The power of a dream
Life-changing journey touches family and community

By John Shaughnessy

She never thought her dream would end this way.

When Rocio Camacho moved from Mexico to the United States, she came with the American dream that generations of immigrants have embraced: the desire for a better life, including an education for her child and a house for her family.

Her dream didn’t include the nightmare of being homeless or watching her son struggle with a life-threatening illness.

Her dream didn’t involve undergoing surgery in an Indianapolis hospital, risking her health to try to save the life of her only child.

Still, as Rocio now knows as well as anyone, the power of a dream—and the power of a parent’s love—can lead us on journeys that extend far beyond moving to another country.

They can lead us on journeys that test our hearts, our souls and our faith.

Dreams and nightmares

Texas-born Rocio’s eyes as she shares the story of the life-changing journey for her and her son.

Her story begins six years ago when she moved from Mexico to Colorado to pursue her version of the American dream. She soon found a job in a Denver factory, which allowed her to send money home to her parents in Mexico, who were caring for her son, Luis. She soon began to fall in love with an immigrant from El Salvador, Jose Camacho.

One of the things Rocio loved about Jose was that he understood her plan to bring Luis to the United States—to make a better life for him and her.

The plan began to take shape three years after Rocio first arrived in Denver. Yet a month after Luis joined her in America in 2003, the usually energetic, then-11-year-old boy became weak and tired, and his skin turned yellow.

Rocio rushed him to a hospital. She couldn’t speak English. Neither could her son, who couldn’t speak English. Neither could her son.

Finding a home

As Rocio and Luis prepared to leave Denver, the helpful doctor contacted the Mexican consulate’s office in Indianapolis, hoping someone could help the mother and son find a place to stay.

Every appeal the consulate made was turned down until a call was placed to Bill Bickel, the director of Holy Family Shelter and Holy Family Transitional Housing, part of Catholic Charities Indianapolis.

“No one would take them,” Bickel recalls. “Our feeling was you don’t deny services because of a lack of language. You find resources.”

Bickel made a home for Rocio and Luis at Holy Family. He continued to provide a home while Luis had dialysis treatments twice a day for 18 months at Holy Family.

“I don’t think I could have found a better place,” Rocio says. “The angels were there ahead of me. I was there for four weeks before Jose was able to come join us. It was also near St. Patrick’s (a parish on the south side of Indianapolis.) We were also part of the community at St. Patrick’s.”

The Camacho family would need that community when doctors determined that Luis needed a kidney transplant. Rocio immediately knew that she would be the one who would give a kidney to Luis. What she didn’t know was how her family would pay for the $75,000 cost of the operation.

A community of angels

“I wondered what options I would have to pay for the surgery,” Rocio recalls. “But God provides. He surrounded us with all these people to help us.”

Bickel remembers how the Indianapolis community responded at the opportunity of an extended life when she donated one of her kidneys to him so he could live.

Church expert: Wars will persist if Israeli-Palestinian conflict continues

VATICAN CITY (CNS)—A cease-fire may stop the immediate destruction in Lebanon, but new wars are bound to erupt in the region as long as the Israeli-Palestinian conflict continues, said a Church expert on the Middle East.

Jesus Father Samir Khalil Samir, an Egyptian-born expert on Islam who teaches in Beirut, Lebanon, said a long-term solution must include Israeli recognition of a Palestinian state, Arab recognition of the state of Israel, and the disarmament of all militias, including Lebanese Hezbollah.

“What is needed is the courage to find a definitive solution,” he said.

Without cease-fire, relief work nearly impossible, page 3.

The illusion of the superstar

“Twenty Something” columnist Christina Capaccio reflects on trying to do it all in one’s life, page 10.

Indianapolis bishops release new statement and DVD on death penalty

By Mary Ann Wyand

“The Death Penalty: No Justice, No Healing, No Closure” is the theme of a new pro-life educational campaign initiated on Aug. 10 by the Indiana Catholic Conference (ICC), the Church’s public policy voice in Indianapolis, and state and national matters.

It supports the U.S. bishops’ ongoing efforts to educate people about the inhumanity of capital punishment.

Announced in November 2005, the bishops’ national Campaign to End the Use of the Death Penalty seeks to publicize Church teachings about defending life from conception until natural death.

In a statement announcing the state conference’s new educational video and printed materials for use by pastoral leaders, teachers and catechists, ICC executive director Glenn Tebbe explained that, “In the past 16 months, Indiana has executed six persons. Because individuals continue to be placed on death row and executions continue to be carried out, it is necessary that the Church continue its efforts to educate and to advocate for an end to its use.”

Tebbe said the new 22-minute DVD features two educational programs, and is intended to help “individuals and groups to reflect upon the implications and consequences of executions in light of Catholic teaching and values.”

The new video named after the ICC campaign focuses on Church teachings about the dignity of the person, reconciliation and rehabilitation. It explains how state-sanctioned executions affect others by showing interviews with a victim, a prisoner and people who witnessed an execution.

It supplements an earlier 10-minute video, “Talking about the Death Penalty,” released in 2000 and produced with a grant from Our Sunday Visitor, which explains Church teachings about the need to be “unconditionally pro-life” and relates why the option of life in prison without parole makes the death penalty only morally acceptable in a very limited context.

A brochure distributed with the DVD clarifies Church teachings with text from the Catechism of the Catholic Church.

See BISHOPS, page 8
CASTEL GANDOLFO, Italy (CNS)—Pope Benedict XVI renewed his appeal for peace in the Middle East and said he was deeply disappointed that calls for an immediate cease-fire in Lebanon had been ignored.

Peace is both a gift of God and the product of political commitment, and all people of good will have a duty to work for an end to hostilities, the pope said at a Sunday blessing on Aug. 6.

Several hundred pilgrims applauded the pope as he spoke from the balcony of his summer residence in Castel Gandolfo outside Rome. In a talk that marked the feast of the Transfiguration of the Lord, the pope said Christ’s salvation was sorely needed in a world threatened by the “shadows of evil,” including fratricidal conflict in the Middle East.

“We well know that peace is first of all a gift of God, to implore with insistence in prayer,” but at this moment I also want to recall that peace is the task of all people of good will. Let no one shrink from this duty,” he said.

“Faced with the bitter fact that up to now the calls for an immediate cease-fire in that martyred region have been disregarded, I feel impelled to renew my pressing appeal to that effect, asking everyone to offer their real contribution to the construction of a just and lasting peace,” he said. Pope Benedict donated two ambulances and emergency medical supplies to Caritas Lebanon. The U.N.’s World Food Program announced the papal gifts were placed on a cargo ship and left the port of Brindisi, Italy, on Aug. 7. The ship was supposed to go to Cyprus to take on more supplies, then sail to Beirut.

On Aug. 7, fighting between Israel and the Hezbollah militia continued to escalate. Israeli air strikes in Lebanon on July 12 had killed nearly 1,000 people mostly civiliansand destroyed roads and bridges, while Hezbollah rocket attacks against northern Israel had killed more than 90 people, including at least 36 civilians.

Pope Benedict XVI

“The war is the worst solution for everyone. It brings nothing of good for anyone, and activated in its actions not by political considerations but by the conviction that ‘war is the worst solution for everyone. This brings nothing of good for anyone, even not for the apparent victors. We know this well in Europe, after the two world wars.”

“Nothing we need is peace. There are moral forces ready to help people understand that the only solution is that we must live together,” he said. He said the Vatican’s actions and its own appeals were designed to mobilize all the potential forces of peace.

“We will have a duty to report, to look for a way to make this happen as quickly as possible and above all in a lasting manner,” he said.

CASTEL GANDOLFO, Italy (CNS)—Pope Benedict XVI renewed his appeal for peace in the Middle East and said he was deeply disappointed that calls for an immediate cease-fire in Lebanon had been ignored.

Peace is both a gift of God and the product of political commitment, and all people of good will have a duty to work for an end to hostilities, the pope said at a Sunday blessing on Aug. 6.

Several hundred pilgrims applauded the pope as he spoke from the balcony of his summer residence in Castel Gandolfo outside Rome. In a talk that marked the feast of the Transfiguration of the Lord, the pope said Christ’s salvation was sorely needed in a world threatened by the “shadows of evil,” including fratricidal conflict in the Middle East.

“We well know that peace is first of all a gift of God, to implore with insistence in prayer,” but at this moment I also want to recall that peace is the task of all people of good will. Let no one shrink from this duty,” he said.

“Faced with the bitter fact that up to now the calls for an immediate cease-fire in that martyred region have been disregarded, I feel impelled to renew my pressing appeal to that effect, asking everyone to offer their real contribution to the construction of a just and lasting peace,” he said. Pope Benedict donated two ambulances and emergency medical supplies to Caritas Lebanon. The U.N.’s World Food Program announced the papal gifts were placed on a cargo ship and left the port of Brindisi, Italy, on Aug. 7. The ship was supposed to go to Cyprus to take on more supplies, then sail to Beirut.

On Aug. 7, fighting between Israel and the Hezbollah militia continued to escalate. Israeli air strikes in Lebanon on July 12 had killed nearly 1,000 people mostly civilians and destroyed roads and bridges, while Hezbollah rocket attacks against northern Israel had killed more than 90 people, including at least 36 civilians.

Pope Benedict XVI

“The war is the worst solution for everyone. It brings nothing of good for anyone, and activated in its actions not by political considerations but by the conviction that ‘war is the worst solution for everyone. This brings nothing of good for anyone, even not for the apparent victors. We know this well in Europe, after the two world wars.”

