United for life
Youths bring energy, commitment to March to Life

By Katie Berger
Special to The Criterion

WASHINGTON—They come from different parishes, deaneries, schools and cities in central and southern Indiana, but the nearly 600 high school and college students from across the archdiocese came together to unite in prayer, love for life and as the Body of Christ on Jan. 21-22 in the nation’s capital.

Like each year since 1973, thousands of predominantly young people swarmed Washington for the annual March for Life to pray for an end to abortion.

The hope of march organizers and marchers is that their united presence will further the fight toward the reversal of the U.S. Supreme Court’s Roe v. Wade and Doe v. Bolton decisions that for 34 years have made abortion legal during all nine months of pregnancy.

Grace Fuson and Matthew Sidebottom, two teenagers traveling in the annual pro-life pilgrimage sponsored by the archdiocesan Office for Pro-Life Ministry, are in many ways very different.

Grace, who is a senior at John Paul II Catholic High and member of St. Patrick Parish in Terre Haute, participated in her fourth national pro-life march this week.

Matthew, who is a sophomore at Our Lady of Providence High School in Clarksville and member of St. Mary Parish in New Albany, was experiencing his first pro-life march in the nation’s capital.

With their peers from Indiana, they<br><br>Archbishop Woefl: Change hearts through prayer, page 3.

Above, St. Malachi parishioners Christian Damier and Sarah Erdely of Brownsburg sing as they prepare to march for life on Jan. 22 in Washington. Christians is a senior at Brownsburg High School and Sarah is a sophomore at Cardinal Ritter Jr./Sr. High School in Indianapolis.

Right, Jacinta Dela Cruz, a junior at John Paul II Catholic High and member of St. Patrick Parish in Terre Haute, prays as she marches with archdiocesan pilgrims during the 34th annual March for Life on Jan. 22 in the nation’s capital.

Chaplain sees humility in Super Bowl-bound Colts

By Sean Gallagher
BROWNSBURG—The Indianapolis Colts had just completed a 38-34 heart-pounding victory on Jan. 21 that would send them to the Super Bowl on Feb. 4 in Miami.

With blue and white confetti streaming through the air, team owner Jim Irsay and head coach Tony Dungy stood on a stage on the field at the RCA Dome in Indianapolis to receive the Lamar Hunt Trophy, which is awarded each year to the winner of the American Football Conference Championship.

At that moment—arguably the greatest in the history of the Colts’ franchise since its move to Indianapolis in 1984—both men expressed thanks and praise to God.

Standing nearby, Father Peter Gallagher, the Colts’ chaplain, appreciated their words.

“I was grateful that [Irsay] said that and I thought, ‘Man, thank you,’ ” said Father Gallagher.

“I really thought that For him, the faithful words of the team’s leaders echoed “what Tony [Dungy] has said all along and what a lot of these guys really do live, that is, gratitude to God.”

After the awards ceremony, the players made their way to their locker room, where Father Gallagher said Dungy called them to prayer.

“Tony said, ‘We’ve got to finish like we’ve finished every game and just like we started,’ ” Father Gallagher said. “So we got everybody [together] and huddled down and I said, ‘Heavenly Father, there are two words we want to offer you: thanks and praise.’ ”

The gift of humility

Irsay and Dungy’s words and Father Gallagher’s post-game prayer were rooted in humility. They recognized that, however great the Colts’ athletic talents might be, they are still gifts that they received from God.

Father Gallagher said that he prays the way he does with the team because he views being the Colts’ chaplain as a gift.

“‘I’m fortunate to have been asked to be a part of this organization and what I’m doing to promote our Catholic faith,’ he said about his volunteer ministry.

“My prayers before and after the game are about humbleness for the gifts that God has given us, and to share those gifts and to use those gifts one day at a time and one game at a time.”

He also said that the humility he brings

Archbishop shares immigration vision with lawmakers

By Brigid Curtis Ayer

Archbishop Daniel M. Buechlein, chairman of the board of the Indiana Catholic Conference, shared his vision of welcoming immigrants with Indiana lawmakers during a Jan. 17 IEC legislative luncheon at the Westin Hotel in Indianapolis.

“Immigration reform is not only a complex, but a controversial issue,” Archbishop Buechlein told the lawmakers.

“What are we as a Catholic community, we vigorously support our nation’s right and responsibility to provide secure borders, but we reject positions or policies that are anti-immigrant, nativist, ethnocentric or racist,” he continued. “Such divisive and exclusionary attitudes are also profoundly anti-Catholic because they deny the dignity of human persons who are made in God’s image. They also contradict the essential unity and Catholicity to which we are called as members of the one family of God.”

See LAWMAKERS, page 2

See MARCH, page 8

See COLTS, page 7

Serving the Church in Central and Southern Indiana Since 1960

Cathedral Schools Week stories and photos, pages 9-28.

Catholic Schools
The Good News in Education

February 24, 2007 Vol. XLVII, No. 15 75¢
Sen. Richard Young (D-Milltown), but the lawmaker said Sen Richard Young (D-Milltown), but the lawmaker

The problem with House Bill 1253 is that the bill exacerbated problems for employers and immigrants alike.

“The Indiana Catholic Conference also opposed the bill because its ultimate target is the immigrant,” Jobbe added.

(Brigal Curtis Ayer is a correspondent for The Criterion.)
Father Daniel Armstrong had a great love for the Blessed Mother

By Mary Ann Wyand

Father Daniel F. Armstrong, a native of Richmond and retired diocesan priest, died Feb. 20 at the Greenwood Village Nursing Home in Greenwood. He was 75.

The Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated by Archbishop Donald M. Buechlein on Jan. 25 at the church of the Immaculate Conception in Greenwood. Burial followed at St. Andrew Cemetery in Richmond.

Father Bernard Head, the homilist for the funeral Mass, said he often traveled with his good friend.

“He loved to travel,” Father Head said.

“That was one of his real joys in life. He used to lead pilgrimages to various places in Europe, and was very energized by that. He was a good traveling companion.”

Father Armstrong was very dedicated to his priestly ministry, Father Head said.

“I was impressed by his commitment to the church and congregational ministry.”

Msgr. Joseph F. Schaeidel, vicar general, said Father Armstrong had been a “true Father of God” and was a teacher before his ordination to the priesthood.

“I had the chance to know Father Dan Armstrong when he spent a year as a deacon at my home parish, Holy Name of Jesus, in New York City. Msgr. Schaeidel said. “We had much in common since I too was a teacher. He was always an interesting conversationalist.”

Father Armstrong had a great love for the Virgin Mary, the vicar general said.

“He was very proud of his collection of statues of the Blessed Mother, which he had collected from various places around the world over the years.”

Daniel Foster Armstrong was born on May 9, 1931, in Richmond. He attended St. Andrew School and graduated from Richmond Senior High School.

He pursued undergraduate studies at La Mennais College from 1952-58 and later earned a graduate degree in religious studies at Manhattan College.

He completed his theology studies at St. Augustine Seminary in Canada from 1976-77 then was ordained to the priesthood by Archbishop George Biskup on May 20, 1978, at SS. Peter and Paul Cathedral in Indianapolis.

His first assignment was a full-time religion instructor at Bishop Chatard High School in Indianapolis, with residence at St. Thomas Aquinas Parish in the Indianapolis North Deanery.

In 1979, Father Armstrong was named administrator of St. Mark Parish in Perry County. The following year, he was appointed pastor of that Tell City Deanery parish.

In 1981, he was appointed pastor of St. Anne Parish in New Castle. He assumed the pastorate of St. Joseph Parish in Shelbyville in 1985.

The next year, Father Armstrong was named pastor of St. Vincent de Paul Parish in Bedford and St. Mary Parish in Mitchell, with residence in Bedford.

In 1994, he served as a chaplain at St. Vincent Hospital in Indianapolis, with residence at St. Michael the Archangel Parish in Indianapolis.

On July 6, 1994, Father Armstrong was assigned to the Terre Haute Deanery as pastor of St. Leonard of Port Maurice Parish in West Terre Haute and St. Mary-of-the-Woods Parish in St. Mary-of-the-Woods, with residence at St. Leonard Parish.

Father Armstrong retired from active ministry in 1996.

He is survived by a sister, Celeste Scheibeler, and two nephews, Lt. Col. Ret. Mark Scheibeler and Scott Scheibeler of Columbus.

Prayer and new societal vision needed to fight abortion, ar cbishop says

WASHINGTON (CNS)—Calling silence and ignorance the “twin allies of atrocities,” Archbishop Donald W. Wuerl of Washington urged participating in a March preceding the March for Life on Jan. 25 to “repeal all forms of violence” and pray for an end to abortion.

“If the spiral of violence and death that haunts our streets, schools, families and communities is to be halted, we need a new vision,” he said.

“We must realize and proclaim that there is something wrong with our society if one in four of our children is denied life.”

When looking at such atrocities as the current culture of violence will yield only to that spiritual force that first touches and then changes individual hearts,” he added.

The Washington archbishop said a high school student asked him a few months ago what the Church has to offer society today.

“What the Church brings to our world, to our culture, to our society, to our nation, to our lives, to you and me, is the encounter with Jesus Christ, the Son of God and the Word of God, the voice and Gospel of Life,” the archbishop said.

“The baby latched onto my finger with holding a day-old infant there.

“The baby latched onto my finger with all of his force and held tight,” he said.

“That infant can be a parable figure for us. Countless unborn infants are reaching out to hold on to us with all of their strength since we are the only voice they have in the struggle to find a place, a home, a life in this world.”

The crowd at the basilica for the morning Mass was estimated at more than 2,600, including 359 people who spent the night at the church to participate in vigil activities.

Join us for a day of inspiration and learning for Small Church Communities, Adult Faith Formation and Evangelization Ministers

DEPART JULY 15, 2007 WITH FATHER WALTER

Canadian Rockies Tour Offers ‘Cool’ Vacation

Join other Roman Catholics, and your chaplain.

Father Walter Grabowski, for the cool ‘weather,’ sightseeing in the most pristine and breathtaking countryside in North America.

There’s no better time to see the Canadian Rockies and another week across the border in the American Northwest. First flight to Calgary, Alberta. Return flight to Salt Lake City. For 14 days in the Canadian Rockies will include daily sightseeing. Highlights include Lake Louise, Banff National Park, Hoodoos, Bow Falls and Cascade Gardens, a Swoosh alpine ski lift, Icefields Parkway, Kootenay National Park, Waterton Lakes National Park and more. Back in the U.S. you’ll visit Helena and Billings Montana. Custer’s battled at the Little Big Horn; Black Hills National Forest; Deadwood and Leadville.

On a tour that includes a drive to Calgary, Alberta: Kootenay National Park, Waterton Lakes National Park and more. Back in the U.S. you’ll visit Helena and Billings Montana. Custer’s battled at the Little Big Horn; Black Hills National Forest; Deadwood and Leadville.

Who Should Attend?

Persons in the following ministries will especially benefit:

• Adult faith formation
• Small faith communities
• Lay Ecclesial Communities
• Evangelization
• Stewardship
• Social Justice
• Follow-up to RCIA, CBR, Disciples in Mission, parish missions

Highlights of the Day

• Meet Fr. Jose Marin, a prophetic voice in our time. Be inspired and challenged by his story of the Spirit unleashed in Latin American Lay Ecclesial Communities.
• Meet Indianapolis Catholics whose lives have been transformed by the gospel.
• Be inspired and challenged by the stories of, including: Lucius Newmire, “The Lord’s Beggar”
• Rev. Fr. E. Hale, Bishop of St. Mary of The Woods.

EXODUS 3:5

“Remove the sandals from your feet, for the place where you stand is holy ground.”

For more information contact: John Valenti

Register online at: www.archindy.org

Mail to: Office of Catholic Education
P.O. Box 1410
Indianapolis, IN 46206

For more information contact: John Valenti

Associate Director of Evangelization and Faith Formation

Joel Godwin

valenti@archindy.org
Taking a lead in Catholic education

They say that imitation is the greatest form of flattery, and if that’s the case then there’s reason for Office of Catholic Education officials in the Archdiocese of Indianapolis to be wearing wider smiles as they celebrate Catholic Schools’ Week this year. Why? Because some would say our archdiocese is among those setting the bar where Catholic education is concerned. At least, that’s what folks in the Archdiocese of Washington would tell you.

Earlier this month, The Washington Post ran a front-page story on how Catholic schools in our nation’s capital have rebounded from dropping test scores and enrollment, and taken a turn for the better in the past 10 years—thanks to borrowing from the Archdiocese of Indianapolis’ playbook, so to speak.

The Post story shares in detail how Washington Catholic school administrators and then-Cardinal James Hickey used our archdiocese as a model to find new success in educating young people. The Washington archdiocesan schools adopted, among other things, two Archdiocese of Indianapolis education standards: the Saxon math program, which emphasizes basic skills and frequent overview, and the Open Court reading program, which stresses phonics. The standards were adopted, Washington Catholic schools officials said, because they received high marks from the Thomas B. Fordham Institute, a Washington, D.C.-based organization that supports school choice and high academic standards, and because the Archdiocese of Indianapolis recommended them.

The transformation in Washington Catholic schools has been readily apparent in recent years as its Center City Consortium has reported solid, sustained gains in standardized testing. Does that formula for success sound familiar? If so, you might say that we are the ones who benefitted from the changes that have been made in Catholic education, that we are learning from our Catholic education leaders in our nation’s capital.

But we also must remember that the teaching and success of our students depends on the work of everyone. It is the dedicated teachers, administrators, pastors, coaches and volunteers who give so much of themselves to educate our children. We cannot thank them enough.

America’s growing poverty crisis must become a national priority

The promise of America has been that if you work hard, you can provide a better life for yourself and your family. Unfortunately, too many people in this country are working hard, but falling further behind—with their dreams of a better tomorrow detoured down a path to poverty.

Today, more than 37 million people are living in poverty in one of the wealthiest nations in the world. Half of those people are children, rising, with increasing numbers of people who are hungry, more children without health insurance and more families without a decent place to live.

Poverty is a moral and social crisis for our country, one that threatens the health and economic well-being of both families and our nation as a whole.

Throughout the great history of this country, our nation’s leaders and its people have demonstrated a capacity to come together in times of greatest crisis to secure the common good of our nation. The escalating number of people living in poverty is such a crisis, one that demands the attention and collective will of the whole. Reducing poverty will help not only those in need, but also our country as a whole.

