Faith’s effects unclear for Catholic presidential candidates

WASHINGTON (CNS)—On any given day this January, a full 21 months before the 2008 election, it seemed that someone was announcing a presidential exploratory committee or launching his or her campaign for president. And there was a good chance that the candidate was a Catholic.

When Sen. John F. Kerry of Massachusetts bowed out of the race for the Democratic nomination on Jan. 24, he left nearly a dozen other Catholics—Republicans and Democrats—vying for their party’s nomination, either officially or unofficially.

On the Republican side, there are Sen. Sam Brownback of Kansas; former New York Gov. George Pataki; long-shot candidate John Cox of Illinois; former Wisconsin Gov. Tommy Thompson; and former New York Mayor Rudolph Giuliani, considered the GOP front-runner along with Sen. John McCain of Arizona, an Episcopalian, and former Gov. Mitt Romney of Massachusetts, a member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

Catholics vying for the Democratic nomination for president include Sen. Joseph Biden of Delaware; retired Gen. Wesley Clark; Sen. Christopher Dodd of Connecticut; Rep. Dennis Kucinich of Ohio; Gov. Bill Richardson of New Mexico; and Gov. Tom Vilsack of Iowa.

As the Democratic front-runners are Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton of New York, a Methodist; former Sen. John Edwards of North Carolina, a Baptist; and Sen. Barack Obama of Illinois, a member of the United Church of Christ.

“It’s a more open field [for Catholic candidates] than ever before,” said Roger Robins, an assistant professor of history and political science at Marymount College Palos Verdes in California. “I think the old nativism [against Catholic immigrants] is pretty well gone.

In some ways, Catholics have a stronger role in the American political scene than ever before, with about 30 percent of the members of Congress and about 40 percent of the nation’s governors being Catholic, Robins said.

“But the real shocker is the A promise to God

Cancer gives catechist new perspective on prayer, religious education

By Sean Gallagher

In the spring of 2005, David Ballintyn was a new graduate of the University of Notre Dame. But unlike many young graduates who strike out into the marketplace with ambitious career plans, Ballintyn decided to give of himself to God by serving two years as an apprentice in parish catechetical ministry through Notre Dame’s Echo program.

Over the course of the summer, as he was planning to minister at St. Mark the Evangelist Parish in Indianapolis, Ballintyn became sick and was later diagnosed with a malignant brain tumor.

In the process, he discovered that God was asking more of him than he had originally planned to give.

Plans put on hold

Instead of moving in with his four fellow Echo apprentices in Indianapolis, Ballintyn returned to his Delaware hometown where an MRI revealed his brain tumor.

“I just felt sick all over [when I saw it],” he said. “It’s the kind of stuff you see in the movies. It was a huge egg inside [my] head. You could see it right there.”

Ballintyn’s neurologist referred him to a brain surgeon in Indianapolis, the place where he had originally planned to live for two years.

When Ballintyn and his parents arrived for biopsy surgery in September 2005, Harry Dudley, associate executive director of faith formation of the archdiocese’s Office of Catholic Education, opened his family’s home to them.

Mary Lynn Cavanaugh, director of religious education at St. Mark Parish who was Ballintyn’s planned Echo mentor, lent him and his family a car for their short stay in Indianapolis.

“He was totally upbeat and positive,” said Cavanaugh. “We talked very broadly about when he would come to St. Mark. The issue wasn’t if he was coming, it was always when he would get here.”

The power of prayer

Mixed in with Ballintyn’s confidence was fear about his future, a fear that he laid before God in prayer.

“I started making promises [to God], fumbling in prayer,” he said. “I was like, ‘Listen, bring me through this, and I will be more devoted to you.’”

Although Ballintyn and countless others were praying that he might survive, the Notre Dame graduate wanted to make the prayer effort his “dying ministry.”

“He wanted to share with his family and friends that if ‘this wasn’t necessarily going to work out the way they wanted it to … that didn’t mean that God wasn’t working. It didn’t mean that they were being ignored.’”

The wisdom of children

Ballintyn received radiation treatment for his tumor at the Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center in New York in October 2005.

Because of the nature of his tumor, Ballintyn was treated in its pediatric ward. Seeing children battling cancer was “a wake-up call” for him.

“They were so happy,” Ballintyn said. “I expected a lot more crying.

“But it was quite the opposite. I was made keenly aware of the children’s optimism, of the children’s desire to live.

Ballintyn’s own desire to live was strengthened when he learned that the probability of a total elimination of the cancer was 90 percent or more.

“That’s actually [when] my prayer requests ended up shifting,” he said. “I sent out e-mails and I said, ‘Listen, I’m going to be fine. We need to pray. We need to pray for these kids.’”

Two days after Christmas, Ballintyn learned that the radiation treatments were successful and that he was clear of his cancer.

‘I need to go. I need to do it.

About a week later, Ballintyn returned to Indianapolis, where he had come three months earlier for brain surgery. Now he was coming to make due on his promises.

PHOTO BY SEAN GALLAGHER
Having Ballintyn in the community after his battle with cancer offered Puscas a new view on life. “God does not plan for these things to happen,” she said. “But we know that God can turn ugly things into beautiful things and that, whatever happens in our lives, there can be some good and new life brought out of it. “And I think that, from the perspective that we have now, we can look back on it and we can see all of the green shoots of new life that have come from this in our work and in our community and in our personal relationships.”

Family catechesis

For Ballintyn, one “green shoot” blossomed in a new perspective on his catechastical ministry. “It is a family endeavor,” he said. “It is something that parents can bring to their children. But it is something that children can bring right back to their parents.”

Ballintyn experienced that firsthand in his experience with cancer. “In my own family, I realized that, while we were a very devout Catholic family, my own faith journey had brought me to a point where I needed to catechize my family,” he said. “I needed to teach them. I had very clear things I needed to say to my family about what I had learned about God and about prayer and about suffering and about death and about heaven.”

Now Ballintyn relishes the opportunity to speak with parents about passing on the faith to their children. “I just snatch up the opportunities to talk to parents,” he said. “And I try to give them the practical resources that they can use.”

Coming back to children

Ballintyn’s battle with cancer has undoubtedly had an impact upon the way he approaches catechastical ministry—whether it’s in speaking to parents or in one of his favorite activities, organizing preschoolers and kindergartners in a Montessori-style religious education class offered at St. Mark Parish. “I get to see… just the unbelievable fire in their eyes just from having these small experiences of Christ,” he said. “It helps me understand how Christ expects us to approach him and to talk to him. It’s humility, which is something that any cancer patient has been through.”

In the coming months, Ballintyn’s Echo apprenticeship at St. Mark Parish will come to an end. At this point, he is contemplating entering into full-time campus ministry.

However he might try to form the faith of others in the future, Ballintyn recognized that while his battle with cancer will have an impact upon his ministry, he doesn’t want to simply make it his “big story” that he tells in retreats and faith formation presentations.

If he brings it up with other people, he wants his story to strengthen their faith. “It does open a line of connection between me and other people,” Ballintyn said. “But I only feel comfortable using that line so that I can drct them to the faith that I know.”

**Parish Shopping Days**

The Village Dove announces two Saturdays when you can shop and help your parish at the same time. **Saturday, February 17 & 24**

Mention your parish and 10% of your total purchase will go back to your parish in a gift certificate for religious education.

**The Village Dove**

722 E. 65th Street

Indianapolis 46220

11523 Lantern Road, Fishers 46038

888-6670

www.villagedovein.com • E-mail: vildove@aol.com

---

**Sherry & Armbruster**

Accountable Directors

LLE Certified Public Accountants

Call Now For Timely Tax Return Preparation

- Individuals and Businesses
- Convenient Appointments Including Evenings and Weekends
- Knowledgeable and Experienced

881-6670

Patrick A. Sherman, CPA

Martin J. Armbruster, CPA/PPS, CPA

John D. Grant, CPA

Fax 887-3003

609 Techbourne Drive

Greenwood, Indiana 46142

e-mail: pjg@scpa.com

---

**Criteria**

Moving?

We’ll be there waiting if you give us two weeks’ advance notice!

Name: ______________________

New Address: ______________________

City: ______________________

State/Zip: ______________________

New Parish: ______________________

Effective Date: ______________________

Note: If you are receiving duplicate copies please send both labels.

---

**The Criterion (ISSN 0574-4350)** is published weekly except the last week of December and the first week of January.

1400 N. Meridian St.

P.O. Box 1717

Indianapolis, IN 46206-1717

Telephone: 317-236-1570

Fax: 317-236-1425

Email: criterion@archindy.org

Web site: www.CriterionOnline.com

Copyright © 2007 The Criterion Inc. All rights reserved. Periodical postage paid at Indianapolis, IN. Copyright © 2007 Criterion Press Inc; ISSN 0574-4350.
Blue Ribbon day
Department of Education official honors schools for excellence

COLUMBUS—In 15 minutes, the band would play and the St. Bartholomew School gymnasium would be packed with hundreds of people clapping and cheering—for academic excellence.

Yet before that celebration began on Jan. 31, a senior official from the U.S. Department of Education walked into the school’s fifth-grade classroom and talked to teacher Missy Foist’s students about how special this day was for their school.

“There are only 14 Blue Ribbon schools in the entire state of Indiana,” said Kristine Cohn, the U.S. Department of Education’s top official for Indiana, Illinois, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio and Wisconsin. “Of those 14 schools, seven of them are private schools [including six from the archdiocese].

“There are only 50 private schools in the United States that are Blue Ribbon schools, and you’re one of them. We are going to celebrate all the hard work [that] St. Bartholomew has done.”

During the celebration in the gymnasium filled with students, teachers, parents and staff, St. Bartholomew Principal Kathy Schubel shared a quote from John Ruskin, a 19th-century writer, “When love and skill work together, expect a masterpiece.”

Then she added her own words as she addressed the school children. “Each and every one of you students is a masterpiece.”

Similar celebrations and sentiments were shared on Jan. 31 and Feb. 1 as Cohn visited the four other elementary schools in the archdiocese that earned Blue Ribbon recognition in 2006: Christ the King School in Indianapolis, St. Lawrence School in New Albany and St. Monica School in Indianapolis.

The other 2006 Blue Ribbon school from the archdiocese—Father Michael Shawe Memorial Jr./Sr. High School in Madison—had its celebration and a U.S. Department of Education visit earlier. The six schools are among the 292 schools honored nationally by the Department of Education for their school’s recognition in 2006.

Blue Ribbon Schools program of the U.S. Department of Education.

The Blue Ribbon Schools program honors elementary and secondary schools that have placed in the top 10 percent of state or national tests.

The program also honors schools, with at least 40 percent of their students from disadvantaged backgrounds, that dramatically improve student performances on state or national tests over a three-year period.

In the past four years, 21 different schools in the archdiocese have earned the Blue Ribbon distinction. No other diocese in the United States has matched that level of excellence.

“In the 3½ years I’ve been doing Blue Ribbon schools, Indiana has always had more schools from the Indianapolis archdiocese,” Cohn said after the celebration at St. Bartholomew School. “When a school system sets goals on achievement and accountability and then achieves them, that is what makes us so proud.”

In the past four years, 21 different schools in the archdiocese have earned the Blue Ribbon distinction. No other diocese in the United States has matched that level of excellence.

“In the 3½ years I’ve been doing Blue Ribbon schools, Indiana has always had more schools from the Indianapolis archdiocese,” Cohn said after the celebration at St. Bartholomew School. “When a school system sets goals on achievement and accountability and then achieves them, that is what makes us so proud.”

Betty Popp, principal at St. Lawrence School in Indianapolis, congratulates students for doing their part to help the school be recognized as a Blue Ribbon School of Excellence by the U.S. Department of Education.

Getting started is as easy as one, two, three ...

1. Call 317-293-5500 for your free consultation.
2. Save $300 on your first month of credit counseling.
3. Stop late and over-limit fees.
4. One place to pay.
5. Most bills handled.
6. 4 Indiana locations.

Contact the experienced credit counselors today at 317-293-5500.

317-293-5500 • 800-937-9030
www.cccindy.com

Robin Run Village
We’re more than you think!

Robin Run - dash where you can enjoy the amenities and features that define a great lifestyle, along with the peace of mind of a complete healthcare continuum.

Our 86 acres with walking trails, fishing ponds and tennis courts inspire an active and enriching lifestyle. And our residents enjoy a wide range of activities, an indoor pool, an on-site bank and fine dining.

You’ll appreciate our spacious studio, 1-bedroom and 2-bedroom floor plans and pets are welcome.

Your Life. Your Time. Your Place to Live Well.

(317) 293-5500

ROBIN RUN VILLAGE
Brookside Senior Living
5334 West 62nd St.
Indianapolis, IN 46268
www.arcp.com

• ADULT DAY CARE
• ALZHEIMER’S CARE
• INDEPENDENT LIVING
• SKILLED NURSING
• GARDEN HOMES
• RESpite CARE
• ROBIN’S NEST
• CHILD CARE

Lock in 2006 Rates in 2007 - LIMITED TIME!
God’s plan for marriage

We call your attention to our Marriage Supplement on pages 11-15 in this issue. Twice a year, we celebrate the gift of married love. Unfortunately, it appears that such couples are in decline. It is up to be taken for granted that most men and women would marry when they grew up then have children and raise families. Today, though, for the first time in our country’s history, the percentage of adult women who are not married is greater than those who are. Our secularized society seems to rejoice in women who are proud of the fact that they don’t need a husband in order to have children. In earlier generations, it was a tragedy to become pregnant outside of marriage, and those who did so certainly didn’t plan it that way. That’s no longer true. Single women now are impregnated with sperm that men have deposited in “sperm banks.” They become “mothers-by-choice” instead of by accident and they are bearing “designer children.” All this is happening despite the well-known statistics that single-parent families are much more likely to live in poverty and that the children are more likely to go to prison and/or to continue to have children out of wedlock. For example, in 2004, more than 98 percent of the 2 million families that qualified for welfare were single-parent families. We acknowledge the fact that those women who become mothers-by-choice are far different from the single women who are already living in poverty when they become pregnant. But we still lament the fact that the children grow up without a father. OK, some of them do have a father. The practice of cohabitation, of couples living together without marriage, has become prevalent in our society. There is no longer a stigma attached to what was once called “shacking up.” Of course, these couples are different from the single women who become mothers-by-choice. The decline in family life has taken place within the past half-century. It probably began with the so-called “sexual revolution” in the 1960s, powered by the invention of the birth-control pill that made it possible for men and women to have sex with less fear of becoming pregnant. Many people saw no reason to get married if their partner was willing to have sex with them outside of marriage. The ages at which men and women married gradually increased, too. What happened to morality when all this was going on? When did it suddenly become all right for non-married men and women to have sex? Today our society takes for granted that sexual activity is part of dating. Our television situation comedies revolve around men and women having sex outside of marriage.

