Building on faith

Southwestern Indiana's German-Catholic heritage lives on

By Sean Gallagher

ST. MEINRAD—When the Servant of God Simon Bruté, the first bishop of Vincennes, went to Jasper, Ind., to minister to the Catholics there, he struggled to communicate with the people and departed in tears.

The faithful there were primarily German immigrants. They did not understand French and the French-speaking bishop did not understand German.

Shortly before Bishop Bruté died in 1839, Father Joseph Kundek, a native German speaker born in present-day Croatia, came to minister to the German immigrants in the diocese.

Visitors to southwestern Indiana can still experience the rich German-Catholic heritage that Father Kundek nurtured during the two decades that he ministered there before his death in 1857.

That heritage is a living tradition today at Saint Meinrad Archabbey and School of Theology in St. Meinrad, and in the Evansville Diocese at Monastery Immaculate Conception in Ferdinand, Ind., and St. Joseph Parish in Jasper, Ind.

When St. Joseph Parish was founded in 1837, it was comprised of 26 houses. But in the years to come, Father Kundek helped bring many more families of German immigrants to the area.

Today, the parish counts nearly 2,000 families on its rolls. They worship in a massive church built from 1867 to 1880. Its nave is 195 feet long and the pillars dotting the interior stand 67 feet high. The church’s bell tower is an impressive 235 feet tall.

At the time of its completion, St. Joseph Church was the largest church building in Indiana. But the generations of Catholics in Jasper who succeeded those who built the church did not rest on their ancestors’ laurels.

Stained-glass windows were installed in 1898. Mosaics crafted in Innsbruck, Austria, were added in 1911. A terrazzo floor was laid in 1953. That same year, sandstone was used to line the interior walls—a complement to the church’s sandstone exterior. Finally, a new organ was built in 1995.

St. Joseph Parish’s current pastor, Father Raymond Brenner, said that this ongoing concern for the state of the parish’s church is a sign of the deep faith of its members.

“They’re strong about passing on their faith,” he said, “and making sure that it’s here for the next generation.”

Above, St. Joseph Church in Jasper, Ind., in the Evansville Diocese, is the spiritual home for nearly 2,000 families in the area. The largest church building in Indiana when it was completed in 1880, it stands as a testament to the German-Catholic heritage of the region.

At right, a statue of Father Joseph Kundek stands beside St. Joseph Church in Jasper, Ind., in the Evansville Diocese. The founder of St. Joseph Parish and several other parishes in the region, Father Kundek, who died in 1857, did much to lay the foundation of the German-Catholic heritage of southwestern Indiana.

Nurturing faith is key element of The Criterion’s mission

This week’s issue of The Criterion, which features our annual Vacation/Travel Supplement, is being mailed to all household subscriptions in the archdiocese, including those that don’t normally receive the newspaper.

Why read The Criterion?

There are several benefits to subscribing to the archdiocese’s weekly newspaper, which serves as Archbishop Buechlein’s “Seeking the Face of the Lord” column. It educates people as they face the challenges to live their faith each day.

This week’s issue also presents a wonderful list of parish festivals being hosted throughout the summer. From Indianapolis to Jasper, right around the corner, and if you’re looking for things to do, look no further than our archdiocesan parishes.

The Vacation/Travel Supplement includes a list of parish festivals being hosted throughout the summer. From Indianapolis to Troy, from Terre Haute to Lawrenceburg and everywhere in between, parishes invite everyone to come share in their heritage. Of course, you can rest assured that the festivals include good food, fun, fellowship.

No matter how diverse your household—whether it includes young children, teenagers or senior citizens—or your vocation in life—religious, clergy, single or married life—our goal is to nurture your faith each week.

To all of you who already subscribe to The Criterion, we thank you, and to those of you who don’t regularly receive

Legislating conversions: Weighing the message versus the person

VATICAN CITY (CNS)—Pope Benedict XVI and a senior Vatican official voiced their concern over the lack of religious freedom in some countries, including unjust restrictions on a person’s right to convert from one religious faith to another.

While the pope and the Vatican’s foreign minister, Archbishop Giovanni Lajolo, were making separate appeals for greater reciprocity in respecting the freedom of worship in mid-May, the Vatican was also co-sponsoring a meeting about how some religious groups abuse liberties by proselytizing, or by evangelizing in aggressive or deceptive ways.

Iraq, for example, has become an open field for foreigners looking for fresh converts.

Some Catholic Church leaders and aid organizations have expressed concern about new Christian groups coming in and luring Iraqis to their Churches with offers of cash, clothing, food or jobs. The blatant proselytism in a predominantly Muslim country has made all Christians seem suspect or looked upon with hostility, some Catholic leaders and aid workers said.

Meanwhile, reports of aggressive proselytism and reportedly forced conversions in mostly Hindu India have fueled religious tensions and violence there, and have prompted some regional governments to pass laws banning proselytism or religious conversion.

On the one hand, the Catholic Church would like governments to guarantee full religious freedom, including the freedom to convert.

In his May 18 address to Amitava Tripathi, India’s new ambassador to the Vatican, the pope said, “the reprehensible attempt to legislate clearly discriminatory restrictions” on religious freedom “must be firmly rejected.”

On the other hand, some of these countries endorsing religious restrictions might...
Archbishop announces clergy, parish assignments

Effective Immediately

Rev. Dennis Duvelius, associate pastor of Our Lady of the Most Holy Rosary Parish in Indianapolis, incardinated into the Archdiocese of Indianapolis from the Priests Fraternity of St. Peter (F.S.P.).

Rev. Robert J. Robeson, director of the Bishop Bruté House of Formation in Indianapolis, to rector of the Bishop Simon Bruté College Seminary in Indianapolis.

Rev. Rock Trawniker, O.F.M., campus minister for St. Francis University in Joliet, Ill., to pastor of Holy Family Parish in Oldenburg.

Effective June 1, 2006

Rev. Joseph B. Moriarty, associate director of spiritual formation at Saint Meinrad School of Theology in St. Meinrad and administrator of Our Lady of the Springs Parish in French Lick and Our Lord Jesus Christ the King Parish in Paoli, to sacramental minister of those parishes while continuing as associate director of spiritual formation at Saint Meinrad School of Theology.

Rev. John M. Hall, pastor of St. Martin of Tours Parish in Martinsville, to administrator of Our Lady of the Springs Parish in French Lick and Our Lord Jesus Christ the King Parish in Paoli, and continuing as pastor of St. Martin of Tours Parish in Martinsville.

Effective June 7, 2006

Rev. William C. Keelher Jr., from the Diocese of Peoria, Ill., to administrator of St. Anne and St. Joseph parishes in Jennings County, and attending to the spiritual needs of the students at Hanover College in Hanover.

Effective June 21, 2006

Rev. Daniel B. Donohoo, pastor of Good Shepherd Parish in Indianapolis, to spiritual director of the Bishop Simon Bruté College Seminary in Indianapolis.

Mr. David Wilson to parish life coordinator of Good Shepherd Parish in Indianapolis.


Effective July 5, 2006


Rev. Gerald J. Kirkhoff, pastor of St. Pius X Parish in Indianapolis, priest moderator and sacramental minister of St. Andrew the Apostle Parish in Indianapolis, and dean of the Indianapolis North Deanery, to episcopal vicar for Advocacy for Priests and continuing as pastor of St. Pius X Parish in Indianapolis, priest moderator and sacramental minister of St. Andrew the Apostle Parish in Indianapolis and dean of the Indianapolis North Deanery.

Rev. Bede Cisco, O.S.B., director of Indianapolis programs for Saint Meinrad School of Theology and director of the Deacon Formation Program, to full-time director of the Deacon Formation Program.

Sister Marjorie Jean Niemer, O.S.F., reappointed parish life coordinator of St. Peter Parish in Franklin County.

Rev. Shawn P. Whittington, associate pastor of St. Monica Parish in Indianapolis, to instructor at Shaw Memorial Jr./Sr. High School in Madsion, and residing and assisting at St. Lawrence Parish in Lawrenceburg.

Rev. Robert J. Robeson, rector of the Bishop Simon Bruté College Seminary in Indianapolis, to weekend sacramental ministry at St. Monica Parish in Indianapolis and continuing as rector of the Bishop Simon Bruté College Seminary in Indianapolis.

Rev. Scott Nobhe, to be ordained to the priesthood on June 24, 2006, appointed to Hispanic ministry in the archdiocese.

Rev. William G. Munshower, pastor of St. Thomas Aquinas Parish in Indianapolis, granted permission to retire from active ministry. Father Munshower will attend to the spiritual and temporal needs of students and staff at Cathedral High School in Indianapolis.

Rev. Steven C. Schwab, pastor of St. Joan of Arc Parish in Indianapolis and chaplain of the Marion County Sheriff’s Department, to pastor of St. Thomas Aquinas Parish in Indianapolis and continuing as chaplain of the Marion County Sheriff’s Department.


Rev. James R. Wilmoth, pastor of St. Roch Parish in Indianapolis, to chaplain of Roncalli High School in Indianapolis and continuing as pastor of St. Roch Parish, chaplain of the Indianapolis Fire Department and dean of the Indianapolis South Deanery.

Rev. Varghese Maliakkal, sacramental minister at St. Michael the Archangel Parish in Indianapolis, to pastor of St. Michael the Archangel Parish in Indianapolis.


Rev. Frederick J. Dennison, pastor of St. Bernard Parish in Frenchtown and administrator of St. Joseph Parish in Crawford County, to pastor of St. John the Baptist Parish in Starlight.


Rev. Robert Hankee, pastor of St. Maurice Parish in Napoleon, to pastor of St. John Parish in Osgood and St. Magdalen Parish in New Marion, and continuing as pastor of St. Magdalen Parish in New Marion, and continuing as pastor of St. Magdalen Parish in New Marion, and continuing as pastor of St. Magdalen Parish in New Marion, and continuing as pastor of St. Magdalen Parish in New Marion, and continuing as pastor of St. Magdalen Parish in New Marion, and continuing as pastor of St. Magdalen Parish in New Marion, and continuing as pastor of St. Magdalen Parish in New Marion, and continuing as pastor of St. Magdalen Parish in New Marion, and continuing as pastor of St. Magdalen Parish in New Marion, and continuing as pastor of St. Magdalen Parish in New Marion, and continuing as pastor of St. Magdalen Parish in New Marion, and continuing as pastor of St. Magdalen Parish in New Marion, and continuing as pastor of St. Magdalen Parish in New Marion, and continuing as pastor of St. Magdalen Parish in New Marion, and continuing as pastor of St. Magdalen Parish in New Marion, and continuing as pastor of St. Magdalen Parish in New Marion, and continuing as pastor of St. Magdalen Parish in New Marion, and continuing as pastor of St. Magdalen Parish in New Marion, and continuing as pastor of St. Magdalen Parish in New Marion, and continuing as pastor of...
Bishop Brûte House of Formation undergoes name change

By Sean Gallagher

When a new academic year begins in late August, the seminarians who will return to the campus of Marian College in Indianapolis will experience some changes.

The Bishop Brûte House of Formation, which recently completed its second year of operation, will be known as the Bishop Simon Brûte College Seminary. Father Robert Robeson, who has led the house of formation since its inception and whose title is changing to rector, said that the name change is “a matter of more accurately describing what we’re doing here.”

He said that people more easily understand a seminary to be a place where men are trained for the priesthood than a “house of formation.”

Although the house of formation is undergoing the name change, it will not be a freestanding, degree-granting institution. Its resident seminarians will continue to take classes at Marian College and reside on its campus.

There will also be a significant increase in the number of seminary residents. At the end of the 2005-06 academic year, there were 12 seminarians participating in the program of priestly formation. All but one of them were affiliated with the archdiocese and its parishes.

Father Robeson said that there could be as many as 21 seminarians residing at the seminary starting in the fall, with that number increasing to as many as 14 seminarians at a time.

The Evansville Diocese may enroll as many as three seminarians, and the Lafayette Diocese may send as many as four men to the seminary on the campus of Marian College.

Father Robeson said he expects the increase in the number of seminarians to have a positive effect on the life of the seminary.

“The more guys you have, the more you can do in terms of spiritual formation, and also the richer experience they will have with the other seminarians,” he said.

Because of the increase in the number of seminarians, Father Daniel Donohoo will begin to assist Father Robeson this summer as the seminary’s new director of spiritual formation.

Father Donohoo’s duties will include serving as spiritual director for many of the seminarians, hearing confessions, celebrating Mass, leading theological reflection groups, and helping to plan and lead seminarian retreats.

“I really can’t think of too many things more important right now than to have the opportunity to form healthy, holy priests for the future,” said Father Donohoo, who will soon complete his tenure as the pastor of Good Shepherd Parish in Indianapolis.

“I think that’s what our people really expect, what the Church expects and what we should have a hand in that—whatever contribution I can make toward that by introducing them to our wider tradition of prayer and of spirituality—that really does excite me.”

Father Robeson thinks the addition of Father Donohoo will benefit the seminarians.

“I think Father Donohoo is a perfect fit for this role because he’s a priest of wisdom,” Father Robeson said. “He’s had 20 years [in the] priesthood. He’s very, very broadly read in the area of spirituality and has been a very successful spiritual director to many people. He’s just really the ideal choice for someone to fill this role.”

In addition to his two decades of life and ministry in the priesthood and his knowledge of the Church’s spiritual traditions, Father Donohoo also brings with him expertise in psychology that he gained from graduate studies in the field.

Father Robeson said that when he began his ministry at the house of formation two years ago, he expected it to grow. But he has been surprised by how fast that has happened.

He said that vocations directors of other dioceses have come to him to investigate the possibility of sending their college seminarians there, and noted that he did not seek them out.

Father Robeson credits the growth to the connection to Archbishop Daniel M. Buechley, who was the president-rector of Saint Meinrad School of Theology before being ordained to the episcopate in 1987.

People have confidence that any kind of seminary that he’s overseeing or that is under his authority will be effective and will have the right priorities,” Father Robeson said.

The house of formation also ended the year with its first graduate, seminarian Eric Hodde.

Although Hodde, a member of St. Malachi Parish in Brownsburg, began his priestly formation before the house of formation was established, he was pleased to be the first of its residents to complete its program.

“To be the first graduate, that’s a great honor because clearly it’s going to be a great benefit to this archdiocese and to the community and to Marian College, and I think, all the way around; it’s really going to be a great program,” Hodde said.

