Number of U.S. Catholics, deacons up; priests, religious down

WASHINGTON (CNS)—New figures show the U.S. Catholic population continues to grow. The number of deacons serving them is on the rise, but the numbers of priests and religious brothers and sisters are down. The long-term slide in Church marriages continues.

The 2004 edition of the Official Catholic Directory showed some drop in the number of U.S. Catholic colleges, high schools and elementary schools and in the number of students attending them, but slight increases in the number of elementary and high school youths served by parish-based religious education programs.

A Catholic News Service analysis of diocesan clergy figures showed nearly three out of every 10 diocesan priests in the country are now classified as retired, sick or on leave.

Kv Desmond in church circles as the Kenedy Directory for its publisher’s imprint, the 2,300-page directory is an annual publication that provides detailed information about diocesan offices and Catholic parishes, schools, hospitals, religious houses and personed in each U.S. diocese. It has statistical data on Church life ranging from the number of baptisms and first Communions in the past year to the number of parishes, schools and hospitals and the number of patients treated in Catholic health facilities.

The directory is published from offices in New Providence, N.J.

The U.S. Catholic population at the start of 2004, according to the directory, was 67,259,768—an increase of some 850,000 over the 66,407,702 reported in 2003. Catholics continue to make up 23 percent of the total U.S. population.

The directory’s national figures include data from Puerto Rico, a U.S. commonwealth, and U.S. territories overseas such as the U.S. Virgin Islands, American Samoa and Guam.

The number of priests declined slightly from 44,487 last year to 44,212 this year. Of these, 14,729 were members of religious orders and 29,483 were diocesan.

The directory reported an increase in the number of permanent deacons, from 14,106 last year to 14,693 this year.

The number of religious brothers was 5,564, or 64 fewer than last year.

Religious sisters numbered 71,468, a decline of 3,212 from last year.

The directory reported that there were 544 new ordinations to the priesthood in the past year—from 449 the previous year—but the new figure was inflated by an erroneously recording of 61 ordinations.

Bush and Kerry differ sharply on human cloning, stem-cell research

Editor’s note: The U.S. bishops’ Administrative Committee adopted “Faithful Citizenship: A Catholic Call to Political Responsibility” as a blueprint on how Catholic social teaching should affect political participation by Catholics. Here is one story in an ongoing Catholic News Service series about how the stands of the Democratic and Republican presidential candidates stack up with “Faithful Citizenship.”

WASHINGTON (CNS)—With the rapid advances in medicine, science and technology, beginning-of-life issues that seemed a remote possibility in 2000 have emerged as hot political topics in 2004.

In the forefront are human cloning and stem-cell research using human embryos. Human cloning, at least of embryos, is now a laboratory reality.

On both issues, President George W. Bush and U.S. Sen. John F. Kerry of Massachusetts, his likely Democratic opponent in the November presidential election, have sharp differences.

The June 5 death of former President Ronald Reagan, who suffered from Alzheimer’s disease, revived the political debate over federal funding of human embryonic stem-cell research, which de

Summer vocations camp encourages youths to pray and listen to God

By Sean Gallagher

MOORESVILLE—They prayed together, heard presentations from visiting speakers about living out their faith, made crafts, played games, attended Mass each day and even went hiking.

This wasn’t the typical Vacation Bible School that many parishes sponsor each summer. It was St. Thomas More Parish’s first vocations summer camp.

As many as 25 youths gathered from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on June 28 to July 4 to think and pray about the vocation that God has planned for each of them. The youths, who will be in grades 5 through 8 this school year, were members of St. Thomas More Parish and other nearby parishes.

Although published materials for Vacation Bible School abound, few if any resources for a vocations camp exist. So the pastoral staff of St. Thomas More Parish, led by the parish’s pastor, Father Rick Eldred, had to formulate the program from scratch.

The task at first seemed daunting to him, but prayer seemed to open the way.

“One evening, I went into the adoration chapel, not having a clue what we were doing,” Father Eldred said, “and by the time I was done with an hour of prayer, I had the whole week’s schedule on paper.”

Just as Father Eldred didn’t know what to expect from the camp, neither did the youths, who attended it.

“I didn’t know what to expect,” said Joe Clady, an eighth-grader at Our Lady of the Greenwood School. “I got a letter for it and I didn’t know what it was going to be like. So I came and I liked the first day and then I came back the second day.”

What Joe and the other campers experienced each day was a variety of prayer, crafts, games, and visits from diocesan priests and members of religious orders such as the Sisters of St. Francis of Oldenburg and the Little Sisters of the Blessed Mother Theodore Guerin.
facto destroys the embryos. The debate has surfaced even as many sci-
ents favoring such research said stem cells hold out little hope for Alzheimer’s patients, but offer promise in the fight against other major illnesses such as heart disease, diabetes and Parkinson’s disease.

As president, Bush has restricted fed-

eral funding of human embryonic stem-
cell research to only those lines in exis-
tence on Aug. 9, 2001, the date he an-
nounced the policy. Kerry favors relax-
ing these rules to allow federal funding of research using embryonic stem-cell lines developed after the Bush deadline.

Regarding cloning, Bush has said he would support legislation banning all human cloning. A total ban has passed the House of Representatives and a similar bill is in the Senate. Kerry supports a rival Senate bill that would ban cloning for human reproduction but would allow the cloning of human embryos for medical research.

While the bishops do not endorse candi-
dates, they take stands on issues. On these issues, Bush’s stands are more in line with the positions taken by the U.S. bishops.

In their 2003 voter guideline docu-
ment, “Faithful Citizenship: A Catholic Call to Political Responsibility,” the bish-
ops based their opposition to human embryonic stem-cell research and human cloning on the principle that human life begins at conception. “The destruction of human embryos as objects of research is wrong. This wrong is compounded when human life is cre-
ated by cloning or other means only to be destroyed,” said the bishops’ document.

“We call on government and medical researchers to base their decisions regard-
ing biotechnology and human experimen-
tation on respect for the inherent dignity and inviolability of human life from its very beginning, regardless of the circum-
stances of its creation,” it says.

Regarding human cloning, separate statements by Church officials have sup-
ported the total ban contained in a bill that passed the House in 2003 and in a Senate bill sponsored by Sen. Sam Brownback, R-Kan. Bush supports both bills.

Kerry supports a rival Senate bill spon-

sored by Sen. Orrin Hatch, R-Utah, which would ban cloning for human reproduc-

tion but allow it for research purposes, said Andy Davis, a spokesman in Kerry’s Senate office.

Catholic bioethicists have noted that the Church’s opposition to using embryonic stem cells is not a hindrance to research. They cite research with adult stem cells as more promising, since embryonic stem cells are said to be more unstable.

Stem cells are basic cells capable of transforming themselves into the special-
ized cells present in specific body organs. Currently, embryonic stem-cell research involves embryos created in vitro by unit-

ing a sperm and egg in a laboratory.

Supporters of embryonic research say stem cells from embryos can be trans-
formed into more types of specialized cells than adult stem cells can.

Many supporters of embryonic research also favor legalizing the cloning of human embryos solely for research purposes to provide more cells for investiga-
tion. This type of cloning is often called “therapeutic cloning.”

John M. Haas, president of the National Catholic Bioethics Center in Boston, said the Church opposes “therapeutic cloning” because it still involves destroying human embryos in the research. Haas also noted that Bush’s restrictions on federal funding of embryonic stem-cell research do not prohibit private funding of such research.

But private funds have not been plenti-
ful because there are “not enough positive results on embryonic stem-cell research for venture capitalists,” said Haas. “It doesn’t hold out nearly the promise as adult stem cells.”

Haas said a main reason behind Bush’s restriction of federal funding to previously existing cell lines was that “he didn’t want any more embryos destroyed.”

Right after Bush announced his stem-
cell policy, Kerry issued a statement oppos-
ing the ban on federal funding of future cell lines.

This year, Kerry was one of 58 sena-
tors who signed a June 4 letter to Bus-

h asking that the ban on federal funding be lifted. In a June 12 radio speech, Kerry noted that there were “ethical concerns” about research with embryos “because people of good will and good sense can resolve them.”

The Bush administration has said it will not change the current policy. The bishops’ stem-cell stand is having an influence on Catholics, according to a recent survey. A Le Moyne College/Zogby

International poll released on July 7 showed that 73 percent of Catholics sur-
cy on adult stem-cell research and 63 percent oppose using embryonic stem cells. The margin of error was plus or minus 2.7 percent.

In that regard, they’re not that differ-

ent than the general public whose support overall is stronger for adult stem-cell research,” said Teresa Beaty, chemistry and physics professor at Le Moyne College in Syracuse, N.Y. †

---

**U.S. CHURCH NUMBERS**

The gap between Catholics and priests continued to broaden as the number of parishes dropped slightly in the last 14 years.

**Total Number of Catholic Church Establishments**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Diocese Year</th>
<th>Number of Establishments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1987</td>
<td>2,167</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1997</td>
<td>2,107</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2007</td>
<td>2,057</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

**ELECTION**

Continued from page 1

---

**THE CRITERION**

Moving?

We’ll be there if you give us two weeks’ advance notice!

**THE CRITERION**

P.O. Box 1717

Indianapolis, IN 46206-1717

---

**THE CRITERION**

ISSN 0574-4350

Published weekly except the last week of December and the first week of January.

Address Changes:

The Criterion Press, Inc.

P.O. Box 1717

Indianapolis, IN 46206-1717

---

**THE CRITERION**

ISSN 0574-4350

Published weekly except the last week of December and the first week of January.

---

**THE CRITERION**

ISSN 0574-4350

Published weekly except the last week of December and the first week of January.

---

**THE CRITERION**

ISSN 0574-4350

Published weekly except the last week of December and the first week of January.
Youth learn how Christian leadership flows from Christ

By Brandon A. Evans

The young Catholics of the archdiocese seem to have a firm grasp of the theme of leadership, said Father Robert Robeson, director of youth and young adult ministry for the archdiocese.

This was evident, he said, in the 56 high school students that came to learn more about being a Christian leader during the Catholic Leadership Conference on July 12-16 at Marian College in Indianapolis.

The annual event offers young people a chance to learn how to be more effective leaders in their parishes and schools. Father Robeson said that he used the importance that the youths place on leadership to teach about leadership. “The most important leadership in your life is your leadership with Christ,” Father Robeson said that he told them. “Christian leadership, and leadership in general, really cannot be exercised apart from Jesus Christ [and] the grace of Jesus Christ.”

