Exploring the archdiocese’s past helps seminarians look forward

By Sean Gallagher

FLOYDS KNOBS—From the end of the last academic year to the beginning of this one, the number of seminarians affiliated with the archdiocese has grown by 76 percent, from 17 to 30. Recently, most of these men, who represent an important way the future of the archdiocese, made a pilgrimage with Archbishop Daniel M. Buechlein to parishes that represent its historical roots.

On Aug. 18, they traveled to St. Mary-of-the-Knobs Parish in Floyds Knobs, the oldest existing parish in the archdiocese, having been established in 1823. The archbishop celebrated a Mass in the church there and was joined by con-celebrants Father Joseph Mioriarty, vocation director of the archdiocese, Father Robert Robeson, director of formation for the Bishop Bruté House of Formation in Indianapolis; and seminarian Sean Danda.

2004 audits of diocesan sex abuse policy begin

WASHINGTON (CNS)—With a few innovations, the 2004 audits to measure compliance with sex abuse prevention policies by U.S. dioceses and Eastern-rite eparchies since their 2003 audit, said Sheila Horan, deputy director of the U.S. bishops’ Office of Child and Youth Protection.

A new question this year is the number of seminarians affiliated with the archdiocese. Having been established in 1823, the oldest existing parish in the archdiocese. The archbishop celebrated a Mass in the church there and was joined by con-celebrants Father Joseph Mioriarty, vocation director of the archdiocese, Father Robert Robeson, director of formation for the Bishop Bruté House of Formation in Indianapolis, and seminarian Sean Danda.

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WASHINGTON (CNS)—With different political philosophies, Republican President George W. Bush and Democratic rival Sen. John F. Kerry are far apart on how they would structure taxes and the federal budget to help shape the U.S. economy for the next four years. How well or poorly either candidate’s plans and programs would mesh with principles for economic justice outlined by Catholic social teaching is another matter.

In today’s complex, increasingly glob-alized economy, there is no simple way to translate norms of social justice and equity into U.S. public policy decisions. Too much depends on the practical outcome of the policies, on which there is wide disagreement.

Last September the Administrative Committee of the U.S. bishops issued a 21-page statement, “Faithful Citizenship: A Catholic Call to Political Responsi-bility.” A relatively small portion of that state-ment addressed tax, budgetary and eco-nomic policy issues directly, although what the bishops said on a wide range of other issues had budget-related policy implications. In their most direct statement on the economy and government policy, the bishops said:

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WASHINGTON (CNS)—With a few innovations, the 2004 audits to measure compliance with sex abuse prevention policies by U.S. dioceses and Eastern-rite eparchies started in late July.

A new question this year is the number of allegations received by dioceses and eparchies since their 2003 audit. Said Sheila Horan, deputy director of the U.S. bishops’ Office of Child and Youth Protection.

The answers will establish a statistical base line needed to measure the success of prevention policies by showing whether future accusations will rise or fall, she said.

“Are we reducing cases?” she said.

The child and youth protection office is responsible for conducting the on-site audits and has contracted the Gavin Group, the same organization that did the 2003 audits, to do this year’s audits.

The 2003 audits, the first to be con-ducted, showed 90 percent compliance with the policies contained in thebish-ops “Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People,” approved in 2002.

Other 2004 innovations include:

• Provisions that allow individuals or groups with information that a diocese or eparchy may not be in compliance with policies to forward such information directly to the Gavin Group.

• Giving dioceses and eparchies the audit results within two weeks of the com-pletion of their individual audit rather than waiting for all audits to be com-pleted, as was done in 2003.

Regarding allegations, Horan told Catholic News Service that each diocese and eparchy will be asked the number of allegations it received during the approxi-mately 12-month period since its last audit.

The 2003 audit did not ask about alle-gations. However, a Church-approved national study of the sex abuse crisis con-ducted by the John Jay College of Criminal Justice in New York gathered.
human person. We support policies that create jobs for all who can work with decent working conditions and adequate pay that reflects a living wage. We also support efforts to overcome barriers to equal pay and employment for women and those facing and discrimination.

“We reaffirm the Church’s traditional support of the right of workers to choose to organize, join a union, bargain collectively, and exercise these rights without retribution. We also affirm the Church’s teaching on the importance of economic freedom, initiative and the right to private property, through which we have the tools and resources to pursue the common good.”

On the domestic front, Bush recently credited his administration’s tax cuts with spurring economic recovery and said, “To sustain this economic growth, we need to keep taxes low. Higher taxes right now would undermine growth and destroy jobs... We need to make the tax relief permanent.”

Noting that most of the Bush tax cuts benefited people in the highest income brackets, Kerry recently said, “I’m fighting to roll back George Bush’s unaffordable tax cut for the wealthy, increase the child care tax credit and middle-class tax reduction package went to the three-fifths of Americans earning $53,000 or less. Almost 14 percent went to those in the next fifth, earning up to $84,000, and 77 percent went to the one-fifth of households with incomes above $84,000. The administration argues that the tax cut was necessary to spur growth and restore the nation’s economic health, the Kerry campaign says the cut contributed to record deficits that endanger the U.S. economy. According to White House projections, the deficit for the fiscal year ending on Sept. 30 will be a record $445 billion, well above last year’s $357 billion deficit. The White House earlier projections of more than half a trillion dollars.

The Bush campaign literature focuses on making the administration’s tax cuts permanent. Kerry says he would roll back the tax cuts for the wealthy, increase the child care tax credit and middle-class tax cuts, and use tax incentives to get businesses to invest in jobs at home, not abroad. Bush and Kerry both claim their plans will cut the federal deficit in half—Bush in five years, Kerry in four.

This summer, Republicans in Congress began floating the idea of a national sales tax, prompting Bush at an Aug. 10 campaign event to say that, while he had no idea how large a national sales tax would have to be, “it’s the kind of interesting idea we ought to explore seriously.”

Kerry said such a tax would have to be as large as 30 percent and would hurt small businesses and middle-class families the most.

Kerry proposes raising the U.S. minimum wage from the $5.15 per hour set in 1997 to $7 per hour. Under a “minimum wage increase” heading, the Bush campaign Web site stresses the number of new jobs created in the past year and the need for “policies that will keep the economy growing”—language traditionally used by opponents of a higher minimum wage—but adds that the administration “will continue to work with Congress to study the various minimum wage proposals.”

Bush and Kerry disagree sharply on the meaning, impact and number of new jobs generated in the United States since last August. The Kerry campaign claims that most of the new jobs are in fields of work where wages are below the national average, while the Bush campaign argues that most of them are in higher-paying fields of work.

