McDonald House, the Wheeler Mission, the St. Vincent De Paul Society and the Cathedral Kitchen, all in Indianapolis. Recently, during a junior high town meeting, the students requested that religion classes be made longer so they could spend more time learning about their faith with Williams. She also organized a school-wide collection of items for the Ronald McDonald House, which provides temporary housing for parents of children hospitalized at Riley Hospital for Children in Indianapolis.**

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HUNGER

The 798 million hungry people in developing nations represented a "continent of the hungry" whose population outnumbers the population of either Latin America or sub-Saharan Africa, the report said. It said the "lack of adequate food threatens people's very existence and cripples their ability to benefit from opportunities for education, employment and political participation and to contribute to economic and societal development."

The report revealed that 19 countries reduced the number of hungry people by 80 million by 2001, but those gains were being pressured by economic and societal factors, such as a rise in AIDS in poor countries and international agricultural trade tariffs that favor rich countries over poor countries.

Countries that succeeded in reducing hunger had a more rapid economic growth, slower population growth, lower levels of HIV infection and higher ranking in the U.N. Development Program's human development index, the report said. The findings, FAO said, are consistent with previous data that helped shape the World Food Summit's action plan for improving food security—rapid economic and agricultural growth and an effective social safety net ensuring that the poor get enough to eat.

"If we already know the basic parameters of what needs to be done, why have we allowed millions of people to go hungry in a world that produces more than enough food for every woman, man and child?" the report asked.

FAO said there were encouraging signs in the fight against world hunger, signaling out for praise Brazil President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva, who has promised to eradicate hunger by the end of his four-year term. The report also said China has reduced its number of undernourished by 58 million, while Vietnam saw a 3 million reduction.

FAO said food shortages were prevalent throughout the developing world, with 36 countries facing serious food shortages requiring international food assistance as of July.

The report also said that white drought and other natural disasters remained the most common cause of food shortages, "an increasing proportion were man-made."

Conflict and economic problems were cited as the main cause of more than 35 percent of food emergencies from 1992 to 2003, the report said.

The poor, speakers said, are particularly vulnerable to the false promises of traffickers, who claim they can arrange good jobs, but end up selling people—especially women and children—into prostitution and slave labor.

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Cincinnati Archdiocese pleads ‘no contest’ on failure to report abuse

CINCINNATI (CNS)—Entering a plea of “no contest” to five misdemeanor counts in a Hamilton County courtroom on Nov. 20, the Archdiocese of Cincinnati accepted responsibility for charges of failing to report sexual abuse involving priests and minors.

Cincinnati Archbishop Daniel E. Pilarczyk, 69, entered the unprecedented plea on behalf of the archdiocese, ending a nearly two-year investigation spearheaded by Hamilton County Prosecutor Mike Allen.

Flanked by two attorneys, the archbishop answered quietly and firmly as the judge asked if he understood the nature of the proceedings.

The plea indicates that the archdiocese accepts the facts of the case as set forth by the prosecutor’s office but does not admit to committing the crimes, which are a fourth-degree misdemeanor.

The archdiocese was ordered by Hamilton County Common Pleas Judge Richard Niehaus to pay a $10,000 fine for the violations—which occurred from 1978 to 1982, while then-Archbishop Joseph L. Bernardin headed the local Church. The charges do not cite specific cases of abuse.

The judge also issued a statement, declaring that, as a Catholic, he found the day’s events to be “extremely tragic.”

“All religious organizations ought to show greater respect for human rights and not try to preserve themselves at the expense of the victims,” he stated. “Everyone has the duty to follow the law.”

The archdiocese is also creating a $3 million fund to compensate victims abused as minors by clergy or other agents of the local Church. Compensation will be made available to any victim who is not suing the archdiocese, regardless of how long ago the abuse occurred, according to archdiocesan spokesman Dan Andrascio.

It will also make funds available for those individuals who have already sued the archdiocese for sexual abuse, but whose cases were dismissed because the statute of limitations had expired. At least two such cases have been dismissed in the past month, and nearly all of the cases currently pending involve a question of statute of limitations.

Some details about the fund remain to be worked out, but there will likely be a limited time period in which victims can apply for compensation. The review of applications and the allocation of the funds will be handled by a three-person panel: one representative of the archdiocese, one representative for the prosecutor, and a third person jointly approved by both.

The concept of the fund was initiated by the archdiocese as part of an agreement to bring to a close an investigation that began in March 2002.

The no-contest plea, while ending any criminal investigation by the prosecutor’s office, does not affect other civil suits pending against the archdiocese and former or retired priests for alleged sexual abuse. There are currently nearly 70 individuals involved in such lawsuits.

“Again, I express my sorrow and shame at the suffering that priests and other Church employees have inflicted on young persons,” Archbishop Pilarczyk said at a press conference following the afternoon court hearing.

