United Catholic Appeal closes in on goal

By Brandon A. Evans

Christ is counting on us. That’s the message David Siler, executive director of Catholic Charities, tries to get across to people when talking about the importance of pledging to the Parish Stewardship and United Catholic Appeal (UCA) donations which greatly benefit 145,000 people who receive help from Catholic Charities each year.

The pledge goal of the 2003-04 Called to Serve: Parish Stewardship and United Catholic Appeal has almost been met and is not too late for people to still help in carrying out this important mission of the Church in central and southern Indiana.

“Pledges have reached the $5.17 million mark,” said Joseph Therber, executive director of stewardship and development for the archdiocese. “We are $130,000 from our minimum target goal.”

Money from the appeal not only helps individual parishes and schools in need, but also goes toward archdiocesan agencies who serve, as Siler put it, “the poorest of the poor.”

Of the thousands served this year, that number includes those helped by services such as refugee resettlement, homeless shelters, pregnancy and adoption counseling, senior services, after-school programs, and school, marriage and family counseling, Siler said.

Therber said that both he and Archbishop Daniel M. Buechlein want to express their “sincere appreciation for all of the time, talent, treasure and prayers that lay and pastoral leaders across the archdiocese have brought forth to minister to one another as Christian stewards.”

Three thousand new donors contributed to the annual appeal this year, exceeding the $5.17 million mark.

Youth rally aims to make young Catholics proud of their faith

By Brandon A. Evans

The archdiocese’s youth ministry directors are hoping that 600-700 high school youth will attend the upcoming Archdiocesan Youth Rally—and will walk away proud to be Catholic.

“Shout It Out!” will be the theme of the annual event, which will be held from 9 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. on Feb. 29 at Roncalli High School and St. Jude Parish in Indianapolis.

The cost is $40 per person and the registration deadline is 5:30 p.m. on Feb. 18.

Father Jonathan Meyer, associate director of youth ministry for the archdiocese, said that the highlight of the day will be “to see the youth of our diocese spend a day centered completely on Jesus and his Church, to see them pray, go to Mass, reconciliation, learn more about their faith—to be young in love with Jesus.”

The rally, which will also include speakers, music, food, praise and worship, is open to all Catholic teenagers in the archdiocese, whether they attend a Catholic, public or home school.

Father Meyer said that the rally will be like past rallies in its mission, but that it will also be different in location, the topics of the interactive sessions and in its atmosphere. The event will be at the archdiocese corporate [Archbishop Daniel M. Buechlein’s] vision of youth ministry into the rally.

“Thus, there will be a stronger emphasis on them,” Meyer said.

Fatima Retreat House offers four Lenten retreats

By Mary Ann Wyand

“Practicing the Art of Renewal” is the ministry theme for Fatima Retreat House, the archdiocesan retreat center located at 5353 E. 56th St. in Indianapolis.

Retreatants are invited to step away from their busy lives to spend some quiet, peaceful time in prayer with God on the scenic 13-acre wooded grounds during a weekend retreat, day of reflection, marriage preparation class or other faith-based program.

After facing an uncertain future and possible closing last year due to the archdiocesan retreat center’s financial problems, Fatima’s staff, advisory board and volunteers also are practicing the art of renewal as they work together to continue the retreat center’s programing during 2004 and beyond.

“It’s business—or ministry—as usual at Fatima Retreat House,” Immaculate Heart of Mary parishioner Dan Hoyt of Indianapolis, the chairman of Fatima’s 15-member advisory board, said in a Feb. 9 interview.

Hoyt said the archdiocese and advisory board expect to announce the hiring of a new director in March.

“We anticipate that the new director will be coming into a reasonably stable [ministry] operation that is close to breaking even financially,” he said. “Renewal continues to happen for a variety of constituencies—from young couples anticipating marriage to high school seniors having a significant faith experience to adults participating in one-day programs or weekend retreats.

Last summer, the future of Fatima Retreat House was the subject of ongoing discussions by archdiocesan officials because of a serious budget shortfall so longtime director Kevin DePrey and several other staff members sought new employment in August.

When the economy improved last fall, Archbishop Daniel M. Buechlein announced that Fatima Retreat House would remain open and appointed Brian Doyle as the new director on Oct. 23.

However, Doyle was not able to assume the
the goal set for an increase of 6 percent in new donors. Those new families offset those who declined to give for a variety of reasons, or because people died during the last year.

The appeal is now in its follow-up phase, in which the archdiocese will contact
target families who have not yet pledged to ask
them to again consider taking part in UCA.

“Every gift, regardless of size, helps the Church minister to people in need throughout the archdiocese,” Therber said.

“Now is a perfect time to pledge support for our home missions and shared ministry efforts,” he said. “Our work continues throughout the year, and Catholics who have not yet pledged will have more opportunities to do so this spring.”

Those pledges will go straight to those places that are at the heart of Christ’s mission in the archdiocese—and without it some would wither away.

Nearly 8 percent of Catholic Charities’ annual budget is funded by the UCA.

“This support is absolutely critical to be able to continue to provide these services to our brothers and sisters in need,” Siler said. “Due to a struggling economy, the need for service to the poor is growing, therefore, even more support is needed.

“Without this support, some of our programs would cease to exist, yet we need to be increasing our service to the poor among us.”

“Uniting as Catholics, we accomplish tremendous good works for home mission parishes, center-city schools, Catholic Charities, the educations of our future priests, and the care of our retired clergy,” Therber said.

Father Robert Robeson, who was our archdiocesan administrator last year and is associate pastor of St. Monica Parish in Indianapolis, and director of youth ministry for the archdiocese, has especially benefited from the UCA.

Funds from the appeal paid for his 45th semster of studies at the University of St. Mary of the Woods, Indiana, and his master’s of divinity degree at St. Mary’s Seminary.

“We also are particularly grateful to Father Jim Farrell [pastor of St. Barnabas Parish in Indianapolis],” Hoyt said, “who has continued to be extremely supportive of Fatima’s ministry.”

On Dec. 10, Archbishop Buechlein appointed Stephen James, purchasing director for the archdiocese and a longtime Fatima volunteer, as interim director while the advisory board and archdiocesan officials began a regional search to fill the position.

“The advisory board and volunteers have remained active in a variety of ways throughout the past several months,” Hoyt said, “helping to keep the ministry in operation and continue to provide services to Fatima retreatants during this interim period. All the credit goes to her and Erica Shoop, her assistant.

“We spend about one weekend a month for about six months at Mass, after Mass, putting information in the bulletin,” Hoyt said.

Overages in each parish’s UCA goal also fund the Saint Francis Xavier Home Mission Fund, which awards several grants each year to parishes and schools that are having difficulties in their operating budgets as a result of high energy costs.

“The more resources that we have, the more help that we can provide,” Siler said. “And as our energy prices rise, we are able to continue to extend our service to the poor, there is so much more that we could, and perhaps should, do. Christ, who we see in the face of the poor, is counting on us.”

For information about other Energy programs, call Fatima Retreat House at 317-542-3001 or log on to the archdiocesan helping parishes to develop services to meet multicultural needs.

Father Keith Hoosey and Precious Blood Sister Maureen Mangen, co-directors of the John XXIII Center, the Lafayette Diocese’s retreat center in Hartford City, Ind.

“Him Whom My Heart Loves” is the theme for a Lenten retreat for women on March 12-14, presented by Jesuit Father Benjamin Hawley, president of Brebeuf Jesuit Preparatory School in Indianapolis.

Franciscan Father Ted Haug, who minis-

tries in the archdiocese while assisting parishes to develop services to meet multicultural needs.

“Those who support the United Catholic Appeal are not just providing the contributions that they’re making are having a direct impact on the youth of our diocese,” he said.

Another program that is scheduled to begin receiving funds from the UCA is the Special Religious Education Program (SPRED) of the archdiocese.

The program goes to different parishes and helps form groups for the SPRED-trained parishioners with special needs parishioners.

The goal is to help catechize those special-needs parishioners and bring their gifts into parish life.

“I think that as Christians have an obligation,” said Marcia Hodde, coordinator of the SPRED Program. “We are responsible for each among us.

Very often, people with disabilities are hidden in the parish,” she said. “We’re losing the gifts they could give us.”

As of now, most of the program’s budget comes from fundraising, but soon it will receive funds from the UCA.

