Speaker says Catholic schools develop faith, God-given abilities

On first day, bishops OK funds for abuse study, new Iraq statement

First deanery celebration honoring St. Theodora set for Nov. 29

On 1,100 people attend Celebrating Catholic Schools Values dinner

1,100 people attend Celebrating Catholic Schools Values dinner

By John Shaughnessy

With her sense of humor, Kate O’Beirne drew smiles and laughs as she recalled some of the funny quirks and moments that linger in the memories of most people who have attended Catholic schools.

“Our uniforms were a great equalizer,” O’Beirne said. “We all looked dumby.”

With her sense of perspective, the keynote speaker at the archdiocese’s 11th annual celebration of Catholic education drew knowing nods and thoughtful expressions when she talked about the influence she gained from attending Catholic schools from kindergarten through law school.

“Cliques were discouraged—we learned to be kind to each other,” said O’Beirne, the Washington editor of National Review magazine. “We learned stories about ordinary people who did extraordinary things for the love of God. Our heroes weren’t from Hollywood. They weren’t sports superstars. They were the saints whose stories inspired a youthful resolve to emulate them.

“Through those stories, our hearts were won, and as we learned more about the tenets of our faith, our minds followed. We came to respect effort and order. We won, and as we learned more about the tenets of our faith, our minds followed. We learned to be kind to each other,” said O’Beirne, the Washington editor of National Review magazine. “We learned stories about ordinary people who did extraordinary things for the love of God. Our heroes weren’t from Hollywood. They weren’t sports superstars. They were the saints whose stories inspired a youthful resolve to emulate them.

“We came to respect effort and order. We were taught that life is hard, others had sacrificed on our behalf and that suffering has meaning. I think we drew strength from the sacrifice of Catholics long ago—who exemplified faith and hope and charity.”

The message struck a chord with the more than 1,100 people from across central and southern Indiana who attended the event—Celebrating Catholic School Values: 2006 Scholarship and Career Achievement Awards Dinner.

The Nov. 8 fundraiser at the Indiana Convention Center in Indianapolis—which honored five Catholic school graduates who have had notable careers—added a preliminary estimate of $395,000 to the $3.1 million that the annual dinner already had raised to provide tuition assistance for disadvantaged students who want to attend archdiocesan schools.

See SCHOOLS, page 2

First deanery celebration honoring St. Theodora set for Nov. 29

By Sean Gallagher

When he canonized her on Oct. 15 at St. Peter’s Square in Rome, Pope Benedict XVI gave St. Theodora Guérin to the world as an example of sanctity.

But from the time that she arrived at Saint Mary-of-the-Woods in 1840 to the present day, she has had a special connection to the Church in central and southern Indiana.

Archbishop Daniel M. Buechlein will initiate a series of Masses honoring Indiana’s first saint at 7 p.m. on Nov. 29 at St. Joan of Arc Church in the Indianapolis North Deanery. The archbishop will celebrate 11 Masses, one in each deanery, over the coming year where the faithful of the archdiocese will be invited to rejoin in St. Theodora’s holiness.

“There’s something very appropriate See CELEBRATIONS, page 8
Our Lady of Fatima Retreat House presents an Advent Day of Reflection “Recognizing Our Grace-Filled Lives” Fr. John McCaslin December 6, 2006 • 8:30 a.m.–2:30 p.m. Elizabeth greeted Mary as she arrived for her visit with, “Hail Mary, full of grace.” This day of reflection will focus on recognizing that our lives are full of grace. This recognition can lead us to experience lives of joy, love, peace and hope.

For more information or to register, call (317) 545-7681 or check out our website at www.archindy.org/fatima
By Sean Gallagher

One hundred fifty years ago, Indiana was in the beginning stages of the development that resulted in the modern Hoosier state in which we live today. Railroads were starting to cross the state’s hills and countryside. Towns, businesses and various industries sprang up alongside them. In 1856, St. Anthony of Padua Parish in Morris was established in a town that had a railroad go through it that connected Indianapolis and Cincinnati. On Oct. 22, many current members of the parish gathered with Archbishop Daniel M. Buechlein and its longtime pastor, Msgr. Bernard Schmitz, to celebrate the faith community’s sesquicentennial with a solemn eucharistic liturgy.

According to Msgr. Schmitz, the founding members of St. Anthony of Padua Parish were largely from the region around Baden Baden in Germany’s Black Forest. German was a primary language of the parish for more than a half century. It continued to be spoken in the parish school for another 60 years, not ceasing until 1917 during World War I when German-speaking Americans were frequently pressured to give up the language because of the anti-German bias.

Many of the parishioners that recently celebrated the anniversary trace their ancestry to the parish’s founders.

One parishioner, Erica Case, said it was her great-great-great-grandfather, Balthasar Merkel, who donated the land for St. Anthony Parish. Case lives about a mile from the church. In a recent interview, she talked about how the story of her family’s connection to the parish was passed on to her at an early age.

“I think I knew about it since I was pretty little,” Case said. “My grandma told us early on about that.”

The close ties of many other families to the parish were highlighted during the anniversary through posters that showed how ancestors of current members called St. Anthony their spiritual home in years past.

Each week, an hour is set aside for eucharistic adoration, ending with solemn Benediction. Msgr. Schmitz said that this happened more than 1,500 times over the past 25 years. The spiritual support that Msgr. Schmitz gains from the members of St. Anthony Parish is reciprocal, at least for Case.

“He’s an amazing guy,” said Case, who, at 26, has known no other pastor in her life.

“With him. He’s such a deep faith, and he’s such a holy man. We can learn so much just by his example, just watching how he lives his life.”

Although St. Anthony of Padua Parish’s recent anniversary was a historic milestone, there was a definite spiritual atmosphere to how parish members marked it.

After a weekend of celebrations that centered around the Mass, the parish sponsored a mission the following week. “I think [the mission] was good to tie it in because it made it more than just the celebration of the building and the facilities,” Case said. “It made it more of a celebration of what [the people] stood for, and what they believed in.”

“You can imagine the people way back when in their old-time outfits doing the same thing.”

While Msgr. Schmitz and many of the families have a historic connection with the parish, others are newcomers.

Although Joanne Schrimpf joined the parish only two years ago, she took a lead role in organizing the anniversary celebrations, which also included a special meal after the anniversary Mass and a parade in the town of Morris on the following day.

When she agreed to this task, Schrimpf saw the history of the faith community. What impressed her was the continuity at a fundamental level between the original members and those who carry on after them today.

“When we peel it all down, it’s all so different. Clear to me that we are no different in our faith or our fears or our loves,” Schrimpf said. “We are [the same] one body that they were 150 years ago.”

Having passed this landmark in the history of her parish, Case is now looking forward to its future, a future that she hopes includes her.

“I don’t know quite what the future is going to hold,” Case said. “But I would love to raise my family, when I have one, at St. Anthony’s and just say, ‘This is where I went to church when I was little. Your grandma made her first Communion here.’ [I want to] help them make all the different connections that I’ve had.”

Above, Archbishop Daniel M. Buechlein was the principal celebrant at an Oct. 22 Mass celebrating St. Anthony of Padua Parish’s sesquicentennial in Morris.

At right, townspeople enjoy a parade in Morris on the day after the parish celebrated its 150th anniversary.
Giving thanks beyond the upcoming holidays

In less than a week, millions of Americans will pile into their cars and minivans, hop on airplanes or opt for other modes of transportation as they visit family and friends to celebrate Thanksgiving.

With that holiday right around the corner—for those keeping track—that means Christmas is slightly more than a month away.

Can it be possible that another year has come and gone so quickly?

For those looking for a unique way to approach Thanksgiving and the upcoming Advent and Christmas season, here’s an exercise worth considering: Open up your 2006 personal appointment book—or any calendar that has kept track of your life—peruse it, and reflect for a few moments.

After that thorough examination, one would hope, we each should have a clearer picture of the gifts and blessings that our Creator has bestowed on us and our loved ones during the past year.

Was it a new love, fresh career, a newborn or adopted child, or even a financial windfall?

Did we laugh a lot, shed some tears and smile often as we tried to live each day to its fullest?

Did we make time each day to offer up gratitude on God’s gifts to each of us.

Did we laugh a lot, shed some tears and smile often as we tried to live each day to its fullest?