“A few years ago, I never would have thought that it would be necessary for a bishop to be making apologies like these,” he said. “But it is necessary, and I offer my expressions of sorrow and regret with the deepest intensity of which I am capable.”

Church officials, attorneys and representatives of the Hamilton County Prosecutor’s office began discussions that led to the plea agreement after 18 months of sometimes rancorous dealings over the release of documents considered by archdiocesan attorneys as protected by attorney-client privilege.

As part of the plea, some of the documents that archdiocesan attorneys have questioned on appeal will be shared with the grand jury, but all other documents sought on appeal won’t be shared.

“This brings to an end one of the lengthiest and certainly most painful investigations ever undertaken by my office,” said Allen, a Catholic and member of St. Jerome Parish.

At a press conference following the court hearing, the prosecutor added, “This investigation by its very nature has been contentious, and the defense has been, as I would expect, very aggressive. As part of the agreement reached this week, the archdiocese provided our office with all of the records we have requested, and we questioned under oath all of their members who had knowledge of clergy abuse and the investigation of this abuse.”

He also said he believes that the archdiocese no longer has in its employ any active priests who have been accused of sexual abuse of minors.

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Read any good hospital rankings lately?
Advent penance services are scheduled in archdiocese

Parishes throughout the archdiocese have scheduled communal penance services for Advent. The following is a list of services that have been reported to The Criterion.

**Batesville Deanery**
Dec. 2, 7 p.m. at St. Joseph, Shelbyville
Dec. 2, 7 p.m. at St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception, Aurora
Dec. 3, 7 p.m. at Immaculate Conception, Millbouzen
Dec. 4, 7 p.m. for St. Paul, New Alasce, and St. Martin, Yorkville, at St. Martin, Yorkville
Dec. 7, 2 p.m. at St. Maurice, Napoleon
Dec. 10, 7 p.m. at St. Magdalene, New Marion
Dec. 11, 7 p.m. at St. Lawrence, Lawrenceburg
Dec. 14, 2:30 p.m. at St. Joseph, St. Leon
Dec. 15, 7 p.m. at St. Louis, Batesville
Dec. 16, 7 p.m. at Holy Family, Oldenburg
Dec. 17, 7 p.m. at St. Vincent de Paul, Shelby County
Dec. 17, 7 p.m. at St. Mary-of-the-Rock, St. Mary-of-the-Rock
Dec. 18, 7 p.m. at St. Mary, Greensburg
Dec. 18, 7 p.m. at St. Teresa Benedicta of the Cross, Bright
Dec. 18, 7 p.m. at St. Mary, Greensburg
Dec. 15, 7 p.m. for St. Therese of the Infant Jesus (Little Flower) and Our Lady of Lourdes at Our Lady of Lourdes
Dec. 15, 7 p.m. at St. Simon the Apostle
Dec. 17, 7 p.m. for Holy Cross, St. Mary and SS. Peter and Paul Cathedral at SS. Peter and Paul Cathedral
Dec. 17, 1 p.m. at St. Philip Neri
Dec. 18, 6:30 p.m. at St. Rita

**Indianapolis North Deanery**
Dec. 7, 1:30 p.m. at St. Joan of Arc
Dec. 9, 7 p.m. at Christ the King
Dec. 9, 7 p.m. at St. Matthew
Dec. 10, 7 p.m. at St. Thomas Aquinas
Dec. 11, 7 p.m. at Immaculate Heart of Mary
Dec. 16, 7 p.m. at St. Luke
Dec. 16, 7 p.m. at St. Lawrence
Dec. 16, 7 p.m. at St. Andrew the Apostle
Dec. 17, 7 p.m. at St. Pius X

**Indianapolis South Deanery**
Dec. 2, 7 p.m. at Holy Name, Beech Grove
Dec. 2, 7 p.m. at SS. Frances and Clare, Greenwood
Dec. 7, 2 p.m. for Sacred Heart of Jesus, St. Patrick, Holy Rosary and Good Shepherd at Good Shepherd
Dec. 11, 7 p.m. at St. Jude
Dec. 15, 7 p.m. at St. Roch
Dec. 16, 7 p.m. at St. Mark
Dec. 16, 7 p.m. at Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ
Dec. 18, 6:30 p.m. at St. Barnabas
Dec. 22, 7:30 p.m. at Our Lady of the Greenwood, Greenwood

**Indianapolis West Deanery**
Dec. 3, 7 p.m. at St. Michael the Archangel
Dec. 4, 7 p.m. at St. Susanna, Plainfield
Dec. 10, 7 p.m. at St. Joseph
Dec. 11, 7 p.m. at St. Malachy, Brownsburg
Dec. 14, 7 p.m. at Holy Trinity
Dec. 15, 7 p.m. at St. Gabriel
Dec. 15, 7 p.m. at St. Thomas More, Mooresville
Dec. 16, 7 p.m. at St. Monica
Dec. 16, 7 p.m. at Mary, Queen of Peace, Danville
Dec. 21, 7 p.m. at St. Anthony