Kerry says a Democratic administration would create 10 million new jobs in the country. His “Jobs First Tax Cut Strategy” includes closing loopholes that provide tax breaks to companies that move jobs overseas; giving a tax credit to small companies for each new employee hired; eliminating capital gains taxes for those who invest in small businesses; and giving small employers a tax break of up to 50 percent on the cost of covering health insurance for workers.

On the U.S. role in the global economy and the development of heavily indebted and underdeveloped nations, “Faithful Citizenship” said, “As a wealthy and powerful nation, the United States has the capacity and responsibility to address [the] scandal of poverty and underdevelop-

“The United States,” the bishops added, “should take a leading role in helping to alleviate global poverty through a comprehensive development agenda, including substantially increased development aid for the poorest countries, more equitable trade policies and continuing efforts to relieve the crushing burdens of debt and disease.”

The Bush administration has continued the process begun under President Bill Clinton to fund significant debt forgiveness in poor countries facing massive external debt.

After he launched a three-year $15 billion Millennium Challenge Account to improve living conditions in poor countries, Bush launched a five-year $15 billion commitment of U.S. aid to fight disease abroad, especially the spread of HIV and AIDS in Africa and Asia.

The Kerry campaign calls for more reliance on inexpensive generic drugs to fight AIDS globally; a more collaborative multilateral approach than the largely bilateral aid approach of the Bush administration, and raising U.S.-AIDS fund-

Kerry also calls for “deeper and broader debt cancellation” for heavily indebted poor countries.

data on sex abuse allegations during the 1950-2002 period.

The John Jay study released in February said that dioceses and archdioceses received credible allegations of abuse against 4,392 clergy—almost all priests— involving 10,667 minors during the period. Regarding possible noncompliance data, a child and youth protection office fact sheet on the audits said that people with information that “indicates that a particular article, or articles, of the charter are not being complied with” in a diocese or eparchy can mail the data to Gavin Group, P.O. Box 520162, Winthrop, MA 02152.

The fact sheet was posted in mid-August on the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops’ Web site and is available at: www.usccb.org/ecos/cepliance.htm. Horan said the fact sheet was designed to inform the public and to discuss the audit procedures during their overall review of sex abuse prevention policies to be done at their November meeting.

Prior to the June meeting, several bishops questioned whether annual audits were required by the charter as the charter mentions only “an annual report on the progress made” in implementing the charter.

The child and youth protection office fact sheet said that “the compliance audits are authorized by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops pursuant to the charter for the Protection of Children and Young People.”

A worker saves air bags for Ford at Aguirre Safety Technologies in Detroit. In their statement on political responsibility, the bishops said they support government policies that “create jobs for all who will work with decent work- ing conditions and adequate pay that reflects a living wage.”

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Indianapolis.

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both women and men.

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vival rate of breast cancer patients, but emphasized that cre-
center's multidisciplinary approach will increase the sur-
Dr. Patricia Maryland, president of St. Vincent Hospitals
and Health Services in Indianapolis, said creating a center
dedicated to breast care offers patients new beginnings and
renewed hope for the future.

“Cancer does not have to be a diagnosis of death,”
Maryland said, because early screening, intervention and
treatment can make a huge difference in clinical outcomes and
survival rates for patients.

“Having the best of technology to support that [early
intervention] truly can help us move toward a very positive
outcome” for breast cancer patients, she said. “I believe that
St. Vincent Health is special because we not only take care of
the patient’s needs from a physical standpoint and a men-
tal standpoint, but … how we integrate the spiritual compo-
nents, understanding the emotional and spiritual needs of
our patients, is a big part of that care process.”

Dr. R. Thomas Schmidt, a surgical breast oncologist and
medical director of the St. Vincent Breast Program, said the
center’s multidisciplinary approach will increase the sur-
vival rate of breast cancer patients, but emphasized that cre-
ating awareness about warning signs and the importance of
mammograms are the keys to preventing this type of cancer
in both women and men.

“We’re very proud to have a state-of-the-art facility,”
Schmidt said, “and we have a very dedicated and caring
staff of people that are committed to the work. We want
people to get mammograms so we can save lives.

Dedication of the specialty center “makes us pause to
realize that breast cancer continues to be a huge problem, a
huge issue,” he said, “and despite all the advances that
we’ve made, early detection is the primary way that we will
impact survival. We all need to continue to create aware-
ness throughout the community. Without question, that’s the
most important thing we can do. We all need to … go
home and ask our neighbors, ask our friends, if they have
had a mammogram. It’s a simple little thing.”

If everyone would promote the importance of breast
mammography, he said, that life-saving message would
reach countless people and help save lives.

Dr. Lori Wells, a radiologist and medical director of
St. Vincent Breast Center, said the St. Vincent Mobile
Foundation to fund a Hispanic bilingual assistant for the
mobile mammography unit.

“In a lot of the areas where we’re going, there is a large
percentage of Hispanics in the population,” Howerton said.
“We now have a translator for those patients whose culture
may be a barrier to them receiving a mammogram. It’s been
an extremely successful program, and we’re hoping to
expand it and get additional funding for next year.”

St. Vincent’s ongoing mobile mammography services
complement the new breast care center and offer “opportu-
nities to remove additional barriers for women to seek
mammography,” she said. “Unfortunately, a very low inci-
dence of women actually use these programs, so we can go
right to their workplace and remove that barrier.”

St. Vincent’s for almost 125 years now.”

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or both breasts.
many years. Signs and symptoms of breast
include a lump, thickening or
cancer. Men account for 1 percent of all
cases. Eight women are diagnosed with breast
mammography,” she said. “Unfortunately, a very low inci-
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St. Vincent Indianapolis Hospital dedicates new breast care center
By Mary Ann Wyand

Cincinnati Priest to Host
Hawaii
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Depart March 7, 2005
Join other Roman Catholics on the most affordable two-week,
four-island Hawaiian vacation you will ever find at the
guaranteed lowest price. You will depart Monday, March 7, 2005
and return home Tuesday, March 22, 2005. Your group will fly to
Honolulu for five nights in Waikiki, three nights on Kauai, two
nights on Maui and two nights on the Big Island. Tours include:
Sightseeing on every island includes: A Honolulu city tour with
Punchbowl Crater and Pearl Harbor cruise to the Arizona Memorial
to the Fern Grotto, Iao Valley excursion & the old whaling capital of Lahaina, a
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The Criterion Friday, August 27, 2004
Letters to the Editor

Some people need to remember ‘judge not’

Seventy-one years ago when I was baptized in the Catholic Church, the United States was just coming out of a serious depression, the war in Europe was soon to involve the United States and my darling Irish mother was struggling as a single parent to keep a home together for my older sister and myself.