“Nothing we need is peace. There are moral forces ready to help people understand that the only solution is that we must live together,” he said. He said the Vatican’s actions and its own appeals were designed to mobilize all the potential forces of peace.

“We will have a duty to report, to look for a way to make this happen as quickly as possible and above all in a lasting manner,” he said.
Relief work nearly impossible without cease-fire, says CRS official

WASHINGTON (CNS)—Without a cease-fire in Lebanon, it will be nearly impossible to get relief supplies to hundreds of thousands of displaced people who are near impossible to reach, said a Catholic Relief Services official.

“Humanitarian corridors have never been put into place,” said Adib Faris, security manager for the CRS office in the Lebanese capital of Beirut.

“The issue is access to those areas in the south where the conflict is,” he said.

Faris told Catholic News Service in an Aug. 4 telephone interview that relief organizations want humanitarian corridors, but without a cease-fire “there can be no guarantees by either side that relief workers can travel safely.”

There are about 900,000 displaced people in Lebanon because of the fighting in the southern portion of the country “and the number is increasing every day,” he said.

The figure cited by Faris is almost 25 percent of the 3.8 million Lebanese population.

CRS is the overseas relief and development agency of the U.S. bishops.

Pope Benedict XVI has been among the world leaders who have called for a cease-fire and the establishment of humanitarian corridors.

Without humanitarian corridors, relief agencies risk having their supply trucks bombed as enemy targets, said Faris.

To lessen the probabilities that its trucks are targeted, CRS and other relief agencies are using small flatbed trucks “about the size of a minivan, with clear organizational markings,” he said.

“A larger truck is considered a target,” said Faris. As much of the supplies as possible are uncovered so that they can be visible from the air, he added.

Another mobility problem is that major bridges and transportation routes have been bombed, making them virtually impassable to large vehicles, he said.

“We are relying on old mountain roads,” said Faris, meaning that a normal 40-minute trip takes two hours. A major CRS concern is trying to feed 30,000 displaced people who have fled to the Mediterranean port city of Sidon, he said.

Sidon is located about 35 miles north of the Israeli border and 25 miles south of Beirut along the Mediterranean coast.

Each day the fighting continues, the number of displaced people in Sidon grows, he said.

There is a need for the displaced people to move further north for their own safety and because Sidon’s resources are stretched, but they are reluctant, he said.

“The last thing they want to do is move again,” he said because they feel they will be exposed again to attacks.

Because of security problems throughout Lebanon, CRS officials in Beirut are traveling only to Sidon, he said.

The fighting also has left stranded tens of thousands of immigrant workers from countries too poor to have the financial and material resources to evacuate them, said Faris.

“Lebanon relies on migrant workers. They are housekeepers and gas station attendants,” he said.

Many domestic workers were left behind when the families they worked for abandoned their homes to escape the fighting, Faris said.

CRS has helped about 3,000 immigrants leave Lebanon through assistance with travel documents and transportation, he said.

According to information provided by CRS headquar-
ters in Baltimore, there are about 100,000 immigrant workers in Lebanon in need of assistance with about 90,000 of these from Sri Lanka. Other immigrants come from India, Philippines, Ethiopia and Bangladesh, said CRS.

CRS reported that in partnership with Caritas Lebanon, the Lebanese bishops’ relief agency, it has provided aid to more than 85,000 displaced people in the current conflict.

Visiting Guadalajara seminarians continue summer ministry

By Sean Gallagher

Jose de Jesus Ruiz Reynoso, a seminarian for the Archdiocese of Guadalajara, Mexico, received a phone call a few months ago from one of his superiors.

“The subject of the call? An invitation out of the blue to visit Indianapolis,” said Ruiz Reynoso.

It was a little strange to receive a call, yet he had never done that before, and he took the opportunity to visit Indianapolis.

“Lebanon relies on migrant workers. They are housekeepers and gas station attendants,” he said. “Here it seems like they live to work and they work to live.”

Muirlo not only sees many similarities between mini-

istry in Indianapolis and in Guadalajara, he also thinks that Spanish-speaking and English-speaking Catholics share a lot in common.

“Humanitarian corridors have helped us in our voca-
tional ministry, by their presence first of all,” he said. “They have an incredible charisma about them that opens a young man up to wanting to consider the possi-

bility of a vocation to the priesthood or religious life.”

At present, there are five Hispanic seminarians in the archdiocese and several more young Hispanic men who are actively discerning a priestly vocation.

While Muirlo values buildings relationships with other men considering the priesthood, he also sees the impor-
tance of Guadalajara seminarians serving in central and southern Indiana for the wider Hispanic community.

“For the importance of their presence, and the presence of priests and seminarians from Guadalajara reminds them that they are not that separated, and that their culture and religiosity can be expressed here,” he said.
The Criterion
Friday, August 11, 2006

The Church’s mission is to bring unity in diversity

T he mission of the Catholic Church is to proclaim and establish among all peoples the Kingdom of Christ and of God, and she is on earth the seed and beginning of that kingdom. (Catechism of the Catholic Church, #767-769)

On June 2, 2000, the Jubilee Day for the Millennium, the bishops of the United States issued a pastoral statement, Welcoming the Stranger Among Us: Unity in Diversity. In this important message, the bishops said: “ Unity in diversity is the vision that we bishops, as pastors of the Church in the United States, offer to our people as we welcome the new immigrants and refugees who come to our shores.”

Given the challenges, and opportunities, facing in six years later here in Indiana and throughout the United States in the area of immigration reform, these are prophetic words.

Welcoming the Stranger Among Us was not simply a pious sentiment expressed during the Jubilee Year. It was (and is) a challenge issued to the Church in the United States in the area of immigration reform and it’s time to develop and grow the essential unity that is too often hidden from plain view, but is central to who we are called to be as the people of God.

One of the great challenges of our time is to develop and grow the essential unity that is too often hidden from plain view, but is central to who we are called to be as the people of God. Of all the challenges facing the Church in the 21st century (the third millennium since the birth of Christ), the call to witness to our unity in diversity may be the most difficult. Given the wars that are raging across the globe with new intensity and the internal conflicts we face here at home, it’s hard to imagine a greater challenge than actually achieving the unity of God’s people.

Unity in diversity is the vision that the American bishops offer to us, the Catholic people of the United States. Unity in diversity requires tolerance, respect, hospitality and charity. It demands that we see in others the face of God (in whose image and likeness we are all made)

And it compels us to open our hearts and stretch out our hands, and welcome all peoples the Kingdom of Christ and of God’s people.

Be Our Guest/Laura Hallemen

Archdiocesan youth volunteers made a difference in Katrina relief efforts

(EDITOR’S NOTE: The following letter was submitted to The Criterion’s online editor, Brandon Evans. It was written in late July while Father Jonathan Meyer, archdiocesan director of youth and young adult ministry, was leading a mission trip of young people in Mississippi.)

My name is Laura Hallemen, and I am a vol-unteering out of the St. Clare Parish (Bikola, Miss.) site, that the archdiocese’s group of volunteers that are here this week.

I have been reading your blog daily, (www.archdiocese.org/tree), and have to say it truly inspires me to hear the volunteers, in their own words, about how much it means to help there in Mississippi.

I would like you and the archdiocese to know that these volunteers are without a doubt one of the most amazing groups to work with.

The stories here are hot, and mos-quitoes are on the warpath, but each teenager and adult takes it in stride. They never complain and are so incredibly hard-working.

Yesterday, I was on a roof with one group. We are demolishing the home so the homeowners can rebuild. There was one girl who worked on the corner of the roof with a hammer; taking out nails to prepare for it to be torn down. I stopped several times to watch her. What struck me was the peace that she had with meeting the task head on and getting it through.

Unfortunately, I don’t know her name and, as you can understand, it’s a little difficult to capture her name in the picture. Her name is Laura Hallemen and she is a resident of Biloxi, Miss.

I have been reading your blog daily, and have to say it truly inspires me to hear the volunteers, in their own words, about how much it means to help there in Mississippi.

I wish that I could be on each and every site the teams are working on, but time doesn’t allow that, so I try to go from job to job to do what I can.

These volunteers have taken on such monumental tasks with no complaints, and I just wanted you and the archdiocese to know how truly grateful we are for their help.

They are helping residents get one step closer to rebuilding their lives and regain a sense of normalcy following the hurricane.

(Laura Hallemen is a resident of Biloxi, Miss.)

Letters to the Editor

New Mass responses not how we speak to one another

In a world with so many issues—stara-vation, war, terrorism—I find it totally ridicu-lous the mentality of deciding what we Catholics should do are concerned with the wording of the responses at Mass. It reminds me of the Church of my youth. We had no input, were told not to question and could understand little of what went on.

The new responses are not how we speak to one another. They want us to translate Latin literally. Some translations treat Latin as if it had been the language Jesus himself spoke. It forces many to change language, why don’t they start with “for us men and our salvation,” excluding 50 percent of Catholics who do not speak Latin.

Sometimes I feel that the breath of fresh air afforded by Vatican II never happened or is subtly being reversed by a few men with instructions from Rome.

Jenine Plump, Indianapolis

Let’s put an end to taking of innocent lives by war

There have been several articles in The Criterion lately about folks writing in wanting to abolish the death penalty for those murderers who rob, rape and kill their victims. These murderers have no regard for human life, and some will kill people they don’t even know just for sport.