**New Albany Deanery**
Dec. 7, 2 p.m. at St. John the Baptist, Starlight
Dec. 9, 7 p.m. for Sacred Heart, Jeffersonville, and St. Augustine, Jeffersonville, at St. Augustine, Jeffersonville
Dec. 10, 7:30 p.m. at St. Mary-of-the-Knobs, St. Mary-of-the-Knobs
Dec. 11, 6:30 p.m. at St. Paul, Sellersburg
Dec. 13, 9:30 a.m. at Mother-of-the-Knobs, St. Mary-of-the-Knobs
Dec. 15, 7 p.m. at St. Michael, Charlestown
Dec. 17, 7 p.m. at St. John the Baptist, Starlight
Dec. 21, 7 p.m. at Holy Family, New Albany

**Seymour Deanery**
Dec. 2, 7:30 p.m. at St. Joseph, Jennings County
Dec. 3, 7 p.m. at Our Lady of Providence, Brownstown
Dec. 3, 7 p.m. at St. Patrick, Salem
Dec. 4, 7 p.m. at St. Bartholomew, Columbus
Dec. 6, 10 a.m. at American Martyrs, Scottsburg
Dec. 7-10, 8:15 p.m. for Most Sorrowful Mother of God, Vevay, and Prince of Peace, Madison, at Prince of Peace, each evening after parish retreat
Dec. 9, 7 p.m. at St. Ambrose, Seymour
Dec. 10, 7 p.m. at St. Mary, North Vernon
Dec. 13, 2 p.m. for St. Rose of Lima, Franklin, and Holy Trinity, Edinburgh, at Holy Trinity
Dec. 16, 7:30 p.m. at St. Ann, Jennings County

**Tell City Deanery**
Dec. 3, 6:30 p.m. for St. Michael, Cannonel; St. Pius, Troy; and St. Paul, Tell City, at St. Paul
Dec. 6, 4 p.m. at Holy Cross, St. Croix
Dec. 11, 7 p.m. at St. Mark, Perry County
Dec. 13, 4:30 p.m. at St. Isidore, Bristow
Dec. 17, 7:30 p.m. for St. Martin of Tours, Siberia; St. Boniface, Falls; and St. Meinrad, St. Meinrad, at St. Meinrad
Dec. 18, 7 p.m. at St. Augustine, Leopold

**Terre Haute Deanery**
Dec. 11, 7 p.m. for Sacred Heart, Clinton
Dec. 11, 7 p.m. at St. Paul the Apostle, Greenfield
Dec. 11, 1:30 p.m. deanery service at St. Ann, Terre Haute
Dec. 11, 7 p.m. deanery service at St. Joseph University, Terre Haute
Dec. 14, 7 p.m. at St. Joseph, Rockville
Dec. 14, 6 p.m. at St. Patrick, Terre Haute
Dec. 17, 6:30 p.m. at Holy Rosary, Seelyville

Jolly days, winter wonderland

Nov. 28 – Jan. 4
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Jolly days are here!
church, I stress the fact that we are the dwelling place of God,” he said. “It doesn’t mean much if we build a charming dwelling place of the Lord if we have not made a home for Jesus in our hearts.”

Founded in 1940 on Highway 135 just north of Nashville, St. Agnes Parish has never had a full-time resident pastor even though thousands of visitors have attended Mass with parishioners in the little chapel and adjacent parish hall for decades.

While worshiping in cramped quarters, St. Agnes parishioners have joyfully contributed their gifts of time, talent and treasure to support a variety of parish ministries that range from providing hospitality for tourists to assisting low-income residents with food, clothing and other material needs.

Their strong lay leadership and financial commitment to the parish have resulted in a thriving 340-household faith community, which marked its 63rd anniversary on Oct. 11 then moved into the new church a month later.

A year ago in October, the archdiocese sold the log chapel and 2.7 acres of parish property to the Brown County Presbyterian Fellowship, a 60-household Protestant congregation.

The Dedication Mass was especially emotional for Thomas Nurre of Wisconsin Rapids, Wis., and Ruth Nurre Brennan of Nashville. Their parents provided the money to buy land and build a chapel for Catholic families in the Nashville area.

“There is really quite a triumph for the parish,” Thomas Nurre said as he admired the contemporary architecture of the wood and fieldstone church after the Mass. “We’re delighted. We felt very close to the chapel, obviously, because our parents put up the money for it, and we are glad that it’s still a worship space. I hope the Presbyterians enjoy it as much as we did.”

His sister, Ruth Brennan, admitted she was “teary” during the liturgy and said she thinks “it’s just marvelous that the parish has thrived so much that they outgrew the original chapel.”

Their parents provided the money to build the chapel named for their mother. Brennan said, “but the faith of all these people are what made it a parish community.”