The Catholic Church still believes that God’s original plan for men and women is best. It teaches that God himself is the author of marriage. As the Catechism of the Catholic Church says, “The very nature of marriage is written in the very nature of man and woman as they came from the hand of the Creator. Marriage is not a purely human institution despite the many variations it may have undergone through the centuries in different cultures, social structures, and spiritual attitudes” (2063). The Church also teaches, “By its very nature the institution of marriage and married love is ordered to the procreation and education of the offspring and it is in them that it finds its crowning glory” (Vatican 11’s Gaudium et Spes, para. 11).

Because it believes so emphatically in marriage and the family, the Church also opposes those techniques that make it possible for women to become mothers-by-choice. The catechism states: “Techniques that entail the dissociation of husband and wife, by the intrusion of a person other than the couple [donation of sperm or ovum, surrogate uterus], are gravely immoral. These techniques interfere with the children’s right to be born of a father and mother known to him and bound to each other by marriage” (4276). We are still old-fashioned enough to believe that intact family units are vital for our civilization. Despite trends to the contrary in our modern society, the Church must continue to promote God’s plan for marriage and family life.

— John F. P. Fink

Parish Diary

Father Peter J. Daly

Sister parishes in Mexico are a gift of our faith

We are back from Mexico. Our parish sent a delegation of four people to visit our sister parishes high in the mountains of the central Mexican state of Hidalgo, about 200 miles north of Mexico City. It was our fourth visit. We have two sister parishes, Sagrado Corazón (Sacred Heart) in the “municipio” (county) of Piaxtlares and San Pedro (St. Peter) in the “municipio” of Chapulhuacán. These places are not touristy. Mexico is rural, poor, isolated. People wear cowboy boots and hats. They work in fields. The average wage is $8 to $10 per day. It is a hard, hard life.

These are mountain people. Their local music, called Huasteca, sounds like U.S. country music. If you want a mental picture of the place, combine the music, the mountains and think of West Virginia in the 1950s, only in Spanish.

Not many “gringos” visit there. In one little town, I mentioned that I was the only gringo ever to visit four times. Residents laughed in agreement.

They call me “Padre Gringo” or “Padre Pedro.”

One young woman stopped me in Chapulhuacán. She said, “Padre, you came to assist my mother last year.” I asked how her mother was doing.

“She died,” she said. “But we were grateful that a priest was able to visit her before she died.”

Local priests are incredibly overworked. There is no way they can visit all the towns, let alone individual homes. One of our sister parishes has 45 chapels and two priests. The parish has 2000 homes and one priest.

When we visit, we try to go to the places that local priests can’t get to. We also help financially to support the work of the lay catechists. We buy building supplies to rebuild chapels. We also have bought bibles, crucifixes, statues and signs for chapels. We bring supplies for the catechists, especially the Bibles, catechisms, rosaries and prayer books.

The Catholic Church is under siege in Mexico, besieged by the missionaries from the U.S. These missionaries are usually Mormon, Jehovah’s Witnesses or various evangelical groups. One catechist said, “They divide the community.”

Because priests cannot be everywhere, the Catholic Church depends on lay catechists. These volunteers teach the faith, hold Sunday services in remote towns, reflect on the Scripture and prepare people for sacraments. Without the catechists, the Church would die. Our visits are like getting caught up in a whirlwind. I usually celebrate Mass three times a day in three little towns.

Getting to the towns involves hours bouncing along dirt roads in the back of a pick-up truck. We sit on stools or boards laid across the truck’s side rails.

When we arrive, the catechists jump off and call people to Mass with loudspeakers, bells and fireworks. Nobody has a phone. People come down from the hills, in from the fields and out from their houses.

Each Mass is followed by a “convivio” (party). Women bring out prepared dishes loaded with chicken and pork, tortillas and enchiladas, beans and rice. Sometimes we participate in wedding and baptismal receptions.

These visits are not restful, but they are rejuvenating. I always come back exhausted but strangely energized. I feel closer to God.

Somehow, on the faces of all those wonderful people, we see in a new way what the Catholic faith means to people. How it unites us, sustains us, guides us.

Somehow, God has given these sister parishes as a gift in all things. They are a mystery so we have made this connection. Truly the plan of God. It is a gift from the body of Christ.

What a gift it is!

(Father Peter J. Daly writes for Catholic News Service.)

Letters to the Editor

Address poverty is no easy task

I read Father Larry Snyder’s column in the Jan. 26 issue of The Criterion with interest.

As a president of Catholic Charities USA, I am passionate about addressing America’s poverty. I was particularly pleased with his comment that a “short-term response, however generous, is not enough to deal with long term challenges.”

Father Snyder’s column was rather light on specifics, however. Does he merely believe that people are “the agents for change”?

Father Snyder prepared to require the poor to do their part and learn the capital virtues of charity, temperance and diligence.

While the Church has a preferential option for the poor, the poor are also too often idealized by the dominant intellectuals in America. In my profession, I work with the poor on an almost daily basis.

I applaud Father Snyder’s efforts to fight poverty in America, but I question whether he is truly prepared to address poverty’s long-term challenges.

Carlos F. Lam, Indianapolis

Pastor was teacher, devoted priest

I was so pleased to read Father Dan A. Martinson’s obituary that appeared in the June issue of The Criterion.

Unfortunately, I was away on vacation when he passed away and couldn’t attend his wake and funeral. I feel the unique privilege of knowing and working for Father A. during his time in our Diocese of Salem. I had the joy of working with a very special priest, a great father and teacher.

We will miss him, and our prayer is that good Our Almighty God welcomes his faithful servant into paradise because he was a great teacher and devoted priest.

Linda Fitzpatrick, Bedford
T

This week, I thought I might share some thoughts about marriage.

First, there is some centuries-old advice from St. John Chrysostom: “Show your wife you appreciate her company a lot and that you prefer to be at home rather than outside, because she is there. Show her a preference among all your friends and even above the children she has given you; love them because of her — pray all together. Learn the fear of God; everything else will flow from this like water from a fountain and your house will be filled with bounty” (20th Homily on the Letter to the Ephesians).

While this advice addresses a husband, it applies equally to the wife.

When I celebrate a wedding, I am always struck by the thought that for most other people who are out and about on that wedding day, that day will come and go like any other.

As I look upon the wedding couple, I can’t help but think that there are people young and old who are out and about on this day and not so beautiful, who are driving around or walking the streets or shopping centers looking for something to do, looking for a way to fill their lives with some kind of meaning in their lives.

There are lonely people who are looking where people are pointing towards the church. Are they who care. And if any of those lonely people happen to walk into a church where a marriage is being blessed, what would they think?

Some might think “It’s just another wedding” and, cynically, they might add, “If marriage is the answer, why do so many marriages end up in divorce?”

Some, the more romantic, might get caught up in the beauty of the bridal couple and the wedding party, and dream of happiness forever.

There is no such thing as just another wedding. A wedding day is not just another day. Life together is not and will not become a romantic dream. For the bride and groom, the meaning of their life together, their love for each other and the trust they have for each other must be rooted in God.

While husband and wife need God’s blessing on their marriage over and over again. No couple should try to go it alone. The secret to a happy marriage is the commitment to have God as the mutual third party.

For someone who is a husband and wife to realize that however deeply in love they may be on their wedding day, their love for each other is not enough for a lifetime.

No couple’s love on the day of their wedding is enough for a lifetime because love is not static. Love is a decision that grows and is pruned and is tempered by life’s experiences and yes, it can falter if it is not not reinforced. It is equally true for a couple to understand that almost certainly by themselves alone they cannot make their marriage work.

Recently, I received an e-mail from a friend whose wedding I witnessed 18 or 20 years ago. He wrote that I had made him very angry when I said his love for his wife on their wedding day was not enough for a lifetime. He said, “A rabbi, you work, right. I couldn’t understand at the time, but our love has grown much deeper and stronger over the years.”

Every married couple needs God’s blessing for their love. It is the first reason our Church comes together to witness and bless a marriage.

Love needs nurturing. Trust and faith between wife and husband need constant attention.

And that is the second reason we come together as Church: Before family and friends, wife and husband promise to help each other build the trust and love they will need for life. Down the road, there may be days when keeping marriage promises may seem like the only measure of their love.

Marriage, all of life, has growing pains.

Do you want to look at a happy marriage? Look to the three people who know the love: the husband who reach out to their family and friends.

Look to the couple whose prayer together leads them to care for their neighbors, look to the couples who care for the elderly, for the poor and for the sick.

It is what we mean when we say marriage is a sacrament of the love of God. God’s love takes flesh and reaches out to others through the married love of husband and wife.

A couple’s vocation in life is to share their love with family and neighbors. And we keep in mind that Christ expanded our notion of family and neighbor to include anyone in need.

If couples pray every day, and if they attend weekly Mass and receive the sacraments together, everything will be OK. God is always faithful.

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

A rabbi’s Buechlein’s Prayer List
A rchdiocese of Indianapolis
1400 N. Meridian St.
P.O. Box 1410
Indianapolis, IN 46202-1410

El amor de las parejas de casados debe estar arraigados en Dios

Esta semana pensé en algunos pensamientos sobre el matrimonio. Primero, tenemos el consejo espiritual de san Cristóstomo: “Me trae a la esposa cuatro aprecias su compañía y que prefieren estar en casa y no lejos, porque ella está allí. Demostré que la preferías por encima de todos tus amigos y amigos a lo largo de los años y continuas el Amor San Juan Crisóstomo: “El amor de las parejas de casados debe estar arraigado en Dios.”

En cuanto a la celebración de una boda, ¿qué sucedería si una de esas personas solitarias entrara en una iglesia donde se está celebrando un matrimonio? ¿Qué pensaría?

Los adultos jóvenes que son miembros de su congregación en nuestras parroquias y tengan la generosidad y el valor de considerar el ser viviente en la iglesia, especialmente como sacerdotes y religiosos.

La intención del Arzobispo Buechlein para vocaciones en febrero

Archbishop Daniel M. Buechlein, O.S.B.

Título de la oración del Arzobispo Buechlein: “Puede enviar su correspondencia a:”

Lista de oraciones del Arzobispo Buechlein
A rchdiocesis de Indianapolis
1400 N. M eridian St.
P.O. Box 1410
Indianapolis, IN 46202-1410

Traducido por: Language Training Center, Indianapolis
Saint Lawrence Parish cordially invites all Indianapolis area Catholic Parishes to our 6th Annual St. Lawrence Endowment Fund Event on March 3, 2007 from 6:45PM–12:00PM.

The event will be held at:
The Allison Mansion
Marion County Visitor’s Center
3200 Spring Road
Indianapolis, IN 46222

Gourmet hors d'oeuvres will be served with desserts, and complimentary drinks will accompany this fun evening full of fellowship, dancing, gaming, and entertainment. The night will include silent, choice and live auction items that you may bid on or be lucky enough to win! The event is $50 per Person, and you can call 845-4925 for reservations or information. We hope you will join us for our big fundraising event.

Events Calendar

February 10

St. Roch Parish, 3600 S. Pennsylvania St., Indianapolis, Bus trip to Saint Mary-of-the-Woods, 9 a.m., lunch, departure 7:30 a.m., return 8:30 p.m., $45 per person. Information: 317-783-6048.

February 11
St. Rita Church, 1733 Dr. Andrew B. Jones Ave., Indianapolis, Black History Month, Mass, 7:30 a.m., return 8:30 a.m., $45 per person. Information: 317-574-8898.

Sundays
Our Lady of the Most Holy Rosary Church, 520 Stever St., Indianapolis, Tridentine Latin Mass, 9:30 a.m. Information: 317-636-4478.

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

Christ the King Church, 1927 Kessler Blvd. E., Drive, Indianapolis, Elevation of the Blessed Sacrament, 7:30-9 p.m., rosary for world peace, 8 p.m. Information: 317-256-3866.

St. Gabriel the Archangel Church, 600 W. 34th St., Indianapolis, Evening of Reflection, “Preparing for Lent: Conversion of Heart,” Franciscan Sister M. Timothy Kavanagh, presenter, 7 p.m. Information: 317-291-7014, ext. 30.

February 13
Marian College, M other Theresa Hackelmeier Memorial Library Auditorium, 3010 Spring Road, Indianapolis, Franciscan Center for Global Studies speaker series, “The Catholic Church in Latin America,” Father Jose M. Narins, presenter, 7 p.m., registration required. Information: 317-955-6213.

St. Franci Community Retreats, 3315 S. Thompson Road, Indianapolis, “Freedom from Smoking,” seven-week class, 6-8 p.m., $50 per person. Information: 317-782-7999.

February 14
Our Lady of Peace Cemetery, Mass, 7-8 p.m. Information: 317-955-6213.


February 15
St. Rita Church, 1733 Dr. Andrew B. Jones Ave., Indianapolis, “St. Gabriel Black History Month, evening of worship, “God’s Epiphany,” 7-9 p.m. Information: 317-623-9349.