“I think the most significant thing is just being able to get the program more parishes quickly,” Hodde said.

It takes a lot of time and resources to introduce the parish to the program, to iden-

tify those with special needs and also to locate those who wish to volunteer to be in the small groups—and to receive the training.

“We have a full Lenten program schedule, and please remember to check out the Lenten retreats and, of course, the next Lent, we have a retreat scheduled, and we think they will be good spiritual renewal programs.

“In addition, we have a number of organi-

zations that have continued to support one- and two-day events,” he said. “Tobit Weekends and Pre Cana Conferences for engagement couples have booked through the year, and we are presenting some day retreats for parishes. Two high schools—Bishop Chatard High School and Brebeuf Jesuit Preparatory School—have had one-week retreats for students and other groups are using our space for programs. The word is that Fatima Retreat House is still open for business.

Fatima’s dedicated volunteers have helped the smaller staff continue to provide quality retreat experience during this transition time and said that we have the best volunteers in the world. They’re a great group of people. Some of our volunteers have been true to Fatima for many, many years.”

Fatima’s Lenten retreats begin March 5-7 with “The Divine Romance: Accepting God’s Love for Us and Growing in Our Response,” presented by Father Robert Robeson, who was our archdiocesan administrator last year and is associate pastor of St. Monica Parish in Indianapolis, and director of youth ministry for the archdiocese, has especially benefited from the UCA.

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Archdiocesan religious observe World Day of Consecrated Life

By Sean Gallagher

Duce in alumn! Thus reads in Latin the words that St. Luke recorded that Jesus spoke to St. Peter, “Cast out into the deep waters.”

These words were proclaimed in the Gospel reading at a Mass celebrated on Feb. 8 at SS. Peter and Paul Cathedral in Indianapolis in observance of the World Day of Consecrated Life.

They also began the homily of Archbishop Daniel M. Buechlein, who presided at the Mass. In these words, Jesus invited Peter to take his fishing boat out into the deep water for a catch despite the fact that he had failed to haul in any fish during an entire night of work. On a deeper level, it was Jesus’ invitation to Peter to place his trust in him.

Archbishop Buechlein noted that Peter’s positive response to Jesus’ words is mirrored in the lives of countless religious men and women throughout the archdiocese.

“He often in consecrated life are challenged to cast out into the deep of our faith to live a profound commitment to the Gospel. And it makes all the difference,” he said.

Archbishop Buechlein gave special thanks for the hundreds of years of service by the religious present in the cathedral and throughout the archdiocese who celebrated anniversary jubilees over the previous year.

“This afternoon, we bless God for the grace of perseverance he has given you jubilarians. You have indeed cast your life with Christ. You have not turned back, but continue to journey faithfully toward the kingdom,” he said.

Benedictine Sister Emily Emmert of Our Lady of Grace Monastery in Beech Grove, was honored at the Mass for 60 years of professed religious life.

“In looking back on her many decades as a Benedictine, Sister Sylvester, like Archbishop Buechlein, saw great meaning in the grace of God given to her to persist in her vows. “It means that God has certainly been good to me to persevere,” she said, “to stay here in the community.”

Sister Sylvester is a living example of Archbishop Buechlein’s words, for even as she journeys into her 90s, she is still serving as a good and faithful servant of the Lord in her pilgrimage to the kingdom.

Each Wednesday, she and other members of her community help prepare some 200 bags of food for the poor at the St. Vincent de Paul Society’s food pantry.

Sister Sylvester jokingly refers to herself in her work as “one of the bag ladies,” but her work is indeed making a difference. When this work began a few years ago, only about 30 bags were being prepared. Since then, it has expanded almost sevenfold.

Another religious present on Sunday, Benedictine Brother Gabriel Hodges of Saint Meinrad Archabbey, is in the morning of his religious life, having professed his vows just a year and a half ago.

But he noted at the reception after the Mass that the example of so many jubilarians, from so many different religious communities, was uplifting for him. “I met several of the jubilarians on the way over here [to the reception],” he said. “Each one of them said to me, ‘Don’t give up. This is a very good life. It’s very rewarding.’”

Brother Gabriel also remarked that their example provides him with a model to strive for as he continues on in his monastic life.

“It gives me something to shoot for,” he said. “It’s very exciting.”

Brother Gabriel has just begun to cast his life with Christ as a religious. But there are many men and women of all ages who, like St. Peter standing at the edge of the sea, are still discerning their vocation. The Lord invites them to go out into the deep and consider the call to religious life just as countless monks, nuns, sisters and friars have across the centuries as well as in our own day.

Benedictine Sister Emily Emmert of Our Lady of Grace Monastery in Beech Grove invites such people, especially the young, to turn their hearts and minds to this possibility. She was honored at the Mass for her 60 years of professed religious life.

“I encourage young people,” Sister Emily said, “especially all of the ones I taught in high schools in Indianapolis, to think twice and to say ‘yes’ to God.”

The encouragement that Sister Emily gave to the young people of the archdiocese echoed the invitation given by Pope John Paul II to the men and women religious around the globe at the celebration of the World Day of Consecrated Life on Feb. 2 at St. Peter’s Basilica in Rome.

“Repeat your ‘yes’ to the God of love with joy and conviction,” Pope John Paul said. “God wants you to be faithful to his love and totally dedicated to the good of your brothers. This is the precious contribution you can offer the Church so that the Gospel of hope will reach the men and women of our time.”

Archdiocesan religious observe World Day of Consecrated Life
La iglesia se está ocupando de proteger los niños y los jóvenes

Nota del editor: la traducción que se presenta a continuación en la correspondiente a la versión en inglés de la columna del Arzobispo Daniel M. Buechlein, publicada originalmente en The Criterion el día 6 de febrero.

Las almas santas experimentan a veces pruebas internas y aterrissan periodos de inmiel. Pero si queremos que otros despierten a la presencia de Jesús, debemos ser los primeros convencidos de ella.

Estas palabras de la bendita Madre Teresa de Calcuta estaban escritas en una tarjeta de Navidad de sus Misioneras de la Caridad que prestan servicio a los pobres en Indiana. El mensaje me impactó profundamente la primera vez que lo leí. Sus palabras son oportunas en estos momentos de dolor y angustia que vivimos en un mundo amenazado por el terror y las colonias ficticias que se confrontan.

Esas palabras también son oportunas cuando vemos el dolor y la angustia causado por el abuso sexual de menores por parte de algunos sacerdotes y laicos que sirvieron en el nombre de la Iglesia en nuestra diócesis durante los últimos 52 años. Es doloroso, pero necesario, reconocer este pecado entre nosotros.

Aunque el abuso y los abusos se convirtieron en el regalo de Dios a nuestras familias y a nuestra Iglesia. La Madre Teresa una vez destacó que era verdaderamente una gran pobreza de espíritu que una madre decidiera abortar a su hijo por cualquier motivo. Parece entonces que, dado el abuso sexual, debieras ser verdaderamente una gran pobreza de espíritu y hasta una enfermedad que alguien sepa ser reprobado, por no menos, de los jóvenes. La tragedia de esta realidad reciente que ha ocurrido entre nuestras generaciones, ha sido una larga y terrible. Y repetido, una vez más, que continuaremos haciendo todo lo que podamos para proteger a nuestros niños y jóvenes.

Y continuaremos brindando atención y apoyo a todas las víctimas-sobrevivientes. Aunque no me considero ingenioso, nunca habría pensado que el problema de la pedofilia y el abuso de adolescentes fuese tan común como lo es. Como obispo desde 1987, he observado una tendencia marcada en la compleja realidad del abuso sexual que existe no sólo a nivel de adolescentes y jóvenes, sino que se ha incrementado en nuestra diócesis. Y repetido, una vez más, que continuaremos haciendo todo lo que podamos para proteger a nuestros niños y jóvenes.

El abuso sexual de niños y jóvenes es doloroso. También constituye una falta espiritual y moral de nuestra sociedad. Una de las mayores desilusiones durante toda esta terrible experiencia ha sido la falta espiritual y moral de algunos de nuestros clérigos. Oremos fervientemente porque el hecho de que no hayan sido reportados casos de abuso sexual por parte de clérigos en la arquidiócesis en la última década, sea un indicativo de purificación y renovación espiritual.