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Did we actual...
Abalanzando a Dios y agradeciendo los tantos obsequios que r ecibimos

Además de nuestra gratitud por las “grandes cosas” de nuestra vida, también es costumbre decir “gracias” cuando merced nos roce una academia o cuando un extraño mantiene abierta la puerta del ascensor o cuando recibimos un cumplido de un amigo. Al decir “gracias” el paria reestableció su conexión con la familia de Dios y desde este punto de vista agradecido se liberó de su soledad. Quizás podamos apreciar la libertad que viene acompañada de los sentimientos más severos de amargura y resentimiento. Atrapados en la angustia de este tipo de pesadilla viva, sienten mucha facilidad perder todo sentido de gratitud por el obsequio de la vida o por las bendiciones de la libertad política o religiosa. Quizás podamos imaginar un instante de gratitud y espiritual que ha de haber sido el leproso agradecido cuando se levantó del suelo y se encaminó a Sarania. Al alabar a Dios y dar gracias, el leproso agradecido se liberó de su resentimiento hacia Dios y su ira contra una sociedad que lo rechazaba y lo maldecía. Al decir “gracias” el paria reestableció su conexión con la familia de Dios y abrió su corazón al tipo de curación que le dio gracias y alabó a Dios en toda su gloria.

archbishop/Arzobispo Daniel M. Buechlein, O.S.B.

Seizing the Grace of the Lord

Buscando a una Cara del Señor

Grazing and giving thanks for the many gifts we r ecieve

ARCHBISHOP Buechlein’s intention for vocations for November

Catholic high schools: that they may be a continued source for promoting the Catholic values of service and giving of one’s life as a gift for others, especially as priests or religious.

Do you have an intention for Archbishop Buechlein’s prayer list? You may mail it to him at:

Archbishop Buechlein’s Prayer List
Archdiocese of Indianapolis
1400 N. Meridian St.
Indianapolis, IN 46202-1410

Si tiene una intención que desee incluir en la lista de oración del Arzobispo Buechlein? ¿Puede enviar su correspondencia a:

Lista de oración del Arzobispo Buechlein
Arquidiócesis de Indianapolis
1400 N. Meridian St.
P.O. Box 1410
Indianapolis, IN 46202-1410

Traducido por: Language Training Center, Indianapolis

La intención del Arzobispo Buechlein para vocaciones en noviembre

Las escuelas secundarias católicas: que ellas sean una fuente continua para promover los valores católicos de servicio y dedicar su vida como regalo a los demás, especialmente en el cargo de sacerdotes o religiosos.

Traducido por: Language Training Center, Indianapolis

Praising God and giving thanks for the many gifts we r ecieve

ARCHBISHOP/Arzobispo Daniel M. Buechlein, O.S.B.

seeking the grace of the lord

Buscando a una Cara del Señor

Alabanzando a Dios y agradeciendo los tantos obsequios que r ecibimos

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Events Calendar

November 17-December 2
Saint Meinrad Archabbey and School of Theology, 200 Hill Drive, St. Meinrad. Archabbey Library exhibit, “Deacon and Priesthood Ordination,” free, all times CST, Mon.-Thurs., 8 a.m.-noon, 1-5 p.m.; Fri., 8 a.m.-noon, 1-5 p.m.; Sat.-Sun., 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Information: 317-259-4696.

November 18
Saint Francis Hospital-Beech Grove campus, 1600 Albian Ave., Beech Grove. “Systematic Teaching in Effective Parenting” workshop, 9 a.m.-3 p.m., $300 per person, $100 per couple. Information: 317-236-1526.

Bishop Bre tty Preparatory School, 2801 W. 86th St., Indianapolis. “Helping Hands,” fair-trade festival, 9:30 a.m.-4 p.m. Information: 317-879-9000 or e-mail giftshopindy@hotmail.com.

Saints Michael the Archangel Chapel, 335 W. 30th St., Indianapolis. Help of God’s Precious Infants Pro-Life Mass, 3:30 p.m., followed by rosary outside abortion clinic and Benediction at church. Information: Archdiocesan Office for Pro-Life Ministry, 317-236-1569 or 800-382-9836, ext. 1560, or ekhrist@sbcglobal.net.

Woodstock Club, 1310 W. 38th St., Indianapolis. Little Sisters of the Poor Celebration, Mass, 11 a.m. Little Sisters of the Poor Home for the Aged, 7 p.m. dinner, dancing and auction, $175 per person, $25 per family. Information: 317-580-9707.

November 17-18
Little Sisters of the Poor, St. Augustine Home for the Aged, 2345 W. 16th St., Indianapolis. Christmas bazaar, open house, Saturday, 9 a.m.-4 p.m., Sunday, 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Information: 317-573-2355.

November 17-18
Saint Mary of the Mounts Retreats, 3033 Martin Road, Floyds Knobs. Night Out Dinner, 6 p.m., advance sale ticket $40, buffet meal and music by The Marylin. Information: 812-923-3011.

November 18-19

November 19
Holy Name of Jesus Church, Hartman Hall, 89 N. 17th Ave., Beech Grove. Christmas bazaar and can’nol noodle dinner, 12:30-5 p.m., adults $5, children $3, preschool children free. Santa arrives 2:30 p.m. Information: 317-784-5454.

Saint Meinrad Archabbey Church, 100 Hill Drive, St. Meinrad, Organ concert, 3 p.m. (CST), Timothy Dutton, organist, free. Information: 812-491-5901 or www.saintmeinrad.edu.

November 20

November 21

November 22
Saint Vincent de Paul Society’s “Helping Hands,” 1-5 p.m., closed Nov. 22, 1-5 p.m. only, closed Thanksgiving Day, 8 a.m.-noon, 1-5 p.m.; Sat. 9 a.m.-4 p.m., Sun. 11 a.m.-4 p.m. CST, Mon.-Thurs., 8 a.m.-7 p.m., Fri.-Sat. 8 a.m.-10 p.m. Information: 317-355-2800 or e-mail saintvincentindy@mbody.org.


Saint Mary in the Desert, 1347 N. Meridian St., Indianapolis. “In the Spirit: Signs of the Incarnation,” series, 2 Dr. Diane Prentzel, presenter, 7:30-9 p.m., $5 per person. Information: 317-788-5951 or e-mail bethstitem@yahoo.com.

December 1

December 2

December 6

December 12
Saint Joseph Mary of the Incarnate Heart Retreat Center, 622 Crossland Ave., Beech Grove, Ind. “Systematic Teaching in Effective Parenting,” free. Information: 317-1-7 p.m. Information: 317-543-6817 or e-mail mboyd@saint Meinrad.edu.

December 18
Oldenburg Franciscan Center, Oldenburg. “Advent Retreat-Living Incarnation,” “Franciscan Spirituality,” Barb LeOndard, retreat guide, $175 includes room and board. Information: 812-933-6437 or e-mail centre@oldenburg.edu.

December 19
Benedit Inn Retreat and Conference Center, 1402 Southern Ave., Beech Grove. “Advent Silent Retreat,” Benedictine Sister Rachel Best, presenter. $115 commuter or $155 overnight accommodations, $105 deposit due by Nov. 21 or call for openings. Information: 317-788-7551 or e-mail bethedstindhoven@yahoo.com.

December 23
Our Lady of Fatima Retreat House, 5335 E. 56th St., Indianapolis. “Christmas Dinner and Concert,” Catholic Business Exchange, 6 p.m., advance sale tickets $40, buffet meal and music by Catholic musician, dinner 6:30 p.m., concert 8 p.m., $35 per person. Information: 317-986-8187 or e-mail bethedstindhoven@yahoo.com.

December 24

December 27
St. Augustine the Great Byzantium Church, St. Mary Hall, 1117 Blaine Ave., Indianapolis. Catholic Charismatic Renewal of Central Indiana, prayer, worship and healing prayers, 7:15-8:45 a.m. Information: 317-592-1997, or e-mail ccrccindy@gmail.com.

December 28
St. Augustine the Great Byzantium Church, 3175 Lexington West, Indianapolis. Catholic Charismatic Renewal of Central Indiana, prayer, worship and healing prayers, 7:15-8:45 a.m. Information: 317-592-1997, or e-mail ccrccindy@gmail.com.