St. Athanasius the Great Byzantine Church, 6000 W. 34th St., Indianapolis, “Freedom from Smoking,” seven-week class, 6-8 p.m., $50 per person. Information: 317-782-7999.

February 16
St. Gabriel the Archangel Church, 600 W. 34th St., Indianapolis, Evening of Reflection, “Preparing for Lent: Conversion of Heart,” Franciscan Sister M. Timothy Kavanagh, presenter, 7 p.m. Information: 317-291-7014, ext. 30.

February 17
St. Christopher Church, 5301 W. 16th St., Indianapolis. Sixth annual Indianapolis Catholic Men’s Conference, “How and To Whom Do I Pray?” Father Keith Hay, homily speaker. 8 a.m.-3:45 p.m., $35 per person includes lunch. Information: 317-744-3010, ext. 16 or e-mail ddbkis@catholicindianapolis.org.

Saint Lawrence Parish cordially invites all Indianapolis area Catholic Pastors to our 6th Annual St. Lawrence Endowment Fund Event on March 3, 2007 from 6:45PM–12:00PM.

The event will be held at:
The Allison Mansion
Marion County Visitor’s Center
3200 Spring Road
Indianapolis, IN 46222

Gourmet hors d’oeuvres will be served with desserts, and complimentary drinks will accompany this fun evening full of fellowship, dancing, gaming, and entertainment. The night will include silent, choice and live auction items that you may bid on or be lucky enough to win! The event is $50 per Person, and you can call 845-4925 for reservations or information. We hope you will join us for our big fundraising event.

Help Christ feed and clothe the poor. Collect donations at all Masses. Stop by our collection tubs.

Society of St. Vincent de Paul in your Will.

Saint Law Enhce Parish

Benedictine Brother Silas Henderson sings a chant during the ritual in which he solemnly professed his vows as a monk of Saint Meinrad Archabbey in Saint Meinrad, Ind. As part of an ancient monastic tradition, Brother Silas received a coronal (Latin for “crown”) haircut for the occasion.

Benedictine monk professes solemn vows

Benedictine Brother Silas Henderson professed his solemn vows as a monk of Saint Meinrad Archabbey during a ceremony on Jan. 25 at the Archabbey Church in St. Meinrad. He entered the noviceate at Saint Meinrad in 2003 and professed his simple vows the following year.

In professing solemn vows of obedience, fidelity to the monastic way of life and stability in the community at Saint Meinrad, Brother Silas becomes a full and permanent member of the Benedictine community.

Brother Silas, who is 28, grew up in Clinton, Tenn., and was a member of St. Mary Parish in Oak Ridge, Tenn. Following high school, he was a seminarian for the Diocese of Knoxville at Conception Seminary College in Conception, Mo.

He later took courses toward a degree in secondary education at Roane State Community College in Harriman, Tenn. In 2006, he earned a bachelor’s degree in philosophy at St. Joseph Seminary in Covington, La.

Brother Silas is currently in formation for the priesthood at Saint Meinrad School of Theology. He also serves as a musician for the monastic community.
St. Mary's Child Center Reaches Out To At-risk Children

By John Shaughnessy

The director of St. Mary's Center, Daniel Sarrell, says it is the most important project his agency has ever undertaken. ‘We are changing the trajectory of these children’s futures,’ he says.

As he awaited the arrival of his first child, David Burkhard spoke to the Lord about his marriage prospects. He had just got married and was worried about his wife in the labor and delivery room.

For the first time, he asked God to take care of her. "I remember being at the hospital and thinking, 'I really need someone to take care of her.'"

The next day, he went walking in a park with his first child when she was about 3 years old. "She was on my shoulders and the leaves were falling down around us," says Burkhard, the coordinator of the men's conference. "She was giggling and laughing at the falling leaves. It was new to her. Seeing her get caught up in the awe of things has brought me an awareness of the bigger presence of God in our midst."

At the conference, Sarrell hopes to use the Beatitudes to help men make a difference in their daily lives. He believes that meditating on the Beatitudes can be a step in helping men with their faith—during retreats and faith-sharing meetings often lead people to a different, deeper kind of prayer, says Father Keith Hosey, who will be the keynote speaker at the conference.

"Most of the time our prayer patterns stay the same until something comes along to shake them up, usually in moments of pain," says Father Hosey, a priest in the Lafayette Diocese. "The grace of God often comes in difficult times. When the death of someone we love, the loss of a job, or a serious illness bring an addiction. That's when we turn to God for our higher power."

Yet the change can also come when people deliberately set aside time to focus on prayer during retreating and faith conferences, Hosey says. It particularly helps when people separate themselves from the 'noises' of the world and seek an atmosphere of silence to connect with God.

"We think prayer is talking to God, but prayer is listening to God," Father Hosey says. "There's a time when we really need to listen to God and that requires silence. It's a skill that takes a lot of patience. Men who go fishing and hunting and climbing mountains are really looking for God. That's where a lot of men find God, too."

"Bill Fike takes time to find God at 3 p.m. every day—the time his wife of nearly five years, Colette, always sets aside to pray together."

"We find some time no matter where we are or what we're doing at 3 o'clock to pray together," says Fike, a member of St. Christopher Parish in Indianapolis, who will speak at the conference. "My cell phone will ring and it's her. That's been a wonderful tradition of prayer for us and our relationship."

David Burkhard found a glimpse of God when he went walking in a park with his first child when she was about 3 years old. "She was on my shoulders and the leaves were falling down around us," says Burkhard, the coordinator of the men's conference. "She was giggling and laughing at the falling leaves. It was new to her. Seeing her get caught up in the awe of things has brought me an awareness of the bigger presence of God in our midst."

The personal awareness is important for Daniel Sarrell, another conference speaker. Sarrell remembers a time in his life when he believed "the poor were poor because they were lazy." "After all, I experienced firsthand how my mother worked hard and he overcame many of the disadvantages of being a divorced, single parent," Sarrell recalls. "If we could do it, why couldn't everyone else? I was proud and lacked compassion."

His view began to change as he grew older, especially when he helped at a Catholic Worker kitchen in Denver. "I encountered the poor as my brothers and sisters with whom I could have a person-to-person interaction," says Sarrell, who is the executive director for the Archdiocese of Indianapolis. "As appalled as I was at the poverty I was experiencing, I was inspired by the humanity of the people."

At the conference, Sarrell hopes to use the Beatitudes to help men make a difference in their daily lives. He believes that meditating on the Beatitudes can place people in a dialogue with God and move them closer to the destiny God has for them.

Father Hosey also believes prayer is the path toward that destiny. "Finding God is what life is all about," Father Hosey says. "God's presence is the one thing you can count on. Yet we feel it's too good to be true that God will be there for us, that he wants to be close to us. But it's true."

The men's conference will be from 8 a.m. to 3:45 p.m. on Feb. 17 at St. Christopher Church, 3501 W. 16th St., in Indianapolis. The registration fee, which includes lunch, is $35 before Feb. 14 and $40 after Feb. 14. For information, call David Burkhard at 317-241-6314, ext. 126, or send an e-mail to him at ddb@saintchristopherparish.org.
Cohn also stressed another point: “We are very proud to give these awards, but the true reward is the wonderful education these boys and girls are receiving.”

During her visit to St. Bartholomew, Cohn also spent time in the third-grade classroom, which was decorated with signs that encouraged the students, including “Smile, God loves you!” and “Have the courage to do your best!”

In the sixth-grade classroom, she noticed the signs that read, “Never settle for less than your best” and “To know God is to love many things.”

Cohn said all Blue Ribbon schools have four common elements: parents who are committed to making sure their children get a quality education, a strong administrative staff, students who realize they need to learn as much as they can, and teachers who commit their lives to sharing their knowledge and their love for learning.

The Blue Ribbon celebration at St. Bartholomew was a reaffirmation of those commitments by students, parents and teachers, said the school’s principal. “This is an exciting event because it recognizes what we’ve known for a long time,” Schubel said. “Our parents and students are committed to academic excellence, our teachers have worked hard to put in place programs and academics that look at individual student needs and, when you put it all together, it means success for everyone.”

The Christ the King middle school band performs during the school’s Blue Ribbon awards ceremony on Feb. 1 in Indianapolis.
Mentally ill not eligible for death penalty under proposed bill

By Bridig Curtis Auer

Life in prison without parole would be the stiffest penalty given to individuals suffering from serious mental illness under a bill being considered by the Indiana General Assembly.

Senator Brent Steele (R-Bedford) said that under Senate Bill 24, those convicted of a murder, but who are mentally ill, would not be eligible for the death penalty. Instead, those suffering from severe mental illness would be sentenced to life without parole.

Steele said the basis for the bill is the Indiana Public Defender Council's opposition to the death penalty in capital cases. He said the council believes that evidence of mental illness should be considered in determining whether a defendant is eligible for the death penalty.

Steele also said that the bill is supported by the American Civil Liberties Union and the National Association of Mental Health.

Under the bill, defendants would be considered mentally ill if they meet the following criteria:

1. They have been found to be mentally ill by a court.
2. They have a history of mental illness.
3. Their mental illness is so severe that it substantially affects their ability to understand the nature of their conduct or to conform to the requirements of law.

Steele said that the bill would allow for the possibility of treatment rather than imprisonment for mentally ill defendants.

Steele said that the Indiana Public Defender Council estimates that 38 percent of defendants in capital cases are mentally ill.

Steele said that the bill would allow for the possibility of treatment rather than imprisonment for mentally ill defendants.

Attorneys at law

Wood, Tuohy, Gleason, Mercer & Merrick, PC

Serving Indiana families and businesses since 1928.

The Indiana Catholic Conference and the Archdiocese since 1975.

General Practice in All Courts.

John S. (Jay) Mecer, Todd H. Belanger, Jennifer D. Mcllair, Jennifer R. Fitzwater, Stephen M. Koers, David S. Tomson

Litigation

Adoption

Business and Corporate

Church Law

Real Estate Employment Law

Estate Planning

Nonprofits

Wills & Trusts

Accidents and injuries

OF COUNSEL

William J. Wood, Ronald J. Cole

Email: lawyer@indylegal.com

www.indylegal.com

Fax: 317-636-6680

P. O. Box 44942

513-791-5791 EXT 1218

www.UARAFFLE.ORG

PROCEEDS BENEFIT URSULINE ACADEMY OF CINCINNATI

Builder Sponsor: Drees Homes

Entry Form Please Print

Tickets will be mailed to the purchaser.

"Drawing to be held April 20, 2007"

Name __________________________

Address ________________________

City ___________ ST __ Zip ___________

# Tickets ______ Payment Enclosed Check ______ or Credit Card: VISA MasterCard

$125.00 Each

Check # __________________________

Card Holder Name __________________________

$ __________ Payment __________

Card __________________________

Exp. Date __________

Return to: Ursuline Academy, 5355 Tifftree Rd., Cincinnati, OH 45242, 513-791-5791 x 1218

$125.00 Each

Check # __________________________

Card Holder Name __________________________

$ __________ Payment __________

Card __________________________

Exp. Date __________

Return to: Ursuline Academy, 5355 Tifftree Rd., Cincinnati, OH 45242, 513-791-5791 x 1218

WWW.INDIANALEGAL.COM

INDIANA LAWYER, INC.

1600 Ohio Street

P.O. Box 44942

Indianapolis, IN 46244-4942

Phone: 317-566-1511

Fax: 317-566-1480

www.indylegal.com

Email: lawyer@indylegal.com

P. O. Box 44942

513-791-5791 EXT 1218

www.UARAFFLE.ORG

PROCEEDS BENEFIT URSULINE ACADEMY OF CINCINNATI

Builder Sponsor: Drees Homes

Entry Form Please Print

Tickets will be mailed to the purchaser.

"Drawing to be held April 20, 2007"

Name __________________________

Address ________________________

City ___________ ST __ Zip ___________

# Tickets ______ Payment Enclosed Check ______ or Credit Card: VISA MasterCard

$125.00 Each

Check # __________________________

Card Holder Name __________________________

$ __________ Payment __________

Card __________________________

Exp. Date __________

Return to: Ursuline Academy, 5355 Tifftree Rd., Cincinnati, OH 45242, 513-791-5791 x 1218

WWW.INDIANALEGAL.COM

INDIANA LAWYER, INC.

1600 Ohio Street

P.O. Box 44942

Indianapolis, IN 46244-4942

Phone: 317-566-1511

Fax: 317-566-1480

www.indylegal.com

Email: lawyer@indylegal.com

P. O. Box 44942

513-791-5791 EXT 1218

www.UARAFFLE.ORG

PROCEEDS BENEFIT URSULINE ACADEMY OF CINCINNATI

Builder Sponsor: Drees Homes

Entry Form Please Print

Tickets will be mailed to the purchaser.

"Drawing to be held April 20, 2007"

Name __________________________

Address ________________________

City ___________ ST __ Zip ___________

# Tickets ______ Payment Enclosed Check ______ or Credit Card: VISA MasterCard

$125.00 Each

Check # __________________________

Card Holder Name __________________________

$ __________ Payment __________

Card __________________________

Exp. Date __________

Return to: Ursuline Academy, 5355 Tifftree Rd., Cincinnati, OH 45242, 513-791-5791 x 1218

WWW.INDIANALEGAL.COM

INDIANA LAWYER, INC.

1600 Ohio Street

P.O. Box 44942

Indianapolis, IN 46244-4942

Phone: 317-566-1511

Fax: 317-566-1480

www.indylegal.com

Email: lawyer@indylegal.com

P. O. Box 44942

513-791-5791 EXT 1218

www.UARAFFLE.ORG

PROCEEDS BENEFIT URSULINE ACADEMY OF CINCINNATI

Builder Sponsor: Drees Homes

Entry Form Please Print

Tickets will be mailed to the purchaser.