Correction

In the May 12 edition of The Criterion, an incorrect phone number was provided for Father Robert Robeson for those interested in the Bishop Brûte Days. He can be contacted at 317-955-6126.

To get your blessings in call Dana at 317-236-1575. WHAT BETTER WAY TO GET THE WORD OUT.

Defenceless and in danger

Anguish once laid heavy in the eyes of Alicia Perez. What she and her sister have seen is horrific and deplorable.

When found, Alicia and her sister, Léidy, were wearing garbage bags for underwear. They’d been beaten and had burn marks on their legs. Alicia, 4, weighed just 13 pounds — as much as an average 4-month-old baby girl. Léidy, 3, weighed only 14 pounds.

After years of cruel neglect, the Perez sisters were finally rescued by someone who cared. They were taken to a Food For The Poor sponsored orphanage in Guatemala and given something they’d never experienced before — love.

“No one has ever seen God. Yet, if we love one another, God remains in us, and His love is brought to perfection in us.” (1 John 4:12)

Food For The Poor needs your help to continue feeding the hungry, sheltering the destitute, healing the sick, and caring for children like Alicia and Léidy. Please help by calling toll-free 1-800-487-1158 or accessing our Web site at www.foodforthepoor.org.

Food For The Poor works hard to be good stewards of your gifts.

More than 96% of all donations received in 2005 went directly to programs that help the poor.
Life’s lessons for all generations
Life’s lessons come at you quickly and subtly every day. What touches one generation may never cross the path of another. But sometimes, times, words or actions last a lifetime and are worth sharing.

There is no doubt the day scene is now being repeated for each of those currently donning caps and gowns and imparting their hope to others. Teach them how to profess their faith, and culture in which the Ten Commandments were revealed, the prevailing belief was in a nationalistic God who commands the killing of his people for the sake of his [the sacred writer’s] own time and culture. Due attention must be paid to the customary and characteristic styles of feeling, speaking and interpreting which prevailed at the time of the sacred writer.

With that in mind, see if you can guess what that unique group? They are the 17- and 18-year-old students currently donning caps and gowns and walking themselves to walk down the aisle with classmates one last time. If you’re a high school senior, that scene is now being repeated for each of you at high schools throughout central and southern Indiana. No doubt the day will become a snapshot in the life of each member of the Class of 2006. We congratulate each senior as they reach this milestone. The thousands who graduate from area high schools also are invariably hearing words of wisdom from their families, classmates who are valedictorians and salutatorians, and from parents and family as they prepare for their next chapter in life’s next step will take them. Some are ready to move on to college; others may enter the military; some may simply be ready to jump into the business world and begin a full-time career; others may begin or continue to discern a call to the priesthood or religious life. As our Catholic faith teaches us, there is no right or wrong answer. We are simply individuals called each to a unique “vocation” by God. We encourage parents to let their children know they love them unconditionally—no matter what path they choose in life. As the Class of 2006 prepares to take another step in their journey of faith, we ask them to reflect on the words that the late Pope John Paul II shared at the closing Mass at World Youth Day in Toronto in 2002.

O Lord Jesus Christ, keep these young people in your love. Let them hear your voice and believe what you say, for you alone have the words of life. Teach them how to profess their faith, bestow their love, and impart their hope to others. Make them convincing witnesses to your Gospel in a world so much in need of your saving grace. Make them the new people of the Beatitudes, that they may be the salt of the earth and the light of the world at the beginning of the third Christian millennium! Mary, Mother of the Church, protect and guide these young men and women of the 21st century. Keep us all close to your maternal heart. Amen.

— Mike Krokos

Letters to the Editor
Thank you for new columnist in The Criterion
I enjoyed the article “Remembering the Criterion’s Old Top Model” by Christine Capecchi in the May 12 issue so much that I read it a second time. It was a noticeable improvement in our Catholic paper.

Kathleen Naghdi, Indianapolis

Palliative Care Fund provides necessities to special ministry
Thank you for the beautiful articles on “A Good Death” by John Shaughnessy in the April 21 issue of the Criterion. Dr. Gregory Gramelspacher and his students make over 400 consultations annually through the Wishard Palliative Care program, bringing comfort to many poor patients and their families.

“Thou shall not kill,” I suspect, means exactly what it says! Most assuredly, there is a difference between killing and murder, as the letter writer states, but the commandment goes beyond that distinction. It tells us that the act of committing the intentional shortening of human life is wrong. Jesus takes us to an even higher level, commanding us, “Love one another!”

So, what do we say to the children of soldiers and law enforcement officers who work for our protection and in the defense of our freedom? I served in the military and I would say this: I cannot begin to comprehend the enormity of the sacrifice that you have laid on the altar of freedom. I am profoundly grateful for what so many have done and continue to do to protect us, and I pray for them each day. I am equally sorry that the decisions of people have put your loved ones in a position of having to choose between the lesser of two evils; of killing or being killed, of fighting or being enslaved. I benefit from, and therefore support, their decisions. I regret that the ideal to which we are called is still beyond our grasp, and I’m sorry (and embarrassed as a human being) that those you love have been placed in such an untenable position.

I would also like to suggest to the letter writer that St. Augustine is not the final word in Scripture interpretation. He too was subject to time and his culture.

Today’s Catholic Scripture scholars are analyzing this passage in the world, and we have at their disposal texts that are far older than those available to St. Augustine. We might want to at least consider what they have to say as expressed in the teachings of our Church.

I would offer one overriding principle for interpreting Scripture: If our interpretation of Scripture presents an image of God that is different from the loving Father that Jesus revealed to us—then we need to reconsider how we interpret Scripture! “God, by [the] very definition, cannot be illogical or ‘un-Godly’ ”—on this the letter writer and I can agree.

Jim Welter is a member of St. Barnabas Parish. Since 1984, he has presented an adult education program “The Contemplating View … A Contemporary Look at Scripture,” throughout the Archdiocese of Indianapolis. He is a regular contributor to the St. Monica parish e-mail Scripture ministry which sends out devotions and reflections six days a week. Jim has over 16,200 subscribers each business day. (Jim Welter is a member of St. Barnabas Parish. Since 1984, he has presented an adult education program “The Contemplating View … A Contemporary Look at Scripture,” throughout the Archdiocese of Indianapolis. He is a regular contributor to the St. Monica parish e-mail Scripture ministry which sends out devotions and reflections six days a week. Jim has over 16,200 subscribers each business day.)
Eros can mature and attain authentic grandeur. “It is a unity in duality; spirit and matter penetrate and each is brought to a new nobility. Love is that love experienced so that it can fully realize its human and divine promise? In a reflection on love as it appears in the Old Testament book Song of Songs, and the use of a Hebrew word that translates in the Greek as agape, the pope said we discover an experience of love that involves a real discovery of the other person, moving beyond the self-ish character that prevailed in the earlier concept of love.

Love becomes a concern and care for the other. It is not a “self-seeking sinking in the intoxication of happiness; instead it seeks the good of the beloved.” In biblical understanding, love is even willing to sacrifice for the beloved.

The purification of love means that it seeks to become love “of this person alone” and there is a sense of being “forever.” Purified love looks to the eternal. It is indeed “ecstasy” as a journey out of an inward slavery toward the liberation of all that is and not just the self-discovery and the discovery of God: “Whoever seeks to gain his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life will preserve it” (Lk 17:33).

The Holy Father wrote: “In these words, Jesus portrays his own path, which leads through the Cross to the Resurrection: the path of the grain of wheat that falls to the ground and dies, and in this way bears much fruit. Starting from the depths of his own sacrifice and of the love that reaches fulfillment therein, he also portrays in these words the essence of love and indeed of human life itself.”

The Holy Father wrote that this somewhat complicated philosophical reflection on the essence of love really leads us to the threshold of biblical faith. In response to the initial question, whether the different or even opposed meanings of the word “love” point to some underlying unity or whether they are really unconnected—and in response to the question whether the Bible and Christian tradition consider them to be completely separate, the answer is that they can never really be completely separated. Fundamentally, love is a single reality, but with different dimensions.

The newness of biblical faith is shown in two elements: the image of God and the image of man. The Bible tells us that God is the Creator of all, that is, there are no other gods and it tells us that God loves us. His creation is dear to him. He loves us with a personal love. He freely chooses to love us. God’s love may be called eros and it is also agape. In the Old Testament, God’s relationship to Israel uses metaphors of betrothal and marriage, and idolatry is understood as adultery and prostitution. Another truly important facet of God’s love is that his love is agape, not only because it is freely given but also because it is a love that forgives.

There is a second new element of biblical faith. At creation, Adam was incomplete. He is a seeker, who “abandons mother and father” in order to find woman, only together do the two repre- sent complete humanity and become “one flesh.”

Eros directs man toward marriage, to a bond which is unique. The Bible suggests that corresponding to the image of a monotheistic God there is monogamous marriage. Marriage based on exclusive and definitive love becomes the icon of the relationship between God and his people.

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In response to the question initial of si bajo los dos significados del vocablo “amor” subyace alguna profundad profunda o si están verdaderamente desconectados, and in respuesta a la pregunta de si la Biblia, la tradiçào cristiana los consid- era como completamente separados, the response is that realmente no se les puede separar por completo. Fundamentally the amor is a reali- dad única pero con distintas dimensiones. La novedad de la fe biblica se demues- tra por medio de dos elementos: la ima- gen de Dios y la imagen del hombre. La Biblia nos dice que Dios es el Creador de todo, es decir, no existen otros dioses y nos dice que Dios nos ama. Él quiere a su creación. Nos ama con un amor personal. Él escoge libremente amarnos.

La reflexión sobre la esencia del amor acerca al dinamismo de la fe bíblica
**May 26**


Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish, 14598 Oakridge Drive, Carmel, Ind., (Diocese of Covington) Natural Family Planning (NFP) class, 7 p.m. Information: 317-848-4446.

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**May 27**

St. Matthias Church, 218 Scheller Ave., Sellersburg. Nocturnal Adoration, exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, Mass, 5 p.m., adoration following Mass until 7 a.m. Sunday. Information: 812-246-2252.

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**Regular Events**

**Daily events**

St. Adalbert the Evangelist Church, 126 W. Georgia St., Indianapolis. Liturgy of the Hours, Mon.-Fri., morning prayer, 7:30 a.m., evening prayer, 5:15 p.m. Information: 317-635-2021.

Sacred Heart of Jesus Church, 1530 Union St., Indianapolis. Liturgy of the Hours, Mon.-Fri., morning prayer, 7:05 a.m., evening prayer, 5:30 p.m. Information: 317-638-5551.

Holy Rosary Church, 520 Stevens St., Indianapolis. Triduum (Latin Mass), Mon.-Fri., noon, Wed., Fri., 5:45 p.m. Information: 317-636-4478.

St. Barnabas Church, 8300 Kahle Road, Indianapolis, Mon.-Fri., Liturgy of the Hours, morning prayer, 7:30 a.m., evening prayer, 6:30 p.m. Information: 317-882-0724.

St. Thomas Aquinas Church, 4217 Central Ave., Indianapolis. Morning Prayer, 7:30 a.m. Information: 317-233-1461.

St. Joan of Arc Parish, 4217 Central Ave., Indianapolis. Leave a telephone number to be contacted by a member of the prayer group. Prayer line: 713-767-9479.

St. Therese of the Infants Jesus (Little Flower) Church, 4270 E. 13th St., Indianapolis. Perpetual adoration. Information: 317-357-3546.


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**Weekly events**

**Sundays**

Ritter Golf Course, 520 Stevens St., Indianapolis. Tridinium (Latin Mass), 9 a.m. Information: 317-636-4478.

St. Joseph Church, 1375 S. Mckley Ave., Indianapolis. Mass in Vietnamese, 1 p.m. Information: 317-244-9002.

Christ the King Church, 1827 Kessler Blvd., E. Drive, Indianapolis. Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, 7:30-9 a.m., rosary for world peace, 8 p.m. Information: 317-255-5666.

St. Gabriel Church, 6000 W. 54th St., Indianapolis. Spanish Mass, 5 p.m. Information: 317-291-7014.


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**Regular Events**

**Mondays**


Tuesdays

Holy Name of Jesus Parish, 89 N. 17th St., Bloomington. Prayer group, 2:30-3:30 p.m. Information: 317-784-5541.

St. Joan of Arc Parish, 4217 Central Ave., Indianapolis. Bible sharing, 7 p.m. Information: 317-283-5508.

St. Luke Church, 7577 Holliday Drive E., Indianapolis. Marian Movement of Priests, prayer cenacle, 7 a.m.-8 p.m. Information: 317-831-4142.

Wednesdays

Divine Mercy Church, 335 W. 30th St. (behind Michael the Archangel Church), Indianapolis. Marian prayer for priests, 3-4 p.m. Information: 317-271-8016.

Immaculate Heart of Mary Church, 5692 Central Ave., Indianapolis. Marian Movement of Priests for lay prayer cenacle, 1 p.m. Information: 317-253-1678.

Holy Rosary Church, 520 Stevens St., Indianapolis. Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, Mass, noon-5:45 p.m. Information: 317-636-4478.

St. Rita Parish, 1733 Dr. Andrew J. Brown Ave., Indianapolis. 70th anniversary of ordination of Msgr. Richard Kavanagh, Mass, Information: 317-786-2261.

June 1

Mooresville Mass, 1200 N. Indiana St., Mooresville. Perpetual adoration, 7 a.m.-8 p.m. Information: 317-534-0272 or vigpert@archindy.org.

June 2


St. Rita Parish, 1733 Dr. Andrew J. Brown Ave., Indianapolis. Federation of Greater Indianapolis, Bilingual Pentecost service, 7 p.m. Information: 317-632-9349.

June 3

St. Joseph Church, 2600 S. John Road West, Sellersburg. Nocturnal adoration, exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, 7 p.m. and continuing through the night. Information: 812-246-2252.

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**VIPS**

Michael and Rosemary Coraggio, members of St. Lawrence Parish in Indianapolis, will celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary on June 4 with a renewal of their vows during a 9 a.m. Mass at St. Lawrence Church. A reception will follow from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. They are the parents of Theresa, Robert, Paul, Peter and Steven Coraggio, and have seven grandchildren.
OEUCHARISTIC ADORATION

First Friday Every Month
12:45-5:15

Vespers and Benediction
5:15

Saint John the Evangelist Catholic Church
126 West Georgia Street
Indianapolis, IN 46225
317-637-3941

Eucharistic Adoration is a day of reflection on the presence of our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament. Daily Masses are celebrated at 12:45pm. Special蘛

Amy Genoud of the French Embassy in New Delhi told CNS that the award will be conferred on Father Prakash in late June. The award was initiated by Napoleon Bonaparte in 1802 to recognize people distinguishing themselves through feats of value for their country.  

