Archbishop issues report on extent of sexual abuse

By Greg Otolski

Since 1950, the Archdiocese of Indianapolis has received sufficient information to support allegations of sexual abuse of minors by 20 priests and 12 lay persons who were serving on behalf of the Church.

Of the 20 archdiocesan priests whose allegations were found credible, nine are deceased, six have resigned from the priesthood, and five have been removed from active ministry. All 12 lay persons resigned or were terminated.

In a report released by Cardinal Daniel M. Buechlein, archbishop of Indianapolis, on Feb. 1, the archdiocese said it was about to offer compassionate care and healing for you, the victim-survivors of abuse by priests and lay persons.

Moreover, those receiving awards have the chance to see their peers honored for the same hard work and dedication.

Hundreds of boys, girls, men and women—all involved in Scouting—gathered at SS. Peter and Paul Cathedral in Indianapolis on Feb. 1 to be honored.

The annual religious emblem ceremony, which includes songs, readings from Scripture, a homily, and the blessing and presentation of Scouting awards to those who have earned them in the last year, included a special ceremony for adults. The Archdiocese of Indianapolis was mailed an apostolic letter from the pope calling for more concern for children.

In his message, Pope John Paul said, "There are young people who have been profoundly hurt by the violence of adults: sexual abuse, forced prostitution, involvement in the sale and use of drugs; children forced to work or enlisted for combat; young children scarred forever by the breakup of the family; little ones caught up in the obscene trafficking of organs and persons.

What evil have these children done to merit such suffering?" the pope asked.

While human reason may not be able to answer the question, the pope said, "Only faith can make us begin to understand so profound an abyss of suffering."

He said children are "an incentive to rediscover the simplicity and trust which faith can make us begin to understand so profoundly."
Where can I find a copy of the sexual misconduct policies and procedures of the archdiocese?

Go to: www.archindy.org

Accused Clergy

The archdiocese has received sufficient information to support allegations against 20 priests from 1950 to 2002.

What happened to the priests?

514 diocesan priests served the archdiocese from 1950 to 2002.

Of those, the 20 offending priests represent 3.89 percent.

Financial Impact

Estimated total the archdiocese has spent on sexual abuse since 1950 is $355,000.

Who should I contact if I would like to report a case of abuse to the archdiocese?

You can contact:
Suzanne L. Yakimchick
Victim Assistance Coordinator and Chancellor
Archdiocese of Indianapolis
P.O. Box 1410
Indianapolis, IN 46206-1410
317-236-7325 or 800-382-9836, ext. 7325

Source: Archdiocese of Indianapolis
St. Elizabeth’s in Indianapolis gets a new director

By Brandon A. Evans

In January, Michelle Meer became the new director of St. Elizabeth’s Pregnancy and Adoption Services in Indianapolis. She fills the void that was left after David Siler was appointed executive director of Catholic Charities for the archdiocese. “I could not be more proud or confident to hand the reins of leadership of St. Elizabeth’s to Michelle Meer,” Siler said. “Michelle brings with her a wealth of experience that will match up well with the future direction for St. Elizabeth’s.” Meer has a master’s degree in social work from the Indiana University School of Social Work, and worked for nine years at Adoption Support Center Inc. in Indianapolis—four of those years as executive director.

Most recently, she spent time at Indiana University as a master’s in social work field specialist. She worked with hundreds of students in the master’s degree program.

“Actually, I was very happy at I.U.,” Meer said, “but at the same time, this was a position that I have literally always dreamed of having.”

More importantly, she wanted to get back into the “practice” side of social work. She also felt that God was calling her to this check out this new path.

Her passion for adoption began years ago when she and her husband suffered a number of miscarriages. After a number of miscarriages, they decided to go through the adoption process. Their adopted son will be 16 years old this month. They also have a biological daughter that is eight years younger.

“I've never known my passion to be this strong. It has been a long journey for me,” Meer said.

Hence the reason the passion was born, she said.

But even more inspiring to her than that process was knowing that her son's birth mother “chose such an unselfish loving way to provide him a life,” Meer said. “I feel not only [that] my son lives in my heart, but God has also blessed him by giving him a different family.”

Elsener agreed with Elsener.

Siler said that Meer is blessed with a “natural charisma” and is “successful in everything she does.”

Meer wants to be a position that I have literally always desired to fill. She is also grateful to be able to work for a position that I have literally always desired to fill. She is also grateful to be able to work for a position that I have literally always desired to fill.

Michelle Meer, the new director of St. Elizabeth’s Pregnancy and Adoption Services in Indianapolis, brought her pro-life ministry position in January. She replaces David Siler, who is now executive director of Catholic Charities for the archdiocese.

Marian College enters partnership with Indianapolis Civic Theatre

By Brandon A. Evans

When the curtain goes up on the 91st season of the Indianapolis Civic Theatre, it will do so on the campus of Marian College.

“I feel not only [that] my son lives in my heart, but God has also blessed him by giving him a different family,” Meer said.

The two neighboring, northwest side organizations are entering into a new relationship that will hopefully bring benefits to both.

The Civic Theatre, the nation’s oldest continuously operating community theatre, has already moved its administrative offices to Marian College, and this fall will begin performing on the campus in Marian Hall Auditorium.

Marian Hall Auditorium, named after Marian College, said that the school “enjoys bringing the performing arts to the community.”

The facility, which will have a theater, classrooms and common space, will be jointly funded by the two organizations, if the Civic decides to make Marian its permanent home.

Both Marian and the Civic will be able to use the facility.

“This is one step of what might be a longer journey,” he said.

Both organizations stand to benefit from the collaboration, he said, and more opportunities may develop in the future.

“I'm excited about this and it's a good staff, and she agrees. They have been warm, welcoming and professional, she said.

Mee said that her first week was “a whirlwind,” but that it was also very exciting.

A tough economy and lots of bad weather have made it more difficult for St. Elizabeth’s, but have not dampened Meer’s spirit.

“I have a really true passion for adoption and pregnancy issues with women,” she said.

(St. Elizabeth’s Pregnancy and Adoption Services has a new Web site that can be accessed by logging on to www.stelizabeths.org or www.pregnancyhelpnow.com)
The Values Divide

The pope and other Vatican officials say, “We don’t mean to insinuate that other attacks on human life, and strategies for the common good, they cannot claim that freedom allows them to promote abortion, immorality or other attacks on human life, said the Vatican’s Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith in a document released last year.

“What we are concerned about is the right to the priesthood, as I have. Let’s do more to foster vocations

Letters to the Editor

Let’s do more to foster vocations

On Sunday, Feb. 1, I was handed notes from the archdiocese regarding projected rising membership versus the declining number of priests in year 2012. I was obviously shocked and upset by the projection, but I was more disheartened at the lack of any suggestions to alleviate this problem.

I believe the Church has to do something to promote vocations to the priesthood. Maybe we should start with a program that would periodically have priests conduct days of reflection, or maybe even weekend retreats, where priests could talk about answering the call to the priesthood and answer any questions young men might have. This could start as young as middle school and go on through high school.

I believe there are more young men out there that have the calling, but have not explored the possibility, and they need to be encouraged to do so. Obviously, these are just rudimentary ideas, but I do feel that they could be expanded upon with positive results.

Last, but certainly not least, I believe the entire Catholic community should make a commitment of daily prayer for vocations to the priesthood, as I have.

Dear Father Hamner, Indianapolis

End abortion now

This is an open letter to all our Indiana legislators. I write this letter on Jan. 22, the 31st anniversary of the arduous U.S. Supreme Court decision legalizing abortion. I know it is wrong. You know it is wrong. Just about everybody else knows it is wrong. It needs to be stopped and we need to stop hiding behind wishy-washy excuses like the right of a woman to choose. Choice is something we make between several rights. No one can choose something that is wrong.

When we have a governor, a speaker of the house and at least 30 other elected representatives who proclaim to be Catholic, as well as most of the others who practice religions that are similarly anti-abortion, whom I know were taught and continue to be taught that abortion is wrong, it would seem to me that something would be done to correct this mistake.

The plank in the Democratic Party platform for a woman’s right to choose needs to be removed, and all laws allowing or encouraging abortion need to be rescinded, and needs to be done now.

Our country is losing its moral fiber way too fast to allow this to continue any longer.

Anthony J. Moster, Susan

More about science and faith

This letter is in response to the recent letter criticizing Father John Catoir. After reading the letter “Science and faith are not mutually exclusive” in the Jan. 23, 2023, edition, I had to go back and reread the Jan. 9 column “Christ in the new year” by Father Catoir.

I thought Father Catoir’s column was very uplifting and inspiring, and found it very interesting that the reader took such offense. Only one time in the whole column did Father Catoir make reference to scientists and intellectuals, and in that reference he said, “Many scientists and intellectuals reject the entire mystery of Christ’s incarnation …” He didn’t say all scientists and intellectuals.

Godreach each of us where we are, and each of us is broken and in need of Christ’s love. If I am able to identify the parts of myself that are broken and in need of healing, my trust and faith in God will increase. If we open our hearts, not only our minds, but truly listen to what God is saying, he will be able to reach us at a much deeper level.

Gayle Schnack, Floyds Knobs

Letters Policy

Letters from readers are welcome and every effort will be made to include letters from as many people and representing as many viewpoints as possible. Letters should be relevant, well-expressed and temperate in tone. They must reflect a basic sense of courtesy and respect for others.

The editors reserve the right to select the letters that will be published and to edit letters from readers as necessary based on space limitations, past editorial content and incoming spelling and grammar. In order to encourage response from a variety of readers, frequent contributors are asked to limit letters to one letter per three months. Consider letters less than 300 words more are likely to be printed. Letters must be signed, but for serious reasons, names may be withheld.

Send letters to: “Letters to the Editor,” The Criterion, P.O. Box 1717, Indianapolis, IN 46206-1717. Readers with access to e-mail may send letters to letters@sttimothy.org.
The Church is working to protect children and young people

“Holy souls sometimes undergo great inward trial, and they know darkness. But if we want others to become aware of the presence of Jesus, we must be the first ones convinced of it.”

These words of Blessed Mother Teresa of Calcutta were included in a Christmas card from her Missionaries of Charity who serve the poor in Indianapolis. The message struck a chord as I first read it. Her words are timely in view of the pain and anguish we feel in a world threatened by terror and the constant news of war.