I think it is strange that I hear or see nothing from the alike about all the thousands of innocent men, women, chil-dren and babies that are being murdered in this war. Where is their concern about that?

It seems to me that these murderers get a lot of compassion and sympathy from these folks that want to abolish the death penalty, while the victims get very little or none.

I say if we are going to abolish some-thing, let it be war. Let’s settle disagree-ments by negotiations, not by killing each other or all the good and innocent people who are the victims.

William Hester, Greenwood

Thanks for the great article about Last Supper sculpture

We here at St. Christopher Church want to thank Mary Ami Wynn and for your wonderful and generous presentation of the unveiling of our Last Supper sculpture

— Daniel Conway

Letters Policy

Letters from readers are published in The Criterion in part as the newspaper’s commitment to “the responsible exchange of freely-held and expressed opinion among the People of God” (Communio et Progressus, 116).

The editors reserve the right to select the letters that will be published and to edit letters from readers as necessary based on space limitations, technical sensitivity and content (including spelling and grammar). In order to encourage opinions from a variety of readers, frequent contributors will ordinarily be limited to one letter every three months. Concise letters (usually less than 300 words) are more likely to be printed.

Letters must be signed, but, for serious reasons, names may be withheld.

Send letters to “Letters to the Editor,” The Criterion, P.O. Box 1717, Indianapolis, IN 46206-1717.

Readers with access to e-mail may send letters to editor@archindy.org.
Catedral de San Pedro y San Pablo es la iglesia matriz de la arquidiócesis

La Catedral de San Pedro y San Pablo es patrones de la Arquidiócesis de Indianapolis. †

Más aun, el culto público de cada parroquia encuentra su raíces y depende del hecho de que un obispo diocesano Eucaristía preside regularmente la presencia mínima de representantes de toda la Iglesia diocesana. Si los Católicos creemos, y así debe ser, que los sacramentos se realizan en una celebración litúrgica como el arquetipo de la celebración de la Eucaristía celebrada en la catedral, aunque no podamos estar presentes en este sentido, entonces debemos entender el significado y la importancia del culto del obispo como jefe pastoral de una iglesia particular llamada diócesis y debemos reconocer las celebraciones litúrgicas diocesanas como su máxima representación sacramental.

Todo este subraya la importancia de la catedral como la iglesia matriz de la arquidiócesis. Es decir, la iglesia catedral no es simplemente otra parroquia.

Las celebraciones que se llevan a cabo en la catedral no son meramente filigranas o exhibiciones públicas solamente para inspirar a aquellos que eligen asistir a ellas. Representan a la Iglesia local en acción: son la Iglesia apostólica renovando su misión de santificar al mundo y glorificar a Dios. Todos los que nos congregamos en la Arquidiócesis de Indianapolis compartimos una responsabilidad en las celebraciones litúrgicas diocesanas y de la catedral, aunque no podamos estar presentes en cada una de ellas.

La catedral es el lugar de la silla del obispo. (Cathedra es una palabra en latín que significa silla.) En nuestra tradición Católica, la silla del obispo representa el oficio de la enseñanza del Obispo. Por lo tanto, es un símbolo de la unidad, la santidad y la naturaleza católica y apostólica de nuestra Iglesia local. La catedral es propiedad de todos en nuestra diócesis. La diócesis es la iglesia reconocida como una, santa, católica y apostólica en los 39 condados de Indiana central y del sur. Todos nosotros somos la Iglesia arquidiocesana, todo el pueblo de Dios que reside en esos condados.

Todas las iglesias diocesanas son expresión de la plenitud de la Iglesia apostólica en todas partes del mundo. Desde la creación de la diócesis de Vincennes por decreto papal en 1834, desde que la iglesia del obispo se trasladó a Indianapolis en 1898, desde que nos convertimos en arquidiócesis en 1945, nuestra Iglesia particular resplandece como una manifestación extraordinaria de la unidad y la comunión que Dios busca para toda la humanidad.

La iglesia, independientemente de quién sea, representa esa unidad y es el líder principal, maestro y sacerdote para su realización. La propia Catedral de San Pedro y San Pablo, la iglesia que alberga la silla del arzobispo, es un símbolo de dicha unidad.

San Pedro y San Pablo son patrones ideales para la Iglesia matriz de una arquidiócesis o diócesis porque fueron misioneros cuya sangre fue derramada para que la Iglesia de Cristo, una, santa, católica y apostólica pudiera enraizarse y prosperar en el tiempo. Los miembros de nuestra catedral proclamaron leal y valientemente a Cristo y sus enseñanzas gracias a la que el mismo evangelio continúa siendo posible.

La pequeña catedral austera de Vincennes erigida por nuestro obispo fundador, el Sirviente de Dios, Simon Bruté, se encontraba bajo el patronato del gran misionario jesuita, San Francisco Xavier, quien posteriormente fue nombrado patrono de nuestra arquidiócesis. Al igual que Francisco Xavier, el Obispo Bruté dedicó su vida como un apóstol, en la fe en la cual nos mantenemos.

Desde entonces muchos sacerdotes, hombres y mujeres religiosos consagrados (como la Santa Madre Theodor Guérin), y compañeros laicos, junto con nuestros obispos predecesores, no sólo han mantenido la fe católica sino que la han promovido en circunstancias difíciles.

Hoy en día continuamos con su legado. Seguramente tanto nuestro miembros como nuestro obispo fundador estaban orgullosos de la Iglesia particular de Indianapolis. †

Traducido por: Language Training Center, Indianapolis

La intención del Arzobispo Buechlein para vocaciones en agosto

Conocimiento de la Parroquia: Que cada parroquia sea consciente de su papel para fomentar todas las vocaciones y anime a nuestros jóvenes a considerar la vida sacerdotal y religiosa.

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

August 11-12
St. Thomas Aquinas Parish, 4041 N. College Ave., Indianapolis. Catholic Charities Indianapolis-Guam, Parish Sale, 8 a.m.-3 p.m. Information: 317-236-3194 or Ext. 1596, or e-mail mhess@archindy.org

August 11-13
Order of Friars Minor, St. Francis Park Golf Club, 755 E. Main St., Greenwood. 3rd Annual St. Francis Park Golf Outing Fundraiser, 9:30 a.m.-9:39 p.m. Information: 317-372-7985.

August 13
Holy Family Council, Knights of Columbus Hall, 200 N. Lynhurst Drive, Indianapolis. Breakfast.

August 11-20
Volksfest at Drawbridge Inn and Convention Center, 2477 N. Illinois St., Indianapolis. Men’s Golf Outing, 8 a.m.-6:15 p.m. Information: 317-565-7811 or e-mail kordes@thedome.org.

August 13
St. Rita Parish, 1733 Dr. Andrew Benedictine Father Eugene mhess@archindy.org mhess@archindy.org

August 12-14
Saint Meinrad Archabbey, 200 Hill Drive, Saint Meinrad, Ind. August 12: Kordes Retreat Center, 841 E. 14th St., Ferdinand, Ind. “Religious Orders 101,” Holy Cross Brother Joseph, presenter. Additional siblings $8. Information: 812-923-0661 or e-mail michaelafarm@seidata.com

August 14-20
Michaela Farm, Oldenburg, Ind. “Let’s Make an Animal Mask,” children in grades K-5. Linda Kordes presents. Additional siblings $8. Information: 812-923-0661 or e-mail michaelafarm@seidata.com

August 19

August 25-27
Barnesville Country and Conference Center, 1402 Southern Ave., Beech Grove. “Worldwide Catholic Encounter Weekend,” 8 a.m.-6:30 p.m. Information: 317-576-9785 or e-mail eab@abcsaf.org

August 27
Our Lady of Fatima Retreat House, 5353 E. 56th St., Indianapolis. “Praying Without Words: An Introduction to Centering Prayer.” 8 a.m.-3:30 p.m., $55 per person. Information: 317-677-3500 or e-mail kordes@thedome.org

September 4
Saint Meinrad Archabbey, 200 Hill Drive, Saint Meinrad, Ind. “Vermicomposting at Home,” Saint Meinrad, Ind. 5:30 a.m.-5 p.m. Information: 812-923-0661 or e-mail michaelafarm@seidata.com

September 5
Druidic Inn and Convention Center, 2477 Royal Drive, Fort Wayne, Ind. “Lifeway Peace, Nec Horizon Project.” 4:30-9 p.m. Information: 812-988-1861 or e-mail michaelafarm@seidata.com

September 6
Michaela Farm, Oldenburg, Ind. “Family Fun Day,” farm tours, 12:30-5:30 p.m. Information: 812-923-0661 or e-mail michaelafarm@seidata.com

September 7
Michaela Farm, Oldenburg, Ind. “Living Things of Indiana,” presentation by Michaela Farm appreciated. Information: 812-923-0661 or e-mail michaelafarm@seidata.com

September 10-11
Saint Meinrad Archabbey, 200 Hill Drive, Saint Meinrad, Ind. “Fall Festival/Waldvillage Weekend,” 8 a.m.-8 p.m. Information: 812-923-0661 or e-mail michaelafarm@seidata.com

September 10-11
Saint Meinrad Archabbey, 200 Hill Drive, Saint Meinrad, Ind. “Vermicomposting at Home” Information: 317-688-1992 or e-mail mhess@archindy.org

September 11
Saint Meinrad Archabbey, 200 Hill Drive, Saint Meinrad, Ind. “Vermicomposting at Home,” Father Gregory Brambaugh, presenter. Linda Schuberti Clerie Merklet presenters. $35 per person includes lunch and dinner. Information: 812-923-0661 or e-mail michaelafarm@seidata.com

September 12-17
Mount Saint Francis Center, 306 W. 10th St., Michigan City. Catholic Charismatic Renewal of Church of India, grace worship and healing prayers, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Information: 317-236-3378.