He said that he wanted the youths to walk away from the conference with a “deeper personal relationship with Jesus Christ, a deeper and more accurate understanding of the Mass … [and] a wider exposure to traditional and maybe not so traditional forms of Catholic prayer.”

Prayer was the centerpiece of the conference. Before meals, the youths sang a traditional forms of Catholic prayer.”

There was also a chance for them to reflect on their Mass faith and witness talks.

There were also sessions that dealt with apologetics, social justice, Scripture and witness talks.

Father Meyer, the associate director of youth and young adult ministry, led the apologetics session, in which the teenagers played a game similar to Jeopardy. He used the questions and answers to illustrate truths of the faith and help the young people to defend them.

Father [Jonathan] Meyer explained the depth [workshop] where we went and moved on to the actual dinner. He used the questions and answers to illustrate truths of the faith and help the young people to defend them.

He said that he wanted the youths to walk away from the conference with a “deeper personal relationship with Jesus Christ, a deeper and more accurate understanding of the Mass … [and] a wider exposure to traditional and maybe not so traditional forms of Catholic prayer.”

Prayer was the centerpiece of the conference. Before meals, the youths sang a Thanksgiving song that was set to the theme, complete with each person raising his or her arms into the air. “Superman, you can fly,” Tracey said. “It’s encouraging to have other people that are really here for the same reason as you and really enthusiastic about their faith. It makes the Mass more meaningful.”

Josh Jeffers, a junior at Terre Haute North High School and a member of Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish in Terre Haute, said that allowing different groups to plan the Masses and prayers was nice. “I really liked it when we had an indepth [workshop] where we went and Father [Jonathan] Meyer explained the whole Mass to us and what each thing meant and why we do certain things,” Josh said. “That was really cool because it just made a lot more sense afterward.”

A large amount of time during the week was also spent on similar indepth workshops and large and small group sessions. The youths learned about things that ranged from retreat leadership and ministry to chastity.

There were also sessions that dealt with apologetics, social justice, Scripture and witness talks.

Father Meyer, the associate director of youth and young adult ministry, led the apologetics session, in which the teenagers played a game similar to Jeopardy. He used the questions and answers to illustrate truths of the faith and help the young people to defend them.

Father [Jonathan] Meyer explained the depth [workshop] where we went and moved on to the actual dinner. He used the questions and answers to illustrate truths of the faith and help the young people to defend them.

The Mass each day as well as Morning and Evening Prayer. A different group of youths planned the daily Mass and Evening Prayer.

There was also a chance for reconciliation, and so many people wished to avail themselves of the sacrament that Father Robeson felt the need to plan more time for it.

“I really enjoyed the rosary walks we’ve had in the morning,” said Tracey Horan, a junior at Roncalli High School and a member of St. Jude Parish in Indianapolis. It can be hard to incorporate personal prayer into the business of daily living, but that was one way to do it, she said.

“The Masses have really been amazing,” Tracey said. “It’s encouraging to have other people that are really here for the same reason as you and really enthusiastic about their faith. It makes the Mass more meaningful.”

Youth learn the finer points of etiquette

By Brandon A. Evans

How to properly eat soup probably isn’t the first thing people think of when it comes to leadership. Nevertheless, proper etiquette plays an important role in leadership, said Sarah Watson, youth minister at St. Michael the Archangel Parish in Indianapolis.

She was part of the leadership team and presented a mini-etiquette course at the Catholic Leadership Conference on July 15.

The conference, which was held July 12-16, helped more than 50 high school students from around the archdiocese learn how to be better leaders in their parishes and schools.

All of the students attended Watson’s course, where she spent nearly an hour explaining to them how to make their way through a semi-formal dinner. She began by talking about different types of diners—formal, semi-formal, casual, etc.—and the proper attire for each.

She included details about undergarments, perfume and cleanliness, then moved on to the actual dinner. Each participant was given a chart explaining the proper placement and use of the different plates, utensils and glasses.

Watson told them how to eat soup, how to cut items in a salad and on a plate, how to pass items and, of course, how not to chew your food. Etiquette is important, she said.

More than 50 young people from around the archdiocese gathered at Marian College on July 12-16 for the Catholic Leadership Conference. The high school students learned how to be more effective leaders in their parish and school communities.

Shelby Upholstering

30% off

Selected Fabrics

• Custom reupholstery
• Custom Window Treatments
• Custom event etiquette...Flock to see it”—Indianapolis Star

Now Playing at the IRT’s Uppertage

Held Over!

“Hilarious... Flock to see it”—Indianapolis Star

CALL 635.5252

Now Playing at the IRT’s Upperstage

1932 Same family third generation. Check out our website

shelbyupholstering.com

317-651-8911 1-800-331-7697

317-631-8911 1-800-331-7697

Redfern, a junior of the Archangel Parish in Indianapolis.

Sarah Watson, youth minister at St. Michael the Archangel Parish in Indianapolis and a member of the leadership team for the Catholic Leadership Conference, instructs a group of young Catholics on the rules of etiquette. Father Jonathan Meyer, associate director of youth and young adult ministry for the archdiocese, served as an assistant for Watson’s presentation.
Letters to the Editor

Abortion is the issue of our time

A previous letter to The Criterion stated that, “One of the last things we should want to see in this country operating with fewer and fewer Catholic politicians.”

In Catholic politicians must include Catholic beliefs in casting votes—why does it matter if fewer Catholics are in office? The author proposes that since Catholic politicians must be secularists. The horrific practice of abortion is the issue of our time. In lay off responsibility to witness truth on the diversity of our people is to denigrate the significance of this glorious issue for the face of America. Nothing more clearly defines a people than the way it treats the innocents—they be in the womb or at a small age.

J. Johnson, Indianapolis

Whether politician or voter, abortion is evil

There should be no distinction between public officials and voters on the subject of abortion. A few months in Washington regarding abortion, the gang was honored by Sen. Hillary Clinton screaming her head off to keep abortion legal. The Catholic vote is a big vote and it helped to put two pro-abortion candidates in the White House.

Ronald Reagan and George Bush had no shame about being pro-life. On the other hand, John Kerry is one of the few senators in favor of partial-birth abortion. These individuals know that abortion affects all they want. It is wrong and it’s evil. I now refer to this quote by Cardinal Theodore E. McCarrick of Washington, who said, “There is a need for a traditional practice of the Church and our con- sultation with members of our confreres, other episcopal conferences, distin- guished canonists and theologians, our task force does not advocate the denial of Communion for Catholic politicians or Catholic voters in these circumstances.”

This opens the door for more killings. There are terrorist cells in almost every state in the United States. They call them family planning centers.

Mary Ann Sheehan, Indianapolis

Reception of Communion depends on state of grace

Would someone please explain to me why not allowing someone to receive Communion is a punishment. I believe that either we are eligible to receive our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament or we are not. Communion is not an award that we have won. Neither is it something that we are entitled to. It is a gift that we receive from our Lord if we are in a state of grace. We are entitled by the adherence of our confreres to the teachings of the Holy Roman Catholic Church. Either we follow the teaching of the Church or we do not. If we do not, we are not eligible to receive Communion.

Eligibility is something we acquire by fulfilling the requirements of an organization. If we do not meet the requirements of an organization, we are not eligible for its benefits. This also applies to the Catholic Church.

I do not live close to Saint Meinrad Archabbey. I am also an Oblate of St. Meinrad. I am not a Benedictine monk and I do not fulfill the requirements for being one. If I were a monk, I would receive my meals, health care, room, etc., from the monastery. As I do not fulfill the requirements of being a monk, I do not receive these benefits. I am not being punished by not receiving them—I simply am not eligible. When will we learn the difference between eligibility and punishment?

William R. Morris, Bristow

Nurses are angels in disguise

Christine Prince’s outstanding poem, “I Am Your Nurse,” that appeared in the July 9 edition prompted me to think about something. I have had nurses who became central figures in this faith jour- ney we call life.

Over the past three years, the nurses at St. Francis South and Hendricks County hospitals have demonstrated excellent care through their kindness, in helping two of our daughters-in-law bring us three wonderful grandchildren. In one case, it was the mother’s first child and in the other two, complications. But the nurses’ selfless dedication to the young parents’ physical and psychological comfort transformed otherwise traumatic situations into something that seemed almost routine.

Two years ago, two of our nephews were involved in a very devastating traf- fic accident, one that required Life Line transportation to Methodist Hospital in Indianapolis. Within the next three days, due to the severity of their injuries, we lost both of them.

And while it is difficult to find any consolation in a situation where two young lives are lost, the entire experience was struck by the personal attention that came from the nurses who cared for them—and us. From the moment we arrived at the hospital, only minutes after the accident, until the time the nurses literally held our hands and said our last goodbyes, their actions and words conveyed a feeling that there was nobody or nothing on Earth as important to them as our family.

Seventeen months ago, my wife under- went open-heart surgery at The Heart Center. While valve-replacement surgery has a very high rate of success, everyone involved knows that things can go wrong and that the patient’s life is hanging in the balance. I was so impressed with the very personal care that we were given to my wife by our nurses that I started writing down their names so I could acknowledge them later. But by the end of the second day, I realized that all of her nurses demon- strated an over-and-above level of com- mitment that was totally around my wife’s comfort and confidence. And the kindness and concern was extended to me as well—a whole family.

In each of these cases, of course, there were doctors and hospital administrators that also did exemplary work. But when you ask the people who have had exten- sive experience with hospital care, most of them will agree that it’s the nurses who make all the difference.

There were occasions during each of my experiences that I became acutely aware of a spiritual dimension at work in the nurses we encountered. In fact, there were many times when I doubted that the indi- viduals really were nurses. To me, they seemed more like angels disguised as nurses.

John W. Henry, Indianapolis

Letters Policy

Letters from readers are welcome and should be informed, relevant, well- expressed, concise, temperate, polite, courteous and respectful.

The editors reserve the right to select and edit the letters based on space limita- tions, pastoral sensitivity and content.

Letters are subject to editing, but for serious reasons, names may be withheld. Send letters to “Letters to the Editor,” The Criterion, P.O. Box 1717, Indianapolis, IN 46206.

Readers with access to e-mail may send letters to criterion@archindy.org.
¿Cómo podemos llamar ‘santa’ a nuestra Iglesia?