VIPS
Alfred L. and Marie C. (Ley) Mader, members of Sacred Heart Jesus Parish in Indianapolis, celebrated their 65th wedding anniversary recently during a Mass and private gathering for family and friends.

The couple was married on Nov. 15, 1941, at St. Anne Church in Jennings County. They have 12 children, Agnes Anderson, Theresa Delafield, Linda Eads, Matt Hou Jones, Patricia Shepardson, James, John, Kenneth, Kevin, Raymond and Thomas Mader, and the late Richard Mader. They also have 21 grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren.

Joseph T. and Marcella B. (Matthews) Smith, members of Holy Spirit Parish in Indianapolis, celebrated their 55th wedding anniversary on Nov. 12 during a Mass at Holy Spirit Church and a reception with family members and friends. They were married on Nov. 16, 1946, at St. Martin Church in Whielfield, Ind.

They have eight children, Joseph, John, Brian, John, Farlow, Jane Green, Kathy Kreuzman, Chris, Frank, John and Joseph Smith. They also have 27 grandchildren and 18 great-grandchildren. ↑
Catholic Campaign for Human Development collection is Nov. 18-19

By John Shaughnessy

The change and the hope have come gradually—
including getting banks in the neighborhood to provide financial counseling and mortgage assistance to low-income families.

There is also a group in the same neighborhood that cleans up graffiti, and a Guardian Angels squad will soon take to the streets to help report crimes.

The developments are small but significant steps in trying to get residents of that poor neighborhood in the archdiocese to see the difference they can make individually and collectively—which is one of the main goals of the Catholic Campaign for Human Development.

As parishes across the archdiocese prepare to take a second collection on Nov. 18 and 19 to benefit the campaign, John Eliing of Catholic Charities Terre Haute knows the difference the campaign has made to the Ryves Neighborhood Association in Terre Haute.

"We're trying to empower people," says Eliing, the director of Catholic Charities Terre Haute. "They have a voice, and that voice needs to be organized so it has some power behind it. Our focus is, 'Let's do something.' When we don't participate, when we don't get involved, we can never affect change."

Changing lives has been the goal of the Catholic Campaign for Human Development since it was founded 36 years ago by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops.

The campaign is "committed to supporting groups of low-income individuals as they work to break the cycle of poverty and improve their communities," notes a fact sheet from the campaign. "By helping the poor to participate in the decisions and actions that affect their lives, CCHD empowers them to move beyond poverty."

Seventy-five percent of that money was shared with the director of Catholic Charities in the archdiocese. He also notes that 25 percent of the funds stayed with the national office of the campaign, which distributes grants throughout the country, according to David Siler, executive director of Catholic Charities in the archdiocese.

By John Shaughnessy

Coalition to do community organizing of low-income Indiana residents who struggle to pay their utility bills, according to Siler.

The Church Federation of Greater Indianapolis received local funding for two programs. One is the federation’s Church and Neighborhood Partnership, which tries to create connections between Churches to help individuals see how they can deal with the causes of poverty. Another federation program is the Hispanic Latino Forum, which seeks to organize the efforts of local Churches to assist the area’s growing Hispanic population.

The Organization for a New Eastside in Indianapolis received a national grant to help residents in that area reduce crime, clean up abandoned homes and offer alternatives to gang activities, Siler notes.

"The campaign is a way for the whole Catholic community to participate," Siler says. "The Catholic Church has a responsibility to keep our covenant with the poor. We build a lot of barriers among ourselves sometimes, but God says we’re one human family. We’re all responsible for relieving the suffering of all of our brothers and our sisters."
CELEBRATIONS

continued from page 1

about a local saint being celebrated locally, in the different areas of the archdiocese,” said Charles Gardner, executive director of the archdiocesan Secretariat for Spiritual Life and Worship.

“She belongs now to the universal Church and, in a special way, to the whole archdiocese. All of us are invited to participate in the first Mass, especially members of Indianapolis North Deanery parishes.

Gardner highlighted the fact that the liturgies to celebrate St. Theodora will bring together all elements of the archdiocesan Church: laity, religious, priests and the archbishop.

Father Gerald Kirkhoff, dean of the Indianapolis North Deanery, described the Masses as “an archdiocesan celebration on the road.”

But he also noted that many of the Masses, including the first one, will be a time to celebrate the legacy of St. Theodora in the educational ministry of the Sisters of Providence of Saint Mary-of-the-Woods, the order she founded.

“The Sisters of Providence have a tremendous history in the North Deanery,” Father Kirkhoff said. “They were pervasive throughout the North Deanery.”

According to Father Kirkhoff, the Sisters of Providence at one time taught at five parish schools in the deanery.

They also founded St. Agnes Academy from SS. Peter and Paul Cathedral and Ladywood Academy on E. 56th St. in Indianapolis.

Some of the liturgies in the coming year will focus on St. Theodora’s connection to education. They will be celebrated during the day and will include students at archdiocesan Catholic schools.

Father Kirkhoff acknowledged that some deaneries, such as the Batesville or Tell City deaneries, don’t have as close of a connection to St. Theodora as others because the Sisters of Providence have little or no history of ministering there.

But he said that those Masses will be a chance to emphasize the archbishop’s role as a teacher.

“It’s an opportunity for him to do what bishops are annual report to the archbishop of his ecclesiastical province.

In an address to his fellow bishops on Nov. 13, Bishop Skyrlstad criticized the growing “coarseness” in U.S. society, which he said has had its impact on the Catholic Church. While the nation has had a long history of vigorous, free exchange of ideas, “there is a difference between spirited debate and debasing personal attacks,” Bishop Skyrlstad said.

“Today vulgarity is common, hardly noticed. Even the name of God is disrespected in everyday speech.”

— Bishop William S. Skyrlstad, president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops

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St. Theodora Thanksgiving Masses set in several deaneries

Following is a partial list of St. Theodora Thanksgiving Masses to be held around the archdiocese. Every deanery will be hosting a Mass. More details will be announced later.

• Indianapolis North Deanery—7 p.m. Nov. 29, St. Joan of Arc Church in Indianapolis.
• Connersville Deanery—7 p.m. Jan. 23, St. Mary Church in Richmond.
• Indianapolis South Deanery—10 a.m. Jan. 24, St. Jude Church in Indianapolis.
• Batesville Deanery—7 p.m. Feb. 26, St. Louis Church in Batesville.
• Indianapolis West Deanery—10 a.m. March 12, St. Anthony Church in Indianapolis.
• Bloomington Deanery—7 p.m. April 30, St. Charles Borromeo Church in Bloomington.

CELEBRATIONS

continued from page 1

Catholic Bishops.

The final document was prepared by the USCCB Committee on International Policy in collaboration with the U.S. Archdiocese for the Military Services and the USCCB Administrative Committee, which approved its addition to the agenda of the bishops’ meeting on Nov. 11.

“Today vulgarity is common, hardly noticed. Even the name of God is disrespected in everyday speech.”

— Bishop William S. Skyrlstad, president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops

“Today vulgarity is common, hardly noticed. Even the name of God is disrespected in everyday speech.”

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The bishops approved by a unanimous voice vote the creation of a new episcopal region for the Tucson Diocese. They approved the creation of a new region that would consist of the Eastern-rite bishops. They approved the dissolution of the Latin liaison committee as part of a USCCB reorganization process.

The bishops also reauthorized a number of ad hoc committees on Nov. 14 by a vote of 213-8 with five abstentions. Also on Nov. 14, the 2007 budget was approved 216-9 with six abstentions.

The resolution on diocesan financial reporting commits the head of each diocese in the United States to give an
Council seeks to inspire youths to grow in faith

By Andrew Zabel

Once a year, the Archdiocesan Youth Council provides a Youth Supplement to The Criterion to inform the readers about what we, the youth, have been doing. We try to tell you about events such as the Consumed retreat, the Archdiocesan Youth Rally, National Catholic Youth Conference, World Youth Day and mission trips, such as the one to Biloxi, Miss.

We also try to talk about faith and love for the Church from a teen’s perspective. If we can show the radical love that the youth of the archdiocese have for the faith, maybe we will inspire others, too.

Our ultimate goal as a council is to share our faith through evangelization, and if we can influence just one person’s growth in faith we have done our job.