In order words, it will allow the creation of so-called “designer babies.”

Since Britain is such a secular society, it makes another development in England that much more interesting. It all started with a new book by a gynecologist, Dr. Stuart Campbell. The book, titled Make Love, Save Love! (St. Martin’s Press, $24.95), shows photographs of fetuses in the womb during various stages of their growth.

The photographs were produced by the new 3D ultrasound scanning. The editors of a London newspaper were so taken by the photographs that they published, on the front page, a series of the photographs of a 12-week-old fetus stretching and kicking in the womb. Inside pages featured a double spread of a large range of the photos. Naturally, the photos showed quite clearly that this was a baby in the mother’s womb.

As a result of those photos, there is now a demand that England’s abortion laws be changed. The law now allows a baby in the mother’s womb.

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La religión como fórmula publicitaria; la vida como una novela

Cuenta la historia que una noche durante la cena el cardenal Angelo Roncalli (quien posteriormente se convertiría en el Papa Juan XXIII) escuchaba el informe de su sacerdote secretario sobre un compañero sacerdote cuya comportamiento era objeto de escándalos en la comunidad local. El sacerdote cuestionó al cardenal sobre por qué estaba dispuesto a tolerar a semejante sacerdote.

El cardenal permaneció en silencio durante algún tiempo, mientras examinaba la copa de vino que tenía en la mano. Finalmente le preguntó al sacerdote secretario: “¿De quién es esta copa?”

“Sorprendido por la pregunta, el sacerdote le respondió: “Es suya, Su Eminencia”.

“Sin decir nada, el cardenal Roncalli tiró la copa en el suelo donde se hizo pedazos.

“Y de quién es ahora, padre?” le preguntó el paciente secretario.

“Era el turno del cardenal de hacer la pregunta final: “¿Es acaso menos hombre mío el sacerdote del que me hablabas que aquellos de los medios de comunicación que algunos miembros de los medios de comunicación tratan de abordar con su comportamiento el tema de la relación entre la iglesia y los medios de comunicación. Hace algunos años un amigo obispo plasmó su pensamiento sobre este tema. Algunos de sus pensamientos coinciden con los míos. Los asuntos religiosos, en este caso la doctrina católica, parecen ser conceptos extras que para algunos de los líderes y representantes de la iglesia son temas familiares. Muy rara vez los temas de fe importantes reciben atención de los medios de comunicación, salvo cuando surgen conflictos, controversias o escándalos. Se trata de “la religión como fórmula publicitaria”.

Nosotros, el público, no estamos exentos de responsabilidad por el tenor voyeurista de buena parte de lo que aparece en las prensa y en televisión: el lado pecaminoso de la vida, historias de promesas rotas y la estela de basura que dejan. Se trata de “la vida como una novela”.

Se les considera al puerco pecaminoso y a los demás pecadores públicos como objetos de fascinación, no como personas. El pedro parece estar fuera del alcance. Somos nosotros mismos responsables por estas consecuencias en nuestra cultura?

Criminales y víctimas de sus crímenes, familiares entrelazados de dos vidas desacertadas, aquellos que sufren perturbaciones emocionales con su comportamiento extraño, iglesias y sus frágiles ministros, son todos hombres y mujeres, no objetos para satisfacer nuestro curiosismo, o justo y simplemente escrutinio. Permitir “entretenernos” con el sufrimiento ajeno es la faza de la indignidad y el prejuicio. ¿No nos equivocamos?

Como escribió el obispo J. Peter Sartain de Little Rock: “Los sacerdotes, ministros y rabíncos detentan el maravilloso llamado a difundir la palabra de Dios”. A veces lo hacemos bien, a veces mal. A veces lo vivimos bien, a veces mal. Sin embargo lo que mantiene nuestro llamado, a pesar de los desafíos que ocasionamos en ciertas oportunidades, es la creencia de que Dios no trata a ningún ser humano como un objeto.

“...No nos equivocamos” – continúa el obispo Sartain – “Dios no es flexible con el mal, así como tampoco debemos serlo nosotros. Pero Dios no es manifiesta nuestra incapacidad de ver, o nuestros ojos no lo ve, o nosotros o los demás en nuestra comunidad, o nuestra iglesia, o nuestro cuerpo, o nuestra vida”. En aquellos momentos de pecado, donde el pecado es evidente, Dios nos ama, a Santos y pecadores por igual.

Nuestros tránsitos provocan Su compasión y Su ira, pero aquel que nos creó sabe que somos capaces de hacer daño y no ça us canse de enseñarnos cómo. No hay nada más purificadora que la ira del amor de Dios. “Pareceres” – dice el Obispo – “por su enfoque con respecto a los asuntos de fe, que algunos miembros de los medios de comunicación fueran los últimos en descubrir que existe el pecado. Existe algo inherente inherente incómodo sobre aquellos que sensualizan la fragilidad humana; no podemos dejar de ser conscientes de este dolor, porque existe el pecado, de hecho todos nosotros estamos y somos capaces de caer y con frecuencia lo hacemos. La palabra de Dios lleva consigo un testimonio de los efectos del coqueteo de los humanos con el mal. Lo que deben hacer nosotros como creyentes es ofrecer una respuesta a la fragilidad humana basada en la palabra de Dios para nosotros... La fórmula publicitaria seductora que escuchamos en el reportaje de las seis era sobre nuestra humanidad. El apasionante titular que leimos esta mañana en el periódico hablaba sobre nuestro hermano”, concluye el obispo Sartain.

Mucha de la religión es digno de una noticia y no todas las noticias sobre religión son agradables para el creyente. Sin embargo, independiente de la noticia sobre su fe, los creyentes merecen un recuento serio de los problemas, un recuento sensualizador extraído de fuentes cuestionables para inducir al conflicto y la controversia.

Los pecadores rotos también son familia.

Traducido por: Language Training Center, Indianapolis

La intención del Arzobispo Buechlein para vocaciones en agosto

Conocimiento de la Parroquia: Que cada parroquiano sea consciente de su papel para fomentar todas las vocaciones y anime a nuestros jóvenes a con-siderar la vida sacerdotal y religiosa.
Prince of Peace Parish, 201 W. State St., in Madison, is having its community festival from 5 p.m. to midnight on Aug. 27 and from 3 p.m. to midnight on Aug. 28. The festival will feature food, carnival rides and games. For more information, call 812-273-5835.