That’s why Catholic Charities USA is launching the “Campaign to Reduce Poverty in America” to confront this challenge. Our goal is to cut the nation’s poverty rate in half by 2020.

Through their work in providing help and offering hope to more than 7.4 million people each year, Catholic Charities and other agencies in communities across the country have been coping with a steady increase in demand for emergency assistance, primarily among working families. Each day, our agencies serve families who work hard but still do not earn enough to provide for their basic needs.

Catholic Charities will continue, of course, to help families meet their daily needs, but we also will advocate for changes in public policies that will help lift them out of poverty.

Catholic Charities USA pledges its experience and resources to help reduce poverty in America, but we can only succeed with the active involvement of Congress and President Bush’s administration. Only through partnerships between government and community leaders will we develop the capacity and the scale necessary to attack poverty in a comprehensive and sustained way.

We are urging Congress and the administration—through policy decisions and budget actions—to protect and expand programs that provide needed health care, affordable housing, nutrition assistance, and economic security for the poor and vulnerable. And we intend to hold elected officials in Congress accountable on how their actions support these goals.

What we are seeking will require a sustained commitment to focus on the needs of those living in poverty. The causes and affects of poverty did not develop overnight, and it will take an ongoing effort to cut the poverty rate in half by 2020. But that’s exactly what’s needed because oftentimes a short-term response, however generous, is not enough to deal with long-term challenges.

Good government is about making choices and setting priorities that serve the common good, and we will work in partnership in this campaign with Catholic organizations and other partners to encourage elected leaders to give greater priority to meeting the needs of the poorest and most vulnerable persons in society.

The many choices that Congress and the administration will make each year in the federal budget process about what is funded—and how to pay for it—must be judged by whether the life and dignity of families are protected or undermined. While we have a long-term goal, we believe that it is imperative that Congress and the administration begin now to demonstrate a renewed commitment to the poor.

Working together, government, the faith community, low-income families, social service groups and others have the resources, experience and knowledge to dramatically reduce poverty—especially, long-term poverty.

What we have lacked as a nation is the required political will.

This is about who we are as a nation. We must no longer ignore the injustice of poverty and the inequality which poisons America, and instead must seize this opportunity to promote changes that protect human dignity and the common good.

Learn more about Catholic Charities USA’s Campaign to Reduce Poverty in America at www.catholiccharitiesusa.org/poverty/.

(Father Larry Snyder is president of Catholic Charities USA.)
M y elementary education began in a one-room, eight-grade county school just outside of Jasper, Ind. The teacher was my mom who had graduated the school the year before. I remember that there was a "recitation bench" where students took turns by grade level to recite their assigned lesson. The rest of the students were busy doing assignments or, as I recall, practicing handwriting at a blackboard on one side of the room.

Religious education for those of us in county schools was held on Saturday mornings at St. Joseph School. The Sisters of Providence were our catechists. Sister Dorothy Louise prepared me for first communion. Sometime before third grade, the pastor of St. Joseph Parish, Msgr. Leonerd Wersing, suggested to my parents that it might be time to transfer my brother and me to St. Joseph School. From then on, my elementary education was provided by the Sisters of Providence.

From third grade onward, I became familiar with the sisters who taught in the foundress of the Sisters of Providence. I was proud to learn that St. Joseph School in Jasper was the first of a number of elementary schools founded by St. Theodora.

I was indebted to the Sisters of Providence for the education they gave me. I was well prepared for later educational opportunities in preparation for the priesthood. I also realize that my Uncle Adam had prepared me well in the primary grades. I had no difficulties after I was transferred to St. Joseph School. I was well served by both the county school and St. Joseph School.

I still remember the transfer. I recall being a bit intimidated by the size of St. Joseph's student body. It was most ambitious to enter the school for the first time during the lunch hour when we were all out on the playground.

I have the clear memory of two of my new classmates taking me by the hand and making sure I was included in the fun and games. With hindsight, I suspect that Sister Denise asked them to look after the new kid. In any case, I remember my gratitude and relief. It didn't take long before I felt like I belonged.

I recall a humorous incident during third grade. I was elected vice president of our classroom. That evening, I reported to my mom that I had been elected vice president. She explained the responsibilities.

We attended daily Mass in the awesome St. Joseph Church. Our behavior was closely monitored by the sisters. Again, with hindsight, I can see that we were well prepared for the Eucharist in an age-appropriate manner.

My first personal invitation to consider a vocation to the priesthood came from my fourth-grade teacher, Sister Dorothy Louise. I wasn’t too interested at the time, but her invitation stayed with me. I reflect on my early years of education in order to make a point as we observe Catholic Schools Week. 2007. Granted that my elementary education dates back some 50 years, much of the value I derived from those early formative years is alive and vibrant in our Catholic schools today. Truly, the world is radically different. Our secularized culture with its preoccupation on materialistic values is exceedingly challenging all along fronts. Not only are spiritual and moral values more and more counter-cultural, but the project of solid academic education is also challenged.

Public and private schools alike cope with student bodies that are personal, social and psychological needs that affect the learning process. There has always been the element of pressure in all our schools, but the current materialistic and permissive cultural behavior has become more prevalent and influential. All of our teachers and educational administrators deserve our respect and support for the added challenges that are part of elementary and secondary education these days. One need only look at the available testing data to recognize that our Catholic school teachers are doing a splendid job for our children. We can be truly grateful.

I take this opportunity also to express appreciation to the many benefactors who assist our Catholic schools with time, talent and treasure. Maintaining our schools and doing so with quality hard work. And it is expensive. None of us should take this for granted.

And we need to keep in mind the fact that Catholic education is an integral part of our Church’s mission. I hope and pray that the day will come when we can provide even more opportunities for more of our children to be beneficiaries of our efforts.

Catholic schools are not an option for many of us. For these, we depend on our Catholic faith formation programs to provide the specifically religious part of our educational mission. For catechists and religious education administrators, we also owe a debt of gratitude.

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

Archbishop Buechlein’s Prayer List
Arquidiócesis de Indianaum
1400 N. Meridian St.
P.O. Box 1410
Indianapolis, IN 46202-1410

Archbishop Buechlein’s intention for vocations for January
Parents: that they may remain faithful to their vocations and encourage their children to consider God’s call to service in the Church, as priests and religious.

Mientras recordaba la transición, recuerdo que me sentía un poco intimidado por el tamaño del cuerpo escolar de San José. Me he dado cuenta más evidente durante el receso de la mañana y durante el almuerzo cuando tuve que estar con un amigo. Entendí cómo se realizaba la preparación para el Eucaristía.

Recuerdo el incidente gracioso en tercer grado. Fui elegido vicepresidente de nuestra clase. Esa tarde le conté a mi mamá que me habían elegido como vicepresidente. Ella me explicó con tranquilidad.

Asimismo, quiero aprovechar esta oportunidad para expresar mi agradecimiento a todos los que han contribuido a nuestra educación en los últimos años. Mantener nuestras escuelas y hacerlo con calidad es una tarea muy desafiante. Y es costosa. Se debe comprometer el futuro de nuestra educación académica.

Tanto las escuelas públicas como las privadas manejan cuerpos estudiantiles que tienen necesidades personales, sociales y psicológicas que afectan el proceso de aprendizaje. Siempre ha existido el elemento de la presión en los compañeros de nuestras escuelas, pero el compromiso cultural materialista y permissivo actual se ha vuelto más predominante e influente.

Todos nuestros maestros y directores educativos merecen nuestro respeto y apoyo por los retos que suponen la educación, no sólo los valores espirituales y morales, sino también los sociales y psicológicos. Nuestra escuela católica es una escuela que nos prepara para el mundo en el que vivimos.

¿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 Indianaum
1400 N. Meridian St.
P.O. Box 1410
Indianapolis, IN 46202-1410

Traducido por: Language Training Center, Archdiocese of Indianapolis
February 27-March 1

Saint Meinrad Archabbey, 200 Hill Drive, St. Meinrad. “Radical Christianity,” Benedictine Father Eriq Lies, presenter. Information: 317-545-6637 or e-mail e哩@archindy.org.

March 2-4

Oldenburg Franciscan Center, convent, Olden- burg. “Charismatic Renewal,” four sessions, Franciscan Sister Barb Leonhard, presenter, 8:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m., $30 per session. Information: 812-933-6437 or e-mail center@olden burgosf.com.

March 3

Ursuline Campus, 3105 Lexington Road, Louisville, Ky. Ursuline Sisters of (Little Flower) School, 4720 E. 56th St., Indianapolis. Information: 317-545-7681.

March 5-6

Our Lady of Fatima Retreat House, 5353 E. 56th St., Indianapolis. Information: 317-545-7681.

March 12-14


Convent needs furniture

The Daughters of Mary Mother of Mercy is expanding its presence in the Archdiocese of Indianapolis and the sisters are in need of furniture donations.

Nine of the 12 sisters that make up the women’s religious community are now residing in Indianapolis.

Some sisters are living at a convent at St. Bernadette Parish in the Indianapolis East Deanery, where they have resided for more than 20 years. The expansion has required some sisters to reside at a convent at Holy Trinity Parish in the Indianapolis West Deanery.

The sisters at Holy Trinity are in need of various furnishings, including chapel pews, full-size and queen-size beds, desks and chairs, dressers, wardrobes, bookshelves and televisions. Those interested in donating furni- ture should contact Daughters of Mary Mother of Mercy Sister Jenny Omonye at 317-545-3419, 317-272-1517 or 800-382-9386, ext. 1596, or e-mail mmo@omonomy.org.

February 27

Driver’s License Renewal

The Office of Vital Records and Licensing will host a" Driver’s License Renewal” event at the Indianapolis City Hall, 6437 or e-mail center@olden burgosf.com.

February 25

Our Lady of Fatima Retreat House, 5353 E. 56th St., Indianapolis. Information: 317-545-7681.

February 24

Oldenburg Franciscan Center, convent, Olden- burg. “Youth Ministry,” 7 p.m. Information: 812-357-6611 or e-mail mzoeller@saintmeinrad.edu.

February 23

Oldenburg Franciscan Center, convent, Olden- burg. “Lenten Lecture Series,” four sessions, Franciscan Sister Barb Leonhard, presenter, 8:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m., $30 per session. Information: 812-933-6437 or e-mail center@olden burgosf.com.

February 22

Our Lady of Fatima Retreat House, 5353 E. 56th St., Indianapolis. Information: 317-545-7681.

February 21

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February 9

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February 8

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February 7

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February 6

Our Lady of Fatima Retreat House, 5353 E. 56th St., Indianapolis. Information: 317-545-7681.

February 5

Our Lady of Fatima Retreat House, 5353 E. 56th St., Indianapolis. Information: 317-545-7681.

February 4

Our Lady of Fatima Retreat House, 5353 E. 56th St., Indianapolis. Information: 317-545-7681.

February 3

Oldenburg Franciscan Center, convent, Olden- burg. “Watercolor for Children and Teens,” Franciscan Sister Auri Vonnder Muten, 9 a.m.-noon for children 7-11, 1-4 p.m. for children 12-16. Information: 317-933-6437 or e-mail center@oldenburgosf.com.
More than just a game
Father Gallagher acknowledged the excitement of being on the sideline with the Colts as they played their games and sharing moments of faith with them in the Mass he celebrates with Catholic members of the team in pre- and post-game prayers.

But for him, being a football team chaplain on both the high school and professional levels is more than just a game. It’s also “a way of evangelizing.”

“The number of [Colts] players who are practicing their faith a little more intentionally now has grown, even through this season,” said Father Gallagher, who after the game was literally knocked to the RCA Dome floor by a huge hug from Colts linebacker Rocky Boiman, who frequently attends the team Mass.

Ty Hunt, who just completed his first year as Ritter’s head football coach after serving more than a decade on its staff, recognizes the spiritual good that can come for the young men he leads from their participation on the team.

“A championship team develops character. They’re not made of characters,” said Hunt, who led his team to a one-point loss in the Indiana High School Athletic Association Class 1A state football finals in November. Hunt called on Father Gallagher’s help in carrying forward that message.

Ritter’s chaplain celebrated Mass for the team before many of their Friday evening games and would lead them in prayer just before kickoff and after the games.

Ritter junior Luke Floyd, a tight end and outside linebacker on the school’s football team and a member of St. Malachy Parish, said the message of being humble about his athletic gifts is important to him and ultimately helped the team—which had played in the state finals three of the past four years—to be successful.

“If one person thinks he’s better than others on the team, then he probably won’t practice as hard,” said Luke. “So then if one guy does it [like that], then maybe more guys will follow. Then the games go that way [too].”

“We’re trying to make sure we establish what Catholic identity,” said Hunt, “[and remember] what’s best for the community and trying to make sure that things are done for the greater good.”

Memories of victory and defeat
As Hunt watched the Colts’ AFC Championship victory, his mind turned to his own team’s hard-fought championship game two months ago.

“We had a pretty good run this [past] year, and came up just a little short,” he said. “[I liked] the fact that the guys never gave up and the Colts, even being down 21-3, never gave up.”

Ritter High School was also on Father Gallagher’s mind as he described the celebration that erupted in the RCA Dome following Colts defensive back Marlin Jackson’s game-ending interception of an errant pass by Tom Brady, the Patriots’ quarterback.

“When Jackson got that interception, the place was just silly,” Father Gallagher said.

“The closest [to that] I got was this year [with] Father Gallagher going to the state final and losing it, but not losing it poorly, losing it with a struggle by a point, and here we were winning.”

As gratifying as the AFC Championship victory was, Father Gallagher said he suspected the Colts would not sit on their laurels but humbly prepare for the next game.

“I think these next two weeks are going to be about focusing on the next task at hand,” he said. “I think there’s just a lot of gratitude.”

Colts
continued from page 1
to his ministry with the Super Bowl-bound team is tied to his memory of the priest who preceded him in that position, Father Patrick Kelly, who died on Dec. 30, 2003.

“The coaching staff and I, that knew Father Pat, we all kind of have a sense of his presence with us,” Father Gallagher said. “That memory is there [and] it keeps me humble.”

Father Gallagher acknowledged that thoughts of Father Kelly were in his heart at the end of the first half of the AFC Championship game when the Colts trailed the New England Patriots 21-6.