They are also timely in view of the pain and anguish caused by the abuse of children and youth by some of the priests and laity who served in the name of the Church in our archdiocese during the last 52 years. It is painful but necessary to acknowledge this sin among us.

Children and young people are God’s gift to our families and to our Church. Mother Teresa once remarked that it must be a great poverty indeed for a mother to choose to abort her child for any reason. To paraphrase her thought, it must be a great poverty indeed for a mother to believe that she cannot or will not raise her child. It may come from a dying layperson who is at peace with God; a family that has been hit very hard but does not despair; an elderly person who is selfless; or a penitent whose virtuous life is inspiring. It may come from a dying layperson who is at peace with God; a family that has been hit very hard but does not despair; an elderly person who is selfless; or a penitent whose virtuous life is inspiring.

No two things inspire priests more than the laity’s deep faith. As a young priest, I experienced the history knows, such people gave life to them. But as any priest who understands them, and other times they hounded them. Sometimes they nudged them, and other times they hounded them. But as any priest who understands history knows, such people gave life to the priesthood by giving concrete meaning to the Church in action.

Another way the laity can help priests is to always be professional. This translates into avoiding pettiness, jumping to conclusions, letting resentments rule, losing respect, lowering the standing of our language and failing to strive for excellence.

Priests, like laypersons, are human and don’t always act in a fully adult manner. When this happens, the relationship between priests and laity can become childish. The more that laity maintain professionalism and adhere to the principles of civility, the better they help priests.

Priests can always use more professionalism, as can the laity. The more each one practices it, the better they help each other.
there will be an Indianapolis Marriage Encounter Weekend on March 5-7. For more information, call Steve and Judi Willem at 317-576-9785 or judiwillen@cs.com.

The Benedict Inn Retreat and Conference Center, 1402 Southern Ave., in Beech Grove, will present two Ash Wednesday Mini-Retreats from 9 a.m. to noon or from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. on Feb. 25. It will be a chance to reflect on the symbols and rituals of Christianity as well as to renew the commitment to conversion and faith. Benedictine Sister Joan Marie Massura will present the mini-retreats. The registration deadline is Feb. 11. There will also be a retreat titled “Introduction to Centering Prayer” from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Feb. 28. Benedictine Sisters Carol Falkner and Julianne Balbocck will introduce this form of meditative prayer that will increase availability and openness to God’s presence in each of us. The registration deadline is Feb. 14. For more information about either retreat, call 317-788-7581.

“Images of God: Monastic Vocation Retreat” will take place on Feb. 20-22, and is open to all single, Catholic women, age 19-40, who are interested in discerning a call to presence in each of us. The registration deadline is Feb. 14. For more information, call 317-788-7581. “Lenten Commencement” retreat on Feb. 24-25 at the Providence Center at Saint Mary-of-the-Woods. Christian Brother Barry Donaghy will be the facilitator. The theme on Feb. 24 will be the gift of Jesus’ public life, and the theme on Feb. 25 will revolve around the meaning of penance and the rhythm of passion, death and resurrection. The retreat will take place from 9:30 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. both days. The cost is $35 per person. For more information, call 812-533-4531 or visit sprectory@gmail.com.

David Bethuram, associate executive director of the archdiocesan Office of Family Ministries, will speak at 7:30 p.m. on Feb. 11 at St. Pius X Parish, 7280 Sarto Dr., in Indianapolis. Bethuram will speak about how to build a happy marriage. The presentation will be of value to young and older married couples. For more information, call the parish office at 317-255-4534.

Saint Mary-of-the-Woods College students will display their artwork in the College Art Gallery during the college’s Student Exhibit on Feb. 2-15. The gallery is located in Room 123 of Hulman Hall. For more information, call the College Art Gallery at 812-533-5265.

The Archdiocesan Deacon Formation Program will present another installment in a monthly series of information programs from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. on Feb. 8 at St. Augustine Parish, 315 E. Chestnut St., in Jeffersonville. At 1 p.m., Benedictine Father Bede Cisco, director of deacon formation, will provide information about the order of deacons and give an overview of the formation program. This will be repeated at each one of the sessions. At 2 p.m., the main program will begin. Advance registration is requested. For more information or to register, call 317-256-1491 or 800-382-9836, ext. 1491, or e-mail deaconformation@archindy.org.

There will be a “Fulfillment of the Old Testament Passover Meal” on March 30 at 7 p.m. at the Providence Center at Saint Mary-of-the-Woods. Conventual Franciscan Father John Eder, OFM, will present another installment in a monthly series of information programs. The program will include Indiana, Illinois, Ohio and Michigan and Wisconsin. In the archdiocese, Sister Rosemary served as principal at St. Michael School in Indianapolis for 14 years, from 1978-92, and taught at St. Michael School in Greenfield. She also served as principal at the former St. Bridget School in Indianapolis from 1966-70.†

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

The Big Bounce (Warner Bros.)
Rated G-13 (Parents are strongly cautioned. Some material may be inappropriate for children under 13) by the Motion Picture Association of America (MPAA)

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

The Perfect Score (Paramount)
Rated A-III (Adults) because of an instance of rough language, as well as some crude language, sexual humor and innuendo and several drug references.
Rated PG-13 (Parents are strongly cautioned. Some material may be inappropriate for children under 13) by the MPAA.

Catholic community leaders were honored with the Cardinal Ritter Values Award at the seventh annual West Deanery Recognition Dinner on Jan. 29 at Cardinal Ritter High School in Indianapolis. Those honored were Deputy Mayor Mike O’Connor, Vi Jerin and Rose Warthen, members of St. Thomas More Parish in Mooresville; Mary Kay and Tom Garrison, members of St. Malachy Parish in Brownsburg; Trudy Davis, a member of St. Joseph Parish in Indianapolis; Mary Frances Mohr, a member of Holy Trinity Parish in Indianapolis. The awards are given to those individuals who embody the principles of Cardinal Joseph Ritter, the first archbishop of Indianapolis, and of the Catholic spirit every day.

St. Mary School in North Vernon recently gave awards to two people during Catholic Schools Week. Helen Fox was presented with the Volunteer of the Year Award. Fox has helped with art projects at the school, assisted with special Masses, volunteered in the library and helped with First Communion and graduation receptions and gifts, counted the Sunday collection and volunteered with the Knights of Columbus. She also has volunteered extensively outside of the parish and school. Dona J. Eder Thomas was presented with the National Catholic Education Association Distinguished Principal Award from the National Catholic Educational Association. Sister Rosemary is the NCEA’s principal of the year award recipient for the Great Lakes Region, which includes Indiana, Illinois, Ohio, Michigan and Wisconsin. In the archdiocese, Sister Rosemary served as principal at St. Michael School in Indianapolis for 14 years, from 1978-92, and taught at St. Michael School in Greenfield. She also served as principal at the former St. Bridget School in Indianapolis from 1966-70.

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The Perfect Score (Paramount)
Rated A-III (Adults) because of an instance of rough language, as well as some crude language, sexual humor and innuendo and several drug references.
Rated PG-13 (Parents are strongly cautioned. Some material may be inappropriate for children under 13) by the MPAA.

Catholicism for Dummies (Wheaton Press)
Rated L (Limited Adult Audience) because of a few sexual encounters with partial nudity, a casual attitude toward murder and larceny, occasional profane language, incitement, recurring violence, some crude humor and language, as well as some sexual content.
Rated R (Restricted) by the MPAA.
There are many elements in the stories and in the movies that show forth the Catholic faith. The overarching theme of the journey is one of them, as Pearce explained.

“The journey is applicable to our life’s journey. The carrying of the ring symbolizes our coping with our sin.” Pearce said. “What goes hand in hand with that is the cross and Christ’s archetypal carrying of it.”

Greydanus noted that while great stories in every human culture are often focused upon a journey, the one that Tolkien created had a difference.

“In this story, the hero is small and humble,” Greydanus explained. “Frodo is no Odysseus. He’s able to get as far as he does because he is meek and humble.”

There are other, more particular elements of the novels and the films that also show forth their Catholic nature. For example, a group of elves give Frodo and his traveling companions food for their journey called “lembas.” There are several parallels between it and the Eucharist.

“Lembas” in the elvish language (which was created by Tolkien) translates into English as “life bread.” Tolkien often referred to it in the novels as wafers. And in describing its amazing powers, he noted that those who ate it were given strength for several days and would empower their wills to carry on in the face of evil.

However, the example of lembas also shows the differences between the novels and the films. The nature of the lembas was explained in detail in the novels but was largely ignored in the films.

A crucial element in the story that shows its strong Catholic perspective that was also left out of the films was the date on which the ring was destroyed: March 25.

On that day, the Feast of the Annunciation, the Church celebrates the conceiving of Jesus in the womb of the Blessed Virgin Mary. It was thus on that day that the liberation of humanity from the rule of sin began. Pearce noted this omission breaks the “connection between original sin and the ring.”

Nevertheless, at certain points, Jackson visually emphasized the Catholic aspects of the story in ways that the novels could not. For example, when the warrior Boromir was dying at the end of The Fellowship of the Ring, the character Aragorn marked himself with a motion that resembled the sign of the cross and made a prayer for peace for his friend.

These are just a few examples of the numerous aspects of Tolkien’s story, both in the novel and in the films, that show it to be, as he described it, fundamentally Catholic.

And although the beliefs of the Church can be communicated in a variety of ways, their power can sometimes be expressed with greater force through the art of fiction. Pope John Paul II acknowledged this in his Letter to Artists that he issued in 2000.

“Even beyond its typically religious expressions, true art has a close affinity with the world of faith,” the Pope wrote, “so that, even in situations where culture and the Church are far apart, art remains a kind of bridge to religious experience.”

Pearce reflected on the Pope’s words and believed that Tolkien would have approved. “[He] would have rejoiced in those words. The Holy Father encapsulated Tolkien’s own philosophy of myth and art,” Pearce said. “The key thing is that Tolkien said that we should be made in the image of God, and that God is Creator, therefore creativity is the image of God in us. This forms a direct link between art and God. The making of art is the fingerprints of God in us.”

The battle for the ring of power comes to life in the film version of J.R.R. Tolkien’s The Fellowship of the Ring.
LENT
continued from page 1

The pope asked that this Lenten season, which for most Catholics begins on Feb. 25 this year, “be a time of ever greater concern for the needs of children, in our own families and in society as a whole: for they are the future of humanity.”