NEW DELHI (CNS)—The French government has awarded its highest honor to Jesuit Father Collette Prakash, an outspoken advocate for human rights in western India’s Gujarat state.

Father Prakash was awarded the Legion of Honor for his “commitment to the defense and promotion of human rights in India,” the French government said in a May 15 statement to the priest.

“I feel humbled. This is not an honor for me but for all those who have worked for human rights in the difficult situation here,” the Jesuit told Catholic News Service on May 17.

Father Prakash has been fighting for human rights in Gujarat state as the head of Prashant, a Jesuit social action group that organizes strategies for many nongovernmental organizations. He also organized the Concerned Citizens’ Tribunal and has testified before the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom in Washington about the state of religious freedom in Gujarat.

In the early 1990s, the Hindu nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party won control of the state government, and Christians, who number about 400,000 among Gujarat’s 50 million people, have been harassed and attacked. In 2002, more than 1,000 people, most of them Muslims, died in Hindu-Muslim riots in Gujarat.

“This award shows that Gujarat 2002 is not dead yet. We are living for 18 years in Indianapolis, and we still have many connections to people there,” he said. “It’s a real good feeling to come back to Indianopolis and the archdiocese.”  

He also has worked with the tribunal and nongovernmental organizations to make a Charter of Demands to the federal government to prosecute Gujarat government officials, including Gujarat Chief Minister Narendra Modi.

Anne Genoud of the French Embassy in New Delhi told CNS that the award will be conferred on Father Prakash in late June. The award was initiated by Napoleon Bonaparte in 1802 to recognize people distinguishing themselves through feats of value for their country.  

As the next president of Brebeuf Jesuit Preparatory School, Matthew Hayes doesn’t shy away from the district leadership that were previously held by members of religious orders or priests,” said Hayes, who will start his new position on July 1. “Brebeuf is not unique in moving this way. Many religiously-sponsored Catholic schools have moved to lay leadership.”

Still, the 57-year-old Hayes looks beyond that distinction to a reason he considers more important for returning to Indianopolis to lead Brebeuf.

“It’s in my whole career, I’ve taken positions of lay leadership. I’ve been a part of a Jesuit high school and college,” said the father of four. “Jesuit education is a part of our family at all levels. I’ve seen the difference it’s made in our kids. It’s a part of me and who I am. When I was in high school, the Jesuits talked about, ‘A man for others.’ Now they say, ‘A person for others.’ That’s been in my heart for the longest time. This really resonated with me as a way of giving back.”

While Hayes will be “giving back,” the resident of Louisville, Ky., will also be coming back to Indianopolis, where he served as the director of religious education for the archdiocese from 1979 to 1993. He credits one soul-searching moment during his tenure with the archdiocese for shaping his approach to leadership.

During that moment, Hayes promised himself to always seek leadership positions in organizations that strive to develop “human potential and social change according to Gospel values.”

For the past two years, he has used that approach as the executive director of the Cathedral Heritage Foundation, an inter-religious organization in partnership with the Archdiocese of Louisville. Efforts to establish relationships and connections with different faiths are the focus of the foundation—an interfaith approach that Brebeuf sought in its next leader.

“Matt Hayes is a wonderful choice,” said Father Benjamin Hawley, the Jesuit priest who has served as Brebeuf’s president for the past six years. “He has eight years of Jesuit education, advanced degrees in Catholic and Christian studies, professional experience with the archdioceses of Indianopolis and Louisville, and a strong commitment to interfaith dialogue.”

Hayes also understands and embraces the focus of Brebeuf, according to Vincent Caponi, chair of the school’s board of trustees.

“Hayes brings with him experience and commitment that ensures that we remain grounded in our fundamental identity as a school that is Jesuit, Catholic and interfaith,” noted Caponi in a May 11 letter that was sent to the school community announcing Hayes’ selection.

Hayes noted that the motto of the Cathedral Heritage Foundation is “many faiths, one heart, common action.” He will be moving to Brebeuf, where the motto is “Learn, lead, and serve.”

“The goal is to create servant leaders in an increasingly diverse world based upon religious values, particularly the Catholic Christian tradition,” said Hayes, a graduate of the Jesuit-run Xavier University in Cincinnati. “It’s important to work in a school that has an interfaith dimension to its message.”

To pursue that goal, he and his wife, Judy, will be returning to an area they consider home. Hayes is a native of Indianopolis, and his family has ties to the community. “I’ve seen the difference it’s made in our kids. It’s a part of me and who I am.”

— Matt Hayes

First lay person to lead Brebeuf Jesuit Preparatory School.

Jesuit granted France’s highest honor for human rights work in India
Cardinal McCarrick, Bishop Imesch resign; successors named

WASHINGTON (CNS)-Pope Benedict XVI accepted the resignation of Cardinal Theodore E. McCarrick on May 16 and named Bishop Donald W. Wuerl of Pittsburgh to succeed him as archbishop of Washington.

The pope also accepted the resignation of Bishop Joseph L. Imesch of Joliet, Ill., and appointed Bishop J. Peter Sartain of Little Rock, Ark., as his successor.

The changes were announced in Washington by Archbishop Pietro Sambi, apostolic nuncio to the United States.

Cardinal McCarrick has headed the Archdiocese of Washington since 2001 and previously served as archbishop of Newark and bishop of Metuchen, both in New Jersey, and as an auxiliary bishop in the New York Archdiocese.

As canon law requires of all bishops, the cardinal submitted his resignation to Pope Benedict when he turned 75 on July 7. But he announced at a September meeting with archdiocesan priests that the pope had asked him to stay on.

Archbishop Wuerl, 65, has been bishop of Pittsburgh since 1988 and is well-known for his nationally syndicated television program, “The Teaching of Christ.”

His best-selling adult catechism of the same name. His most recent book, The Catholic Way, was published by Doubleday in 2001.

Appointed an auxiliary bishop of Seattle in 1985, he also served as a seminary rector for five years and worked at the Vatican for 10 years.

In his new post, Archbishop Wuerl will be spiritual leader of a Catholic population estimated at 579,000 in a total population of 2.6 million. The Pittsburgh Diocese has some 800,000 Catholics in a total population of more than 1.9 million.

His installation as archbishop of Washington was scheduled for June 22.

Born on July 7, 1930, in New York, Theodore Edgar McCarrick studied for the priesthood at the New York archdiocesan seminary and was ordained a priest on March 31, 1958.

From 1965 to 1969, he was president of the Catholic University of Puerto Rico.

He returned to New York in 1969 as archdiocesan associate secretary for education, and the following year he became secretary to New York Cardinal Terence Cooke.

He was named an auxiliary bishop of New York in 1977, the first bishop of the newly formed Diocese of Metuchen in 1981 and archbishop of Newark in 1986.

He was named to the College of Cardinals less than three weeks after his installation as head of the Washington Archdiocese, becoming the fourth archbishop of Washington in a row to be appointed a cardinal.


He worked at the Vatican from 1969-79, returning to Pittsburgh after Cardinal Wright’s death to serve as successor to and then rector of St. Paul’s College Seminary. In 1982, he was appointed executive secretary to Bishop John A. Marshall of Birmingham, Ala., for a piously mandated study of U.S. seminaries being conducted by Bishop Marshall.

Named an auxiliary bishop for Seattle on Dec. 3, 1985, he was ordained to the episcopacy by Pope John Paul II on Jan. 6, 1986. Following a two-year Vatican investigation of Seattle Archbishop Raymond G. Hunthausen, the Vatican directed the archbishop in September 1986 to delegate to Bishop Wuerl final decision-making authority over several aspects of Church life.

Archbishop Hunthausen’s authority was restored in May 1987. Bishop Wuerl was named the 11th bishop of Pittsburgh and installed there on Feb. 12, 1988.

Bishop Wuerl began a three-year term as chairman of the U.S. bishops’ Committee on Catechesis in November 2004 and also serves on the Committee on Education’s Subcommittee on “Sustaining Christian Life” and as a consultant to the Task Force on Catholic Bishops and Politicians, chaired by Cardinal McCarrick.

Joseph Leopold Imesch, who turns 75 on June 21, is best known nationally for his service as chairman of the bishops’ Committee on Women in Society and in the Church and his involvement for nine years in efforts to write a pastoral letter on women’s concerns.


Ordained an auxiliary bishop in Detroit on April 3, 1973, he was appointed bishop of Joliet on June 30, 1979, and installed on Aug. 28, 1979.

The Joliet Diocese has about 637,000 Catholics in a total population of nearly 1.8 million.

James Peter Sartain, who will be installed on June 27 as the new bishop of Joliet, was born on June 6, 1952, in Memphis, Tenn. He studied for the priesthood at Saint Meinrad Seminary in Indiana and at the Pontifical North American College in Rome, where he also attended the Pontifical University of St. Thomas Aquinas.

He was ordained a priest of the Diocese of Memphis on July 15, 1978. In addition to various parish assignments, then-Father Sartain served the Memphis Diocese as director of vocations, secretary for priests and deacons, vicar for temporal administration and for clergy personnel, chancellor and moderator of the cura, and vicar general.

He was named to the College of Cardinals in 2001 and appointed executive secretary to Bishop John A. Marshall of Burlington, Vt., for a papally mandated study of U.S. seminaries being conducted by Bishop Marshall.

Sartain has headed the Archdiocese of Washington since 2001 and previously served as archbishop of Newark and bishop of Metuchen, both in New Jersey, and as an auxiliary bishop in the New York Archdiocese.

As canon law requires of all bishops, the cardinal submitted his resignation to Pope Benedict when he turned 75 on July 7. But he announced at a September meeting with archdiocesan priests that the pope had asked him to stay on.

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Spoken by one of the four founding Daughters of Charity who arrived in Indianapolis in 1881 to start St. Vincent University of Puerto Rico.
A Capital Vacation
Many monuments, memorials and museums are free in D.C.

See stories on pages 10 and 13.

Photos by Mary Ann Wyand and Brandon A. Evans
Page design by Ann Sternberg
Catholic roots

Visit national shrine and papal center while touring nation’s capital

By Brandon A. Evans

WASHINGTON, D.C.—A trip to the nation’s capital can also be a chance to see two centers of Catholicism. (See a related story on page 13.) Nearby to one another, the nearly 50-year-old National Shrine of the Basilica of the Immaculate Conception plays host to major events while the still-new Pope John Paul II Cultural Center hosts world-famous artwork and pays tribute to the life and ministry of the late pontiff, who died on April 2, 2005.

The National Shrine is a mammoth structure that dwarfs most of the monuments in the D.C. area—6,000 people can fit inside the main church, with at least another 400 inside the crypt church on the lower level.

The basilica is 459 feet long, covers 77,500 square feet and is the largest Catholic church in the western hemisphere. It was finished in 1959.

Along the edges of the upper church, as well as in various corners in the crypt level, are dozens of smaller chapels, each devoted to the Blessed Virgin Mary in a different way.

There is a chapel for Mother of Sorrows, the Miraculous Medal, Our Mother of Africa and Our Lady of Guadalupe, to name just a few.

Among the many works of tiled mosaics are the seven domes near the main entrance, the last of which is called “The Redemption.” Artisans are still completing this mosaic.

The Web site of the basilica at www.NationalShrine.com describes one of the most noticeable features of the upper church, “the magnificent mosaic of the awesome, apocalyptic ‘Christ in Majesty,’ who comes to judge justly (depicted by the raised right brow) and with compassion (depicted by the relaxed left brow).” Each year, the basilica hosts major Catholic gatherings, not the least of which is the annual Prayer Vigil for Life in January, which begins with a Mass on the evening before the March for Life that always packs the church beyond capacity.

The idea for the shrine started in the early 1900s, and though the crypt church was completed by 1924, the Great Depression and World War II diverted attention from the project.

It was with, among others, the intercession and preaching of the late Bishop John Noll of Fort Wayne that the project gained steam in the 1950s, resulting in the beautiful basilica that stands today through the sacrifices of lay people all over the country. A bust of Bishop Noll is displayed outside the crypt church.

Not too far from the basilica, which sits on the campus of The Catholic University of America, is the Pope John Paul II Cultural Center.

In what could best be called a museum of types as well as a place of research, the center features items from the life of the late Polish pope as well as exhibits of artwork—sometimes exclusive displays from places such as the Vatican Museum—and opportunities for Catholics to learn more about their faith.

Lectures and consultations also occur at the center, which tries to be a place to promote the theology of the late pope.

There are five interactive galleries with varying themes: Church and papal history, faith, wonder, community and imagination. An orientation theater prepares guests for what they will see, and afterward they can either stop at the chapel to pray or relax at the café.

For more information about the papal center and upcoming exhibits, log on to www.jp2cc.org.

Either location is a great way for Catholics to root any trip to the D.C. area firmly in their faith—and both the basilica and the cultural center are perfect for family outings. †
Parish Festivals

May 31–June 3
St. Rose Parish, Highway 40.
Knightsdown Yard sale, books, food, 8 a.m.-6 p.m. Information: 765-345-7429 or e-mail mofayardsale@yahoo.com.

June 1–2
St. Michael Parish, 519 Jefferson Blvd., Greenfield. St. Michael Parish Ladies Club, rummage sale, food, Thurs. 9 a.m.-4 p.m., Fri. bargain hour sale, 9-10 a.m. Information: 317-462-4240.

June 1–3
St. Simon the Apostle Parish, 8155 Oldklandon Road, Indianapolis. Parish festival, Thurs. 5-11 p.m., Fri. 5 p.m.-midnight, Sat. 3 p.m.-midnight, rides, games, music, entertainment, food. Information: 317-826-6000, ext. 3.

June 2
St. Therese of the Infant Jesus (Little Flower) Parish, 1401 N. Bosart Ave., Indianapolis. Summerfest, garage sale, 8 a.m., rain or shine. Information: 317-357-8352.

June 2–4
St. Therese of the Infant Jesus (Little Flower) Parish, 1401 N. Bosart Ave., Indianapolis. Summerfest, Fri.-Sat. 11 a.m.-5 p.m., Sun. 11 a.m.-5 p.m., rides, games, food, entertainment. Information: 317-357-8352.