"Drawing to be held April 20, 2007"

Name __________________________

Address ________________________

City ___________ ST __ Zip ___________

# Tickets ______ Payment Enclosed Check ______ or Credit Card: VISA MasterCard

$125.00 Each

Check # __________________________

Card Holder Name __________________________

$ __________ Payment __________

Card __________________________

Exp. Date __________

Return to: Ursuline Academy, 5355 Tifftree Rd., Cincinnati, OH 45242, 513-791-5791 x 1218

WWW.INDIANALEGAL.COM

INDIANA LAWYER, INC.

1600 Ohio Street

P.O. Box 44942

Indianapolis, IN 46244-4942

Phone: 317-566-1511

Fax: 317-566-1480

www.indylegal.com

Email: lawyer@indylegal.com

P. O. Box 44942

513-791-5791 EXT 1218

www.UARAFFLE.ORG

PROCEEDS BENEFIT URSULINE ACADEMY OF CINCINNATI

Builder Sponsor: Drees Homes

Entry Form Please Print

Tickets will be mailed to the purchaser.

"Drawing to be held April 20, 2007"

Name __________________________

Address ________________________

City ___________ ST __ Zip ___________

# Tickets ______ Payment Enclosed Check ______ or Credit Card: VISA MasterCard

$125.00 Each

Check # __________________________

Card Holder Name __________________________

$ __________ Payment __________

Card __________________________

Exp. Date __________

Return to: Ursuline Academy, 5355 Tifftree Rd., Cincinnati, OH 45242, 513-791-5791 x 1218

WWW.INDIANALEGAL.COM

INDIANA LAWYER, INC.

1600 Ohio Street

P.O. Box 44942

Indianapolis, IN 46244-4942

Phone: 317-566-1511

Fax: 317-566-1480

www.indylegal.com

Email: lawyer@indylegal.com

P. O. Box 44942

513-791-5791 EXT 1218

www.UARAFFLE.ORG

PROCEEDS BENEFIT URSULINE ACADEMY OF CINCINNATI

Builder Sponsor: Drees Homes

Entry Form Please Print

Tickets will be mailed to the purchaser.

"Drawing to be held April 20, 2007"

Name __________________________

Address ________________________

City ___________ ST __ Zip ___________

# Tickets ______ Payment Enclosed Check ______ or Credit Card: VISA MasterCard

$125.00 Each

Check # __________________________

Card Holder Name __________________________

$ __________ Payment __________

Card __________________________

Exp. Date __________

Return to: Ursuline Academy, 5355 Tifftree Rd., Cincinnati, OH 45242, 513-791-5791 x 1218
Pope urges young people to express love in unselfish ways

VATICAN CITY ( CNS)—Pope Benedict XVI urged young people to express love in unselfish ways, looking past social goals of competition and productivity in order to become “witnesses of charity” in the world.

He held out Blessed Teresa of Calcutta as an example of a Christian who translated love into concrete action to help the poorest of the poor.

“The pope made the comments in a message marking World Youth Day, which is being celebrated in most dioceses on April 1, Palm Sunday. The text was released at the Vatican on Feb. 5.

The theme of the papal message was love, and he began by telling young people that despite emotional disappointments and lack of affection in their own lives, they should know that “love is possible.”

“The purpose of my message is to help reflect upon the guidelines you who are the future and hope of humanity—trust in a love that is true, faithful and strong; a love that generates peace and joy; a love that binds people together and allows them to feel free in respect for one another,” he said.

He emphasized that God is the source of true love,421 and that Christ’s suffering and death on the cross is the perfect expression of this divine love.

The pope focused on three areas where young people are called to demonstrate love of God: in the Church, in marriage and in society.

“In the Church, which he described as a “spiritual family,” the pope said youths should be willing to help facilitate parish and other activities, even if it means giving up some of their entertainments. They should “cheerfully accept the necessary sacrifices” and testify to their love for Jesus among people of their own age, he said.

The pope said marriage is a “project of love” between a man and a woman that fits into a divine design.

“Learning to love each other as a couple is a wonderful journey, but it requires a demanding ‘apprenticeship,’ ” he said. When couples get engaged, he said, it’s a period of preparation that needs to be lived “in purity of gesture and words.”

Engagement allows couples to practice self-control and development respect for each other, he said. This is true love, which does not place an emphasis on seeking one’s own satisfaction, he said.

When it comes to the daily routine of family, work and free time, the pope asked young people not to get caught up in the cultivation of talents needed to obtain a social position.

“Develop your capacities, not only in order to become more competitive and productive, but to be witnesses of charity,” he said.

He encouraged young people to study the social doctrine of the Church and use it to build “a culture of love that values the family, studies, work and free time, the family, studies, work and free time,” he said.

The pope focused on three areas where young people are called to demonstrate love of God: in the Church, in marriage and in society.

“In the Church, which he described as a “spiritual family,” the pope said youths should be willing to help facilitate parish and other activities, even if it means giving up some of their entertainments. They should “cheerfully accept the necessary sacrifices” and testify to their love for Jesus among people of their own age, he said.

Furnaces as low as
50,000 BTU

Heating and Air Conditioning

THIELE Heating and Air Conditioning

Service & Repairs - New Installation

SINCE 1983

Furnaces as low as $9990
Save 30% off Selected Fabric

317-639-1111

“Indy’s Oldest Heating & Cooling Company”

Own Your Equipment

Saves you time, money and defeats unemployment

Expires 3/2/07

Coupens must be presented at time of purchase and combined with any other coupon.

www.callthiele.com

Check out our website

shelbyupholstering.com

1932 Same family third generation

317-631-8911 1-800-331-7697

Shelby Upholstering

30% off

"Indy’s Oldest Heating & Cooling Company"

SINCE 1983

Our Lady of Fatima Retreat House

"Faith: It’s Not Just for Sundays Anymore!"
Fr. Phil Bowers, Pastor, Holy Spirit at Geist Parish
February 28, 2007 • 8:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

Fr. Phil leads discussion on living your faith at home, at work and throughout the parish community. We look at finding Christ in everyone—even the difficult folks! Living your faith requires doing your homework by living out the Gospel in your everyday life.

Cost is $35.00 per person and includes continental breakfast and lunch. Mass and Reconciliation will be available.

A registration form is available online at www.archindy.org/fatima or register by calling Kathy at (317) 545-7681.

Our Lady of Fatima Retreat House
5535 E. 56th Street
Indianapolis, IN 46226
(317) 545-7681
www.archindy.org/fatima
Rebecca Andrea Laux and Patrick Allen Farrell were married on July 8, 2006, at Holy Cross Church in Indianapolis. The bride is the daughter of Robert and Mary Ann Laux. The groom is the son of Kevin Farrell and the late Judy Farrell.

(See related story on page 14.)
Beechler-Merriman
Mary Joan Beechler and Brandon Ray Merriman will be married on April 14 at Holy Spirit Church in Indianapolis. The bride is the daughter of Jerry and Sandra Beechler. The groom is the son of Dennis Merriman and Marris Voiles.

Crimmins-Sharp
Kelly Marie Crimmins and Ryan Christopher Sharpe will be married on May 12 at St. Bartholomew Church in Columbus. The bride is the daughter of Patrick Crimmins and Linda Hallum. The groom is the son of Ronald Sharpe and Mary Pat Sharpe.

Croeter-Turner
Victoria Lynn Croeter and Kevin Patrick Turner will be married on June 9 at St. Peter’s Church in Indianapolis. The bride is the daughter of Gerald and JoEllen Croeter. The groom is the son of Linda Turner Nicholson and the late Harvey “Pat” Turner.

Doll-Raver
Deanna Marie Doll and David Joseph Raver will be married on June 9 at St. Nicholas Church in Sunman. The bride is the daughter of Pete and Linda Doll. The groom is the son of Glenn and Alice Raver.

Eakman-Miskowiec
Stephanie M. Eakman and Christopher M. Miskowiec will be married on Sept. 1 at St. Mary Church in Indianapolis. The bride is the daughter of Larry and Mary Eakman. The groom is the son of Thomas and Leslie Miskowiec.

McKinney-Han
Katherine A. McKinney and David G. Han will be married on June 23 at SS. Francis and Clare Church in Greenwood. The bride is the daughter of Irm. M. McKinney. The groom is the son of Paul and Betsy Han.

Murphy-McNabb
Mary Jane Murphy and Jonathan McNabb will be married on June 17 at St. Charles Borromeo Church in Bloomington. The bride is the daughter of Robert and Penny Murphy. The groom is the son of Daniel and Linda McNabb.

Ebert-Batta
Nichole Leah Ebert and Lawrence Nichole Batta will be married on June 16 at Our Lady of the Greenwood Church in Greenwood. The bride is the daughter of Sylvan and Linda Ebert. The groom is the son of Larry and Janet Batta.

Capper
†
Ruth Coomer and the late Kevin Wissel. The groom is the son of Robert and Penny Wissel. The bride is the daughter of Mark and Jamie Neu. The groom is the son of Dan and Barbara Savka. The groom is the son of Sue Ann Williams and the late Colin Andrews.

Cromer-Capper
Amanda Catherine Wissel and Eric Kyle Capper will be married on June 9 at St. Mary Church in Greensburg. The bride is the daughter of Timothy and Melinda Wissel. The groom is the son of Ruth Coomer and the late Kevin Capper.

By Mary Ann Wyand

The Catholic Church helps couples prepare for a sacramental life together by offering the Pre Cana Conference, a one-day marriage preparation program, at Our Lady of Fatima Retreat House, 5353 E. 56th St., in Indianapolis. “Weddings are the ‘stuff of dreams,’” explained Marylin Hess, associate director of healing family ministries of the archdiocesan Office of Family Ministries. “Making plans for the day consumes a lot of time and energy, not to mention expense prior to the event. It is important for engaged couples to remember that the wedding day lasts for 24 hours while marriage lasts for a lifetime and requires a great deal of skill,” Hess said. “Attending marriage preparation programs like Pre Cana can help the engaged couple focus on relevant marriage issues, such as sacramentality and sexuality, and enhance necessary skills like communication.” Hess said the Pre Cana program is intended to be the initial step in the wedding preparation process.

Savka-Dudich
A Sloan Marie Savka and Jason Paul Dudich will be married on June 16 at SS. Peter and Paul Cathedral in Indianapolis. The bride is the daughter of Dan and Barbara Savka. The groom is the son of Robert Dudich.

Senac-Andrews
Lauren Molive Senac and Colin Zachary Andrews were married on Oct. 21, 2006, at Sacred Heart of Jesus Church in Indianapolis. The bride is the daughter of John and Pamela Senac. The groom is the son of Sue Ann Williams and the late Colin Andrews.

Robbins-Savin
Katie Gene Robbins and Jared Douglas Savin will be married on March 3 at a Roman Catholic Church in Scottsburg. The bride is the daughter of Kelley and Jean Robbins. The groom is the son of Dale and Vicki Savin.

By Mary Ann Wyand

The phrase “today is the first day of the rest of your life” is especially true for engaged couples on their wedding day. The phrase is appropriate for engaged couples on their wedding day.

Norton-Kennedy
Kathryn Ann Norton and Sean Michael Kennedy will be married on June 9 at St. Pius X Church in Indianapolis. The bride is the daughter of James and Jeannette Norton. The groom is the son of Casey and Angela Kennedy.

Ray-Cox
Arlisa Marie Ray and Christopher Evans Cox will be married on May 19 at St. Mary Church in Indianapolis. The bride is the daughter of Christopher and Lisa Ray. The groom is the son of James Cox and Nancy Cox-McCaulley.

Archdiocese offers Pre Cana program

By Mary Ann Wyand

The phrase “today is the first day of the rest of your life” is especially true for engaged couples on their wedding day.
Is it your goal in life to be well-connected with other people? That question can be interpreted many ways, but some well-meaning people will respond, “When I said ‘I do’ to my spouse, I promised to forsake all others.”

“I remember shortly after my wife, Angela, and I got married, we remained relatively well-connected with family and friends, but the amount of time we spent with them during our courtship dropped precipitously after our wedding. Too many so-called commitments are founded on “touch,” intimacy first, preceding any sufficient knowledge or trust of one another, creating a completely false sense of reliance or dependency. For instance, a quick fix for a lack of real intimacy, sixth, is termed “touch,” the sexual intimacy between husband and wife. That question can be interpreted many ways, but some well-meaning people will respond, “When I said ‘I do’ to my spouse, I promised to forsake all others.”

Social scientists have made great strides in developing what is known as “attachment theory” to explain some of these phenomena. Understanding these issues better may lead us toward more healthy and balanced relationships as well as more active involvement in our civic and faith communities.

Research shows that unmarried people tend to be more socially connected than those who are married because of our society’s unrealistic and privatized expectations for marriage. Social isolation in marriage is known as “attachment model” to explain some of these phenomena.

One simple attachment model put forward by John Van Epp, author of How to Avoid Marrying a Jerk (or Jerkette), states that intimate relationships should be built on a sequence of, first, knowledge of the other and, second, trust, which leads to, third, reliance; and fourth, commitment, and the ultimate level of intimacy, fifth, is termed “touch,” the sexual intimacy between husband and wife.

The point of Van Epp’s “Relationship Attachment Model” is that no one level in the sequence should ever get higher than the previous step. I have reflected on some of the relationships that I have known personally and some I have seen in marriage preparation programs, and too often couples get this sequence completely out of order and out of balance. I have heard the myth that married people to be more socially isolated than others, and the usual attempts to explain away this data have proven untenable.

There is a vast difference between putting one’s spouse and family at the top of one’s priorities and making one’s family your only priority. I don’t know anyone who has taken family life to that absurd extent, but social research in the past several years reveals a trend that shows married people to be more socially isolated than others, and the usual attempts to explain away this data have proven untenable.

The criterion for a healthy marriage is not whether the marriage has been consummated, but whether the marital couple “should retreat from other interactions into private self-sufficiency.” They noted in their report that “the percentage of Americans who rely on their spouses as their only confidants has nearly doubled over the last 20 years. . . . As we increasingly expect our partners . . . to be our soul mates, we become less involved with other people.”