He praised “all those committed to caring for underprivileged children and those who alleviate the suffering of children and their families.”

At the press conference, the Vatican post office unveiled a stamp dedicated to children with AIDS; the stamp was issued at the request of the Pontifical Council Cor Unum, the Vatican’s coordinating agency for Catholic charitable agencies.

Archbishop Paul Cordes, president of the council, said all proceeds from the sale of the stamp, which will sell for .45 euros, or about 56 cents, would be donated by Pope John Paul to a new project aimed at helping AIDS orphans in Kenya.

The Vatican also announced it was setting up a special bank account for Italian citizens to donate money for the project.

“It’s quite rare for a Vatican stamp to be dedicated not to something from the Vatican’s cultural or artistic heritage, but rather dedicated to a theme of social importance,” Archbishop Cordes said.

The United Nations estimates that in Africa’s sub-Saharan region more than 26 million people are living with HIV/AIDS and approximately 3.2 million people were infected by the virus last year.

The special-issue stamp—which will go on sale in May—pictures an African child and infant whose eyes seemingly have been scribbled out by a white marker. Written in large red capital letters below are the words in Italian, “Children, Victims of AIDS.”

The stamps could raise up to 500,000 euros, or $620,000, the archbishop said.

Archbishop Cordes said these initiatives would not entirely solve the problem of AIDS orphans, but he said, “It is a sign that beyond all the words, the Church does do work in the field and works effectively.”

U.S. Jesuit Father Angelo D’Agostino—founder of the Children of God Relief Institute in Kenya, the beneficiary of the Vatican initiatives—said his organization currently cares for 93 abandoned children who are HIV-positive.

The institute provides medical care and schooling in a residential environment.

The institute is expanding into the new project, Nyumbani Village, a cluster of homes that will care for 1,000 people, including AIDS orphans and 250 people “from another needy and forgotten group, the elderly,” Father D’Agostino said.

He said the publicity surrounding the Vatican’s fundraising initiatives would help his project by attracting potential new donors.

The Kenyan government has pledged land for the project, with construction scheduled to begin in a month, Father D’Agostino said.

Archbishop Cordes said the theme of the pope’s Lenten message, “Whoever Receives One Such Child in my Name Receives Me,” is a message of faith and “not a simple appeal for giving.

“The child is a particularly suitable model for us Christians,” he said. The theme of the child is not meant to “stir up a naive sort of sentimentalism, but to reflect our behavior toward God.”

—JESUIT FATHER ANGELO D’AGOSTINO

We know she likes to smile and sing. We know her favorite color is purple. And, we know her name is Kyra.

Kyra’s spine was broken in a serious automobile accident. We knew what challenges she was to face. And, we had the medical and surgical expertise to help her overcome those challenges. While at St. Vincent Children’s Hospital, Kyra underwent neurosurgery - followed by intensive care and rehabilitation. She got the chance to make a remarkable recovery. How remarkable? Well, just look at that smile.

Your gift to St. Vincent Children’s Hospital will help children like Kyra.

She thinks she can do anything. We think she’s right.

St. Vincent Children’s Hospital

For more information please contact:
St. Vincent Foundation
11595 North Meridian Street, Ste.800
Carmel, IN 46032
Phone (317) 582-8800 or
FAX (317) 582-8801 or
Email: FDHaddad@stvincent.org

THE SPIRIT OF CARING®

Pope John Paul II waves to youngsters during a special audience at the Vatican on Jan. 31. The pontiff met with 10,000 young people with the Turn-based Youth Missionary Service, known by its Italian acronym SERVING. Through direct service and fund raising, the young people support initiatives to reduce hunger, fight injustice and promote peace through dialogue.
The requirements, which came in a workbook distributed by the National Catholic Committee on Scouting, involved a lot of family activities, such as reading Scripture and talking about their relationship with God.

Hilt was proud of his son. “It’s huge,” he said. “I earned my religious medal when I was a young boy. “I think it was a great experience for the family for him to earn it—it’s a very family-oriented project,” he said.

Hilt’s wife, Lori, is also involved in Scouting, as is his daughter, Jessica Gray. Adults also received Scouting awards.

Msgr. John Ryan, pastor of St. Anthony Parish in Indianapolis, gave the homily at the event. In it, he urged the Scouts present to remove the barriers in their life—that keep them from God and others. He recommended that, first of all, they put themselves in God’s presence—at church, at home, before a crucifix—and ask God what he wants of them.

Msgr. Ryan reminded the Scouts that whenever they are kind to a friend, or give to the needy or visit the lonely, they tear down barriers.

“With God’s help,” he said, “remove the barriers that keep you from doing the good work that is expected of you and keep the flame of your lamp burning brightly so that you always clearly see what God wants and expects of you. “God has lit a light and has put it in each one of us,” Msgr. Ryan said. “We have to trim the wick and we have to keep the light burning brightly so we can see God’s plan for us and … be a light for others.”

Scouts from all over the archdiocese gathered at SS. Peter and Paul Cathedral in Indianapolis on Feb. 1 to receive religious emblems they earned after completing a program and service to the Church.

The archbishop greets a group of Brownies who received religious emblems along with hundreds of other Scouts. He posed for pictures with Scout groups from many parishes.
**A Church-state coincidence: Pope meets U.S. bishops in election year**

**VATICAN CITY (CNS)—**The fact that a marriage has failed can never be adequate proof that the marriage was invalid from the beginning, Pope John Paul II said.

In a Jan. 29 speech to the Roman Rota, a Vatican tribunal the pope said the Church is sometimes reluctant to enter into the battle of partisan policies.

The pope said the Church is sometimes criticized for that presumption because the critics believe it is “tied to social and cultural situations from the past.”

The critics, he said, claim the presumption is a relic of a time when those who requested a Church wedding under ideal conditions and accepted that the sacrament included a lifelong pledge of fidelity and openness to having children and educating them in the faith.

Pope John Paul said the Church’s criticism is a response to the numbers of married couples in many societies and claim that it might make more sense “to presume the invalidity of the marriage contract rather than its validity.”

But, he said, the first aim of all Church officials must be to “support for remarriage must inspire all the activity of the Church” because it is objectively good for individuals and society.

The pope also said the presumption of the validity of the marriage contract until proven otherwise is a basic attitude of all law to all forms of contracts.

The pope said that “unfortunately” in too many Catholic marriage tribunals there is a growing tendency to see the breakdown of a marriage as a clear sign the marriage was invalid from its beginning.

In those cases, he said, the annulment process becomes a search for “formal justifications” for a conclusion already reached rather than a search for the truth.

Assuming that all failed marriages were invalid from the beginning, he said, ignores that the partners “accept the characteristics of human experience marked by sin, a valid marriage can fail because of the misuse of the spouses’ freedom.”

The increasing number of situations in which an annulment seems justified must lead priests and those who prepare couples for marriage to take more seriously their obligation to ascertain the individual’s ability to give consent and to fulfill the obligations of marriage.

**Pope says failure of marriage does not always mean it was invalid**

The increasing number of situations in which an annulment seems justified must lead priests and those who prepare couples for marriage to take more seriously their obligation to ascertain the individual’s ability to give consent and to fulfill the obligations of marriage.

**“Their pastoral intervention must be guided by an awareness that at that moment the individuals can discover the natural and supernatural good of marriage and can commit themselves to following it,” the pope said.

Rather than accept a secular vision of marriage as a temporary social arrangement, he said, the Church must help people “rediscover the true value and beauty of the institution of marriage.”

Mgr. Raffaello Funiclino, dean of the Roman Rota, told Pope John Paul some critics claim the Church is interested only and exclusively in protecting the institution of marriage. But, he said, the first aim of all Church leaders must be to meet the needs of souls,” and that good is protected when the Church upholds as valid those marriages that are valid and issues a decree of nullity for those marriages that are not.

Upholding the validity of a contract, he said, also honors the rights and responsibilities of those who enter into the contract.

At the same time, he said, marriage is not simply a contract, but a sacrament.
Keeley S. Carson and John C. Cooke were married on Oct. 4 at St. Joan of Arc Church in Indianapolis. The bride is the daughter of Andrew and Elaine Carson, members of St. Joan of Arc Parish in Indianapolis. The groom is the son of Charles and Marina Cooke, members of Prince of Peace Parish in Madison. Father Patrick Doyle, pastor of St. John of Arc Parish, and Father John Meyer, pastor of Prince of Peace Parish, concelebrated their wedding. Instead of a traditional wedding cake, the bride’s family and friends helped her make hundreds of cupcakes.
Wedding Announcements

Audrish-Reagan
Claire Audrish and Casey Reagan will be married on April 24 at St. John the Evangelist Church in Indianapolis. The bride is the daughter of John and Linda Audrish. The groom is the son of Harry and Shirley Reagan.

Bramlage-Coyne
Stephen James Coyne will be married on Feb. 14 at St. John the Evangelist Church in Enochsburg. The bride is the daughter of Donald and Emma Bramlage. The groom is the son of Donald and Lois Coyne.

Brown-Brennan
Carla Marie Brown and Daniel Patrick Brennan will be married on April 17 at Holy Rosary Church in Indianapolis. The bride is the daughter of Carl and Catherine Brown. The groom is the son of John W. and Barbara Brennan.

Brunitz-Jackson
Nichole Lynn Brunitz and Brian Douglas Jackson will be married on June 12 at St. Charles Borromeo Church in Kettering, Ohio. The bride is the daughter of Bill and Lynn Brown. The groom is the son of Ray and Cathy Jackson.

Chong-Duerrstock
Li Hwa Chong and Dr. Bradley Steven Duerstock will be married on June 12 at St. Mary Church in Aurora. The bride is the daughter of Chew-Lian Chung and Chong Yun Chong. The groom is the son of Marvin and Sabra Duerrstock.

Costello-Lebeck
Catherine Costello and Troy Lebeck will be married on April 24 at St. Therese of the Infant Jesus (Little Flower) Church in Indianapolis. The bride is the daughter of Dan and Pam Costello. The groom is the son of Wayne Lebeck and the late Susan Lebeck.

Dearing-Tekulve
Katina Rae Dearing and Elliott Frank Tekulve will be married on June 5 at Prince of Peace Church in Madison. The bride is the daughter of Gary Dearing and Diana Dearing. The groom is the son of Jim and Jane Tekulve.