The Youth Council is made up of representatives from deaneries in the archdiocese. These youth feel as if Christ has called them to develop their leadership gifts, to share these gifts with the Church and to evangelize by encouraging other youth to become more active in their faith.

The council helps organize and sometimes even present archdiocesan events, especially the youth rally. Each and every person on the council, through the application process, has expressed an interest to serve and grow in their Catholic faith.

The supplement is packed with articles on topics such as apologetics, faith outside of Mass, the canonization of St. Theodora Guerin—which is awesome—mission trips and vocations. The articles are great, the pictures are grand and, as always, Jesus Christ is the reason for it all. Make sure you read the rest of the supplement!

If you or someone you know would like to apply to serve on the Archdiocesan Youth Council, assuming you are a high school student, you may do so by contacting the Office for Youth and Young Adult Ministries at 317-236-1477 or 800-382-9836, ext. 1477, or simply ask the youth minister at your parish for the required materials.

(Andrew Zabel is a member of SS. Francis and Clare Parish in Greenwood.)

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Youths and faith

Getting in shape will build a stronger faith

By Chrissie White

As young Catholics, we often seek a deeper understanding of our faith. Some of us attend Sunday Mass regularly, but continue to feel lost or confused when it comes to Catholicism.

Sometimes our faith feels stagnant, as if we are not growing toward a deeper relationship with God.

The problem is that we do nothing to change the intensity of our faith. Faith is like fitness. If any coach or physical education instructor were asked how someone can get in shape, the answer would be something like this: We should change the intensity of our faith. Faith is a way to have a one-on-one relationship with God.

Sometimes we are looking for a way to incorporate our friends into our faith life. Youth ministers are the perfect people to ask if we want to find out about upcoming events for the youth of our parish, deanery and archdiocese. There are many trips, retreats and rallies throughout the year, and participants are able to gain more knowledge of their faith while doing something enjoyable with friends.

When you increase the intensity of your faith, you will find that many of your burning questions are answered, and your relationship with God is much stronger. Mass on Sunday gradually becomes more meaningful and more powerful than ever before.

Just like a plan to get into shape, a plan to intensify your faith takes hard work and dedication. And don’t forget the buddy system. Sometimes the support and participation of a willing friend makes all the difference.

(Chrissie White is a member of St. Gabriel Parish in Connersville.)

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Earlier this year, Cathedral High School students Patrick McNulty and Mac Banks helped chisel and carve a Celtic cross in honor of Stephen McNulty, Patrick’s brother, who died in March from heart problems. The cross, which was recently completed and dedicated at the private Catholic high school in Indianapolis, now stands as a tribute to Stephen on the Cathedral campus.
Want to save a life and make your life stand for something?

By Sarah Pottratz

Special to The Criterion

This past fall, I started a club with my friend at our school. That’s not exactly a controversial statement, right? Well, it just so happens that this wasn’t exactly an ordinary club.

This wasn’t like Spanish Club or Chess Club. This was a club that deals with important issues and faces adversity on a daily basis. This was a club that deals with something so important it amazes me that it wasn’t started sooner. This club is a pro-life club. LIFE, which stands for “Living Is For Everyone,” deals with just that—life.

We believe that all human life is precious no matter if that life is handicapped, in a coma, unborn or a convicted murderer. We work to raise awareness of this fact to everyone in our school and the outlying community.

The question is, “Why is this such a controversial issue? Shouldn’t ‘Living Is For Everyone’ just be one of those ‘duh’ type statements?”

Well, you may think so, and I may think so, but to many people this is not the case.

Many people take human life for granted and think that everyone should have the right to decide whether or not a person should be allowed to continue life on this earth. OK, you think that sounds awful, but what exactly has that got to do with us? Well, it’s our job to fix this problem that has spread throughout our country. We need to raise awareness of this issue and convince others to defend human life, especially the life of the unborn.

There are three ways in which we can do this. One, stop being so afraid to offend another person with our opinion. Two, let people know the facts about how terrible abortion is. And three, be willing to help you. Although your organization may start up small, and many times you will get frustrated and want to give up, just remember everything that Jesus suffered for you and keep going. People will always be there to support you and offer you guidance, and you will make a difference.

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The Criterion Friday, November 17, 2006
Has anyone ever asked you, ‘Why does your faith matter?’

By Meredith Riley

Special to The Criterion

Has anyone ever asked you, “Have you been saved?” or “Why do Catholics worship Mary?” or “Our church services are new and exciting. Why is yours the same every time?”

If so, then you’ve probably had to defend your faith or explain the significance of the Church’s teachings. Apologetics helps us get a better understanding of what it means to be Catholic, and why we do what we do. It is easy to get started in apologetics, but it takes time, patience and perseverance to continue to learn what you need to know.

Reading the Bible is necessary to develop a good understanding of apologetics. Start with the Gospels and learn about the life Jesus lived, his teachings and how he is trusted in the Holy Spirit to guide you is essential, and there could be no apologetics without it. No one can be successful in apologetics without prayer. Pray for the Spirit’s guidance and the intercession of the saints, especially St. Michael, St. Anthony and the Blessed Virgin Mother.

There are many people who do not understand the Church and its teachings—many of them Catholics. This is why it is so important to stand up for the Truth. Jesus said in Luke 12:8, “And I tell you, everyone who acknowledges me before others, the Son of Man will also acknowledge before the angels of God; but whoever denies me before others will be denied before the angels of God.”

Apologetics is helpful whether you’re at home, work or school. We must always be ready and willing to stand up for our faith. The early Christians, some of the saints and even others throughout history were killed because they defended what they believed. We should follow their example of fortitude when we stick up for our beliefs.

In the words of our late Holy Father, Pope John Paul II, “What you do not know what to do or say. In Luke 12:11-12, Jesus tells us, “When they bring you before the synagogues, the rulers and the authorities, do not worry about how you are to defend yourselves or what you are to say; for the Holy Spirit will teach you at that very hour what you ought to say.”

Looking to get more involved in your faith? Try these tips

By Megan B. Gehrich

Special to The Criterion

We have all heard the question, “How are you involved in your parish?”

For a lot of us, we aren’t involved. Therefore, when we hear that question we find ourselves in a sea of guilt.

Thoughts like “I should be doing more” and “I could have done that” begin pressing on us with guilt.

However, what if the reason we aren’t involved is because we don’t know how to get involved?

Everyone asks us how we are involved, but no one shows us how to get involved. Well, that is all going to change right now. I am going to tell you how to become active in your parish.

The first thing you should do is talk to your priest. Your priest will help you understand why God wants us to be involved.

When talking with your priest, make sure you ask many questions about different organizations at church and the resources to use to get involved in those organizations. Also ask how this helps your relationship with God.

Your priest will have answers to a lot of the questions you ask, which will be good in your search to get involved.

The next person to go to, who will have loads of information and opportunities for you to get involved in your parish and archdiocese, is your youth minister. Youth ministers know a lot about what is going on at your parish and in the archdiocese because they tend to keep themselves up-to-date with information.

So, check with your youth minister frequently for information pertaining to something you could do at your parish. Also make sure to ask your youth minister if any retreats, rallies or programs are coming up in the archdiocese.

Retreats and rallies are great ways to increase your faith and help you grow spiritually. Ask your youth minister many questions whenever you talk to him or her.

Next, check with your director of religious education (DRE) or parish life coordinator (PLC) to see if there is anything coming up that they would like some help with. They may ask you to be a catechist, a teen leader, a member of a youth group, a retreat organizer or something else.

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On the long journey, many listened to CDs that were given out that had praise and worship songs, a rosary and told about the life of St. Theodora. You could feel the excitement among the youth as we all prepared to celebrate the life of a woman from our own “neck of the woods.”

We were invited to go on tours of the grounds to help get a better understanding of everything that St. Theodora did. After the tours, Mass was celebrated.

The opening procession included 11 banners that represented our 11 deaneries. Every parish from these deaneries was represented on the banners. The Archdiocesan Retreats and rallies are great ways to increase your faith and help you grow spiritually. Ask your youth minister many questions whenever you talk to him or her.

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By Kristen Casey
Special to
The Criterion

A vocation is defined as “a summons or strong inclination to a particular state or course of action” by the Merriam-Webster Dictionary. The word “vocation” comes from the Latin word “vocare,” which means “to call.”