Immaculate Conception Parish, 2081 E. County Road 820 S., in Millhousen, is having a Smorgasbord Dinner from 4 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. on Aug. 28 in the Knights of St. John Hall. The cost is $7 per adult, $3 per child age 6 to 12, and $1 for children under 5. For more information, call the parish at 812-591-2362.

Mount Saint Francis Friary and Retreat Center, 101 St. Anthony Dr., in Mount Saint Francis, is having its annual picnic from 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. on Aug. 28. There will be rock-climbing, a chicken and ham dinner and the Southern Indiana Hot Air Balloon Race. For more information, call the retreat center at 812-923-8817.

St. Thomas Aquinas Parish, 4625 N. Kenwood Ave., is having its Taste of St. Thomas Aquinas fundraiser from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. on Aug. 29 in the gymnasium of the parish school. The event will be a chance to sample the many foods that more than 60 parishioners have prepared and to take home recipes. The cost is $5 per person or $15 per family, and includes tasting of all foods. Proceeds benefit the St. Vincent de Paul Society. For more information, call Sharon Sperry at 317-834-2809 or e-mail supervision@bebeuf.org.

The Benedict Inn Retreat and Conference Center, 1402 Southern Ave., in Beech Grove, is offering a Spa Day for Women on Sept. 25. The retreat will be a chance for women to pamper themselves with a mini-massage, do-it-yourself facial, aromatherapy and other activities. The cost is $100 per person or $90 per person with two or more registrations. There will also be a retreat titled "The School of Lectio Divina" on Sept. 11-17. Participants will pray with the Benedictine community and learn about a form of prayer for those seeking to live the contemplative way of life. The cost is $400 per person or $310 per commuter. The registration deadline for both programs is Aug. 27. For more information, call 317-788-7581 or e-mail benedictinij@yahoo.com or log on to www.benedictinium.org.

The Speed Dating for Indy Catholics team is holding its next event at 7 p.m. on Sept. 12 at the Marian Center at St. Mary Parish, 317 N. New Jersey St., in Indianapolis. Check-in will begin at 6:30 p.m., and will be preceded by a 5 p.m. Mass. The Mass is typically followed by a reception for Catholic Young Adults at 6 p.m., which participants of speed dating are welcome to attend. People will be split into two age groups: 21 to 35, 36 and over. For more information, e-mail sldindycatholic@yahoo.com.

St. Mary’s Church Festival
36th Annual
Fall Festival
Sunday, Sept. 12 † 9 a.m.-4 p.m.
Chicken or Roasted Hog Dinners
Serving 11:00 to 3:00 (EST)
Carry Outs Available

Adults: $8.00
Children (12 and under): $5.00

GrAND PRIZE $1,000
Stained Glass Panel, valued at $500
Many other prizes totaling $1500

Country Store Auction begins at 1 p.m.
Handmade Items
Craft Booths, Games For All Ages

St. Mary Church Festival
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Rushville, IN

Our Lady of Fatima Retreat House
Sneak Peek at Future Events
November 12-14 . . . Blending Souls: Deepening God’s Presence in Your Marriage

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Two of our most popular presenters...these retreats are sure to fill quickly. Early registration is suggested. Call for a brochure!

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Indianapolis, IN 46226
(317) 545-7681
fatima@archindy.org

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

Alien vs. Predator (20th Century Fox)
Rated R (Adults) because of gory action violence, an instance of rough language and scattered crude expressions.

Former patients and their immediate family members will receive free tickets to the museum, and there will be a discounted rate for extended family and friends. Reservations must be made in advance. For more information or to make reservations, call 888-466-7997 or log on to www.SFFrancisHospitals.org.

Children’s Museum of Indianapolis, 3000 N. Meridian St., in Indianapolis, is having its 30th anniversary with a reunion of former patients and their families from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Aug. 28 at The Children’s Museum of Indianapolis, 3000 N. Meridian St. Former patients and their immediate family members will receive free tickets to the museum, and there will be a discounted rate for extended family and friends. Reservations must be made in advance. For more information or to make reservations, call 888-466-7997 or log on to www.SFFrancisHospitals.org.

Providence Self Sufficiency Ministries Inc., a ministry of the Sisters of Providence of Saint Mary-of-the-Woods, is celebrating its 30th anniversary with a recognition and appreciation luncheon from noon to 1:30 p.m. on Sept. 10 at Providence House for Children, 8037 Unruh Dr., in Georgetown. An R.S.V.P. is requested by Sept. 2. For more information, call 812-951-1878 or e-mail penwym@insigbb.com.

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

Without a Paddle (Paramount)
Rated R (Limited Adult Audience) because of a few sexual encounters, drug content and some violence as well as recurring coarse language and crude humor.

Rated PG-13 (Parents are strongly cautioned. Some material may be inappropriate for children under 13) by the MPAA.†
Pro-life sign painted to offer women a better choice

By Sean Gallagher

Sidewalk counselors at abortion clinics have a challenging job. The women they try to serve often ignore them. But now the men and women who seek to help those who come to the Planned Parenthood clinic at 5430 E. 21st St. in Indianapolis have a tool in their pro-life work that will be difficult to look past.

A large sign designed to attract the attention of the clinic’s clients was recently painted on the wall of a commercial building perpendicular to the clinic. It faces the clinic and its parking lot.

The sign’s message does not condemn the women who have come there. Instead, it offers them help. It shows a hand holding a heart. Next to the heart is the message: “There is a better choice. For real help, call 1-877-734-2444.”

This is the telephone number of the Gabriel Project, a network of pro-life people who give help and support to women who are experiencing crisis pregnancies.

The sign also has a short message for those who speak only Spanish: “Llamamos [‘You may call us’] 1-800-720-4570.”

This is the telephone number for the Gabriel Project’s Spanish line.

Maureen McHugh, a member of St. Matthew Parish in Indianapolis, spearheaded the effort to have this sign painted. She has often served as a sidewalk counselor outside the clinic.

She has several children who have participated, and she quickly agreed.

Thornton, a resident of Indianapolis and a member of Trader’s Point Christian Church, discussed the connection between her artistry and her faith in God while painting the letters of the sign.

“I feel that it is very important to use the gifts that God has given us to serve and to glorify him,” she said. “And so, in this regard, I’m able to use my art skills to do something that will hopefully do something to change a woman’s life and a child’s life.”

John Hanagan, a member of St. Luke Parish in Indianapolis and a veteran sidewalk counselor, was stationed outside the clinic on the first morning that an abortion doctor was performing abortions there after the sign was painted. Hanagan expressed his belief that such signs can play an important role in pro-life ministry.