Te rogamos Señor, que así sea.†

Daniel M. Buechlein, O.S.B.
Arzobispo de la Diócesis de Indianapolis

Readers with access to e-mail may send letters to “Letters to the Editor,” The Criterion, P.O. Box 1717, Indianapolis, IN 46206-1717. Letters must be signed, but, for serious reasons, names may be withheld.

Send letters to “Letters to the Editors,” The Criterion, P.O. Box 1717, Indianapolis, IN 46206-1717.
La necesidad de hacer un balance entre los derechos individuales y el bien común

E n el Declaración de la Independencia garantiza a todos sus ciudadanos la vida, la libertad y la búsqueda de la felicidad. En ninguna otra parte del mundo los derechos individuales en nuestra sociedad están más protegidos que en nuestro país. La protección de estos derechos constituye una bendición. Desafortunadamente los derechos humanos han comenzado a predominar en nuestra cultura creando con ello un grave problema social.

Bajo la bandera de los derechos individuales, la condición sagrada del matrimonio y de la familia se encuentra en peligro en nuestra sociedad. El debate político y cultural sobre ciertos temas demuestra una enorme confusión sobre el equilibrio de los derechos individuales y el bien común. La supremacía de los derechos individuales es la piedra angular del movimiento pro-decisión legalizada abortion and equivocation about the evil. The current political movement to equate the union of homosexuals as equivalent to marriage has promoted and fostered the prominence of individual rights in music, television, movies and even forms of electronic and print media.

As Bishop Wuerl remarked, "Several generations have had their views formed by an information and entertainment industry that portrays the image of the homosexual as an old idea with new power—the common good. Today too many see the world in very limited perspective."

The so-called "pro-choice" movement has co-opted the debate over the evil of abortion by claiming that a decision to have an abortion is an individual right protected by the U.S. Constitution. Besides the fact that directly terminating human life is intrinsically evil, claiming this right without consideration of the consequences for society compounds the evil. The current political movement to equate the union of homosexuals as equivalent to marriage is also proposed in the context of "the rights" of individuals without consideration of the impact on the common good of society.

Our Catholic vision calls for a balance of the rights of individuals and the common good. We need to recover this old idea for the sake of our children.

The need for balancing individual rights and the common good

La intención del Arzobispo Buechlein para vocaciones para Febrero

Traducido por: Language Training Center, Indianapolis

ARCHBISHOP/ARZOBISPO DANIEL M. BUECHLEIN, O.S.B.

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The afternoon program will take place on March 14, April 18, May 16, June 6, July 25 and Aug. 22. The conference will address family of origin, communication, Christian marriage and other important relationship topics. The cost is $30 per couple, which includes materials and lunch. Advance registration is required. For more information or to register, call the archdiocesan Office of Family Ministries at 317-236-1596 or 800-382-9363, ext. 1596.

Upcoming Tobit Weekend retreats, for couples preparing for marriage, will be held at Fatima Retreat House, 5333 E. 56th St., in Indianapolis, on April 2-4, May 4-6, June 18-20, July 9-11 and July 23-25. The focus of the retreat is on helping couples grow closer and preparing them to be married. The program enables participants to relax, pray and learn how important it is to have Christ at the center of a marriage. The cost is $270 per couple. For more information, call 317-545-7681 or e-mail fatimai@archindy.org.

Cathedral High School, 5225 E. 56th St., in Indianapolis, is having its 2004 Shammaracon on Feb. 28. The black tie optional event, which will feature a dinner and midnight buffet along with an auction, will begin at 5 p.m. The theme of the event is "The Year of the Leprechaun: A Chinese Celebration." The cost is $125 per person, which includes a preview party from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. on Feb. 27 at the school. For more information, call the school at 317-542-1481.

A workshop on “Prayer and Conversion” will be offered by the Catholic Schools Office of Theology from 9:30 a.m. to noon on March 3, 10 and 17 at St. Michael the Archangel Parish in Indianapolis. Franciscan Sister Barbara Leonard, a teacher, retreat director and spiritual director, will present the workshops. Participants will be able to reflect on their conversion experiences and deepen their prayer. The cost is $60 per person, less for seniors. For more information, call the Indianapolis Office of Saint Meinrad School of Theology at 317-955-6451 or e-mail indyprogs@saintmeinrad.edu.

Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish in Indianapolis, is hosting a Youth Mardi Gras party from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. on Feb. 22 in the Parish Hall, 1125 N. Meridian St. The event, for youth ages 4 to 17, will feature games, crafts and refreshments. For more information, call 317-638-5551 or e-mail www.sacredheartindy.com.

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

Catch That Kid (20th Century Fox)
Rated R-11 (Adults and Adolescents) because of an ambiguous attitude toward lascivious, minimal nudity and some action violence.

Miracle (Disney)
Rated R-11 (Adults and Adolescents) because of minimal nudity and some rough sports action.

You Got Served (Screen Gems)
Rated R-11 (Adults and Adolescents) because of crude humor and some action violence.

Lenten retreat scheduled for separated or divorced Catholics

By Mary Ann Wyand

Catholics who are separated or divorced have had an opportunity to experience God’s healing presence in the midst of their grief during a one-day Lenten retreat on March 20 at St. Pius X Parish, 7200 Sarto Drive, in Indianapolis.

“Beyond Divorce—A Day of Healing for Separated and Divorced Catholics” is being held at Fatima Retreat House, 5333 E. 56th St., in Indianapolis.

The Jan. 26 session of the Indianapolis City-County Council was adjourned “in recognition of and respect for the life and contributions of [the late Father] Patrick J. Kelly, chancellor of Cathedral High School and sacramental minister of St. Andrew [the Apostle] Parish.” The motion made by councilor Vernon Brown was supported by the full council and is now a part of the permanent record.

Administrators at Shawe Memorial Jr./Sr. High School and Pope John XXIII School in Madison presented the 2004 Golden Shamrock Award to Charles Törline (Class of 1956) during Catholic Schools Week. The award, which honors those from the Prince of Peace Schools community who have tried to improve Catholic education, was given to Törline for his service to the Catholic schools in Madison. He was a member of the first graduating class from Shawe Memorial High School.

Eleven Catholic high school students from Marion County were honored with Prelude Awards for excellence in creative arts during the 20th annual Prelude Awards Celebration Dinner on Feb. 6 at The Children’s Museum in Indianapolis. Roncalli High School students Andy Betz, Ben Hewett, Donnie Glowinski, Matt Lewis, T.J. Brown, Manny de la Rosa and Julius Woods earned a first-place award in the collaboration category. Brebeuf Jesuit Preparatory School student Andy Betz and Cathedral High School student Rachel Ward earned the second-place award in the group competition. Roncalli High School student Caitlin Godart earned first-place honors in the dance competition and Bishop Chatard High School student Cha Park earned the second-place award in the instrumental music category. Prelude Award scholarships are $2,000 for first place, $500 for second place and $2,500 for the collaboration category winners. The Prelude Awards program is sponsored by The Children’s Museum and Guild, Penrod Society, Central Indiana Community Foundation, Indiana Arts Commission, National Endowment for the Arts and Indianapolis Foundation.

(“Beyond Divorce—A Day of Healing for Separated and Divorced Catholics” is $25 per person. For more information, call the archdiocesan Office of Family Ministries at 317-236-1586 or 800-382-8836, ext. 1586.)

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“Beyond Divorce—A Day of Healing for Separated and Divorced Catholics” is $25 per person. For more information, call the archdiocesan Office of Family Ministries at 317-236-1586 or 800-382-8836, ext. 1586.

Upcoming Tobit weekend retreats, for couples preparing for marriage, will be held at Fatima Retreat House, 5333 E. 56th St., in Indianapolis, on April 2-4, May 4-6, June 18-20, July 9-11 and July 23-25. The focus of the retreat is on helping couples grow closer and preparing them to be married. The program enables participants to relax, pray and learn how important it is to have Christ at the center of a marriage. The cost is $270 per couple. For more information, call 317-545-7681 or e-mail fatimai@archindy.org.

Cathedral High School, 5225 E. 56th St., in Indianapolis, is having its 2004 Shammaracon on Feb. 28. The black tie optional event, which will feature a dinner and midnight buffet along with an auction, will begin at 5 p.m. The theme of the event is “The Year of the Leprechaun: A Chinese Celebration.” The cost is $125 per person, which includes a preview party from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. on Feb. 27 at the school. For more information, call the school at 317-542-1481.