Television images of guys escaping their wives to watch a stupid game with their buddies hits close to home for many Americans who rely on their spouses as their only confidants. Americans in particular have a tendency to buy into the myth that married people are more socially connected than others, and the usual attempts to explain away this data have proven untenable.

“I don’t know anyone who has taken family life to that absurd extent,” Daniel Sarell wrote. “Put one’s spouse to the predictable breaking point. ‘Fragile’ when the burden of emotional dependency strains one’s spouse to the breaking point. ‘Fragile’ does not benefit greatly from your contribution and sacrifice of time and self. ”

Marriage benefits God’s love in communities. It’s probably a healthy sign if you think that response is a bit crazy. There is a vast difference between putting one’s spouse and family at the top of one’s priorities and making one’s family your only priority. I don’t know anyone who has taken family life to that absurd extent, but social research in the past several years reveals a trend that shows married people to be more socially isolated than others, and the usual attempts to explain away this data have proven untenable.

It’s probably a healthy sign if you think that response is a bit crazy. There is a vast difference between putting one’s spouse and family at the top of one’s priorities and making one’s family your only priority. I don’t know anyone who has taken family life to that absurd extent, but social research in the past several years reveals a trend that shows married people to be more socially isolated than others, and the usual attempts to explain away this data have proven untenable.

Too many so-called commitments are founded on “touch,” intimacy first, preceding any sufficient knowledge or trust of one another, creating a completely false sense of reliance or dependency. For instance, a quick fix for a lack of real intimacy, sixth, is termed “touch,” the sexual intimacy between husband and wife. That question can be interpreted many ways, but some well-meaning people will respond, “When I said ‘I do’ to my spouse, I promised to forsake all others.”

That question can be interpreted many ways, but some well-meaning people will respond, “When I said ‘I do’ to my spouse, I promised to forsake all others.”

The point of Van Epp’s “Relationship Attachment Model” is that no one level in the sequence should ever get higher than the previous step. I have reflected on some of the relationships that I have known personally and some I have seen in marriage preparation programs, and too often couples get this sequence completely out of order and out of balance. I have heard the myth that married people to be more socially isolated than others, and the usual attempts to explain away this data have proven untenable.

Too many so-called commitments are founded on “touch,” intimacy first, preceding any sufficient knowledge or trust of one another, creating a completely false sense of reliance or dependency. For instance, a quick fix for a lack of real intimacy, sixth, is termed “touch,” the sexual intimacy between husband and wife. That question can be interpreted many ways, but some well-meaning people will respond, “When I said ‘I do’ to my spouse, I promised to forsake all others.”

Research shows that unmarried people tend to be more socially connected than those who are married because of our society’s unrealistic and privatized expectations for marriage. Social isolation in marriage is known as “attachment model” to explain some of these phenomena.

One simple attachment model put forward by John Van Epp, author of How to Avoid Marrying a Jerk (or Jerkette), states that intimate relationships should be built on a sequence of, first, knowledge of the other and, second, trust, which leads to, third, reliance; and fourth, commitment, and the ultimate level of intimacy, fifth, is termed “touch,” the sexual intimacy between husband and wife. That question can be interpreted many ways, but some well-meaning people will respond, “When I said ‘I do’ to my spouse, I promised to forsake all others.”

Research shows that unmarried people tend to be more socially connected than those who are married because of our society’s unrealistic and privatized expectations for marriage. Social isolation in marriage is known as “attachment model” to explain some of these phenomena.

One simple attachment model put forward by John Van Epp, author of How to Avoid Marrying a Jerk (or Jerkette), states that intimate relationships should be built on a sequence of, first, knowledge of the other and, second, trust, which leads to, third, reliance; and fourth, commitment, and the ultimate level of intimacy, fifth, is termed “touch,” the sexual intimacy between husband and wife. That question can be interpreted many ways, but some well-meaning people will respond, “When I said ‘I do’ to my spouse, I promised to forsake all others.”

Research shows that unmarried people tend to be more socially connected than those who are married because of our society’s unrealistic and privatized expectations for marriage. Social isolation in marriage is known as “attachment model” to explain some of these phenomena.

One simple attachment model put forward by John Van Epp, author of How to Avoid Marrying a Jerk (or Jerkette), states that intimate relationships should be built on a sequence of, first, knowledge of the other and, second, trust, which leads to, third, reliance; and fourth, commitment, and the ultimate level of intimacy, fifth, is termed “touch,” the sexual intimacy between husband and wife. That question can be interpreted many ways, but some well-meaning people will respond, “When I said ‘I do’ to my spouse, I promised to forsake all others.”

Research shows that unmarried people tend to be more socially connected than those who are married because of our society’s unrealistic and privatized expectations for marriage. Social isolation in marriage is known as “attachment model” to explain some of these phenomena.

One simple attachment model put forward by John Van Epp, author of How to Avoid Marrying a Jerk (or Jerkette), states that intimate relationships should be built on a sequence of, first, knowledge of the other and, second, trust, which leads to, third, reliance; and fourth, commitment, and the ultimate level of intimacy, fifth, is termed “touch,” the sexual intimacy between husband and wife. That question can be interpreted many ways, but some well-meaning people will respond, “When I said ‘I do’ to my spouse, I promised to forsake all others.”

Research shows that unmarried people tend to be more socially connected than those who are married because of our society’s unrealistic and privatized expectations for marriage. Social isolation in marriage is known as “attachment model” to explain some of these phenomena.

One simple attachment model put forward by John Van Epp, author of How to Avoid Marrying a Jerk (or Jerkette), states that intimate relationships should be built on a sequence of, first, knowledge of the other and, second, trust, which leads to, third, reliance; and fourth, commitment, and the ultimate level of intimacy, fifth, is termed “touch,” the sexual intimacy between husband and wife. That question can be interpreted many ways, but some well-meaning people will respond, “When I said ‘I do’ to my spouse, I promised to forsake all others.”

Research shows that unmarried people tend to be more socially connected than those who are married because of our society’s unrealistic and privatized expectations for marriage. Social isolation in marriage is known as “attachment model” to explain some of these phenomena.

One simple attachment model put forward by John Van Epp, author of How to Avoid Marrying a Jerk (or Jerkette), states that intimate relationships should be built on a sequence of, first, knowledge of the other and, second, trust, which leads to, third, reliance; and fourth, commitment, and the ultimate level of intimacy, fifth, is termed “touch,” the sexual intimacy between husband and wife. That question can be interpreted many ways, but some well-meaning people will respond, “When I said ‘I do’ to my spouse, I promised to forsake all others.”

Research shows that unmarried people tend to be more socially connected than those who are married because of our society’s unrealistic and privatized expectations for marriage. Social isolation in marriage is known as “attachment model” to explain some of these phenomena.

One simple attachment model put forward by John Van Epp, author of How to Avoid Marrying a Jerk (or Jerkette), states that intimate relationships should be built on a sequence of, first, knowledge of the other and, second, trust, which leads to, third, reliance; and fourth, commitment, and the ultimate level of intimacy, fifth, is termed “touch,” the sexual intimacy between husband and wife. That question can be interpreted many ways, but some well-meaning people will respond, “When I said ‘I do’ to my spouse, I promised to forsake all others.”

Research shows that unmarried people tend to be more socially connected than those who are married because of our society’s unrealistic and privatized expectations for marriage. Social isolation in marriage is known as “attachment model” to explain some of these phenomena.

One simple attachment model put forward by John Van Epp, author of How to Avoid Marrying a Jerk (or Jerkette), states that intimate relationships should be built on a sequence of, first, knowledge of the other and, second, trust, which leads to, third, reliance; and fourth, commitment, and the ultimate level of intimacy, fifth, is termed “touch,” the sexual intimacy between husband and wife. That question can be interpreted many ways, but some well-meaning people will respond, “When I said ‘I do’ to my spouse, I promised to forsake all others.”

Research shows that unmarried people tend to be more socially connected than those who are married because of our society’s unrealistic and privatized expectations for marriage. Social isolation in marriage is known as “attachment model” to explain some of these phenomena.

One simple attachment model put forward by John Van Epp, author of How to Avoid Marrying a Jerk (or Jerkette), states that intimate relationships should be built on a sequence of, first, knowledge of the other and, second, trust, which leads to, third, reliance; and fourth, commitment, and the ultimate level of intimacy, fifth, is termed “touch,” the sexual intimacy between husband and wife.
A wedding is a family celebration of life and love. For Patrick Farrell and Rebecca Laux, their wedding day was also an opportunity to remember deceased loved ones. During their nuptial Mass on July 8, 2006, at Holy Cross Church in Indianapolis, they lit a candle in memory of his mother, Judy, who died on April 18, 2004.

A former wedding ceremony, they stood on the steps of the historic church and posed for a family photograph which resembled his late grandparents’ wedding picture taken on Sept. 20, 1938.

Father James Farrell, the groom’s uncle, and Father Brian Sutton, a newly ordained priest from Winona, Minn., who is the groom’s cousin, witnessed their marriage vows.

“Certainly the opportunity to be the minister who witnesses your nephew’s wedding is a special occasion for any priest,” Father Farrell said. “I think for me it was an opportunity to really step back in time since it was the church where our parents were married. Holy Cross Church has always had a special place in our family’s memory and in the hearts of each one of us.”

The pastor of St. Barnabas Parish in Indianapolis said his nephew’s wedding was a tribute to love through the years in the hearts of each one of us.

“To have been able to witness the wedding of a grandchild of my parents in the same church certainly made that Eucharist a real celebration in time of something that is timeless,” Father Farrell said. “And that is the recognition of God’s presence in every generation, and the faith that has been so special for the Farrell family.”

Rebecca Farrell describes herself as “sentimental” so the ceremony was also a reminder of the communion of saints.

“There was a whole sense of the cloud of witnesses that the Book of Hebrews (Heb 12:1) talks about,” Father Farrell explained. “The cloud of witnesses of our ancestors— who gathered in that church to celebrate a wedding in 1938—and that we would come back and celebrate a wedding last year, and recognize what a remarkable journey that our family has been on and how God has made himself present in so many ways in our family life.”

Patrick and Rebecca Farrell said it was providential that they were able to be married at Holy Cross Church 68 years after his grandparents, Jim and Josephine (Griffin) Farrell, began their married life together there.

“It was a beautiful day for both of us whose lives helped set the stage for our lives.”

Having his uncle serve as the principal celebrant for their wedding was “fabulous,” he said. “I love him dearly. He’s an integral part of our family.”

Patrick and Rebecca Farrell met at the urging of a friend who had been trying to introduce them for three years.

“We finally went out on a blind date and it worked great,” he said. “We dated for about two years then I asked her to marry me.”

“She’s a real sweetheart,” he said. “She’s in both pictures, which was a really good reminder of the generations that came before us whose lives helped set the stage for our lives.”

Our Lady of Fatima Retreat House

Tobit Marriage Preparation weekends

Christian communication retreats for engaged couples or couples considering engagement.

2007 Dates

April 13–15
May 18–20
June 15–17
July 20–22
September 14–16
November 2–4

Love is a decision!

Call 317-547-7681 or e-mail cmcsweeney@archindy.org for details or to have a brochure mailed to your home!
Set family boundaries for a simpler, happier life

By Effie Caldarola
Catholic News Service

Somewhere in the house, a door slams. It’s a gut-wrenching, painful expression of family discord.

There probably are few families who haven’t felt the jarring impact of a door slammed in anger, perhaps by a wounded spouse or a disgruntled teen.

But noisy demonstrations aren’t the only sign of conflict.

Have couples who boast smugly that “we never fight” listened for the quieter sounds of family disharmony? The curt “we never fight” listened for the quieter sounds of family disharmony? The curt “we never fight” listened for the quieter signs of conflict.

“Before it escalades, tell your partner or child, ‘I’m getting angry. I need to stop,’” she said. “But don’t forget the second step. When you’ve cooled off, go back and say, ‘Can we continue where we left off?’”

A nother way to bring healing to the whole family, she said, is for couples to remember that “parents are first of all husbands and wives.”

Take frequent nights out as a couple, she advised. Show your children that you are committed to keeping up your relationship.

Children need to be allowed to express their feelings about a conflict, she said.

“It’s great for kids … A parent can say, ‘It’s OK to be angry, but don’t kick the dog.’”

Sister Lorene believes many family conflicts result from giving in to the pressure from children to material possessions to keep up with their peers as well as the pressure to be involved in multiple activities outside the home.

“Parents don’t want to take the energy or time to set boundaries,” she said. As a result, “people are run ragged” by the demands on their time or finances and “all this adds to family conflict.”

To meet conflict head on, she advised, start thinking about your original family and share that reflection with your spouse.

Vent your feelings and don’t be afraid of a healthy argument, Sister Lorene said.

“Take a date with your mate. Listen reflectively to your spouse and children. Set family boundaries for a simpler life.”

(Effie Caldarola is a columnist for Catholic News Service and Catholic Anchor in Anchorage, Alaska.)

Tobit Weekend prepares couples for marriage

By Mary Ann Wyand

The love story of God guiding Tobiah’s and Sarah into a happy marriage is the basis for the weekend. Christian team couples and a priest conduct the marriage presentations.

Tobit Weekends are held at Our Lady of Fatima Retreat House, 5333 E. 56th St., in Indianapolis. This year, Tobit Weekends are scheduled on April 13-15, May 18-20, June 25-27, July 10-12, Sept. 14-16 and Nov. 2-4.

(For more information, call Our Lady of Fatima Retreat House at 317-545-7611.)

Lakeside Reflections

Wedding Consultation Service – tell us what you want and we’ll handle every detail from the ice sculpters, the floral designers, and photographers. Our caterers will create the perfect wedding cake and everything from finger foods to an exquisite sit-down dinner for you and your guests.

Full service banquet facility that can accommodate small intimate groups or large company functions.