Father Paul Koetter, pastor of St. Monica Parish in Indianapolis, returned home from a sabbatical in the Holy Land in time to join St. Agnes parishioners for their special day. He was the administrator 15 years ago when parishioners made the difficult decision to search for land so they could build a bigger worship space.

The site of the new church was the 13th location considered by the parish council and building committee during that time.

“It was a long, hard journey of coming to the decision to move to a new location,” Father Koetter said. “Some of the people on the original building committee have continued to serve on the committee all these years. I’m so proud of what the people have done here. We wanted a church setting where we could see the trees and hills, I think they have done what we wanted to accomplish 15 years ago.”

Providence Sister Marsha Speth, a general councilor at Saint Mary-of-the-Woods, served the parish as the first pastoral associate two decades ago. “I was the first staff member hired by the parish,” Sister Marsha said. “It was a big step for them because they had never had a full-time pastoral minister. The parish continued to grow over the years, and I tried to nurture that growth in whatever way I could.”

During Sister Marsha’s time at St. Agnes Parish, the Marian Grotto was built on the hillside behind the chapel and parishioners began offering outdoor Masses for Catholic tourists at nearby Brown County State Park on Saturdays during the summer months.

St. Agnes parishioners moved into the new church on Nov. 15, Sister Mildred said, and began each Mass that weekend by gathering around the former St. Bridget Church bell at the front entrance for a welcoming ceremony.

Parishioners also planted hundreds of daffodils around the church to symbolize new growth.

“God has been so good to the parish in so many ways,” Sister Mildred said, “and the parishioners have been wonderful, too. Every time we needed financial help, people gave us checks to buy what was needed. That’s how we paid for the rest of the pews and the cost of installing the stained-glass window from [the former St. Columbus Oratory].”

Building a new church for God was a very emotional and spiritual experience for parishioners, Father Stumpf said. “They have created a legacy for generations to come.”

Above, Archbishop Daniel M. Buechlein blesses water in the baptismal font during the Dedication Mass. Parishioners Robert and Patrick Clark of Nashville made the altar, ambo, presider’s chair and base for the baptismal font. Altor servers Elizabeth Clark, left, and Sean O’Connor, right, assist Archbishop Buechlein and Father Rick Gtinther.

Left, Benedictine Sister Mildred Wannemuehler, parish life coordinator, and Father William F. Stumpf, priest moderator and sacramental minister, welcome parishioners and guests to the new St. Agnes Church, located at 1008 McLarry Road west of Highway 135 beyond Main Street and Helsming Road. Mass times are 5 p.m. on Saturday and 8:30 a.m. and 10:45 a.m. on Sunday.

Thomas Nurre of Wisconsin Rapids, Wis., and Ruth Nurre Brennan of San Leandro, Calif., applaud following the Dedication Mass on Nov. 23 for the new St. Agnes Church in Nashville. In 1937, their parents, Joseph and Agnes Nurre, gave Bishop Joseph E. Ritter money to buy land and build a chapel.

The Criterion is offering a Rosary, personally blessed by Archbishop Buechlein, for $5.50 or $7 for Spanish version. The Criterion Rosary series includes meditations on all the mysteries, including the new Luminous Mysteries suggested by Pope John Paul II and a set of Prayers of Mary, the School of Mary, for $7.

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Advent is a daily reminder to focus on prayer

By Fr. Frederic Maples, S.J.

Advent! The Lord is coming soon! This is a good season to deepen our prayer life so that we will experience the coming of the Lord into our own hearts. However, as you browse your diocesan newsletter or the Internet, you might be overwhelmed by the abundance of offerings and differing styles of prayer and spirituality. With so much to choose from, how can you find a spirituality and practice of prayer that is right for you?

You can easily find workshops, classes and talks about spirituality and prayer. There are prayer groups, adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, the scriptural rosary, days of recollection, novenas and retreats with all manner of themes. There are preached retreats (a leader gives inspirational talks) and directed retreats (you meet individually with a retreat director daily). There are weekend retreats, five-day and eight-day retreats, and even 30-day retreats. You can locate retreats near you, beginning with a call to your diocesan spiritual director or hermitages where you can spend an evening or a whole weekend.

Have you considered spiritual direction? Choose an approach to deepening your prayer life, you meet regularly, perhaps once a month, with a trained spiritual director. You talk about your relationship with God, and the director helps you to notice more clearly the action of God in your life and your responses to God. Before choosing a spiritual director, you may want to consider the director’s spiritual tradition. Each religious order is the carrier of a tradition. There are Franciscan, Dominican, Benedictine, Carmelite and Ignatian (Ignatian) spiritualities, among others.

Do you know about Centering Prayer? In this approach, one avoids thoughts and images, seeking simply to be open to God’s presence. God is beyond all our images and thoughts!

By contrast, Ignatian prayer will have you awash in scriptural images and your own Spirit-guided imagination. These sacred images point beyond themselves to your own Spirit-guided imagination. These sacred images and thoughts point you to God. So how does one choose, and why are there so many “ways” to pray?