September 12-17
St. Meinrad Archabbey, 200 Hill Drive, Saint Meinrad, Ind. “Vermicomposting at Home,” Father Gregory Brambaugh, presenter. Linda Schuberti Clerie Merklet presenters. $35 per person includes lunch and dinner. Information: 812-923-0661 or e-mail michaelafarm@seidata.com

September 15
St. Meinrad Archabbey, 200 Hill Drive, Saint Meinrad, Ind. “Praying Without Words: An Introduction to Centering Prayer,” 8 a.m.-3:30 p.m., $55 per person. Information: 317-677-3500 or e-mail kordes@thedome.org

September 21
Saint Meinrad Archabbey, 200 Hill Drive, Saint Meinrad, Ind. “Fall Festival/Waldvillage Weekend,” 8 a.m.-8 p.m. Information: 812-923-0661 or e-mail michaelafarm@seidata.com

September 22
Saint Meinrad Archabbey, 200 Hill Drive, Saint Meinrad, Ind. “Vermicomposting at Home,” Father Gregory Brambaugh, presenter. Linda Schuberti Clerie Merklet presenters. $35 per person includes lunch and dinner. Information: 812-923-0661 or e-mail michaelafarm@seidata.com

September 23-25
Mount Saint Francis Center, 306 W. 10th St., Michigan City. Catholic Charismatic Renewal of Church of India, grace worship and healing prayers, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Information: 317-236-3378.

October 4
Mount Saint Francis Center, 306 W. 10th St., Michigan City. Catholic Charismatic Renewal of Church of India, grace worship and healing prayers, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Information: 317-236-3378.

October 6-7
Saint Meinrad Archabbey, 200 Hill Drive, Saint Meinrad, Ind. “Vermicomposting at Home,” Father Gregory Brambaugh, presenter. Linda Schuberti Clerie Merklet presenters. $35 per person includes lunch and dinner. Information: 812-923-0661 or e-mail michaelafarm@seidata.com

October 9-10
Saint Meinrad Archabbey, 200 Hill Drive, Saint Meinrad, Ind. “Vermicomposting at Home,” Father Gregory Brambaugh, presenter. Linda Schuberti Clerie Merklet presenters. $35 per person includes lunch and dinner. Information: 812-923-0661 or e-mail michaelafarm@seidata.com

October 11
Saint Meinrad Archabbey, 200 Hill Drive, Saint Meinrad, Ind. “Vermicomposting at Home,” Father Gregory Brambaugh, presenter. Linda Schuberti Clerie Merklet presenters. $35 per person includes lunch and dinner. Information: 812-923-0661 or e-mail michaelafarm@seidata.com

October 16-17
Saint Meinrad Archabbey, 200 Hill Drive, Saint Meinrad, Ind. “Vermicomposting at Home,” Father Gregory Brambaugh, presenter. Linda Schuberti Clerie Merklet presenters. $35 per person includes lunch and dinner. Information: 812-923-0661 or e-mail michaelafarm@seidata.com

October 18-20
Our Lady of Fatima Retreat House, 5353 E. 56th St., Indianapolis. Fall Garage Sale, 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Information: 317-545-3881 or e-mail mhess@archindy.org

October 21
Mount Saint Francis Center, 306 W. 10th St., Michigan City. Catholic Charismatic Renewal of Church of India, grace worship and healing prayers, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Information: 317-236-3378.

October 22
Our Lady of Fatima Retreat House, 5353 E. 56th St., Indianapolis. Fall Garage Sale, 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Information: 317-545-3881 or e-mail mhess@archindy.org

October 23
Mount Saint Francis Center, 306 W. 10th St., Michigan City. Catholic Charismatic Renewal of Church of India, grace worship and healing prayers, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Information: 317-236-3378.
Diaconate informational sessions to be held

By Sean Gallagher

The archdiocese’s current class of 25 deacon candidates has completed the second year of their formation and has two more years to go before being ordained in June 2008. But preparations for forming the next class of potential deacons are already under way. Starting on Sept. 10, Father Bede said, Benedictine Father Bede Cisco, archdiocesan deacon formation director, will present five informational sessions about the diaconate and the deacon formation program in locations across the archdiocese. (See box.) There is no cost to attend.

Those who have a general interest in learning more about these topics are welcome to attend any session. Father Bede is especially hoping to meet men who might be interested in entering into a discernment process that could lead to them becoming members of the next deacon formation class. Wives of potential deacon formation applicants are also encouraged to attend.

“We’re looking…for men who are already involved in the ministry of charity and have a strong commitment to service.’

— Father Bede Cisco, archdiocesan deacon formation director

Father Bede said he hopes that the next deacon candidate class will also “represent that broad spectrum.” Potential deacon program applicants must have a minimum of a high school diploma and, according to Father Bede, “a willingness to engage in some serious study.” They also need to be no less than 30 years of age since the minimum age for ordination to the diaconate is 35.

Men possibly interested in being admitted to the next deacon formation class are required to attend one of the five informational sessions. A formal discernment and inquiry process will take place in the months following the last session.

Father Bede said the meetings will help people understand that “the deacon is an essential part of the Church’s understanding of what ministry is” and “what the deacon formation process does” to prepare men for ordained ministry.

At each meeting, five deacon candidates and their wives from the current deacon formation class will be present to answer questions. The current group of men preparing for ordination to the diaconate come from nearly all the archdiocese’s 11 deaneries and several ethnic communities. They also have a variety of educational backgrounds and work in a wide range of careers.

After declaring their intention to continue their preparation for ordination to the diaconate, the 25 men participating in the first archdiocesan deacon formation program receive the acclamation of the congregation assembled at SS. Peter and Paul Cathedral in Indianapolis on Sept. 17, 2004. As a result of their stating their intention during the Mass, they became deacon candidates.

First diaconate session is Sept. 10

Following is the schedule of deacon formation program informational sessions:

- **Sunday, Sept. 10**, Mount St. Francis Retreat Center, 2-4 p.m. EDT
- **Sunday, Sept. 17**, St. Paul Parish in Tell City, 2-4 p.m. EDT (1-3 p.m. CDT in local area)
- **Sunday, Sept. 24**, Annunciation Parish in Brazil, 2-4 p.m. EDT
- **Sunday, Oct. 1**, St. Lawrence Parish in Indianapolis, 2-4 p.m. EDT
- **Sunday, Oct. 15**, Oldenburg Franciscan Center, 2-4 p.m. EDT

(Reservations for the informational sessions are requested. To make reservations or to learn more about the sessions, e-mail deaconformation@archindy.org or call 317-236-1491 or 800-382-9836, ext. 1491.)

---

A MISSION TO HELP YOU FEEL GOOD!

Sagamore®, owned by Midwestern Catholic health organizations, has established a private health network that provides hundreds of thousands of members with more choices in health care. Over the years we’ve introduced a number of innovative ideas for both members and employers, including budget-minded plans, web-based health information and maternity programs. But our biggest asset is our mission, which is to treat our members with respect, dignity, honesty and compassion. Sagamore has always been – and will always be – a health network that wants to make everyone we serve…feel good.

Sagamorechoices.com
SIMPLY THE BETTER CHOICE
800.521.6139

---
The Criterion  Friday, August 11, 2006
continued from page 1
the time of the transplant in February 2005. Churches held fundraisers. Businesses made contributions. Someone donated a car to be auctioned. The money was raised.

"It was a remarkable community- wide effort," he says. "Not just the Hispanic community, not just the Catholic community, but the whole community."

People also prayed for the success of the transplant. Rocio said her own prayers. Then she delivered a pep talk to Luis before the surgery.

"I knew Luis was very nervous," she recalls. "I told him, 'This is the moment of your new life, and you need to take it. We're going to have a new life together.'"

"The surgery lasted four hours. At the end of it, Rocio told Luis, 'Your life will be different now.'"

The dream comes true
That different life is noticeable in the summer of 2006. Luis leads an active life again. Now
14, he enjoys swimming, playing football and being with his friends. He hopes to make more friends as he soon begins his freshman year at Roncalli High School in Indianapolis. He also dreams of becoming a doctor, wanting "to help others like they helped me." "My life is good now," he says. "I'm happy."

Jose supports the family by working in construction.

"I've always thought that Luis has angels with him," Rocio says. "Jose is one of the greatest angels we have. Although he's not Luis' father per se, he deserves to be."

The family feels so blessed that they plan to participate in the Walk for Families on Aug. 26—a fundraiser for Catholic Charities Indianapolis. It's their way of saying thanks for being given a home at Holy Family when they desperately needed it.

"We have so many people to thank," Rocio says. "I need to do this in these difficult times today, people need to know that there are other people and resources to help them."

Earlier this year, Rocio, Jose and Luis moved into their own home, part of the dream Rocio always imagined. She glows when she talks about her kitchen and the changes they have made to their Indianapolis home. Still, she is the first to point out that her family's version of the American dream has changed. "The dream we had in the beginning was to have a house," Rocio says. "But when Luis got sick, that dream changed to Luis having life. Now that Luis has life, we feel we're living more of a normal life. We're a very happy family. We have a great son, and God is always with us."