It is appropriate to realize this because when Holy Mother Church talks about vocations, she means precisely that. It is a calling; a call from God to a particular way and state of life. It is God calling us to live our lives according to His will so that we may attain holiness and salvation.

When most people think about vocations today, they think of the priesthood or consecrated religious life. This is true—both of those states of life are vocations—but we must not forget that marriage itself is also a vocation.

Each person has a specific calling, or vocation, from God for his or her life. However, the Catechism of the Catholic Church portrays vocations in two ways: being very specific to each person and also being general for all of humanity.

The vocation of humanity is to show forth the image of God and to be transformed into the image of the Father’s only Son. This vocation takes a personal form since each of us is called to enter into the divine beatitude; it also concerns the human community as a whole.

We are all called to image God, revealed in the Most Holy Trinity, to the rest of humanity. There are, however, different ways that we are each called to do this. Personally, I believe that my call—my vocation—is to the ordained priesthood of Jesus Christ; thus, I am in seminary.

I did not always think about being a priest. Some guys have thought about it and wanted to become a priest since they were very young. To me, that is amazing, but it’s not my story. I never even thought about being a priest until my last couple of years in high school. Even when I began to think about it, or hear the call, I tried to run from it.

Eventually, through many conversations with priests and friends, I knew that if I wanted to be happy in life and glorify God, I would have to give the priesthood some serious thought. I was advised to spend time with our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament, begging him to help me discern my vocation. Through much prayer and contemplation, I finally made the decision to enter the seminary.

I am now beginning my second year at the Bishop Simon Bruté College Seminary at Marian College in Indianapolis and am still trying to be formed in a way that will bring the most glory to God. Including this year, I have seven more years of formation and discernment before Holy Mother Church would ordain me a priest. This clearly shows that the vocation of priesthood requires serious discernment.

However, every vocation requires a long period of prayerful discernment. That includes marriage. Marriage is by no means a “default” lifestyle for people who aren’t called to the priesthood or religious life. It is a holy and unique vocation in and of itself. Thus, marriage requires an extended period of prayer and discernment so that the people entering into that great sacrament can strive to live holy lives devoted to the service of our Lord by being images of God to other people.

The most important point I believe that we can realize is that whatever lifestyle we are being called to, we must undertake that life—that call, that vocation—with great humility and prayer. This allows us to follow the great example of John the Baptist when he said, “He must increase, but I must decrease” (Jn 3:30). A vocation is a way of increasing the presence of God amongst us while recognizing that the world and everything in it is not ours. Only then can we “show forth the image of God and be transformed into the image of the Father’s only son” (Catechism of the Catholic Church, #1877).

(Kristen Casey is a seminarian for the archdiocese and a member of St. Barnabas Parish in Indianapolis.)

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T-shirts worn by participants at Bishop Bruté Days in June show the message that guides people of faith: ‘In this sign, you will conquer.’ The annual retreat helps teenage boys grow in their faith and be open to a possible call to the priesthood.

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Relics of saints direct us toward devotions to God

By Jem Sullivan

Without reliable road signs, people would wander hopelessly from one spot to another. A good sign points us in the right direction.

Relics are “signs” that direct us toward God. Pope Benedict XVI said in 2001 that “by inviting us to venerate the mortal remains of martyrs and saints, the Church does not forget that in the end these are indeed just human bones, but they are bones that belonged to individuals touched by the transcendent power of God.”

A road sign is not an end in itself. It points us to our intended destination. In the same way, relics of Christian saints and martyrs are not idolatry. They are reminders that our own lives can be graced by the same divine power of God’s mercy, hope and love.

Relics can easily go from being tangible reminders of the last witness of countless holy men and women. Through various Church councils, such as the Nicean and Trent, Catholic tradition has affirmed that veneration of relics is not idolatry. It is reverence shown to the witness of holiness and Christian charity reflected in the lives of saints and martyrs.

Catholics venerate relics of saints so that we might be moved to imitate their example.

The Second Vatican Council offered an important distinction that helps to explain why Catholics venerate relics. The Catholic tradition, the council stated, distinguishes between worship due to God alone, and veneration and honor given to saints and their relics.

For Christians, adoration and worship are rightly given only to God, revealed in Jesus Christ through the power of the Holy Spirit. Beyond and, reverence, on the other hand, are directed precisely to those extraordinary Christian men and women whose love, faith and martyrdom are models to imitate in daily life.

The memory of the saints reminds Catholics of our own baptismal call to holiness. And relics of saints are intended to encourage us to recall our own lives can be graced by the same divine power of God’s mercy, hope and love.

By Fr. John W. Crossin, O.S.F.S.

Almost every month of my 38-plus years of priesthood, I have had a saint, devotion, spiritual book, pilgrimage or prayer recommended to me by friends, acquaintances or parishioners.

I try to be supportive of the spiritual lives of all the people I meet, but if I practiced all that they recommend to me I would be busy 24/7. I have to make choices.

In particular, I choose devotion to the patrons of my religious order, St. Francis de Sales (1567-1622) and St. Jane de Chantal (1572-1641). I am trying to follow Christ in accordance with their spiritual teaching.

In my office, I have small relics of these two patrons. A metal cross holds the relics, given to me by a Josephite priest. This reliquary is a reminder to me of the virtues of patience, humility and gentleness that these saints embodied as they sought to follow Christ, who is “meek and humble of heart.”

St. Francis, St. Jane and their contemporary faithful followers bring the challenge of Christian living home to me in the present day.

My Protestant colleagues, whom I work with every day, would be more cautious about relics of the saints—as would some Catholics.

Their reluctance is due to the fact that in the past there were abuses when relics were bought or sold and deceptive promises of grace were made about them.

Today, we must admit that there is still the potential for abuse with relics. Our devotion to the saints is often highly emotional.

A beloved family member may have given us the relic of a saint. Or a saint may be the particular patron of our native country or our ethnic group. I’ve noticed that people often speak at great length and with considerable emotion about their special saints. In some cases, it appears that they are more devoted to their favorite saints than they are to Christ.

Relics can easily go from being reminders of the saints—and thus of Christ—to being objects of devotion themselves. Rather than recalling the great deeds that God did for us, relics can be seen as powerful in themselves.

The real power for living is in Christ. He gives us the Holy Spirit, and the saints exemplify the Spirit’s gifts.

(Oblate Father John W. Crossin is executive director of the Washington Theological Consortium in Washington, D.C.)

Discussion Point

This Week’s Question

Which saint do you regard as courageous? How was he or she courageous?

“St. Ignatius of Loyola) dared to be a leader, and what I consider a promoter of what he believed in. He was willing to sacrifice to accomplish his mission.” (Julie Condon, Albuquerque, N.M.)

“I like St. Martin de Porres. He overcame a lot of limitations of background and the social structure of the time, and did a lot of great work.” (Kathleen Knaak, Summerville, S.C.)

“I have a close connection with the Northern American martyrs, and I think of Kateri Tekakwitha. She’s not a saint yet, but I’m sure she will be. She showed humility and true faith. She had a very scared face, had much against her, but she lived for Jesus. Her life was short, but she did a lot.” (Joanne Davey, Amsterdam, N.Y.)

Lend Us Your Voice

An upcoming edition asks: Describe a unique, continuing family Christmas tradition in your home.

To respond for possible publication, send an e-mail to gpreen@catholicnews.com or write to Faith Alive! at 3211 Fourth St. N.E., Washington, D.C. 20017-1100.
Last week, I wrote about the Mass as part of liturgical prayer. Before I continue on the subject of liturgical prayer, I’d like to say a bit more about Holy Communion, which is part of the Mass.