French-Sahm
Jessica Rena French and Andrew Michael Sahm will be married on June 5 at Vinkolet Vineyard in Cincinnati, Ohio. The bride is the daughter of Doug and Penny French. The groom is the son of Bill and Debbie Sahm.

Hahn-Ellis
Elizabeth Ann Hahn and Campion Joseph Ellis will be married on June 12 at St. Mary Church in Indianapolis. The bride is the daughter of Richard and Kathleen Hahn. The groom is the son of Robert and Kathleen Ellis.

Hollkamp-Renners
Barbara Jo Hollkamp and Timothy Michael Renners will be married on April 30 at St. Joseph Church at St. Joseph Hill in Clark County. The bride is the daughter of Pat and Ivy Hollkamp. The groom is the son of Ronald and Betty Renners.

Holmes-Stark
Anne Renee Holmes and Adam Joseph Stark will be married on May 22 at St. Thomas Aquinas Church in West Lafayette, Ind. The bride is the daughter of Jeff Holmes and Krisy Holmes. The groom is the son of Chuck and Larrianne Stark.

Keller-Smith
Jennifer Susan Keller and Adam Clark Smith will be married on May 8 at Good Shepherd Church in Indianapolis. The bride is the daughter of Roy and Carol Keller. The groom is the son of Herb and Pam Smith.

Kelly-Konken
Mary Elizabeth Kelly and Eric John Konken will be married on July 10 at St. Peter and Paul Cathedral in Indianapolis. The bride is the daughter of Gerald and Deborah Kelly. The groom is the son of Lee and Sandra Konken and Bob and Mary Jones.

Krause-Paquette
Kristy Marie Krause and David Alexander Paquette will be married on May 1 at St. Mary Church in Indianapolis. The bride is the daughter of Jim and Karen Krause. The groom is the son of Donald and Stephanie Paquette.
Lathop-Kemper
Jill Renee Lathop and Darren Richard Kemper will be married on May 8 at Holy Spirit Church in Indianapolis. The bride is the daughter of Jerry and Pat Lathrop. The groom is the son of Jack and Lois Kemper.

Lecher-Lohmueller
Carol A. Lecher and David H. Lohmueller will be married on May 2 at St. Louis Church in Batesville. The bride is the daughter of Charles and Ruth Lecher. The groom is the son of Gerald and Barbara Lohmueller.

Meh-Church
Andrew Meh and Tiffany Church in Greensburg. The bride is the daughter of Glenn and Terri Adams.

Mello-Crisp
Kristin Marie Mello and John Andrew Crisp were married on Sept. 12 at SS. Peter and Paul Church in Indianapolis. The bride is the daughter of Lawrence and Paula Mello. The groom is the son of Robert and Margaret Crisp.

Mohr-Bretingler
Laura Claire Mohr and Jared Anthony Bretingler will be married on June 19 at St. Patrick Church in Terre Haute. The bride is the daughter of Robert and Linda Mohr. The groom is the son of Anthony and Sue Bretingler.

Nelson-Kaplan
Jennifer Nelson and Michael Kaplan will be married on June 12 at St. Patrick Church in Indianapolis. The bride is the daughter of Jack Nelson and Linda Sawicki. The groom is the son of David and Kathleen Kaplan.

O’Connor-Lecher
Paula Suzanne O’Connor and Alvin George Lecher will be married on July 24 at St. Michael the Archangel Church in Indianapolis. The bride is the daughter of Charles and Dottie O’Connor. The groom is the son of Steve and Edith Lecher.

Rennkamp-Kramer
Virginia Marita Rennkamp and Kevin James Kramer will be married on May 22 at St. John the Evangelist Church in Enochsburg. The bride is the daughter of Don and Carolyn Rennkamp. The groom is the son of Bob and Barbara Billington.

Schultz-Greenen
Brenda Lynne Schultz and Peter Michael Greenen will be married on May 15 at SS. Peter and Paul Cathedral in Indianapolis. The bride is the daughter of James and Shelly Schultz. The groom is the son of Michael and Patricia Greenen.

Shelton-Billington
Salina Jo Shelton and David Matthew Billington will be married on March 27 at St. Christopher Church in Indianapolis. The bride is the daughter of Larry and Cookie Shelton. The groom is the son of Bob and Barbara Billington.

Somrak-Doucette
Brittany Somrak and Ariel Doucette will be married on April 17 at Sacred Heart of Jesus Church in Indianapolis. The bride is the daughter of Jim and Sheryl Somrak. The groom is the son of Martin and Lorita Doucette.

Stone-Johannigman
Suzanne Elizabeth Stone and Robert John Johannigman will be married on June 12 at St. Mary Church in Greensburg. The bride is the daughter of Tim and Kim Johannigman. The groom is the son of John and Cindy Johannigman.

Sullivan-Pumper
Angela M. Sullivan and James J. Pumper will be married on May 22 at St. Pius X Church in Indianapolis. The groom is the son of W. Michael and Mary Sullivan. The groom is the son of Fred and Gloria Pumper.

Tucker-Sprunger
Kristen A. Tucker and Andrew Michael Sprunger will be married on April 24 at St. Mary, Gate of Heaven Church in Negril, Jamaica. The bride is the daughter of Gordon and Carol Tucker. The groom is the son of Milton and Jane Sprunger.

Vail-Handley
Jennifer Susan Vail and Chad Kenneth Handley will be married on April 24 at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Church in Carmel, Ind. The bride is the daughter of Ronald Vail and Lee Ann Vail. The groom is the son of Ken and Denise Handley.

Vinecc-Collett
Tonya M. Vinecc and David Collett will be married on Nov. 6 at St. Luke Church in Indianapolis. The bride is the daughter of David and Sandi Jackson. The groom is the son of Joyce Collett and the late Lee Collett.

Warne-Dinn
Jaime S. Warne and Robert B. Dinn will be married on March 20 at St. Therese of the Infant Jesus (Little Flower) Church in Indianapolis. The bride is the daughter of Richard and Karen Warne. The groom is the son of David Dinn and Vicki Sharp.

West-Schneider
Lisa Marie West and Peter Joseph Schneider will be married on June 19 at St. Louis Church in Batesville. The bride is the daughter of Kenneth West and Debbie Fowler. The groom is the son of Peter and Catherine Schneider.

Wright-Evans
LeAnn Wright and Scott Alan Evans will be married on May 22 at Sacred Heart of Jesus Church in Indianapolis. The bride is the daughter of LeAnn and Donna Wright. The groom is the son of Warren Evans II and Susan Evans.

Ziel-Andrews
Marilyn J. Hugo Zieles and John D. Andrews will be married on April 23 at Holy Spirit Church in Indianapolis. The bride is the daughter of Virginia Hugo and the late Elmer Hugo. The groom is the son of the late Daniel and Mary Andrews.

Zinser-Thompson
Lisa Ann Zinser and James Svendsen Thompson will be married on April 17 at St. Barnabas Church in Indianapolis. The bride is the daughter of Paul and Rita Zinser. The groom is the son of David and Laurel Thompson.

Pre Cana Conference, Tobit Weekend help couples prepare for married life
Marriage preparation classes for newly engaged couples are scheduled monthly throughout the year, except in December. The Pre Cana Conference and Tobit Weekend help engaged couples prepare for a sacramental union in the Catholic Church and a God-centered life together. The archdiocesan Office of Family Ministries offers Pre Cana Conferences on Sunday afternoon at Fatima Retreat House, 5353 E. 56th St., in Indianapolis. Pre Cana Conference dates are Feb. 15, March 14, April 18, May 16, June 6, July 25, Aug. 22, Sept. 19, Oct. 24 and Nov. 14. Presentations address family of origin, communication, Christian marriage and Natural Family Planning. The fee is $30 per couple and includes the book Perspectives on Marriage. To register, call 317-236-1596 or 800-382-9836, ext. 1596. Tobit retreats are scheduled at Fatima on April 2-4, May 14-16, June 18-20, July 9-11, July 23-25, Sept. 17-19, Oct. 22-24 and Nov. 5-7. The ecumenical Tobit Weekend promotes knowledge of and love for future spouses. The registration fee is $270 per couple, which includes program materials, accommodations and meals. To register, call 317-545-7681.
Faith, family and friends are important to James and Sarah Conn of Greenwood, so they included many members of the large Reece and Conn families and close friends in their wedding last summer.

There was a maid of honor and best man, of course, as well as seven bridesmaids, seven groomsmen, a ring bearer—and seven flower girls, nieces of the bride or groom who wanted to participate in their wedding on Aug. 30 at St. Barnabas Church in Indianapolis.

“They were all so excited for us,” Sarah Conn said. “We knew we couldn’t pick just one of the girls.”

“The flower girls walked down the aisle with the bridesmaids,” James Conn said. “It worked out really well.”

The groom’s mother, St. Barnabas parishioner Marlene Conn of Indianapolis, said their wedding was unique.

“I’ve never been to a wedding in which so many of the family members took part in the ceremony,” she said. “It was just beautiful how Sarah and James incorporated all of the family members in their wedding in some way.”

The printed program also reflected the couple’s love for their faith and families. A quotation from Blessed Mother Teresa of Calcutta—“Let us always meet each other with a smile, for the smile is the beginning of love”—was printed on the program below a thank you note that read, “We would like to thank our friends and family for joining us today and for your love and support throughout our lives.”

After the nuptial Mass, the newlyweds surprised their guests by riding her parents’ 35-year-old tandem bicycle around the circular drive in front of the church before departing—in a car—for their reception.

“We wanted to make our wedding day unique and a reflection of us,” Sarah Conn said, “so we included a lot of personal touches that were special and fun.”

“This is the most beautiful church I’ve ever been to,” said 4-year-old Courtney Reece, one of the bride’s nieces, later. “I really loved being a flower girl.”

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God’s grace flows through marriage and family life

By Sean Gallagher

The grace of God is present and at work in the shared life of a couple. They are called to reflect the Church’s love and to live lives of holiness through the grace that God provides. The Catechism of the Catholic Church describes grace as “… the free and undeserved help that God gives us to respond to his call to become children of God” (#1996). Furthermore, it explains grace as “… gift that God makes to us of his own life” (#1999). In the sacrament of marriage, God gives his very life to husbands and wives so that they may live out that particular vocation to holiness to which he has called them.