Marian College junior Kendra Thornton of Indianapolis and her friends painted this pro-life sign on the wall of a commercial building that faces a Planned Parenthood clinic at 5430 E. 21st St. in Indianapolis, whose abortions are performed. St. Matthew parishioner Maureen McHugh of Indianapolis was inspired to initiate the sign project as a result of prayer.

“I feel they are really important, just to shake people out of their apathy,” Hanagan said. “Too often, people just ignore us. They don’t think about it. I think that they don’t really realize what they’re doing. So the idea of the signs is to wake them up.”

But more than simply raising their awareness, Hanagan also explained that the new sign can express the ultimate purpose for his and other counselors’ presence: to offer help.

“The first message is that we’re here to help,” he said. “We’re not just here to protest. We’re here to help. And that’s what that [sign] says. I think that it is going to help.”

(Those interested in assisting or participating in the pro-life work of Truth and Compassion Ministries can call 812-682-2444. Those interested in assisting or participating in the pro-life work of the Gabriel Project can call 877-734-2444.)

Monastery church restoration approaches final phase, Sisters of St. Benedict need support

FERNANDIN, IN — The Sisters of St. Benedict of Ferdinand, Indiana, are pleased to announce that their four-year church restoration project is nearing completion. They expect the church to be reopened in early summer of 2005.

Monastery Immaculate Conception, a national landmark, has drawn tens of thousands of visitors and worshipers the past two years. Currently, the “Cathedral on the Hill” is home to 200 Sisters, making it one of the largest Benedictine women’s religious communities in the United States.

Despite the $7 million dollar price tag associated with the church restoration, only a little over $200,000 remains to be raised. New donations are needed for the Sisters to complete the restoration.

While the Sisters were preparing this request for new gifts, Joe Huber, a longtime resident of southern Indiana, wrote the Sisters to offer his help. The following are excerpts from his letter.

“My wife, Bonnie, and I were very fortunate in having received our first eight years of education from the Benedictine Sisters of Monastery Immaculate Conception.

“I went to bed last night wondering how I can help the Sisters. It is now 4 a.m. I hope this letter is the answer to the Sisters’ prayers.”

— Joe and Bonnie Huber of Starlight, Indiana
Consecrated virgins: a sacramental lifestyle

A few years ago, I accidentally came across information about consecrated virgins. I meant to research this thoroughly, but became sidetracked with too many other pressing issues. Currently, my interest was piqued again.

At this time, research revealed a coinci-
dence. The States Association of Consecrated Virgins (USAVC) held its 2004 “Seeking the Face of Jesus as Consecrated Virgins” retreat this week at the Benedictine Monastery of Notre Dame in the heart of Belleveille, Ill.

USAVC members are women who have been consecrated according to the Rite for the Consecration of a Virgin living in the world. Besides retreats, conferences are designed for women discerning a vocation to this way of life, preparing for this vocation. Diocesan personal consultation includes their identity, intent, and whether this is a calling from God.

During the retreat, the congrega-
tion offered a comprehensive look at what is described as the “fullness of life and love” they may experience. They become co-creators with God.

Faithful Lines/Shirley Vogler Meister

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**The Sunday Readings**

### Monday, Aug. 30

1 Corinthians 2:1-5

Psalm 119:97-102

Luke 4:36-37

*Explain the significance of this reading and how it relates to Christian teachings.*

### Tuesday, Aug. 31

1 Corinthians 2:10-16

Psalm 145:8-14

Luke 4:31-37

*Discuss the implications of this reading for contemporary ethics.*

### Wednesday, Sept. 1

1 Corinthians 3:1-9

Psalm 33:12-15, 20-21

Luke 4:38-44

*Analyze the message of this reading and its relevance to personal faith.

### Thursday, Sept. 2

1 Corinthians 3:18-23

Psalm 24:1-6


**My Journey to God**

**Whispers**

When the valley of the shadow

Leads us to despair,

Take comfort in the certitude

That He is always there.

It is a mystic sound

Like whispers on the air;

A gentle voice that says—

“I am listening and I care.”

In our time of want,

No sorrow is too small.

When we pray for help,

There’s an answer to our call.

No one ever walks alone,

For He does understand;

You will hear Him whisper—

“Come and take my hand.”

By C. David Hay

(C. David Hay is a member of St. Joseph University Parish in Terre Haute.)

**Questions Corner/By John Dietzen**

**Bishops offer guidance to help Catholic voters**

Q: I am thoroughly confused. Recent issues of our Catholic newspaper and Catholic magazines say that, according to some bishops, voting for a candidate who backs abortion is a sin, and we should not go to Communion. Other bishops tell us something different.

A: The problem is that there are different standards and definitions of what is acceptable and unacceptable. The bishops disagree on what constitutes a mortal sin and what constitutes a venial sin. Some bishops believe that abortion is a mortal sin, while others believe that it is a venial sin.

*Discuss the various perspectives and how they might be reconciled.*

**Daily Readings**

**Friday, Sept. 3**

Gregory the Great, pope and doctor of the Church

1 Corinthians 4:1-5

Psalm 57:3-6, 27-28, 37-40


**Saturday, Sept. 4**

1 Corinthians 4:6b-15

Psalm 145:17-21


**Sunday, Sept. 5**

Twenty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time

Wisdom 9:13-18

Psalm 90:3-6, 12-17

Philémon 9-10, 12-17

Luke 14:24-33
Jesuit Father Thomas Widner named rector of community

Jesuit Father Thomas Widner, former editor of The Criterion, was recently named rector of the Jesuit Community at Brebeuf Jesuit Preparatory School in Indianapolis.

The appointment was announced on July 1 by Very Rev. Edward W. Schmidt, S.J., provincial of the Chicago Province of the Society of Jesus.

Father Widner was born in Beech Grove in 1942 and attended Our Lady of Lourdes School and the former St. Bernadette School, both in Indianapolis. He attended the Bishop Bruté Latin School in Indianapolis his freshman year of high school and Father Thomas Scecina Memorial High School for the remaining years.

He graduated from Marian College in Indianapolis with a bachelor's degree in English in 1964 and, after a year of accelerated Latin studies, entered major seminary at Kenrick Seminary in St. Louis. In the summers, he pursued a master's degree in English from the University of Notre Dame, which he earned in 1969, the same year he was ordained for priestly ministry in the Archdiocese of Indianapolis.

As a diocesan priest, Father Widner taught at the Latin School from 1969 to 1973, at which point he entered parish work at St. Andrew the Apostle Parish in Indianapolis. In 1975, he was appointed associate editor of The Criterion, the newspaper of the Archdiocese of Indianapolis, and in 1976 became its editor, a position he held until 1984, when he was named associate pastor at St. Barnabas Parish in Indianapolis.