A workshop on “Prayer and Conversion” will be offered by the Catholic Schools Office of Theology from 9:30 a.m. to noon on March 3, 10 and 17 at St. Michael the Archangel Parish in Indianapolis. Franciscan Sister Barbara Leonard, a teacher, retreat director and spiritual director, will present the workshops. Participants will be able to reflect on their conversion experiences and deepen their prayer. The cost is $60 per person, less for seniors. For more information, call the Indianapolis Office of Saint Meinrad School of Theology at 317-955-6451 or e-mail indyprogs@saintmeinrad.edu.

Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish in Indianapolis, is hosting a Youth Mardi Gras party from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. on Feb. 22 in the Parish Hall, 1125 N. Meridian St. The event, for youth ages 4 to 17, will feature games, crafts and refreshments. For more information, call 317-638-5551 or e-mail www.sacredheartindy.com.
Refugee Resettlement Program needs donations

By Brandon A. Evans

Ninety-three Somali Bantu refugees are beginning to arrive in the Indianapolis area, and without the help of local Catholics their transition to American life will be much more difficult.

The archdiocesan Refugee Resettlement Program (RRP) will work with each family that arrives, helping them to adjust to life in the United States and become self-sufficient.

That help means greeting the refugees at the airport, arranging housing, and helping them with jobs, food, clothing, furniture and English classes.

“These folks are fleeing situations in which they were persecuted for who they are and what they believe,” said Josh Sprunger, donations coordinator for the RRP. “On the contrary, we are giving them a new life in a new country: beds, dressers, a kitchen table, chair, lamps, tableware, dishes, pots, pans, bowls, utensils, can openers, sheets, alarm clocks, household items mean so much,” he said. “In terms of resources, refugee families recognize that gifts from the community such as these give them a strong foothold to starting a normal life.”

Recently, the first Bantu family arrived—all seven family members. Their arrival came with little advance warning and left the RRP scrambling to take care of the family’s needs.

When the rest of the refugees will come, or how quickly, is unknown, which leads to another problem.

With shorter notice on incoming families, the RRP needs to stockpile the donations it receives to be ready, but the program is running out of storage space quickly. The furniture and other items will take up large amounts of space, but RRP only has two 15-by-25 foot storage units for it all.

“We’d like to find a larger donated storage space in exchange for a tax deduction receipt that would enable us to store enough furniture to meet our anticipated needs,” Sprunger said.

Sprunger said he is hopeful.

Donations will come through because people are generous,” he said.

(For more information or to make a donation, call Josh Sprunger at 317-236-7311 or 800-382-9836, ext. 7311.)

Defining traditional marriage

Archbishop Sean P. O’Malley addresses a rally to defend traditional marriage on Feb. 8 outside the Massachusetts Statehouse in Boston. State legislators on Feb. 11 were to consider a constitutional amendment to ban marriage between same-sex couples. Several hundred opponents of same-sex marriage turned out for the rally.

“Youth

(continued from page 1)

on catechesis, the Eucharist, the Mass and vocations,” Father Meyer said.

He said the event should make the youth of the Church realize that they are not alone.

“They need the encouragement of each other,” he said. “By bringing the youth together in large numbers, it helps them realize that there are many others who are living their faith.”

Father Meyer said that he hopes the young people walk away with “a deeper sense of what it is to be Catholic and reasons why they should actually be proud to be Catholic.

“I believe that many people in our Church are not confident enough to stand up and say ‘I’m proud to be Catholic, I love being Catholic, I love my faith and there is no other way that I would want to live my faith,’” Father Meyer said.

There will be a set of eight creative sessions running at the same time—each youth will be able to attend two over the course of the day. The themes for each range from defending the faith to just war theory, from prayer and fasting to community service.

“I hope the youth are shocked at the ability to be radically Catholic, but to still have fun and still enjoy themselves,” Father Meyer said.

(For more information or to register for the Archdiocesan Youth Rally, contact your parish youth minister or call the youth ministry number at 317-236-1477 or 800-382-9836, ext. 1477, or e-mail jmeyer@archindy.org or adonohue@archindy.org.)

They gave me support and encouragement.

The Value of a Catholic Education

For admissions information, call 1.800.772.7264.

The student-faculty interaction makes Marian different from other colleges, because the professors understand where I’m coming from and what I want to do in the future. They guided my choices in a way that is helping me achieve my goals. I knew that I had a support network as I was learning, not only in the classroom but also socially and personally. Marian is a great place to grow and to learn.

Cindy Schroeder

Currently pursuing a master’s degree in social work at IUPUI.

Marian College B.A. in Psychology ’03

Greeenwood Community High School ’00

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Brebeuf Jesuit provides an understanding and appreciation of other religious beliefs while maintaining a Catholic perspective. I feel that this increased understanding will give me an advantage in a life that is filled with diversity. I also strongly believe that Brebeuf Jesuit’s motto, ‘Men and Women for Others,’ epitomizes the Pope’s call to service in today’s society.”

Aidan Fitzgerald, Class of 2005
ways in which the story and the movies brought out Tolkien’s Catholic faith. Those in attendance then watched a portion of the film. The sessions ended with a period for questions and answers.

Over 100 people attended the first session, and the following sessions had large crowds as well.

“The age-range of people in the audience was surprising,” said State. “There were 8- to 90-year-olds there, middle-school-aged kids there, young adults and older folks as well.”

State speculated that the reason for the movies' wide appeal was the inherent beauty of the truths that underlie them. “[The story] embodies a fundamental truth that appeals to people,” State noted.

“[Tolkien] is consistently able to be a model for the way in which the Blessed Virgin Mary can be understood to be a model for the character Galadriel.”

Father Noel helped the participants explore the difference between allegories and myths and how The Lord of the Rings falls into the latter category. On a broad level, he also discussed the clash between good and evil in the story.

“Father Noel became familiar with Tolkien’s story in a special way. “I began [reading] them when I was a young monk,” Father Noel said. “A friend sent them to me in the early 1960s for Christmas.”

“At the same Christmas, another person sent me some records of Ralph Vaughan Williams’ symphonies,” Father Noel remembered. “I listened to them and read the books at the same time. They seemed to fit together well.”

The same story that appealed to him some 40 years ago drew a wide variety of people to his retreat. Around 40 people participated, including a teen-ager as well as some senior citizens. Some had seen only the first installment in the movie trilogy. Others had read all three novels. One participant in particular had read most of Tolkien’s 12-volume History of Middle Earth.

Linus Mundy, the director of publications at One Caring Press (the publishing division of Abby Press), participated in the day of reflection on The Lord of the Rings at the alumni retreat.

“I very much enjoyed it. I was quite familiar with [the story],” Mundy said. “I had read it when we had our third child. When my wife was up [at night] with our child, I was up with Tolkien. I was kind of obsessed with it.”

His experience of the day of reflection showed him how Tolkien’s story appeals to various generations of readers and viewers.

“I thought that [the day of reflection] was profound,” Mundy noted. “I remember at the time that my youngest son and his friends were interested in the story, and I shared with them the discoveries that [Father] Noel had made. They were excited by them.”

Among those discoveries, Mundy felt that one of the more important was the focus in the story upon the dichotomy of pride and humility.

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Father Noel said. “The symbolism is very subtle. You have to dig to get at it.”

Lots of digging went on in the stories and movies at Saint Meinrad Archabbey in 2003. In March of that year, Benedicteine Father Noel Mueller presented a retreat titled “Rings and Things: A Lord of the Rings Retreat.” A day of reflection with the same title was given at Saint Meinrad’s alumni retreat in August.

Father Noel helped the participants explore the difference between allegories and myths and how The Lord of the Rings falls into the latter category. On a broad level, he also discussed the clash between good and evil in the story.

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“The depth and detail are unbelievable,” Nick said. “[Tolkien] created a whole world in which the history of each character can be traced.”

Of the three films, Nick said that he liked the last, The Return of the Ring, the best.

“I think that the third one is definitely the coolest,” Nick said, “because of the special effects and the huge number of orcs attacking the city of Minas Tirith.”

Nick first read The Lord of the Rings when he was 9 years old.

Father Larry Border’s first experience with the novels was 34 years ago when he was a junior in college.

He was drawn to the story at that time because of its own growing interest in history. “It had a whole sweep of history to it,” Father Borders said. “It was set against a big backdrop of a history created by Tolkien himself.”