(Decimó de la serie)

L os católicos decimos que nuestra Iglesia posee cuatro signos característicos: es una, santa, católica y apostólica. ¿Cómo podemos llamar “santa” a nuestra Iglesia? No solamente estamos conscientes de nuestros propios pecados, sino que también hemos soportado el escándalo de la revelación del pecado de abuso sexual cometido por ciertos sacerdotes, e incluso algunos obispos.

Esta no es una cuestión nueva. Santo Tomás de Aquino toció este tema en su Tractatus de la felicitas. Se refirió al relato del evangelio en el que los apóstoles se encontraban en un barco sacudido en medio de una tormenta marítima hasta que Cristo aquietó los mar. En el Evangelio, los Mártires rehusarían verter su sangre. “La Iglesia... créemos que es indefectiblemente cierta...” Ya que Cristo, el Hijo de Dios, a quien el Padre y el Espíritu llamamos el "solo Santo", ama a la Iglesia como a su esposa, entregándose a sí misma por ella para santificarla; la unió a sí mismo como su propio cuerpo y la comunicó con el don del Espíritu Santo para gloria de Dios.” (LG, #39, cf. Ef 5:25-26)

Porque la Iglesia, unida a Cristo, está santificada por Él; por ella el Padre la ama y la bendice. (CIC, #824)

¿Cómo puede ser esto?

En la Constitución de la Iglesia, Lumen Gentium, los obispos del Concilio Vaticano II también nos enseñaron que “la caridad es el alma de la santidad a la que todos están llamados: ‘gobierna todos los medios de santificación, los informa y los conduce a su fin.’” (LG, #842) En su autobiografía, Santa Teresa del Niño Jesús dijo que si el amor llegara a apagarse en la Iglesia “los Apóstoles ya no anunciarían Evangelio, los Mártires rehusarían verter su sangre.” (Cf. CIC, #826)

De hecho, en ciertos casos particulares, el amor puede y cesa de obrar. “Todos los miembros de la Iglesia, incluidos sus ministros, deben reconocerse pecadores. En todos, la cizalla del pecado todavía se encuentra mezclada con la buena semilla del Evangelio hasta el fin de los tiempos. La Iglesia, pues, congrega a pecadores alcanzados ya por la salvación de Cristo, pero aún sin vías de santificación.” (CIC, #827).

En su Credo del Pueblo de Dios, el Papa Pablo VI escribió: Ella es, pues, santa, aun albergando en su seno a los pecadores, porque no tiene otra vida que la de la gracia; es, viviendo esta vida, como sus miembros se santifican; y se sustrayendo a esta misma vida, como caen en el pecado y en los desórdenes que obstaculizan la irradiación de su santidad. Y es por esto que la Iglesia sufre y hace penitencia por tales faltas que ella tiene el poder de curar en sus hijos en virtud de la sangre de Cristo y el Don del Espíritu Santo.” (CPG, #199).

La Iglesia es santa porque Cristo es santo. Y a pesar de los embates del tiempo, la Iglesia no desaparecerá porque, al igual que el Cuerpo de Cristo, la Iglesia está unida en Cristo, su cabeza y el máxímo sacerdote eterno.

Nosotros, la Iglesia en la Tierra, somos pecadores, pero tal y como indicó el Papa Juan Pablo II: “Los santos han sido siempre la fuente y el origen de la renovación en los momentos más difíciles de la historia de la Iglesia.” (Christifideles Laici, #16, 3). Debemos ser santos. 

(Ver próximo número: La sabiduría sexual)

Traducido por: Language Training Center, Indianapolis

La intención de vocaciones del Arzobispo Buechlein para julio

Hombres Religiosos: Que los dones esenciales que sus comunidades traen a la Iglesia sean más apreciados y alentados por todas partes.

In his “Credo of the People of God,” Pope Paul VI wrote: “The Church is there-fore holy, though having sinners in her midst, because she herself has no other life but the life of grace. If they live her life, her members are sanctified; if they move away from her life, they fall into sins and disorders that prevent the radiation of her sanctity. This is why she suffers and does penance for those offenses, of which she has the power to free her children through the blood of Christ and the gift of the Holy Spirit” (CPG, #199).

The Church is holy because Christ is holy. And, despite the buffeting through the ages, the Church will not disappear because as the Body of Christ, the Church is joined to Christ the head, the eternal high priest.

We, the Church on earth, are sinners, but as Pope John Paul II has remarked, “The saints have always been the source and origin of renewal in the most difficult moments in the Church’s history.” (Christifideles Laici, #16, 3).

We need to be saints. †

(Next week: Teenagers and sexual absti-nence.)
St. Christopher Parish, 5301 W. 16th St., in Indianapolis, is having its Midsummer Festival from 5 p.m. to 10 p.m. on July 22-23 and from noon to 10 p.m. on July 24. The festival will feature a carnival and fish sandwiches. Polka Boy will perform at 7 p.m. on July 23. For more information, call 317-241-6314, ext. 101.

St. Anthony of Padua Parish, 316 N. Sherwood Ave., in Clarksville, is having its parish picnic from 5 p.m. to midnight on July 23 and from 2 p.m. to midnight on July 24. The picnic will feature a chicken dinner. For more information, call 812-228-2290.

St. Martin Parish, 8044 Yorkridge Road, in Yorkville, is having its parish picnic from 4:30 p.m. to 11:30 p.m. (EDT) on July 24 and from 11:30 a.m. to 8 p.m. (EDT) on July 25. The picnic will feature a chicken dinner. The cost is $8 for adults and $4 for children. For more information, call 812-623-3408.

St. Augustine Parish, 18020 Lafayette St., in Leopold, is having its parish picnic from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on July 25. The picnic will feature a chicken dinner, games and quilts. For more information, call 812-843-5143.

The 15th annual Italian POW’s Rosary, Mass and Picnic will be held on Aug. 15. At Our Lady’s Chapel in the Meadow at Camp Atterbury near Edinburgh, festivities begin at 11 a.m. with the posting of colors, followed by a rosary and Mass celebrated by Msgr. Joseph F. Schaedel, vicar general. A pitch-in picnic begins at 12:45 p.m. There will be refreshments at noon and a closing prayer service at 12:45 p.m. All are invited. For more information, call the parish office at 317-632-4157.

A Healing Mass will be celebrated at 7 p.m. on July 23 at St. Bartholomew Parish, 1306 27th St., in Columbus. Father Clement Dvis, pastor, will preside. For more information, call the parish office at 812-779-9531.

The Catholic Youth Organization is sponsoring its annual CYO Family Day at King’s Island amusement park near Cincinnati, Ohio, on July 28. A large discount will be offered on ticket prices. For more information, call the CYO office at 317-632-9531.

St. Francis Hospitals and Health Centers will host a cancer workshop titled “Let’s Get Better” for women undergoing radiation and/or chemotherapy from noon to 2 p.m. on Aug. 2 at the hospital’s Indianapolis campus, 8111 S. Emerson Ave. The workshop is designed to help women in cancer treatment cope with appearance-related side effects, including hair loss and changes in complexion. Each woman, with the help of cosmetologists and other professionals, will learn to perform her own makeover using complimentary cosmetics and skin care products. The event is a free national public service program. For more information or to register, call Janice Leak at 317-782-6704.

The annual Roncalli High School Alumni Association Golf Outing will be held on July 23 at Sarah Shank Golf Course, 2901 S. Keystone Ave., in Indianapolis. Tee time is set for 1 p.m. For more information, call Joe Matis at 317-787-8277, ext. 242, or e-mail jmatis@roncallihs.org.

The Marian Center of Indianapolis is sponsoring a 12-Step Spirituality Program using tapes by Dominican Father Emmerich Vogt, founder and editor of The 12-Step Review. The program begins at 7:30 p.m. on July 27 and continues on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month. Father Emmerich speaks about the spirituality of the 12 steps from both a biblical standpoint and from personal experience. There is no cost. For more information, call 317-888-0873 or 317-924-3982.

The traveling Missionary Images of Our Lady of Guadalupe and Jesus King of All Nations will be hosted by archdiocesan parishes until Aug. 1. The image of Jesus King of All Nations will be displayed during the 5 p.m. Mass on July 24 at St. Thomas More Parish, 1200 N. Indiana St., in Mooresville. The image will also be present on July 25 at the 8 a.m., 10:45 a.m. and 7 p.m. Masses, and will be present in the perpetual adoration chapel until July 27. The image of Our Lady of Guadalupe will be displayed for 24-hour veneration on July 24 to July 27 in the Divine Mercy Adoration Chapel next to Cardinal Ritter High School, 3360 W. 30th St., in Indianapolis. The image will then be present during a 6 p.m. Mass on July 28 at St. Thomas More Parish. The Mass will include the Anointing of the Sick. The image of Jesus King of All Nations will be displayed for 24-hour veneration from July 28 to Aug. 1 in the Divine Mercy Chapel. The image of Our Lady of Guadalupe will be venerated in the perpetual adoration chapel of St. Thomas More Parish on July 29-30. It will also be present for the 5 p.m. Mass on July 31 and the 8 a.m., 10:45 a.m. and 7 p.m. Masses on Aug. 1 at the parish. For more information, call 317-903-6246.

St. Athanasian Byzantine Catholic Parish, 1118 Blaine Ave., in Indianapolis, is hosting a “Pilgrimage to the Parishes” on Aug. 1. The Most Reverend John Kudrick, bishop of the Eparchy of Parma in Ohio, will lead the pilgrimage. Mattins will be prayed at 9:30 a.m. and there will be a Divine Liturgy at 10:30 a.m. There will be refreshments at noon and a closing prayer service at 12:45 p.m. All are invited. For more information, call the parish at 317-632-4157.

The annual Rosary Adoration of Our Lady of Fatima will be held on Aug. 12 at King’s Island amusement park near Cincinnati, Ohio, on July 28. A large discount will be offered on ticket prices. For more information, call the CYO office at 317-632-9531.

The annual Roncalli High School Alumni Association Golf Outing will be held on July 23 at Sarah Shank Golf Course, 2901 S. Keystone Ave., in Indianapolis. Tee time is set for 1 p.m. For more information, call Joe Matis at 317-787-8277, ext. 242, or e-mail jmatis@roncallihs.org.