The bishops at the Second Vatican Council reiterated anew the ancient teaching of the Church that all of the faithful—ordained, religious and lay alike—are called to live lives of holiness through the grace that God provides to them. In the past, married couples may have been unaware of this because God’s grace came to them through the ordinary events of daily life. Today, grace still flows to us in this way, but the Church encourages spouses to look upon their common life together as being constantly transfigured by the grace of their married sacrament. Pope John Paul II highlighted this teaching in his 1981 apostolic exhortation “Familiaris Consortio” (“On the Family”) when he wrote, “By virtue of the mystery of the death and resurrection of Christ, of which the spouses are made part in a new way by marriage, both partners, ‘united love is purified and made holy.’”

David Bethuram, associate executive director of the archdiocesan Office of Family Ministry, reflected upon the Holy Father’s words and how, through the sacrament of marriage, God pours his grace upon couples. “Ways in which couples receive grace for each other are by demonstrating genuine appreciation for one another, expressing forgiveness and, when it is necessary, asking to be forgiven,” he said, “knowing that the very ordinary acts that we perform each day bring about their familial relationships feelings of trust and understanding.”

So the grace that God showers upon couples in their married sacrament comes to them in the midst of their daily interaction as husband and wife. The way in which this relationship acts as a channel of grace is best embodied in the couple’s sexual relationship. The Church’s teachings on this matter are designed to help couples know and experience the love and truth that God intended. Bethuram said that this is an area where Catholic spouses can learn more.

He referred to the response of a questionnaire in which couples described the impact that Natural Family Planning had on their marriage. One couple noted that they now have “a closeness we’ve never experienced before, a feeling that our marriage is a holy covenant.”

The grace that flows through this marriage and in the holiness of the fundamental part of marriage can then flow from it to other important parts of the life of the family. One of these is the training of children in the practice of the faith. The grace that began to flow through a husband and wife on their wedding day continues in this vital task that happens in the home and in the parish.

“When parents actively participate in the sacramental preparation of individual family members or participate in international catechetical experiences, they help their children to learn, grow and live the Catholic faith,” Bethuram said. “Praying together as a family nurtures and strengthens a family’s faith and values, and sustains them during times of change or crisis.”

The Church invites couples and families to strengthen their life of grace through their regular participation in the Eucharist. The relationship between the sacraments of marriage and the Eucharist is something that is often overlooked, but as one of the Church’s most important sources of grace, it is altogether necessary to rediscover and strengthen this relationship.

And so when families come together to worship at Sunday Mass, they open themselves to the renewing love of God, helping them to be those channels of grace for each other, their extended family, and their neighbors. As Pope John Paul II highlighted this teaching in his apostolic exhortation “Familiaris Consortio” encouraged all couples to rediscover together.

“The Christian family’s sanctifying role … has its high- est expression in the Eucharist, to which Christian mar- riage is intimately connected,” Pope John Paul wrote. “To understand better and live more intensely the graces and responsibilities of the Christian family, the Christian family will thereby be altogether necessary to rediscover and strengthen this relation- ship.”

Original sin affects all marriages, but God’s grace strengthens family life

By Brandon A. Evans

Marriage, it states in the Catholic wedding liturgy, is the one blessing not forfeited by original sin. While not forfeited, the effects of original sin have never- theless twisted married life and put obstacles in the way of couples who wish to grow in holiness together.

The Catechism of the Catholic Church states that the relations between husband and wife were “distorted by mutual recrimination and by lust,” the Creator’s own gift, changed into a domination of dependence and lust, and the beautiful vocation of man and woman to be fruitful, multiply and subdue the earth was burdened by the pain of childbirth and the toil of work” (#1607).

It states that the purpose of marriage is written into the hearts of man and woman “and ordered toward the good of the spouses and the procreation and education of offspring” (#1607). Nevertheless, many married couples, called to selfless love toward one another, find themselves being driven apart by sin—which they may or may not be aware of. Objective moral evil has played a role, said Msgr. Frederick Easton, vicar judicial archdiocesan Office of Family Ministries, said that failure to communicate hurts marriage.

“Family life can be so hectic nowadays, she said, that it takes a very important and effective to communicate each day.”

Pope John Paul II noted some of the modern-day mani- festations of the effects of original sin on marriage in his 1981 apostolic exhortation “Familiaris Consortio.” Among them are too much independence in spouses, abortion, ster- ilization and difficulties transmitting values. Each generation and culture, Msgr. Easton said, deals with its own manifestations of original sin in marriage. The pope traced all that afflicts marriage back to that dark kernel that started it all.

“At the root of these negative phenomena there fre- quently lies a corruption of the idea and the experience of freedom, as well as a moral and spiritual incapacity for realiz- ing the truth of God’s plan for marriage and the family, but as an autonomous power of self-affirmation, often against others, for one’s own selfish well being.”

“Nevertheless,” the catechism says, “the order of crea- tion persists. To heal the wounds of sin, man and woman need the help of grace that God in his infinite mercy never refuses them” (#1608).

Thus, couples are not alone. Christ pointed to the original design of marriage, and it is the Divine Savior who gives couples the strength to persevere despite their faults and aspires to that ideal. Msgr. Easton said that couples need to cooperate with that grace—the sacramental grace of marriage isn’t magic. “Part of doing that is to focus on your marriage and you only can do that if you work at it and you pray about it.”

Couples can also turn to Church programs for support. Hess helps organize retreats and support groups for sep- arated and divorced Catholics, and also coordinates the Retreatnique program, a weekend retreat designed to help married couples that are experiencing difficulties in com- municating with and loving each other.

She said that engaged couples should also prepare for marriage, begin communicating about values and goals and take advantage of the retreats available to them.

The key is how couples handle the difficulties that will come their way, she said. The wisdom of the Church points couples toward the selfless love of the Kedermister.

“The key is when we are going through something from sin,” Pope John Paul II wrote, “… we must all set ourselves in opposition through a conversion of mind and heart, following Christ Crucified by denying our own selfishness.”

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Bush immigration plan sparks debate on what it should be

WASHINGTON (CNS)—When President Bush proposed an immigrant guest worker program in early January, it was short on details. A few weeks later, members of Congress from both parties and various interest groups have stepped up to offer their “must-have” and “must-not-have” ideas for how the program should work. Bush’s plan would create a system under which U.S. employers would be permitted to bring in foreign workers and their family members on a temporary basis to fill jobs not being taken by U.S. citizens or legal residents. At least some of the more than 8 million illegal immigrants already in the country would be allowed to legalize their status if they have jobs here. But beyond those basic elements, Bush’s proposal had scant information. Immigrant services organizations, such as that run by the Diocese of El Paso, Texas, as well as advocacy groups, including the National Immigration Forum and the chairman of the U.S. bishops’ Committee on Migration, raised questions.

• How would families of the guest workers be affected? Would U.S.-born children be forced to move back and forth to Mexico or El Salvador as their parents’ temporary work permits expired? Would they obtain new temporary permits for subsequent jobs?
• Would the employers of households, nannies and gardeners be able to meet the government’s criteria, or would the program be limited to only large companies that are able to recruit workers in other countries?
• How would illegal immigration be curtailed if foreigners need to have a job offer in hand before they are allowed to obtain a permit to work in United States? Would employers be willing to hire workers they’ve never met who have arrived already without visas?
• Will there be incentives—including a chance for permanent legal residency and the opportunity to reunite families—for illegal immigrants to come forward and register with the government that currently seeks them out mainly to deport them.

The most prominent immigrant advocacy organizations as well as the House Democratic Caucus and the Hispanic Immigration Task Force have arrived at a handful of principles they want to guide the process of turning Bush’s skeletal proposal into a law they can support.

They include:
• Resuming families.
• Giving illegal immigrants the chance to legalize their status.
• Allowing states to grant in-state college tuition rates to students who were brought to the United States as children.
• Improving safety, security and stability at the borders.
• Passing a temporary worker program that protects U.S. workers, gives immigrants the same access to education, job rights and advancement as citizens and is tied to legalization and family reunification programs.

At a Jan. 28 press conference, Rep. Luis V. Gutierrez, R-Ill., chairman of the Immigration Task Force, said Bush deserves credit for opening the door to an immigration discussion that has long been needed. But, he added that he hopes Bush “won’t be offended when those of us who believe in real reform for immigrants ... ensure hard-working and serving undocumented resident access to a fair and clear path to permanency and citizenship.”

“Simply acknowledging the need for our sweat and our toil and our hard work to make our country what it is today is not enough,” Gutierrez said. “But don’t have our work ... if you don’t give us our basic rights.”

In a column written for Our Sunday Visitor, a national Catholic weekly newspaper, Denver Auxiliary Bishop Jose H. Gomez said, “We can’t have our work ... if you don’t give us our basic rights.”

The influx of people from Mexico and other Latin American nations into the United States is “an opportunity, not a threat,” said Bishop Gomez. “We can’t simultaneously call for free trade in our hemisphere and economic development in Latin America, and then bolt our doors shut or mislead those immigrant workers who do come.”

Meanwhile, the first piece of legislation introduced to incorporate some of Bush’s proposals received bipartisan sponsorship.

Sen. Chuck Hagel, R-Neb., and Senate Minority Leader Tom Daschle, D-S.D., on Jan. 21 introduced a bill that would allow for up to 350,000 temporary work visas, more than five times the number currently available. It would allow family members to accompany the worker, and would provide a track for permanent legal residency and eventual naturalization. The bill also would permit spouses and minor children of legal permanent residents to apply for U.S. residency without qualifying under the current quota. This year, for example, only 400,000 such visas are available worldwide, allocated on a per-country basis.

The Mexican-American Legal Defense and Educational Fund notes that currently many family members must wait up to 10 years before they’re eligible for a visa. Mexicans, for example, comprise 60 percent of the applicants worldwide, while Mexico receives 7 percent of the visas.

French cardinal says law banning religious symbols is ‘unenforceable’

MARSEILLE, France (CNS)—A French cardinal said a proposed law banning religious symbols from state schools “appears to be unenforceable.”

Cardinal Bernard Panafieus of Marseille said the state would be better off acting through persuasion than by compulsory laws. “I would be wrong to use laws to prevent immigrants from ‘asserting their identity,’” the cardinal said.