Father Borders was also interested in the novels because of his study of linguistics. Tolkien, himself a linguistics scholar, had created the entire language of “Elvish” for the novels.

At the time that he first read the books, however, Father Borders had little knowledge of the religious elements woven into them. Although he knew that Tolkien had been Catholic, that fact “was neither here nor there” to him.

Father Borders only began to explore these aspects of the novels around the time that the movies started to appear in 2001. He encourages Catholics first to appreciate the story and the films for what they are and only afterward to consider their religious implications.

“First think of it as entertainment,” Father Borders said. “The symbolism is very subtle. You have to dig to get at it.”

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More particularly, he and the participants discussed particular religious elements in the novels and movies, such as the way in which the Blessed Virgin Mary can be understood to be a model for the character Galadriel.

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Among those discoveries, Mundy felt that one of the more important was the focus in the story upon the dichotomy of pride and humility.

“In the trilogy, pride is the ultimate sin. Humility is the key virtue,” Mundy said. “I think that this is a forgotten virtue. It’s important in our time for us to remember that.”

Through the movies and the novels, many Catholics throughout the archdiocese are now becoming reacquainted with these and other virtues of the faith woven into them. Tolkien as well as Jackson have thus left us a legacy of beauty and truth.

(Benedicteine Father Noel Mueller is currently reworking some material from the retreat. He is scheduled to present it again at Saint Meinrad’s Guest House on Aug. 20-22. For more information, call 800-381-6963.)
Rituals remind us of God’s presence and life’s purpose

By Dolores R. Leckey

The 17th-century Anglican priest-poet George Herbert, whose lyrics have enriched our English language for four centuries, held that society’s transformation could occur best in the context of corporate worship. The Church made visible through daily ritual would affect life beyond the church doors, Herbert believed. To that end, he entered his parish church twice a day for the reading of the Liturgy of the Hours, and parishioners, “including gentlemens,” often joined him. Even those in the fields unable to attend this daily worship would let their plow rest when the bell rang for prayers.

This emphasis on community ritual was unusual for Herbert’s time (the Reformation), which stressed individual responsibility before God. Can Herbert have any relevance for the 21st century? I think so. The post-modern world also stresses individualism while continuing to overlook anxiety and crises of meaning. People are worried about society’s smallest units—families—and larger concerns of war and peace.

Even without the regular ringing of parish bells, rituals large and small can remind us of life’s purpose and God’s presence.

The Washington Post recently ran a brief article about a psychological study that reported on what gifts people cherish most. The study, reported in the December 2003 Journal of Personality and Social Psychology, found that people are more likely to have happy memories associated with birthdays and anniversaries— and the family lore that often accompanies these feasts.

For some reason, I remember the details of the family meal (along with the book I was reading) that preceded each child’s birthday. For years, I served up that information along with the birthday cake. (I made my first pumpkin pie ever the day before my son Tom’s birth, and I was reading The Longest Day when Cohen was born.) The children loved it, and I loved being the narrator.

My children’s baptismal candles (now small stubs) are no longer in the desk drawer where they were kept for years. On the anniversary of baptism, the child lit the candle (usually with dessert), then it was packed away for another year. This ritual stopped with adolescence, but the candle reappeared at their weddings. On the altar was the sign of their early incorporation into the Christian community.

And then the candles went to their new homes, where presumably they mingle with the candles of the next generation. The Liturgy of the Hours follows the unfolding of the seasons of nature as well as the liturgical seasons, and family rituals often do likewise.

In spring, gardens are planted. In summer, they are “put down.” In between, in summertime, the fruits of thought and labor are enjoyed. Families connect with outdoor life. Children try new activities like theater, painting or fishing. Family reunions happen, and family pieces come together.

These seasonal movements are a form of ritual, and whether consciously or unconsciously, they take place in God’s embrace, even when tempers flare and the auto trip to grandfather’s farm seems interminable.

Such excursions mark our belonging together. Not unlike a classic pilgrimage, they have the potential to bring us to a new threshold of knowledge and understanding.

Rituals connect us to larger realities. As such, they are corrective to our disposions toward excessive self-referencing. We go to confession burdened with our pettiness, and we learn of God’s largesse.

We bring our personal stories to Mass, and there we encounter how these smaller stories intersect with the larger narrative of Christ among the people near and far. A sense of balance is restored in church as well as in “at-home” rituals.

This past Advent, I decided to forego the traditional Advent wreath. My husband had died in June, and I thought that in my new solitude I would create a new ritual, simply lighting a small vigil light in the evening.

I did that for the first week. The new ritual felt empty, signifying nothing. So I brought forth the Advent wreath used so many years. And with the lighting of the two candles for Advent’s first two weeks, the strangeness disappeared.

The ritual of Advent provided the comfort of connectedness, and was a reminder that Christ comes to us in the midst of confusion and tears and that the Church stands ready to hold us up in our times of trial.

George Herbert knew what he was talking about. Advent ended, and I read a Herbert poem: “Who could have thought my shrivelled heart/Could have recovered greenness?" Rituals, private and public, advance the recovery.

(A Dolores Leckey is a senior fellow at Woodstock Theological Center at Georgetown University in Washington, D.C.)

Activities create happy memories

By Daniel S. Mulhall

Meals are moments in a family’s life that are natural settings for ritual. Along with nursery rhymes, small children often learn simple mealtime grace, and their small prayers may constitute the family mealtime ritual.

As children grow older, spontaneous prayers sometimes is tried. It was in our family, and that worked until, with four teen-agers around our table, spontaneous sharing of the inner life was not come by easily. That’s when we tried the Psalms.

We took turns reading a psalm before dinner, and I noticed both attentiveness and relief on my dear adolescents’ faces. It made perfect sense. The Psalms are all about the struggle to be fully human and about God’s companionship and faithfulness in that struggle.

Those long-ago mealtime rituals were instructive for all of us.

Then there are the special meals associated with birthdays and anniversaries—and the family lore that often accompanies these feasts.

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Catholic patriots: Archbishop John Ireland (II)

We saw last week that Archbishop John Ireland of St. Paul, Minn., was known for his great talks about American patriotism. But he didn’t only talk about patriotism. He lived it. He went on the battlefield when he served as a chaplain in World War I. He endured all the hardships of the men he served by facing them head on with words of encouragement. There were numerous accounts of his bravery in countless engagements.

After the war was over, Father Ireland joined the Grand Army of the Republic and was said throughout the nation his name was more warmly cheered than that of the Missouri chaplain. He took special pride in his companionship with those who, like himself, were privileged to wear the Medal of Honor.

Ireland of St. Paul, Minn., was known for his Faithful Lines/ Shirley Vogler Meister

Helping to heal ‘achy breaky hearts’

With Valentine’s weekend here, many of us will be smiling because others are sharing their love with us. Many will be sad because they feel out of step. While most Americans celebrate in a fervent vacation or appropriate way, keep in mind that hearts might be crying because of broken hearts.

Heartbreak activities death and dying, physical pain, broken marriages or other relationships, disappointments in work and professions. Two things are in countless areas of life, including spiritual well-being. How are the brokenhearted healed? The following suggestions, gleaned from various sources as well as personal experience, might help.

First, no matter what the situation, don’t lose sight of what’s important, which is keeping our spiritual and emotional equilibrium. Especially don’t forget God’s promises. The Bible is filled with stories of people healing up after traumatic events. For example, Psalm 44:3, which tells us: “He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds.”

God’s strongest promise was fulfilled through the sacrifice of Jesus. In the Catholic Church, this legacy continues with the Eucharist. How often have we prayed, “Lord, I am not worthy to receive this Your holy Body and Blood but I shall be healed”? How often did the prayer really hit home?

According to a Marian Missionary Father John Hampsch, each time we approach the Eucharist with even a little faith, it resurrects the Jesus who lived and walked in the flesh, and lives in our hearts. Father Hampsch is the author of The Healing Power of the Eucharist and other books.

St. Joseph Father Robert DeGrands writes, “Each part of the Mass helps in the healing process ... I do not want to heal You far beyond your expectations.” This comes from his book, Healing through the Mass.

