Woven into the heart

Woman’s love and parish’s help create a home for four children

By John Shaughnessy

As she drove from Indianapolis to Chicago in the ice and the snow, Janice Knox believed in her heart that she had been called by God to save the lives of the four young boys.

Hours earlier, Knox had received a phone call from her niece, begging her to come to Chicago because she needed someone to give a home to her four sons who then ranged in age from 8 years to 18 months. It will just be for a while, the niece insisted, just long enough so she could find a job and another place to live.

Knox had heard the story before and this time she was convinced that her niece wouldn’t change, that she would have to be the one to shape the lives and the futures of the four children.

As she drove to Chicago, Knox thought about how she was single, 50 years old and still suffering from three herniated disks in her neck—from an accident in the U.S. Army that eventually led to her medical discharge. She also thought about how her disability check wasn’t enough to take care of four growing boys, too.

Yet as the doubts crept into her mind, she also remembered the advice she had been given by her favorite aunt, a woman who repeatedly had told her through the years, “When God asks you to do something, just do it and he’ll see you through it.”

So as she neared Chicago, Knox told God, “I don’t have any idea what I’m doing. I need you to open every door possible.”

Six years have passed since Knox made that prayer. Since that trip to Chicago, she and the four boys have been on a journey that she believes shows the power of God’s love.

It’s also a journey that shows the difference that the love of one person and a supporting community can make.

‘Work a miracle like you always do!’

Knox likes to talk about the “miracles” that started to happen after she brought Elijah, Jonathan, Tusky and Israel to Indianapolis in 2001.

At the time, Knox had volunteered at the Cathedral Kitchen, a ministry of St. Peter and Paul Cathedral in Indianapolis, helping cook and serve food to the poor and the homeless. When she explained to staff members why she couldn’t volunteer any longer, their response overwhelmed her.

“They rounded up a lot of people to help me,” recalls Knox, a member of SS. Peter and Paul Cathedral Parish in Indianapolis. “They brought food, high chairs and toys for the boys. They came out of the woodwork.”

When Janice Knox adopted her niece’s four sons in 2004, the boys asked to have their picture taken with the commissioner who approved the adoption. From left, Elijah, Tusky, Janice, Israel and Jonathan share their celebration with Mark Battise, a commissioner for the Marion County Superior Court # Probate Division.

‘What’s been put on her plate has been tremendous, but she’s doing a wonderful job. With her military background, she really knows how to handle the boys. The good Lord knew who to put them with so they would be raised correctly.’

—Dee Morley

People person: Vatican’s No. 2 man keeps high public profile

VATICAN CITY (CNS)—Listening to an early morning talk show on the radio one recent morning, Cardinal Tarcisio Bertone grew annoyed as callers complained about the Vatican’s “silence” on soccer violence.

“So the Vatican’s secretary of state picked up the phone and soon found himself on the air, giving listeners an earful.”

Cardinal Bertone pointed out that Pope Benedict XVI, the Vatican newspaper and the cardinal himself had all condemned the recent killing of a policeman at a soccer match—and said if people didn’t know that, they weren’t paying attention.

He added that it was a huge mistake to suggest, as some listeners had done, that the pope was somehow detached from the concerns of average people.

“This is just typical boorish ignorance,” he said.

Historically, a Vatican secretary of state communicates in discreet, closed-door conversations and not via radio talk shows. But five months into his new job, Cardinal Bertone already has signaled that he’s going to be different.

Instead of spending all day behind the scenes, dealing with foreign affairs and the administrative problems of the universal Church, Cardinal Bertone frequently goes outside the Vatican walls to give speeches, celebrate Mass or join in a debate.

“That’s a contrast with his diplomatically trained predecessor, Cardinal Angelo Sodano.”

“I think we’re seeing a different style. Cardinal Sodano was an office person, at his desk from 7 in the morning until midnight, and he’d get his energy from that,” said one Vatican source.

“Cardinal Bertone is more of a people person, an extrovert, and he needs the energy that comes from being in circulation,” the Vatican source said.

The media has warmed to the cardinal’s personality and given him ample ink and airtime. As a result, the 72-year-old Salesian is building a reputation as a kind of populist pastor willing to speak his mind.

By Greg Burke

Dedicated to the faith
Scouts from across archdiocese gather for annual honors, page 11.
woodwork with books and school supplies.”

Then there was the first Christmas for the boys in her home. “I had nothing left after I paid all the bills,” she says. “I had given my tree away five years earlier to someone. I just asked God, ‘Work a miracle like you always do.’”