“We are a country of移植 of cultures and religions ... and threatens national unity,” he said. “I don’t think that the government’s belief that the state should ‘maintain the consensus painfully acquired over time,’ but that France should also uphold its ‘rich tradition of integration.’

This is what gives our country its image of tolerance and respect for others, which makes French-style secularization the exception in a world of ethnic violence and nationalism,” the cardinal said.

“We must respect our country’s achievements in secularization that is open ... and that it doesn’t fall into the trap of a state which does not move for transcendence ... and threatens national unity,” he said.

French President Jacques Chirac has said the planned law was needed to prevent “national identity” and “ancient values and customs.”

French newspapers have predicted the law may prove unworkable. A French government commission said on Jan. 26 that the country had “failed miserably” to assimilate immigrants, adding that soaring unemployment, poor education and rising fundamentalism had created a “striped picture” among minority communities.
Parents need to help children understand their fears

By David M. Thomas

I remember standing at the door of our family home watching as each of our seven children walked to catch the school bus at the corner or went out to play in environments around our home.

When I first bid them goodbye three decades ago as they went “outside,” I was mostly at peace. So were they.

Now there’s a different “outside” and neither they, nor I, feel fully at ease as they step into a world that seems a little darker and a little more foreboding than it used to be.

But enter it, they must, as I try to assure them— with prayers for heavenly protection in my heart—that we’ll all be watching that they remain safe.

I want them to have a good time, a time during which they can be happy and playful. But I know it’s not as easy these days—no matter where you live—for children to retain a feeling of holy innocence.

For children, fears can basically come from one of two directions—from the outside world of neighborhood, local community or the world at large, and from inside the home.

Outside fears are generated especially by what we view in the news reports. Sometimes the events can be quite scary for a child’s mind.

Drive-by shootings in a distant neighborhood can be thought by a child to be close by. The terrible terrorist attacks of 9-11 can feel like something that could happen anywhere.

Perhaps Mom or Dad take occasional business trips. What might happen if there is terrorism where they are?

Add to that the terrible violence that can erupt in a school building. This risk can be especially difficult for some children, particularly when their own school takes security measures.

“Why are uniformed policemen walking around in our school?”

The children know.

We live in the Denver area only a few miles from Columbine High School in Littleton, Colo. No child in our part of the country lives without a detailed memory of that tragic school shooting.

Adding fuel to the fires of fear is the way the media handle these events to ensure maximum emotional effect.

Adults have the mental capacity to put these things in perspective, but children often don’t. They desperately need the help of the parent’s way of thinking to help them discern appropriate conclusions.

Some children’s fears come from inside the home. As we all know, this is not an easy time for families.

Economics play a huge role these days in creating uncertainty and fear.

“What if Dad loses his job? What if Mom does? What if we have to move for them to get work? What if we don’t have enough money?”

These can be quite real questions for a youngster as he or she overhears bits and pieces of conversations among adults. Children can easily fabricate a future of doom and difficulty.

Again, the parents’ broader perspective is needed.

Children today easily fall prey to great fear. There is enough evidence for them to create a huge case for themselves that it’s dangerous even to get out of bed in the morning.

So what can a family do?

It helps if parents reflect on the fact that children don’t think as they do.

Children’s minds are fluid and can easily elevate a simple news event or a passing parental comment into tragic proportions. So parents need to listen carefully to their children’s view of what’s happening in the world.

This does not mean dismissing what’s happening by saying that it doesn’t matter. It does. But with reasonable precautions, we can keep on living a happy and relatively peaceful life.

Also, note children’s silences. That’s often an important indicator that a child is overwhelmed with questions and even fears. Talk about what’s happening in the world around the dinner table or in the car while going to soccer practice or music lessons.

I believe parents should try to give their children the view that the world is filled with good people, too. There are watchful and caring people in the schools, the neighborhood, the home.

Recognize the causes of excessive fear, know how it especially affects children and, through conversation and reassurance, allow your children to know and experience the goodness of life so generously desired for all of us by God.

(David M. Thomas is the family life editor with Benziger Publishing and co-director of the Bethany Family Institute in Denver.)

Responsible parents set limits for children

Prayer helps minimize fears

By Christopher Carstens

Parents want safe, healthy and happy children. We hope that they will be successful at school, in sports and in social relations. We pray that they will not get addicted to drugs, pornography or dangerous thrills.

Finally, we cherish the dream that they won’t drop out of the Church right after high school.

Parents worry about whatever threatens those dreams, and there is a long list of problems to be scared about. As a child psychologist, I have some suggestions.

First, avoid catching the “paranoia of the week.” Despite what the worried-looking TV anchor tells you, it is highly unlikely that your child will be kidnapped from her bedroom or contract Mad Cow Disease. The next time you hear one of those stories, ask yourself, “How many children has this really affected?”

Second, remember that it isn’t your job to guarantee that your children are happy and entertained at all times. Sometimes children will be frustrated because their early attempts to solve a problem don’t work out, but frustration is not an indicator of your failure. Don’t rush in and make the problem your own.

Likewise, boredom can be an important motivator. We can guarantee peaceful homes by getting each child his or her own TV set and video game console. Mentally numb children are very quiet, but there is more opportunity for growth and learning, along with the increased noise, when children deal with their normal restlessness by finding something interesting to do in the real world.

Third, among parenthood’s deadlier fears is the dread of not being liked all the time by the children.

Responsible parents set standards and make sure children follow them. They know that sometimes being respected is more important than being liked. They insist that children do their homework and go to church. They will not let them go to parties where there may not be enough supervision. It is a parent’s job to make decisions that children are not mature enough to make on their own.

Finally, parents must take moral positions on what they see and hear in the media.

Parents cannot purify the airwaves and make sure that their children never see an offensive movie. However, they can make it clear that mindless violence, obscenity and sexual exploitation materials are not acceptable in their home. That may mean turning off the television, sending a CD with filthy lyrics back to the store, getting Internet filtering software or limiting computer use.

Children will be grateful—when they’re about 26.

(Christopher Carstens is a psychologist in California.)

Discussion Point

Prayer helps minimize fears

This Week’s Question

As a parent, what do you fear? What has helped you handle such fears?

“My fear is my children pulling away from the Church. My husband’s helped me to handle this fear.” (Glenda Holden, Opelika, Ala.)

“My fear is the war—having to send our children to fight for something that I, personally, don’t think we should be involved with. Prayer helps me to handle this fear. I pray that the conflict will soon be resolved.” (Isabel Hernandez, Portage, Ind.)

“My fear is that my children will grow up to be bad kids. I handle this fear by trying to be a good parent—by talking with them and by advising them.” (Josefina Ramos, St. Anthony, Idaho)

“My fear is the general decline of morals in society. My faith in the Lord has helped me with this. I know that God is always here for us.” (Linda Neumeyer, Linwood, Mich.)

Lend Us Your Voice

An upcoming edition asks: Describe a parish small-group experience and a related discussion or project.

To respond for possible publication, write to Faith Alive! at 3211 Fourth St. N.E., Washington, D.C. 20017-1100.
Catholic patriots: Archbishop John Ireland (I)

There have been many deeply patriotic American Catholic prelates, but the prize for the most outspoken in the late 19th century must go to Archbishop John Ireland of St. Paul, Minn. He was a tireless defender of the Church and the nation in life and in death.

The election of 1894, Ireland appeared at Republican rallies in New York. This “invasion” of the Archdiocese of New York was deeply resented by Archbishop Michael Corrigan and by Bishop Bernard J. McQuaid of Rochester. The latter was so angry that he denounced Ireland from the pulpit of the Rochester cathedral while clad in his full episcopal robes behind his crosier. During the sermon, Bishop McQuaid announced that in order to keep Ireland from going on any more about his political involvements with a political party, he himself had refrained from voting for the past 27 years.

There was no way a man like Archbishop Ireland could keep from responding to that attack. He didn’t reply at once, however, but waited a few months until he delivered an address on “American Citizenship” in Chicago. “Any American who refuses to vote deserves disfranchisement or exile!” he roared, and later wrote to Cardinal Gibbons, “People were wicked enough to see in these words an allusion to His Lordship of Rochester.”

Ireland then publicly began his career as a journalist. It was 4 years before his first column appeared in the Catholic World, but once started, he never stopped. He died in 1911, still not quite 50 years old, and he is remembered as the “Patriot of the Press.”

Catholicism by the numbers

In 2000, the U.S. population totaled about 280 million people, 64 million of whom were Catholic (about 23 percent of the total U.S. population). This translates to about 246,000 priests, or about 1,390 Catho-

Jenkins, a member of Christ the King Parish in Indianapolis, is a regu-
lar columnist for The Criterion (†).
Sunday Readings
Sunday, Feb. 8, 2004

- Isaiah 6:1-2a, 3-8
- 1 Corinthians 15:1-11

The first section of the Book of Isaiah supplies this weekend’s first reading. The author of this section wrote before the two Hebrew kingdoms, formed after the division of the one kingdom of Solomon, were overwhelmed by foreign conquerors. Times, however, were threatening. The author of this first section apparently was of the nobility, or at least the author had access to the circles around the king. This opportunity allowed the author to see what was occurring as decisions actually were made about national policy.

The times were especially threatening in the author’s mind because, in so many places, the author saw evidence not simply of poor judgment, but of judgment that was poor because it did not include God. For this author, now regarded as one of the great prophets, ignoring God meant doom.

God was an immediate and powerful reality for the prophet. This reading speaks of an actual appearance by God. Moreover, God commissioned the prophet to speak and to write on behalf of righteousness.

In this story, God anoints the lips of the prophet with an ember. Fire often is the symbol of divine presence and activity in the Scriptures. Moses found God in a burning bush. In the Acts of the Apostles, the Holy Spirit appears in the form of tongues of fire.

This holy ember cleanses the prophet. The prophet is purified. To God’s invitation, the prophet enthusiastically responds positively.

In the second reading, St. Paul’s First Epistle to Corinth is the second reading. In this reading, Paul insists that God called him to bear the Good News of Jesus far and wide. Paul confesses that once he persecuted Christians, but called by God, he gave himself totally to the service of the Lord.

He capitalizes the message about Jesus. Christ died for the sins of all humanity. He rose after being crucified. Risen, as victor over death, Jesus was seen by Cephas, or Peter, and by 500 other men. In other words, Peter had the actual experience of seeing the risen Lord. So did others. The testimony of so many can be believed.