When brokenhearted, it is wise to put the problem into perspective, recognizing its place in what I call “the whole scope of things.” Try not to hire a lawyer, or call a self-help book, or try to solve your problem by yourself. Look around you and seek the comfort of those who are in a similar place. You can’t solve every problem. If you are brokenhearted, turn to God for help. He is the only one who can truly help you.

Love means being friendly and cooperative with neighbors, co-workers and service providers. It means saving our Earth in an environmentally friendly way and sharing our faith with others.

On thesporalfront, love means being faithful in every pertinent way. No game playing, only honesty and respect for your beloved. Love means listening, caring and always being there for your partner.

Love means giving new parents a hand when they ask for it, and being available for others who are emptying their parents encouraging grandchildren, filling in whatever inevitable gaps there are between them and their parents.

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The Sunday Readings

Sunday, Feb. 15, 2004

- Jeremiah 17:5-8
- 1 Corinthians 15:12-16, 20-26

The Book of Jeremiah is the source of the first reading.

Jeremiah was like the other prophets of ancient Israel whose writings are very austere. He felt that the greatest calamity in life was when his people ignored God.

In turn, ignoring God created circumstances that very quickly evolved into tragedies, personal or collective, which quickly moved on to be disasters.

In this reading, Jeremiah is very blunt in speaking about anyone who would turn away from God. His imagery is magnificently, and his meaning is clear. The person who ignores God “stands in a liable waste, a salt and empty earth.”

By contrast, the person who trusts God and is loyal to God will be “like a tree planted beside the waters.” He will have no fears. He will survive.

St. Paul’s First Epistle to the Corinthians provides the second reading.

For Paul, the state of the Christian community in Corinth was of concern. He is very worried about what he describes as quarrelling and flirtations with sin too often in the church. He is worried that the Corinthian Christians are not living up to what the Lord Jesus, first proclaimed as Son of God, taught them.

Redeemer, in the great liturgical feasts of Christmas, the Epiphany and the Baptism of the Lord.

If we choose to be with God, we will be among the loyal described by Jeremiah. We will be bonded to God, in Christ, through the Holy Spirit, even unto everlasting life, as Paul wrote to Corinth. If we are in and with God, we will be blessed. We will have given ourselves only to God.

The message is clear. Discipleship is no casual, or occasional, situation. It is absolute, born in an absolute, totally voluntary decision.

My Journey to God

Jesus

I ache for nothing but to see You, hold You and enfold my spirit into Thine precious Jesus. Nothing on earth is for me but that which reminds me of Your Love.

Flower, wind, mountain, stream—are these my voice in the wilderness when mundane and amid seem my tasks.

Others appear aloof and calloused by pain, unused that my mission is for You saturates the soul. Battles carry us beyond ourselves seeking greatness and the elimination of evil. I was born for Your justice, honor and love.

Material treasures are the driven message of the day, but inner songs speak the truth. Yours is the only True I long to embrace.

It remains a mystery where my journey is leading.

(Katrina Knarr is a member of St. John the Evangelist Parish in Indianapolis.)

Daily Readings

Monday, February 16

James 1:11
Psalm 119:67-68, 71-72, 75-76
Mark 8:11-13

Tuesday, February 17

Seven Founders of the Order of Servites, religious
James 1:12-18
Psalm 94:12-18, 19-19
Mark 8:14-21

Wednesday, February 18

James 1:19-27
Psalm 15:2-22

Thursday, February 19

James 2:1-9
Psalm 34:2-7
Mark 8:27-33

Question Corner/Fr. John Dietzen

Christians rely on faith to explain some beliefs

Q As a Catholic, I believe what the Church teaches about the Assumption of Mary. But I never learned any facts upon which this teaching is based. How can we have such an important fact and belief when there are no facts to back them up? Or have I missed something? (Indiana)

I'm not sure what you mean by facts.

For many of our Catholic and Christian beliefs, there are no physical “facts,” if that’s what you mean, to support them.

The facts do have to bolster our faith in the presence of our Lord in the Eucharist, for example, or our belief that the Bible is the word of God.

These are mysteries in the formal religious sense. We cannot know or comprehend them with our human faculties alone, without some direct revelation from God.

What Pope Pius XII wrote when proclaiming the dogma of the Assumption in 1950 applies to all divine mysteries.

The virgin Mary’s bodily assumption into heaven, said a truth “which surely no faculty of the human mind could know by its own natural powers” ("Munificentissimus Deus," §14).

We believe that some authentic facts, realities, are not certifiable by physical evidence or purely natural processes of logic. Among these is the promise of Jesus Christ that he would be with and guide his community of believers, his Church, until the end of time (Mt 28:20).

He assured the disciples that the Father would send the Spirit of truth, who “will teach you everything and remind you of all I told You and will guide you to all truth” (Jn 14:26 and 16:13).

If all Christians are unknown to the beginning, take those promises seriously. It doesn’t mean that the Church never will make a mistake or will be perfect. Made up of imperfect and sinful human beings from the top down, the Church could not be otherwise.

It does mean, however, that the Spirit of Jesus will keep the Church safe from any direction or teaching that could get it seriously off track and endanger its mission to be a sure instrument and channel of God’s saving grace for the human family. This is an essential “fact” of Catholic, and indeed all Christian, faith.

This leads to the further fact that, while the Church speaks sometimes through the pope or the collective body of bishops, the official teachers in the Church, the Holy Spirit also inspires, and speaks to and through, the people and especially the faithful on earth, bringing about what is known in theology as the “sensus fidei,” the faith of believers.

Pius XII’s declaration of the doctrine of the Assumption is a perfect example. Before the operative words proclaiming the dogma, he devotes pages to explaining carefully exactly what is being done and especially establishing the extensive, centuries-old belief of Catholics worldwide that this teaching regarding Mary was prefigured in the Old Testament.

He reviews evidence of this belief in devotions and liturgy, in the dedication of churches, religious orders and every sort of religious institution and activity to our Lady under the title of her assumption.

He explains how the teaching accords with Scripture and other great Christian traditions, and why, for more than 1,000 years, theologians, including St. Albert the Great and St. Thomas Aquinas, witnessed in its favor. If you want to read the whole document, use the Google search engine to find “Munificentissimus Deus” on the Internet.

Finally, four years before the declaration, he wrote to all bishops, inquiring whether the Assumption could be proposed and defined as a dogma of faith.

“Do you, with your clergy and people, desire that it should be [defined]?” he asked. The response was overwhelmingly positive.

Perhaps, especially dealing with things of God, “facts” are where you find them. As with love, God, beauty and nearly all other truly important facts of life, we do not understand. We just know.

(A free brochure answering questions that Catholics ask about Mary, mother of Jesus, is available by sending a stamped, self-addressed envelope to Father John Dietzen, Box 325, Peoria, IL 61612. Questions may be sent to Father Dietzen at the same address or by e-mail in care of justfeten@oad.com.)

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The Criterion Friday, February 13, 2004
The Criterion welcomes announcements of archdiocesan Church and parish open-to-public activities for "The Active List." Please be brief—listing date, location, event, sponsor, cost and time. Include a phone number for verification. No announcements will be taken by telephone.

Notices must be in our office by 5 p.m. Thursday 1 week in advance of [Friday publication]: the Criterion, The Active List, 4630 N. Indiana Ave., Indianapolis, Ind. 46205 (call 317-237-1593 fax: mlmekc@archindy.org - e-mail).  

February 13  
Our Lady of Peace Cemetery, 901 Haverstick Road, Indianapolis. St. Valentine's Mass, 6 p.m.

February 14  
St. Elizabeth Seton Parish, 18655 Haverstick Road, Carmel, Ind. Diocese of Lafayette. The Couple to Couple League of Indianapolis, Natural Family Planning class, 7-9 p.m. Information: 317-729-2276.

February 15-13
Mount Saint Francis Retreat Center, Floyd County. "We Are God's Chosen People," retreat at Mount St. Francis Retreat Center, 3145 E. Thompson Road, Indianapolis. "Freedom from Smoking," seven-week class, 6:45-8:45 p.m., $50 per person, $25 due at first class. Information: 317-738-7992.

February 16  

February 17  
St. Francis House Health and Hospice, 438 S. Emerson Ave., Greenwood. Sixth in a six-part, week-end retreat for new parents who do not have a group for any adult grieving the death of a loved one, 6:30-8 p.m. Information: 317-365-2092.