Be assured, you will not be alone on this journey. Spirituality is always about relationships with God. God is actively available for intimate relationship with each and every person in every moment. And God always takes the initiative. That means that your very desire to be more regular in prayer or to deepen your relationship with God was God’s gracious love reaching out to you before it was ever recognized by you as your desire. The result of God’s initiative is a person’s conscious contact with God. When the desire that develops is pursued, conscious contact always happens.

But God never relates to any two people in exactly the same way. God’s relationship with you is unique.

There are as many types of spiritualities as there are individual persons in relationship with God. The great mystics like John of the Cross or Teresa of Avila are simply Christian men and women whose stories of relationship with God have something to teach us about our own developing relationships with God.

Fix your attention on your relationship with God, not the method. How does your relationship feel to you? How does God seem to be approaching you? When we focus on our method or our practice, we become too self-conscious.

We worry and ask ourselves, “Am I doing this right?” Then it is all about me and how I am doing, and not about what God is doing. A method can be very helpful, but it is only a means, not the end.

As for your daily prayer or meditation time: Just show up! God will already be there! It may take some time to recognize God’s presence. It may take longer before you’re focused on yourself and worried about how well you are doing.

Try spending five or 10 minutes of quiet time in prayer with God each day. After a while, as you more easily recognize God’s presence, you will want to spend more time. You won’t be able to live without it. In choosing among so many options, go with your instinct, which may simply be your experience of God’s grace. No method is the final word or the only way for you. Close friends need to be together in different ways at different times. How do you need to be with God today?

It’s important to participate in a spiritual activity with other people. Though your relationship with God is unique, it grows and deepens most readily in a community of support and guidance.

The Lord is coming soon—to you!

(Jesuit Father Frederic Maples is a spiritual director with Loyola, a spiritual renewal resource in St. Paul, Minn.)

Discussion Point

Begin each day with prayer

This Week’s Question

What is your favorite time of day to pray? Why?

“Early morning—I’m usually up before dawn—because nothing else is interfering with me at that time.” (Lynne Gillig, Billings, Mont.)

“Early morning—shortly after I wake up. The day is new then, the possibilities are endless, and it’s a perfect time to thank God for it all.” (John Rines, Albuquerque, N.M.)

“First thing in the morning. I’m the first person up in my home, the house is quiet, and it’s the best opportunity for me to be centered before moving into my day.” (Lyneé Billings, Billings, Mont.)

“Normally [I pray] first thing in the morning to get the day started well, and usually in the evening, just to say thanks.” (Tom Rockey, Olathe, Kan.)

Lend Us Your Voice

An upcoming edition asks: Where exactly is God present in your everyday world?

To respond for possible publication, write to Faith Alive! at 3211 Fourth St. N.E., Washington, D.C. 20017-1100.
Catholic patriots: Bishop John England III

Faith and Family/Sean Gallagher

Tips for families on making the most of Advent

This Sunday, we celebrate the beginning of Advent, that season when the Church invites us to prepare our- selves not only for the coming of Jesus’ first coming in the flesh 2,000 years ago, but also for the second coming in the future. However, the way in which we celebrate Advent can be the feast of Christmas makes the observance of Advent’s meaning for all Catholics. This may be especially true for Catholic families. The weeks of December leading up to Christmas are often filled with lots and lots of scurrying about. Office parties follow all sorts of family gatherings. Parents take their children from shop to mall to shop so that they can all finish up their Christmas shopping just in time. Does our school choir or band concerts that celebrate the season. Many of these coming and goings for our family members on the annual outward preparation for Christmas. Does our house have as many lights on it as the next neighbor’s? Were we prepared for all of the parties we’ll be attending? Have I sent out my Christmas cards yet? With all of these traditions fashioned upon our families by our society, it is difficult to give proper attention to the preparations for our souls for the coming of our Lord. In the face of these challenges, how can Catholic families keep Jesus truly focused on Christ during Advent? Given the deep ingrained and pervasive attitude toward Christmas, planning is an absolute necessity. In order for Catholic families to truly celebrate Advent, they must deliberately choose to do this ahead of time. One way to do this is simply asking, ideally before Thanksgiving, but before the start of Advent at any rate, and discuss together the importance of the spiritual meaning of Advent. And in light of that spiritual meaning, each member of the family should make a plan about how we will spend time in prayer and joy in each other’s company. It is during such times as that Catholic families can attend to the spiritual importance of the season of Advent, leaving the materialism of our society behind and talk about ways that goal can be accomplished. And in light of that spiritual meaning, each member of the family should make a plan about how we will spend time in prayer and joy in each other’s company. It is during such times as that Catholic families can attend to the spiritual importance of the season of Advent, leaving the materialism of our society behind and talk about ways that goal can be accomplished. And in light of that spiritual meaning, each member of the family should make a plan about how we will spend time in prayer and joy in each other’s company. It is during such times as that Catholic families can attend to the spiritual importance of the season of Advent, leaving the materialism of our society behind and talk about ways that goal can be accomplished. And in light of that spiritual meaning, each member of the family should make a plan about how we will spend time in prayer and joy in each other’s company. It is during such times as that Catholic families can attend to the spiritual importance of the season of Advent, leaving the materialism of our society behind and talk about ways that goal can be accomplished. And in light of that spiritual meaning, each member of the family should make a plan about how we will spend time in prayer and joy in each other’s company. It is during such times as that Catholic families can attend to the spiritual importance of the season of Advent, leaving the materialism of our society behind and talk about ways that goal can be accomplished. And in light of that spiritual meaning, each member of the family should make a plan about how we will spend time in prayer and joy in each other’s company. It is during such times as that Catholic families can attend to the spiritual importance of the season of Advent, leaving the materialism of our society behind and talk about ways that goal can be accomplished. And in light of that spiritual meaning, each member of the family should make a plan about how we will spend time in prayer and joy in each other’s company. It is during such times as that Catholic families can attend to the spiritual importance of the season of Advent, leaving the materialism of our society behind and talk about ways that goal can be accomplished. And in light of that spiritual meaning, each member of the family should make a plan about how we will spend time in prayer and joy in each other’s company. It is during such times as that Catholic families can attend to the spiritual importance of the season of Advent, leaving the materialism of our society behind and talk about ways that goal can be accomplished.
First Sunday of Advent/Msgr. Owen F. Campion