In 1991, he was appointed associate director of the Spiritual Renewal Center in Hammond, Ind., and a year later was invited to become editor-in-chief of the Catholic New World, the newspaper published by the Archdiocese of Chicago.

He was appointed communications coordinator for the Chicago Province of the Society of Jesus in 1995, where he managed publication of the province's quarterly magazine, Partners (which was then called Contact).

Father Widner then did retreat work at Milford Spiritual Center in Milford, Ohio, from 1997 to 1999. In 1999, he was appointed secretary for communications at the Jesuit Conference in Washington, D.C., where he edited and published the National Jesuit News, a national newspaper published seven times a year. He served in this capacity until he was assigned rector at Brebeuf’s Jesuit community.

Father Widner served on the school’s board of trustees from 1992 to 2000. He will move to Indianapolis and begin his new assignment later this year.
Freedom

These bronze figures titled “From Slavery to Freedom” are on display at the new National Underground Railroad Freedom Center in Cincinnati. The hands-on museum on the city’s riverfront aims to serve as a monument to the famous Underground Railroad and as a facility of learning.

CNS photo by Tony Tribble, Catholic Telegraph

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The Active List

The Criterion welcomes announcements of archdiocesan Church and parish open-to-the-public services for the "Active List." Please be brief—listing date, location, event, sponsor, cost and time. Include a phone number for verification. No announcements will be taken by telephone. Notices must be in our office by 5 p.m. Thursday one week in advance of (Friday) publication. The Criterion, The Active List, 1400 N. Meridian St. (hand-delivery), PO Box 7171, Indianapolis, IN 46206 (mail); 317-236-1593 (fax), mklein@archindy.org (e-mail).

August 27
Mattan College, St. Francis Hall Chapel, 3200 Cold Spring Road, Indianapolis. Catholic Charis- matic Renewal, teaching, praise and worship, 7:30-8:30 p.m. Information: 731-378-3217.

August 27-28

August 28
Prince of Peace Parish, 201 W. State St., Madison. Community Festival, Fri. 5-9 p.m., Sat. 3 p.m.-midnight, food, carnival, rides, games. Information: 827-233-5555.

August 28
Holy Angels Church, 740 W. 28th St., Indianapolis. Picnic, booths, food, Italian food, entertainment. Information: 317-926-3324.

Aug 28-Festival

August 29
St. Thomas Aquinas Parish, 46th and Illinois streets, Indianapolis. Taste of St. Thomas, 11 a.m.-1:30 p.m., $5 per person, $15 per family, proceeds benefit St. Vincent de Paul Society. Information and registration: 317-253-1461.

September 1
St. Barnabas Parish, Faith Forma- tion Office, 8300 Ralthe Road, Indianapolis. Women’s ministry, 7 p.m. Information: 317-882-0724.

September 3
Holy Trinity Parish, Bockhold Hall, 2618 W. St. Clair St., Indianapolis. All-class reunion, open house, 6-7 p.m. Informa- tion: www.indydiocese.com.

September 3-5

September 3

September 4
St. Peter Church, 1207 East Road, Brookville. Labor Day Festival, 10 a.m.-7 p.m., booths, games, chicken dinners, sandwich lunch, 10 a.m.-2:30 p.m., children under 5 free, 4-7:30 p.m. Information: 812-623-3670.

September 4
St. Pius V Parish, 9995 E. Base Road, Enches- burg, Parish festival, fried chicken and roast beef dinners, 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Information: 812-934-2880.

September 6
St. Peter Church, 1207 East Road, Brookville. Labor Day Festival, 10 a.m.-7 p.m., booths, games, chicken dinners, sandwich lunch, 10 a.m.-2:30 p.m., children under 5 free, 4-7:30 p.m. Information: 812-623-3670.

September 6
St. Anthony of Padua Parish, 4720 E. 13th St., Indianapolis. Italian Festival, 10 a.m.-11 p.m., Italian food, entertainment. Information: 812-623-5760.

September 6
Sacred Heart Parish, 558 Nolbe- ke St., Clifton. Little Italy Festival. Water Street in downtown Clifton, Fri. 7-11 p.m., Sat. 11 a.m.-11 p.m., Mon. 11 a.m.-closing, Italian food, entertainment. Information: 765-872-8468.

September 4
St. Vincent Hospital, 2001 W. 88th St., Indianapolis. Couple to Couple League, Natural Family Planning (NFP), 9-11 a.m. Information: 317-228-9276.

September 5
Slovenian National Home Picnic Grounds, West 10th Street (one mile west of Raceway Road, turn north on Yates Lane). Indianapolis Picnic, 11 a.m.-10 p.m. Information: www.inhdiocese.net.

September 5
St. John the Evangelist Parish, 9995 E. Base Road, Enchesburg, Parish festival, fried chicken and roast beef dinners, 11 a.m.-11 p.m., Italian food, entertainment. Information: 812-934-2880.

September 5
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September 6
St. Peter Church, 1207 East Road, Brookville. Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m. Information: 317-784-5454.

September 7
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St. Peter Church, 1207 East Road, Brookville. Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m. Information: 317-784-5454.

September 8
SS. Francis and Clare Church, 3353 E. 30th St., Indianapolis. Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament for voca- tions, 7:30 p.m. Information: 317-244-5826.

September 8
St. Joseph Church, 2605 S. Joe Road W., Sellersburg. Holy hour for religious vocations. Benediction and exposition of the Blessed Sacrament 7:30 p.m.

September 8
Berean Jewish Preparatory School, 2860 W. 96th St., Indianapolis. Indiana Autism and Developmental Disabilities Coalition, 7-9 p.m., child care provided. Information: 317-885-7295.

First Saturday
St. Vincent de Paul Church, 1723 "T" St., Bedford. Exposure of the Blessed Sacrament 8:30 a.m.-9:30 a.m. Sat., recon- ciliation, Fri. 4-6 p.m., Sat. 8-9 p.m. Information: 812-934-2880.

St. Peter Church, 1207 East Road, Brookville. Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m. Information: 812-255-6579.

Holy Name Church, 89 N. 17th Ave., Beech Grove. Mass, 8:15 a.m., eucharistic adoration following Mass until 5 p.m. Information: 317-784-5454.

St. Peter Church, 1207 East Road, Brookville. Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m. Information: 812-255-6579.