“I’ll be honest, I was asking [Father] Pat Kelly to help us out,” he said.

Sharing in the excitement
Father Gallagher’s half-time prayer fulfilled the wish of Alex Farris, a member of St. Malachy Parish in Brownsburg and a senior at Cardinal Ritter Jr./Sr. High School in the Indianapolis West Deanery.

“I kind of wished that I was on the field with him,” said Alex of his parish’s associate pastor and his high school’s chaplain.

“I was actually hoping at the end of the first half— that he was [praying] a few extra Glory Be’s and Hail Mary’s.”

An associate pastor of St. Malachy Parish, just minutes away from the Colts’ headquarters on the west side of Indianapolis, Father Gallagher has inspired a lot of excitement about the team in some of the parish’s members.

On the morning of the AFC Championship game, after a few inches of snow had fallen overnight, Father Gallagher joked with the congregation at the end of the parish’s 9 a.m. Mass.

“If any of you would like to be on the sideline this evening in my place, let me know,” he said. “I just want to stay here and admire the pretty snow.”

Then Father Gallagher paused for a moment, smiled and said, “Nah.”

Seated in the front row at the Mass was parishioner Jennie Miller, who wore a pink Colts shirt for the occasion.

“My dad was a semi-pro football player up in Chicago,” she said. “So anything involved in football is exciting for me. To have someone so closely involved with our local team is great.”

It’s also great for Robert Alerding, a member of St. Matthew Parish in Indianapolis, and a resident of Maysville Manor, an adult retirement community in Indianapolis.

Father Gallagher celebrates Mass twice a week for the manor’s Catholic residents.

“I’m just thrilled and excited about him going to the Super Bowl,” said Alerding. “It’s almost as exciting as if I was going.”
MARCH

continued from page 1

joined thousands of young people from across the nation to boldly proclaim the message of the sanctity of human life together.

“United we stand, divided we fall,” Father Jonathan Meyer emphasized in his homily on the morning of the march. Father Meyer, director of Youth and Young Adult Ministry for the archdiocese, challenged the youth to be involved on every level—national, state, local, school and family.

He told them they must work together and ask themselves about the effects this march will have on their faith and commitment to pro-life work.

“Will it unite us as the Body of Christ?” he asked. “Or will we return to our homes, schools and families no different than we came?”

After participating in Mass at SS. Peter and Paul Cathedral on Jan. 20, the archdiocesan pilgrims departed from Indianapolis that night on five buses and arrived in Washington the following morning.

In the nation’s capital, they joined an estimated 10,000 pilgrims at a packed Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception for the pro-life vigil that evening.

While most people in Indiana watched the Indianapolis Colts clinch the American Football Conference Championship to advance to the Super Bowl, archdiocesan youth spent their evening in prayer for the unborn and the vigil and Mass.

Prior to the Jan. 22 march, the archdiocese held a special Mass at the Crypt Church of the basilica. Pro-life pilgrims from Roncalli High School and the Indianapolis North Deanery, who traveled to Washington in separate buses, joined the archdiocesan group.

Also on Monday morning, before the afternoon march, the pilgrims visited Arlington National Cemetery, where Grace was one of four young people chosen to lay the wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.

Chaperones from her private Catholic school chose Grace for this honor based on her pro-life leadership and experience. Grace, whose confidence in her pro-life stand has increased after each of the previous three marches and with much prayer, said life issues deeply affect her daily life.

Even at her part-time job, Grace challenges her co-workers through discussions about life issues.

She said her boldness and optimism come from her belief that, as a group, young people can make progress on this growing movement to end the culture of death in society.

Grace said she believes “we’re getting closer and closer.”

Servants of the Gospel of Life Sister Diane Carolis, director of the archdiocesan Office for Pro-Life Ministry, said this chance to come together in support of life issues is so important for young people.

“They feel solidarity with those in high school and college who have the same sentiments about life,” Sister Diane said.

Matthew, whose pro-life journey has just begun, said a friend’s sister convinced him to attend the march. Her decision to spread the message of respect for life helped further strengthen the pro-life movement, he said, and Matthew also wants to share that invitation with others.

“I definitely will come back next year,” Matthew said. “It’s a spiritual journey. I can do more by getting the word out.”

Like many others on their first trip, his experience was made stronger because he was able to see the thousands of people gathered together in support of life.

It showed that everyone cares,” he said.

Grace and Matthew have different paths ahead of them filled with many challenges and accomplishments.

She will graduate from high school this year and continue her pro-life journey as she chooses a college and moves away from home.

He still must navigate through high school as he encourages others to follow him in the pro-life movement.

As both teens continue to spread the Gospel of Life, Sister Diane said, they can be assured that they are stronger because they are united to many thousands of pro-life pilgrims across the country.

“If [all these young people remain consistently and adamantly pro-life],” Sister Diane said, “there will be changes made in our government, our world and our society.”

(Katie Berger is a correspondent for The Criterion)

Indiana Catholic Conference, the Church’s public policy voice, expressed gratitude on behalf of Indiana’s five bishops about the state court’s temporary ruling.

“We are grateful that the Indiana Supreme Court stayed the execution of Mr. Timberlake,” the conference said in a statement. “However, we offer this statement without expressing an opinion about Mr. Timberlake’s guilt or innocence. We hope and pray that there may be a better outcome than an execution.”

The Conference has stated that the execution of Mr. Timberlake would be a tragic and sad day for Indiana, a day that will forever scar the image of Indiana and its people.

“We offer this statement with a heavy heart, knowing that the death penalty as an option within the penal code is a sad reality of our society,” the Conference said.

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“We offer this statement with a heavy heart, knowing that the death penalty as an option within the penal code is a sad reality of our society,” the Conference said.

We request advance registration so we may prepare adequate seating. Register by e-mailing rwagner@archindy.org or by calling Kathy at (317) 545-7681.

Our Lady of Fatima Retreat House
3553 E. 56th Street
Indianapolis, IN 46226
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Shining the light
Catholic educators focus on faith and excellence

By John Shaughnessy

The hallmarks of Catholic education include the faith, dedication and commitment of teachers, staff members and administrators who strive to make a difference in the lives of children and young people. In the 71 Catholic schools in the archdiocese, more than 2,100 professionals share their talents and gifts to educate and support the more than 23,000 students who seek the benefits of a Catholic education. Here is a look at four people in the archdiocese who represent the values and qualities of all the educators seeking to shape the lives and the futures of children and young people.

Sharing the fun and the faith
Except for extra recess or a snow day, maybe the most fun part of school for fourth-grade children is seeing their teacher do something downright goofy.

So the fourth-grade students at St. Susanna School in Plainfield howled with delight when they saw their teacher, Diana Soto, do the unthinkable during their Halloween party.

As part of the celebration, the class parents set up a game where they covered candy gummy worms with whipped cream. The idea was to eat the worms without using your hands so you had to stick your face into the whipped cream to hunt for the worms. When Soto took her turn, the children couldn’t believe it. Even better, they loved it when she lifted her face and it was covered with whipped cream.

It’s a moment the first-year teacher will never forget. It’s a moment that reminded Soto of the person who inspired her to become a teacher—Christine Evans, who continues to teach at St. Christopher School in Indianapolis.

“She was my first- and second-grade teacher,” recalls Soto, who is 25. “She made everything fun. I never dreaded going to school. She was so kind and friendly.” Soto followed in Evans’ footsteps in more ways than one by deciding to teach at a Catholic school.

“Being a student in Catholic schools for 16 years, I like the environment, the closeness and the community,” Soto says. “The parents, the principal and the other teachers have been really supportive. I really enjoy teaching.” Soto especially appreciates one element of teaching at a Catholic school.

“I had done my student teaching in a public school and you couldn’t talk about God,” she says. “I like to talk to the students about God, my faith and having faith in God. I think it’s important to pray in school, and we do a lot of that in our classroom.”

Live the message, be happy
In his 41 years as a teacher, Richard Powell has consistently used two sayings to challenge students to think deeper about their lives and their faith.

The first saying that’s featured prominently in his classroom asks, “What are your questions?” Powell believes that directive is key to challenging students in his classes on moral theology, comparative religions and the history of Western and Eastern philosophy. He believes it’s also crucial to helping young people embrace their Catholic faith.

“You have to have the foundations—the data, the Scriptures and the faith teachings,” says Powell, who’s 64. “We try to instill in the students the teachings of the Church. Then you take that teaching and ask, ‘How do you apply it to your life?’ ”

Powell has found his answers through his vocation as a teacher. One of his biggest thrills comes when he teaches Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults classes and he learns that the people he’s instructing are often spouses of the students he once taught.

See LIGHT, page 22
20 reasons to celebrate Catholic schools

Compiled by John Shaughnessy

In their emphasis on faith, service and quality education, Catholic schools in the archdiocese have left their mark. Here are 20 reasons to celebrate Catholic schools, teachers and students in the archdiocese. The list is not organized in any particular order.

1. In 2006, six schools were named as Blue Ribbon Schools of Excellence by the U.S. Department of Education: Christ the King School in Indianapolis, Father Michael Shawe Memorial Jr./Sr. High School in Madison, St. Bartholomew School in Columbus, St. Lawrence School in Indianapolis, St. Lawrence School in Lawrenceburg and St. Monica School in Indianapolis.

2. In the past four years, 21 schools in the archdiocese have earned the Blue Ribbon distinction—the highest national honor from the U.S. Department of Education. No other diocese in the country has matched that distinction.

Five Catholic schools in the archdiocese won Indiana High School Athletic Association state championships in the fall of 2006. Bishop Chatard High School in Indianapolis won the 3A state championship in football. Brebeuf Jesuit Preparatory School in Indianapolis earned a state title in girls’ golf. Cathedral High School in Indianapolis won state championships in 4A football and 4A volleyball. And Roncalli High School in Indianapolis captured the 3A state volleyball title.

Three of the student-athletes on those championship teams won the Indiana High School Athletic Association’s Mental Attitude Award for excelling in scholarship, leadership, mental attitude and athletic ability. Aimee Neff of Brebeuf won the award for girls’ golf. Paige Weber of Roncalli earned the recognition in 3A volleyball. And Bobby Powers of Cathedral earned the distinction in 4A football.

In the past 11 years, about $3.5 million has been raised to provide need-based scholarships for economically-disadvantaged students to attend schools in the archdiocese. The money has benefited more than 4,000 students.

In June, 11 seniors graduated from Seton Catholic High School. The first class to graduate from a Catholic high school in Richmond in 70 years.

The likelihood of urban Catholic school students in the archdiocese attending college is three to seven times higher than that of their counterparts in other schools.

In recognition of his 218 hours of community service at an Indianapolis hospital in six months, John Trenepolé earned a national volunteer service award from President George W. Bush. John is a student at Father Thomas Scocca Memorial High School in Indianapolis.

The Catholic high school graduation rate in the archdiocese in 2006 was 95.6 percent, according to the Indiana Department of Education. That rate was almost 20 percent higher than the percentage of eligible Indiana students who earned a high school diploma in 2006—76.5 percent.

In August, the first reunion of African-Americans who attended St. Bridget and St. Rita schools in Indianapolis attracted more than 600 people from across the country. “It’s a tribute to Catholic education,” said Lora Vann, a co-chairperson of the reunion. “We were very well educated. Among our graduates, we have a psychiatrist, a diplomat, doctors, attorneys, priests, nurses, veterinarians and engineers.”

About 95 percent of Catholic high school graduates in the archdiocese attend college.

In October, Bishop Chatard students raised more than $24,000 for Riley Hospital for Children in Indianapolis through the school’s dance marathon program.

The highway in front of Our Lady of Providence Jr./Sr. High School in Clarksville was renamed Providence Way, leading the school’s president, Joan Hurley, to say, “I think this speaks volumes on the effect a Catholic school has on the community.”

In the ISTEP—Indiana Statewide Testing for Educational Progress—students in the archdiocese continue to improve at significant rates, out performing the state average by 16 to 31 percent.

In November, Maria Sewell was one of 235 students from around the world chosen to participate in the fifth annual Global Youth Forum, a forum devoted to international understanding, education, leadership and humanitarianism. A student at Cardinal Ritter Jr./Sr. High School in Indianapolis, Maria joined students from Russia, Romania, Egypt, Morocco, England and Sweden at the forum in Kansas City, Mo.

In June, Cathedral High School’s choir performed at the 2006 Mozart International Youth Choral Festival in Austria.

Nearly 96 percent of archdiocesan schools earned the status of “exemplary progress” or “commendable progress,” according to an Indiana state formula that holds schools accountable for improving student achievement from one year to the next.

The “exemplary progress” recognition—the highest level listed by the state—was achieved by 56 of the 67 archdiocesan schools that were measured.

Through successful capital campaigns, Roncalli High School and Our Lady of Providence High School opened state-of-the-art performing arts centers in 2006.

Roncalli student Tim Hickle won first place in the 2006 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Statewide Essay Contest. His essay was chosen among 3,600 statewide entries. †
Lasting influence

A Catholic education touches lives at pivotal times

By John Shaughnessy

Dana Kelley knows the lasting influence of a Catholic education.

She’s seen it touch her life as a daughter, a mother and a wife during one of the most difficult and heartbreaking periods she has ever experienced.

She’s seen that lasting influence in the generous, faith-filled way that people responded to her and her family during that critical time in her life.

“I think as a parent you send your children to a Catholic school not just because you want them to learn the four Rs but because you want them to learn values,” notes Kelley, a member of St. Luke Parish in Indianapolis. “Strong values that will root them in their entire lives, that teach what Jesus would want them to do in many situations. You don’t get that at a public school. What our friends did was what Jesus would have done.”

Kelley expressed those thoughts after The Criterion invited readers to share their stories about how Catholic education has made an impact on their lives.

We are grateful for all the people who responded to our request. As a sampling of that response, here is Kelley’s story and the story of three other Catholics who have seen their lives and their family’s life forever changed by Catholic education.

Heartbreak, faith and folded laundry

“Our journey began in July of 2005 when my husband’s father was diagnosed with cancer,” Dana Kelley says. “He was given a few months to live, but unfortunately died on Sept. 17, 2005. The week prior to his death, he was in the hospital. Having five girls—four at St. Luke’s and one in preschool at the time—I was doing a lot of juggling as my husband, Joe, and I were going back and forth to the hospital.”