The Marian Center of Indianapolis is sponsoring a 12-Step Spirituality Program using tapes by Dominican Father Emmerich Vogt, founder and editor of The 12-Step Review. The program begins at 7:30 p.m. on July 27 and continues on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month. Father Emmerich speaks about the spirituality of the 12 steps from both a biblical standpoint and from personal experience. There is no cost. For more information, call 317-888-0873 or 317-924-3982.

The traveling Missionary Images of Our Lady of Guadalupe and Jesus King of All Nations will be hosted by archdiocesan parishes until Aug. 1. The image of Jesus King of All Nations will be displayed during the 5 p.m. Mass on July 24 at St. Thomas More Parish, 1200 N. Indiana St., in Mooresville. The image will also be present on July 25 at the 8 a.m., 10:45 a.m. and 7 p.m. Masses, and will be present in the perpetual adoration chapel until July 27. The image of Our Lady of Guadalupe will be displayed for 24-hour veneration on July 24 to July 27 in the Divine Mercy Adoration Chapel next to Cardinal Ritter High School, 3360 W. 30th St., in Indianapolis. The image will then be present during a 6 p.m. Mass on July 28 at St. Thomas More Parish. The Mass will include the Anointing of the Sick. The image of Jesus King of All Nations will be displayed for 24-hour veneration from July 28 to Aug. 1 in the Divine Mercy Chapel. The image of Our Lady of Guadalupe will be venerated in the perpetual adoration chapel of St. Thomas More Parish on July 29-30. It will also be present for the 5 p.m. Mass on July 31 and the 8 a.m., 10:45 a.m. and 7 p.m. Masses on Aug. 1 at the parish. For more information, call 317-903-6246.

VIPS . . .

Loren and Judy (McDuff) Hunt, members of Holy Spirit Parish in Fishers, Ind., will celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary on July 24 with a 5:30 p.m. Mass at their parish, followed by a celebration dinner with family and friends. The couple was married on that date in 1954 at St. Andrew the Apostle Church in Indianapolis. They have four children: Julie Dieger, Kara Miller, Lori Miller and 12 grandchildren.

Harry and Ellen Rosenberger, members of St. Michael Parish in Brookville, will celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary on July 31 with a family dinner followed by a reception. The couple was married on that date in 1954 at St. Michael Church. They have four children: Amy Kaiser, Lori Orschell, Jill Rosenberger and the late Brent Rosenberger. They have four grandchildren.

Norbert and Lois Holzer, members of LaSalle-Barnabas Parish in Indianapolis, will celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary on July 24 with a Mass at their parish followed by a reception. The couple was married on that date in 1954 at St. Irenaeus Church in Park Forest, Ill. They have four children: Julie Dieger, Kara Miller, Lori Miller and 12 grandchildren.

Gregory Holzer. They have 11 grandchildren.

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

I, Robot (20th Century Fox) Rated A-II (Adults and Adolescents) because of intense action violence, two brief shower scenes with shadowy profile nudity and recurring crass language. Rated PG-13 (Parents are strongly cautioned. Some material may be inappropriate for children under 13) by the MPAA.
By Mary Ann Wyand

It was “the ride of a lifetime” for the self-described “nun on the run.”

While racing around the Indianapolis Motor Speedway at 175 mph on July 10, Oldenburg Franciscan Sister Rita Vukovic of Indianapolis only had time to offer a quick prayer.

The longtime Cardinal Ritter High School English and religion teacher said she “always prays,” but at that speed it only takes about two minutes to complete four laps around the world-famous race-track so her prayer had to be short and to the point.

During more than 35 years of ministry at Cardinal Ritter High School, Sister Rita has earned the reputation of being a tough but fair teacher who mixes important life lessons with instructions on sentence structure and theology.

Sister Rita earned the high-speed ride in an Indy Racing League two-seater racecar during Cardinal Ritter’s annual Calcutta fundraiser on May 26, the Wednesday before Carburetion Day at the speedway.

The winning bid of more than $2,000 earned “the ride of a lifetime” for the popular teacher who is considered an icon at Cardinal Ritter High School.

Paul Lockard, school president, and St. Christopher parishioner Art Wilmes of Indianapolis, a member of the school’s board of directors, asked Sister Rita if she would consider taking a ride in a racecar to help raise money for the school.

Proceeds from the Calcutta fundraiser benefit student scholarships and financial aid at the Indianapolis West Deanery interparochial high school.

Driver John Andretti, a former student, wasn’t available that day so Sister Rita selected IRL veteran Sarah Fisher to drive her around the track in the 700-horsepower open-wheel racecar.

Buckled into the passenger seat behind Fisher, Sister Rita said she just sat back and enjoyed the high-speed ride that gave her a brief taste of life in the fast lane.

There wasn’t enough time to be afraid, the longtime Indianapolis 500 fan said, and she was thrilled to experience IRL racing up close and personal.

“What a ride,” the 74-year-old nun said. “It was the ride of a lifetime. It took me longer to get suited up and down in the car. They harness you in the seat.”

“About 55 to 60 people were waving at me as I went past them,” she said. “I saw them for a split second each time.”

“I know Sarah Fisher is a good racecar driver because she finished the Indianapolis 500 this year,” Sister Rita said, “so I had no qualms about riding with her. She is a very charming young lady, very personable. You could tell she loves racing by her conduct in the car.”

Students and adults from the Cardinal Ritter family were on hand to cheer for Sister Rita and wave a “God-speed” sign.

Cardinal Ritter students are “the best in the West,” Sister Rita said. “I often tell the students that we are made in the image and likeness of God and that is awesome when we think about it. They need to know and experience the three Rs of respect, reverence and responsibility and the four Ds of discipline, dedication, determination and dignity. I always tell the students, ‘Good, better, best. Never let it rest until the good is better and the better is best.’ ”

When school starts again in August, Sister Rita also can tell her students what she did on her summer vacation.

“It was quite an experience,” Sister Rita said. “I wasn’t fearful at any moment, but I pray all the time regardless of what I’m doing. The prayers are always there. God is my co-pilot in every situation, even in a racecar.”
LEADERSHIP
continued from page 7

Josh enjoyed the session.

“You get asked questions all the time and it’s a lot easier if you know what you’re talking about and you’re able to defend it,” he said.

During Father Robeson’s session on social justice, the youths learned about the many ways in which human dignity is offended and the Church is called upon to be part of the remedy, from threats to human life to different forms of discrimination to health care rights.

He gave the youths some time to address some of these injustices and discuss how parishes might institute programs to help alleviate them.

There was also time for fun and relaxation. After a session about etiquette, the young people even had a formal dinner and dance.

Josh said that the group of students, who were quiet on the first day, grew closer together in friendship as the week drew on.

As a whole, Father Meyer said that the conference went very well.

Tracey said that the event has shown here that a leader is not just someone who bosses other people around, but “is someone who is also a servant for God” and helps others to be the same.

In that sense, something like community service is a way of leading, she said.

When it comes down to it, the primary purpose of the week was to give the youths the tools they need to live the Gospel, Father Robeson said. Their example in doing so can be a way to transform not only their peers, but adults as well.

“Adults are inspired and something good happens when youth find a deeper devotion to the faith,” Father Robeson said.

“I think youth are powerful witnesses, and they don’t realize it some- times.” †

ETIQUETTE
continued from page 7

because as the youths get older and attend more formal events such as awards dinners or fundraisers, they will find themselves in situations that demand proper decorum.

The first impression that many people will have of these youths may come from a shared meal.

“And if you come to a meal and you don’t know how to eat properly, then they get a very negative impression,” Watson said.

“A strong leader can present themselves in any situation as someone that knows what they’re doing,” she said.

When you’re a leader, “a lot of times people look to you to see what they’re supposed to be doing.”

She also dealt with situations that may arise during dinner: food is served that you don’t like, you bite into a large piece of grizzle, you drop your napkin or your cell phone rings.

Watson’s answer for what to do when your cell phone rings: nothing. “Your cell phone won’t ring because you turned it off before you entered the restaurant.”

During the session, besides answering questions, Watson dove into an area of etiquette that many people have dismissed as irrelevant: how men are to treat ladies when on dates or in formal situations.

While focusing on how people respect one another, there was a special focus given to the different ways in which men give respect and honor to women: opening doors for her, helping her out of a car and rising when she leaves or comes back to the table.

“I think in today’s society a lot of people look negatively on the youths and people of the older generation … see young kids and see them not respecting each other,” Watson said. “So if you can see that kind of chivalrous behavior coming from young kids, I think that gives hope for older people and they put more trust in the youth.”

This sort of behavior teaches young people respect for each other, and something more, Watson said.

“I think that it shows some self-respect if you take time to care for another person,” she said.

Her etiquette course was followed by a semi-formal dinner in which the students got to dress up and put all their newly gained social fineries to the test.

The meal was followed by a Mass and a dance. The events went spectacularly, Watson said. †

Our Lady of Fatima Retreat House

Some “Did you know?” information about our facility:

• It sits on 13 serene, wooded acres

• The 32,000 sq. ft. facility offers large and small meeting spaces, full dining room capabilities, overnight accommodations and a gift shop

• It offers a chapel with seating for 120 people

• It offers beautifully landscaped grounds and wooded trails

********************

Our Lady of Fatima Retreat House welcomes people from various religious traditions and not-for-profit groups in addition to meeting the needs of the Catholic community.

How can we serve your group’s needs?

Contact us with your questions….we look forward to the opportunity to host your next group event!

Our Lady of Fatima Retreat House
5353 E. 56th Street
Indianapolis, IN 46226

(317) 545-7681
fatima@archindy.org

COMPASSIONATE MEDICINE
Craig R. Johnston MD
FAMILY PRACTICE
1311 North Arlington Ave., Suite 101 • Indianapolis
317-352-9171

28 years of experience and patient satisfaction have led to one of the most respected practices in Indianapolis

We welcome you into our Family
Call for an appointment
Maria del Refugio Romero and Alfonso Vidal were married on Feb. 14 at St. Patrick Church in Indianapolis. The bride is the daughter of Alfonso Romero and Maria Refugio Trujillo. The groom is the son of Emeterio Vidal and Maria Guadalupe Vijil. Franciscan Father Thomas Fox was the celebrant.
**Wedding Announcements**

**Abell-Carr**
Laura Elaine Abell and Francis Michael Carr will be married on July 24 at St. Jude Church in Indianapolis. The bride is the daughter of Raymond and Kathleen Abell. The groom is the son of Cornelius and Katherine Carr.