For the last reading, the Church this weekend presents the Gospel of Luke. It is a familiar story. Jesus, together with Peter, enters a boat, and Peter rows down into deep water. Jesus tells Peter to lower the nets, but Peter protests. They have worked all night to catch fish, but they have caught none.

Finally, Jesus spoke to Peter, reassuring him and telling him that he will catch men in the future, not fish.

Reflection
For weeks, the Church has stressed for us the lessons of Christmas, the Epiphany and the baptism of the Lord. Jesus is Lord. He assumed our sins. He assumed our nature. He reconciles us with God, and God with us. He is the source of life and of God’s merciful forgiveness.

Jesus is absolutely necessary for salvation. He is the mediator with the Almighty. His Ascension did not leave us orphans.

This Lord, God in the midst of humans, is still in our midst. After having given us the joyful news of the Lord’s identity and mission on these great feast days of late December and early January, the Church consoles us that the Lord still lives with us.

The ultimate message is about Peter and the other Apostles. Jesus called them, in the divine outreach of love that once summoned Isaiah to be a prophet. Through Peter and the Apostles, Jesus still speaks to us. Through them, Jesus still works the great wonders—the likes of which once existed men and women on the highways of Galilee and on the shore of its sea.

Question Corner/\Fr. John Dietzen
Church law allows for cremation before burial

Q My aunt died recently at the age of 92. Her son, who was in charge of funeral arrangements, had his mother’s body cremated after the funeral Mass then had her ashes buried in the cemetery near her family’s burial site. Shortly afterward, the same was done for a deceased friend. Another friend told me that it is a serious sin for a Catholic to be cremated.

What does the Church or the Bible say about cremation? (New York)

A At one period during the past few hundred years, certain anti-Catholic groups promoted cremation as a way of rejecting belief in the resurrection. The Catholic Church, and other Christians, prohibited it for that reason. It’s been a long time, however, since that argument was raised, so cremation is no longer forbidden.

Traditional burial is still preferred, but economic, family or other factors sometimes make cremation an understandably practical choice.

At present, more than one-fifth of American Catholics choose cremation, and the Church’s funeral ritual explicitly provides ceremonies for those who have been or will be cremated before interment in a cemetery.

As in the funerals you describe, the body of the deceased person should, if possible, be present for all funeral liturgies—the Vigil, the Mass and prayers of commendation after Mass.

In this circumstance, cremation takes place later, and the ashes are buried in a cemetery or mausoleum.

Ashes should not be scattered over water, or kept in a relative’s house or closet as some people apparently have done. In other words, cremated remains should be treated with the same dignity given to the deceased body.

Inhumation (traditional burial) was almost universal in ancient Jewish Near East culture, so there would be no reason for cremation to be discussed in the Bible. Not to be buried was considered such a great curse that even executed criminals received a decent burial.

Finally, it is good to be reminded that individuals considering cremation should carefully and thoroughly discuss their plans with their family. Many people find accompanying the body to the grave, and later visiting the site of the burial, a significant part of grieving.

This, especially when children are involved, parents, grandparents and others should explain what will happen at the funeral and burial, and to be certain that the children are both psychologically and spiritually prepared.

Q As a member of the hospital ministry for our parish, a patient asked me why the pope wears a skullcap.

One of the priests said it goes back to ancient days. Should I just say it is to keep his head warm? (New Jersey)

A The zucchetto (“skullcap”) worn by the pope is the remnant of a larger cap formerly worn under the mitre, the large pointed headwear worn by bishops, abbots and some others.

The mitre’s purpose was to protect the mitre, which was usually made of more precious cloth.

The skullcap’s purpose is now so small to that purpose, but like many ecclesiastical vestments, which once had a practical purpose, it remains part of liturgical ceremonial dress.

(A free brochure answering questions that Catholics ask about cremation and other funeral customs is available by sending a self-addressed, stamped envelope to Father John Dietzen, Box 325, Peoria, IL 61615. Questions may be sent to Father Dietzen at the same address or by e-mail in care of jldietzen@ol.com.)

Readers may submit prosa 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.

Letters or reflections are also 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.

My Journey to God

A Useless Broken Thing

How can it be that you would care
For such as myself.
A useless broken thing?

You, stretching out your body
On the cross to take us into the
Realm of heaven that we may know
Lover.

I, dirt clinging, rags for dress,
Open sores of sin engraved
On the cross to take us into the
Realm of heaven that we may know
Lover.

Out of the darkness into
Your lambent light.

Tears of joy surge into my soul
Transforming love cauterizes every defect.

How can it be that you would care
For a useless broken thing?

By Trudy Bledsoe

Fr. John Dietzen, "Church law allows for cremation before burial," The Criterion, Friday, February 6, 2004

Sunday, February 11
Psalm 132:6-10
1 Kings 8:1-7, 9-13

Monday, February 9
Psalm 132:6-10
Mark 6:53-56

Tuesday, February 10
Psalm 84:3-5, 10-11
Mark 7:1-13

Wednesday, February 11
Psalm 37:5-6, 30-31, 39-40
Mark 7:14-23

Thursday, February 12
Psalm 106:3-4, 35-37, 40
Mark 7:24-30

Friday, February 13
Psalm 11:29-32, 12:19
Mark 7:31-37

Saturday, February 14
Psalm 16:6-7, 19-22
Mark 8:1-10

Sunday, February 15
Psalm 1:1-4, 6
1 Corinthians 15:12, 16-20
Lk 6:17, 20-26

The Wife's Visit

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**February 7**
St. Christopher Parish, 5301 W. 16th St., Indianapolis. “Stories That Evolve Spirit,” third annual Indianapolis West Deanery Men’s Conference, 8 a.m.-3:45 p.m. Information: 317-241-6114, ext. 12, or e-mail, sbilin@stchristopherparish.org.

St. Vincent Hospital, 201 W. 86th St., Indianapolis. The Couple to Couple League of Indianapolis, Natural Family Planning (NFP) class, 6-9 p.m. Indianopolis, Natural Family Planning (NFP) class, 9-11 a.m. Information: 317-228-9276.

St. Benedict Church, 111 S. Ninth St., Terre Haute. Terre Haute Deanery Candlelight Mass for Married Couples, 7:30 p.m. Information: 822-8420 and log on to www.thdrcr.org.

**February 8**
St. Rita Parish, 3133 Dr. Andrew J. Brown Ave., Indianapolis. Black History Month observance, Black History Sunday Mass, 9 a.m. Information: 317-636-4828.

Mount St. Francis Retreat Center, Floyd County. Francisc event for young adults, 6-8 p.m. Information: 812-933-4439 or e-mail, francis@lrc.com.

Mary’s King’s Village Schoenstatt, Rexville. Located on 925 South, 8 miles east of 421 South, 5 miles west of 3650 E. Indiana St., South of Versailles, “Schoenstatt Spirituality.” 2:30 p.m., Mass, 3-3:30 p.m., with Father Elmer Burwinkel. Information: 812-689-3551 or e-mail, fburwinkel@msn.com log on to Schoenstatt Wide site web at www.schoenstatt.org.

St. Joan of Arc Parish, 4217 N. Central Ave., Indianapolis. Author Scott Hahn’s video series, “A Closer Look at Christ’s Church: Answering Common Objections,” continues with “Purgatory, Holy Fire,” 7 p.m. Mass, 8 p.m., with Father Elmer Burwinkiel. Information: 812-689-3551 or e-mail, fburwinkel@msn.com log on to Schoenstatt Wide site web at www.schoenstatt.org.


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**February 10**
St. Francis Home Health and Hospice, 438 S. Emereon Ave., Greenwood. Session 7, “continuing,” weekly bereavement sup- port group for any adult grieving the death of a loved one, 6:30-8 p.m. Information: 317-865-2092.

February 10-12
St. Joseph the Evangelist Church, 535 E. Edgewood Ave., Indianapolis. Three-night parish mis- sion, author and speaker Mat- thew Kelly, presenter, 7:30 p.m. Short choral program, 7-15 p.m. Information: 317-787-8246.

February 11
Holy Rosary Church, 520 Stevens St., Indianapolis. “Love and Responsibility,” Scott Sulli- van, speaker, 6-8 p.m. Information: 317-236-1521 or e-mail, dominic@friars.org.


February 12
St. Joan of Arc Parish, 4217 N. Central Ave., Indianapolis. Author Scott Hahn’s video series, “A Closer Look at Christ’s Church: Answering Common Objections,” continues with “Purgatory, Holy Fire,” 7 p.m. Mass, 8 p.m., with Father Elmer Burwinkiel. Information: 812-689-3551 or e-mail, fburwinkel@msn.com log on to Schoenstatt Wide site web at www.schoenstatt.org.

St. Rita Parish, 3133 Dr. Andrew J. Brown Ave., Indianapolis. Black History Month observance, Youth Sunday Mass, 10 a.m. Information: 317-236-1521 or e-mail, dominic@friars.org.


February 13
Christ the King Parish, 1827 Kessler Blvd., E., Indianapolis. “Forming a Sacramental Life for Service in the Church: The Teachings of Jesus Christ,” 9:30 a.m.-noon. First in a three-part series weekly offered through the Ecclesial Lay Ministries program. Information: 317-923-8817 or e-mail, mtstfran@saintmeinrad.edu.

February 15
St. Rita Parish, 3133 Dr. Andrew J. Brown Ave., Indianapolis. Black History Month observance, Youth Sunday Mass, 10 a.m. Information: 317-236-1521 or e-mail, dominic@friars.org.


February 16
St. Francis Hospital and Health, 438 S. Emereon Ave., Greenwood. Session 7, “continuing,” weekly bereavement sup- support group for any adult grieving the death of a loved one, 6:30-8 p.m. Information: 317-865-2092.


Thank God, it’s Friday!