“This is when our extended St. Luke School family sprung into action. We received many wonderful meals and lots of help with the girls. But the thing that I remember the most is my St. Luke girls coming to our home and simply folding the piles of laundry I had in the house. I still feel the physical and mental relief after coming home to folded laundry and a picked-up house. This was less one in our family’s Catholic education.

“I wish the story could have ended there. The following April, Joe was diagnosed with testicular cancer. What followed was an unbelievable whirlwind. He had surgery the following week and would then have to have radiation after a four-week recovery period.

“The Friday after his surgery, we received the good news that the cancer was contained and had not spread to his lymph nodes. He still had to go through radiation, but the doctors considered this a ‘bump in the road.’ My joy was tempered, however, because that same day I received the news that my father had pancreatic cancer and I knew that was a terminal diagnosis. He was also in Illinois.

“At this point, choices were going to have to be made. My husband was going to be OK, but the recovery was going to be slow. Joe needed me. But I knew my 

See INFLUENCE, page 23
I retired at just the right time. After 35 years of being a teacher, coach, athletic director, Student Council sponsor, assistant principal, principal and assistant superintendent for business and transportation, retirement at the end of June 2006 seemed to be the best thing to do.

Worrying about budget forms and approval from the Department of Local Government Finance would be replaced by walks in the woods and teaching grandchildren. Getting up at 3:30 in the morning to check road conditions for bus travel would be replaced with drinking another cup of coffee and watching birds at the feeder. The allure of retirement was calling.

I remembered the enjoyment of the teaching days at St. Mary School in Rushville and the role the principal had in leading those students and staff members. But I also remembered that there are a million other things to be done.

So went the thought process, the discernment process.

It was a long week between Father Bill’s comment and a time when we could sit together to discuss the principal position. After talking with him, I submitted my resume. I am honored to be the principal of St. Michael School in Brookville. My retirement started on June 30, 2006, and ended on Aug. 1, 2006.

I hope that in my years with the Franklin County Community School Corporation I was part of the solution in helping to prepare students for the adult world. I have many good memories about the public school part of my educational career. Those experiences have certainly molded my perspective on my return to Catholic school education.

I continue to find that Catholic school education offers some things that are impossible in public schools. First and foremost is the religious aspect of what we are about. I have been seated at school board meetings where patrons have discussed prayers at commencement. Bible studies and similar activities in public schools. I have witnessed the nondenominational prayer service called “Meet Me at the Poles” at public school flagpoles. Here at St. Michael, we not only have occasions to pray every day and several times every day. We have Mass every week. Prayer and religious activities are big parts of our school life.

In my previous roles as assistant principal and principal [at public schools], I worked with many students concerning discipline issues. Even though I privately prayed for guidance in some cases I never uttered a prayer out loud. Not so at St. Michael School. In one discipline conference this year, I asked God for help. It wasn’t just within myself that I offered the prayer. It was out loud so the student could hear it, too. What a difference!

Another significant difference is the degree of adult support. St. Michael School is somewhat unique in that it is not financed through tuition charges for parish children. Financial support continues to be seen as a responsibility of the entire parish. Non-financial support also comes in the form of volunteer activities. On a daily basis, between eight and 10 parents and grandparents offer their time and talent to assist at St. Michael School as classroom helpers, office workers, physical education instructors, lunch room assistants and playground supervisors.

The presence of the adults other than staff members at school fills more than just a pragmatic need. Not only do these adults represent themselves, they represent the other parents and the wishes and desires they all have for their children.

The degree of parish and parental support is awesome.

In an environment enhanced by a caring faculty and staff, the students of St. Michael School continue to grow spiritually, academically, psychologically, emotionally and socially. I am grateful for the opportunity to return to Catholic education and for my return to Catholic education and for my participation in the education of our students at St. Michael School. You see, I retired at just the right time. †
**INFLUENCE**

continued from page 11

Dad’s days on this earth were limited so I also needed to see him as much as I could. That’s when I put all pride and perfection aside and called my St. Luke friends and asked for help. I knew I couldn’t take care of my husband and say goodbye to my father without them.

“The girls from St. Luke went into action. Meals were found and our girls always had a place to go when I had to leave town. My dad died within four weeks of his diagnosis. During that time, I would leave to see him often with only hours notice and these women didn’t flinch, didn’t complain, didn’t seem annoyed. They just helped and eased my burden.

These mothers all taught their children by example and lived the values that were taught. These are the values that taught me so much. They didn’t complain, didn’t seem annoyed. They just helped and eased my burden.

During that time, I would leave to see him often with only hours notice and these women didn’t flinch, didn’t complain, didn’t seem annoyed. They just helped and eased my burden.

**From jump ropes to a convent visit**

As a teacher, Jane Vande Water often reflects on the role she played while teaching girls growing up as a student in the Catholic school system in Madison. From jump rope to a visit to the convent, here are some of the memories that have touched her life, memories that she also shared with 100 year old girls, but she showed us that we could enjoy what we enjoyed. Thank you, Jane Vande Water, for teaching me to play with the children in my classes.

In second grade, I had Sister Salvador. From her, I learned to see the whole child—not just the student sitting in a desk. I remember having to stay in at recess because I was sick and Sister needed something from home. Since the sisters lived in the house next to St. Michael’s, she asked me to walk over there with her. I couldn’t believe that teachers, let alone nuns, lived in a house with a kitchen and a living room.

This shocking revelation gave me the courage to ask if the nuns had to shave their heads, as we could see no evidence of hair. I remember Sister laughing and pulling a lock of hair from her head, asking me to prove to me that nuns didn’t have shaved heads. Thank you, Sister Salvador, for making me appreciate the question that children ask.

In fourth grade, Mrs. Colussi allowed me to argue. I must confess that sometimes I argued just for the sake of the argument. Thank you, Mrs. Colussi, for teaching me that there is more than one side to every issue.

Marry Tarpey

**When I look back at my 16 years of Catholic education, I am reminded of the wonderful lessons of life that were imparted in so many ways. The constant reminders of the importance of faith.**

The importance of helping those who are less fortunate. Of using the gifts that God has given you to improve the lives of others, which include family friends as well as those strangers in need of kindness.**

**“The ‘girls’ from St. Luke went into action. Meals were found and our girls always had a place to go when I had to leave town.”**

Jean Vande Water

The Madison Courier

“Sister Thomasita, thank you for teaching me to enjoy math and manipulating numbers. The greatest thing you taught me, which I teach my children, is to draw a picture to solve word problems.”

She ended her tribute with this thought: “I hope that I will continue to use the lessons taught to me by these great teachers. Thank you for all that you did. I believe it is true that when you teach, you touch lives forever. I was lucky to be touched by you.”

**Searching for, and finding, an anchor**

When a family tragedy touches a child’s life, the child often searches for another anchor to give his or her life a sense of stability. Mark Tarpey of Indianapolis recalls how he found such an anchor—and found it—when he was 5.

“I began 16 years of continuous Catholic education in September of 1954 at Our Lady of Lourdes School on the east side of Indianapolis,” Tarpey recalls. “My father had died suddenly of a heart attack in January of 1954. My mother was to raise four children ranging in age from 5 (myself) to 15. Catholic schooling provided some needed consistency in my life at that time. “My Catholic education with the Sisters of St. Francis, as well as dedicated lay teachers, continued at Seccina High School and finally Marian College.

“When I look back at my 16 years of Catholic education, I am reminded of the wonderful lessons of life that were imparted in so many ways. The constant reminders of the importance of faith. The importance of helping those who are less fortunate. Of using the gifts that God has given you to improve the lives of others, which include family friends as well as those strangers in need of kindness.”

**Handling the bumps in the road of life**

Jean Allen noticed the sacrifice her parents made to give her a Catholic education. She also sees the difference that education has made in her life.

“16 years fortunate enough to have 12 years of a Catholic education,” says Allen, a member of St. Joseph Parish in Corydon. “My parents made a lot of sacrifices to give all six of their children this privilege. For that, I’ve always been thankful. I had many teachers and had a strict, but loving education, but my Catholic education was well-taught. “I was brought up in a loving, hard-working Christian home. We, as a family, said our prayers and faithfully said the rosary. My Mom always said, ‘A family that prays together stays together.’ And she was right. We all stuck together and helped each other, no matter what the bumps were in the road.

“So my Catholic education further laid the foundation of stability for me. My Catholic education was well-taught.”

Jane Vande Water

The Madison Courier

**45 years of service**

Archbishop Daniel M. Buechlein congratulates Annette “Mickey” Lentz, executive director of the Secretariat for Catholic Education and Faith Formation, for 45 years of service to the Church in central and southern Indiana as a teacher, principal and archdiocesan administrator. The recognition came on Nov. 20 during an Employee Recognition Luncheon at the Archbishop O’Bieras Catholic Center in Indianapolis.

**Janison L. Lapo**

Cathedral High School
Class of 2002

United States Naval Academy
Class of 2006

Nuclear Surface Warfare Officer
USS Roosevelt (DDG 80)

Why did I attend Cathedral High School? The school initially attracted me because I liked the idea of wearing a uniform to school and of not worrying about having “cool clothes.” Probably not the right reason to attend a private Catholic institution, but I thank God for leading me in the right direction, regardless of how I got there. So, I came to Cathedral seeking refuge from a large and growing public education system, and I’m still discovering reasons why it was one of the best decisions of my life.

Why did I stay at Cathedral High School? Smaller class sizes allowed for an intimate learning experience with teachers who genuinely cared for their students and valued their individualities. A disciplined adherence to a defined moral code affected every aspect of the school day, providing a positive and uplifting environment in which to develop, morally, mentally, and physically. Being a member of highly competitive sports teams taught vital life lessons of teamwork, sacrifice, and perseverance.

Why will I always go back to Dear Old Cathedral? I belong to a family, an entity bigger than myself, whose members are united by their common love for Cathedral. I recognize the tradition generated by all those who came before me and made the school what it is today. The school spirit is unmatched by any other in the state of Indiana, and I take pride in that.

I am so thankful for the opportunity to have attended Cathedral High School. It is not the beautiful buildings or the state of the art facilities that make the school what it is. It is the people inside those buildings and the hearts inside those people that touch you. Cathedral High School equipped me with the tools I need to journey down my life’s path. Not sure where that path is taking me, but I confidently know that I am prepared. Dear Old Cathedral, Here’s to You!”
Campaign could expand Project Exceed programs

By Sean Gallagher

For the past six years, Project Exceed has launched dozens of initiatives that have honed teaching skills in Catholic schools throughout Marion County.

As a result, student performance in these schools, which was already good, has improved and been maintained. One initiative that has helped is the Teacher Advancement Program (TAP). In it, master and mentor teachers coach clusters of teachers as they review student achievement data, set goals for their improvement and evaluate possible teaching practices to meet those goals.

Another initiative has been the Office of Catholic Education’s Hispanic Outreach Program, which advises schools about ways to help new Hispanic students perform well.

Now Ron Costello, the director of Project Exceed, hopes to sustain these and other programs in schools that have already implemented them and expand them to schools throughout the archdiocese as a result of funds raised through the Legacy for Our Mission campaign. For Our Children and the Future campaign.

Joseph Therber, executive director of the archdiocesan Secretariat for Stewardship and Development, said that this is an important part of the campaign that can aid schools across the archdiocese.

“The Legacy for Our Mission campaign proceeds will help expand and replicate Project Exceed initiatives in Catholic schools throughout the archdiocese and will allow teachers to perform at their optimum while they provide students with an unparalleled education,” said Therber.

The possibility of expanding such initiatives meets with the hearty approval of Chad Moeller, principal of St. Louis School in Batesville.

The school currently has 18 Hispanic students and dealing with their distinctive needs, which often involve language barriers and cultural differences, is a challenge.

“This is new to us,” Moeller said. “The teachers and I spend a lot of time on the phones with other schools … to see how they’re handling it.”

Because of Project Exceed, Margarita Solis Deal, the coordinator of the Hispanic Outreach Program, has helped St. Louis School and other school staff cope with the challenges of Hispanic students and recognize the gifts they bring.

“Margarita has been a big help,” Moeller said. “She’s said that it may be possible that she could come down here and help to train teachers and maybe even teach our teachers on the basics of Spanish, which would be so helpful.”

Solis Deal said that with additional funding from the Legacy for Our Mission campaign she could expand the efforts of the Hispanic Outreach Program.

“Because schools are facing so many different issues, they can’t keep abreast of everything that is going on,” she said. “I think what this program is able to do is to really stay up to date on what is currently happening in this whole area of working with the Hispanic community.”

Costello said that additional funding is crucial if initiatives like the Hispanic Outreach Program are to continue.

“Our needs are constantly changing, given the kinds of students we serve, both in our schools and in our Church,” he said. “The Hispanic population is a good example of that. And without those additional resources, we’re not going to be able to serve these students successfully.”

Ultimately, Solis Deal wants Catholic schools in the archdiocese to help Hispanic students succeed like they have so many other students throughout their history.

“I think schools are hopefully asking a lot of questions in terms of what they need to do,” Solis Deal said, “what they need to put in place to ensure that we’re providing the same high-quality education to these new students that they’ve always provided to students for many, many years.”

When Debra Perkins became principal of St. Barnabas School in Indianapolis five years ago, the faculty was already teaching students effectively.

But in her time there, the level of performance has increased. According to Perkins, it is in part due to the school’s participation in TAP.

“When we take a look at where we’ve come from, being a good school to being a great school,” she said, “it’s because we’ve had our eyes opened, and we’ve been able to take the time and have the professional development to look specifically at what works.”

One way, according to Perkins, that TAP has done this at St. Barnabas School is by helping middle school teachers with a speciality, for example in religion or science, integrate strategies to improve students’ reading comprehension skills while still passing on the distinctive knowledge of their field.

“We’re not just teaching science,” Perkins said. “We’re teaching all of the skills that you need to be able to study science.”

She likes what has happened at her school through TAP and hopes it can be expanded to schools throughout the archdiocese.

“We recognize that the opportunities that our teachers have been given are great opportunities,” Perkins said. “But we also know that it could be replicated anywhere.”

(Schools administrators interested in participating in the Hispanic Outreach program can call 800-382-9836, ext. 4068 or e-mail mdeal@archindy.org.)