It wasn’t until I began teaching early in the 20th century, encouraged by the Liturgical Movement, that we began to see Holy Communion as frequently as we do today. In his Introduction to the Devout Life, St. Francis de Sales touched on another issue that no one in this day and age would even think about. He wrote that “it is improper, although not a grave sin, if one solicits payment of the marriage debt on Communion days, but it is not improper but meritorious to pay it. Hence no one ought to be kept from Communion for any other reason than otherwise their devotion incites them to seek Communion.” For the Church, the Liturgy has a long way to go in its theology of conjugal sanctity and the place of marital sex since St. Francis wrote. He obviously thought there was something at least a bit shady about sexual activity between husband and wife, enough so that it is improper for one or the other to ask for sexual intercourse before going to Communion. Fortunately, that attitude no longer exists in the official teachings of the Church. The catechism says plainly, “In marriage, the physical intimacy of the spouses is a sign and pledge of spiritual communion” (CCC 1667). We believe today that marital sex is a positive good, not just something reluctantly permitted. Asking a spouse for sex certainly should not be considered improper on Communion days. Next week, I’ll get back to liturgical prayer, this time focusing on the Liturgy of the Hours.

Saying cheese to relive a truly moving picture

Phrases such as “Say cheese” or “Don’t take your picture unless you have become so common, they’re clichés.

Taking photographs has become an important part of the popular culture for a long time, and we’re all familiar with the details of posing, composing a scene, something to remember, and trying to figure out the mechanics of a new world.

The Brownie Reflex camera of long-pass youth has been replaced over and over again with new equipment. Easy-to-use cameras may still apply, but the technology behind the newest “easiest” is beyond my comprehension. Of course, there are centers for focus, distance, light, etc. was always beyond my comprehension. Mela culpable.

If the way the pictures have changed, too has the way in which we view them after they’re developed. My father-in-law treasured are now largely sentimental attachment. Ditto for my husband’s old photos, also fading. He was enchanted with the little black on the red, the color and focus of slides faded with time. Later, we embraced Polaroid cameras, which produced prints instantly. This way, you could keep reliving ridiculous antics at a party through Polaroids, even before it ended, or take a second picture of the dog if he turned his head on the first one. But, as with slides, the color and quality of the photographs soon faded. Back to the old drawing board. Of course, all through the years, serious amateurs and professionals used expensive cameras to produce really great pictures. But most of us were just trying to capture current reality for our own amusement as cheaply as we could. And most of us were probably not thinking of possibilities when we took the photos. In fact, it’s my belief that photos are important only to two or possibly three generations of viewers.

For example, the slides that my father-in-law are now tremendously large, not to say not rare. If a page with hyperlinks to www.amazon.com

Faithful Lines/Shirley Vogler Meister

A New York public relations specialist, Meryl Zegark, sees an important about a book that caused me to raise my eyebrows in a quizzical manner when I heard about it a few weeks ago. She wrote...

Viewing Catholic and evangelical landscapes

How could a five-minute conversation of Catholic Press Awards—author Peter Feuerherd—tackle such a touchy topic? The author took us to previously untapped and overlooked corners of the evangelical landscape. How could there be a conversation that was comprehensively and wonderfully explained by Feuerherd, who is a former editor for Christianity Today, and his family now live in New York. His work has been published in many Catholic markets, and he is now editor of the Virginia Catholic. He also serves as the communications consultant for the New York Province of the Jesuits.

While reading Holy Land USA, published by Crossroad Publishing Company, I marked pages with countless Post-it® Notes to remind me to share them with others, but space limitations prevent that. The book can be ordered at www.amazon.com.

(Shirley Vogler Meister, a member of Christ the King Parish in Indianapolis, is a regular columnist for The Criterion.

Go and Make Disciples

Meeting the needs of adult Catholics

There are the conventional parish programs: marriage preparation, the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA), Children’s Liturgy of the Word and Vacation Bible School. There are the unconventional programs: “Apologetics 101,” Lighthouse Media and “The Bible Challenge Quiz.”

Then there are the creative programs: Magister (Ministry of Mothers Shopping), inter-religious neighborhood groups, the Catholic Adult Lending Library and special evening classes for Spanish-speaking Catholics.

These programs are offered in a variety of parishes to respond to our call for lifelong, adult faith formation. More specifically, they respond to the real faith and spiritual needs of adult Catholics.

According to Jonathan Chambriel, coordinator of religious education at Holy Name Catholic Parish in Green Bay, “Many of our Catholics feel they need comprehensible answers to some of life’s difficult questions, especially when it comes to explaining our Catholic faith to non-Catholics.”

“Apologetics 101” is taught by Matt Anglemeyer, a parishioner who offers a fast-paced adventure on defending the faith. Another response is provided at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish in New Albany. Using the resources from St. Joseph Communications, the Parish Faith Formation Commission began offering free Lighthouse Media CDs on the New Testament.

The program contains nine CDs and three brochures on various topics. Each parish offers a program like this, or know or read much Scripture. The remedy? St. Louis Parish in Batesville came up with their own approach, “The Bible Challenge,” which tests knowledge of Scripture right on the parish’s Web site. Visit it at www.biblchallenge.org.

St. Mary Parish in Indianapolis offers adult religious formation (formación) resources to help develop a more expressive Catholicism. Many bilingual opportunities are offered for adults, including English and Spanish worship programs with neighboring Holy Cross and SS. Peter and Paul Catholic parishes.

Philippines Parish in Indianapolis reaches out to the neighborhood during the Lenten season with its Neighborhood Cross Ministry. Each year, 60 volunteers from both Catholic and non-Catholic, erect large wooden crosses, made by parishioners, in their yards.

Lorriane Meek and Marlee Southwood, members of SS. Francis and Clare Parish in Greenfield, helped create a-responsive resource for non-Catholics.

Our Catholic identity is maturing toward a lifelong process of ongoing faith formation. Along with traditional and age-appropriate offerings, programs supporting outreach and evangelization, and, in the lives of young and small Church communities are helping to develop a new generation of faithful Catholics.

(John Valenti is a associate director of evangelization and faith formation for the Archdiocese of Indianapolis. E-mail him at jvalenti@archindy.org.)
The Sunday Readings

Sunday, Nov. 19, 2006

- Daniel 12:1-3
- Hebrews 10:11-14, 18
- Mark 13:24-32

The Book of Daniel, rarely appearing in the readings at Mass, is the source of a text (12:1-3) that is the first biblical lesson. Daniel is a fascinating book. Judging from the book’s original language and literary construction, it dates from a period not too long before Christ. However, it is a compilation of much earlier material about Daniel, a faithful follower of God, and of the Law of Moses, who lived during the Hebrews’ exile in Babylon. As is the case with so many of the Old Testament Scriptures, the setting was a time of hardship for God’s people. This is not surprising. God’s people had so few times of peace and prosperity, much less glory, of which they could boast. Torment and danger surround the people described in this weekend’s reading. God sends a champion to protect them. He is Michael the Archangel, the guardian of the people.

Ultimately, the message is not about Michael, and it is important to stress this point since so many people these days are fascinated by angels.

For its second reading this weekend, the Church gives us a section from the Old Testament Scriptures, the setting was a time of hardship for God’s people. This is not surprising. God’s people had so few times of peace and prosperity, much less glory, of which they could boast. Torment and danger surround the people described in this weekend’s reading. God sends a champion to protect them. He is Michael the Archangel, the guardian of the people.

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Ultimately, the message is not about Michael, and it is important to stress this point since so many people these days are fascinated by angels.

For its second reading this weekend, the Church gives us a section from the Old Testament Scriptures, the setting was a time of hardship for God’s people. This is not surprising. God’s people had so few times of peace and prosperity, much less glory, of which they could boast. Torment and danger surround the people described in this weekend’s reading. God sends a champion to protect them. He is Michael the Archangel, the guardian of the people. 

The most universal experience among humans, other than conception, is death. Yet we all recoil from talking about death. Not only do we prefer not to discuss death, we also are not at all eager to think about change—and certainly sudden change—in our lives. We love the sense of security that routine allows us in life. The Gospel reminds us quite simply but very clearly that nothing on earth is permanent. Only God is eternal. When we live in God, through Jesus, we share this eternity. Life changes and we change. At times, we must experience abrupt changes. Much of the change is not of our choice or our timing.

Reflection

The Church is nearing the end of its year of liturgical celebration and teaching. Only two weeks await us before we enter a new year with the observance of the first Sunday of Advent. The weekend liturgies are opportunities for the Church to teach us about the Lord, and to assist us in learning the path to holiness from the Lord. This weekend’s reading constitutes the final word before the joyful, excited close of the year in the Church’s triumphant proclamation of Christ the King next week.