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**Indiania Priest to Host Catholic Group On This Panama Canal 17-Day Repositioning Cruise**

Join your Spiritual Director, Father Charles Kline (Pastor of St. Francis Xavier, Atlanta, Indiana) on this 17-day repositioning cruise departing October 13, 2004. Your group will be to Los Angeles for one night. On October 14, Your Man Tours will take you on a city tour of L.A. Hopkins and Biltmore Hotel is a snazzy drive to San Diego. You’ll board your deluxe five-star ship, the luxurious M.V. Veendam. Mass will be celebrated daily on board those in the group wishing to participate. You’ll first sail along the sun drenched Mexican Riviers. Ports include Callo San Lucas, Acapulco, Santa Cruz plus a stop in Puerto Penes, Costa Rica. Next, the eight, the daytime you’ll San Panam Canal crossing where you’ll be raised and lowered by giant lock. You’ll slowly float through the last three hours of the 46 miles ship width 480 feet, and the largest man-made thing in the world, Gatun Lake. Additional ports include Cartagena, Columbia: Grand Cayman Island and Cordova, Mexico. On October 20th you arrive in Tampa, Florida. Port charge will start at only $293 for inside cabins, $320 for outside cabins, and $4338 for outside balcony suites. Prices are per person, based on double occupancy and include meals, port charges and all travel from Indianapolis. Cabins at these prices will sell out fast. $50 deposits are now due. Family and friends are welcome. For information, reservations, brochure, and Father letter call 7 days a week.

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Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, 7 a.m.-5:30 p.m. Benediction and Mass.

St. Lawrence Church, 6944 E. 46th St., Indianapolis.

Adoration group prayer and conversation, 7:30 p.m. Information: 317-546-4685.

Saturdays

Clinic for Women (abortion clinic), 3607 W. 16th St., Indianapolis.

Rosary, 6:15 a.m. Information: 317-983-5454.

First Sundays

St. Paul Church, 218 Scheller Ave., Sellersburg.

Eucharist group, 7-8:15 a.m. Information: 812-246-4555.

First Mondays

Archbishop O’Meara Catholic Center, 1400 N. Meridian St., Indianapolis.

Guardian Angel Guild, board meeting, 9:30 a.m.

First Tuesdays

Divine Mercy Chapel, 3354 W. 30th St., Indianapolis.

Confraternity, 6-4:54 p.m., Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament for vocations, 7-30 p.m.

St. Joseph Church, 205 S. Joe Road W., Sellersburg.

Holy hour for religious vocations, Benediction and exposition of the Blessed Sacrament after 7 p.m. Mass.

Brevard Jesuit Preparatory School, 2801 W. 86th St., Indianapolis.

Indianapolis Autism and Services Club meeting, 7 p.m., child care provided. Information: 317-685-7295.

First Fridays

St. Vincent Paul Church, 2725 F St., Bedford.

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament after 8:30 a.m.- Mass a.m.-Sat. morning, reconciliation, Fri. 4-6 p.m., Sat. 8 a.m.-9:30 p.m. “Children of Hope” program, Holy hour for children. Information: 812-225-6593.

Holy Name Church, 89 N. 17th Ave., Beech Grove.

Mass, 8:15 a.m., devotions following Mass until 5 p.m. Benediction. Information: 317-784-5454.

St. Joseph Church, 207 East Road, Brookville.

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament after 8 a.m. until Communion service, 1 p.m.

Holy Guardian Angels Church, 405 U.S. 52, Cedar Grove.

Eucharistic adoration after 8 a.m. Mass.

SS. Francis and Clare Church, 5901 Olive Branch Road, Greenwood.

Mass, 8 a.m., adoration 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m., Sacred Heart Chapel, 8:30 a.m., Divine Mercy Chaplet, 3 p.m. Information: 317-872-8545.

St. Joseph Church, 1827 Kessler Blvd. E., Indianapolis.

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament after 7:15 a.m.-Mass, 5:30 p.m. Benediction and service.

Holy Rosary Church, 520

Support Group, 3 p.m. Information and directions: 812-988-2778 or 812-988-4429.

Third Sundays

Christ the King Church, 1827 Kessler Blvd., E., Indianapolis.

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament after 5:45 p.m. Mass and 9 a.m. Saturday. Information: 317-636-4478.

Our Lady of Lourdes Church, 5553 E. Washington St., Indianapolis.

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, prayer service, 7:30 p.m.

St. Anthony Church, 379 N. Wayne Ave., Indianapolis.

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament after 5:30 p.m. Mass, hour of adoration following Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament.

St. Joseph Church, 1375 S. Mickey Ave., Indianapolis.

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, 4 p.m., rosary, 5 p.m. Benediction, 5:30 p.m., Mass, 5:45 p.m. Information: 317-244-9902.

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

Sacred Heart devotion, 11 a.m., holy hour, 6-7 p.m. Information: 317-633-0295.

St. Francis Medical Clinics, 110 N. 17th Ave., Suite 300, Beech Grove.

Chronic pain support group, 7 p.m. to 8 p.m. Information: 317-831-4177.

Third Wednesdays

Holy Name Church, 89 N. 17th Ave., Beech Grove.

Holy hour and rosary, 6 p.m. Information: 317-784-5454.

St. Jude Church, 5553 McFarland Road, Indianapolis.

Rosary, 6:15 p.m. Information and directions: 812-988-2778 or 812-988-4429.

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament Center, 1400 N. Meridian St., Indianapolis. Catholic Widowed Organization, 7:30-9 p.m. Information: 317-784-1102.

Calvary Mausoleum Church, 435 Troy Ave., Indianapolis, Mass, 2 p.m.

St. Elizabeth's Pregnancy and Adoption Services, 2500 N Meridian St., Indianapolis.

Girls for Life, Madison Circle meeting, noon, dessert and beverages served. Information: 317-849-5840.

St. Joseph Church, 337 S. Mickey Ave., Indianapolis.

Adoration of Blessed Sacrament, 11 a.m.-7 p.m., Mass, 5:45 p.m. Information: 317-244-9002.

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

Prayer for vocations, rosary, eucharistic adoration, Benediction, 6 p.m. Information: 317-831-4142.

Last Sundays

Holy Rosary Church, 520

Stevens St., Indianapolis.


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. Why stop the Catholic Church? Nothing can keep us from giving to 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.


JARMAN, Thelma M., 95, St. Gabriel, Connerville, Jan. 23. Mother of Richard and Vincente Devereaux.


KNOVUSEK, Frances, 95, Holy Trinity, Indianapolis, Jan. 20. Sister of Mary Gunders.

KRIENER, Joyce M., 65, St. Roch, Indianapolis, Jan. 24. Mother of Tony Bucum. Sister of Theresa Callahan, Carolyn Evans, Dorothy Myres, Darlene, Harvey and Joe Reinholt.


SAPRANEK, Frank V., 76, St. Lawrence, Indianapolis, Jan. 11. Father of Sean Griffin and Mary Stroup. Brother of Phyllis Babbock. Grandfather of five. Great-grandfather of one.


Franciscan Sister Marie de Lourdes was a teacher and librarian

Franciscan Sister Marie de Lourdes Dwenger died on Jan. 30 at St. Clare Hall, the health care facility for the congregation of the Sisters of the Third Order of St. Francis of the Third Order of St. Francis at Oldenburg. She was 87.

The Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated on Jan. 26 at the motherhouse chapel of the Sisters of the Third Order of St. Francis of Oldenburg. Burial followed in the Oldenburg Cemetery.

Marie de Lourdes was born on Jan. 9, 1924, in Cincinnati. She entered the Oldenburg Franciscan Community in 1943 and professed her final vows in 1958.

She ministered for 70 years at Oldenburg, where she served in various capacities, including priestess, tonsillectomy nurse and organist. She served at St. Anthony of Padua Parish in Morris, Immuculate Conception Parish in Millhouse, St. John the Baptist Parish in Enosburg, St. Peter Parish in New Al Pence, St. Peter Parish in Franklinton County, St. Michael Parish in Brookville, St. Mary Parish in North Vernon, St. Joseph Parish in Shelbyville and St. Mary Parish in Greendale.

She was a teacher at St. Anthony of Padua Parish in Morris, Immuculate Conception Parish in Millhouse, St. John the Baptist Parish in Enosburg, St. Peter Parish in New Al Pence, St. Peter Parish in Franklinton County, St. Michael Parish in Brookville, St. Mary Parish in North Vernon, St. Joseph Parish in Shelbyville and St. Mary Parish in Greendale.

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Despite live disease, bishop gives up to Sacramento Church

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (CNS)—Despite a chronic liver disease he has lived with since 1981, Bishop William K. Weigand of Sacramento has regularly put in six to eight hours during his 10 years as head of the northern California diocese.

The 66-year-old bishop had no special celebration to mark his 10th anniversary on Jan. 27, only a prayer service and reception with diocesan staff prior to that date. Earlier in January, he told his brothers, as well as clergy and staff of the diocese, that the liver ailment he has lived with for 23 years—primary sclerosing cholangitis—has slowly progressed. His doctors have discussed with him the possibility of a liver transplant in the future. “For those who have participated, it’s always seemed to be God’s will that this disease has progressed so slowly with me,” said Bishop Weigand in an interview with Catholic News Service. “We will continue to pray for the pastor.”

Search Committee for new Bishop

The University of Notre Dame and Boston College offer for college graduates who want to devote part of their lives to service. "The best role for that kind of one that involved youngsters, Miller read about Loyola University Chicago’s (CNS) 1974-1975, for commercial rates. Write your complete text: "views are those of the publisher. "What are the best offerings for college graduates who want to devote part of their lives to service and have an interest in teaching, but have no formal education in the public schools?" said Miller. "We are looking for Lu-Choice, teach at Catholic schools while earning a master’s degree in education. It is designed to help K-12 teachers progress toward the degree, and we do deal with a teacher shortage, and give students a chance to serve the community and get a graduate education. "The University of Notre Dame and Boston College have similar programs. U.S. association of Dominican schools is formed

NEW ORLEANS (CNS)—A newly formed association of 30 Dominican-sponsored or -owned high schools across the country “will strengthen our understanding of the Dominican charisms,” according to Cynthia Thomas, president of St. Mary’s Dominican High School in New Orleans. Bishop O’Brien is charged with taking for granted that religious in the past, she said, and found it more satisfying to work with the children the organization helped. Now she teaches five to six hours a day at St. Mary’s University of the West, the college she chose in 1961.

The Criterion Friday, February 6, 2004 Page 23
This unwavering commitment to our patients has resulted in a respected cardiac and vascular care program. Advanced technology for the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of heart and vascular disease. And a philosophy of care centered on providing comfort, strength and reassurance. St. Francis brings it all together to keep the wonder of a beating heart strong. And the value of every life, protected.