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Building for the future
Newest Catholic school appeals to a growing community

By John Shaughnessy

The celebration will begin with the kindergarten and first-grade students playing drums and tambourines as they move into the newest Catholic school building in the archdiocese.

The celebration will continue inside the new school as the students sign their names on the walls where the chalkboards will be hung.

The touches will be part of the scheduled fun and joy that will mark the Feb. 1 opening of the new Assisi Center at SS. Francis and Clare of Assisi Parish in Greenwood, the latest example of how Catholic families strive to make a Catholic education a key part of their children’s lives.

“It just shows there’s that desire to integrate faith foundations into academics,” said Sandi Patel, the principal of SS. Francis and Clare of Assisi School. “I think that’s what people are looking for. I’ve never thought Catholic schools were better, just distinctly different. And that difference is the missing piece. It’s about developing a relationship with Jesus.”

The new school actually opened in August when 19 kindergarten students and 15 first-grade students entered makeshift classrooms in the parish center while the $1.6 million Assisi Center was under construction. With the dedication of the new school by Archbishop Daniel M. Buechlein on Jan. 28, the students will soon have a building they can call their own.

The school meets the demands of the growing parish, which has a large group of young families who have built and bought homes in the Johnson County area. “We have subdivisions going up everywhere around here,” said Father Vincent Lampert, the pastor. “Three years ago, we had about 600 families in the parish. Now we have 914 families. In the next five to seven years, we could double in size. There’s a potential of 1,000 new families during that time. Twenty percent of the population of Johnson County is Catholic, which is probably twice the diocesan average.”

Building the Assisi Center is part of the foundation for the future, according to Father Lampert. “Any large parish would want to offer a school ministry option for its parishioners,” he said. “The Assisi Center will not only be a school, but it will be used for religious education and youth ministry. It’s the missing piece of the puzzle at our growing parish.”

Families in the parish share the excitement. “It’s great,” said Linda Pirau, a parish member whose 6-year-old son, Ryan, is in the school’s first grade. “It’s a new horizon for a lot of people. I’m very pleased with the staff and all the hard work they do. The central thing they do is make the school about the presence of Christ. There’s certainly the academics, but that is the essence of the school.”

The plan is to add grades to the school each year, with the school eventually serving students from preschool through eighth grade.

“For the next school year, we will add a pre-kindergarten class and a second grade,” Patel said. “We’ll have the potential for 90 students next year. We’ve made a commitment to these first families that their children will be able to be here through eighth grade.”

Patel paused and considered just how special the opening of the new school is. “The families are so happy that the school is open,” she said. “There is this strong sense of community. It has just been the most unbelievable experience.”

Principal Sandi Patel also has the duty of planning and leading physical education classes for students at SS. Francis and Clare of Assisi School in Greenwood.
New school’s work-study approach hopes to change lives

By John Shaughnessy

The phone call came from a desperate mother begging for help. Her car had just broken down as she tried to drive her son to what she considered his destiny with a unique private Catholic high school in Indianapolis.

“Please,” the mother begged, “our car has broken down. My son wants to take the placement test. Could someone come down and pick him up?”

Providence Sister Jeanne Hagelskamp listened to the mother’s plea. As the president of Providence Christo Rey High School, she knew that she and her small staff had already worked long stretches of late nights to recruit potential students. She knew she really couldn’t spare anyone to leave the school building on the near west side of Indianapolis to pick up the boy at 7 a.m. on the day of the placement test.

But Sister Jeanne naturally told the mother to relax, that someone would soon come to pick up her son.

“I like to think that’s a way we reach out, in caring,” says Sister Jeanne. “We have a mom in distress and her son was upset because he desperately wants to come to this school. It wasn’t easy to send someone out but we did. We meet them on their terms.”

We listen to their stories.”

As Providence Christo Rey High School in Indianapolis continues to recruit students for its first academic year—2007-08—that sense of caring has been a key attraction. So too has the school’s place in a national network.

“It became a way for students who came from backgrounds where not much was expected to get corporate skills, to learn how to form partnerships and build networks, and—perhaps the greatest lesson learned—to discover for the first time that they could be something,” O’Dea notes. “Sister Jeanne knows that success from her 10 years of being involved with a similar school in Chicago.

“I’ve seen the difference this kind of school makes,” says Sister Jeanne, who was the assistant principal of Providence St. Mel High School from 1981 to 1991. “It was right smack in one of the roughest neighborhoods in Chicago. I’d watch kids walk across the stage on graduation day and say, ‘This is someone who’s going to be alive when he’s 25.’”

“I see the students who come to me and they get it right away,” says Fellenwarth, who also earned a master’s degree in education from the University of Notre Dame. “They see this school as their ticket. Where I see the connection most is in the parents—how they want it so much for their children. I saw that in my mom. I really believe in Catholic education. When I heard about Providence Christo Rey, it reminded me of why Catholic education came to this country, and why there’s even more of a need for it now. The values, the accountability toward each other—students to students, students to faculty to students—just the family environment that Catholic schools represent.”

Both Sister Jeanne and Fellenwarth know the long hours will continue as they try to recruit at least 100 students and supervise the renovation of the school building. They also promise that the extra efforts toward potential students and their families will continue.

Sister Jeanne says that focus is required for the school’s ultimate goal. “My hope is that every student who will walk through these doors will leave stronger in their faith, academically prepared to be whatever they want to be, and willing to shape a more just and human society.”

Extra effort

Danny Fellenwarth and Providence Sister Jeanne Hagelskamp work to recruit students from low-income families to Providence Christo Rey High School in Indianapolis.

“We had high expectations. We worked them hard and every single one of them went to college. One of my favorites is Steve. He was a basketball player. He came to us and he couldn’t read. Every Saturday, one of our sisters would show up with work and Steve. The last time I saw Steve, he had finished his master’s degree and begun his doctorate in sociology.

Denny Fellenwarth has seen that kind of influence in his own life. At 26, he is now the director of admissions for Providence Christo Rey High School in Indianapolis. He still remembers clearly the extra efforts his single mother made to provide an education for him at St. Thomas Aquinas School and Brebeuf Jesuit Preparatory School, both in Indianapolis.

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**St. Malachy students create St. Theodora holy cards**

By Sean Gallagher

BROWNSBURG—Along with the rest of the faithful across central and southern Indiana, the students of St. Malachy School in Brownsburg celebrated last fall’s canonization of St. Theodora Guérin, Indiana’s first saint. But they had a special reason to take joy in this historic event.

Their school was founded by the Sisters of Providence of Saint Mary-of-the-Woods, the religious community founded by St. Theodora.

With that in mind, teachers at the Indianapolis West Deanery school started planning their celebration of the canonization soon after the academic year began.

The middle-school students learned about St. Theodora’s life of faith in their religion class, and about what Indiana was like when she arrived here in 1842 as part of their social studies class.

There was also a special Mass in honor of St. Theodora for all the school’s students on Oct. 12, three days before the canonization in Rome.

Linking all these activities together was a contest in which the students created holy cards in honor of St. Theodora.

All the 134 middle-school students created artwork that featured the saint and the state of Indiana. They also composed prayers to honor the state’s first saint.

In the end, six drawings and six prayers were chosen. They were reproduced, blessed at the Oct. 12 Mass and distributed to all the school’s more than 400 students and its staff.

Terry Carson, St. Malachy’s middle-school religion teacher, was amazed at the prayers that the students turned in to her.

“I got 134 beautiful prayers,” she said. “[The students] really embraced it, and they really made it their own. They incorporated things from her life. It was quite a hard decision at the end [to choose the winners].”

St. Malachy’s art instructor, Jackie Swihart, was pleased with the artwork submitted for the contest.

“She was true to the saints,” she said. “It was so hard to just narrow it down to a few. They had so many kids enter, which was really nice.”

Seventh-grader Adam Metallic composed one of the prayers chosen to be used on one of the holy cards.

Learning about the challenges St. Theodora faced in traveling to Indiana impressed him.

“For her to travel as far as she did and she survived—that was pretty amazing,” he said. “I don’t think that I could do that. I’d probably die.”

For her artwork for the contest, eighth-grader Claire Osecki drew a map of Indiana. Within it was her rendering of the famous portrait of St. Theodora.

She said it “took a really long time” to complete it. “I tried to make it look like it really looks,” said Claire. Claire said that she was struck by “how determined [St. Theodora] was and how she did so much with so little.”

Janet Woods, the middle-school social studies instructor at St. Malachy School, helped oversee the contest.

When she taught Church history to her students in the past, it often involved the story of the faith as it was lived out in Evansville 100 years ago. She began using all of these things that are still in place today, and you can go to the Sisters of Providence [motherhouse] and you can see what she built out of nothing.”

Mary Sullivan, St. Malachy School’s principal, hopes the holy card contest helps her students see that the holiness that St. Theodora lived is possible for them, too.

“Although we have here a very remarkable person, she’s also an ordinary person, an ordinary person who may very well have walked on the soil that we walk on over at Saint Mary-of-the-Woods,” Sullivan said. “She is real. She’s a real person who now, because of her efforts and her belief in God and her developing the talents God gave her, … can inspire us to do the same.”

The following prayers are a sampling of the prayers on the back of six holy cards created by students at St. Malachy School in Brownsburg in honor of the canonization of St. Theodora Guérin.

Dear Saint Mother Theodore Guérin,

With your vocation and education, you had a passion to pass on the knowledge that God bestowed. I pray that you provide the teachers of St. Malachy with the inspiration needed to help our students better our inspirational minds.

As students, I pray that you provide the students of St. Malachy with the patience to learn and enlighten when the learning gets challenging. I ask you this with all my heart. Amen.

— Andrew Metallic, seventh grade

Dear Saint Mother Theodore Guérin,

Good and caring Saint Mother Theodore Guérin, help us to hear our calling, just as you did. Through your faith in God, you were able to cure others. Please strengthen our faith in God to help those in need. You relied on God for the strength, wisdom and courage to fulfill his will. Please help us to fully rely on God just as you did. We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

— Austin Woods, sixth grade

Great and almighty Father, please help me to find the path to you as you did for your servant Saint Mother Theodore Guérin. Good and gracious Lord, I am sorry for my sins and for the consequences that came with them. In the future, please help me to think before I act as Saint Mother Theodore Guérin did.

Saint Mother Theodore Guérin was a compassionate, considerate and merciful person. Please help me to follow in her teachings and model myself after her. Through troubled times and tough journeys, she continued to carry out your will. Please help me to do as you ask of me, Saint Mother Theodore Guérin.

— Eric Bennett, seventh grade

These are the fronts of six holy cards created by students at St. Malachy School in Brownsburg in celebration of the canonization of St. Theodora Guérin.
Shawe Memorial earns national award with hard work

By Mary Ann Wyand

MADISON—Seniors at Father Michael Shawe Memorial High School create a T-shirt every year as a keepsake. This year’s senior shirt is royal blue and features the words “Reason for the Ribbon.”

The Class of 2007 chose that slogan because as sophomores they all passed the Indiana Department of Education’s graduation qualifying examination.

That distinction and other academic accomplishments helped earn the school a Blue Ribbon School award from the U.S. Department of Education for the small Catholic high school in the Seymour Deanery.

Five grade schools in the archdiocese also earned Blue Ribbon awards last year. (See story, page 10.)

Last year, Shawe Memorial claimed the honor of being the only parochial high school in the nation to earn a Blue Ribbon School award. With 161 students enrolled in the junior high and high school this year, Shawe officials are still marveling about their national recognition.

Jerry Bomholt, Shawe’s principal and volunteer boys’ basketball coach since 2003, said the students, faculty and staff worked extremely hard to achieve this honor.

“Shawe has always been a great school and always had a very high reputation for quality education,” Bomholt explained, “but there were some standards that needed to be met to improve the school. . . . We had a high level of student achievement that could have been much higher. That’s what we were striving for. Our goal is to make every student a saint . . . and prepare them for college so they can be accepted at any university in the United States.”

In a variation of his coaching pep talk, Bomholt challenged the faculty, staff and students to pursue the Blue Ribbon School award because they deserved it.

“The credit goes to our great staff, wonderful faculty, parent support and dedicated students trying hard to be all they can be,” he said. “It’s been a rewarding experience to see this group of kids blossom and the school become what we thought it could be. We’ve grown from 139 students to 161 this year, and we’ll have approximately 175 students. We think in two to three years we’ll have 200 students in the seventh through 12th grades.”

Bomholt stands at the front door every morning to greet students by name and visits classrooms often to show his interest in their academic achievement. He coaches the boys’ basketball team as a volunteer, and reminds team members that student-athletes are students first.

“This year, no one on our coaching staff is accepting any money to coach,” he said. “We needed to cut the budget to save a teacher’s salary so we discussed it and decided to forfeit our salaries. We’re probably the only school in the state that has all-volunteer coaches.”

Father Shaun Whittington, school chaplain and religion teacher, said the teachers strive to build character and help students live moral lives whatever their faith tradition.

“We are growing . . . and achieving higher levels of success,” Father Whittington said. “Archbishop [Daniel M.] Buechlein said one time that, ‘We don’t educate students because they’re Catholic. We educate students because we’re Catholic.’ I’ll never forget that. Education is a very important mission for the Church. This school exists to make saints.”

Lisa Gray, dean of studies and guidance counselor, said she is proud to tell people about Shawe’s national award. “It’s affirmation that the hard work that has been done and is continuing to be done is making a difference,” Gray said. “I see it on a daily basis. . . . It gives value to the coursework. Our students are college bound, take their studies seriously and are very competitive academically. They are very focused on success. Seven seniors have grade point averages over four point [a straight A average].”

Shawe junior Luke Wise, president of the 16-member Student Council, said “it’s really nice, after putting in a lot of hard work, to see your fellow students recognized” by the federal government, the state and the archdiocese.

“There are a lot of opportunities at Shawe that you don’t receive at larger schools,” Luke said. “The teachers are more caring here, and have a lot higher standards that they expect the students to meet so we have to work harder. I’m most interested in economics and philosophy. The biggest benefit of a Catholic education for me was the introduction through theology classes to philosophy. I plan on pursuing that after high school and eventually going to law school.”

Shawe senior Paige Jones said she hopes to earn valedictorian honors and is working hard in advanced placement classes to achieve the highest grades in her competitive class of 27 students.