Walk for Families to benefit people struggling to build a life

By John Shaugnessy

Catholic Charities Indianapolis is seeking volunteers and participants for its first Walk for Families on Aug. 26—an event designed to encourage and support the dignity of all people.

The 2.6 mile walk is a fundraiser that will help Catholic Charities Indianapolis assist individuals and families who are struggling to build a life for themselves, according to David Bethuram, the agency's director.

"With the Walk for Families, we will be able to honor all those families who work so hard to help themselves and demonstrate the power of our 10 programs and the positive impact they have in the community," Bethuram said.

In 2005, more than 17,000 people benefited from the agency’s programs, which provide counseling, elder care, crisis relief and shelter. Most of the people served are women and children living below the poverty level. About 70 percent of the people served are not Catholic.

The walk begins and ends at Celebration Plaza in White River State Park in Indianapolis, according to a press release from the agency. Food, drink, awards and entertainment will be part of the event, which will also include information about Catholic Charities and its programs.

The public is invited to take part. Potential volunteers and participants can register or get more information about the walk by calling 317-592-4072 or by checking the Walk site www.WalkForFamilies.org.

Registration for the walk is $20 for an individual or $18 a person for teams of 10 or more.

The dream we had in the beginning was to have a house. Rocio says. "But when Luis got sick, that dream changed to Luis having life. Now that Luis has life, we feel we're living more of a normal life. We're a very happy family. We have a great son, and God is always with us."
Mass, fellowship give young adults chance to build community

By Natalie DeHart
Special to The Criterion

It’s Sunday evening. A young woman turns her attention from the meal she is about to eat and observes those sharing the meal with her.

Many of them are also young adults. Their occupations, talents and income vary, but they share three things in common: their young age, their faith and the desire to share that faith with other young adults. She thinks of the supper she will share with her peers shortly, then turns her attention back to the meal at hand as Father Jonathan Meyer says, “This is my body,” and raises the most sacred host.

Two meals involving hospitality, community and nourishment. Two meals shared by young Catholic adults at the monthly Archdiocese of Indianapolis Young Adult Mass (YAM).

Geared to Catholics between the ages of 18 and 40, YAM is held the second Sunday of each month at 6 p.m. at Our Lady of the Greenwood Church. Mass is followed by a meal at the parish, where participants enjoy homemade food, conversation and the opportunity to learn about the various Catholic groups and events for their age group throughout the archdiocese.

YAM was started in the fall of 2003. Many were involved in the forming of this monthly gathering, but Theresa Sanchez initiated the process.

Sanchez grew up in Chicago, where she enjoyed Theology on Tap and the city’s young adult Mass. She moved to Indianapolis in the fall of 2002. She attended Theology on Tap here and got involved in the Frassati Society of Young Catholics in the Lafayette Diocese, but she was still missing “something.”

“I felt like there was something missing at Mass for my peers,” said Sanchez, a member of Holy Spirit Parish in Fishers, Ind., in the Lafayette Diocese.

“Mass for young adults should have a liturgy that speaks to them, and good music, and someone to welcome them, and time to meet and talk after Mass. So I got some friends from Frassati and Theology on Tap together and asked, ‘Am I the only one who feels this way?’”

Sanchez discovered she was not alone. She and others—including Adelina Mejia-Zelaya, Alex and Nicole Scheidler, Kevin McDowell and Nick Batta—met with several priests appointed by Archbishop Daniel M. Buechlein. The priests gave their blessing on the group and the idea, and YAM moved from concept to reality.

In the last two years, YAM has moved from Marian College to St. Mary Catholic Church, both in Indianapolis, to its current home, Our Lady of the Greenwood Church, with the generous support of the parish’s pastor, Mgr. Mark Svarczkopf.

Archbishop Buechlein continued to show his support for the group in April by celebrating the Palm Sunday Mass for YAM. Five other priests consecrated with the archbishop, further demonstrating the growing interest and concern that the archdiocese has for its young adults.

According to YAM co-director Matt State, a member of Our Lady of the Greenwood Parish, “It was a spiritually uplifting experience for all who attended.”

Matt Scheidler is the group’s co-director, in conjunction with other YAM committee members. They may be the organizers, but they are not YAM.

“All young adults are members,” said Scheidler, a member of Our Lady of St. Susanna Parish in Plainfield. “We’re not a separate group, but simply a gathering of young Catholic adults meeting and networking. It’s nice to have a young adult event available that is first centered around the Holy Eucharist of the Mass.”

Members are encouraged to participate in YAM—both in the eucharistic meal and the meal that follows. Members proclaim the readings, sing and play music at the liturgy. After Mass, YAM members also help with meal preparation and in welcoming new members.

“I highly recommend it,” said YAM participant Christina McDougall. “It’s a great way to recharge your batteries spiritually. There’s an energy that comes from this age group that enhances the gathering.”

As for the young woman mentioned at the beginning of the story, she now stands with her peers.

“The Mass has ended. Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.”

And their first stop to love and serve the Lord—in community with their peers—is at the meal just down the stairs.

[Natalie DeHart, who regularly attends the archdiocese’s Young Adult Mass, is also a member of St. Monica Parish in Indianapolis.]

Young Adult Mass set for Aug. 13
The next Archdiocese of Indianapolis’ Young Adult Mass is at 6 p.m. on Sunday, August 13, at Our Lady of the Greenwood Church, 335 South Meridian St., Greenwood, IN 46143 (just a few miles south of downtown Indianapolis). Food and fellowship will follow the Mass.

For more information, e-mail IndyYoungAdultMass@yahoo.com, call Matt Scheidler at 317-884-0779 or visit http://www.archindy.org/youngadult/

Precious Blood Church Picnic
Sunday, August 20, 2006
Hwy. 56 West • Jasper, IN

Chicken Dinners
Served outdoors, shaded area available or take it to go
2 pc Chicken, Dressing, Green Beans, Slay, Cake $5.00 dark meat • $6.00 white meat

Family Style Dinners
Served in air conditioned cafeteria
Fried Chicken, Roast Beef, Dressing, Chicken and Dumplings $12.00

Famous Homemade Soup
Bring your own container for carry-out

Quilts: over 80 homemade quilts — appliqué, Embroidery, patchwork, and baby quilts Family style dinner tickets on sale 10:30 a.m. CST

Hours 10:30 a.m. CST - 6:00 p.m. CST
Adults $9.00 Kids (under 12) $4.00
Drive thru chicken dinners available after 3:00 p.m. CST

Grand Raffle Prizes Totaling Over $10,000.00
Hamburgers – Country Store – Soft Drinks – Games – Bingo (air conditioned)
All activities starting at 10:30 a.m. CST

Our Lady of Fatima Retreat House
presents an evening workshop
“The Immaculate Conception and the Dignity of Man”
Tim Staples, nationally acclaimed Catholic apologist
September 22, 2006 • 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.
Tim Staples speaks to women only at this special evening event. He gives the biblical and reasonable evidence for the dogma of the Immaculate Conception and shows us why this doctrine is crucial for us to understand. Not only does Mary lead us to her Son and to the blessed Trinity, but she also teaches us who we are as Christians. To understand the Immaculate Conception reveals to us our own dignity as sons and daughters of God.

Tim will be featured speaker at the Indiana Catholic Men’s Conference on September 23th.

Cost: $10.00 per person

Our Lady of Fatima Retreat House
5553 E. 56th Street • Indianapolis, IN 46226
(317) 545-7681 • www.archindy.org/fatima
Cynthia Dewes
Cornucopia/
From the Editor Emeritus/
Aquila, and learned the names of the anxious to return home. had taken action against the synagogue at Rome as sort of his advance team. The Prisca and Aquila that they would return to Rome. Vogler Meister and hooked by her with hand at needlework several times not my forte, despite having tried my rug in my life! I’ve bought, cleaned, laundered me!

Vogler Meister and hooked by her with hand at needlework several times not my forte, despite having tried my rug in my life! I’ve bought, cleaned, laundered me!

Vogler Meister and hooked by her with hand at needlework several times not my forte, despite having tried my rug in my life! I’ve bought, cleaned, laundered me!

Vogler Meister and hooked by her with hand at needlework several times not my forte, despite having tried my rug in my life! I’ve bought, cleaned, laundered me!

Vogler Meister and hooked by her with hand at needlework several times not my forte, despite having tried my rug in my life! I’ve bought, cleaned, laundered me!

Vogler Meister and hooked by her with hand at needlework several times not my forte, despite having tried my rug in my life! I’ve bought, cleaned, laundered me!

Vogler Meister and hooked by her with hand at needlework several times not my forte, despite having tried my rug in my life! I’ve bought, cleaned, laundered me!

Vogler Meister and hooked by her with hand at needlework several times not my forte, despite having tried my rug in my life! I’ve bought, cleaned, laundered me!

Vogler Meister and hooked by her with hand at needlework several times not my forte, despite having tried my rug in my life! I’ve bought, cleaned, laundered me!

Vogler Meister and hooked by her with hand at needlework several times not my forte, despite having tried my rug in my life! I’ve bought, cleaned, laundered me!

Vogler Meister and hooked by her with hand at needlework several times not my forte, despite having tried my rug in my life! I’ve bought, cleaned, laundered me!

Vogler Meister and hooked by her with hand at needlework several times not my forte, despite having tried my rug in my life! I’ve bought, cleaned, laundered me!

Vogler Meister and hooked by her with hand at needlework several times not my forte, despite having tried my rug in my life! I’ve bought, cleaned, laundered me!