These readings situate us. We are mortal. Like it or not, we are not in control. Nor are we at the mercy of fate, circumstances or other people. But if we turn to the Lord, the power of God is with us. Our protector is more than the angels. It is the victorious Lord, risen at Easter. He will never die again. No power is greater than the power of God.

Pope appoints Msgr. Owen F. Campion to Vatican communications council

Pope Benedict XVI has appointed Msgr. Owen F. Campion, associate publisher of Our Sunday Visitor, the Catholic publishing firm in Huntington, Ind., to a five-year term on the Pontifical Council for Social Communications. Msgr. Campion also writes “The Sunday Readings” column, which is published in The Criterion.

Christ is substantially present in the Eucharist

Q An article in a national Catholic magazine recently stated that Christ is substantially present in the Eucharist, but not physically present. But can’t he be present physically in a mysterious way? The article referred to the presence of Jesus “as soon as people begin to pour into the pews 15 or 20 minutes before Mass.” I remember some years ago when the pope said that Christ’s presence in the Eucharist is “radically different” than his presence in the Scriptures, for example. Isn’t this true? (Pennsylvania)

A Catholic tradition generally has avoided the word “physically” when speaking of the eucharistic presence of Jesus because it is still misunderstood by people not of our faith and by many Catholics as well. Catholic terminology usually follows the Council of Trent in teaching that our Lord is “really, truly and substantially” present under the species—the appearance—of bread and wine. Though these words may not be perfectly clear and precise, we cannot, the Council of Trent explained, express such a mystery in words. But we know that what Christ did with the external signs (“figures”) of bread and wine has a deep meaning. In fact, Christ is substantially present in the Eucharist, but not “physically” present. How can this be? According to Catholic belief, Jesus Christ is present in the liturgy in several ways, three in particular. He is present in his word, the Scriptures; in the Eucharist; and in his body, especially as the Church gathers in his name to worship the Father in prayer and song. Christ always associates himself with his Church, the Church in everything we do. As far as I know, theologians of any school would agree that God is present in the Eucharist in these ways. Some people likely would see this reading as dark and ominous. It is, in fact, very realistic.

Daily Readings

Monday, Nov. 20
Revelation 1:1-4; 2:1-5
Psalms 1:1-4, 6
Luke 18:35-43

Tuesday, Nov. 21
The Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary
Revelation 3:1-6, 14-22
Psalms 15:2-5
Luke 9:1-10

Wednesday, Nov. 22
Cecilia, virgin and martyr
Revelation 4:1-11
Psalms 150:1-6
Luke 19:11-28

Thursday, Nov. 23
Clement I, pope and martyr
Psalms 149:1-6, 9
Luke 10:41-44

Revelation 3:1-6, 14-22
Psalms 150:1-6
Luke 19:11-28

Question Corner/Fr. John Dietzen

We would expect this since the Eucharist, similar to the other sacraments and sacramental actions in different ways, is by its very nature a symbol. As St. Thomas Aquinas puts in his hymn “Adorno Te Devote,” by faith we believe the true body and blood “as a sign that even now we share your [the Father’s] life.”

It is interesting that, of all these presences I mentioned, only the presence of Jesus in his body in the Church, will continue in heaven, singing the “new hymn before the throne” (Rev 14).

St. Thomas, in his hymn “O Sacrum Convivium,” calls the Eucharist a pledge of future glory. But this pledge and promise no longer has the risk of the promise of bodily life. The words of Scripture, which reveal much but which reveal the fullest reality of God, no longer exists.

The “pledge” will be fulfilled in what will be fully and finally ours in the presence of the risen Lord. That is what the Eucharist is pointing us to and leading us to.

(Adorno Te Devote: Robert, translation.)

The Criterion invites readers to submit original prose or poetry relating to issues or experiences of prayer for possible publication in the “My Journey to God” column.

Readers may submit prose or poetry for faith column

The Criterion invites readers to submit original prose or poetry relating to issues or experiences of prayer for possible publication in the “My Journey to God” column.

Seasonal reflections also are appreciated. Please include name, address, parish and telephone number with submissions.

Send material for consideration to “My Journey to God,” The Criterion, P.O. Box 1717, Indianapolis, IN 46206 or e-mail to criterion@archindy.com.

My Journey to God

In Memoriam

I stroll through autumn’s aftermath,
Beneath the trees I sense a pall.
For now I cut a single path—
Your steps won’t stir the leaves this fall.
To us this was a happy place,
Our laughter echoed through the trees.
Today there’s a thinnest trace
Of merriment upon the breeze.

I never realized before
(Though many other hearts have known)
That laughter counts on two or more
And does not walk with one alone.

By Dorothy M. Colgan

(Dorothy M. Colgan is a member of St. Meinrad Parish in St. Meinrad. She wrote this poem about the death of a loved one. A woman visits the graves of relatives at the San Salvador Cemetery in Osiedo, Spain, on Nov. 1, All Saints Day.)

Reporters may submit prose or poetry for faith column

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The Criterion invites readers to submit original prose or poetry relating to issues or experiences of prayer for possible publication in the “My Journey to God” column.
“Ador-Rally,” a new youth ministry program in the archdiocese, may be coming to a parish near you.

Combining eucharistic adoration with praise and worship, the “Ador-Rally” concept of Grace On Demand begins with a 30- to 60-minute “Consumed” retreat and energy of the archdiocesan youth minister, which provides financial assistance for teenagers with limited income so they can participate in the “Consumed” retreats and the Archdiocesan Youth Rally.

“Sing to the Real Presence is joyful,” Morton said. “It’s exciting to see the kids grow in their relationship with Christ. The goal is to build a community of young people that want to come together and worship with other teenagers.

Austin Rahill, the youth ministry coordinator at Mary, Queen of Peace Parish in Danville and the band’s founder, said Grace On Demand members will perform with the acoustic guitar and drums during the “Ador-Rally.” He plays the guitar and Jon Hoke from Brazil is the drummer.

“There is a ton of kids who love youth ministry in the archdiocese,” Rahill said. “This new ministry really was inspired by the teens who wanted to do more than the Archdiocesan Youth Rally once a year and the ‘Consumed’ retreats twice a year. It’s a way to keep them in touch and continue the spiritual growth that was started on these retreats.

Rahill said Dave Gehrich, the youth ministry coordinator at St. Vincent de Paul Parish, will present a fun and inspirational witness talk, and seminarians from the Bishop Simon Bruté Seminary at Marian College in Indianapolis will serve as DJs during the dance and promote religious vocations.

“With the program, we have an Ador-Rally one month at parishes in the archdiocese,” Rahill said. “All the youths in the archdiocese are welcome. It’s something that we hope will plug the kids into participating in archdiocesan ministries. It’s a way to bring in new kids, plus it’s for the kids who have been to the youth rally and ‘Consumed’ and want something more. It will bring kids from all over the archdiocese together in the Eucharist and adoration.”

Rahill said the next “Ador-Rally” is scheduled for Feb. 10 at St. Luke the Evangelist Parish, 7755 Holiday Drive E., in Indianapolis. Other parishes are encouraged to contact Grace On Demand about hosting a rally.

“It’s God-inspired,” Rahill said, and has the approval of the archdiocesan Office for Youth and Young Adult Ministries.

A new campaign Web site and $17,236-1,047 or 800-382-9836, ext. 1477.)

What Has Been the Impact of Project EXCEED? The Project EXCEED track record is truly impressive:

• ISTEP+ results continue to improve, demonstrating positive gains in the number of students passing the test and overall student growth.
• More than 4,220 staff members have participated in 514 professional development activities since Project EXCEED began and this has resulted in a large cadre of internal experts able to share knowledge with other schools.
• Four schools received performance pay awards for 120 teachers in 2004-05 and eight schools for 214 teachers in 2005-06.
• The TAP model of master and mentor teachers has given many teachers a “career ladder” to climb without leaving teaching.
• More than 2,697 students with special needs are being served, which is a 20-percent increase since Project EXCEED began.

For information about scheduling an ‘Ador-Rally’ at a parish, send an e-mail to grace on demand@yahoo.com or contact the archdiocesan Office for Youth and Young Adult Ministries at 317-236-1,047 or 800-382-9836, ext. 1477.