**Albers-Justin**
Lori A. Albers and Steve J. Justin will be married on Nov. 13 at St. Pius X Church in Indianapolis. The bride is the daughter of Rodney and Marilyn Albers. The groom is the son of Stephen and Penny Justin.

**Burchett-Underhill**
Jane M. Burchett and Marc P. Underhill will be married on Sept. 18 at St. Luke Church in Indianapolis. The bride is the daughter of Mike and Elizabeth Burchett. The groom is the son of Steve and Marianne Underhill.

**Butler-Conn**
Angeline Victoria Butler and Bryan Daniel Conn will be married on Sept. 18 at St. Therese of the Infant Jesus (Little Flower) Church in Indianapolis. The bride is the daughter of Evaristo and Doris Butler. The groom is the son of Murdoch and Jane Conn.

**Clem-Black**
Erin Clem and Jeff Black will be married on Sept. 4 at St. Luke United Methodist Church in Indianapolis. The bride is the daughter of Richard and Brenda Clem. The groom is the son of Russ and Betty Black.

**Coogan-Hautman**
Shannon Coogan and Mathew Hautman will be married on July 24 at Immaculate Heart of Mary Church in Indianapolis. The bride is the daughter of Jim and Susie Coogan. The groom is the son of Chuck and Dot Hautman.

**Cottrell-Orman**
Abby Elizabeth Dickman and Deric Robert Bryan will be married on Sept. 25 at St. Patrick Church in Terre Haute. The bride is the daughter of Elizabeth Dickman and the late Mark Dickman. The groom is the son of Melody Bryan and the late Richard R. Bryan II.

**Crawford-Michalek**
Nicollete Marie Crawford and Chad Edward Michalek will be married on July 31 at Holy Guardian Angels Church in Cedar Grove. The bride is the daughter of Joseph and Rose Crawford. The groom is the son of Edward and Judy Michalek.

**Craig-Roy**
Karen S. Craig and Gerard J. Roy III will be married on Nov. 6 at St. Jude Church in Indianapolis. The bride is the daughter of Richard and Sara Craig. The groom is the son of Gerard and Henri Roy.

**Dickman-Bryan**
Abby Elizabeth Dickman and Deric Robert Bryan will be married on Sept. 25 at St. Patrick Church in Terre Haute. The bride is the daughter of Elizabeth Dickman and the late Mark Dickman. The groom is the son of Melody Bryan and the late Richard R. Bryan II.

Engaged couples preparing for marriage in the Catholic Church have several opportunities to fulfill their sacramental requirements—the Pre-Cana Program, Tobit Weekend and parish-based instruction with a priest and an older mentor couple.

The Archdiocese of Indianapolis offers the Pre-Cana Program on a Sunday afternoon each month, except in December, at Fatima Retreat House, 5353 E. 56th St., in Indianapolis. Pre-Cana classes are scheduled from 1:45 p.m. until 6 p.m. on Aug. 12, Sept. 16 and Oct. 24. The 2005 program schedule begins on Jan. 16 and continues on Feb. 13, March 13, April 24, May 22, June 5, July 24, Aug. 14, Sept. 18, Oct. 23 and Nov. 13. The $30 fee includes the workbook Perspectives on Marriage, other program materials and lunch.

The Pre-Cana Program on a Sunday afternoon each month, except in December, at Fatima Retreat House, 5353 E. 56th St., in Indianapolis. Pre-Cana classes are scheduled from 1:45 p.m. until 6 p.m. on Aug. 12, Sept. 16 and Oct. 24. The 2005 program schedule begins on Jan. 16 and continues on Feb. 13, March 13, April 24, May 22, June 5, July 24, Aug. 14, Sept. 18, Oct. 23 and Nov. 13. The $30 fee includes the workbook Perspectives on Marriage, other program materials and lunch.

Volunteer couples, priests and other professionals facilitate the presentations by sharing their experience and knowledge of Christian marriage. Fatima Retreat House also is the location for Tobit Weekends for engaged couples scheduled on Sept. 17-19, Oct. 22-24 and Nov. 5-7. Tobit Weekends in 2005 are Jan. 28-30, April 22-24, April 29-May 1, May 13-15, June 17-19, July 8-10, July 22-24, Sept. 16-18, Oct. 21-23 and Nov. 11-13.

The Tobit Weekend begins at 7 p.m. on Friday and concludes before lunch on Sunday. The fee is $270 per couple and includes two rooms for two nights, four meals, program materials and presentations.

The weekend program, which was created by a priest, is designed to help couples of all Christian denominations "rest, reflect and renew" their relationship and prepare for the sacrament of marriage. Volunteer mentor couples, assisted by a priest, help engaged couples grow in their knowledge and love of each other, enter into a deeper personal relationship with Christ and realize the importance of having him at the center of their marriage. The program allows time for reflection and prayer individually and as a couple.

**Krieg Bros.**
Established 1892
Catholic Supply House, Inc.
119 S. Mendon St., Indpls., IN 46225
(2 blocks South of Monument Circle, across from Nordstrom - Circle Centre)
317-638-3416 1-800-428-3767

**ADULT MEDICINE & LASER SKIN CARE CENTER**
Norrisa N. Johnson, M.D.
8424 Naab Rd., Suite 3P
Indianapolis, IN 46260
802-9912
Primary Care for Mature Teens and Adults
Accepting New Patients
Now Offering:
- Laser scope - hairing with light...
- Skin Rejuvenation
- Laser Hair Removal
- Acne Treatment
Let us help you look your best for your wedding day.

**Bruns-Gutzwiller, Inc.**
General Contractors, Construction Managers
Southeastern Indiana's Largest Stove and Fireplace Dealer
305 S. John Street
Batesville, IN 47006
Phone: 812-934-2105
Fax: 812-934-2107
Website: WWW.BRUNS-GUTZWILLER.COM

Married on Dec. 20, 2003, at St. Joseph Church in Terre Haute. The bride is the daughter of Carl and Rita Cotrell. The groom is the son of Darrell Orman and Linda Airhart.
Wedding Announcements

Drouzas-Beaupre
Julie Angela Drouzas and Michael Joseph Beaupre will be married on Aug. 28 at St. Therese of the Infant Jesus (Little Flower) Church in Indianapolis. The bride is the daughter of Rosemary Cangelosi Drouzas. The groom is the son of Steve and Mary Lou Beaupre.

Ladd-Jackson
Abby Ladd and Kevin Jackson were married on May 8 at St. Jude Church in Indianapolis. The bride is the daughter of Jim and Jean Ladd. The groom is the son of Dan and Alice Jackson.

Larson-Tindall
Julie Elizabeth Larson and Jason Theodore Tindall will be married on July 31 at Our Lady of Lourdes Church in Indianapolis. The bride is the daughter of Victor and Janice Larson. The groom is the son of Lawrence and Kathleen Tindall.

Luce-Schwaneckamp
Mary McDonald Luce and Brent Aaron Schwaneckamp were married on July 3 at St. Christopher Church in Indianapolis. The bride is the daughter of Wayne and Patti Luce. The groom is the son of Chuck and Diane Schwaneckamp.

Gast-Parr
Jessica LeAnn Gast and Marcus Eugene Parr will be married on Oct. 23 at St. Frances of Rome Church in Louisville, Ky. The bride is the daughter of Greg and Jean Gardner. The groom is the son of Jim and Joan Woodruff.

McGowan-Landry
Mary Ellen McGowan and James William Landry were married on June 12 at St. Lawrence Church in Indianapolis. The bride is the daughter of Hugh B. and Jeanmarie McGowan. The groom is the son of James and Patricia Landry.

Mund-Gatsos
Emily Lynn Mund and Stephen Nicholas Gatsos were married on Aug. 7 at St. John Church in Austin, Texas. The bride is the daughter of Anne Mund and the late Carl Mund. The groom is the son of Greg and Julia Gatsos.

Perreault-Cudworth
Denise Marie Perreault and Mark Alan Cudworth will be married on Aug. 28 at St. Monica Church in Indianapolis. The bride is the daughter of Norman and Cecile Perreault. The groom is the son of Jay and Judi Cudworth.

Query-Waugh
Lauren Jane Query and Robert Marc Waugh will be married on Dec. 31 at St. Jude Church in Indianapolis. The bride is the daughter of Thomas and Jennifer Query. The groom is the son of Robert and Jean Waugh.

Schnarr-Endicott
Angela Marie Schnarr and Brian David Endicott will be married on Sept. 25 at Our Lady of the Greenwood Church in Greenwood. The bride is the daughter of Jerome and Patty Schnarr. The groom is the son of Randy and Christine Endicott.

Snyder-Anton
Monica Anne Snyder and Michael Robert Anton will be married on July 31 at St. Pius X Church in Indianapolis. The bride is the daughter of Dennis and Irene Snyder. The groom is the son of Tom and Mindy Anton.

Swarczkopf-Pappas
Anne Therese Swarczkopf and James Vincent Pappas were married on June 26 at St. Jude Church in Fort Wayne, Ind. The bride is the daughter of Chris and Jane Swarczkopf. The groom is the son of Jim and Sherry Pappas.

Walker-Landers
Rachel Storm Walker and J. Alan Landers will be married in October at St. Pius X Church in Indianapolis. The bride is the daughter of Dr. Riley and Joyce Walker. The groom is the son of John Landers and Ellen Landers.

Watson-Scheu
Mary Christina Watson and John Paul Scheu will be married on Sept. 4 at St. Michael Church in Indianapolis. The bride is the daughter of Jack and Susie Watson. The groom is the son of John D. and Kathy Scheu.

Wilkinson-Fishburn
Chasity Lynn Wilkinson and Dennis Michael Fishburn will be married on July 24 at Holy Spirit Church in Indianapolis. The bride is the daughter of Charles and Pamela Wilkinson. The groom is the son of Dennis Fishburn and Kathleen Clair.

Add a touch of Irish to your wedding
Killybegs
Irish Shop
- Wedding Bands
- Toasting Flutes
- Bridesmaids & Groomsmans Gifts
- Hankies
- Gift Registry
- China & Crystal
- And Much More!