DJ Service

Themed Parties – if you are looking for something truly unique, Lakeside Reflections can plan your event from idea to finale.

Our services allow you to express your desires, leave the planning and preparation to us.

For more detail visit us at www.lakesiderelfections.com

Located at:
617 Brown Forman Road
Jeffersonville, Indiana 47130
812-282-5425
Nation's youngest lobbyists take to Hill for Catholic schools

WASHINGTON (CNS)—A wave of teenage—and preteen—lobbyists descended upon Washington on Jan. 31 to make the legislative case for Catholic schools on a variety of issues, including educational choice.

They were Catholic school students themselves and were at the Capitol for the annual National Appreciation Day for Catholic Schools, part of the Jan. 28-Feb. 3 observance of Catholic Schools Week.

The students were from a dozen Catholic schools in the Washington and Baltimore archdioceses and the Diocese of Arlington, Va. They stuffed themselves into a Senate office building’s hearing room, about 100 seats too small to accommodate all of them, to get their talking points and marching orders from a panel of highly placed grown-ups in the Catholic education field.

There are close to 7,600 Catholic schools in the United States, and their students “would love to be here doing what you’re doing,” said Karen Ristau, president of the National Catholic Educational Association. “You’re representing all the students in all the Catholic schools across the country,” she added. “What you’re doing is very important.”

“You’re going to be our advocates today before the House of Representatives and the Senate on four important issues,” said Father William Davis, an Oblate of St. Francis de Sales who is interim secretay for education for the U.S. bishops. Pointing to his fellow adults at the head table, he said members of Congress or their staffs “can look at me or some of these other people up here and say, ‘You’re supposed to be here. That’s your job.’ But that was not the case, he added, for the students ready to visit the congressional office buildings surrounding the Capitol.

Vincent Guest, who lobbies on the bishops’ behalf on education issues, took note of his Catholic grade school and high school background in his native Philadelphia, saying, “What I am—the good parts—are the product of Catholic education.” He added, “In high school, my principal was Father Davis. He added, “In high school, my principal was Father Davis.”

With a Catholic for the first time as House chaplain, a Catholic as speaker of the House (Rep. Nancy Pelosi of California), and a Catholic as leader of the House Republicans (Rep. John Boehner of Ohio), Father Coughlin said, “We need, as Catholics, to behave well. We need to model what is the best behavior.”

Father Coughlin told the story of Thomas Will, a Catholic student at a public school, who in 1859 “stood up and refused to give the Ten Commandments the way the Protestants said them. This little guy was beaten up and was ridiculed sometimes.” Later, Will “didn’t want to read from the Protestant Bible. He wanted to read from his Catholic Bible. That got people mad and he was beaten up more. That turned out, Father Coughlin said, to be the start of the Catholic school system in the United States: “A few weeks later, he had 300 other kids agreeing with him.”

The issues the students were to take to Congress dealt with:

- Educational choice, including continued funding for “opportunity scholarships” for students going to nonpublic schools in the District of Columbia and additional pilot projects elsewhere; tax credits for personal and corporate donations to groups offering educational scholarships—including private school tuition—to children; and equal access for religious and private schools to services aimed at improving the educational environment.

- The E-Rate, a technology program that gives schools up to a 90 percent discount on telecommunication services depending on how many poor students are enrolled, including letting schools continue to upgrade their telecommunications services based on the Federal Communications Commission’s promised delivery of collected telephone taxes rather than requiring them to have the money in hand before getting discounted services. E-Rate subsidy monies are collected under the Universal Service Fund, a fee that consumers pay on their phone bills.

- Higher Education Act reauthorization, including federal student loan forgiveness for private-school teachers at schools in areas with a high poverty rate, and the inclusion of private school teachers in any federal law supporting teacher training and professional development.

Vatican publishing house defends choice of Doubleday for papal book

VATICAN CITY (CNS)—The Vatican publishing house defended the choice of Doubleday as the English-language publisher of Pope Benedict XVI’s new book on Jesus.

The book, Jesus of Nazareth: From His Baptism to His Transfiguration, is scheduled to be released on March 27 in North America.

Citing Doubleday’s “respectful editorial curriculum,” the Vatican publishing house said that when it contracted with the Italian publisher Rizzoli to handle the international translation and publication of the book, it expected Rizzoli to negotiate individual language rights with “the most important world publishing houses.”

The Vatican statement, issued on Jan. 30, came in response to a front-page article in the Italian newspaper Il Giornale saying that the English publisher to the pope’s new book will be in the hands of the same publisher responsible for The Da Vinci Code by Dan Brown.

Il Giornale said the assignment of rights to Doubleday, a division of Random House, which published Brown’s book, occurred despite Vatican officials’ recent complaints about how some publishers seem to enjoy making money from books that attack the Church and the Christian faith.

The Vatican statement said Doubleday’s catalogue also includes literary works by some “important” authors, including Pope John XXIII by Blessed Pope John XXIII, Gift and Mystery by Pope John Paul II and the Catechism of the Catholic Church.
Creating family harmony is challenging adventure

By David M. Thomas

How can families exercise attentive care as a way of surviving life’s inevitable storms?

Can families turn anger into acceptance, indifference into caring and silence into conversation?

In short, can they make life a little better for the family?

There are no easy solutions to most of life’s challenges. Through many of them, we just have to hang on and hope for the best, sort of like the disciples of Jesus in the boat during that big storm.

The disciples panicked while Jesus took a life. When they demanded that Jesus wake up, pay attention and help, he more or less raised a hand, quieted the storm and for all we know went back to sleep.

Jesus did tell his disciples, “Be not afraid.” You can translate that a thousand ways, but I like to think it meant something like this: “Trust God. In the end, it will basically be all right. While there will always be storms, there also will be survivors.”

We have to realize that family life stands as one of the most challenging of all human adventures.

Getting to the moon is much easier than getting a teenager to express sorrow for denting the family’s only car. Families always swim in deep, choppy water.

Creating family harmony can be much harder than composing a beautiful symphony or solving an intricate math problem. Let’s face it. Some things in life are just hard. And I believe that good family life is right at the top of “hard things to do.”

Sometimes we still have trouble believing in goodness. Being a parent, I know there are days when it is hard to see the good. Of course, we can always make things just a little better. Our smallest gestures of love are infinitely important.

Regardless, good family life remains something we all desire. But it takes more than desire to achieve it. It takes arduous work and a better-than-average amount of patience. It requires focus, discipline and a lot of love.

One reason it’s so hard to improve family life is that most of what happens at home easily becomes habitual. Everyday family patterns and relationships so easily slip into repetitious patterns. They become hardened like a pond on a subzero night. Some of these habits help family survival, but some do the opposite.

Creating better habits requires that we take a good look in the mirror. Search for what is good, and keep at it. Identify what is harmful and try to alter it, if even only a little.

Experts in family improvement often say that one of the first steps needed to make things better is to quiet family noise. The noise referred to is not what comes from a stereo speaker or TV set, but the noise reverberating from intense family emotions and anxieties.

That kind of noise can even be there when no one is speaking. Call it “loud silence.” Usually, that’s not good.

Parents need quiet so that they can be more attentive to what is needed. Sometimes the help of a professional is needed, someone to guide the family through a process of improvement. We are fortunate to live during a time when such assistance is readily available.

What might be causing your family some difficulty right now? It’s different for each family, but this simple set of rules will help families work through most problems:

• Be attentive to the difficulty.
• Identify its presence.
• Do something specific, one small thing aimed at making things better.
• Let your life flow toward goodness.
• Write a note.

If there’s poor communication between you and another family member, for example, ask how he or she is doing. Write a note. Recall a better moment from the past, and mention it in passing. Do something for that person that is unexpected. Even the smallest of gifts can make a difference. Remember that it’s the little things that make up a family.

Say a prayer for the one in your family who is struggling. Even if you don’t know who that might be, God does. It may be you. With that in mind, be sure to take care of yourself. Get enough sleep.

Remember the old saying: If you want to change the world or your family, begin by changing yourself. Care for yourself so that you can be more patient and more available to others.

A mother old saying is that charity begins at home. A gift, that may mean being a little better, a little kinder, to yourself.

(David Thomas lives in Whitefish, Mont., with his family and is co-director of the Bethany Family Institute.)

Family life needs focus, discipline and a lot of love. It is one of the most challenging of all human adventures. Experts in family improvement often say that one of the first steps needed to make things better is to quiet family noise in the home.

Respect strengthens family life

By H. Richard Mccord J.C.

Respect is the starting point for developing the other virtues necessary to create a healthy and holy family life—love, care, sacrifice, intimacy and forgiveness. Without the security of being respected and being able to offer the same respect to others, there is little chance that family members will grow into the community of life and love envisioned for it by God.

Because marriage is the primary community of a family, respect is a must between husband and wife. One of the most difficult adjustments in married life is accepting the otherness of our partner and learning how to live with differences throughout the marriage as each spouse changes and grows.

When faced with differences in a husband or wife—annoying habits or more substantive attitudes and behaviors—our first reaction might be to try to change the person. But this is futile and disrespectful. The only person you can change is yourself, and that’s difficult enough!

It’s best to discern where to begin, deliberately try to see some good in the other person and even call attention to it. Often, this effort will result indirectly in the other person’s changed behavior.

Psychologist John Gottman studies why marriages succeed or fail. He said happy, stable marriages aren’t without conflict, but thrive because of a proper balance of positive and negative feelings and actions.

The most common negative family dynamics are criticism, contempt, defensiveness and stonewalling, all caused by lack of respect, he said. Positive building blocks are showing interest, affection, care, appreciation, acceptance and concern, all based on respect.

(H. Richard Mccord is director of the U.S. bishops’ Secretariat for Family, Laity, Women and Youth.)

Discussion Point

Pray for help with family life

This Week’s Question

What is your recommendation for handling anger between family members?

"Pray for inspiration to solve the problem, and pray for healing within the family. I’d recommend being quiet and letting God talk to you.” (Richard A. Iavice, Tucson, Ariz.)

“I’ve always been kind of a peacemaker, and I try to get them to consider what God would think about their actions. … Our family has always believed that you talk about rather than fight about things.” (George Sneathen, Cumberland, Md.)

"First, remember that anger is just an emotion, and it’s not a sin to have it. But when you get angry, stop and don’t do anything. Give yourself time to pray before you speak.” (Beatrice Vrtis, Aurora, Colo.)

"My best medicine is very natural and typical: Go to Mass, to church, pray in front of the Blessed Sacrament. In our church, it is so quiet you can feel the peace. After that, you can talk with people you’re angry at even if you don’t want to.” (Manny Chavez, Chimayo, N.M.)

Lend Us Your Voice

An upcoming edition asks: What is love not?

To respond for possible publication, send an e-mail to cghnews@catenews.com or write to Faith Alive! at 3211 Fourth St. N.E., Washington, D.C. 20017-1100.
Unusual lesson on Communion of Saints

Not long ago, I had an MRI (magnetic resonance imagining) procedure of my head. “Having my head examined,” my husband, Paul, joked. “I’d be more of a worrywart,” I said, because of significant left eye and head pain that continued for several months without relief.

No, that was not my headache. The test also showed that my brain is “age appropriate.”

Not that this disturbs me because what will be, will be, and I certainly cannot change my age.

Meanwhile, the source of the pain remains a semi-mystery, but I’m getting some relief with an appropriate medication. The whys and whereabouts of this situation are unremarkable, but I feel the urge to share because of what I learned while experiencing the MRI.

First of all, despite horror stories I’d heard or read about this test, I was not scared, I was more curious than anything.

The technician told me this would feel much like being in a space capsule. That’s OK. Since I remember telling Paul before we were married that I would like to be the first woman on the moon, I’m not this war-baby decades before moon voyages were accomplished. We women were told that in the 1960s, Spunkids (the readers unfamiliar with Spunkids, check the library or internet.)

I went into my “space capsule” with no fear. Only my head hurt and that sounds I heard were not unlike being on an airplane, which have been the only flights I’ve ever experienced other than being on amusement park rides.

In the machine, I began to calmly pray while observing everything, especially comments from the technician. A mirror and intercom allowed me to see him all this commotion and I felt no claustrophobia.

My first prayer was the “Gloria” from the Holy Mass, said calmly and with no errors that I could perceive. Then I recited “The Creed” from Mass, again without any glitches. This was a first because I had never recited these prayers outside of Mass without flubbing. Strange, yes, but true.

I’d never done on me to know we’re interested in such detail. If we don’t approve of what we see, it’s safe to take back to us, and the louder we yell the more satisfying it is.

It feels good, and somehow our overall problems fall into perspective. It’s sure beats spending money for actual therapy.

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

Faithful Lines/Shirley Vogler Meister

Unusual lesson on Communion of Saints

Pop culture lends urgency to romantic quests

My friend Tana’s New Year’s resolution is to find romance. Her wedding circuit took a toll on her, and now she’s determined to have a mate before 2008.

The year is starting off in a big way, acknowledged in her blog, but it’s early yet. This is her wedding resources for Tauna, like Jan Spindel’s book, Get Serious About Getting Married: 365 Proven Ways to Find Love in Less Than a Year.

I understand the anxioussness of being unattached. Every time wedding bells ring for a friend, my biological clock ticks a little louder. And when their firstborn cries, the ticking gets louder yet.

I’m content, confident person, but it’s important not to compare my personal life with a friend’s who’s standing in front of the altar. And it’s hard not to feel a bit behind. 

We all have one, isn’t it? Over the years, I’ve been on reality shows? Those are programs that are more about the drama and displays of dysfunction than the drama and displays of true human communications, this seems quaint, but I bet many of us do it.

Once, I told my daughter-in-law that my husband talked back to the TV and she said, “So do you.” Chirping. But we have to admit that’s a definite temptation, even when we know it’s silly. 