Sacred Heart of Jesus Church, 5333 E. Washington St., Indianapolis. “I” St., Indianapolis. Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament 7:30-10:30 a.m. Information: 317-638-5531.

Our Lady of Perpetual Help Chapel, 1752 Scheller Lane, New Albany. Adoration concluding with confessions at 6 p.m. Information: 812-636-6614.

St. Joseph Church, 1335 S. Union St., Sellersburg. Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 7:30-10:30 a.m. Information: 317-638-5531.

First Saturdays

Holy Angels Church, 740 W. 28th St., Indianapolis. Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, 11 a.m.-noon.

St. Theresa of the Infant Jesus (Little Flower) Church, Chapel, 4270 E. 13th St., Indianapolis. Adoration of Fatima holy hour, 2 p.m.
Research shows that embryonic stem cells have not cured any diseases

By Mary Ann Wyand

ST. LOUIS—Embryonic stem cell research, which kills developing embryos, has cured any diseases and can cause tumor growth, a nationally known bioethics specialist told diocesan pro-life directors and state Catholic Conference directors during an Aug. 6 presentation in St. Louis that was sponsored by the U. S. Conference of Catholic Bishops’ Secretariat for Pro-Life Activities.

Father Pacholczyk, director of education for the National Catholic Bioethics Center in Philadelphia and a priest from the Diocese of Fall River, Mass., said many physicians, politicians and celebrities erroneously acclaim the use of embryonic stem cells as a miracle cure for many diseases when research clearly shows that adult stem cells and umbilical-cord blood stem cells are achieving successes as medical therapies.

“There’s no need to kill developing embryos to find cures for diseases. Other types of stem cells have proven effective in medical research and treatment.

Pro-life directors address threats of culture of death

By Mary Ann Wyand

ST. LOUIS—“We’re involved in some of the very important issues of our day,” said Gail Quinn, director of the U.S. bishops’ Secretariat for Pro-Life Activities in Washington, D.C., told diocesan pro-life directors and state Catholic Conference directors on Aug. 5 during the secretariat’s 2004 pro-life meeting at a hotel near the Gateway Arch.

“They are also some of the very contentious issues of our day...abortion, stem cell research, euthanasia and cloning,” Quinn said. “This is what we deal with day by day.”

Servants of the Gospel of Life Sister Diane Carollo, director of the archdiocesan Office of Pro-Life Activities, represented the archdiocese at the annual conference.

The conference provided excellent speakers trained in medicine, law and theology, who spoke on timely life issues,” she said. “For example, Planned Parenthood’s calculated attack on the Catholic Church’s teachings and values, through its vigorous promotion of contraceptive mandates for Catholic hospitals, is something that continues to threaten Catholic hospitals throughout the United States.”

Sister Diane said she was impressed with a comprehensive educational presentation on the successes of non-embryonic stem cell research. “Unfortunately, the media, some politicians and entertainers have promoted only embryonic stem cell research,” she said, “despite the scientific proof that such cells, that must be harvested at the expense of human lives, have produced no cures or treatments for diseases and conditions. Only adult stem cells are proving beneficial for treatment of diseases. Here is where the investment and research must be made.”

Sister Diane said she also appreciated the opportunity to hear lawyers discuss the implications of partial-birth abortion and its impact on Roe vs. Wade, the Supreme Court’s 1973 decision legalizing abortion during all nine months of pregnancy, and the thrust to reverse Roe.

Father Pacholczyk earned a doctorate in neuroscience at Yale University in New Haven, Conn., then completed post-doctoral research at Massachusetts General Hospital and the Harvard Medical School in Boston and advanced studies in theology and bioethics in Rome.

Embryonic stem cell research has become a contentious election-year issue, he said, but voters need to know that the killing of human life to benefit other lives is morally wrong.

The use of embryonic stem cells for research and treatment has become a national and international debate, Father Pacholczyk said. “The United Nations faces the question of whether they should ban all types of cloning. So in order to have an informed debate, people have to be aware of what the real parameters of the discussion are: What is a human embryo? What is cloning? What are stem cells and where do you get them from? And what’s the price that is going to be paid if we take stem cells from certain sources like living, growing human embryos?”

Father Pacholczyk said his goals as director of education for the National Catholic Bioethics Center are “to educate people and bring together the frontiers of science and religion in some way to [help people] realize that science cannot proceed entirely independent of moral concerns.”

He said “science is a tremendous power at the hands of man, but power can be used either for good or for evil, and so there is a necessity to regulate [how] we use the power that science gives us in an appropriate direction.”

To educate the public, Father Pacholczyk has published a brochure listing 10 great myths in the debate over stem cell research. Extracts from some of the myths explained in his brochure are included here with his permission.

Myth: Stem cells can only come from embryos.

Fact: Stem cells can be taken from umbilical cords, the placenta, amniotic fluid, adult tissues and organs such as bone marrow, fat from liposuction, regions of the nose,” he said, “and even from cadavers up to 20 hours after death.”

Myth: The Catholic Church opposes stem cell research.

Fact: “There are four categories of stem cells—embryonic stem cells, embryonic germ cells, umbilical cord stem cells and adult stem cells—and given that germ cells can come from miscarriages that involve no deliberate interruption of pregnancy,” he said, “the Church only opposes the use of embryonic stem cells.”

Myth: Embryonic stem cell research has the greatest promise.

Fact: “Up to now,” he said, “no human being has ever been cured of a disease using embryonic stem cells. Adult stem cells, on the other hand, have already cured thousands...Research using adult stem cells is 20 to 30 years ahead of embryonic stem cells and holds greater promise. This is in part because stem cells are part of the natural repair mechanisms of an adult body, while embryonic stem cells do not belong in an adult body, where they are likely to form tumors and be rejected as foreign tissue by the recipient.”

Myth: Embryonic stem cell research is against the law.

Fact: “In reality, there is no law or regulation against destroying human embryos for research purposes,” he said. “While President Bush has banned the use of federal funding to support research on embryonic stem cell lines created before August 2001, it is not illegal. Anyone using private funds is free to pursue it...The 1996 Dickey Amendment prohibited the use of federal funds for research that would involve the destruction of human embryos. Bush’s decision to permit research on embryonic stem cell lines created before a certain date thus relaxes this restriction from the Clinton era.”

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Ron Oberle, was the contractor. Parish in Richmond. The construction of one of the parishioners, Holy Family Parish in Richmond celebrates 50 years existence, there was this spirit of working together and there’s always somebody else that will come along and pick people have become more involved.”

She has noticed that, as time goes on, “it just seems like this thing was a total success.”

Erdosy, who chaired the planning committee for the events with her husband, Joe, as an extraordinary minister of holy communion, speaks highly of the parish.