Easely Winery
Rehearsal Dinners
All inclusive package pricing
Unique & charming setting
Personalized wine & sparkling juice with bride & groom’s name and wedding date
Free on site parking

Make The Criterion A Key Member Of Your Marketing Team
To reserve your ad space in The Criterion call 317-236-1572 or toll free 800-382-9836.
The union of two people in marriage should be the most important day of their lives. But how much of a wedding should satisfy the happy couple, and what concessions should they make to the often-contrary wishes of family and guests? According to Mary Moriarty, associate director of the Family Life Office for the Diocese of Albany, N.Y., the answer will vary widely from couple to couple.

For some couples, details aren’t as important, she said. But other couples, particularly those with strong ethnic backgrounds, put a lot of value on certain traditions and rituals.

Engaged couples must first remember that “this is your wedding, the sacrament you’re promising to one another,” Moriarty said. “But it’s also the blending of families and family traditions.”

She said many pre-wedding arguments between families and children stem from the fact that people don’t spend enough time discussing the effects a marriage has on the entire family.

“Losing” a child to marriage, she said, and gaining a new son- or daughter-in-law can be traumatic for parents.

“The sense of change, loss or gain is never recognized until they’re walking down the aisle and everyone is bawling like a baby,” Moriarty said.

The Albany Diocese Family Life Office recommends that, before the wedding, couples have a “set-aside” ritual for the two families so parents and children can say goodbye to each other, they love one another and apologize for any past hurts.

The latter element, Moriarty said, is especially important.

“This is not a time to bring up old family history,” she said. “This is a time to set aside differences.

Reuniting divorced parents for a child’s wedding can cause problems, she said. Divorced parents should “act like growups for their son’s or daughter’s sake” and not argue over wedding plans or with each other.

“If you’ve had a nasty divorce, your children have suffered enough,” she said. “Give them something to look forward to.”

If family members or friends are interfering too much with wedding decisions, Moriarty recommended that couples talk with them and say, “I want to walk down that aisle with complete joy.”

A priest or counselor can help the couple mediate family disagreements.

But often, she said, family members can see the “bigger picture” in wedding planning, such as why it is important to invite some people that the couple may not have added to the guest list.

Moriarty said she advises all engaged couples to spend time talking with their families about “why they want what they want and what it means to them.”

If family members understand the couple’s perspective, she said, they may feel more comfortable with their wishes.

Couples, for their part, should ask themselves why they’re making certain decisions about their wedding. Moriarty said, and consider other ideas.

However, she added, couples who find big weddings exhausting or firmly believe in simplicity should take a stand and defend their views.

“You have to honor certain traditions, but you don’t want a cookie-cutter wedding,” she said. Instead, couples should ask, “What can [we] do to make [our] wedding unique and memorable and sacred all at the same time?”

Letting other people handle some of the details can improve a wedding, she said. Brides who micromanage every aspect of their weddings often alienate friends and family, experience “burn-out” before the wedding day arrives, and lose focus on the sacred vows they’re about to make and the people who love them.

The color of the wedding napkins won’t really matter in the grand scheme of things, she said, and a friend can take care of that.

Canon law requires Catholic weddings take place in a church

By Maureen E. Daly

Real estate groups... Call the Realtor Who Cares About you and yours!

When Family Matters...

“Call our dad for results”

Dick Houghton

Call Now 317-590-3174
dickhoughton@realtor.com

Your lifestyle. Our plans. Dial-up services for $20 per month!

Offer includes 56K, V.92, and ISDN dial-up services. Also available high-speed broadband DSL services as low as $30.95!

FREE: Virus-scanning and SPAM control, Email services and webhosting as low as $19.95.

For more information call 317.726.6746 or log on to www.iquest.net.

REAL ESTATE GROUPS When Family Matters... Call the Realtor Who Cares About you and yours!

“Call our dad for results”

Dick Houghton Call Now 317-590-3174 dickhoughton@realtor.com

When planning their wedding, an engaged couple needs to remember that a wedding is about a sacred vow made before God, Promising each other a lifetime commitment.

“You’re not left at the altar, anything that happens is OK,” Moriarty joked. “I would rather everything went wrong and [the couple] had a good marriage than everything went right and they’re divorced in a year and a half. If you want a memorable wedding, then things should go wrong!”

She listed five important things for couples to remember for a successful wedding:

• Keep it very simple.
• Invite people who will appreciate being there.
• Give family members full recognition of the gifts they’ve given.
• Make peace with everyone before the day of the wedding.
• A wedding is about a sacred vow made before God, promising each other a lifetime commitment.

For the recipients, she said, “the sacrament strengthens them to serve. It is not just a marriage to each other, but also a marriage to the community. You also get married to serve—to serve each other, the children that come, the community as a couple.”

Healy said he tells couples that, “In marriage, you are consecrated for service. The best place we can make our commitment to you is the place where Sunday after Sunday we gather.”

Many couples are disconnected from parish life, Healy said, so the exchange of vows becomes an important opportunity to reconnect them.

“When they face children or divorce, death of a parent or job loss,” he said, “they will have that one place to come back to.”

Call Mike Haigerty @ 545-7681 for details or to register

Our Lady of Fatima Retreat House

5353 E. 56th Street
Indianapolis, IN 46226

When planning their wedding, an engaged couple needs to remember that a wedding is about a sacred vow made before God, Promising each other a lifetime commitment.

“Our Lady of Fatima Retreat House: Call Mike Haigerty @ 545-7681 for details or to register.”

Canon law requires Catholic weddings take place in a church

By Kate Blain

Marriage Preparation Tobit 2004 weekends September 17-19 October 22-24 November 5-7 Tobit 2005 weekends January 28-30 April 22-24 April 29-May 1

“Tobit Weekend was designed as a Christian marriage preparation program. It is an investment in your relationship. It is sacred time, set aside for the two of you to explore how well you complement each other.”

Call Mike Haigerty @ 545-7681 for details or to register

Our Lady of Fatima Retreat House

5353 E. 56th Street
Indianapolis, IN 46226

The Criterion   Friday, July 23, 2004
WWWWhhhheeeennnn FFFFaaaammmmiiiillllyyyy MMMMaaaatttttttteeeerrrrssss............
Missionaries of the Sacred Heart mark 150th anniversary

NAZARETH, Pa. (CNS)—The 150th anniversary of the founding of the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart is an opportunity for its priests and brothers “to express our identity in the Church and to recommit ourselves to our mission in the world,” said Father E. Michael Camilli. “There is so much need in today’s world for healing, reconciliation and evangelization,” said the priest, who is a member of the community and the Allentown Diocese’s secretary for Catholic life and evangelization. He is also rector of Sacred Heart Villa in Center Valley, which is run by his community. “We have so much to be grateful for and it is a time to help others,” he said. Father Camilli made the comments at a Mass celebrated on June 18 at Holy Family in Nazareth as part of the community’s year-long anniversary observance. The principal celebrant and homilist was Archbishop Celestino Migliore, the Vatican’s nuncio to the United Nations.

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

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

Nun says religion must free women, children from sex tourism industry

BANGKOK, Thailand (CNS) — Religion must play a stronger role in freeing women and children from the rapidly growing sex tourism industry, said a Good Shepherd nun working in Thailand. One way to accomplish this is to change the cultural and patriarchal ways religion views women, said Good Shepherd Sister Michelle Lopez. Her remarks were reported by UCA News, an Asian Church news agency based in Thailand. Sister Michelle directs the Fountain of Life Center for women and children in Pattaya, a coastal town in southeast Thailand where tourism has flourished and a commercial sex industry has developed in tandem. Her remarks were made in a paper presented to the Pontifical Council for Migrants and Travelers’ Sixth World Congress on the Pastoral Care of Tourism. About 100 people from 31 countries participated in the congress, held July 5-8 in Bangkok.

Sister Lopez stated that sex tourism is a “filthy business” and it is the responsibility of religious leaders to tell the faithful that they must change their ways.

“The tourist industry has been a ‘business as usual’ kind of employment for years in Pattaya,” Sister Lopez said. “It is now time for the religious community to play a role in helping women and children who have been exposed to this type of exploitation. It is time for religious leaders to come forward and say that this is unacceptable.”

Sister Lopez said that sex tourism has become a “major issue” in Thailand and that religious leaders have a responsibility to address it.

“Sex tourism is a major industry in Thailand and it is the responsibility of religious leaders to speak out against it and to work to change the culture,” Sister Lopez said. “We must work to change the cultural norms that allow sex tourism to flourish.”

Sister Lopez said that religious leaders must work to change the cultural norms that allow sex tourism to flourish. She said that religious leaders can do this by speaking out against sex tourism and by working to change the cultural norms that allow it to flourish.

“Sex tourism is a major issue in Thailand and it is the responsibility of religious leaders to speak out against it and to work to change the cultural norms that allow it to flourish,” Sister Lopez said. “We must work to change the cultural norms that allow sex tourism to flourish.”

Sister Lopez said that religious leaders must work to change the cultural norms that allow sex tourism to flourish. She said that religious leaders can do this by speaking out against sex tourism and by working to change the cultural norms that allow it to flourish.

“Sex tourism is a major issue in Thailand and it is the responsibility of religious leaders to speak out against it and to work to change the cultural norms that allow it to flourish,” Sister Lopez said. “We must work to change the cultural norms that allow sex tourism to flourish.”

Sister Lopez said that religious leaders must work to change the cultural norms that allow sex tourism to flourish. She said that religious leaders can do this by speaking out against sex tourism and by working to change the cultural norms that allow it to flourish.

“Sex tourism is a major issue in Thailand and it is the responsibility of religious leaders to speak out against it and to work to change the cultural norms that allow it to flourish,” Sister Lopez said. “We must work to change the cultural norms that allow sex tourism to flourish.”

Sister Lopez said that religious leaders must work to change the cultural norms that allow sex tourism to flourish. She said that religious leaders can do this by speaking out against sex tourism and by working to change the cultural norms that allow it to flourish.

“Sex tourism is a major issue in Thailand and it is the responsibility of religious leaders to speak out against it and to work to change the cultural norms that allow it to flourish,” Sister Lopez said. “We must work to change the cultural norms that allow sex tourism to flourish.”

Sister Lopez said that religious leaders must work to change the cultural norms that allow sex tourism to flourish. She said that religious leaders can do this by speaking out against sex tourism and by working to change the cultural norms that allow it to flourish.

“Sex tourism is a major issue in Thailand and it is the responsibility of religious leaders to speak out against it and to work to change the cultural norms that allow it to flourish,” Sister Lopez said. “We must work to change the cultural norms that allow sex tourism to flourish.”