June 3

June 8–11
Our Lady of the Greenwood Parish, 3355 S. Meridian St., Greenwood. Parish festival, Thurs. 5-11 p.m., Fri. 5 p.m.-midnight, Sat. 2 p.m.-midnight, Sun. noon-9 p.m., rides, games, food. Information: 317-888-2861, ext. 236.

June 9–10
Our Lady of the Holy Rosary Parish, 520 Steven St., Indianapolis. 23rd annual Italian Street Festival, Fri.-Sat. 5-11 p.m., Italian foods. Information: 317-636-4478.

St. Louis School, 17 St. Louis Place, Batesville. Rummage Sale, Fri. 8 a.m.-7 p.m., Sat. 8 a.m.-4 p.m., half-price sale, Sun. 8 a.m.-1:30 p.m., 5 p.m. tag sale. Information: 812-934-3204.

June 9–11
St. Gabriel the Archangel Parish, 6000 W. 34th St., Indianapolis. International Festival, Fri.-Sat. 5 p.m.-midnight, Sun. 5 p.m., food, games, rides, entertainment. Information: 317-291-7014.

June 11
St. Paul Parish, 814 Jefferson St., Tell City, Parish picnic, city Hall Park, 700 Main St., across from church, 11 a.m.-6 p.m., booths, crafts, food. Information: 812-547-9901.

June 15–17
St. Bernadette Parish, 4654 E. Fletcher Ave., Indianapolis. Parish festival, Thurs. 5-11 p.m., Fri. 5 p.m.-midnight, Sat. 5 p.m.-midnight, games, rides, food. Information: 317-356-5867.

June 17–18
Holy Angels Parish, 740 W. 28th St., Indianapolis. Juneteenth Celebration, Fri. 5-9 p.m., Sat. noon-9 p.m., food, games, entertainment. Information: 317-926-3324.

June 17
Holy Cross Parish, Kelley Gymnasium, 125 N. Oriental St., Indianapolis. Sock Hop, 7-10 p.m., $5 per person. Information: 317-579-0112.

June 18
Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish, 2322 N. 13th St., Terre Haute. Parish auction, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Information: 812-466-1251.

June 22–24
St. Jude Parish, 5353 McFarland Road, Indianapolis. Parish festival, Thurs. 5 p.m.-close, Fri. 5 p.m.-close, Sat. 4 p.m.-close, food, rides, games. Information: 317-786-4571.

June 23–24
Christ the King Parish, 1827 E. Kessler Blvd., Indianapolis. Summer Social, Fri.-Sat. 5 p.m.-midnight, music, games, food, entertainment, Fri.-Sat. morning, rummage sale, 7 a.m. Information: 317-255-3666.

St. Michael Parish, 519 Jefferson Blvd., Greenfield. Summerfest, Thurs. 5-11 p.m., Fri. 5-11 p.m., Sat. 1-11 p.m., rides, games, food, fireworks every night. Information: 317-462-4240.

June 25
St. Maurice Parish, 1963 N. John St., Greensburg. Parish picnic, 10 a.m.-5 p.m., chicken and roast beef dinners, games, quilts, country store. Information: 812-663-4754.

July 7–8

July 7–9
St. Lawrence Parish, 542 Walnut St., Lawrenceburg. Parish festival, food, music, Fri. 6 p.m.-midnight, pork chop dinner, Sat. 2 p.m.-midnight, German dinner, Sun. 11 a.m.-6 p.m., chicken dinner. Information: 812-537-3992.

July 9
Harrison County Fairgrounds, 341 Capited Ave., Corydon. St. Joseph Parish, parish picnic, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., chicken dinner, quilts. Information: 812-738-2742.

July 13–15
Holy Spirit Parish, 7243 E. 10th St., Indianapolis. Parish festival, 6-11 p.m., rides, food, music, entertainment. Information: 317-353-9404.

July 15
St. Teresita Benedicta of the Cross Parish, 23670 Salt Fork Road, Bright. Parish festival, music, food, 3 p.m.-midnight. Information: 812-656-8700.

July 16
St. John the Baptist Parish, 2574 State Road 1, Dover. Summer Festival, 11 a.m.-7 p.m., fried chicken dinner, 11 a.m.-5 p.m., games, country store. Information: 812-576-4303.

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Parish Festivals
Continued from page 11

St. Mary Parish, 7500 Navillett Road, Navillett.

100th annual parish picnic, 10 a.m-4 p.m. Information: 812-923-5419.

July 20-22
St. Christopher Parish, 5301 W. 16th St., Indianapolis.

69th annual Midsummer Festival, Thurs., Fri. 4:30-9 p.m., Sat. noon-9 p.m., carnival, fish sandwiches. Information: 317-241-6314.

July 22-23
St. Martin Parish, 8044 Yorkridge Road, Yorkville.

Parish festival, sat. 4:30-11:30 p.m., prime rib dinner, Sun. 11:30 a.m.-8 p.m., chicken dinner. Information: 812-623-3408.

July 27-29
St. Mark Parish, 535 E. Edgewood Ave., Indianapolis.

Fun Fest, 4 p.m.-midnight, rides, food, games. Information: 317-787-8246.

July 28-29
St. Ann Parish, 2862 S. Holt Road, Indianapolis.

Parish festival, 5-11 p.m., food. Information: 317-244-3750.

July 29
St. Matthew Parish, 1210 E. Main St., Plainfield.

Parish festival, steak dinner, games, Fri. 6-10 p.m., Sat. 10 a.m.-6 p.m., chicken dinner. Information: 812-357-5533.

August 4-5
St. Joseph Parish, 2605 St. Joe Road W., Sellersburg.

Parish yard sale, 8 a.m.-3 p.m. Information: 812-246-2512.

August 5
St. Thomas the Apostle Parish, 523 S. Merrill St., Fortville.

Parish festival, Sat. 11 a.m.-p.m., games, food, entertainment, auction, chicken and noodles dinner. Information: 317-485-5102.

August 6
St. Boniface Parish, 15519 N. State Road 545, Pulda.

Parish picnic, 10 a.m.-6 p.m., food, special soup, chicken dinner. Information: 812-357-5533.

August 13
St. Paul Parish, 9708 N. Dearborn Road, Guilford/New Albany Parish, festival, 11 a.m.-6 p.m., chicken dinner. Information: 812-487-2096.

St. Mary Parish, 2500 St. Mary’s Drive, Evansville.

Parish festival, chicken dinner, booths, 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Information: 812-952-2853.

August 20
St. Pius Parish, Ripley County.

Parish picnic, 10:30 a.m.-6 p.m., chicken dinner, games, food, entertainment, quilts. Information: 812-934-6218.

August 25-26
Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ Parish, 7225 South-eastern Ave., Indianapolis.

Parish festival, ridas, food, entertainment, 4 p.m.-midnight. Information: 317-357-1200.

Prince of Peace Parish, 413 E. Second St., Madison.

Community Festival, Father Michael Shave Memorial Justice/Street School, 201 W. State St., Fri. 5 p.m.-11 p.m., Sat. 3 p.m.-11 p.m., food, carnival rides, games. Information: 812-265-4166.

August 26
Holy Angels Parish, 740 W. 28th St., Indianapolis.

Yard sale, 8 a.m.-4 p.m. Information: 317-926-3324.

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

“Golden Night Under the Stars,” 6-10 p.m., food, entertainment, $30 per person. Information: 317-632-9349.

September 1-4
Sacred Heart Parish, 558 Neiberck St., Clinton.

Little Italy Festival, Water Street in downtown Clinton, Fri. 7-11 p.m., Sat. 11 a.m.-11 p.m., Sun. 11 a.m.-11 p.m., Mon. 11 a.m.-closing, Italian food, entertainment. Information: 765-832-8468.

September 3
St. John the Evangelist Parish, 9995 E. Base Road, Enochsburg.

Parish festival, fried chicken, 11 a.m.-6 p.m. Information: 812-934-2880.

September 4
St. Peter Parish, 1207 East Road, Brookville. Labor Day festival, 10 a.m.-7 p.m., booths, games, quilts, 10:15 a.m.-2:45 p.m., chicken dinner in dining room or carry-out meals. Information: 812-623-3670.

St. Anthony of Padua Parish, 4773 E. Morris Church St., Morris.

Labor Day picnics, 10:30 a.m.-8 p.m., chicken and roast beef dinners, turtle soup, refreshments, lunch stand, games, entertainment, quilts. Information: 812-934-6218.

September 9-10
St. Mary Parish, 212 Washington St., North Vernon.

Parish festival, Sat. 2 p.m.-midnight, Sun. 11 a.m.-6 p.m., food, children’s games. Information: 812-346-3604.

St. Mary (Immaculate Conception) Parish, 512 N. Perkins St., Rushville.

Fall Festival, Sat. 7-11 p.m., German Fest, Sun. 10:30 a.m.-3 p.m., food, entertainment. Information: 765-932-2588.

St. Michael Parish, 250 High St., Brookville.

Fall Festival, Sat. 4 p.m.-10 p.m., pork chop dinner, Sun. 10 a.m.-7 p.m., chicken dinner. Information: 765-647-5462.

September 10
St. Pius V Parish, Highway 66, Troy.

Parish picnic, 11 a.m.-late afternoon, chicken and roast beef dinners, special soup, yard sale. Information: 812-547-7994.

St. Mary Parish, 302 E. Key Street, Greensburg.

Parish picnic, 10:45 a.m.-5 p.m., dinners, bake sale, games. Information: 812-663-8427.

St. Augustine Parish, 315 E. Chestnut St., Jeffersonville.

Harvest chicken dinner, quilts, 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Information: 812-282-2677.

September 15

September 15-16
Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish, 1530 Union St., Indianapolis.

Old Southside Fall Festival, 5-11 p.m., food, auction, entertainment. Information: 317-638-5551.

St. Malachi Parish, 326 N. Green St., Brownsburg.

Country Fair and hog roast, 4-11 p.m., food, booths. Information: 317-852-3195.

September 15-17
St. Thomas More Parish, 1200 N. Indiana St., Mooresville.

Apple Fest, family fun, food, crafts, games, Fr., Sat. all day until 10 p.m., Sun. all day until 5 p.m. Information: 317-831-4142.

September 16
St. Joan of Arc Parish, 4217 Central Ave., Indianapolis.


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Organize friends and family from your school, parish and workplace and choose a team name and team captain. An easy-to-use and convenient online registration system is available at www.WalkForFamilies.org where you can register online and e-mail your friends to ask for their support. Each registered walker will receive a t-shirt.

We also have volunteer opportunities available!

To learn more visit www.WalkForFamilies.org or contact Valerie Sperka at 317-592-4072 or vsperka@archindy.org.

All proceeds from this event will directly benefit the poor and vulnerable served by Catholic Charities Indianapolis in central Indiana.
A Capital vacation: Monuments, memorials and museums are free in D.C.

By Mary Ann Wyand

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Put on your walking shoes and enjoy scenic urban hikes in the nation’s capital, which is home to many free monuments, memorials, museums, and even a zoo.

Start your Capital vacation at the historic U.S. Capitol, the site of a variety of historical, educational and recreational attractions for tourists of all ages. If it’s a sunny day, postpone your tours of the fascinating Smithsonian Institution museums and walk west toward the commanding Washington Monument, an elegant obelisk that rises 555 feet. Free tickets are required for admission and the elevator ride to the top so stop there early in the day to acquire your timed pass.

Also on Capitol Hill, the U.S. Supreme Court building has similar strict security guidelines for entrance. The National Park Service operates an information stand and concession booth near the monument, and the hot dogs and bratwurst are tasty, especially when you have walked all early in the day to acquire your timed pass.

After you pass through a metal detector, a friendly tour guide offers an entertaining commentary about Capitol trivia while escorting your group past beautiful murals, paintings and statues. Also on Capitol Hill, the U.S. Supreme Court building

St. Gabriel Parish, Fall Festival. 11 a.m.-4 p.m., fried chicken dinner, games. Information: 765-825-8578.

St. Mark Parish, 5377 Acorn Road, Tell City. Parish picnic, 11 a.m.-6 p.m., shooting match, food, games. Information: 812-836-2481.

September 27

Persimmon Festival, 7th Street and Main Street, Mitchell. St. Mary Parish, food tent, Italian dinner, 11 a.m.-7 p.m. Information: 812-849-3570.

September 29-30

Our Lady of Lourdes Parish, 5333 E. Washington St., Indianapolis. Fall Festival, Fri. 5 p.m.-1 a.m., Sat. 3 p.m.-1 a.m., Sun. noon-4 p.m., food, rides, games, entertainment. Information: 317-336-7294.

September 30

St. Andrew the Apostle Parish, 4052 E. 38th St., Indianapolis. Alumni homecoming gathering, fundraiser, candlelight dinner, memory lane, Mass, 4:30 p.m., activities, 5:30-9 p.m. Information: 317-546-1571.

October 1

Holy Family Parish, 3027 Pearl St., Oldenburg. Fall Festival, 9 a.m.-8 p.m., chicken and roast beef dinners. Information: 812-934-3013.

St. Joseph Parish, 2605 St. Joe Road W., Sellersburg. Fall Festival, food, turkey shoot, 11 a.m.-6 p.m. Information: 812-246-2512.

September 24

St. Michael Parish, 11400 Farmers Lane, Bradford. Parish picnic and festival, 10:30 a.m.-5 p.m., chicken dinner, silent auction. Information: 812-364-6646.

Fayette County 4-H Fairgrounds, Expo Hall, Connersville.

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Vacation/Travel Supplement  Page 13

The Criterion Friday, May 26, 2006

Parish Festivals

Continued from page 12

St. Joseph Parish, 2605 St. Joe Road W., Sellersburg.

Street dance, 8 p.m.-midnight. Information: 812-246-2512.

September 17

St. Louis Parish, 13 St. Louis Place, Batesville.

Fall Festival, 10 a.m.-8 p.m., chicken and roast beef dinners, games. Information: 812-934-3204.

St. Meinrad Parish, Community Center, 13150 E. County Road 1950 N., St. Meinrad. Fall Festival, 10 a.m.-6 p.m., food, games. Information: 812-357-5533.

September 24

St. Michael Parish, 11400 Farmers Lane, Bradford.

Parish picnic and festival, 10:30 a.m.-5 p.m., chicken dinner, silent auction. Information: 812-364-6646.