“People have never lost that. Whatever needs to be done, they’re ready to do it.”

He said that parishioners have been working on the grounds and the buildings of the parish over the last 10 years—renovating the school, adding a computer lab, new offices and a new library, and improving the gym.

The goal, Father Riebe said, is for the parishioners to understand that they need to take what has been given to them through the sacraments of the church and come before and “pass it on to the next generation in even better shape than we received it.”

Holy Family Parish, he said, is much younger than St. Andrew and St. Mary parishes, which were founded in the mid-1800s. He calls members of the two older parishes the “parents” of the parish because they were asked to help raise the funds for the new parish.

“The two parishes worked together to really give birth to Holy Family, and so we really recognized that in our celebrations,” Father Riebe said.

In recent times, the parishes of the city of Richmond joined together as one Catholic community. Everything they have is shared.

“The beautiful thing about Richmond now is that Holy Family shares in all of the ministries with the other two parishes,” Father Riebe said. In all, it is about 80 ministries.

He said that he hopes that those ministries continue to expand and that the community will continue to be open enough “so that we will respond to new needs that we become aware of.”

Erdosy said that besides having been involved with the parish council she is also member of the Women’s Guild, which is a group that all three parishes formed. She likes how the parishes have joined together.

“I think it’s one of the best things that ever happened to us,” Bertsch said. “It used to be, years ago, that there was a lot of rivalry between the parishes, and now we’re one, big, happy family.”

The power of our witness in Richmond is so much stronger together like this than it would be if we were three completely separate parishes,” Father Riebe said.

“There’s no reason for a Catholic to miss Mass in our town,” Oberle said. He was the contractor for the building of the current church, which was completed in 1978.

The new church replaced a temporary church structure that was christened with Holy Family’s first Mass on Aug. 15, 1954. Father Robert Minton was the first pastor of the parish and remained at that post until his death in 1981.

He was remembered as “a real character,” she said. “You had to take him the way he was.”

She recalled a hot summer day several decades ago when she saw Father Minton up on a ladder working on the school building. Lyle had just scolded her husband, Harold, for working in the heat, and told the pastor to get down.

“He said, ‘I don’t have any wife telling me what to do,’ ” Lyle said. “So that’s the kind of a person he was.” She paused, laughing softly. “I liked him.”

Bertsch said that every parish has had “some very good priests.”

Besides Father Minton and Father Riebe, there have only been two other pastors: Fathers John Hartzler and Robert Macaroni.

Bertsch, who is also on the social committee and serves with her husband, Joe, as an extraordinary minister of holy communion, spoke highly of the priests.

“We have eight children who attended Holy Family School when it first started, and they all still feel like that’s their home parish, although six of them live in Florida right now,” she said.

When asked why she has stayed with Holy Family for half a century, her response was simple: “Everything that I wanted in a parish is there.”

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WAHMAN, Clifford, 83, St. Maurice, Napoleon, Aug. 9. Uncle of several.


WHITE, Dorothy, 84, St. Agnes, Nashville, Aug. 8. Sister of John White. 4
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Pope prays that return of icon brings Catholics, Orthodox closer

CASTEL GANDOLFO, Italy (CNS)—Calling the Blessed Virgin Mary the “mother of unity and of love,” Pope John Paul II prayed that the return of a Marian icon to a Rossican Orthodox Church would bring the Catholic and Orthodox Churches closer together. Marking the Aug. 22 feast of the Queenship of Mary, the pope also renewed his call again to those who worship to the Russian Orthodox Church who helped him make his Aug. 14-15 pilgrimage to the Shrine of Our Lady of Lourdes in France. Speaking to several thousand worshipers gathered in the courtyard of this summer villa for the recitation of the Angelus, the pope prayed that “the heavenly mother of the redeemer would be more welcomed, loved and venerated by the Christian shrines of the world.”

The pope asked his visitors to turn in prayer with him “to the Virgin Mary venerated under the title of ‘Mother of God of Kazan image.’”

In 1997 the pope consecrated an icon of the Mother of God of Kazan image, which left Russia sometime in the 1920s, “after a prolonged stay in different places, reached the apartment of the pope some years ago.” Since 1993, he said, he had kept the Marian icon above his desk, where it “has watched over” his daily work.
archbishop reflected on the importance of today’s seminarians traveling to places of historical significance in the life of the archdiocese.

“It’s important for them to be in touch with the history of our local Church,” he said, “because it’s an inheritance, a heritage that we carry forward with us.

“For them visually to be tied to the roots through the pilgrimage … [is] an aid to get a larger sense that we’re not just a Church in the day we come from. We have a past and we have a future.”

In the afternoon, the seminarians visited St. Mary Parish in New Albany and its pastor, Father William Ernst. After praying the rosary in the church, the seminarians walked to the nearby Holy Trinity Heritage Court, the place where the church of the former Holy Trinity Parish, established in 1836, burned to the ground in 1975.

They also viewed the outside of the home of Cardinal Joseph E. Ritter, a son of St. Mary Parish, former archbishop of Indianapolis and later archbishop of St. Louis.

Traveling as pilgrims to, praying at and learning about these important places in the history of the archdiocese was an important event for both the new and returning seminarians.

Scott Nobbe, a member of St. Thomas the Apostle Parish in Fortville, who is starting his third year of studies at Saint Meinrad School of Theology, noted how the trip helped him to connect with a group of seminarians who have a wide range of years completed in their formation. Some are close to being ordained as priests, while others have eight or more years ahead of them.

“It’s hard to make that connection a lot of times,” said Nobbe, “so if we do something like this, this kind of pilgrimage, it’s something that closes that gap.”

One of the new seminarians that Nobbe traveled with was Eric Lecher, a member of St. Mary Parish in Greensburg, who is starting his junior year at Marian College and will be one of the first residents of the Bishop Bruté House of Formation on the college’s campus.

Despite the fact that many of his brother seminarians have been in formation for several years, Lecher noted that this trip allowed many of them to experience something new with him.

“It was great just to be able to be one with all the guys,” Lecher said, “as well as share in a lot of people’s first experiences of being in these parishes here.”

Father Moriarty thinks that this now annual pilgrimage, which began last year at the suggestion of Archbishop Buechlein, plays an important role in the seminarians’ priestly formation.

“In the end, God willing, if they are ordained priests, it will strengthen their identity as priests, particularly for their local Church,” he said. “We go and we walk in the footsteps of those who have gone before us in hopes that as they were found faithful, they will find us faithful, that generations in the future will find us faithful.”

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