“The teachers put a lot of effort into advanced placement classes,” Paige said. “There are a lot of students who take AP classes. They’re up for the challenge.”

“We are a small Catholic school, but that doesn’t mean we can’t accomplish great things,” she said. “When we received this award, I realized how fortunate I am to go to such a great school. It gave me a sense of pride in the school. I feel fortunate that I am able to attend this school, and that my parents are able to send me here.”†
By Mary Ann Wyand

Music just phenomenal,” said Madison, said “Shelby sang at my son’s wedding and was May 4-5.

Memorial, and doesn’t mind the 25-minute drive from anybody.”

because not everyone has it” and she “can sing in front of anybody.” Bombolt, who is a member of Prince of Peace Parish in Madison, said “Shelby sang at my son’s wedding and was just phenomenal!”

The girls share a love of music and are excited about auditioning for roles in Peter Pan, Shawe’s spring musical, on May 4-5.

Brittany thinks it would be fun to play Wendy or Captain Hook, and Hana hopes to portray Peter Pan. “I’ve been singing since I could talk, pretty much,” Brittany said. “I would always sing at home. My first real singing part was in third grade [at St. Mary School in North Vernon]. … Last year, I had a solo, ‘Day by Day,’ in [Shawe’s production of Godspell].”

Brittany said she thinks her gift of music is “God-given because not everyone has it” and she “can sing in front of anybody.”

She loves to sing country songs, and after graduation hopes to continue her studies at a music school so she can “do something with singing or acting.”

Brittany said she enjoys going to school at Shawe Memorial, and doesn’t mind the 25-minute drive from North Vernon.

“Everyone is so nice and welcoming,” she said. “I really like the music program. It gives me a chance to get involved.”

Brogan, Shelby and Hana often sing a cappella—without any musical accompaniment—as a trio. They take voice lessons in addition to music classes and choir activities at school.

Becky Weber, director of marketing for the Indiana Department of Natural Resources and member of St. Mark the Evangelist Parish in Indianapolis, said the eighth-grade girls sang beautifully during the dedication of the renovated Clifty Inn at Clifty Falls State Park in Madison last year.

“More perfect singing.” Hana said. “Right now, the national anthem is our major thing to sing at events. We sing it on Memorial Day, and we’ve been asked to sing it for basketball games at Hanover College.”

Hana said she loves all kinds of music and especially likes to sing country songs. She hopes to attend music school then pursue a career as a vocalist.

“I’ve sang since I was really little,” she said. “I sang at home all the time for fun.”

“Mom wanted me to take piano lessons and eventually she wanted me to sing,” said Hana.

“One day, I realized I didn’t want to go to piano lessons anymore and I said ‘I want to sing,’” Hana said.

“If I wanted to go to vocal lessons, they would say ‘you can’t sing’ because it requires “a true vocalist” who has “the ability to perform arias and learn different notes in your ear and mind … before you sing it.”

Shelby mostly sings soprano parts, Hana is a mezzo-soprano or alto, and Brogan can sing soprano, alto or bass.

“When we went to the Indiana State School Music Association [competition], we got a perfect score singing three-part harmony,” Brogan said. “We sing ‘The Star Spangled Banner’ at games and whenever anybody needs us to sing it. We also sang it for the Clifty Inn dedication.”

Brogan and Shelby hope to study at the Julliard School of Music in New York then work as professional vocalists.

“Music is my life,” Brogan said. “I want to sing and act for the whole world.”

Shelby said singing opens “so many doors and opportunities” in life.

“Ever since I was little,” she said, “my Mom and Dad have always told me that it is a gift from God … and that I should give back the gift that God gave me because he wants me to use it for something good.”

Shelby is often asked to sing “Ave Maria” for weddings and funeral Masses at Prince of Peace Church in Madison. Matthew Graham, Shawe’s director of music and performing arts, said “a cappella is incredibly hard to sing” because it requires “a true vocalist” who has “the ability to keep different notes in your ear and mind … before you sing them. … All four girls are incredibly talented.”

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Catholic Schools Week Supplement Page 21
In one class, eight of the courses were spouses of former students. It shows we’re doing our job.”

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“I’m thrilled every year when school starts again. I had pneumonia at the beginning of this year and I lay in bed crying because I wasn’t there. When my students leave at the end of class, I say, ‘What have you learned today? Take it with you. Don’t leave it on the floor.’

“It’s all part of the impact he hopes to make on his students.

“Search for the truth, find God, live the message and be happy,” he says. “Find God in the Scriptures and in your life, but more so in your fellow human beings. And recognize that aspect of divinity. If you live the message

“Like the majority of students in the school, I’m not Catholic. But I have spent the majority of my education in Catholic schools,” says the graduate of Cathedral High School and Marian College, both in Indianapolis. “I know the Catholic faith pretty well. I tell my kids that if they’re struggling with something, just pray to God. I tell them that anything is possible with God.”

After all, she believes God called her home to teach.

“Originally, I was supposed to be somewhere else. I guess this is where God thought I was needed.”

When you live it, you teach it. I was blessed with the gift that Day didn’t realize he was giving in the beginning.

“When I came back to teach here, I never thought of going anyplace else but a Catholic school,” says Day, a 1957 graduate of Providence. “It was a long time teaching before I realized I had a creative and spiritual impact on people. Kids would come back as adults and say, ‘I learned more from your class than art. I learned about family. I learned about doing for other people.’ It’s mind-boggling when you hear the impact you had on people’s lives.

“When you live it, you teach it. I was blessed with having the faith as part of my very heritage. Those who are blessed have that responsibility to give it back.”

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Bill Boyd, Class of 1975

“I am blessed to have always attended Catholic schools, and in particular, my Providence experience solidified the person I have become. The opportunities and love that I receive from the Providence family continue to encourage me to reach for my dreams. As a sophomore in college, I recognize that my scholastic as well as my community achievements here at the university are firmly rooted in my (Catholic) educational background.”

Audrey Molnar, Class of 2005
FRANKLIN—A new science laboratory at St. Rose of Lima School is the result of a chemist’s legacy, a family’s generosity and a Boy Scout’s love for his father who died too young.

A bronze plaque outside the science classroom door pays tribute to Dr. Joseph Kurek, a noted chemist and chemistry professor who enjoyed his profession so much that he built a laboratory in a small building next to his home in Franklin.

Kurek taught at Franklin College and the University of Indianapolis, and enjoyed showing students the importance of organic chemistry in daily life.

“Chemistry was his life,” Carolyn Kurek, his widow, explained. “He lived it. Joe was a teacher, first and foremost, a wonderful teacher. He taught chemistry in addition to working as the chief chemist at Heritage Environmental Group for 17 years. He taught in some of the most wonderful ways, and I’ve had so many tributes from his students.”

After his death from cancer on May 1, 2005, at age 60, she decided to give his laboratory equipment to St. Rose School. “I just felt like I needed to do something that kept his spirit alive.” Carolyn Kurek said. “He was very active at St. Rose in many, many ways, and I wanted to do something at the school in Joe’s memory. Father Paul Shuyan, the former pastor, said, ‘Why don’t you do something for the science lab?’ They had been trying desperately over the years, in bits and pieces, to put a lab together. Dave Roush headed that effort.”

The family gift became a family project when 16-year-old Michael Kurek decided to coordinate the installation of his father’s laboratory cabinets and chemistry supplies at the school for his Eagle Scout award. “He was very active at St. Rose of Lima Boy Scout troop for his Eagle Scout award. He headed that effort.”

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Michael Kurek

“The school is supported solely by St. Rose Parish and student tuition,” he said, “and creating a laboratory of this caliber would have taken years without this generous gift.”

Roush said a science committee was established with “the goal of creating a modern high technology lab with hands-on learning opportunities and advanced scientific demonstrations in a safe learning environment.”

With additional donations and volunteer time, he said, the science laboratory became a reality. “Over the course of the summer, Michael was able to refurbish three wall cabinets and two bench cabinets as well as build a new bookshelf.”

Roush said, “He organized Troop #227 Scouts to remove glassware from his father’s lab then clean and transport it all to St. Rose School. The science committee ordered thousands of dollars of new science experiments, and helped install the cabinets and TV. Approximately 300 volunteer hours and $6000 of a pledged $12,000 have been spent to date on the lab, which opened at the beginning of school in August.”

The Dr. Joseph Kurek Laboratory is equipped with a 32-inch LCD television with a VCR/DVD player that is wired to the cabinets and TV. Approximately 300 volunteer hours and $6000 of a pledged $12,000 have been spent to date on the lab, which opened at the beginning of school in August.

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Designed by Dr. Joseph Kurek to coordinate the installation of his laboratory, students are able to operate the new science laboratory with interactive experiments and demonstrations that will prepare them for high school.

“With additional donations and volunteer time, he said, the science laboratory became a reality. “Over the course of the summer, Michael was able to refurbish three wall cabinets and two bench cabinets as well as build a new bookshelf.”

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Laura Bush lauds ‘vital role’ of Catholic schools after hurricane

ROELEND PARK, Kan. (CNS)—Although pennies weigh less than the cost to manufacture and are typically discarded, refused or treated as necessary nuisances, they have emerged at a Catholic school in Kansas as a powerful symbol in the struggle against poverty and hunger.

Every year, Donna Merrill, a teacher at St. Agnes School in Roeland Park, collects pennies from students in her elementary school enrichment program and journalism classes to give to Heifer International, a charitable organization based in Little Rock, Ark., that works in 50 countries throughout the world.

The charity provides livestock to the poor, offering a sustainable resource for individuals, families and villages to support themselves. Recipients are obliged to share some of the offspring of their animals with their neighbors in a community-building gesture. The gifts are prized and tailored to the locale. They include honeybees, ducks, chickens, water buffalos, heifers, llamas, goats, sheep, silkworms and rabbits, among other food and income-producing animals. Each animal comes with a preliminary veterinary treatment and training for its ongoing care. Each requires a sponsor to pay for it. A heifer, for example, costs $500, while a goat, sheep or pig runs $120. A starter flock of chickens is $20. Suddenly, pennies that had been squirreled away in cans, jars and piggy banks began to arrive at St. Agnes School.

The goal for the year “was to buy a pig,” Merrill said. “But with so many children persistently pestering their parents and grandparents for pennies, word began to spread about the collection.”

One little first-grader took his pig to school and presented it to Merrill.

“Two weeks later, another kid brought his little pig,” she said.

Another student had brought a heifer, but it had to be replaced because she ate the feed. A lamb came next, and the collection spread like wildfire.

The elementary school campus sustained nearly $2 million in damage but was back open by Oct. 3, 2005. Repairs to the middle-school campus are just getting under way and are expected to be completed in early June, in preparation for its August reopening. Middle-school students, meanwhile, have been attending classes on the Archbishop Shaw High School campus.

“Before leaving St. Rosalie School, Bush said she was going to Cafe Reconcile for lunch because it is a place where at-risk youths ‘receive on-the-job training for a host of restaurant jobs—from waiting tables to serving as chefs de partie’”

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Facts about Catholic schools in the Archdiocese of Indianapolis

Archdiocesan administration

The Secretariat for Catholic Education and Faith Formation of the Archdiocese of Indianapolis includes the Office of Catholic Education (OCE), the Catholic Youth Organization (CYO) and St. Mary’s Child Center.

The Office of Catholic Education oversees and assists the Catholic schools, parish faith formation, evangelization, and youth and young adult ministries for 150 parishes and missions in 11 deaneries throughout a 39-county area of central and southern Indiana comprising some 13,757 square miles and serving more than 232,273 Catholics.

Special programs operating under the auspices of OCE are: “A Promise to Keep,” a peer-mentoring sexual abstinence program sponsored by St. Vincent Hospital in Indianapolis; and SPRED, the Special Religious Education program serving developmentally disabled parishioners.

The Office of Catholic Education was founded in 1974 when the former school office and office of religious education were formed into one of the first offices of “Total Catholic Education” in the nation. Under Archbishop Dan M. Buechlein, and in consultation with the Archdiocesan Education Commission, the OCE utilizes a team management approach in support of the teaching mission of the Church—“learning, teaching and sharing our faith.”

In 2002, youth and young adult ministries were added to the OCE mission. Evangelization programs were added in 2003.

Support for site-based programs is provided through direct service, resources, consultation, training, community-building and collaboration with constituents in the parishes and schools in conjunction with other archdiocesan agencies. The OCE received a historic $10 million challenge grant from the Lilly Endowment Inc. for school improvement in Marion County in 2002-06. The challenge was met with $5 million in matching gifts from generous corporate and individual donors and grants.

Project EXCEED has focused on a new set of the three R’s in our Catholic Schools: • Recruit, retain, reward and develop the best school teachers and administrators. • Raise the level of students’ performance and report their progress. • Reach out to special populations with advanced capabilities or special needs. Many programs begun under Project EXCEED will be sustained and replicated through the Legacy for Our Mission: For Our Children and the Future capital campaign.

Major constituencies of the Office of Catholic Education include pastors, principals, parish administrators of religious education, youth ministers, and members of school and faith formation commissions and high school boards.

Constituents are involved collaboratively in projects to design and develop curricula, policies, provide inservice training, produce manuals and guidelines, carry out studies and to participate in professional development.