Fayette County 4-H Fairgrounds, Expo Hall, Connersville.

St. Gabriel Parish, Fall Festival. 11 a.m.-4 p.m., fried chicken dinner, games. Information: 765-825-8578.

St. Mark Parish, 5377 Acorn Road, Tell City. Parish picnic, 11 a.m.-6 p.m., shooting match, food, games. Information: 812-836-2481.

September 27

Persimmon Festival, 7th Street and Main Street, Mitchell. St. Mary Parish, food tent, Italian dinner, 11 a.m.-7 p.m. Information: 812-849-3570.

September 29-30

Our Lady of Lourdes Parish, 5333 E. Washington St., Indianapolis. Fall Festival, Fri. 5 p.m.-1 a.m., Sat. 3 p.m.-1 a.m., Sun. noon-4 p.m., food, rides, games, entertainment. Information: 317-336-7294.

September 30

St. Andrew the Apostle Parish, 4052 E. 38th St., Indianapolis. Alumni homecoming gathering, fundraiser, candlelight dinner, memory lane, Mass, 4:30 p.m., activities, 5:30-9 p.m. Information: 317-546-1571.

October 1

Holy Family Parish, 3027 Pearl St., Oldenburg. Fall Festival, 9 a.m.-8 p.m., chicken and roast beef dinners. Information: 812-934-3013.

St. Joseph Parish, 2605 St. Joe Road W., Sellersburg. Fall Festival, food, turkey shoot, 11 a.m.-6 p.m. Information: 812-246-2512.

October 8

St. Mary-of-the-Rock Parish, 17440 St. Mary’s Road, Batesville. Turkey Festival, booths, games, food, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Information: 812-934-4165.

October 13-15

Knights of Columbus Hall, 413 E. South St., Shelbyville. St. Joseph Parish, Oktoberfest, Fri. 5-10 p.m., Sat., Sun. 1-10 p.m., dinner, rides. Information: 317-394-8227.

October 28

St. Joseph Parish, 2605 St. Joe Road W., Sellersburg. Craft show, 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Information: 812-246-2512.

**Continued from page 12**
African safari

Wild game preserve protects animals in their natural habitat

By Joan M. Wyand
Special to The Criterion

NAIROBI, KENYA—My mind was filled with curiosity as the airplane landed at Jomo Kenyatta Airport. The Kenyan air felt dry and warm compared to the wet and blistering cold conditions in Rhode Island when I left Providence on Jan. 13, a day and a half earlier.

I exchanged some traveler’s checks in the baggage-claim area of the airport at the rate of about one U.S. dollar to 70 Kenya shillings.

I had been hired by an American jewelry distributor to alter glazes on ceramic beads at the Kazuri studio factory in Nairobi. The studio was built by Christian missionaries. Inside were desks, pens, pencils and paper, but I did not see the interior because the building was only a space in the Mara that had a lock.

The front room of each house consisted of a dirt floor where sheep slept at night. A narrow hallway led to the other half of the house, which was used as a bedroom.

I spent time with a Maasai named Kinanta (Kee-nand-ta). Truly beautiful, he dressed in the traditional style of beaded red wrap, handmade leather shoes and head décor made from small strands of wool sewn together in rows.

The Maasai are a semi-nomadic tribe that lives in small villages throughout the southwest region of Kenya.

I was greeted by a tour guide and a local Maasai in an open-roofed Jeep. In the early mornings and in the afternoons, my tour guide, Stephen, drove me down the mountainside and into the Mara, a nature preserve.

The next day, we entered the Mara with the sunrise around 6 a.m. We found a herd of 15 elephants moving slowly and methodically across the dry grass for a morning drink at the river.

The front of each house consisted of a dirt floor where sheep slept at night. A narrow hallway led to the other half of the house, which was used as a bedroom.

I was amazed by nature’s seamless and efficient recycling process. One afternoon, we walked along a foot trail through the grass beginning to grow again, with the humanity that surrounds you.

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expensive entrees, I tasted ostrich sausage, camel, crocodile and wild boar. I fed, pet and even kissed giraffes at the Giraffe Center in Karen, Kenya. The center works to educate the public about preserving wildlife. Admission is about $10, and visitors can donate to a program that allows children from the slums to participate in classes at the center. The Elephant Center, also located in Karen, takes in baby elephants that have survived emotionally traumatic experiences, such as witnessing violent poachers kill their parents. Visitors learn about the elephants’ natural habitat while watching them play, drink from a large bottle, eat leaves and kick a soccer ball. At Kazuri, the ceramics studio in Nairobi where I worked for several weeks, visitors can tour the facilities and meet the artisans while they create jewelry and other artwork. There are various ways to travel to Africa. An amazing job opportunity in the ceramics field allowed me to visit Kenya from Jan. 15 until Feb. 5. There are travel grants and funds in almost every field of interest that can allow anyone access to distant territories. On the plane ride from Kenya to Paris, I sat next to a group of students who had been on a mission trip in the slums of Nairobi. They had been teaching children and building improvements at a community center there. The key to successfully navigating foreign cultures is keeping your heart, mind, eyes and ears completely open while allowing your instincts and natural curiosity to create a path.

(Joan Wyand is a 2001 graduate of Cathedral High School in Indianapolis and 2005 graduate of the Rhode Island School of Design in Providence. She is an artist and environmental activist.)

Above, a zebra grazes at the Mara, a nature preserve in Kenya. Left, a caretaker feeds a baby elephant at the Elephant Center in Karen, Kenya.
A week in Paris

French museums, cathedrals and landmarks capture the imagination

By Joan M. Wyand
Special to The Criterion

PARIS, FRANCE—When I bought a plane ticket for a business trip to Kenya earlier this year, I decided to spend a week in Paris in February on my way home to Providence, Rhode Island. (See related story Paris in February on my way home to Paris this year, I decided to spend a week in Paris and chose to stay at a nearby hotel that run about $80 a night. My older brother, J.P. Wyand of Indianapolis, joined me in Paris and chose to stay at a nearby hostel called The Three Ducks, and I stayed in an affordable, English-speaking hotel called The Three Ducks, and shared a small, six-bed room and bathroom with alternating roommates. The bar area had a lock box, Wi-fi connection and constant stream of interesting travelers.

I stayed in the cheapest accommoda-
tions, but there are many charming French hotels that run about $80 a night. My older brother, J.P. Wyand of Indianapolis, joined me in Paris and chose to stay at a nearby hotel during his vacation. During the week, I traversed various areas of the city, observing the eclectic architectural facades and visiting a variety of Parisian attractions.

The Louvre is a grand architectural complex that developed over 700 years. This famous museum is filled with detailed paintings, sculptures and interior décors from around the world, including Leonardo da Vinci’s renowned portrait of “Mona Lisa.”

Da Vinci used a perspective point that is off the canvas, which is why her eyes follow the viewer around the room. The painting was revolutionary for its time because the fictional landscape changes from a forested lake on the left side of her head to a steep mountainside on the right.

The Criterion   Friday, May 26, 2006

In the 19th century, Napoleon III built an extravagant wing in the Louvre with tall ceilings, brightly colored upholsteries and an over-all glimmering of gold leaf. The Musee d’Orsay is another classic museum that showcases a wide range of artwork from the 19th century. Once a turn-of-the-century train station, the main room in the museum has a tall arched ceiling with a multileveled marble floor. Large bronze sculptures decorate two terraces that lead into rooms with Impressionist paintings. Realist paintings and Art Nouveau interior designs

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The Eiffel Tower is beautiful at night, when lights glow from the 984-foot landmark along the Seine River in Paris.

The Eiffel Tower is a marvel of engineering and design, built by Gustave Eiffel for the 1889 World's Fair to celebrate France's centenary of the French Revolution. Despite initial criticism, it has become one of the most iconic symbols of Paris and of France.

Inside the tower, visitors can climb to various observation decks, with the highest level offering panoramic views of the city. The top deck is accessible via a glass elevators that ascend alongside the metal legs of the tower. From this height, you can see the entire city spread out below you, including the Seine River and its many bridges.

There are restaurants and gift shops at different levels of the tower, providing options for refreshments and souvenirs. The tower also hosts various events and exhibitions throughout the year, offering visitors a unique perspective of Paris and its history.

The Eiffel Tower is a must-see attraction for anyone visiting Paris, and a visit to the top deck is a memorable experience to enjoy the spectacular views of the city.
A place to call home
Rescued exotic cats are Joe Taft’s pride and joy near Center Point

By Mary Ann Wyand

CENTER POINT—Look but don’t touch. It’s more than a rule—it’s an order based on safety concerns—for visitors at the Exotic Feline Rescue Center located on 108 wooded acres in rural Clay County.

That’s because the rescue center owned by Joe Taft is the permanent home of more than 200 very big cats—lions, tigers, leopards, pumas, bobcats, ocelots and lynxes—who had been abused, abandoned or left homeless by former owners and now live in large outdoor cages covering 30 acres of woodland.

Taft and his well-trained staff of seven full-time employees and four part-time employees welcome visitors from 10 a.m. until 5 p.m. on Tuesdays through Sundays throughout the year and on Monday when it is a holiday.

The admission fees of $10 for adults and $5 for children helps pay for the center’s operating costs, which are substantial with several hundred huge and hungry felines to take care of every day for many years.

“I think most people don’t understand the conditions that a lot of these animals were kept in prior to the time that they came here,” Taft said during an interview last July, “and what their chances of survival are if we didn’t take them in here.”

He rises at 4 a.m. each day and often works until past 9 p.m. with staff members to take care of every day for many years.

“These [exotic] animals are quite commonly found in extremely poor living conditions,” Taft said, “completely lacking in medical care and malnourished. The owners didn’t know enough, didn’t care enough, didn’t realize the cost involved, didn’t realize the safety issues and didn’t realize the difficulties of finding a veterinarian to care for these animals.”

A beautiful and rare white Siberian tiger is blind now, he said, but is happy in her cage at the center. Two leopard kittens were illegally owned by a man in Long Island, N.Y., but now are growing up in the company of other big cats.

“When the animals come here, we have a really good success rate with them,” Taft said. “We have some tigers that are 22 years old. Once people visit here, the animals speak for themselves.”

Taft and Joan Herrberg, the assistant director, like to share stories about each big cat to educate people about their needs. They wish people would quit purchasing exotic felines as pets.

“The first thing I tell people who visit is to keep their hands away from the cages,” he said. “One animal escaped from his owner and ran loose in a city. A tiger killed a really good success rate with them,” Taft said. “I think most people don’t understand the conditions that a lot of these animals were kept in prior to the time that they came here. “They’re certainly not pets and they can’t be released back into the wild. They’re caught in between. They will live out their lives here at one of the finest rescue centers in the country.”

(For information about visiting hours and directions, log on to the center Web site at www.exoticfelinerescuecenter.org.)

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Sat., June 10 – 2 PM-Midnight
Sun., June 11 – 12 Noon-9 PM

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Fish Fry Dinner
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Taft and his well-trained staff of seven full-time employees and four part-time employees welcome visitors from 10 a.m. until 5 p.m. on Tuesdays through Sundays throughout the year and on Monday when it is a holiday.

The admission fees of $10 for adults and $5 for children helps pay for the center’s operating costs, which are substantial with several hundred huge and hungry felines to take care of every day for many years.

“I think most people don’t understand the conditions that a lot of these animals were kept in prior to the time that they came here,” Taft said during an interview last July, “and what their chances of survival are if we didn’t take them in here.”

He rises at 4 a.m. each day and often works until past 9 p.m. with staff members to take care of every day for many years.

“These [exotic] animals are quite commonly found in extremely poor living conditions,” Taft said, “completely lacking in medical care and malnourished. The owners didn’t know enough, didn’t care enough, didn’t realize the cost involved, didn’t realize the safety issues and didn’t realize the difficulties of finding a veterinarian to care for these animals.”

A beautiful and rare white Siberian tiger is blind now, he said, but is happy in her cage at the center. Two leopard kittens were illegally owned by a man in Long Island, N.Y., but now are growing up in the company of other big cats.

“When the animals come here, we have a really good success rate with them,” Taft said. “We have some tigers that are 22 years old. Once people visit here, the animals speak for themselves.”

Taft and Joan Herrberg, the assistant director, like to share stories about each big cat to educate people about their needs. They wish people would quit purchasing exotic felines as pets.

“The first thing I tell people who visit is to keep their hands away from the cages,” he said. “One animal escaped from his owner and ran loose in a city. A tiger killed a really good success rate with them,” Taft said. “I think most people don’t understand the conditions that a lot of these animals were kept in prior to the time that they came here. “They’re certainly not pets and they can’t be released back into the wild. They’re caught in between. They will live out their lives here at one of the finest rescue centers in the country.”

(For information about visiting hours and directions, log on to the center Web site at www.exoticfelinerescuecenter.org.)

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6th, 7th, 8th, 9th, 10th Prizes: 1% of total Jackpot ($100 minimum)

ATTRACTIONS

~ * ~
Some of the exotic felines at Joe Taft’s rescue center enjoy their various habitats, which include plenty of space to run, jump, play, eat and sleep in large outdoor cages on the 108-acre facility in rural Clay County. Taft depends on admission fees and donations to care for the wild cats and pay for other operating expenses.

Photos by Brandon A. Evans

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‘Restart Your Engines’

Indiana State Parks and Reservoirs are fun places to relax

By Mary Ann Wyand

“Restart Your Engines!” Indiana’s new state tourism slogan, reminds many people of fun times spent watching the world-famous Indianapolis 500 on Memorial Day weekend. But St. Mark parishioner Becky Weber of Indianapolis thinks the Hoosier state’s new catch-phrase applies to lots of other outdoor recreational activities all year round, and is a perfect theme to use to promote Indiana’s scenic state parks, reservoirs, forests, fish and wildlife areas and nature preserves.

As marketing director for the Indiana Department of Natural Resources, Weber invites people to send her an e-mail at ber@dnr.in.gov to request a free copy of the 2006 Indiana Recreation and Fishing Guide. The 70-page booklet is filled with great ideas for affordable day trips, weekend getaways or longer vacations within easy driving distance.

“While it’s new to tourism, the idea of refreshing and recreating goes back to a long tradition,” said the state parks, where you can attend Mass there at 6 p.m. on Saturday and 8 a.m. or 10 a.m. on Sundays from June through August.

Weber also recommends that people drive to Lafayette, Ind., to see the new Prophetstown State Park and privately held Historic Prophetstown farm adjacent to the park property.