“Ador-Rally” benefits include:

• All students in the archdiocese participate in the Eucharistic adoration program at each school and have the opportunity to live up to higher expectations.
• Students will have a positive, life-long experience in eucharistic adoration.
• Students will feel the presence of Jesus Christ, know who He is and what He wants from them.
• Students will learn the meaning and importance of the Eucharist.
• Students will learn how to better live the Gospel message.
• Students will grow in faith.
• Students will be invited to participate in the archdiocesan parish that ends at 9 p.m.

The first “Ador-Rally” is Saturday, Nov. 18, at St. Vincent de Paul Parish, 4218 E. Michigan Road, southeast of Shelbyville.

Father Paul Landwer, pastor of the Shelby County parish, will celebrate Mass at 6 p.m., then teenagers and young adults are invited to participate in eucharistic adoration with praise and worship music at 7 p.m. in the church followed by a dance at the parish that ends at 9 p.m. Adults also are welcome to participate in the “Ador-Rally,” Morton said, which will bring the devotion of the archdiocesan “Consumed” retreat and energy of the archdiocesan Youth Rally to youths and young adults at parishes in central and southern Indiana.

“Grace On Demand has been together for almost three years,” Morton said. “We have developed into a ministry band, and our focus is on bringing kids closer to Christ and the sacraments through adoration. When the Eucharist is involved, it’s powerful.”

Admission to the rally is $5 a person to cover the band’s expenses, and 10 percent of all income will go toward the archdiocesan youth ministry scholarship fund, which provides financial assistance for teenagers with limited income so they can participate in “Consumed” retreats.

By Mary Ann Wyand
Celebrate the diversity that makes Indianapolis a blessed and beautiful center for worship.

Interfaith Thanksgiving Service
Most Rev. Daniel M. Buechlein, O.S.B.
Archbishop of Indianapolis
preacher
Imam Michael Saahar
Nur-Allah Islamic Center
preacher

Tuesday, November 21, 2006
SS. Peter and Paul Cathedral
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6:30 p.m. prelude music
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What better way to give thanks for all of our blessings than by joining together in prayer and praise?

An offering of canned goods and money will be gathered and donated to The Julian Center

Rest in peace
Please submit in writing to our office by 10 a.m. Thursday before the week of publication.

Archdiocesan obituary notices of the dead are listed elsewhere in The Criterion. Order priests and religious sisters and brothers are included here, unless they are natives of the archdiocese or have other connections to it.


St. Lawrence, Indianapolis, 86, BARRETTO, Avalon V., Michael and Robert Barlow II. Bender, Kate Nicolai, John, and Judy Arthur. Holy Family, New Albany, are included here, unless they Criterion. Order priests and religious sisters and brothers are included here, unless they are natives of the archdiocese or have other connections to it.

Please submit in writing to our office by 10 a.m. Thursday before the week of publication.

Okay, it’s not a pleasant question to ponder. But since your family depends on you, it’s a topic you shouldn’t avoid. When your death occurs, who are you going to burden emotionally and financially with making your funeral and burial arrangements? Who will make these important decisions? Where will the money come from?

Making prearrangements takes the guesswork out of these questions. Don’t saddle your loved ones with these kinds of decisions on one of the worst days of their lives. Make decisions together. Make your pre-arrangements today.

(317) 784-4439

To get the information needed to take care of this, call or simply stop by the cemetery office.

IMAGINE THIS.
YOU'RE DEAD.
WHAT DO YOU DO NOW?

Franciscan Sister Mildred Grein ministered as a teacher for 34 years

Franciscan Sister Mildred Grein, formerly Sister Denise Clare, died on Nov. 6 at St. Clare Hall, the health care facility for the congregation of the Sisters of the Third Order of St. Francis in Oldenburg. She was 88.

The Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated on Nov. 8 at the Oldenburg Franciscan monastery.

Benedictine Hall, the motherhouse in 1993.

She was buried on April 17, 1918, in Seymour, entered the Oldenburg Franciscan community on Sept. 8, 1946, and professed her final vows on Aug. 12, 1952.

St. Michael, Charlesto


St. Mary, North Vernon, Oct. 5. Husband of Mary Ann (Stewart) Burdick. Father of Mary Jo Bennett, Kate Nicolai, John, and Judy Arthur. Holy Family, New Albany, are included here, unless they Criterion. Order priests and religious sisters and brothers are included here, unless they are natives of the archdiocese or have other connections to it.

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Classified Directory

For information about rates for classified advertising, call (317) 238-1572.

Vacation Rentals

BEACHFRONT CONDO, Maderia Beach, FL. 2BD/2BA, pool & 25ft balcony overlooking the Gulf of Mexico. Must refund asking $850. Call 317-897-9433.

NEW SMYRNA BEACH, FLA. Oceanview condo, fully furnished, w/laundry room & balcony. 2BD/2BA, asking $650 wk/ $2400 month. Secure building, covered parking.

FT. MYERS, Florida, on the Intercostal, gorgeous pool, 3BR/2BA, $3500 month. Call 317-507-5803.

INDIAN ROCKS Beach, FL. Private 2BD/2BA condo facing beach, on Interstellar, gorgeous pool, secure condo, asking $650 wk/ $2400 month. Call 317-258-9370.

Home Improvement


For Sale

SHOW ROOM NEW Dining furniture that will change your life! Brand new, asking $650 firm. Call 317-247-3267 ext. 8 a.m. and 10 a.m. or 317-925-7070.

CONN DELUXE. Cupcake Organ, 402, plus accessories. Must pick up. Call 317-987-9433.

Our Lady of Maaseouls Peacehouse. 2BD/2BA, $450. Call 317-636-4257. In Chapel. 2nd level, Only 1 left. $15,500, Call 317-289-5643. Fax offer to: 259-389-5648.


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Please send cover letter, résumé, and list of references, in confidence, to:

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Administrative Assistant Office of Catholic Education

The Office of Catholic Education (OCE) of the Archdiocese of Indianapolis is seeking a full-time Administrative Assistant to provide general clerical assistance to the administration of the OCE. The OCE provides leadership and resources for the evangelization, formation, youth ministry and young adult ministry of parishes, Catholic schools throughout the archdiocese. The assistant will provide direct support for the Faith Formation Team and serve as the primary telephone contact for the team. The assistant will also share in the general team workflow process as a member of the OCE Operations Staff.

The successful applicant will be a high school graduate (minimum requirement), will preferably have prior clerical experience, and will be proficient in the use of Microsoft Office (Spreadsheet, Word, etc.), have excellent verbal and organizational skills. Proficiency with office technology and the ability to multi-task are essential. Please send cover letter, résumé, and list of references, in confidence, to:

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Indianapolis, IN 46206

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of the choir, a lector or a server. These jobs are very rewarding and great ways to glorify God. Also, when younger kids see teens involved, it inspires them to live out their faith more. This is great because we are the leaders of the next Catholic generation.

So, do you feel like, finally, the sea of guilt isn’t drowning you? Do you feel like you can get involved and make a difference? I hope so because you can do it. You can make a difference. Just offer some time to and for God, while having fun doing the activity.

From experience, I can tell you that it is so rewarding to help out and be involved. Besides, if you don’t get involved, who will?

(Megan Gehrich is a member of St. Vincent de Paul Parish in Shelbyville.)

Besides, if you don’t get involved, who will?

(Meredith Riley is a member of St. Rose of Lima Parish in Franklin.)

Youth Council helped with the planning for this event and served as readers, extraordi-inary ministers of Holy Communion, greeters and gift bearers. The Gospel reading was the parable of the 10 virgins. This seemed to be a very fitting passage, especially for all the youth who are trying to discover their own call to sainthood and to “always be ready for the Lord.”

The piety shown by all was evident as we were able to pray before the remains of St. Theodora after the Mass. This experience has shown that sainthood is not beyond our reach. If a woman from our diocese can be canonized a saint, what is stopping all of us?

St. Theodora, pray for us!

(Meredith Riley is a member of St. Rose of Lima Parish in Franklin.)

The second volume of Archbishop Buechlein’s weekly columns from The Criterion.

Still Seeking the Face of the Lord picks up where the first volume, Seeking the Face of the Lord, left off in December 1998. It comprises 350 columns from January 1999 through December 2005.

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The Criterion Friday, November 17, 2006
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