Vogler Meister and hooked by her with hand at needlework several times not my forte, despite having tried my rug in my life! I’ve bought, cleaned, laundered me!

Vogler Meister and hooked by her with hand at needlework several times not my forte, despite having tried my rug in my life! I’ve bought, cleaned, laundered me!

Vogler Meister and hooked by her with hand at needlework several times not my forte, despite having tried my rug in my life! I’ve bought, cleaned, laundered me!

Vogler Meister and hooked by her with hand at needlework several times not my forte, despite having tried my rug in my life! I’ve bought, cleaned, laundered me!

Vogler Meister and hooked by her with hand at needlework several times not my forte, despite having tried my rug in my life! I’ve bought, cleaned, laundered me!

Vogler Meister and hooked by her with hand at needlework several times not my forte, despite having tried my rug in my life! I’ve bought, cleaned, laundered me!

Vogler Meister and hooked by her with hand at needlework several times not my forte, despite having tried my rug in my life! I’ve bought, cleaned, laundered me!

Vogler Meister and hooked by her with hand at needlework several times not my forte, despite having tried my rug in my life! I’ve bought, cleaned, laundered me!

Vogler Meister and hooked by her with hand at needlework several times not my forte, despite having tried my rug in my life! I’ve bought, cleaned, laundered me!

Vogler Meister and hooked by her with hand at needlework several times not my forte, despite having tried my rug in my life! I’ve bought, cleaned, laundered me!

Vogler Meister and hooked by her with hand at needlework several times not my forte, despite having tried my rug in my life! I’ve bought, cleaned, laundered me!

Vogler Meister and hooked by her with hand at needlework several times not my forte, despite having tried my rug in my life! I’ve bought, cleaned, laundered me!

Vogler Meister and hooked by her with hand at needlework several times not my forte, despite having tried my rug in my life! I’ve bought, cleaned, laundered me!

Vogler Meister and hooked by her with hand at needlework several times not my forte, despite having tried my rug in my life! I’ve bought, cleaned, laundered me!

Vogler Meister and hooked by her with hand at needlework several times not my forte, despite having tried my rug in my life! I’ve bought, cleaned, laundered me!

Vogler Meister and hooked by her with hand at needlework several times not my forte, despite having tried my rug in my life! I’ve bought, cleaned, laundered me!

Vogler Meister and hooked by her with hand at needlework several times not my forte, despite having tried my rug in my life! I’ve bought, cleaned, laundered me!
Q

In recent discussions about The Du Vinc Code, the Gospel of Thomas has come up frequently. Supposedly, one message of Jesus is that “the kingdom of God is within us all.” We gather that the Catholic Church does not accept the Gospel of Thomas and calls it heresy.

What is this gospel, and why is it kept secret? (Florida)

The so-called Gospel of Thomas is perhaps the most publicized of several early Christian "gospels" that are not included in the books of the New Testament. Written in Greek, most likely some time around the year 100—therefore, certainly not penned by the Apostle Thomas—its existence had been known for centuries through brief references in other documents. The complete text, however, has been available only 61 years. The accidental discovery of the entire document—written in the Coptic language and found in 1945 in a clay jar near the town of Nag Hammadi in upper Egypt—is considered to be among the most significant archeological finds in the history of New Testament scholarship.

Unlike the four canonical gospels, the Gospel of Thomas contains no significant narrative structure or doctrinal organization. It consists solely of 114 "secret sayings" of the "living Jesus," many of which are also found nearly verbatim in the New Testament. The Gospel of Luke quotes Jesus as saying, "The kingdom of God is among you," or within you (Lk 17:21). Numerous sayings in this gospel are bewildering, to say the least, and some are outright bizarre.

As in other Gnostic literature, for example, Peter is portrayed as openly prostatized by Mary Magdalene. The final saying in the gospel has Peter asking Jesus, "Tell Mary to leave us, for females are not worthy of life." (#114). Jesus’ response to Peter is, "I will guide her to make her male so that she too may become a living spirit resembling you males. For every female who makes herself male will enter the kingdom of heaven.

Obviously, Thomas is not speaking of a physical sex change. Rather, the passage reflects some difference between a lower (female) level of spiritual enlightenment and knowledge, and a more perfect (male) level of mystical illumination. Such concepts, usually without the sexist inferences, are common and characteristic of Gnosticism.

While the Gospel of Thomas is not among the canonical books of the Bible, its antiquity and content have proven enormously valuable in the study of the activities and words of Jesus, and the circumstances of his life.

It also, however, reflects many Gnostic views that caused serious theological and philosophical problems in early Christianity, and that continue to influence New Age-type spiritual movements today.

Apart from the fact that it is not admitted as a canonical gospel, the Catholic Church has had no occasion to take a formal position on the Gospel of Thomas. But there’s nothing secret about it. The document is readily available in several publications. A new translation, with the original Coptic text and notes, was published by Harper Collins in New York in 1992.

(As a free brochure in English or Spanish outlining marriage regulations in the Catholic Church and outlining promises in a mixed marriage is available by sending a stamped, self-addressed envelope to Father John Dietzen, Box 5515, Peoria, Il. 61615. Questions may be sent to Father Dietzen at the same address or by e-mail to jldietzen@aol.com.)
African Catholics to celebrate faith, culture on Aug. 20

By Mary Ann Wyand

African Catholics now living in central and southern Indiana will celebrate their faith, culture and friendship during a Mass and reception on Aug. 20 at St. Andrew the Apostle Parish in Indianapolis.

The eucharistic liturgy and celebration of African traditions will begin at 3 p.m. with Mass concelebrated by African priests ministering in the archdiocese. Father Kenneth Taylor, director of the archdiocesan Office of Multicultural Ministry and pastor of Holy Angels Parish in Indianapolis, also will concelebrate the second annual African Mass at St. Andrew Church, located at 4052 E. 38th St.

He said the liturgy will conclude with the blessing of 12 delegates who will represent the African Catholic Ministry in the archdiocese during the African National Eucharistic Congress on Sept. 2-3 at The Catholic University of America and Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, both in Washington, D.C.

A reception in the parish hall will feature authentic African food and entertain- ment, including a fashion show. Participants are encouraged to dress in traditional, brightly colored African attire. The celebration is free and open to anyone who would like to join the African Catholics in prayer, worship and song.

Reservations are requested, and a free-will donation is appreciated to help cover the cost of food served at the reception.

Father Taylor said the celebration will help African Catholics meet other immi- grants and become more involved in Church activities.

“The African presence in the United States is growing,” Father Taylor said, “and a good number of those who are coming [to this country] are Catholic. This was the motivation behind hav- ing the African National Eucharistic Congress in the nation’s capital, he said. "Dioceses across the country are begin- ning ministries to this group of immi- grants.”

Keynote speakers at the national con- gress are both African and African- American. Participants will celebrate the gifts that African Catholics bring to the Church in the United States.

“Through this Mass and the event that follows, we hope to let the African immi- grants in our archdiocese know that the Church is here for them as well.”

The celebration will feature praying and singing in several tribal languages, he said, to reflect the beauty and diversity of the African Catholic culture.

“Another important part of the celebra- tion is connecting the African immigrants with the African-American population, especially within the Church,” Father Taylor said. “The immigrants have made a lot of changes in their lives, and this is a chance for them to make new friends and reconnect with some of the traditions in the liturgy of their homeland.”

The archdiocesan celebration also reinforces the fact that “the Catholic Church can incorporate a wide variety of tradi- tions in the liturgies and still be authentically Catholic,” he said. "One of the signs of the strength of the Catholic Church within the immigrant community is that in the archdiocese we are seeing an increase in African priests who are serving here.”

Father Taylor said that the celebration will help African Catholics meet other immi- grants and become more involved in Church activities.

Sister Demetria Smith, a Missionary Sister of Our Lady of Africa and mission educator for the archdiocese, said the liturgy will include prayers of thanksgiv- ing and African praise music in the Zulu language from South Africa; the Igbo lan- guage from Nigeria in West Africa; the Mina language from Togo; the Swahili language from East Africa; and the Luganda, Acholi, Ateso and Runyoro/Rutooro tribal languages from Uganda in East Africa.

Traditional clothing and dances will add to the festivities, she said, as the peo- ple celebrate their faith in the ways they have known and loved all their lives.

Celebrating the Eucharist in the African liturgical style gives the immi- grants hope, she said, and fosters unity and diversity.

“This authentic African experience of the eucharistic liturgy will honor many African cultures,” Sister Demetria said.

“M Epistle to the Hebrews 11:13-16

We want to produce leaders for the community and Church who are grounded in Gospel values,” Father Riebe said. “We want to create an army of people who are willing to sacrifice, who think of others and care for the poor. We are forming people with a heart for service.”

An example of this can be seen in Joe Beard, a soon-to-be- senior at Seton High School who hopes to attend Purdue University and become a civil engineer. Although the Seton school system has prepared Beard for a lifetime of success, it has also provided him with an invaluable support system of friends since elementary school.

“You can’t pass up a great education for anything,” Beard said. “Seton has helped me build character and gain knowledge from my teachers—every aspect of this high school is great.”

While Richmond Catholic Community has seen tremendous success with the school, it maintains a strong vision for the future. The three parishes hope to build a gymnasmium at Seton High School that will produce a space large enough for tri-parish gatherings and provide students with a much-needed facility. Funds raised through the Legacy for Our Mission campaign will help continue the development of the high school.

“There will always be financial challenges,” Father Riebe said. “But that’s where God provides for us. He inspires people to help support us in that way.”