Think about the stupidest and most even the least things the talking heads say sometimes on TV news or commentary programs. It’s easy to get into a dialogue that appear on the screen. I’m the moral editor of certain scenes and dialogue that appear on the screen.

Sometimes they get physical and have something extremely obvious to tell us. “It’s hard to watch quietly. So I don’t,” Mulling over this apparent need to talk back to the screen. Sometimes, I’ve kept busy reminding the kids that people like us do not drop into promiscuous sex in an instant or perpetual premarital covetion with vulgar words. I can only hope they’re listening to me and not the TV.

Talk shows also inspire hostility in the participants so obviously not in “real” trouble.

Mulling over this apparent need to talk back to the screen. Sometimes, I’ve kept busy reminding the kids that people like us do not drop into promiscuous sex in an instant or perpetual premarital covetion with vulgar words. I can only hope they’re listening to me and not the TV.

Talk shows also inspire hostility in the participants so obviously not in “real” trouble.

Mulling over this apparent need to talk back to the screen. Sometimes, I’ve kept busy reminding the kids that people like us do not drop into promiscuous sex in an instant or perpetual premarital covetion with vulgar words. I can only hope they’re listening to me and not the TV.

Talk shows also inspire hostility in the participants so obviously not in “real” trouble.

Mulling over this apparent need to talk back to the screen. Sometimes, I’ve kept busy reminding the kids that people like us do not drop into promiscuous sex in an instant or perpetual premarital covetion with vulgar words. I can only hope they’re listening to me and not the TV.

Talk shows also inspire hostility in the participants so obviously not in “real” trouble.

Mulling over this apparent need to talk back to the screen. Sometimes, I’ve kept busy reminding the kids that people like us do not drop into promiscuous sex in an instant or perpetual premarital covetion with vulgar words. I can only hope they’re listening to me and not the TV.
The Sunday Readings

Sunday, Feb. 11, 2007

- Jeremiah 17:5-10
- 1 Corinthians 15:12, 16-20
- Luke 6:17, 2-26

The Book of Jeremiah is the source of this weekend’s first reading. It is typical of Jeremiah’s prophecy and the writings of all the prophets. Jeremiah, as well as the other prophets, had to constantly contend with the spiritual sluggishness, self-righteousness, and outright sinfulness, of the Hebrew people. Often, the people strayed from God because, instead of following God’s will, they followed the fads of the time or earthly leaders. Few prophets are more eloquent in their writing than Jeremiah. This reading beautifully conveys not only the prophet’s eloquence, but also the depth and power of his belief. Central to this belief was unyielding trust in God so he warns his first audiences, and later audiences such as ourselves, that anyone who trusts in humans rather than in God walks alone and without a compass into a wasteland. Living life like being alone in a wasteland. However, knowing God and following God’s will provide an oasis. St. Paul’s First Epistle to the Corinthians supplies the second reading. The Christians of Corinth presented a challenge to Paul. His two existing letters to them, both of which are in the New Testament, easily show how challenging he found the tendency to accept the Gospel halfheartedly or with reservations. In a way, it is understandable that they were difficult to convince and fully to convert. They lived in a city renowned across the Roman Empire for its material excesses. Being in such surroundings surely made attention to the spiritual foundations of the Christian Gospel less than quick and easy.

So, in this reading, Paul calls the Corinthians to the spiritual life. If it all will endure. For those who truly love the Lord, the end of earthly spiritual life will go. Those people who set their sights on material goals, or live only for material advancements, do so at their own peril.

Reflection

The Church introduced us to Jesus, the son of Mary, on the feast of Christmas. On the feast of the Epiphany, it introduced us to Jesus, the Son of God. On the feast of the Baptism of the Lord, it introduced us to Jesus, the Redeemer, the reconciler between God and sinful humanity.

During January, through the weekend readings, the Church invited us to accept Jesus as our own Savior and Lord. It encourages us to follow the Lord, reassuring us and leading us.

But it leads us down no primrose path. It warns us that we are of the world so the enticements of the world are especially appealing to us. Nevertheless, they can only bring us emptiness—and possibly eternal death—if we do not turn to the Lord.

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

Send material for consideration to “My Journey to God,” The Criterion, P.O. Box 3777, Indianapolis, IN 46206 or e-mail to criterion@archindy.org.

Question Corner/Fr. John Dietzen

God’s reign, his loving rule over all creation, is constantly at work

Q A priest visiting our parish during Advent spoke about the kingdom of God, and said it is here and now present on earth. But in the Our Father we pray that the kingdom will come. What exactly is the kingdom of God or the kingdom of heaven? (Texas)

A Your’s is a good question. Shared by the Holy Father with other Christians. And it’s an important one. The Gospels, Matthew in particular, speak of the kingdom as a basic reality of our faith, which frames and forms our relationship with God here and in eternity. One source of confusion is that the rule of God, kingdom of God, or of heaven, is a rather fluid term in the New Testament. Jesus never clearly defined it. Rather, he includes it with a variety of images and stories that give us something of a multicolored vision of what he means.

The kingdom of which Jesus speaks, is, first of all, not the place. Nor is it a static, unchanging condition, something finaly finished here or perhaps even in the future. God’s reign, his loving rule over all creation, is active and full of life, constantly at work in everything he continually is creating.

Nor is this kingdom something new. God always has been Lord of the universe and of our human family. From the beginning of his public life, Jesus declares that the rule of God is now; we must reform our lives to recognize his reign, to re-establish the harmony of creation destroyed by sin.

In fact, as I said above, the core of Christ’s Gospel (“good news”) is that this God whose reign we honor is a gracious, loving, merciful and joyful Father who is revealed in the life and words of his Son as told in the great parables of the lost sheep, the lost coin and the prodigal son in Chapter 15 of Luke’s Gospel. It is part of the kingdom-of-God theme, therefore, is this conviction that the infinite mystery surrounding us is an ongoing process that allows us to be on this earth, not to be afraid. Whatever happens, we are sure of the Father’s benevolent presence and power active in the world.

As the preface of the feast of the Kingship of Christ puts it, the kingdom he proclaims is one of justice, love and peace. All these are active, ongoing realities that, at least here, are never totally perfect and are always moving toward fuller realization.

Finally, the New Testament indicates often that our shared life as a compassionate and magnanimous presence of God—not something we merit or “build” by our own initiative and strength. It is his work, a pure gift to his people when they try to live as a faithful and loving community.

When we look at it this way, as part of the mystery of God’s creating love, perhaps we can understand a bit better the reign of God. God is always here and he will always be in some way in the future as long as his lavish creative generosity continues.

The spiritual value of this remarkable insight from Jesus is endless. The more we are aware of the power of this divine rule among us now and its continuance in eternity, the greater is our confidence that, in St. Paul’s words, nothing can separate us from the love of God that comes to us in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Q Know our Blessed M other appeared to the children at Fatima, Portugal. I was told just recently that the town of Fatima is named after Fatima woman.

In light of the present difficulties between Islam and Christianity, I find that interesting. But is it true? (Ohio)

A Fatima was one of the daughters of the prophet Mohammed, who lived about 600 years after Christ.

Centuries later, after the long M uhammad occupation of southern Europe, one of the last M uhammad officials in the area of Portugal also had a daughter by that name. She married a Catholic and later became a Catholic herself. Supposedly it was her husband who named the town after her.

Some have seen some portent of eventual improved Catholic relations with Islam in the appearances of Mary at Fatima.

Interestingly, M uslims have a deep devotion to M ary as the mother of Jesus, even beyond the Christian orthodoxy. They believe in her immaculate conception and the virgin birth of Jesus.

After the death of her daughter, Fatima M yriam wrote these words to her: “You will be the most blessed lady of all women in paradise, after Mary.”

(A free brochure on ecumenism, including questions on intercommunication and other ways of sharing worship, is available by sending a stamped, self-addressed envelope to Father John Dietzen, Box 5535, Peoria, IL 61612.

Questions submitted for possible publication in the “My Journey to God” column should be useful to others and should be one page in length. Please send them to criterion@archindy.org.)
Benkovic to highlight annual Catholic Life Network fundraiser

By Mary Ann Wyand

Eternal Word Television Network host and author Johnnette Benkovic is the keynote speaker for the Catholic Life Network fundraiser held March 3 at the Radisson Hotel in downtown Indianapolis.

Benkovic is the host and executive producer of “The Abundant Life” program, seen internationally on EWTN, and the Catholic Radio host of the “Living His Life: A bundantly” and “Moments of Truth Live” programs.

The third annual fundraiser is presented by Catholic Life Network, which promotes Catholic teaching about the sanctity and dignity of human life. Dinner proceeds benefit the archdiocesan Office for Pro-Life Ministry and the Gabriel Project of Indiana.

Members of the Abba Father chapter of Catholics United for the Faith work with Servants of the Gospel of Life Sister Diane Carollo, director of the pro-life office, and St. Bartholomew parishioner Eileen Hartman of Columbus, director of the Gabriel Project, to present the fundraiser.

A checkpoint Daniel M. Buehler has asked Catholics to support the pro-life dinner.

“In doing so,” the archbishop said, “you advance the goals of these three groups as they conduct Catholic evangelization and pastoral outreach to those adversely affected by the culture of death.”

The dinner begins at 7 p.m. in the ballroom of the Radisson Hotel at 31 W. Ohio St. Tickets purchased by Feb. 15 are $40 for adults, $30 for students and $350 to reserve a table for 10 people.

In addition to Benkovic’s keynote address, the event will recognize the pro-life ministries of a diocesan priest and six lay volunteers in central and southern Indiana. The Father Shaun Whittington, chaplain and religion teacher at Father Michael Shaw Memorial Jr./Sr. High School in Madison, will be honored with a Pro Vita Award for founding the Shield of Roses pro-life ministry last year while serving as associate pastor of St. Monica Parish in Indianapolis.

Christ the King parishioner Liz Sowiinski of Indianapolis and St. Elizabeth Ann Seton parishioner Kathy Saderl of Carmel, Ind., will be inducted into the Lafayette Diocese, also will receive Pro Vita Awards for distinguished pro-life work as Gabriel Project volunteers.

A recieving Pro Vita Awards are St. Pius X parishioners Tom and Jackie Quarto of Indianapolis, who will be honored for their exemplary service to the archdiocesan Birthline ministry, and St. John the apostle parishioner Pat Car of Bloomington and St. Thomas More parishioner Bernadette Roy of Mooresville, who will be recognized for facilitating the archdiocesan post-abortion reconciliation ministry through Rachel’s Companions and Rachel’s Vineyard Retreats.

Sister Diane Carollo said pro-life ministries operate on very limited budgets and need financial support to continue serving people in need.

“The Office for Pro-Life Ministry and the Gabriel Project depend on donations to make possible various pro-life projects, initiatives and charitable works in the archdiocese,” she said. “All our efforts on behalf of life require funding to be effective.”

Archdiocesan ministries include educational programs, post-abortion healing and an annual pro-life pilgrimage for youth as well as material assistance and crisis pregnancy intervention through Birthline services.

The Gabriel Project has 35 parish-based groups in Indiana that network to help women and families experiencing crisis pregnancies by providing the practical support they need to carry their babies to term.

Last year, 133 women were documented by Truth and Compassion Ministry in Indiana as having walked away from an abortion clinic, Hartman said, and 134 babies were saved because one mother was pregnant with twins.

“We thank God for the opportunity to defend the rights of women, who deserve love and not abortion,” she said.

The sidewalk counselors offer those women help from the Gabriel Project and assure them that they are not alone. We are waiting to love and help them as our sisters in Christ.”

The Gabriel Project relies on volunteer support and donations, Hartman said. “The other amazing thing about this project is that it provides a way for an entire parish to become active in pro-life work at a very up-close and personal level.”

(Two purchases for the Catholic Pro-Life Dinner, call the archdiocesan Office for Pro-Life Ministry at 317-236-1569 or 800-382-9836, ext. 1569, before the Feb. 24 deadline. Tickets purchased after Feb. 15 are $45 each or $400 per table.)

CD of St. Theodora news stories, photos available

The Criterion is making available an archival CD of the newspaper’s coverage from the beatification to the canonization of St. Theodora Guerin.

The disc will include not only all the stories about St. Theodora published in The Criterion since 1998, but also all the contents of the blog (Web log) that was featured on the newspaper’s Web site, www.criteriononline.com, during her 2006 canonization.

Disc buyers can access photos that were taken as part of the newspaper’s canonization coverage in Italy.

CDs are $5 each. Send either cash or a check made out to “The Criterion” to:
St. Theodora CD
c/o Brandon A. Evans
P.O. Box 1420
Indianapolis, IN 46206-1420

Be sure to include the address where you want the CD mailed.

Pilgrimage trips conducted by Golden Frontier

Golden Frontier is sponsored by Catholic Shrine Pilgrimage, a Catholic Non-Profit Organization

1-888-284-6725 — www.goldenfrontier.org — Fax: 618-234-9861

Featured Trip

IRELAND, Ten days in the land of Saints and Scholars with Chaplain Rev. Barry Harmon, Tuscola, IL — Ten day trip with flight to Shannon, Ireland. We include dinners, Irish breakfasts, Shrine of Our Lady of Knock, Tuam, Killarney, Galway Bay, Blarney, Cliffs of Moher. On this trip, we use B&B’s, beautiful Irish homes we share with Irish families, and possibly hotels in some cases. These homes are clustered near one another, each having several guest rooms, each with private bath. Ireland is a great place to visit, this wonderful island that the angels said looked so peaceful.”

Priced at $1,788

May 2007

Three-Star Rome & Assisi — 9 days in March and November
China Yangtze River Cruise — 13 days in March
Caribbean Cruise — 8 days in March
Ireland — 10 days in April/May
Germany, Austria & Bavaria — 10 days in October
Switzerland, Germany & Austria — 9 days in October
France — 11 days in October
Greece — 9 days in November
Rome, Florence & Assisi — 11 days in November 2007
Holy Lands — 10 days in November 2007
Sorrento & Amalfi Coast — 9 days in November
Egypt & Nile River Cruise — 9 days in November
Barcelona & Mediterranean Cruise — 9 days in November
Danube Christmas Market Cruise — 9 days in December
Hawaii Islands Cruise — 9 days in December
Mexico City & Ol of Guadalupe — 8 days in February 2008

A full brochure on each tour will be sent immediately upon request.