February 18  
Marian College, Chapel, 3200 Cold Spring Road, Indianapolis. Civilian Dei meeting, 5:30 p.m., sacrament of reconciliation, 5:45 p.m., Mass, 6:30 p.m., meeting, Allison Mansion, "Honored on Finance: Church Liturgical for the 21st Century," Dave Stephens, presenter Information: 317-253-1678.


Holy Rosary Church, 520 Stevens St., Indianapolis. "Love and Responsibility," Scott Sulliv- 

February 19  

February 20  
St. Francis Hospice, 1400 N. Meridian St., Indianapolis. Catholic Widows Organization, meeting, 7 p.m. Information: 317-234-4207.

February 22  
St. Rita Parish, 1733 Dr. Andrew Brown Ave., Indianapolis. Black History Month observance, Men’s Mass, Sunday, 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Information: 317-629-3554 or e-mail frburwink@seidata.com or log on to Schoenstatt Web site at www.seidata.com/~frburwink.

February 24-15

February 26  

February 27  
Mount Saint Francis Hospital, 1530 Union St., Indianapolis. "Forming a Sacramental Ministry of Peace in the Church," Dr. Ross A. Little, 7-9 a.m. noon, free-noon, free event.

Mary’s Village’s Kingdom Schen- 

resides (located on 925 Kessler Blvd., E. Dr., Indianapolis. Our Lady of Peace Cemetery, 1100 N. Post Road, Indianapolis. Family Planning (NFP) class, 6-8:30 p.m. Information: 317-820-3850.

February 28  
Sellersburg. "The settings of Lenten Fourth Wednesdays Holy Rosary Church, 520 Stevens St., Indianapolis. "Love and Responsibility," Scott Sulli- 

February 29-28
Brian Clinton, 5200 Cold Spring Road, Indianapolis. Catholic Charismatic Renewal of Central Indiana, "Life in the Spirit" seminar, Father Albert Ajamu, Jesuit Father Benjamin Hawley and Benedictine Father Noel Mueller, presentations, 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. for each class, 6-8:30 p.m., $25 due at first class. Information: 317-236-1593 or e-mail frburwink@seidata.com.
Benedictine sisters will teach Lectio Divina course in March

By Mary Ann Wyand

BEECH GROVE—Learn to pray in new ways. Learn to know God in new ways. Learn tools to see God at work in your life. Learn to understand yourself in new ways.

Those are goals of Lectio Divina, a Scripture-based method of slow, contemplative prayer dating back more than 1,500 years to the time of St. Benedict, and kept alive through the centuries by Benedictines, that is as relevant today as it was in the early centuries of the Church.

Four Sisters of St. Benedict of Our Lady of Grace Monastery in Beech Grove will teach variations of this ancient form of prayer—lectio (reading and listening), meditatio (meditation), oratio (prayer) and contemplatio (contemplation)—during their first “School of Lectio Divina” retreat on March 13-19 at the Benedict Inn Retreat and Conference Center in Beech Grove. Other Lectio Divina courses are scheduled later this year and during 2005 at the Benedictine retreat center.

Benedictine Sister Mary Margaret Funk, executive director of monastic interreligious dialogue since 1995, has taught Lectio Divina classes in the U.S., England, Ireland, India and many other countries.

Sister Mary Margaret said the weeklong silent retreat for lay and religious men and women will teach participants how to “retrieve the ancient ways of meeting Christ through the revelatory text of Scripture, nature or experience with our spiritual senses.”

She said the monastic-style retreat will guide participants in techniques to practice Lectio Divina, discover their own personal ways of praying and learn how to remove obstacles to prayer. The retreat also will enable participants to pray with “like-minded souls,” articulate their way of praying, and integrate prayer and work.

“Lectio Divina” is Latin and means sacred reading or inspired reading. “It literally means God, reading God.”

Sister Mary Margaret teaches source material from The Rule of St. Benedict in Lectio Divina classes.

“Benedict used about 40 source documents to write his Rule,” she said, “so I went back through those sources and found that they were very practice-oriented—teaching meditation practice—how to pray, how to reduce the affective thoughts that impede prayer and calm the mind, and training in prayer.”

The retreat will examine more than 20 ways of receiving grace through prayer, she said, by disciplining the mind to experience the deeper levels of contemplation.

“Lectio Divina involves putting the Scripture in your heart,” she said. “It is God coming through the inspired text of Scripture—that’s the usual way—or God coming through a life experience or in nature. Those are the three classic revelatory texts—Scripture, nature and experience.

“Scripture is said to be—and we believe it to be—inspired,” Sister Mary Margaret said. “Inspired or revealed text has four layers—the literal sense, the symbolic sense, the moral sense and the mystical or contemplative sense, which is resting in the God that you find through that process.”

Sister Mary Margaret will introduce retreatants to the practice of Lectio Divina with Sister Jennifer Mechtild Horner, who also will teach the literal sense of this form of prayer—why Scripture is so powerful. Sister Juliana Babcock will offer instruction in using art as a form of meditative prayer. Sister Carol Falkner, prioress, also will serve as a teacher and spiritual director.

Each sister will be available for spiritual direction to help retreatants find their personal event—how God is breaking through Scripture, life experience or nature in their lives—then continue to explore that event more deeply throughout the week.

“It’s easiest to teach Lectio Divina through Scripture, but you can also teach it through life experiences,” Sister Mary Margaret said. “You can learn to lay aside your afflictions for the sake of prayer. Once you deal with the afflictions, then there are two other goals. One is to find your prayer practice and the other is abandonment to the present moment. There are 26 practices in all that you learn, then you find which one fits your personal way of praying.”

The comprehensive retreat also includes daily Mass, morning prayer and evening praise with the monastic community. Benedictine Father Matthias Newman, chaplain, will preside at eucharistic liturgies in the monastery chapel and hear confessions.

“It’s a taste of a monastic experience, entirely in silence,” Sister Mary Margaret said. “We will get up early and meditate every morning then go to the chapel for morning prayer and Mass. There are morning and afternoon sessions and evening praise. All meals will be taken in silence.”

Sister Juliana said she enjoys teaching others to use art as a form of meditation and a way to deepen their prayer.

“Using art to meditate with deepens prayer,” she said, “because it helps people move from being head-centered to being more heart-centered in their relationship with God.”

(For information, call the Benedict Inn at 317-788-7581.)

The Active List, continued from page 12

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

Brebeuf Jesuit Preparatory School, 2800 W. 96th St., Indianapolis. Indiana Autism and Spectrum Club meeting, 7-9 p.m., child care provided. Information: 317-885-7295.

First Fridays
St. Vincent de Paul Church, 1723 “S” St., Bedford. Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament after 8:30 a.m. Mass—9 a.m. Sat. morning, reconciliation, 4-6 p.m., Sat. 8-9 a.m., “Children of Hope” program, Holy hour for children. Information: 812-275-6539.

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. Peter Church, 1207 East Road, Brooks. Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament after 8 a.m. until Communion service, 1 p.m., Holy Guardian Angel Church, 405 U.S. 52, Cedar Grove. Eucharistic adoration after 8 a.m. Mass, 5 p.m.

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: 317-859-4673.

St. Francis Hospital, 1927 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 S. Washington St., Indianapolis. Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament after 5:30 a.m. Saturday. Information: 317-436-4478.

Our Lady of Lourdes Church, 3333 E. Washington St., Indianapolis. Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, prayer service, 7:30 p.m.
Rest in peace

Please submit in writing to our office by 10 a.m. Thursday before the week of publication; be sure to state date of death. Obituaries of archdiocesan priests serving our archdiocese are listed elsewhere in The Criterion. Order priests and religious sisters and brothers are included here, unless they are natives of the archdiocese or have other connections to those are separate obituaries on the site.


BRADLEY, Candace, 80, St. Albans, Delaware, Jan. 17. Wife of James. Great-grandmother of 36.


LICKLE, Rolando, 77, St. Albans, Indiana, Jan. 20. Great-grandfather of three.

DURR, Mary, 81, St. Albans, Indiana, Jan. 20. Great-grandmother of 30.


BEA VIN, Bertha E., 81, Indianapolis, Jan. 23. Great-grandmother of 12.


MERRILL, Rosemary, 80, St. Albans, Delaware, Jan. 25. Great-grandmother of 10.

BEACOM, Brother Rowen, 78, St. Albans, Delaware, Jan. 25. Great-grandfather of 36.