Office of Catholic Education

1400 N. Meridian St., P.O. Box 1410 Indianapolis, IN 46206
317-236-1430 or 800-382-9836, ext. 1430
E-mail: oce@archindy.org
Web site: www.archindy.org/oce

Batesville Deanery Catholic Schools

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St. Louis School, Batesville
Principal Chad Moeller
St. Mary School, Greensburg
Principal Nancy Schroeder
St. Paul School, New Alcace
Principal Mike Morvay
St. Lawrence School, Lawrenceburg
Principal Dena Steiner
St. Nicholas School, Sunman
Principal Maggie Jackson
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Oldenburg Academy
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Students continue to improve on ISTEP scores

In September 2006, 13,186 students in third through 10th grade from 70 Catholic schools in the boundaries of the Archdiocese of Indianapolis took the Indiana Statewide Test of Educational Progress (ISTEP+). For the last six years, students have shown and been able to maintain growth in their language arts/English and mathematics proficiency on the Indiana academic standards compared to the state of Indiana. The average of archdiocesan students at each grade level passing both the language arts/English and mathematics is above both the non-public and Indiana state averages. The archdiocesan percentages range from 88 percent at third grade to 90 percent at 10th grade. The trend this year continues past student performance. Simply stated, the longer a student is in archdiocesan schools the greater the growth in student proficiency.†

Archdiocesan ISTEP + Combined Results

West Deanery Schools

CELEBRATE CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK 2007

The Good News in Education

St. Anthony Catholic School
Mrs. Cindy Greer, principal
317-636-3739

Holy Angels Catholic School
Mrs. Cindy Greer, principal
317-926-5211

St. Christopher School
Mrs. Barbara E. Leek, principal
317-241-6314

St. Malachy School
Mrs. Mary Sullivan, principal
317-852-2242

St. Gabriel School
Sarah Watson, principal
317-297-1414

St. Michael School
Mr. Steven Padgett, principal
317-926-0516

St. Monica School
Mr. William Herman, principal
Mrs. Deborah S. Reale, assistant principal
317-255-7153

St. Susanna School
Tina Albin, principal
317-839-3713

Cardinal Ritter High School
Mr. Paul Lockard, president
Mrs. Jo Hoy, principal
317-924-4333

The Pride of the Westside

The Catholic School Community of the South Deanery of Indianapolis Celebrates Catholic Schools Week

Central Catholic School
Principal Mrs. Ruth Tinsley
317-784-7759

Holy Name of Jesus Catholic School
Principal Mrs. Gina Fleming
317-784-9078

Nativity Catholic School
Principal Mrs. Peg Dispenzieri
317-357-1459

Our Lady of the Greenwood Catholic School
Principal Mr. Kent Clady
317-881-1300

Roncalli High School
President Mr. Joe Hollowell
Principal Mr. Chuck Weisenbach
317-787-8277

St. Barnabas Catholic School
Principal Mrs. Debbie Perkins
317-881-7422

St. Jude Catholic School
Principal Sister James Michael Kesterson
317-784-6828

St. Mark Catholic School
Principal Mr. Kent Schwartz
317-784-4013

St. Roch Catholic School
Principal Mr. Joe Hansen
317-784-9144
January 25, 2007

Dear Friends In Faith,

We have great news to share with you. Our 2006 ISTEP+ scores show the best gains and pass rates in a decade. Scecina tenth grade students’ average pass rate on either the English/Language Arts or the Math tests of the Graduation Qualifying Exam is 89%. This is eight percentage points higher than our next best year. The percentage of students passing both tests is up almost sixteen points over last year.

One of the critical factors in learning is time on task; even ranking above intelligence in its importance. Scecina is taking steps to leverage this factor for our students’ learning. Our teachers provide at least three-and-one-half hours of tutorial time before and after school each week, and most give much more time than this to assist students. Additionally, our Parent Action Coalition uses subject matter experts to provide free tutoring before and after school, four days each week. With class periods that are now two minutes longer, we are providing more than 350 extra learning minutes per student in every class each year.

Our mission as a Catholic school has really changed very little since our founding by the Sisters of St. Francis in 1953. It is our moral responsibility to educate as many students as our resources allow.

We have many things for which to be thankful at the dawn of this New Year. We have asked our students to accept new academic challenges during the past two years and they are responding admirably. Congratulations to our teachers, parents, and the Elast Deanery school educators who laid critical foundations for our students. Scecina offers opportunities for every student in a learning environment that breeds success. Our results tell the rest of the story.

Sincerely,

Thomas W. Davis
Principal

We’re recognizing those who understand the value of a Catholic education, and telling our story to those who don’t.

Call Scecina Memorial High School now. Find out what it means to be educated in Spirit, Mind, and Body.
Caring for the environment is a moral concern

By Fr. Robert L. Kinast

The environment is our responsibility the same way that life itself is. The environment has been given to us as a gift that ultimately we give back to God. The moral vision drawn from the Bible affirms the supremacy of humans to the rest of creation, but it does so in the context of nature as God’s gift to us; viewing us as creatures subordinate to God the Creator. This perspective is needed in discussions of environmental ethics and efforts to put such ethics into practice.

Former U.S. Vice President Al Gore’s book and movie titled *An Inconvenient Truth* represent a recent, highly publicized attempt to draw attention to the state of the environment. Whether one agrees or disagrees with these and other similar works, there is little disagreement that we are responsible for the environment—not just in a human, ethical sense, but also in a religious, moral sense. Human beings are endowed with a capacity to distinguish right from wrong and good from evil. Whether we attribute this to conscience, to the learning of virtues, or to conforming to an established code of behavior, we realize that being human implies a responsibility to act in a certain way.

Traditionally, this responsibility has been confined to people’s relationships with one another. However, with the development of new technologies, increased consumption of material resources and the uneven distribution of wealth and goods, ethical concerns extend to the environment.

Moreover, in discussions of environmental ethics, the environment is not limited to nature’s material resources. It includes the social, cultural, psychological, professional and spiritual milieu which people create and in which they live and work. There is a strong connection and mutual influence between these life systems and the ecosystems of nature that call for ethical responsibility.

Excessive consumption of nonrenewable sources, pollution and disregard for the impact of technological developments contribute to an “unnatural” environmental crisis. To the extent that human actions are to blame, humans are responsible for repairing the damage insofar as possible. Legislative and individual efforts at reducing pollution and toxification are steps in this direction.

We are also responsible for the environment because human survival depends upon it. Survival is one of the deepest, most powerful instincts in the human makeup, and we cannot endure without the resources that creation provides us. At this basic level, self-interest dictates that we ensure a sustainable and livable environment.

A major difficulty people may have with all this is that many threats to the environment do not seem so imminent that they endanger our lives right now. Warnings and predictions by scientists and environmentalists frequently are dismissed as exaggerations, especially in calling for changes in lifestyle and habit.

Beyond the impulse for survival is a responsibility to promote human flourishing. People should not have to live with the most basic level of subsistence even though the earth has a vast great portion of the world’s population does. Human creativity and the capacity for betterment carry a responsibility to improve life by improving the environment.

This creative vision can be measured by the effect of changes on existing ecosystems, but human inventiveness and the capacity for exploration are components of being human that are supposed to be exercised for the good of all.

Taking this step further, responsibility for human flourishing points us to show concern for future generations as well as for our responsibility for their well-being. Not everyone agrees that there is a strict obligation to satisfy the rights and needs of those who do not yet exist, but the decisions and actions that people take today shape the world that their descendents will be born into.

Even if some current environmental crises don’t imperil our own lives, they may well endanger those yet to come. Anticipating the long-term future is part of human responsibility for the environment.

In addition to these ethical responsibilities, there is a moral responsibility derived from our relationship with God, who pronounced the original creation good and entrusted it to us to care for it so that we might develop and enrich it. Believers owe to their Creator to fulfill the role of stewardship as God expects by caring for the environment, respecting its natural laws, expanding its God-given potential and cultivating its material goodness.

Peace depends on respect for all creation

By David Gibson


Is it surprising that ecology assumed an important place in a papal message about peace that is widely read each year? The pope vigorously advanced his belief that respect for other people is essential to achieving peace in the world.

Humanity, if it truly desires peace, must be increasingly conscious of the links between natural ecology, or respect for nature, and human ecology—respect for others in the human family. Pope Benedict said.

“Respect for nature,” the Holy Father said, “is closely linked to the need to establish between individuals and between nations relationships that are attentive to the dignity of the person and capable of satisfying his or her authentic needs.”

As the pope put it, “Destruction of the environment, its improper or selfish use and the violent hoarding of the earth’s resources cause grievances, conflicts and wars” among countries.

“It becomes more and more evident that there is an inseparable link between peace with creation and peace among men,” Pope Benedict said. Both of these presuppose peace with God.”

(David Gibson edits Faith Alive!)†

Discussion Point

Recycling helps save the environment

This Week’s Question

What can individuals or groups do for the environment?

“We can conserve our wetlands and our wildlife areas instead of tearing them down for energy plants and housing developments. We can recycle cans and paper and things that aren’t biodegradable. That would also cut down on costs for companies that make these things.” (Tabitha Goodhouse, McLaughlin, S.D.)

“Things like global warming are scary. But we’re creatures of habit so we have to correct things we thoughtlessly do to harm the environment.” (Angie Grejeda, Visalia, Calif.)

“Recycling and trying to use less resources is something everyone can incorporate into their daily life. We could use less gas by consolidating errands [and] turning off lights. There are probably at least five light bulbs in my house right now that I could turn off!” (Peggy Kaiser, Chubbuck, Idaho)

“When I was a child, people would throw trash, gum and cigarette butts on the sidewalk. Today people are more aware and less likely to litter. ... If everyone were aware of the littlest things, we’d find our little bit does help.” (Mary Ann Hatchell, Ladson, S.C.)

Lend Us Your Voice

An upcoming edition asks: Do you ever feel frustrated in your efforts to live by your true priorities? Why?

To respond for possible publication, send an e-mail to ebrene@catholicnews.com or write to Faith Alive! at 3211 Fourth St. N.E., Washington, D.C. 20007-1100. †
First of two columns on the Our Father

I need two columns to discuss Our Father, and even that won’t be sufficient.

St. Thomas Aquinas called Our Father “the most perfect of prayers” and that is not an inexactitude: it too easily teaches us to ask for things, but also in what order we should desire them.

It is called the Lord’s Prayer, of course, because Jesus taught it to us, so we shouldn’t be surprised that it’s the perfect prayer. When Jesus taught it to his disciples, it was new. The Jews, of course, never called God “Father,” much less “our Father.” It was Jesus himself who named God “Father” and revealed the Father to us but also taught us that we could have an intimate relationship to our Father as we do (hopefully) to our human father. Furthermore, when we pray to the Father we also adore and glorify God the Son and the Holy Spirit since the Trinity is consubstantial and indivisible.

When we pray “who art in heaven,” we are referring to the Father’s home, to God’s majesty. St. Augustine wrote, “‘Our Father who art in heaven’ is rightly understood to mean, ‘Father who is in the hearts of the just, as in his holy temple.”

The Catechism of the Catholic Church says then that the first three petitions are our personal call to our Father who art in heaven, she is professing that we are the People of God, already seated “winter of the heavenly places in Christ Jesus” *(Jn. 17)*.

The catechism also tells us that, after addressing God and thereby placing ourselves in his presence, we pray seven petitions. “The first three, more theological,” it says, “draw us toward the glory of the Father; the last four, as ways toward him, commended our prayers for the world and the grace.”

The first of the three theological “petitions” don’t seem like petitions to me: “Hallowed be thy name,” not only is it a call to be holy, although we are praising God for his holiness, recognizing that his name is holy. The catechism teaches us that “since the Trinity is consubstantial and indivisible, the name of God is holy even though we are praising God for his holiness, recognizing that his name is holy.

We are asking, in effect, that the name of God be held in reverence by God in his actions. St. Peter Chrysologus, one of the doctors of the Church, reminded us that “God’s name is holy.”

The second petition is “thy kingdom come.” We then pray, “Thy kingdom come.” Although the Kingdom of God has been coming since the Last Supper and is in our midst in the Eucharist, this petition refers primarily to the final coming of the reign of God after Christ’s return.

Continued next week. †

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**Cornucopia/Cynthia Dewes**

Praise for those who honor their vocation

My cradle Catholic friends tell me stories about growing up in the Church. Many of them center on the personalities, foibles and follies of their parish priests, usually told with affection and, perhaps, a little regret. In those days, children were impressionable, and I never say anything critical about their priests or the religious sisters who staffed their schools. Not only was this considered a display of bad manners, but also it seemed family heresy. After all, So-and-So was above reproach, at least out loud.

In these days of continuing clergy sex-abuse scandals in the worldwide Church, we seem to have reached the opposite opinion. Now the dedicated, often consecrated clergywomen who serve us have become suspects viewed with fearful and critical eyes.

Even before these scandals, when Vatican II recognized the laity as equal partners with clergy in the Church’s mission in the spiritual journey, Church leaders began to feel more at ease about allowing laypeople to be more involved in the work of the Church, particularly in the work of marriage, the sacrament of marriage, the education of children, and the care of the sick. In those days, the priest was not only the pastor of St. Paul’s, but also chaplain for the Catholic students at DePaul University and for the inmates of the Pattonville Correctional Facility.

In addition, he’s pastor of Annunciation Parish in Brazil. Luckily, it’s Brazil, Ind., not that other continent. He directs several thrift stores, ministries, gives memorable sermons and never seems to lose his wit or sense of humor. Sometimes it takes a blow to the head to wake us up to reality. And the reality is that most of us enjoy the services of honorable men and women who, like us, are trying to follow God’s will with love and devotion to their vocations.

God bless them. *(Cynthia Dewes, a member of St. Paul the Apostle Parish in Cincinnati, is a regular columnist for The Criterion.)*

**Faithful Lines/Shirley Vogler Meister**

Share with the care, share in the memories

My family and I recently celebrated my younger son’s second birthday. Over the weekend, my eldest son, Raphael, spoke about the growth had grown and the great joy that there can be simply between two brothers who share a room, play with each other every day and are only a couple of years apart.

Michael is a very intense little boy— playing and running around and learning with gusto.

Raphael seems to be more happy-go-lucky. He loves to play with his big brother. But, by large, he seems more, well, relaxed. (And that’s a bit of a relief to his parents.)

The variety in their personalities is mirrored in their physical looks as well. Michael has hair like his father’s. Raphael has hair like his left, much like his dad, minus the growing streaks of gray!

Raphael’s head is covered with blond hair and he looks at us with his shiny blue eyes.

... the panorama of personalities, even within one family, is a sign of the great creative power of God.

Variety among siblings was on display recently when my family and I attended the wedding of one of my wife’s sisters.

The joy of the wedding and the following reception reconfirmed for me that the diversity of people in this world, despite the many different personalities among my wife’s 10 siblings, they’ve been chosen for a reason.

In reflecting on the joy they created and shared, I came to see that the panoply of personalities, even within one family, is a sign of the great creative power of God.

From that first moment in time billions of years ago when God began his work of creation to the present, the variety that he has brought forth knows no end.

This might come to mind for us humans first when we consider the differences in other people. But it is equally true in the world in which we live.

Even here in plain old Indiana, beautiful variety can be found from the cornfields and lakes of the northern part of the state to the gently rolling hills in the south.

We certainly have a history of not dealing well with all these differences as the endless stories of broken families and wrong choices of people.