Sister Lopez said that religious leaders must work to change the cultural norms that allow sex tourism to flourish. She said that religious leaders can do this by speaking out against sex tourism and by working to change the cultural norms that allow it to flourish.

“Sex tourism is a major issue in Thailand and it is the responsibility of religious leaders to speak out against it and to work to change the cultural norms that allow it to flourish,” Sister Lopez said. “We must work to change the cultural norms that allow sex tourism to flourish.”

Sister Lopez said that religious leaders must work to change the cultural norms that allow sex tourism to flourish. She said that religious leaders can do this by speaking out against sex tourism and by working to change the cultural norms that allow it to flourish.

“Sex tourism is a major issue in Thailand and it is the responsibility of religious leaders to speak out against it and to work to change the cultural norms that allow it to flourish,” Sister Lopez said. “We must work to change the cultural norms that allow sex tourism to flourish.”

Sister Lopez said that religious leaders must work to change the cultural norms that allow sex tourism to flourish. She said that religious leaders can do this by speaking out against sex tourism and by working to change the cultural norms that allow it to flourish.

“Sex tourism is a major issue in Thailand and it is the responsibility of religious leaders to speak out against it and to work to change the cultural norms that allow it to flourish,” Sister Lopez said. “We must work to change the cultural norms that allow sex tourism to flourish.”

Sister Lopez said that religious leaders must work to change the cultural norms that allow sex tourism to flourish. She said that religious leaders can do this by speaking out against sex tourism and by working to change the cultural norms that allow it to flourish.

“Sex tourism is a major issue in Thailand and it is the responsibility of religious leaders to speak out against it and to work to change the cultural norms that allow it to flourish,” Sister Lopez said. “We must work to change the cultural norms that allow sex tourism to flourish.”

Sister Lopez said that religious leaders must work to change the cultural norms that allow sex tourism to flourish. She said that religious leaders can do this by speaking out against sex tourism and by working to change the cultural norms that allow it to flourish.

“Sex tourism is a major issue in Thailand and it is the responsibility of religious leaders to speak out against it and to work to change the cultural norms that allow it to flour
Simon Bruté was Indiana’s first bishop

From the Editor Emeritus/

Simon Bruté was Indiana’s first bishop

Faithful Lines/

Simon Bruté was Indiana’s first bishop

From the Editor Emeritus/

Simon Bruté was Indiana’s first bishop

Faithful Lines/

Simon Bruté was Indiana’s first bishop

From the Editor Emeritus/

Simon Bruté was Indiana’s first bishop

Faithful Lines/

Simon Bruté was Indiana’s first bishop

From the Editor Emeritus/

Simon Bruté was Indiana’s first bishop

Faithful Lines/

Simon Bruté was Indiana’s first bishop

From the Editor Emeritus/

Simon Bruté was Indiana’s first bishop

Faithful Lines/

Simon Bruté was Indiana’s first bishop

From the Editor Emeritus/

Simon Bruté was Indiana’s first bishop

Faithful Lines/

Simon Bruté was Indiana’s first bishop

From the Editor Emeritus/

Simon Bruté was Indiana’s first bishop

Faithful Lines/

Simon Bruté was Indiana’s first bishop

From the Editor Emeritus/

Simon Bruté was Indiana’s first bishop

Faithful Lines/

Simon Bruté was Indiana’s first bishop

From the Editor Emeritus/

Simon Bruté was Indiana’s first bishop

Faithful Lines/

Simon Bruté was Indiana’s first bishop

From the Editor Emeritus/

Simon Bruté was Indiana’s first bishop

Faithful Lines/

Simon Bruté was Indiana’s first bishop

From the Editor Emeritus/

Simon Bruté was Indiana’s first bishop

Faithful Lines/

Simon Bruté was Indiana’s first bishop

From the Editor Emeritus/

Simon Bruté was Indiana’s first bishop

Faithful Lines/

Simon Bruté was Indiana’s first bishop

From the Editor Emeritus/

Simon Bruté was Indiana’s first bishop

Faithful Lines/

Simon Bruté was Indiana’s first bishop

From the Editor Emeritus/

Simon Bruté was Indiana’s first bishop

Faithful Lines/

Simon Bruté was Indiana’s first bishop

From the Editor Emeritus/

Simon Bruté was Indiana’s first bishop

Faithful Lines/

Simon Bruté was Indiana’s first bishop

From the Editor Emeritus/

Simon Bruté was Indiana’s first bishop

Faithful Lines/

Simon Bruté was Indiana’s first bishop

From the Editor Emeritus/

Simon Bruté was Indiana’s first bishop

Faithful Lines/

Simon Bruté was Indiana’s first bishop

From the Editor Emeritus/

Simon Bruté was Indiana’s first bishop

Faithful Lines/

Simon Bruté was Indiana’s first bishop

From the Editor Emeritus/

Simon Bruté was Indiana’s first bishop

Faithful Lines/

Simon Bruté was Indiana’s first bishop

From the Editor Emeritus/

Simon Bruté was Indiana’s first bishop

Faithful Lines/

Simon Bruté was Indiana’s first bishop

From the Editor Emeritus/

Simon Bruté was Indiana’s first bishop

Faithful Lines/

Simon Bruté was Indiana’s first bishop

From the Editor Emeritus/

Simon Bruté was Indiana’s first bishop

Faithful Lines/

Simon Bruté was Indiana’s first bishop

From the Editor Emeritus/

Simon Bruté was Indiana’s first bishop

Faithful Lines/

Simon Bruté was Indiana’s first bishop

From the Editor Emeritus/

Simon Bruté was Indiana’s first bishop

Faithful Lines/

Simon Bruté was Indiana’s first bishop

From the Editor Emeritus/

Simon Bruté was Indiana’s first bishop

Faithful Lines/

Simon Bruté was Indiana’s first bishop

From the Editor Emeritus/

Simon Bruté was Indiana’s first bishop

Faithful Lines/

Simon Bruté was Indiana’s first bishop

From the Editor Emeritus/

Simon Bruté was Indiana’s first bishop

Faithful Lines/

Simon Bruté was Indiana’s first bishop

From the Editor Emeritus/

Simon Bruté was Indiana’s first bishop

Faithful Lines/

Simon Bruté was Indiana’s first bishop

From the Editor Emeritus/

Simon Bruté was Indiana’s first bishop

Faithful Lines/

Simon Bruté was Indiana’s first bishop

From the Editor Emeritus/

Simon Bruté was Indiana’s first bishop

Faithful Lines/

Simon Bruté was Indiana’s first bishop

From the Editor Emeritus/

Simon Bruté was Indiana’s first bishop

Faithful Lines/

Simon Bruté was Indiana’s first bishop

From the Editor Emeritus/

Simon Bruté was Indiana’s first bishop

Faithful Lines/

Simon Bruté was Indiana’s first bishop

From the Editor Emeritus/

Simon Bruté was Indiana’s first bishop

Faithful Lines/

Simon Bruté was Indiana’s first bishop

From the Editor Emeritus/

Simon Bruté was Indiana’s first bishop

Faithful Lines/

Simon Bruté was Indiana’s first bishop
God offers the grace of salvation to everyone

A few weeks ago, you explained that salvation is not among the dogmas of the Catholic Church. You referred to the Catechism of the Catholic Church, and explained that there is no “in-betweener” place of permanent happiness for human beings. They are either with God or by their own choice are separated from God, throughout all eternity. That makes sense even though it is different from what we were taught in grade school.

What then happens to unbaptized children? If baptism is needed for salvation, don’t babies who die without baptism go to someplace without God, even if the Church doesn’t want to call it hell? If God is looking for all who die before birth or before baptism. What does the Church teach about this, if anything? (Florida)

We must begin by admitting that some views on this subject have been presented in the past as Catholic teaching even though there was no basis for them in authentic Catholic tradition. I explained, in the column you mentioned, how this was true about the teaching on limbo.

To speak directly to your question, the death of a child before baptism, even before birth, is always a heartfelt and confusing experience for believing Christian parents. It may help to keep in mind a few certainties of our faith. Jesus clearly taught that baptism is the sacramental “sign” by which people enter into life, into the community of faith. Through the centuries, Christians have pondered what exactly that means since thousands of people die without baptism, without ever hearing of Jesus or his teaching about baptism and faith. If God loves all people and wishes them to be saved, how does he make that happen if most people never have the chance to believe or be baptized? Especially as the question applies to very young children, theologians have offered numerous possible explanations during the past 2,000 years. Whatever the specific theory, however, one fundamental truth is considered beyond doubt: God offers the grace of salvation to everyone who does not deliberately place an obstacle to that grace.

Obviously, that includes children who die too young to have consciously rejected that grace. So the question, in fact, uses precisely this principle to support his teaching that God gives the grace of baptism and therefore salvation, to such children.

The Catechism of the Catholic Church (p. 134) approaches the same thought from another direction. Baptism is necessary for salvation, it says, “for those to whom the Gospel has been proclaimed and who have had the possibility of asking for this sacrament.”

Clearly, small children are among the many who have not had this possibility. In other words, God has revealed to us much about the salvation of the world, and he expects us to believe and follow what he says. But there is also a mystery.

Pope John Paul II makes the point in his book Crossing the Threshold of Hope. God is unerringly at work in the sacraments, he writes, “as well as in other ways that are known to him alone” (p. 134).

As the catechism teaches, “God has bound salvation to the sacrament of baptism, but he himself is not bound by his sacraments.”

Q: Is it permissible for a Catholic to join the YMCA? I remember some opposition to the YMCA many years ago. What is the present position? (Illinois)

A: Membership in the YMCA was formerly discouraged for Catholics because it was much more closely identified with the religious aspects of that organization than it is today. The organization was founded by a group of Protestant men for religious as well as recreational purposes. Members were encouraged and sometimes expected to share in the Protestant religious activities and worship provided by YMCA chaplains.

Today, many American Catholics, including many priests, hold membership in the YMCA.
Priests, brothers and sisters personify God’s grace

By Gavin McDowell

The Catechism of the Catholic Church calls grace both God’s free gift and a need to be earned and received, but not to be a participation in the life of God. Life is both a gift from God and given by scale. The proofs of God’s grace, however, appear in the deeds of faith-filled priests, brothers and sisters, who make grace visible through example. The direct and indirect teachings of priests and brothers and sisters are hidden signs from God, rarely appearing as the Earth-shattering spectacles many people expect. Instead, they reveal themselves in the mundane events of everyday life.