Call Toll Free 1-888-284-6725 or mail to:
Golden Frontier Tours
4100 N. Illinois St. • Swansea, Illinois 62226
www.goldenfrontier.org

Pilgrimage trips conducted by Golden Frontier

Golden Frontier is sponsored by Catholic Shrine Pilgrimage, a Catholic Non-Profit Organization

1-888-284-6725 — www.goldenfrontier.org — Fax: 618-234-9861

Featured Trip

IRELAND, Ten days in the land of Saints and Scholars with Chaplain Rev. Barry Harmon, Tuscola, IL — Ten day trip with flight to Shannon, Ireland. We include dinners, Irish breakfasts, Shrine of Our Lady of Knock, Tuam, Killarney, Galway Bay, Blarney, Cliffs of Moher. On this trip, we use B&B’s, beautiful Irish homes we share with Irish families, and possibly hotels in some cases. These homes are clustered near one another, each having several guest rooms, each with private bath. Ireland is a great place to visit, this wonderful island that the angels said looked so peaceful.”

Priced at $1,788

May 2007

Three-Star Rome & Assisi — 9 days in March and November
China Yangtze River Cruise — 13 days in March
Caribbean Cruise — 8 days in March
Ireland — 10 days in April/May
Germany, Austria & Bavaria — 10 days in October
Switzerland, Germany & Austria — 9 days in October
France — 11 days in October
Greece — 9 days in November
Rome, Florence & Assisi — 11 days in November 2007
Holy Lands — 10 days in November 2007
Sorrento & Amalfi Coast — 9 days in November
Egypt & Nile River Cruise — 9 days in November
Barcelona & Mediterranean Cruise — 9 days in November
Danube Christmas Market Cruise — 9 days in December
Hawaii Islands Cruise — 9 days in December
Mexico City & Ol of Guadalupe — 8 days in February 2008

A full brochure on each tour will be sent immediately upon request.

Call Toll Free 1-888-284-6725 or mail to:
Golden Frontier Tours
4100 N. Illinois St. • Swansea, Illinois 62226
www.goldenfrontier.org

Pilgrimage trips conducted by Golden Frontier

Golden Frontier is sponsored by Catholic Shrine Pilgrimage, a Catholic Non-Profit Organization

1-888-284-6725 — www.goldenfrontier.org — Fax: 618-234-9861

Featured Trip

IRELAND, Ten days in the land of Saints and Scholars with Chaplain Rev. Barry Harmon, Tuscola, IL — Ten day trip with flight to Shannon, Ireland. We include dinners, Irish breakfasts, Shrine of Our Lady of Knock, Tuam, Killarney, Galway Bay, Blarney, Cliffs of Moher. On this trip, we use B&B’s, beautiful Irish homes we share with Irish families, and possibly hotels in some cases. These homes are clustered near one another, each having several guest rooms, each with private bath. Ireland is a great place to visit, this wonderful island that the angels said looked so peaceful.”

Priced at $1,788

May 2007

Three-Star Rome & Assisi — 9 days in March and November
China Yangtze River Cruise — 13 days in March
Caribbean Cruise — 8 days in March
Ireland — 10 days in April/May
Germany, Austria & Bavaria — 10 days in October
Switzerland, Germany & Austria — 9 days in October
France — 11 days in October
Greece — 9 days in November
Rome, Florence & Assisi — 11 days in November 2007
Holy Lands — 10 days in November 2007
Sorrento & Amalfi Coast — 9 days in November
Egypt & Nile River Cruise — 9 days in November
Barcelona & Mediterranean Cruise — 9 days in November
Danube Christmas Market Cruise — 9 days in December
Hawaii Islands Cruise — 9 days in December
Mexico City & Ol of Guadalupe — 8 days in February 2008

A full brochure on each tour will be sent immediately upon request.

Call Toll Free 1-888-284-6725 or mail to: Golden Frontier Tours
4100 N. Illinois St. • Swansea, Illinois 62226
www.goldenfrontier.org


, 72, Indianapolis, Jan. 22. Father of Daniel and Our Lady of Lourdes, Indiana-


, 86, St. Lawrence, Lawrenceburg, Jan. 25. Mother of Ann Peppin Grandfather of four.

, 45, TALLARIGO, Sharon and Maurice Banet. Grandfather of three. Great-grandfather of one.


Patronize Our Advertisers

GULF SHORES LUXURIOUS
DESTIN, FL
www.babeachproperties.com
SPRING BREAK
Advertise in The Criterion!

Marian College, a Catholic Franciscan College, seeks an experienced person to join the campus ministry team as the Campus Minister of Service and Social Justice. This campus minister will collaborate with the campus ministry team and students and will serve as liaison between the campus and its partners in the larger community.

Experience with service oriented programs in an educational or pastoral setting is needed. Bachelors/Masters degree in Theology or a related field is preferred. The campus minister will be expected to belong to the Catholic Campus Minister Association. Qualified applicants may apply as follows:

Please submit a letter of interest, résumé and list of three references to:

Anita Herbertz
Director of Human Resources
Marian College
3200 Cold Spring Road
Indianapolis, IN 46222
Electronic submissions are encouraged. Send to hr@marian.edu.

St. Alphonsus Liguori Catholic Church is a lively and growing parish of 1000+ families in the community of Zionsville, IN. We are located just northwest of Indianapolis in the Catholic Diocese of Lafayette in Indiana. We are seeking to fill three positions: Director of Adult Ministries, Parish Secretary, and Sacred Music Leader.

Director of Adult Ministries
We need a faith-filled practicing Catholic who is computer savvy, has strong organizational skills, and is able to work with people of all ages who are looking for a dynamic and spiritually rich work environment. Some of the duties of this full time position include: ecumenical and interfaith relations, small church communities and ministry to shut-ins. Now accepting résumés with three references.

To apply, please mail to Barbara McCreary, Director of Adult Ministries, St. Alphonsus Liguori Catholic Church, 1870 W Oak St, Zionsville, IN 46077. For more information you may contact Barbara McCormack at drector@stalig.org.

Parish Secretary
We are seeking a faith-filled practicing Catholic with excellent interpersonal, organizational, and computer skills to fill the position of Parish Secretary. This person should be prepared to work in a dynamic and spiritually rich work environment in communication with members of the pastoral staff. Some of the duties of this full-time position include: answering and directing telephone calls, responding to guests and parishioners in the parish offices, data input, sacramental recordkeeping, bulletin design, etc. We are currently accepting résumés and three references for this position. Please submit to Mr. Pat Miller, St. Alphonsus Liguori Catholic Church, 1870 W Oak St, Zionsville, IN 46077.

To apply, you may contact Pat Miller at staliguori@comcast.net.

St. Alphonsus Liguori Catholic Church is a lively and growing parish of 1000+ families in the community of Zionsville, IN. We are located just northwest of Indianapolis in the Catholic Diocese of Lafayette in Indiana. We are seeking to fill three positions: Director of Adult Ministries, Parish Secretary, and Sacred Music Leader.

Director of Adult Ministries
We need a faith-filled practicing Catholic who is computer savvy, has strong organizational skills, and is able to work with people of all ages who are looking for a dynamic and spiritually rich work environment. Some of the duties of this full time position include: ecumenical and interfaith relations, small church communities and ministry to shut-ins. Now accepting résumés with three references.

To apply, please mail to Barbara McCreary, Director of Adult Ministries, St. Alphonsus Liguori Catholic Church, 1870 W Oak St, Zionsville, IN 46077. For more information you may contact Barbara McCormack at drector@stalig.org.

Parish Secretary
We are seeking a faith-filled practicing Catholic with excellent interpersonal, organizational, and computer skills to fill the position of Parish Secretary. This person should be prepared to work in a dynamic and spiritually rich work environment in communication with members of the pastoral staff. Some of the duties of this full-time position include: answering and directing telephone calls, responding to guests and parishioners in the parish offices, data input, sacramental recordkeeping, bulletin design, etc. We are currently accepting résumés and three references for this position. Please submit to Mr. Pat Miller, St. Alphonsus Liguori Catholic Church, 1870 W Oak St, Zionsville, IN 46077.

To apply, you may contact Pat Miller at staliguori@comcast.net.

St. Alphonsus Liguori Catholic Church is a lively and growing parish of 1000+ families in the community of Zionsville, IN. We are located just northwest of Indianapolis in the Catholic Diocese of Lafayette in Indiana. We are seeking to fill three positions: Director of Adult Ministries, Parish Secretary, and Sacred Music Leader.

Director of Adult Ministries
We need a faith-filled practicing Catholic who is computer savvy, has strong organizational skills, and is able to work with people of all ages who are looking for a dynamic and spiritually rich work environment. Some of the duties of this full time position include: ecumenical and interfaith relations, small church communities and ministry to shut-ins. Now accepting résumés with three references.

To apply, please mail to Barbara McCreary, Director of Adult Ministries, St. Alphonsus Liguori Catholic Church, 1870 W Oak St, Zionsville, IN 46077. For more information you may contact Barbara McCormack at drector@stalig.org.

Parish Secretary
We are seeking a faith-filled practicing Catholic with excellent interpersonal, organizational, and computer skills to fill the position of Parish Secretary. This person should be prepared to work in a dynamic and spiritually rich work environment in communication with members of the pastoral staff. Some of the duties of this full-time position include: answering and directing telephone calls, responding to guests and parishioners in the parish offices, data input, sacramental recordkeeping, bulletin design, etc. We are currently accepting résumés and three references for this position. Please submit to Mr. Pat Miller, St. Alphonsus Liguori Catholic Church, 1870 W Oak St, Zionsville, IN 46077.

To apply, you may contact Pat Miller at staliguori@comcast.net.
Archbishop encourages students to be arms of Christ in the world

By Mike Krokos

When life is difficult and someone suffers for any reason, when a situation seems unfair, people can have a choice to make. They can either become bitter and resentful or they can take the pain and use it to be the arms of Christ in the world.

That was the message a Archbishop Daniel M. Buechlein shared with several hundred students at an All-Schools Mass celebrated on Jan. 31 at SS. Peter and Paul Cathedral in Indianapolis. The liturgy was among the highlights of the archdiocese’s celebration of Catholic Schools Week.

In his homily, the archbishop shared the story of a college student and an elderly man on crutches whose encounter showed how any of us—no matter what our situation in life—can be the arms of Christ.

“The young man might have been tempted to laugh at a young man whose encounter seems like they have a better life than ours,” he said. “That takes a lot of humility. Generous love and humility are born in prayer.”

Archbishop Buechlein said.

“If you pray every day, in your own way, everything will be OK. You will be able to say ‘yes’ to the call of Jesus to be his arms and to make a difference.”

Zach Turi and Kaitlin Weber, both freshmen at Cathedral High School in Indianapolis, said the archbishop’s message hit home with them. “They were really powerful words,” Kaitlin said, “and the archbishop was able to touch each age group by using simple terms.”

Zach said he felt being the arms of Christ translated to “helping other people more” in life.

“If we are people who pray like Jesus, we know we need him, and that he needs us to be his arms in the stuff of everyday life,” a Archbishop Buechlein said.

“Praying is our way of letting Jesus and us know we need him, and that he needs us to be his arms.”

There are challenges that confront people when they try to pray, the archbishop noted. Sometimes we may feel like we are not worthy of Christ’s love, that our prayer isn’t good enough,” he said. “A always remember, God is the one who makes something good of our prayer. All he asks is that we do it.”

Being humble people of prayer will help us take on life’s challenges, the archbishop said.

“He felt it was the archbishop was able to touch each age group by using simple terms.”

Zach said he felt being the arms of Christ translates to “helping other people more” in life.

“Joan Jordan and Joel Stockdale, eighth-graders at Seton Catholic High School in Richmond, said they plan to take the archbishop’s words home with them. “I think I’ll help others [more],” Joan said. “I hope I can help whoever is in need,” Joel added, “no matter what their status.”

While Archbishop Daniel M. Buechlein and 12 priests walk in procession, hundreds of students from Catholic schools across the archdiocese sing the opening hymn at the Jan. 31 Mass.

Our Lady of Mt Carmel Parish is seeking an individual to head up our Hispanic Apostolate who possesses a passion to help our Hispanic brothers and sisters. The responsibilities for this full time position include organizing liturgies and paraliturgical events, ESL classes, children and adult catechetical and sacramental preparation classes, preparing monthly newsletter and assisting Hispanic families adjusting to life in the United States and who may be having special difficulties. Qualifications include bilingual proficiency in English and Spanish, being a practicing Catholic committed to the teachings and values of the Church and strong interpersonal communication skills. Previous ministry experience is preferred. Submit résumé to:

Our Lady of St Carmel 
Attn: Msgr. John Duncan
14508 Oakridge Rd.
Carmel, IN 46032
or duncan@olmc1.org. 

Payroll Specialist

The Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Indianapolis is seeking a full-time payroll specialist to work in a fast-paced, multi-tasked environment. Significant knowledge of payroll, experience with employee benefits, excellent data entry skills (speed and accuracy), and customer service skills are essential. Please send cover letter, résumé, and list of references to:

Ed Isakson, Director, Human Resources
Archdiocese of Indianapolis
P.O. Box 1410
Indianapolis, IN 46206
E-mail: eisakson@archindy.org
Fax: (317) 261-3389
Equal Opportunity Employer
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. Sceicina 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. Sceicina 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 East Deansery school educators who laid critical foundations for our students. Sceicina offers opportunities for every student in a learning environment that breeds success. Our results tell the rest of the story.

Sincerely,

Thomas Davis
Principal