Prophetstown is a completely different type of state park, she said, because it recaptures the former prairie environment with lots of native flowers that are common to the region rather than wooded hiking trails found at other state parks. New picnic and playground facilities as well as paved bike trails make it fun for the whole family.

Weber also refers people to Harmonie State Park near New Harmony, Ind., as well as Charlestown State Park in Clark County, Lincoln State Park in Lincoln City, Ind., and Morgan Monroe State Forest near Bloomington.

The department, said the state of Indiana, is the true valuable assets in Indiana. Although he did not use the term ‘restart,’ it’s clearly what he had in mind. It might be a new slogan, but it’s not a new idea.” Weber said the Indiana State Parks network is celebrating its 90th anniversary this year with the theme “Wish You Were Here,” and there are lots of improvements at the scenic parks and inns.

Clifty Inn at Clifty Falls State Park in Madison is the biggest news this year,” Weber said. “We just finished spending about $9 million to update the inn there. We took down the old river-view wing that was not attached and reoriented it toward the view of the Ohio River and downtown Madison, which is very pretty.

She said the remodeled inn was dedicated on April 7 and features many modern amenities. Big Clifty Falls continues to please hikers with its roaring waterfall in the wake of spring rains and more sedate pace during the drier summer months, she said. Add in the newly remodeled inn and the beautiful park offers a memorable vacation experience close to home.

Prince of Peace Church, located at 413 E. Second St. in Madison, is a short drive from the park, and Catholics can easily attend Mass there at 6 p.m. on Saturday and 8 a.m. or 10 a.m. on Sundays from June through August.

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She also likes Fort Harrison State Park in Indianapolis, which offers a Pete Dye-designed golf course and trails for horseback riding as well as overnight accommodations at the former officers’ residences.

“It’s easy to reserve family cabins or rooms at the seven park inns online or with a telephone operator,” Weber said. “Charleston has full hook-up camping sites, and is an incredible staging point to see the fossils at Fall Creek, the Ohio State Park near Clarksville or visit Louisville.”

(For more information about state park inns, log on to www.indianamaps.com.)

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State plans improvements at fairgrounds

By Mary Ann Wyand

There are always lots of things to do at the Indiana State Fair in Indianapolis in August, but this year the Indiana Department of Natural Resources has some major surprises for fairgoers of all ages.

St. Mark parishioner Becky Weber of Indianapolis, marketing director for the natural resources department, said the state built a new 320-thousand-gallon “catch and release” fishing pond for children on the north side of the fairgrounds.

“With help from volunteers from fishing clubs all over central Indiana,” she said, “we’re going to teach children how to fish correctly.”

Weber said other fair improvements include a formal butterfly garden stocked with native Indiana butterflies and a new 200-seat amphitheater with an upgraded sound system for programs and activities.

“Between the butterfly garden, which is in front of our building, and the fishing pond in the back,” she said, “we reconstructed the fish ponds so visitors will be able to walk over them and look down at the different varieties of fish.”

The fair is Aug. 9-20. After the fair ends, Weber said, the Department of Natural Resources plans to utilize these new facilities for various programs throughout the year.

www.sipod.net
By John F. Fink

IRELAND—To celebrate our 50th wedding anniversary, Marie and I took our entire family to Ireland, where her ancestors came from. (Mine came from Germany.) We were 26 in all—four sons, three daughters, four spouses, two fiancées (who are now wives), five granddaughters and five grandsons. We also invited my sister, Ann, to join us.

The trip was last year, June 6-17, as soon as the grandchildren got out of school. It couldn’t have gone better. No one got sick or lost, there was no lost luggage and everything went as Marie had planned it. The weather couldn’t have been nicer; there was a slight mist a couple times when I took my early morning walks, but that was all.

Marie and I had been to Ireland several times so we knew where we wanted to go. Marie planned the trip with the help of C.I.E. Tours. We had our own bus and combination driver/guide. With such a large group, we couldn’t stay at bed and breakfasts so we selected our own hotels.

Perhaps no other group has been as prepared for a trip. For 10 weeks prior to the trip, our daughter, Therese, e-mailed us facts and assignments for everyone at home. We also gave assignments for everyone to report on places we were going to visit. For 10 weeks prior to the trip, we had made arrangements to celebrate our Golden Jubilee with Mass at St. Joseph’s Church in Aghamore. This small but very attractive church was where Marie’s grandparents were both baptized. They didn’t know each other in Aghamore, perhaps because he was seven years older than she was, but they met in Philadelphia after they had both emigrated to America. Father John Walsh celebrated Mass for us. We renewed our wedding vows, as did Barbara and Eric, who were celebrating their 25th wedding anniversary, and Steve and Tonya, who were celebrating their 20th year of marriage.

Our sons, Bob, Dave and John, all of whom have competed in Iron Man triathlons, made it to the top and back, and grandsons, Jack and Joe, made it most of the way, with granddaughter Hannah not far behind.

We stayed two nights in Westport, in County Mayo. Marie’s ancestors, the Waldrons, were from County Mayo and we had made arrangements to celebrate our Golden Jubilee with Mass at St. Joseph Church in Aghamore. This small but very attractive church was where Marie’s grandparents were both baptized. They didn’t know each other in Aghamore, perhaps because he was seven years older than she was, but they met in Philadelphia after they had both emigrated to America. Father John Walsh celebrated Mass for us. We renewed our wedding vows, as did Barbara and Eric, who were celebrating their 25th wedding anniversary, and Steve and Tonya, who were celebrating their 20th year of marriage.

Our new daughter-in-law, Heather, even took lessons on Irish dancing, nicely complementing our son Dave’s report on Irish beer and our son John’s report on Irish whisky.

We flew into Shannon Airport, made a clockwise circle around the island, and left again from Shannon on our flight home. Our first day was in County Clare, so our granddaughter, Claire, read her report about that county. It is famous for its castles, the Cliffs of Moher 700 feet above the ocean and the Burrens, 116 square miles of rock.

One of the towns we drove through had a pub called Tippy McGaegers. Our first night was in Galway, a fast-growing college town. The Collegiate Church of St. Nicholas, built in 1320, is the largest medieval parish in Ireland still in constant use. The cathedral in Galway was built from money contributed by wealthy people in Boston, especially the Kennedy family. A side chapel has a mosaic of a very saintly looking President John F. Kennedy.

On our second day, we drove through Connermarra, stopping at Kylemore Abbey where Benedictine sisters operate an exclusive girls’ school. The abbey was originally a magnificent castle-mansion built by Mitchell and Margaret Henry from 1867-71. While we were there, the rhododendron was in full bloom and was gorgeous.

We stopped at Croagh Patrick, a 2,510-foot-high mountain, where St. Patrick fasted so we selected our own hotels. Perhaps no other group has been as prepared for a trip. For 10 weeks prior to the trip, our daughter, Therese, e-mailed us facts and assignments for everyone at home. We also gave assignments for everyone to report on places we were going to visit. For 10 weeks prior to the trip, we had made arrangements to celebrate our Golden Jubilee with Mass at St. Joseph’s Church in Aghamore. This small but very attractive church was where Marie’s grandparents were both baptized. They didn’t know each other in Aghamore, perhaps because he was seven years older than she was, but they met in Philadelphia after they had both emigrated to America. Father John Walsh celebrated Mass for us. We renewed our wedding vows, as did Barbara and Eric, who were celebrating their 25th wedding anniversary, and Steve and Tonya, who were celebrating their 20th year of marriage.

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Ireland

After Mass, we met John Waldron, his mother, his daughter and his son. John's grandfather and Marie's grandfather were brothers. John's wife, Edith, was working, but she joined us for dinner that night. We also visited the cemetery where Marie's ancestors are buried.

From Aghamore, we drove to Knock, where one of the world's Marian shrines is located. It commemorates the apparition of Mary, Joseph and John the Evangelist to 15 people on Aug. 21, 1879. Today, a 5,000-person basilica is located near the shrine.

When John Waldron and his family joined us for dinner that night, his son, John Jr., introduced our grandchildren to the Irish sport of hurling.

After dinner each evening, they took turns giving reports. Angela told us about it's a prized book.

We wanted to make sure that our family knew all about the Irish famine so we stopped at Strokestown to see both the mansion that belonged to the Mahon and Pakenham families and the Famine Museum next to the mansion. The estate at Strokestown existed more than 18,000 people from 1846 to 1849 because they could not pay their rent as a result of the famine. Ireland's population of 8 million in 1845 fell by more than half because of starvation, disease and emigration.

We then drove to Newgrange, one of the most spectacular prehistoric tombs in Europe, built in the fourth millennium B.C.—about a thousand years before England's Stonehenge. It was constructed with 250,000 tons of stones, transported somehow from the Wicklow Mountains 80 kilometers away. It's a “don't miss” attraction on the Emerald Isle.

We spent three days in and around Dublin. We began with a city tour with a guide. Naturally, we went to St. Patrick's Cathedral. It’s not a Catholic church, but it certainly was when it was built in 1191. It was restored by Benjamin Guinness of the Irish beer family in 1860.

We had lunch at the magnificent Powerscourt Gardens, developed first in 1618. From there, we went to Glendalough, the site of St. Kevin's Monastery, built in the seventh century. On the way there, Hilary gave a thorough report on the 80 round towers scattered throughout Ireland. The best preserved is the one at Glendalough, rising 100 feet into the sky.

The next day, we all went to prison—the Kilmarnihan Gaol that housed Dublin's criminals from 1796 until 1924. It’s most noted for the prisoners it housed after the rebellion of 1916, the War of Independence in 1922 and then the Irish Civil War. We wanted our children and grandchildren to know about these wars.

We visited Trinity College to see the fabulous Book of Kells produced by monks in the ninth century. Only ancient books are also displayed, but the Book of Kells is the most spectacular. We also visited the Long Room of the Trinity College Library, where 200,000 of the library's oldest books are housed.

Among other places, we visited St. Teresa’s Carmelite Church, near busy Grafton Street, the main shopping area, and the National Gallery. That evening, we went to Mass at St. Mary’s Church.

On our trip from Dublin to Kinsale, we stopped at the National Stud Farm, a fascinating place devoted to the breeding of horses, mainly racehorses. The prize stallion there, named Indian Ridge, is insured for $30 million.

We stopped at Kilkenny Castle in Kilkenny, originally built in 1172, and at Waterford to tour the factory that makes Waterford crystal. At Kilkenny, we were right at the end of the pier that runs along the harbor. The room where Marie and I stayed overlooked the water on two sides.

Another opportunity to learn more about the Irish famine was at the Cobh Heritage Center. It re-creates the experience of the 3 million Irish who left Ireland, most from Cobh Harbor, for the United States, Canada and Australia.

Naturally, we had to stop at Blarney Castle to kiss the Blarney Stone.

On the drive to Killarney, Bob, who teaches at an inner-city high school in Nashville, Tenn., had a quiz for the grand- children to see how much they remembered about all the things they had seen so far. I was very proud of them. They obviously had been paying attention.

We spent two nights at Killarney, one day to enjoy the scenery of the Ring of Kerry and the other to see the equal beauty of the Dingle Peninsula.

In Limerick, we saw some of the places made famous in Frank McCourt’s book titled Angela’s Ashes. We also toured King John’s Castle. I like King John’s period of history. He was the youngest son of Eleanor of Aquitaine and became king when his brother, Richard the Lionheart, was killed.

We spent our last night in Ireland at Bunratty Castle Hotel after enjoying Bunratty Folk Park. That night, we enjoyed the medieval banquet in the Bunratty Castle, a sumptuous banquet that would have been served in the 15th century. Everything we taught to our children, and they taught to our grandchildren, about proper table etiquette went out the window as we ate with our daggers and our fingers.

Unfortunately, one member of our party was accused of a crime and was sent to the dungeon. Dave was released only after he sang the song he had composed when he prepared his report on Guinness beer.

And so ended a memorable trip. We traveled frequently with our children as they were growing up, but they agreed that this was the best trip we’ve taken as a family. Marie has promised that, since we went to Ireland for our golden wedding anniver- sary, we can go to Germany to celebrate our 75th anniversary.

(John F. Fink is editor emeritus of The Criterion.)
Underwater adventure

Indianapolis Zoo has only dolphin viewing dome in the world

By Mary Ann Wyand

Breathtaking. Absolutely breathtaking.

As two dolphins soar out of the water toward the ceiling of the Indianapolis Zoo’s newly remodeled Dolphin Pavilion, the capacity audience of children through senior citizens collectively holds its breath.

After the dolphins flip high in the air in perfect timing then splash back into the 1.1 million-gallon performance pool, everyone starts breathing again.

“The kids really love the new show because it’s entertaining and educational,” explained Judith Gagen, director of communications for the Indianapolis Zoo, located at 1200 W. Washington St. in White River State Park.

Adults also are thrilled by the dolphins’ expertly timed “tricks,” she said, which are a variety of jumps, flips and tail-walking skills that are routine behaviors for them in the wild.

Last year, on Memorial Day weekend, the Indianapolis Zoo opened the world’s first underwater dolphin viewing dome, and the zoo’s nine dolphins continue to attract big crowds for performances.

Gagen said the dolphin trainers are preparing another new theme for the mammals’ popular show, which will premiere on Memorial Day weekend. The stars of the show are four adult females—Nova, China, Phoenix and Ripley—and two adult males named Sundance and Kimo. Three juveniles—Jett and females Kalei and Indy—are also crowd-pleasers.

Their skills are based upon behaviors that you would actually see them do in the wild,” Gagen said. “They are very graceful and very powerful. They’re not Flipper. People should stay away from dolphins in the wild because they can be dangerous.”

But at the Indianapolis Zoo, she said, people can register for the new Dolphin Adventure, which enables them to work with a trainer and get into the water for a special “hands-on” session with one of the dolphins.

(For more information about Indianapolis Zoo hours, fees and attractions, log on to www.indianapoliszoo.com.)
The roads less traveled
Outings offer unique experiences at interesting Hoosier places

By John Shaughnessy

Sue Thomson prides herself on creating unusual one-day experiences for people who love to take behind-the-scenes looks at the state of Indiana.

Her trip to the Indianapolis Motor Speedway includes a tour of the track, a visit to an owner’s suite in Gasoline Alley and the opportunity to stand on the platform where the winner of the Indianapolis 500 raises his or her arms in victory.