Legacy for Our Mission, the archdiocesan capital campaign, is guided by the principles of Christian stewardship and addresses the local and mission needs of the archdiocese.

For more information, call the archdioce- san Office of Multicultural Ministry at 317-236-1562 or 800-382-9836, ext. 1562. Reservations are requested by call- ing Sally Stovall, event coordinator, at 317-236-1276 or Sister Demetria Smith, a Missionary Sister of Our Lady of Africa and mission educator for the archdiocese, at 317-261-3866.)

Legacy for Our Mission:

For Our Children and the Future

Seton Catholic High School: Built on Love

S

Seton Catholic High School has become a source of pride for Richmond Catholic’s community, especially in light of the recent graduation ceremony of its first class. But before any student earned a diploma, the long-awaited high school depended on the love and support of local Catholics.

In 1936, the community of Richmond closed the doors its Catholic high school and focused on elementary education. Throughout the years, the Catholic education system continued to evolve. In 1976, St. Andrew and St. Mary schools consolidated to become St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Elementary School named after the first American-born female saint. In 1981, Holy Family joined the mix, completing the consolidation of Richmond’s Catholic elementary schools.

“Parents loved what Seton was doing and many wanted their children to benefit from the system for four more years,” Father Riebe, pastor of Richmond’s three parishes, Holy Family, St. Andrew and St. Mary said. “The high academic level was recognized, the spirit of the school was strong and a true sense of community developed as a result of the Seton school system. The kids loved going to school!”

To foster the revival of the Catholic high school system, a steering committee, formed in 1996, oversaw a preliminary study required by the archdiocese. The study revealed that St. Richmond community possessed enough interest, the right demographics and adequate financial support to start and maintain a small high school.

The community raised approximately $2 million in pledges to start and maintain a small high school.

“Everyone sacrificed together for a common purpose,” Father Riebe said. “It’s truly a high school built on love.”

Father Riebe explained that the high school has become the pride of Richmond Catholic Community. Many individu- als and some members of the kitchen staff, volunteer their time as part of their stewardship to the school. In fact, a local businessman became certified as the school bus driver for special field trips.

In 2002, the doors of Seton Catholic High School opened, welcoming its “pioneer” students. On June 3, 2006, 13 of these students became the first graduates of the school, leaving 125 classmates that have since enrolled in the school.
Saint Meinrad monks celebrate jubilees of profession

The Benedictine monks of Saint Meinrad Archabbey in Saint Meinrad recently celebrated the 60-year profession jubilees of Father Camillus Eilippoemann, the 50-year jubilees of Archabbat Lambert Reilly, Father Meinrad Brune, Father Alan McIntosh, Father Timothy Sweeney and Brother Andrew Zimmermann; and the 25-year jubilees of Father Louis Mulcahy and Father Louis DeBoo.

Father Camillus was born on Dec. 18, 1925, in Evaville, Ind. He made his profession of vows on Sept. 15, 1946, and was ordained on May 13, 1950. He earned a licentiate in sacred theology and a master’s degree at Theological Seminary of America in Washington, D.C. For 15 years, Father Camillus served as assistant professor of sociology at the former Saint Meinrad College. From 1961-65, he was assistant spiritual director at the former Saint Meinrad High School. He also served two years as novice master for the brothers. From 1968-71, he served as the spiritual coordinator for Saint Meinrad School of Theology. He also was the director of the deacon internship program from 1969-75.

Father Camillus served as associate parson of St. Benedict Parish in Evaville for a year then was Henry Parish in St. Henry, Ind. From 1964-70, he served at two parishes in Wyoming, after which he retired to the monastery.

Archabbat Lambert was born on April 18, 1933, in Pittsburgh. He made his profession of vows on Aug. 15, 1956, and was ordained on May 7, 1961. He earned a Master of Arts degree at Butler University in Indianapolis and a Bachelor of Sacred Theology degree at The Catholic University of America. He completed his psychological training at Saint Meinrad School of Theology.

Father Meinrad was born on April 14, 1934, in Indianapolis. He made his profession of vows on Aug. 15, 1956, and was ordained on May 7, 1961. He earned a Master of Arts degree at Butler University in Indianapolis and a Bachelor of Sacred Theology degree at The Catholic University of America. He completed his psychological training at Saint Meinrad School of Theology.

Father Meinrad, O.S.B.

Father Meinrad Brune, O.S.B.

Father Meinrad taught at the former Saint Meinrad High School and former Saint Meinrad College for 16 years. For the next two years, he served as pastor of St. Meinrad Parish in St. Meinrad and St. Mary Parish in Huntingburg.

In 1984, he began ministering at Saint Meinrad’s Development Office as an associate director then served as alumni director for nine years. He was appointed to his current position as director of the Benedictine Oblate Program in 1993.

Father Alan was born on Jan. 26, 1934, in Evaville. He made his profession of vows on Aug. 15, 1956, and was ordained on May 7, 1961. He completed his psychological training at the former Saint Meinrad College and Saint Meinrad School of Theology.

He spent most of his years of ministry serving local parishes. From 1964-70, he was assistant pastor of St. Mary Parish in Huntingburg. For the next 10 years, he was assistant pastor of St. Anthony Parish in Huntingburg, Ind., while serving as chaplain at St. Joseph School in Huntingburg.

Father Alan then served as pastor of St. Boniface Parish in Felda for 11 years. Since 1984, he has served at five parishes in the Diocese of Owensboro, Ky., as well as two parishes in Illinois and three southern Indiana parishes. Currently, Father Alan is assisting the Diocese of Evansville with its clergy needs.

Father Timothy was born on July 24, 1935, in Indianapolis. He made his profession of vows on Aug. 15, 1956, and was ordained on May 7, 1961. He earned a licentiate in sacred theology at the Pontifical Institute of St. Anselm in Rome and a licentiate in philosophy at the Institute Catholique in Paris.

He taught at the former Saint Meinrad College for 10 years. From 1975-78, he was prior and second in leadership of the archabbey. On June 2, 1978, he was appointed archabbot of Saint Meinrad and served in that role for 17 years.

Father Timothy served as administrator of two parishes following his resignation as archabbot. From 1996-2005, he served as pastor of Parish of the Immaculate Conception in Owensboro, Ky. In January 2006, he was appointed pastor of St. Paul Parish in Tell City.

Brother Andrew was born on Dec. 23, 1934, in Richmond, Va. He made his profession of vows on March 11, 1956. He worked in the monastery tailor shop until he was sent to assist at Saint Meinrad’s former priory in Peru in November 1963. Seventeen years later, Brother Andrew returned to Saint Meinrad to work in the business office and mailroom/duplicating office.

From 1992-96, Brother Andrew worked in the monastery’s vestry and transportation offices then served in Guatemala at Marmion Abbey’s foundation from 1996-2004. He now works at the Guardian Angel Center in Huntingburg.

Father Guerric was born on Jan. 30, 1935, in Jamaica, N.Y. He made his profession of vows on Aug. 15, 1951, and was ordained on May 4, 1966. He earned a Bachelor of Arts degree at the State University of New York in Stoney Brook, N.Y., a Master of Divinity degree at Saint Meinrad School of Theology and a Doctorate in Philosophy at Indiana University in Bloomington.

From 1985-89, he served as the vocations director for the monastery. After receiving his doctorate in 1996, Father Guerric returned to Saint Meinrad as a professor of English and homiletics at Saint Meinrad School of Theology.

He also serves as associate dean for foreign countries of Saint Meinrad School of Theology.

Louis was born on Jan. 26, 1928, in Lynn, Mass. He made his profession of vows on Sept. 8, 1951, and was ordained on May 20, 1956. He earned a Master of Divinity degree at Saint Meinrad School of Theology.

Following ordination, Father Louis was appointed coordinator of research at Abbey Press for six years. Since 1966, he has served as custodian of Monte Cassino Shrine as well as commuting chaplain at Monastery Immaculate Conception in Ferdinand, Ind., and monastery guest master at the archabbey.

Father Louis also gives directed retreats and serves as spiritual director for a number of visitors to Saint Meinrad.

TRAVEL WITH OTHER ROMAN CATHOLICS Hawaii

15 Days — 4 Islands: from $1628*

Depart: March 5, 2007

Join other Roman Catholics on the most affordable two-week tour of a lifetime. Your group will fly to Honolulu for five nights in Waikiki, three nights on Kauai, two nights on Maui, one night in Hilo, and three nights in Kona. A leisurely flight from Waikiki with Punchbowl Crab & Pearl Harbor cruise to the Arizona Memorial, the Waikiki beach tour, sea vacuum excursion & the Kapaa & Lihu’e Waterfall, shopping in Kauai, Salty Dog and the Iao Valley, shopping in Hilo and the Waikiki Beach, Falls, Black Sand Beaches, Volcanoes National Park and more! Your price, only $1628 per person, double occupancy, includes lavish accommodations, airfare out of Honolulu, Hilo, Kona, and Maui. Call us for round trip airfare from Indianapolis. ‘Your Man’ Tours specializes in Hawaii and has its own office in Honolulu, offering carefree vacations, since 1967. This price is based on current credit card thanks, directly from the actual Hawaiian tour operator. Families and friends are welcome! Space is limited and reservations with a $100 deposit should be made.
BISHOP: Half of all Christians have fled Iraq since 2003

LONDON (CNS)—Half of all Iraqi Christians have fled their country since the 2003 U.S.-led invasion, said the auxiliary bishop of Baghdad.