The Sunday Readings

Sunday, Nov. 30, 2003

• Jeremiah 33:14-16
• 1 Peter 3:16-22

This weekend begins the Church’s liturgical year. Once again, the Church begins its proclamation of eternal life in Jesus. Way before the year starts with the season of Advent. Usually Advent is seen simply as a time to prepare for the feast of Christmas, and in the current American culture, a tempered, penitential season is not in order. Actually, the Advent season also summons us to consider the coming of Jesus into our own hearts. Then calls us to prepare ourselves for the final coming of Jesus at the end of time.

Christmas symbolizes these additional occasions of the Lord’s arrival into our hearts—if we are willing to receive the Lord. This is where the penitential season enters the picture. We must prepare ourselves for Jesus. We must uproot those tendencies, and even vices, that separate us from God.

Jeremiah is the source of the first reading. This ancient Hebrew prophet, regarded along with Ezekiel and Jeremiah as being one of the three great Old Testament prophets, was forceful and even urgent in his writing. His theme, as it was the theme of all the prophets, was that God’s people could expect no peace or joy in their lives until they wholeheartedly returned to God. In this reading, the prophet notes the sad state of affairs for God’s people. They have been humbled. Misery is their lot. Sin has produced this unhappy situation. However, always merciful, always good and always protective, God will send into their midst a Savior, a descendant of King David. This Savior will bring justice. All will be fine. The First Epistle to the Thesalonsians supplies the next reading. It is an appeal to the Christians of Thessalonica, which will become the Greek city of Saloniki, to love each other. This love will be the sign of inwardly following the Lord. The message ends by “begging” the Christians in Thessalonica to live their lives in a way pleasing to God. St. Luke’s Gospel gives this weekend’s liturgy its third reading. It is forthright, even stark, as it typifies of Luke’s Gospel. Quoting Jesus, it states that suddenly and overwhelmingly will come signs in the sky, with the sun, the moon and the stars. Nations will be in anguish. The seas will roar. People will die of fright.

Amid all this great drama, Jesus will come in might and in glory. Instead of being a dreadful event, the Lord’s arrival will be an occasion to rejoice. He will bring final redemption. All must actively anticipate the Lord’s coming, however, by praying and sacrificing. This Gospel was written when, for Christians, the world was becoming a difficult place. Certainly the culture was against them. Even the political authority was turning against them. Jesus, however, would prevail. His truly devoted followers also would prevail.

Reflection

Christmas, in every culture, is soft and lovely. Such befits the commemoration of the loving and forgiving Redeemer, Jesus the Lord. It is a time universally celebrated among Christians. It is the acclamation of life itself, and of redemption, even as it recalls the earthly birth of the Son of God to Mary in Bethlehem.

Still, the forthcoming feast of Christmas has profoundly personal, individual considerations, and in some respects it is a warning. As St. Luke’s Gospel so bluntly says, as Advent says, Christ one day will confront us. It may be a personal meeting, as many Christians already have experienced. It may be at the end of time, in some manner yet unknown, but about which the Scriptures offer such colorful hints.

In any case, we all shall meet Christ. It may be a victorious reunion for us. It will be such a day, if we have followed the Lord in our own lives. Jeremiah looks to such a day of salvation and victory.

However, it will be final and intense. Good will stand starkly opposite evil. We must choose the side toward which God will go. If we choose the side of right, and of God, we will need strength. Evil is powerful, and it lures us to death.