But I am convinced that God gives us, through the sacrament of marriage, the chance not only to love people who are very different from us, but to actually take joy in the variety right before our eyes.

So when the unique quirks in your spouse’s or children’s personalities start to get on your nerves, ask God to help you look at them through his perspective, he who is the source of all the variety in our life. †
Jerusalem.

Anathoth, only a few miles from Jerusalem. As occurred with many, indeed even most, of the prophets, his prophecies drew sharp rebukes. He was even accused of blasphemy, a crime that had made its punishment in the Hebrew code of law. It was this statute that centuries later led to some of the demands for the crucifixion of Jesus.

Despite the ordeals created by these rebukes and accusations, Jeremiah never relented in proclaiming fidelity to God as a personal and national imperative, and he never doubted that he was on a mission from God.

In this weekend’s reading, Jeremiah recalls the day when God called him to the mission of prophesy. He gives the date. It was during the reign of King Josiah, who ruled the Kingdom of Judah from 640 to 609 B.C. E.

God told Jeremiah to be bold. God predicted the controversial response to Jeremiah’s prophesying, and urged the prophet not to be daunted by unfriendly or angry reactions.

As its second reading for this weekend, the Church offers us a passage from the First Epistle to the Corinthians. It is one of the loveliest and best known sections of the entire corpus of Pauline literature. It is the beautiful explanation of love.

Few better definitions of love—this ability unique to humans in nature—exist in writing. It is clear and straightforward. It is greatly inspiring.

Paul then reveals what happens when a person embraces the Gospel. Imperfections fade away. Knowledge increases. Maturity is reached. The insecurities and smallness of youth are over.

St. Luke’s Gospel is the source of the last reading. Jesus, as the story clearly states, appears in the synagogue in Nazareth. In earlier verses, not part of this weekend’s reading, Jesus stands to read a section of the Book of Isaiah.

In this section, Isaiah recalled his own calling to be a prophet. Isaiah gave details as to what this calling meant. It meant that he was God’s spokesman, sent by God to bring liberty to the oppressed, hope to the poor and sight to the blind.

Then, continuing in the passage read this weekend, Jesus declares that this prophecy has now been fulfilled. In other words, Jesus is the long awaited spokes man of God. At first, the audience is impressed. But then Jesus recalled an incident, mentioned in the Old Testament, in which God showed mercy upon gentiles.

This mention of divine favor for anyone outside the Chosen People infuriated the audience in the synagogue so much that they tried to murder Jesus. He, of course, escaped.

Reflection

The Church remembers the great feasts of Christmas, the Epiphany and that of the Baptism of the Lord in early January. In these feasts, it celebrated the mercy of God that came to us through the person of Jesus Christ. Building upon this idea of God’s gift of mercy and consequent eternal life, the Church this weekend presents these readings.

Within them, first, is the theme that God supplies to us that which we cannot find or create on our own, namely eternal life. Thus, God sent Jeremiah to prophesy. Thus, God sent Jesus. As the Gospel made clear, no one is beyond God’s mercy, but we must do our part in receiving this mercy. We must love others with the pure love as described by St. Paul. Reaction to Jeremiah and to Jesus remind us that our insights are limited. We can even foolishly resist God’s efforts to redeem us, so blind we may be. 

My Crocheted Prayer

Back and forth, to and fro, The prayer ascending as I go. Please, God, Grant us peace … Grant us peace

By Margaret Jacobi

(Margaret Jacobi is a member of St. Michael Parish in Bradford.)

My Journey to God

Choir, chain two, Yarn over, pull through. Please, God, Grant us peace.

Chain three, chain four, Stitching as my spirit soars. Please, God, Grant us peace.

Chain five, chain six, Prayer between and prayer between. Please, God, Grant us peace.

Chain seven, chain eight, Entreaty seeks to emulate. Please, God, Grant us peace.

Chain nine, chain ten, Petitioning until the end. Please, God, Grant us peace.

Question Corner/ By John Dietzen

Pope Pius XII taught that married love will continue in heaven

My husband of nearly 43 years died suddenly eight months ago. I’m having a hard time living without him, although I know he is happy. Only my faith that we will meet in heaven gets me through the day. I read recently that an 18th-century theologian, Emanuel Swedenborg, taught that there is still marriage in heaven. Does the Catholic Church agree? If so, was everyone who ever married married for life?

As you know, I’m sure, the sadness you experience over your husband’s death is shared by millions of others who have suffered the loss of a spouse or close friend.

As we see things in this earthly life, some realities just don’t seem to fit together. Intense suffering and happiness are two of them. How can you or your husband be happy when you are so miserable?

The only answer we can give in this life is that our lives will look different when we eventually see them with the eyes of eternity, the way God sees them, and the way your husband sees them now.

Human suffering of any kind doesn’t fit in with God’s Providence in his creation and in his plan for our salvation. If nothing else, we have the suffering and death of Jesus to assure us that Scripture assures us that the Father was present to Jesus always, even in the darkest hours of his Passion. Yet the Father did not remove that suffering. He knew that, for Jesus as for us, this suffering played an essential role in our coming to a full and good human and Christian life.

Your husband is with you in the communion of saints, supporting you. He is wonderfully aware of what lies within all our doubts and fears, it will all fit together when we see things as they really are.

As for marriage in heaven, it is true, of course, that there will not be the reproductive aspects of marriage that we experience in this life. However, some years ago, Pope Pius XII had some enlightening and consoling words about that.

Speaking to married couples, Pope Pius noted that, while marriage itself may not endure in heaven, married love will continue. What does that mean?

First of all, part of heaven will be our conscious intimacy and communion with those who we were dear to us here on earth.

Beyond that, however, our personalities, our ways of loving and being which we will carry into eternity, are molded largely by the people with whom we shared this earthly life. By being with them—parents, friends, brothers and sisters, children, teachers and others. In most cases, one of the most important of these people is one’s spouse.

You are a much different person than you would have been had you not married or had you married someone other than the man you did.

In other words, his love for you and your love for him, formed in each of you by the sacrament and communion of your marriage, will continue. Its personal and intimate effects in both of you, in all their goodness, never will end.

(A free brochure on ecumenism, including questions on intercommunion and other ways of sharing worship, is available by sending a stamped, self-addressed envelope to Father John Dietzen, Box 5515, Peoria, IL 61612. Questions may be sent to Father Dietzen at the same address or by e-mail in care of jdietzen@aol.com.)

Readers may submit prose or poetry for faith column

The Criterion invites readers to submit original prose or poetry relating to faith or experiences of prayer for possible publication in the “My Journey to God” column. Submissions, which are appreciated, 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.org.
Washington (CNS) — A one-hour documentary featuring religious sisters who participated in the 1965 civil rights marches in Selma, Ala., will air on PBS in February as part of Black History Month programming.

The documentary, “Sisters of Selma: Bearing Witness for Change,” highlights the involvement of Midwestern sisters who joined the marches. It also features the Sisters of St. Joseph from Rochester, N.Y., based in Selma, who provided housing for visiting protesters and treated marchers at Selma’s Good Samaritan Hospital.

Many of these sisters are now retired or working in various parts of the country. Independent filmmaker Jayasri Hart, who served as the film’s director and producer, reunited them to show them previously unused news footage of themselves and the events of 1965. The comments they made while watching the film serve as a large part of the film’s narrative.

Hart also found other Selma residents — Catholic and Protestant, white and black — to comment on the sisters’ involvement.

“One realize that it takes a team approach when it comes to patient care. Luckily, we have a dedicated group of individuals who have made their mission to ensure that our patients receive the highest level care, while never losing sight of the little things that matter, like a caring hand to hold.”

— Dr. Ronald Reisman, physician, Seton Specialty Hospital.

Seton Specialty Hospital is a premier long-term, acute care hospital (LTACH) dedicated to improving the quality of life for patients in their journey back from the ICU to a stable health condition.

For more information, call 317.582.8560 or visit seton.stvincent.org.

The Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. asked Church leaders to break up their intended 60-mile voting-rights march from Selma to the state Capitol in Montgomery.

March 10, in defiance of a federal judge’s injunction and amid threats of violence. An interfaith delegation of about 50 from St. Louis, the largest out-of-state group to participate, was asked to lead the march.

One of the members of this group was Sister Mary Antonia Ebo, an African-American and a member of the Sisters of St. Mary, now called the Franciscan Sisters of Mary. She led the march with five white nuns although police stopped them soon after they had begun.

In an interview in 2004 with the St. Louis Review, newspaper of the St. Louis Archdiocese, Sister Antonia said she: “didn’t walk more than a half a block, but it was a long half-block.”
Retiring World Food Program director has audience with Holy Father

The Criterion staff report

How do you spend your last day on the job? If you’re James Morris, executive director of the United Nations World Food Program, you take part in a private audience with Pope Benedict XVI at the Vatican.

Morris, a Terre Haute native and longtime civic leader in Indianapolis, met with the Holy Father on Jan. 15, which was also his last day serving as the leader of the world’s largest food aid organization. At the meeting, Morris noted the extraordinary help provided to the World Food Program by Catholic organizations.

“I wish to thank His Holiness [Pope Benedict] for his continued personal commitment, as well as that of the Catholic Church, to the poor and desperate people of the world,” Morris said. “I wish to thank His Holiness [Pope Benedict] for his continued personal commitment, as well as that of the Catholic Church, to the poor and desperate people of the world.”

Morris said. †

The state of Indiana was well represented during a Jan. 15 papal audience with Pope Benedict XVI. From left are William McGowan Jr., vice chairman of the Indianapolis Convention and Visitors Association and member of St. Luke Parish in Indianapolis; James Morris, retiring World Food Program executive director; Pope Benedict XVI; Jerry Semler, chairman of the board of American United Mutual Insurance Holding Company and The OneAmerica Foundation and member of St. Pius X Parish in Indianapolis; and Mike Stayton, Morris’ chief of staff.

Saint Mary-of-the-Woods College taps David Behrs as first lay president

The Criterion staff report

SAINT MARY-OF-THE-WOODS—Aafter a national search, Saint Mary-of-the-Woods College has selected David G. Behrs as the institution’s 15th president. Behrs will be the college’s first lay Catholic president. He begins his new position on July 1, succeeding St. Joseph of Carondelet Sister Joan Lescinski, who last month was named president of St. Ambrose University in Davenport, Iowa.

With more than 22 years of experience in higher education, Behrs currently serves as both the associate provost for university initiatives and the vice president for student affairs and enrollment management at Dominican University of California in San Rafael, Calif.

“David’s experiences at Dominican University and in higher education have prepared him well for his future at Saint Mary-of-the-Woods College,” said Providence Sister Denise Wilkinson, general superior. “He is passionate about the college’s Catholic tradition, and committed to the mission and values of the college and the Sisters of Providence.

“We look forward to working with him as we draw on our heritage to step boldly into the future,” Sister Denise said. “All the while honoring Saint Mother Theodore Guerin by carrying on her legacy of faith and service.”

Behrs, 47, earned a Ph.D. in counseling and student personnel at American University, a master’s degree in counseling and student personnel at Shippensburg University, and a bachelor’s degree in history and social science at Elizabethtown College.

The new president said he is looking forward to using his experiences and skills to advance the mission of making Saint Mary-of-the-Woods College the premier women’s Catholic institution in the world.

“Saint Mary-of-the-Woods College has experienced tremendous growth under Sister Joan Lescinski’s leadership,” Behrs said. “I am honored to have been selected to lead the college into this exciting time of positive and significant advancement, and I look forward to building on the momentum the college has created to propel it to even greater levels of excellence.”

Behrs and his wife, Maureen, have two daughters.

Saint Mary-of-the-Woods College was founded in 1840 by St. Theodora Guerin and the Sisters of Providence.†

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SAINT MARY-OF-THE-WOODS—Aafter a national search, Saint Mary-of-the-Woods College has selected David G. Behrs, a fourth-year seminarian at Saint Meinrad School of Theology in southern Indiana.

The Iowa native, who has been preparing for his new life since he responded to God’s call five years ago, plans to celebrate his ordination to the priesthood on June 6 at the Paul Cardinal Kuhlers’ Basilica in Indianapolis. Archbishop Daniel M. Beursch will ordain Deacon Summers to the priesthood along with two other seminarians, Thomas Kovatch and Rick Nagel.

After Deacon Summers is ordained, he will provide at his first Mass at St. Pius X Church in Indianapolis, and it will mark the beginning of his life as a priest.

Deacon Summers worked for many years in the health care industry before deciding to respond to God’s call, although he admits it wasn’t always far off in his mind. In fact, he first realized the possibility of a religious vocation to the priesthood when he was a junior in high school.

Wanting to go away to college and be with friends, Deacon Summers avoided responding to those promptings to study for the priesthood. At the same time, however, Deacon Summers did remain open to trying to understand God’s call. He researched 12 years of Catholic education before attending a Catholic college. At one point Deacon Summers also looked into monastic life at Blue Cloud Abbey in South Dakota, a Benedictine monastery founded from Saint Meinrad Archabbey. It was engaging enough to interest him in entering the Blue Cloud community, but after spending four years in formation, he discerned that God had other plans for him.

That’s when Deacon Summers set his sights on health care studies and a master’s of business administration degree. The education propelled him to work in health care administration and perform consulting work, a career path that fostered professional success that moved him around the country to Chicago, New York City and southern California. Many

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For some people, big decisions grow increasingly clear with time and reflection. That maxim is certainly true for Deacon Randy Summers, a fourth-year seminarian at Saint Meinrad School of Theology in southern Indiana.

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Louis Kuntz. Grandmother of 17.


are natives of the archdiocese are included here, unless they religious sisters and brothers.

Criterion Obituaries of archdiocesan office by 10 a.m. Thursday Please submit in writing to our Rest in peace
**Parish Ministry Positions**

Center Director—must be bilingual, education & experience in parish ministry a must. Grant writing, fundraising, administration, development preferred. Send résumé and references to: bkuykendall@evansville-diocese.org www.nativitycatholicchurch.com hola@evansville.org

**Family Nutrition Program Assistant**

Teach nutrition and cooking skills to at-risk individuals. No experience needed; just a passion for helping others. Send résumé and references to: eisakson@archindy.org www.archindy.org/humanresources

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Director, Human Resources
Archdiocese of Indianapolis
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