Chaldean Catholic Auxiliary Bishop Andreas Abuna of Baghdad said that before the invasion there were about 1.2 million Christians in the predominately Shiite Muslim state. Since then the overall number has dropped to about 600,000, he said.

“While we are hearing now is the alarm bell for Christianity in Iraq,” the bishop said. “When so many are leaving from a small community like ours, you know that it is dangerous—dangerous for the future of the Church in Iraq.”


WOLLASTON, Mary, 91, St. Christopher, Indianapolis, June 18. †

The bishop said 75 percent of Christians from Baghdad had fled the capital to escape the almost daily outbreaks of sectarian violence.

Since the beginning of the war, the number of Chaldean Catholics in the country’s most numerous Christian denomination, had dropped below 800,000, he said. Many sought new lives mostly in the countries lacking stability of Syria, Jordan and Turkey, he added.

Bishop Abuna said he thought it was unlikely that many of those who had emigrated would return.

Bishop Abuna spoke on Aug. 1 from Iraq with Aid to the Church in Need UK, a Catholic charity that supports the Chaldean Catholic community in Iraq. Since he became the auxiliary bishop of Baghdad, Bishop Abuna has regularly updated the charity on the community’s situation.

About 97 percent of the country’s total 27 million Iraqis are Shiite and Sunni Muslims, Christians make up the majority of the remaining 3 percent. The Chaldean Catholics speak Arabic, the language of Jesus.

Christians were not being targeted by terrorists any more than other groups, said Bishop Abuna, but the faithful nonetheless felt especially isolated and vulnerable as their numbers dwindled.

He added that many Christians remaining in Iraq were either too poor, old or sick to leave. Priests and religious were also experiencing continuing difficulties in trying to minister to them, he said.

“It is not easy for them [the priests],” the bishop said. “When they want to travel to other parts of Baghdad, they have to be very careful. They are doing their best to contact the families and bring them to church,” he said.

Many people were unnerved by the lack of security and confidence in the political process that was supposed to usher in a new era of peace, democracy and rule of law following the removal of President Saddam Hussein by coalition forces, Bishop Abuna said.

“The constitution and the political developments of the past 18 months or so have not helped at all,” the bishop said. “It is just a theory. “Everyone is asking: will when the violence stop? They want to rest. They cannot live like this—even stay there are these terrible things,” said Bishop Abuna.

He said the only thing keeping people going was hope “because the country is rich but lacking stability. Once the stability returns, the country will rise up again.”

With the foresight to advance cardiology

5-star rated by HealthGrades® in treating heart attacks in 2005.

Top 5% in the nation for overall orthopaedic care.

We are leading the way

With three convenient hospital campuses, a medical staff of more than 700 doctors and 4,000 employees to serve your needs.
Sell nearly anything with a Criteria classified ad

Make $$$ off of all that stuff that is cluttering up your closet, garage or attic.

Call or e-mail Dana 236-1575 or ddanberry@archindy.org

ATTENTION

The Village Dove, a Catholic gift and book store has served the community for 30 years. The owners are preparing to retire and are seeking interested buyers for the Broad Ripple and Fishers locations, who have a vision of carrying on the ministry and mission of The Village Dove. Please contact Beth Kaczkowski or Cathy Papesh at 213-253-9552.

Hauling

HAULING
Trash Hauling, brush removal, cleanout.
26 years experience
Call 317-342-2598 or 317-420-9560 cell (Cell: Part time)

Roofing

D & B ROOFING
Roofing, siding, gutters, painting, inside and outside.
License #4354-91
Call 317-450-1943 for free estimate.

Mortgages

GUARANTEED LOWEST RATES WITH SAME DAY APPROVALS
All types of mortgages available
Brice Scobell owner
30 YR. Fixed at 6.375%
866-557-9910
Indiana Federal Finance LLC

Real Estate

Life in your Community

ERAS Campbell Group, Inc. - Make a great living by experiencing, licensed Real Estate agents who can motivate themselves and have enthusiasm to work with sellers, buyers and are ready to work with a great team! We have all the tools needed to reach your potential!

Phone or call Jan at: 317-576-0700 Fax: 317-576-0660 Cell: 317-339-0613

www.indyhomeonline.com

CUSTODIAL MAINTENANCE

ST. JOAN OF ARC CATHOLIC CHURCH AND SCHOOL, in Indianapolis is seeking a full-time person for cleaning and basic maintenance. Please contact the Parish Office at 317-253-2189 ext. 3 and leave message.

DENTAL

Something to smile about...

State of the Art Dentures & Partials Lab on Premises
We visit Homes and Nursing Homes

SAVE $200 PER SET

Call for your details (Limited time)

Advanced Denture Institute

12 S. BUTLER (IRVINGTON) • 375-0766

MUSIC DIRECTOR

Part-time
St. Andrew the Apostle, Indpls. Inquire:
(317) 546-1571 stevejsergi@earthlink.net

CLASSIFIED AD

Positions Available...

Administrator of Youth Ministry

St. Michael the Archangel parish is looking for a part time administrator of youth ministry to begin immediately. Applicant should be a person of strong faith and have a passion for sharing the message of Jesus Christ with young people. The ideal candidate is someone who has a g d and generous spirit, outgoing, people skills, able to work on a team setting. The candidate must possess good oral and written communication skills as he or she will be working with youth, vol- unteers, the parish staff and the parish at large.

Direct inquiries/resumes to:
Rev. Jonathan Meyer Youth and Young Adult Ministries Archdiocese of Indianapolis 1400 N. Meridian Street Indianapolis, IN 46206 jmeyer@archindy.org
Hanging Ten ... Commandments

Catholic camps offer fun, faith and friends

WASHINGTON (CNS)—Rich Junghans recalls Catholic summer camp as a place where children had a “feel good experience” 50 years ago, but today the youth summer experience offers much more than that.

Junghans, director of Catholic Youth World Camp in McGregor, Minn., said campers are hungry about the faith today. And he has seen a change in the way Catholic camps operate, including offering strong faith programs as well as outdoor activities.

College students now play a bigger role in developing new camp programs, Junghans said in a telephone interview with Catholic News Service.

“We are now competing with the kid who has a strong faith and who is a good soccer player,” he said. “I really feel good about the direction of summer camps.”

Anna Kulway, administrator for the summer camps for Catholic Youth World Network, said camps are always looking for things youngsters can do that are spiritually enriching.

Hurricane Katrina has opened up many opportunities for campers to do mission work that helps storm victims, Kulway said. She believes this will help enrich campers’ spiritual lives.

Kulway agreed with Junghans that how camps are being run has changed.

“I like the way camps are going now,” Kulway said. “They are going in a good direction.”

Many camps focus on providing a positive atmosphere by having a multitude of staff around campers at all times.

To increase the safety of their campers, Camp Marist in Effingham, N.H., added extra staff to provide supervision.

Brother Jim Halliday, director of Camp Marist, said four staff members are assigned to each cabin where the campers are housed. He said staff training has changed and now has a strong emphasis on child protection.

Brother Jim also said the most important camp change has been to focus a lot of time on bringing the camp together as a group to create a sense of family. Campers meet twice a day—one in the morning to raise the flag and at the end of the day to lower it, he said.

On Sunday nights, the whole camp attends a eucharistic liturgy, he said.

The plethora of activities available to Catholic campers includes inline skating at the inline skate park, wind surfing on the water front and riding go-carts on a track.

Surfing instructor Tyler McMahon gives a lesson to a group of boys who are attending the California Surf Camp just outside San Juan Capistrano. The Catholic camp mixes surf lessons and daily activities with reflections on Catholic values and practices. McMahon works for a local surfing school that is providing the lessons.

At right, Jack Moore, 9, of Pittsburgh prepares to enter the water after taking a break during a second day of surfing lessons at the California Surf Camp for boys just outside San Juan Capistrano.

At far right, Matt McCreavy, 14, from Westlake Village, Calif., receives Communion from Father Juan Guerra, a member of the Legionaries of Christ, after a day of surfing during the California Surf Camp session for boys.

Cathedral Camp’s mission is enabling children to live a moral life, she said, and caters to mostly inner-city children who would not go to a camp where they can enjoy the physical activities they would be doing at home.

For all the hot sports, there should be a camp,” said Talkington, who would like to create a snowboarding camp in the winter. “If we could offer every sport kids play, they would go to camp.”

The camp mixes surf for almost five hours a day, but still have daily Mass and other fun activities.

“Talking believes youngsters should go to a camp where they can enjoy the physical activities they would be doing at home," he said.

At another camp that is following that same philosophy is the Catholic Charities CYO Camp in Occidental, Calif., where Paul Raia is director.

Raia said he and his staff try to get their campers to respect each other in a faith-driven environment.

“I believe this is an extremely faith-based program,” Raia said of his camp.

Camps now have a choice of activities, which includes sports, art, theater and dance, Raia said. People are hired who specialize in each activity and spend time with the kids.

Another new thing at CYO is field trips to the ocean, where campers are allowed to bodyboard, he said. Bodyboarding is similar to surfing, but a bodyboard is shorter and lighter than a surf board and is usually ridden lying down.

Sister Joseph Marie Levesque, a Dominican Sister of Hope and director of Cathedral Camp in East Freetown, Mass., said more families are looking at traditional camps rather than specialized camps for their children.

“I think they’re going back to that,” Sister Joseph Marie said.

Cathedral Camp’s mission is enabling children to live a moral life, she said, and caters to mostly inner-city children but can accommodate those from all backgrounds.