Her visit to the Amish country of northern Indiana includes a ride in an Amish buggy and lunch at the private home of an Amish family for a meal of chicken, mashed potatoes and green beans.

Her tour to the Circus City Festival in Peru in northern Indiana includes a tour of the Circus Hall of Fame, a make-up lesson with a clown and the opportunity for a close-up view of an elephant or a tiger.

“Her trips are unique,” said Tom Weakley, a member of St. Matthew Parish in Indianapolis. “You do things you wouldn’t normally do. You go to places you normally wouldn’t go to. The Amish trip was an interesting experience—clip-clopping down the road in an Amish buggy as the cars whiz by you.”

The trips are a labor of love for Thomson, the owner and planner of the Indianapolis-based Milestone Travel Club.

“I love it because the people who travel on my trips want to learn things, and they seek out activity and adventure,” Thomson said. “Going out in the community and other places makes you more interesting. As someone once said, ‘Once your mind is stretched, it never goes back to where it’s been.’ ”

Joan Logan had that feeling after she recently joined one of Thomson’s one-day tours called “A Blessed Experience.” Taken during the week of Easter and Passover, the bus tour included a Mass at the historic Carmelite Monastery of the Resurrection in Indianapolis, a Seder meal at the Indianapolis Hebrew Congregation and a tour of the mosque at the Islamic Society of North America in Plainfield.

“It was an educational day and quite full,” said Logan, 75, an Indianapolis resident. “I like the day trips. At my age, they’re easy to take. You don’t have to pack the suitcase or arrange for the car.”

Thomson said the Milestone Travel Club is geared toward travelers 50 and older, but it’s open to people of all ages.

“I did a Mother’s Day cruise and I had three generations of women from one family—the mother, the grandmother and the granddaughter,” Thomson said. “We’re going up to see the King Tut exhibit in Chicago in July, and one of our travelers asked if her 12-year-old grandson could go with her. We’re going up to Peru to do the parade and the circus. People can bring their families.”

Thomson especially enjoys the trips that offer unusual experiences, like the excursion she has planned for Aug. 16.

The northern Indiana trip will start with a visit to Kokomo and the Elwood Haynes Museum, which honors the Hoosier inventor of America’s first car. The journey continues with a private tour of the Culver Military Academy, followed by a stop at the Lake Maxinkuckee home of Richard Ford, an Indiana philanthropist who is inviting people on the tour for wine and hors d’oeuvres—and a sailboat trip.

“Because of Richard Ford’s connections, we’ll be sailing on a three-mast schooner that doesn’t sail much anymore,” Thomson said. “The average person wouldn’t have the chance to do this. What makes us a little unique is we’re able to find people who will open their doors to places that generally aren’t public.”

Weakley is already booked for the Aug. 16 trip.

“I’ve taken many, many trips with her,” he said. “I like the cost and it’s all-inclusive. When you go somewhere with her, you have lunch and usually a breakfast. It also includes the admissions and the unique destinations.”

A tour on June 2 will head to Terre Haute and the western part of the state, visiting Saint Mary-of-the-Woods College, the Terre Haute Brewing Company and the Exotic Feline Rescue Center near Center Point, which is home to lions, tigers and other large cats that have been abandoned or abused. (See a related story on page 18 and 19.)

“Usually, we can take about 50 people on our bus trips,” Thomson said. “People get off the bus, hug me and thank me, saying, ‘Thank you for a lovely day.’ That reaction is just part of the reward for Thomson.

“I’ve learned a lot about Indiana and the people,” she said. “There are things I didn’t know were here. It’s nice to be able to say, ‘I’ve been here, I saw this. I learned this.’ It brings something new to the conversation and to life.”

(For more information about Milestone Travel Club outings this year, call Sue Thomson at 317-254-8945.)
Catholics not swayed by The Da Vinci Code, according to poll

WASHINGTON (CNS)—According to a poll released on May 15, American Catho-
lics aren’t likely to be swayed by the claims made in the novel The Da Vinci Code.

A nationwide telephone survey of U.S. Catholics found that 42 percent intend to “seek the truth”—one of the catch-phrases in the book and in promotions for the film version which opened on May 19—by studying the Bible more closely. In the poll, more people said they would consult the Bible than any other source.

According to the survey, two-thirds of Catholics who were familiar with The Da Vinci Code story did not believe the book’s premise that leaders of the Catholic Church understand the truth as portrayed in the novel but are suppressing it. Just 12 percent said they believed the book rather than Church officials.

Another 21 percent said they were unsure about the claims in the book.

Among other things, the novel contends that Jesus Christ was married to Mary Magdalene and fathered a child.

The poll of 1,049 Catholics nationwide—a Le Moyne College/Zogby International/Contemporary Catholic Trends survey—was conducted on May 2-10. It carries a margin of error of plus or minus 3.1 percentage points.

Men were considerably more likely than women to believe the Church. In the poll, 78 percent of men said they do not believe Church leaders are suppressing the “truth” as portrayed in the film, but just 58 percent of women agreed. One in four women said they were unsure of this point.

The Da Vinci Code claims the Vatican knows it is living a lie concerning Jesus, but does so to maintain its influence. The book also claims there is a Church-led conspiracy to suppress Jesus’ alleged marriage to Mary Magdalene and his fathering of a “royal bloodline” with her. The book contends Mary Magdalene is the real Holy Grail because she carries the “blood” of Jesus within her, and that Leonardo da Vinci worked this into his art.

John Zogby, the founding president-CEO of Zogby International, told Catholic News Service he was surprised by the poll findings. “I thought perhaps that given the sensitivity to women in the Church ... the leadership of the Church—whose popularity not being at the highest level—the message resonated a little bit more, and apparently it has not,” Zogby said in a May 17 telephone interview.

Zogby added Church leaders who are the most familiar to lay Catholics get high approval ratings from them. “The new pope’s ratings were somewhere in the 90s,” he said. “The bishops were back into the 60s again following the clergy sex abuse scandal that broke in 2002.” That’s something we’ve been tracking right along. “And everybody likes a good parish priest,” Zogby said.

Zogby noted that he had read the novel. “I thought it was a wonderful read. I thought it got a little silly toward the end. But it certainly captured me on the first page, and it kept me captured till the very end.”

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The new pope’s rat-
ingings aren’t likely to be captured till the very end. But it certainly captured me on the first page, and it kept me captured till the very end.”

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be hesitant to loosen the reins, especially after reports about the aggressive nature of some Christian missionaries.

Imam Abdul Rashied Omar, who teaches Islamic ethics at the University of Notre Dame, was one of the 27 participants attending discussions about proselytism and conversion in the meeting sponsored by the Pontifical Council for Interreligious Dialogue and the World Council of Churches Office on Interreligious Relations and Dialogue.

The gathering, held this month in Lariano, south of Rome, was to be part of a three-year project aimed at creating “a code of conduct” for converting people of other religious faiths.

In a May 15 telephone interview with Catholic News Service, the South African imam said he and some Muslim scholars want to re-examine Islam’s traditional law against apostasy, which in some places is a punishable offense. But if scholars are going to successfully advance such reforms, Christians must practice and promote ethical evangelization, he said.

The imam said Muslim communities would have to be able to trust missionary or aid groups’ intentions and be confident that a change in laws concerning apostasy and evangelization would not amount to throwing open the doors to aggressive proselytizers.

Another participant, Sadhvi Vrnda Chaitanya, a Hindu monk from southern India, told CNS that India’s poor and uneducated are especially vulnerable to coercive or deceptive methods of evangelization.

She said some groups might tell people to attend a Church-based group or to send their children to Sunday school because rice will be offered there. She said some preachers tell villagers, “Your God cannot protect you. Give our God a try,” which might tempt Hindus suffering from poverty, social stigmas, physical ailments or disabilities.

Chaitanya said religious organizations should continue their aid to the world’s poor, but that it should not be tainted by evangelization or connected with conversion.

Interreligious dialogue, too, she said, should not be used as a platform for evangelizing others.

“If you have something to share, whether it is the good news or the mission of Jesus, please do so in a manner that is transparent and evident” and not disguised as dialogue, she said.

Despite disagreements among the participants, who included Jews, Buddhists, and Pentecostal Christians, all came up with 10 agreed-upon points, published on May 16 by the WCC. Most notable was the appeal for individuals to “heal themselves from the obsession of converting others.” While people have the right “to invite others to an understanding of their faith,” it must be a transparent invitation that avoids denigrating other faiths “for the purpose of affirming superiority” of one’s own beliefs, it said.

And work must not hide any ulterior motives and avoid exploiting vulnerable people, like children and the disabled, he said.

The way forward is continued dialogue and cooperation between religions, the joint statement said.

But much work lies ahead, including getting Christian Churches to agree on what constitutes an ethical way to evangelize, said the Rev. Hans Küch, the WCC representative.

Concerns centered on “how can you make a Christian love not just his faith, but to also love his neighbor and respect his or her identity and dignity, he said.

After all, he asked, what is more important: the message or the person hearing the message?†
The family remains central to our national life

By Fr. Richard Rice, S.J.

What is a family? For one thing, it is an organism of interdependent parts. Its best symbol might well be an Alexander Calder mobile, a form of balancing and flexible parts. Like a mobile, the family always moves to gradually bring itself to equilibrium. A definition for the word “family” is so elusive. But the struggle for a common understanding of “family” is nothing, however, compared to the struggles that so many families are going through today.

The epidemics of infidelity and divorce, addiction and abuse all are devastating, regardless of the family’s religious or spiritual expression. Yet for all the attacks on family life and the different understandings of family, the family remains central to our personal lives and our national life.

In “Build Soil,” a poem written in 1932, Robert Frost, one of the great American poets, advised: “Don’t join too many gangs. Join few if you can. Join the United States and the family—But not much in between.”

Many people throughout history seem to have taken Frost seriously and have resisted anything that might restrict independence. Simultaneously, they’ve shown gratitude for and pride in their families.

Society’s regard for the family has changed over the years, however, and social scientists like William Doherty at the University of Minnesota say that culture is increasingly antithetical to the family. As such, the family increasingly has to oppose its culture if it is to thrive.

Take Back the Family is a virtual movement against the centrifugal forces that tear away at families, forces such as workaholism and participation in ever more demanding activities.

Yet it is so difficult for a family acting alone to insist on a family dinner weekly, family vacation annually and family worship together on Sunday.

Groups of families and even parishes of families are beginning to realize that they are much stronger when working, playing and praying together against the prevailing pressures of culture than when they take on the culture alone.

What happens when a family is hurting?

I’ve seen through my work how an illness or disability can dominate their waking and sleeping moments—can dominate their waking and sleeping moments. It’s hard to be happy as a person or a family without any feelings of hope.

It’s hard to be happy as a person or a family without any feelings of hope. People make misjudgments during times of trouble at home. Sometimes, they think their situation is hopeless, although it needn’t be.

Another misjudgment is to believe that there is a battle with a family member that “I must win.” The “winning” that matters is the winning back of hope. Rediscovering hope is of the essence. This may not be easy. It may require outside assistance. It calls for openness to moving in steps beyond “my” anger, disappointment and frustration to a fresh focus on what “we” can do to remove unneeded walls from our home and family life.

(From Take Back the Family)
St. Paul: He begins his missionary journeys

After Saul met with Peter in Jerusalem in the year 37, we don’t hear about him for three years. He wrote later that he spent those years in Damascus (Gal 1:21), but says nothing about what he did there. May have temporar- ily returned to his home in Tarsus in Syria and Cilicia. Then they traveled by roads to another town named Antioch, this one Antioch-in- Pisidia. They visited the cities of Iconium, Lystra and Derbe. After making disciples in those cities, they retraced their steps, revisiting each city, before sailing back to Antioch.

Acts doesn’t tell us how long this jour- ney lasted, and we don’t know how much time Barnabas and Paul spent in each city. Dominican Father Jerome Murphy-O’Connor figures that it was a minimum of two years and a more realistic maxi- mum of four years.

The interesting thing about this journey is that Barnabas. Paul never write letters to the Churches in those cities, in sharp contrast to the Churches he was to found in his later journeys. He simply felt that Barnabas, not he, had the primary responsibility for those Churches. Paul was operating in Jerusalem and Judah, as much as Timothy would do with Paul.

It’s revealing that when Paul cured a cripple in Lystra and the people thought that they were gods, they called Barnabas “Zeus,” the chief of the Greek gods, and Paul “Hermes,” the Greek god usually identified as the herald and mes- senger of the gods. Barnabas was seen as the leader, but Paul as the chief speaker.

Paul would, however, return to those cities at the beginning of his second mis- sionary journey.

Cornucopia/Cynthia Dewes

America remains great if changing, nation

On national holidays such as the upcoming Memorial Day celebration, I always think of “this a great country or what?”

Not only is it huge and various, but also it shifts focus con- stantly. Part of the true purposes of its origins remain, the way the people appointed changes, sometimes for the good and sometimes not.

That’s because our nation, like every other institution in our lives, is run by humans. In one ordinary lifetime in America, I may experience pride, shame, fear and almost any other emotion about this country. But a collective one, like the nation in the United States of America and am grateful to be one of its citizens.

In less than one century, we’ve gone from severe economic depression to inflati on war profits to rebonding opti- mism and growth. This was followed by generally continuous economic stability culminating in a stock market bubble of great proportions that burst hand- somely prosperous; at the same time, the division between rich and poor is widening.

We’ve changed friends over these years as Russia was once our noble ally then our Cold War enemy, and now is one of those colleagues we want to trust but not necessarily like. China is also a pal when we became our enemy, with a splinter faction of good gudings living in Formosa.

Now we’re considering ways to coexist with China in business, if not in ideology. We’re rather miffed as Americans to know that Europe and some countries devastated by the war helped us to win, and then aided us in their economic recovery, now criticize us because we are powerful enough to have done both. We’re also rather chagrined to find that many of the most desirable aspects of American cul- ture have been enthusiastically adopted by the rest of the world. We’re criticized for getting rich, too.

The face of our country has certainly changed over this time. We were largely a Caucasian, European-origin population, with a sizeable minority of African- Americans plus a few Asians and others. Now, Caucasians are fast losing promi- nence, with Hispanics gaining and people of many other ethnicities joining African-American and Asian groups.

Education has undergone changes as well, partly due to improved technologies that eliminated much physical labor. Collaborative endeavors, the wealthy and intellectually gifted people, are now common require- ments.