Thus, in Advent, by prayer and sacrifice, we strengthen our own resolve to turn to God and to meet Christ as our Lord and Savior. †

Question Corner/Fr. John Dietzen

Debate continues on whether pope gave Communion to Blair

Q I am writing in response to your recent column about non-Catholics receiving Communion in the Catholic Church.

A you said the Holy Catholic Church gives this weekend’s reading. This is where the penitential season enters the picture. We must prepare ourselves for Jesus. We must uproot those tendencies, and even vices, that separate us from God.

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Daily Readings

Monday, December 1
Isaiah 2:1-5
Psalm 122:1-9
Matthew 8:5-11

Tuesday, December 2
Isaiah 11:1-10
Psalm 72:7-8, 12-13, 17

Wednesday, December 3
Francis Xavier, priest
Isaiah 26:1-10a
Psalm 23:1-6
Matthew 15:29-37

Thursday, December 4
John of Damascus, priest and doctor of the Church
Isaiah 26:1-6

The Gift

Come find the gift that God has given In a lonely manger filled with hay. Be consumed with joy as the angels sing, In a lowly manger filled with hay. Come find the gift that God has given In a lowly manger filled with hay.

(Elizabeth R. Jackson is a member of St. Rose of Lima Parish in Knightstown.)

Readers may submit prose or poetry for faith column

The Criterion invites readers to submit original prose or poetry relating to faith or experiences of prayer for possible publication in the “My Journey to God” column. Seasonal reflections also are appreciated. Please include name, address, parish and telephone number with submissions.

Send material for consideration to “My Journey to God,” The Criterion, P.O. Box 1717, Indianapolis, IN 46206 or e-mail to criterion@archindy.org. †
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December 2
Benedictine Inn Retreat and Conference Center, 1402 Southern Ave., Beeche Grove. Advent Mini-Retreat, 9 a.m.-noon or 6-9 p.m., $25 per person, child care available. Information: 317-788-7581.

St. Bridget Church, 404 E. Vine St., Liberty. Healing Mass, 7:30 p.m. Information: 765-825-7087.

December 3
“Taize” service, 7 p.m. Indianapolis Archdiocesan Office of Multicultural Renewal, praise, worship, teaching, healing prayers, 7 p.m. Information: 317-788-7581.

December 4
Conciloflora House of Prayer, 3560 E. 46th St., Indianapolis. Joyful mysteries of the rosary, pray in silent meditative way, 7-7:45 p.m. Information: 317-543-0154.

December 5
Michaela Faros, Oldehagen. Day of prayer, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. EST. Information: 812-933-0661.

December 6

December 7

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Benedictine Inn Retreat and Conference Center, 1402 Southern Ave., Beeche Grove. Retreat, 9 a.m.-3 p.m., $25 for adult, $10 for child grades 1-8, age 5 and under free. Information: 317-788-7581.

Benedictine Inn Retreat and Conference Center, 1402 Southern Ave., Beeche Grove. “Introduction to Centering Prayer,” 9 a.m.-4 p.m., $40 per person includes lunch and materials. Information: 317-788-7581.

Mount Saint Francis Retreat Center, 101 Anthony Dr., Mount St. Francis. Christmas basket and luncheon, homemade soups, turkey dumplings, desserts, gift items, 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Information: 812-923-8817.


December 6-7
St. Benedict Parish, 4838 Fletcher Ave., Indianapolis. Christmas Vacation, Sat. 9 a.m.-4 p.m., Sun. 9 a.m.-1:30 p.m., free breakfast with Santa, 8-10:30 a.m., crafts, baked goods. Information: 317-356-5867.

December 7

December 8
Farouk School, 2801 W. 86th St., Indianapolis. Indiana Autism and Serotonia Club meeting, 7-9 p.m., child care provided. Information: 317-885-7295.

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When Winter Comes helps readers grow closer to God