To the modern Catholic, I do not think anything is perceived as more mundane than Mass. Unfortunately, Catholics today miss out on much more than a social obligation when they neglect to attend Mass. The homily, in particular, has taken on a special meaning to me as a time when the priest becomes a storyteller, interpreter and teacher.

The role of the homilist is the same as the role of Jesus during ministry. He brings ancient Scripture to the audience’s level and elucidates the text with anecdotes. The best homilists, and therefore the best priests, are exceptional storytellers, and their stories always enlighten and inspire others. My parish, St. Luke, is blessed with two effective homilists.

Father Stephen Giannini, the pastor, uses concise homilies to make a clear and distinct point. Father Justin Martin, the associate pastor, writes longer and more analytical homilies, but both reach at least one anecdote and modest elements of humor.

Both priests have produced homilies that cause me to stop and reflect, resulting in a revaluation of my own faith and a clearer understanding of grace. I have also seen grace manifest itself in brothers and sisters I have encountered. Sadly, I do not see any religious brothers on a regular basis, but I encounter nuns daily in my classes at Cathedral High School in Indianapolis.

They, like priests, are teachers, but in the more traditional, academic sense. Nevertheless, their dedication to their profession serves as another way to introduce God’s grace into my life.

My admiration for these teachers stems not from what they teach, but from how they teach it. Providence Sister Mary Ann Stewart, a history teacher, has more patience than any other teacher, a trait that I find most enviable.

Benedictine Sister Mary Sue Freiberger, who taught both Algebra and Calculus, always makes herself available to help students before school.

Their vocation grants them an uncommon peace of mind, for even in exhaustive circumstances I always see them smile.

I again think of Jesus’ example, for he had unwavering patience and could seem to find time available to anyone who wanted to hear him. I cannot say for sure, but I also suspect that Jesus often smiled.

The world is not blessed if it is filled with priests, brothers and sisters like those I have encountered. The people serving in these vocations may not make headlines, but they are miracle workers nonetheless, channeling God’s grace into the world.

The faith they exhibit is the purest form of participating in the life of God, and their day-to-day example are forever an invitation for others to become a part of that life.

(Gavin McDowell is a member of St. Luke Parish in Indianapolis and a senior at Cathedral High School in Indianapolis. His essay won the first-place award in the 12th-grade division of the Indianapolis Serra Club’s vocations essay contest.)

Masses mark observance of Natural Family Planning Week

By Mary Ann Wyand

“His Presence—A Call to Chastity” is the theme of the archdiocesan observance of Natural Family Planning Week on July 25-31.

Masses and adoration of the Blessed Sacrament are planned on July 27 in Bloomington and on July 30-31 in Indianapolis to encourage the practice of chastity and a greater respect for God’s gift of marital sexuality, said Servants of the Gospel of Life Sister Diane Carollo, director of the archdiocesan Office of Pro-Life Activities.

The national observance of Natural Family Planning Week is sponsored by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops.

The archdiocesan Office of Pro-Life Activities, the Holy Family Apostolate for Chastity and Life, and the Couple to Couple League of Greater Indianapolis are sponsoring the archdiocesan observance.

On July 27, Father Michael Fritsch, pastor of St. John the Apostle Parish, 4607 W. State Road 46, in Bloomingdale, will celebrate Mass and preach on the Couple to Couple Parish classes. The Theology of the Body is emphasized by Pope John Paul II in Evangelium Vitae (The Gospel of Life), Pope John Paul II noted that, “Contraception and abortion are often closely related, as fruits of the same tree.”

Father Steven Giannini, the pastor, uses concise homilies to make a clear and distinct point.

“NFP made us open to having children,” she said. “It really did come together when we made the choice as an engaged couple to practice NFP when we were taking our Pre Cana training for our marriage.” Mike Green said, “Deciding to use NFP left our marriage open to life from the beginning. From that, our prayer life grew stronger.”

Natural Family Planning is approved by the Church as a method of spacing children, Sister Diane said, and also helps married couples who are trying to conceive children.

“We started understanding its importance in being open to life and the need to seek children in marriage,” Mike Green said. “That understanding has been critical in our marriage.”

He said their decision to practice NFP also led them to pray the rosary together and attend Mass every day. Because NFP has been such an important part of their marriage, the Greens now teach the method in Couple to Couple League in Indianapolis.

“We knew that we needed to pass it on to other couples, so first we became promoters and then we became teachers. We’ve been teaching NFP classes for about four years,” Ann Green said.

Sister Diane said that in Evangelium Vitae (The Gospel of Life), Pope John Paul II noted that, “Contraception and abortion are often closely related, as fruits of the same tree.”

St. Susanna’s Parish Festival and Brickyard Raffle

Fri., July 30 — 6:00 to 10:00 p.m.
Sat., July 31 — 4:30 to 11:00 a.m.

Bingo • Raffle • Games • Food
30 ft. Rock Climbing Wall
Rib-Eye Steak Dinner on Saturday
$500 guaranteed 1st prize

1210 E. Main Street • Plainfield
Parking available in the Cinergy parking lot
West gate off Carr Road
License # 102710


BANGKOK, Thailand (CNS)—The unchecked growth of HIV and AIDS adds “compelling urgency to the call for new commercial by people of faith” to help end the suffering caused by the disease, according to a statement adopted by religious leaders and groups participating in the XV International AIDS Conference in Bangkok. The interfaith “statement of commitment” from the religious community was approved on July 15 and combined with similar statements from leaders of other sectors—including scientists, women and workers in the commercial sex industry—on the final day of the July 11-16 gathering.

The joint declaration committed each group to immediate and verifiable actions, and promised to report on their progress to the next international AIDS conference in 2006.

“Bangkok has to be the end of promises made, promises broken,” Graca Machel, a Mozambican activist for women and children, said while introducing the combined statement.

The separate statement by religious leaders acknowledged the response to AIDS often “has been one of prejudice, ignorance, fear and judgmental attitudes.”

The statement committed religious leaders to “reject the negative statements by some faith leaders that AIDS is a form of divine punishment or retribution.”

It called on religious communities to “discuss openly and accurately” the facts about HIV and AIDS and “all effective means of prevention.”

It committed signers to “eliminate the root causes of the HIV and AIDS pandemic,” including poverty and prejudice against women and homosexuals.


Stephen Bohney, a member of St. Thomas More Parish, prays the rosary with other boys who participated in the parish’s recent vacations camp.

CAMP

(continued from page 1)

Poor.

These priests and religious shared with the youth the experience of their vocations discernment and their lives in service to the Church.

One of the younger participants in the camp was Charlie Swanson, a member of St. Thomas More Parish and a fourth-grader at Northwood Elementary School in Mooresville.

“It’s pretty cool, I like it,” Charlie said. “You get to create stuff and you learn a lot about God.”

Martha Swanson, Charlie’s mother, encouraged her son to attend the camp and liked what he experienced.

“I was very excited about this,” said Swanson. “It’s something that he can get his hands on and see what it is. I would never stray away from discussing it with him or supporting him if that is the decision he made.”

Rick Nagel, a seminarian of the archdiocese and a member of Holy Trinity Parish in Indianapolis, helped run the camp and praised all the parish involvement.

“The volunteerism among those who have been part of this camp is being phenomenal,” Nagel said.

“When you watch the parents who are coming in, the people who are fixing food, those who are helping lead and giving their whole week to do that, and even the religious who have come forward, it gives everyone a sense of a culture.”

The particular kind of culture of which Nagel spoke was the culture of vocations that Father Joseph Moriarty, vocations director for the archdiocese, has sought to foster in the parishes throughout central Indiana.

“Father Rick Eldred has always been supportive of vocations,” said Father Moriarty, who visited the camp on July 1. “He focuses on saying, ‘We need to ask the question. If we ask the question, they will come.’”

Nagel put that question to the campers on that same day in the midst of telling them his own vocations story. He described how a priest had asked him when he was in high school if he had ever thought of becoming a priest. And although at the time he told the priest that he didn’t feel called to that, it did have a positive impact upon him.

“You can imagine that that planted a seed within me that continued to grow for many years,” Nagel said. “And so I’m going to ask that question to each of you. I know that some of you have already been asked this question before. And this week is a great week to ask this question. “Young men, have you ever considered being a priest or a brother? Young ladies, have you ever considered being a sister or a nun? God calls plenty of us to serve him in this way.”

The seeds planted during the vocations camp at St. Thomas More Parish may have been germinating that very week according to Maureen Shea, the parish’s music director.

“I expected maybe a little more reluctance on the kids’ part or kind of a blasé attitude, but they are just jumping in,” Shea said. “They’re asking questions—good questions. I think all of the girls have mentioned the possibility of becoming sisters.”

Nagel agreed and saw much hope for the future of the Church in his experience at the camp.

“I’ve just been amazed. You can see the Holy Spirit working during the whole week,” Nagel said. “One on one, I’ve had some great conversations with some kids. I’m just so inspired for our Church. They’re trying to be good, holy kids.”

Rick Nagel, an archdiocesan seminarian, shares the story of his vocation with the participants of St. Thomas More Parish’s recent vacations camp.
We’ll make cancer scared of you.

Cancer is intimidating. But that doesn’t mean it’s invincible. At St. Francis Hospital & Health Centers, we’re helping people prevent cancer better, detect it sooner, and fight it more effectively. Our approach to total cancer care includes expert diagnosis and treatment with a strong, ongoing emphasis on prevention and education. Our goal is to give you the strength to fight cancer, and win.

Our state-of-the-art treatment options for cancer and disorders of the blood include chemotherapy, radiation therapy, surgery and one of a select few accredited bone marrow transplant programs in the nation. We also offer symptom-control therapies and quality-of-life counseling to help you and your family understand what to expect with this disease, and learn to deal with the physical and emotional challenges associated with it.

By combining the expertise of our cancer care specialists, the effectiveness of the most sophisticated treatment methods available, and the support of an entire team dedicated to your recovery, we can help you become cancer’s biggest fear. Call (317) 782-6704 for information.

St. Francis will host a Cancer 101 workshop from noon to 2 p.m. on Friday, July 30, at St. Francis Hospital - Mooresville, 1201 Hadley Rd. Call (317) 782-6704 to register or for more information.