Attitudes about military service bounced from the patriotic views of World War I, to the anti-war views of the 60’s Vietnam era. In turn, that became admiration of the Greatest Generation and, lately, support of our troops if not always our cause.

Changes have also occurred in role of women in society, in ideas about rais- ing kids and the composition of families. Tolerance of sexual matters that formerly were illegal, if not immoral, is now the norm, and “individual rights” have replaced concern for the “common good.”

Still, we live in a country that world perceives as friendly and nominally dedicated to the worth of each individual. As long as we stop confusing freedom for the good and well-being of others, we’re probably going to be called Americans.

(Cynthia Dewes, a member of St. Paul the Apostle Parish, is a regular columnist for The Criterion.)

Perspectives

Faithful Lines/Shirley Vogler Meister

Enjoying travels whether hither or you

Periodically, someone will tell me that his or her goal is to visit every one of the United States.

Recently, I asked a friend, Paul, to help me recall how many states we have traveled to, at least once, the years. Then we recalled states that we've traveled to, at least once, separate- ly.

To the best of my recollection, we’re only a few short of enjoying all 50. However, we have also enjoyed a little of Germany, Austria and Italy. Still, by today’s travel standards, un-passive...we’ve traveled to, at least once, through the years. Then we recalled states that we’ve traveled to, at least once. Not an easy count.

In the April 28 issue of The Criterion, I shared information about the travel man- uscript of Globus and Cosmic, headquar- tered in Littleton, Colo., (877-797-8793 or visit www.globejourneys.com/faith). In some cases, Paul and I can take at advantage of a well-organized tour either home or abroad. In fact, that

Faith and Family/Sean Gallagher

Life in the greatest legacy of all

As people grow older and become more aware of their own mortality, many start to think of the legacy that they will leave behind. How will those who survive remember them?

Sometimes we might think about the legacies in specific terms.

It seems designed a great building or memorial, was a leader in government, or earned awards in sports, artistry or in dozens of other fields.

Other ways that we remember those who have died are less tangible. We might recall the words of love and support that they might have said to us or others at crucial times in our lives. Strong and noble convictions firmly held in the face of unpopularity might also come quickly to mind.

But life itself might be the greatest tes- tament of all that those who have died may leave for those who are left behind. This has been in my mind over the past several days for a good reason.

On April 6, my friend, Rita Simons, passed away recently in her rural Franklin County home. In her mid-80s at the time of her death, she worked hard and enjoyed any great tangible monument that bears her name. She wasn’t an author, poet or great public speaker.

And although she was loving and kind and held quite dear her strong Catholic faith, she was a grandmother to Peter and Paul. She wasn’t a traveling evangelist, proclaiming the faith to new converts.

The legacy that Rita has left for us is life itself. She was the mother of 10 chil- dren and grandmother of 47 and great-grand- mother of 27.

As I thought of that fact at church Sunday, I found myself looking into my eyes. I thought about the many good people, filled with down-to-earth good, who I’ve had the privilege to meet that are now alive on this earth because of her.

Who knows how many lives will be bestowed upon the children and through them, because of her?

Perhaps if Rita or her husband had had more resources to expand their small fam- ily farm, which your youngest son still runs today.

Perhaps if she and her husband had had fewer children, they would have had more time to volunteer in their parish or in the broader community.

Any of these would have been great legacies for her to have left behind upon her death. But I can think of no greater memorial than the scores of human souls who have been touched, changed or created ultimately through her openness to God’s gift of life.

I am holding up the hidden great- ness of my wife’s grandmother, not wanting to say that it would be good for everyone to give up their family because it is totally possible. What I am saying is that Rita will have a great building or memorial.

And it makes no difference whether one is called to a life of public greatness or the anonymity of the life of caring for a large family on a farm in the rolling hills of southeastern Indiana. If only one could say to yourself or others at crucial times in your lives, Strong and noble convictions firmly held in the face of unpopularity might also come quickly to mind. Rita’s openness to the gift of life and the will of God bore fruit in the lives of many beautiful people alive today, including my loving wife. My own life would have been so much less filled with love and the glory of God had Rita not walked this earth and been open to life and God’s will.

Thank you, God, for Rita. †
The Acts of the Apostles supplies the first reading for this important feast day in the Church, the celebration of the Lord’s wondrous ascension into heaven.

This reading begins as if it were a letter. It was addressed to Theophilus, as was the Gospel of Luke itself.

Who was Theophilus? Was he a person with this name? Or, instead, was he a devout Christian? The second is possible because Theophilus actually may have been a title. In Greek, it means “friend of God.”

Regardless, both Acts and Luke were sent, as it were, to the same person, arguing for a common authorship of these two revealed works of the Christian Scriptures.

In this reading, Acts states that it continues the story of salvation in Jesus begun in the Gospel of Luke. It then describes the ascension of the Lord into heaven, an event occurring after Jesus had risen from the dead and had been among the Apostles and others faithful to God.

As the moment of the ascension approaches, the Apostles still were confused. This confusion simply reveals that they were human. Their ability to grasp the things of God, and the mind of God, was limited, to say the least.

Jesus eases their confusion. He affirms that they are limited. But Jesus also affirms that they were human. Their ability to grasp profound in their meaning. No true believer will ever die an eternal death.

Then the story says that Jesus ascended into heaven, faithful to the Lord, the Apostles went forward and proclaimed the Gospel as they had been commissioned.

Reflection

Celebrating the Ascension of the Lord in the form of a special liturgical feast day is very revered in the Church.

However, seemingly, in its origins, it was celebrated together with Pentecost. For 17 centuries, however, it has been a feast of its own. Such is proper. The Ascension revealed much about Jesus, as does the response of the Apostles.

Fittingly, the Eastern Church sees in the Ascension a particularly meaningful revelation for Christians.

Many lessons come from this feast. An important message for us today is to realize that we are not alone. Christ did not leave us. He lives with us, and teaches us still, through the Apostles and the structures and sacraments of the Church they formed in the Lord’s name and at the Lord’s command.

Whatever comes against us, the power of God will prevent us from facing everlasting death. †

The Resurrection

Speculation turns to fear At the words, “He is not here.” Yet the women hear Christ say: “Follow me. I am the Way.”

The Ascension

Christ ascends without warning. Once again, cause for mourning. As Apostles, unprepared, Call to mind the wonders shared.

The Descent of the Holy Spirit

Holy Spirit, Wisdom’s source, Strengthen us to stay the course. Comfort souls, make bright the way. In your flame refine our clay.

The Assumption

Heaven’s Queen, earth’s silent Gem, There for Him since Bethlehem, Pondering, accepting her role. Bending down to aid each soul.

(Dorothy M. Colgan is a member of St. Meinrad Parish in St. Meinrad. Christ’s ascent to heaven is depicted in art at St. Pius X Church in LaFonte, France.)

View's differ about how God’s mercy reconciles punishment

We find little evidence that Jesus ever said anything quite as satisfyingly clear as: “After this, I go to the Father.” However, various and actions were to inspire us to respond to God’s love by our own love for God and for each other, and thus, for salvation.

In other words, knowing who or what percentage of people “goes” to heaven or hell is a significant and useless information as far as our Lord is concerned, and it does little or nothing to move us to a good life and to heaven.

Rejection of God, deliberate refusal of his invitation to life, is possible for anyone. We need to know that, but in all the detail we need to know here on earth about eternal death.

This way of regarding heaven and hell is supported by the doctrine and practice of the Church. Hell is possible for anyone mature enough to make serious moral decisions. But is anyone at all “in hell”? We don’t know. Will anyone ever be in hell? Obviously, we don’t know that either. It is interesting, however, that the Church’s liturgy often prays that everyone, all human beings, finally will be with God.

Eschatological Prayer II, possibly the most ancient of our eschatological prayers, is a good example. After praying for our deceased brothers and sisters, it asks that God “bring them and all the departed,” all who have died, into the light of his presence. Would the Church for centuries pray for something that is unknowable?

Pope John Paul II spoke movingly of this mystery in his book Crossing the Threshold of Hope. He asks, “Can God condemn anyone to eternal torment?” The silence of the Church [on this subject] is, therefore, the only appropriate position for Christian faith. Even when Jesus says of Judas Iscariot, “It would be better for that man if he had never been born” (Mt 26:24), his words do not allude for certain to eternal damnation (q. 186). Again, we simply don’t know. And we can’t solve the dilemma.

(Questions for this column may be sent to Father John Dietzen by e-mail in care of jdietzen@ad.com)
If you are a victim of sexual misconduct by a person ministering on behalf of the Church, or if you know of anyone who has been a victim of such misconduct, please contact the archdiocesan victim assistance coordinator.

Suzanne L. Yatkineck, Chancellor, Archdiocese of Indianapolis, P.O. Box 1430, Indianapolis, Indiana 46206-1430. 317-236-7235 or 800-382-9836, ext. 7235.

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Benedictine monastery in Switzerland, to establish a foundation in southwestern Indiana with the idea that the German-speaking monks would minister to German immigrants in the area as well as train future priests for the Church in the region.

Saint Meinrad Archabbey and School of Theology stand today as the result of that venture started 132 years ago. Just as the German-Catholic heritage of St. Joseph Parish in Jasper is a living tradition, the life of faith at Saint Meinrad is not a museum piece. It continues to live and breathe, offering visitors a place to revitalize their faith.

This happens especially at Saint Meinrad’s new Guest House and Retreat Center, which was dedicated last October and can accommodate more than 250 guests for frequent mid-week and weekend retreats. Benedictine Father Vincent Tobin, the guest house manager, said he hopes that retreatants who come there gain “insight into their own spiritual relationship with God and therefore with people.”

Such insights can also be found in the pilgrimages that happen every Sunday afternoon during May and October to the Shrine of Our Lady of Monte Cassino across the Anderson River valley from the monastery.

Completed in 1858, the small hilltop shrine was the first sandstone structure built by the monks of Saint Meinrad. According to Father Vincent, the particular Benedictine aspect to the German-Catholic heritage of the area helps the monks and visitors to the Archabbey apply their faith concretely to their everyday lives. “It’s how to live the Christian life,” he said. “No monastery is founded with an absolute particular apostolate. You sink down roots where you are. And out of those roots come branches of all kinds of good things.”

The Benedictine hospitality shown to guests at Saint Meinrad Archabbey can be experienced more broadly by families at the nearby Holiday World and Splashin’ Safari theme park in Santa Claus.

And whereas the soul can be renewed through prayer at Saint Meinrad, the region also boasts beautiful natural attractions, such as the nearby Marengo Cave and Wvandotte Cave, which can revive the spirits of visitors.

Thirteen years after Saint Meinrad was founded, Benedictine sisters from Covington, Ky., who were rooted in their southern German Catholic heritage, arrived in nearby Ferdinand, Ind., to establish a foundation. Monastery Immaculate Conception was the result. The monastery sits atop a large hill overlooking Ferdinand. Its huge church, which was built from 1915 to 1924 and recently restored, can be seen from miles away.

Like the monks of Saint Meinrad Archabbey, the Benedictine sisters at Monastery Immaculate Conception invite guests to come there to renew their life of faith at their Kordes Retreat Center.

But the heart of the life of Monastery Immaculate Conception is its church, where the sisters pray together several times a day.

It’s the center,” said Benedictine Sister Kristine Kempf. “The church is the center of our life. Everything revolves around our prayer life. And so the church is the center. We wanted to restore the original beauty and keep the integrity of the space because it was done so beautifully and so artistically.”

(For more information about St. Joseph Parish in Jasper, log on to www.saintjosephjasper.com. For more information about Saint Meinrad Archabbey and School of Theology, log on to www.saintmeinrad.edu. For more information about Monastery Immaculate Conception in Ferdinand, log on to www.thedome.org.)

### Legacy for Our Mission:

**For Our Children and the Future**

**POPE JOHN XXIII SCHOOL**

It’s both an affirming notion and a reality check that Home Missions grants are available through the Archdiocese of Indianapolis. They’ve been particularly encouraging at Pope John XXIII School in Madison, where school leaders there have responded to an influx of Hispanic students whose families have moved to the small town on the banks of the Ohio River.

That may sound like a challenge for a school serving families from Madison and towns throughout the region. This includes both Catholic and non-Catholic families from as far away as North Vernon and Vevay and the Kentucky towns of Carrollton and Bedford.

Home Missions grants have provided tuition assistance for Hispanic students at Pope John XXIII. The grants are a timely blessing for the many new Hispanic families who have moved to the Madison area for jobs and opportunities. They have been welcomed by school staff and Prince of Peace Parish, the Catholic community that has served the Madison community following the 1995 consolidation of several smaller parishes. (Madison’s Catholic roots date back to the 1850s.)

Pope John XXIII School’s principal, Benedictine Sister Anna Rose Lueken, says Prince of Peace Pastor Father John Meyer has been a champion of the school. Recognizing the opportunity to serve Hispanic newcomers, Father Meyer has studied Spanish and added a weekly misa en español for Spanish-speaking Catholics. The Spanish Mass helps welcome the new families who send their children to Pope John XXIII.

Sister Anna Rose says such support has been a critical resource for the preschool through sixth-grade school. She also points to the dedicated teachers and staff—many of whom have served for more than 20 years. In addition, the school has added numerous after-school programs. Fourth-grade teacher Ann Moore believes this is an additional element that has served many families and helped attract new students.

“The Home Missions grants have been so important for us.”

The menu of extended care programs at Pope John XXIII School is extensive. Options include dance programs, Spanish classes, a technology club and an “Exploravision” program in which students design solutions for social issues. The school also offers band programs for fifth- and sixth-grade students at the other parish school—Father Michael Shawe Memorial Jr./Sr. High School—plus all-day kindergarten and an on-site toddler program.

“These programs have been a real lifesaver for our families,” Moore says. “They also increase the community’s interaction with the school and extend the classroom experience.”

And it’s not difficult to see how it’s possible. Many volunteers and generous benefactors from the parish support the efforts with their time, talent and treasure.

“We’ve seen a growing relationship between the parish, school and community,” says Martha Belt, marketing director for Pope John XXIII School. “It’s helped us realize how Pope John XXIII School is such a huge part of the community.”

Legacy for Our Mission, the archdiocese’s capital campaign, is guided by the principles of Christian stewardship and addresses the need of archdiocesan ministries such as Catholic education. By contributing to the Legacy for Our Mission campaign through your local parish, a portion of your gift will be allocated to fund future Home Missions grants which support efforts such as Our Mission of Education.