By Mary Ann Wyand

When winter comes, people dress warm and look forward to celebrating Thanksgiving and Christmas with loved ones. But when winter comes to people who have experienced the death of a loved one, or any significant loss, it is hard for them to even think about getting through the next day, let alone celebrating the holidays. St. Barnabas parishioner Jim Welter of Indianapolis wants to offer comfort to people who are grieving and help readers relate Scripture to their daily life. Welter has written a book, When Winter Comes: Scripture Reflections for Daily Living, which is intended to help grieving people as well as any person who wants to delve more deeply into the mysteries of faith and seek God in the midst of daily life. After Welter retired last year as the pastoral associate and business manager of St. Monica Parish in Indianapolis, he began editing and compiling some of the reflections he had written for St. Monica's e-mail Scripture ministry, which is read by more than 5,000 people throughout the U.S. and in several foreign countries. "I began the e-mail ministry as an outreach to shut-ins (at St. Monica Parish)," Welter said, "and have been writing reflections since its inception in October 2000." Other writers are St. Monica parishioners Michelle Vander-Missen, Bill Bradbury, Ruth Krieg, Richard and Thomas Salaba. "Many people have written to ask how I came to write the reflections," Welter said. "And in the e-mail ministry, people also shared their experiences with each other." Welter has written four books. "I wanted to write a book," Welter said. "What we draw from the Scripture changes as we change and incur new life experiences." Welter also is working on a new book, A Time for Winter: Scripture Reflections for Daily Living, which is intended to help grieving people as well as any person who wants to delve more deeply into the mysteries of faith and seek God in the midst of daily life. Welter said, "What we draw from the Scripture changes as we change and incur new life experiences." People enjoyed reading Welter’s Scripture reflections and suggested he write a book. His wife, Helen, and children, Mark and Jim, helped him design, edit and produce the book. It is published by Ascending View Publications, a company they formed to self-publish books. "Sales are going well," he said, "and we are planning a second printing after the first of the year." Welter’s book sells for $14.95 and is available on the Web at www.ascendview.com and locally at Angel's Corner and Book Shoppe, both of Indianapolis, and other Christian bookstores. To sign up for the St. Monica Parish daily readings, log on to stmonicadailyreadings.org.

BULKE, Mary, 83, St. Therese of the Infant Jesus (Little Flower), Indianapolis, Nov. 11. Sister of Lena Glenn, Providence, Sis- ter Kay Manley and William Manley.


Sylvia Ortman and Omer Fry.


WARD, Dorothy, 81, St. Law- rence, Indianapolis, Nov. 5. Aunt of several.

WILHELM, Leo A., 87, St. Monica, Indianapolis, Nov. 2. Husband of Arlene Salaza. Father of Melissa Baker, Brian, Beth and Laura (Wilhelm). Father of Mary Jane Tellies, Marlene Vogelsang, Constance, Todd, James, Leo, Melvin, Ronald and Tim Wilhelm. Grandfather of 64. Great-grandfather of 2.


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When Winter Comes helps readers grow closer to God

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News briefs

U.S.

At D.C. cathedral, mourners mark 40th anniversary of JFK’s death

WASHINGTON (CNS)—Four decades ago, royalty, heads of state and important government officials filed the Cathedral of St. Matthew the Apostle in Washington for the funeral Mass of President John F. Kennedy, who was assassinated on Nov. 22, 1963. Forty years later, almost 800 everyday Catholics from across the region gathered at the cathedral to pray for and remember the slain president, who was the first Catholic to be elected to that office. They prayed during a Mass of remembrance offered on the anniversary day of President Kennedy’s tragic death. In his homily, Father J. Bryan Hehir, outgoing president of Catholic Charities USA, said the Mass was “a time to reflect and to pray [in the place where]

President Kennedy was entrusted into the hands of God for eternity.”

Bishops support legislation to give mentally ill offenders treatment

WASHINGTON (CNS)—The chairman of the U.S. bishops’ Committee on Domestic Policy said legislation that would ensure mentally ill criminal offenders get the treatment they need is a good start to addressing the needs of mentally ill prisoners. Washington Cardinal Theodore E. McCarrick, committee chairman, commented on the Mentally Ill Offender Treatment and Crime Reduction Act of 2000 in a letter to Sen. Mike DeWine, R-Ohio, who introduced the bill. A Nov. 19 news release on the letter said the cardinal noted that while the mentally ill population poses a difficult challenge to society, and to the criminal justice system in particular, many individuals suffering from a mental illness are being housed in prisons and jails across the country. He quoted the bishops’ 2000 pastoral statement, “Responsibility, Rehabilitation and Restoration: A Catholic Perspective on Crime and Criminal Justice,” which stated that “while government has an obligation to protect the community from those who become aggressive or violent because of mental illness, it also has a responsibility to see that the offender receives the proper treatment for his or her illness.” The legislation passed in the Senate on Oct. 29. The House has yet to take a similar measure.

Oregon parish’s program brings science-faith link to parish level

PORTLAND, Ore. (CNS)—Some members of St. Agatha Parish in Portland hope to bring the reconciliation of science and faith to the parish level. In a new project called “Evangelization through Visual Astronomy,” the parish will link up through live video with astronomers of the Vatican Observatory to explore space and discovery. “We are breaking new ground,” said Charles Geiger, a parishioner who is directing the effort. “The Vatican has been and continues to be a leader in astronomical research, and it is a privilege for us to connect with them on such a personal level. We have the opportunity to join with and utilize the expertise of our spiritual leaders directly and to give our children spiritual and scientific exposure none of us could have imagined,” he told the Catholic Sentinel, newspaper of the Portland Archdiocese.

Classified Directory

Class Reunions

CLASS OF ‘83
Twenty-Year Reunion
Saturday, November 29, 2003
St. Roch School Cafeteria
(Corner of South Meridian & Seneca Avenue)
$20 per person / $35 per couple
Includes丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢丢Throw...
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