BEITZ, Gene, 67, Edinburg, Indiana, Jan. 27. Great-grandfather of 12.


WARREN, Bertha, 92, Indianapolis, Jan. 28. Great-grandmother of 10.

YOUNG, Grace, 80, St. Albans, Indiana, Jan. 30. Husband of Carl. Great-grandson of six.

MURPHY, John, 80, St. Albans, Indiana, Jan. 30. Great-grandson of four.


Perlman, Michael, 80, Indianapolis, Jan. 31. Great-grandson of two.


SCHILLER, Joseph, 80, Indianapolis, Jan. 31. Great-grandfather of four.


BROWN, Mary, 80, Indianapolis, Jan. 31. Great-grandmother of 12.


WENDE, Clarence, 80, Indianapolis, Jan. 31. Great-grandfather of 12.


SHERWOOD, John, 80, Indianapolis, Jan. 31. Great-grandfather of 12.

DODSON, Margaret, 81, Indianapolis, Jan. 31. Great-grandmother of 12.

DILL, Margaret, 90, Bloomington, Indiana, Jan. 31. Great-grandmother of 12.


Assistant Director of Music Ministries

St. Elizabeth Seton Catholic Church, a growing, vibrant parish of 2,200 families in the southern most part of Hamilton County, Indiana (and the Lafayette Diocese) seeks to hire an Assistant Director of Music Ministries as a half-time position with benefits. We offer a very competitive compensation package, including insurance benefits and school tuition for graduate studies. The ideal candidate should have a B.A. degree in Music either in keyboard performance, choral directing, or its equivalent. Job description to be tailored to Music either in keyboard performance, choral directing, or its equivalent. Job description to be tailored to

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Director: Deeney Catechetical Ministry Office

The New Albany Deanery Office of Faith Formation (Aquinas Center) in Clarksville, Indiana is seeking a full-time director to implement and oversee deanery faith formation activities beginning July 1, 2004

The application for this position will serve the deanery community by articulating the vision of faith formation. The deanery director will be responsible for advocating for the deanery with the Archdiocese and within the deanery itself, marketing deeney catechetical ministry, expanding the technology of the deeney center, leadership recruitment and formation, resourcing catechetical leaders, and fostering a stewardship of resources and personnel within the deanery. Experience in catechetical ministry, technology, and marketing/development/stewardship is essential. 

Direct inquiries/resumes are to be sent by March 31 to 

Harry Dudley, Office of Catholic Education

Archdiocese of Indianapolis

1400 North Meridian St. 

Indianapolis, IN 46202-2367

President

Our Lady of Providence Junior/Senior High School, a comprehensive co-educational archdiocesan Catholic school located in Clarksville, Indiana (Louisville, KY metropolitan area) seeks a dynamic and innovative leader for its nationally recognized School of Excellence beginning July 1, 2004. The President is the CEO of the school and reports to a Board of Directors, the Dean of the New Albany Deanery, and the Office of Catholic Education of the Archdiocese of Indianapolis. The President works closely with the school Principal and the Directors of Finance and Development.

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-Exemplary communication and organizational skills

-Ability to involve others in the vision and mission of the school

Send letter of interest to: 

Ms. Mickey Lentz

President’s Search Committee

Office of Catholic Education

1400 N. Meridian Street

Indianapolis, IN 46202

Deadline for application: March 1, 2004

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- Send letter of interest to: 

Dr. Phyllis Bussing

Director of Schools

Office of Catholic Education

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News briefs

U.S.

Pro-life group takes on Georgetown over aborted fetal cell lines

WASHINGTON (CNS)—A Florida pro-life group headed by a Catholic woman has pledged to continue its efforts to stop research at Georgetown University Medical Center in Washington that uses cells lines derived from aborted fetuses. "It is an outrage and a scandal that any Catholic facility could condone the use of aborted fetal cell lines, regardless of how long ago the abortions occurred," says a petition addressed to Cardinal Theodore McCarrick of Washington on the Web site www.pro- life.org, which is the site of the organization Children of God for Life. The petition asks the cardinal to “use your authority and put an end to the unnecessary use of aborted fetal cell lines, which actually diverts important funding and hinders other noble and morally responsible research.” Debra L. Vinnedge, a member of St. Catherine of Siena Parish in Clearwater, Fla., who is president and executive director of Children of God for Life, told Catholic News Service in a Feb. 6 telephone interview that the petition had received 2,000 online signatures in less than a week.

Interfaith clergy unite to influence supermarket strike in California

LOS ANGELES (CNS)—Tim and Tierra Loftus were hit doubly hard by the strike that has idled 70,000 members of the United Food and Commercial Workers union at more than 850 supermarkets, including Safeway Inc.’s Vons and Pavilions stores and Kroger Co.’s Ralphs and Albertsons stores. Tierra Loftus, 27, was working as a service deli clerk at an Albertsons and her 30-year-old husband was a night crew food clerk at a Vons in Burbank Robles when the strike began in mid-October. Nearly four months later, the couple and their three young children depend on monetary help from Tierra Loftus’ mother. A sympathetic landlord allows them to send what rent they can. Most of the bills are going unpaid. At first, Tim Loftus said he thought grocery store workers were alone in their fight. Then he noticed customers not crossing the picket line. Others have brought food, organized potlucks or barbecues for the striking and locked-out workers. The two also found encouragement in a recent pilgrimage led by a group of interfaith clergy from Los Angeles County to the Alamo home of Safeway chief executive officer Steven Burd in the hope of jump-starting the stalled negotiations. “We didn’t realize how vast the support was, especially through the religious community,” Tierra Loftus told The Tides, newspaper of the Los Angeles Archdiocese.

Chicago cardinal says archdiocese not yet starting tithing program

CHICAGO (CNS)—The Chicago Archdiocese has no immediate plans to start a parish tithing program despite news reports that it would begin such a program. Cardinal Francis E. George said in a letter published in The Chicago Sun-Times daily newspaper on Feb. 3 that while some offices of the archdiocese have looked into how another diocese initiated a tithing program, Chicago is nowhere near implementing such a plan soon,” as the newspaper reported a few days earlier. The Feb. 1 news story said the 2.4 million Catholics in Illinois’ Cook and Lake counties would be asked to begin tithing the practice of giving 10 percent of one’s income to the Church. A Sun-Times editorial on Feb. 3 commended the archdiocese for its work in the community and encouraged the tithing idea. Cardinal George’s letter said the reports suggested the archdiocese is much further along in considering a tithing program than it really is. “I wish we were, but we’re not,” he wrote. “Neither I nor any other official of the archdiocese has plans to ask all Catholics in the archdiocese to give 10 percent this year or anytime soon without a lot of serious conversation and preparation,” the cardinal’s letter said.

WORLD

Pope encourages French parish life renewal, evangelization

VATICAN CITY (CNS)—Renewal of parish life is essential in order for French Catholics to regain their evangelical and social impact in society, Pope John Paul II said. The pope, speaking to a group of French bishops on Feb. 7, said all lay Catholics need to experience parish life as a living community of faith oriented toward evangelization. Pastors need to be open to the potential contributions of lay movements and should make special efforts to welcome priests and laity who belong to more traditional groups, he said. The bishops, from two southern French provinces, were on their ad limina visits, made every five years to the Vatican. As in his previous talks to other groups of French bishops, the pope acknowledged that parish life has suffered because of a worsening shortage of priests in France. But he praised the bishops for carrying out a pastoral reorganization in many dioceses, with regrouping of parishes to reflect the priest shortage and the urbanization of the Church’s members.

Vatican completes draft of new 150-page minicatechism

VATICAN CITY (CNS)—The Vatican has completed a draft of a 150-page minicatechism and is sending the text to cardinals and bishops’ conferences for review, a Vatican source said. Pope John Paul II commissioned the shorter, simpler version of the 865-page Catechism of the Catholic Church last year, and a 10-member commission has been working on the text since March. The source said Feb. 9 that over the next few months the commission would consider the input of cardinals and bishops’ conferences, and that a final draft is expected to be completed later this year. The minicatechism outlines Church teachings in four parts, under the headings of profession of faith, sacraments, commandments and prayer, the source said. The work on the draft was considered unusually fast by Vatican standards. Last year, Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger, head of the Vatican’s doctrinal congregation and president of the drafting commission, said he expected the preparation work to take about two years. †