Two days before Christmas, I had two trees and ornaments. Come Christmas morning, these guys had more clothes, toys, shoes and gifts than you can imagine.”

Yet amid the “miracles” came the struggle. The boys’ mother still hadn’t turned around her life, Knox says. Even worse, her visits to see the boys and her quick departures took an emotional toll on them. After a while, the mother’s visits became less frequent. As the children’s guardian, Knox initially tried to protect them. Then she sought to adopt them, starting in 2002.

Knox asked Father Rick Ginther to be a character witness for her at the adoption hearings. “I met her a few years before I arrived at the cathedral in 1993. She’s a remarkable woman,” says Ginther, who was the pastor of St. Peter and Paul Cathedral Parish at the time of the adoption hearings. “I met her after I arrived at the cathedral in 1993. Single, with a military background, she had an intense faith in the Lord, and she wanted to revive her Catholicism. She had a very strong relationship with God.”

Still, Father Ginther wasn’t sure what would happen when Knox told him she was taking temporary care of the four boys in 2001. “I didn’t know how it was going to work out. The youngest boy was in diapers,” says Father Ginther, who is now the pastor of St. Patrick and St. Margaret Mary parishes in Terre Haute. “But she brought that intensity and that sense of mission—and she did it. It wasn’t her intention to adopt them. She just wanted to take care of them while their mother got her situation together. But the mother didn’t. Those kids just wanted some sense of love and structure in their lives. That’s what she gave them. I said we’d do whatever we can. The whole parish just adopted the whole situation. I’m very proud of the people of that parish.”

The adoptions became official in the summer of 2004. All of them also got their names changed so they all have the last name of Knox,” says Knox, who served in the U.S. Army from 1977 to 1992 and spent five more years in the Army Reserves. She has given her adopted children more than a name, says those who have watched her make a home for the boys.

Woven into their hearts

“What’s been put on her plate has been tremendous, but she’s doing a wonderful job,” says Dee Morley, a Cathedral Kitchen volunteer who is one of several people who give birthday and Christmas presents to the boys. “With her military background, she really knows how to handle the boys. The good Lord knew who to put them with so they would be raised correctly.”

Mary Rita Babbitt shakes her head in wonder at the life Knox has given the boys. “To think she’s a single girl and all she’s done,” says Babbitt, a member of SS. Peter and Paul Cathedral Parish. “She keeps them busy, and she’s a real role model. She got them baptized. She got them confirmed. She does all the right things.”

No one knows that better than the four boys: Elijah, now 14, Jonathan, 11, Tuskany, 8, and Israel, 7.

“She’s a great person,” Elijah says. “She brought us into her home, and she adopted us. She helps us with our homework when we need help. She provides a lot for us, and she protects us. If it wasn’t for her, we wouldn’t have a home.”

Knox deeply appreciates such comments, but she prefers to put the focus on people who have made opportunities available for her children, including a friend who provided music lessons for the boys and a couple who gave the boys dance lessons.

She also talks about the people who fixed the roof of her small house and the people who mail her letters with money to help pay some bills.

“It’s all the miracles that have happened for us,” she says. “I know it’s called divine intervention. I thank God every day for it.”

She makes her contributions, too. “I’ve always heard that God helps those who help themselves,” she says. “About five years ago, I got an embroidery machine, and I’d put designs and the names of the boys on their shirts. It’s evolved into a little business for me. The name of my company is Four Sons Embroidery.”

Their names are woven into her business. Her love is woven into their lives.

“They think that they’re a really awfully brave person, but I don’t look at it that way,” Knox says. “I just feel I’m one of God’s servants doing what he asks us to do. And I do it fearlessly.”

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Rev. John P. McCaulin, administrator of St. Anthony Parish in Indianapolis, appointed pastor of St. Anthony Parish while continuing as administrator of Holy Trinity Parish in Indianapolis, effective immediately.


Official Appointments

Wrought in their hearts

“Holy Thursday, which is April 5.”

Lenten disciplines include fasting, almsgiving, prayer

Abstinence from meat is to be observed by all Catholics 14 years and older on Ash Wednesday and on all Fridays of Lent. Ash Wednesday is Feb. 21.

Fasting is to be observed on Ash Wednesday by all Catholics who are 18 years of age but not yet 59. Those who are bound by this may take only one full meal. Two smaller meals are permitted if necessary to maintain strength according to one’s needs, but eating solid foods between meals is not permitted. The special Paschal fast and abstinence are prescribed for Good Friday and encouraged for Holy Saturday. By the threefold discipline of fasting, almsgiving and prayer, the Church keeps Lent from Ash Wednesday until the evening of Holy Thursday, which is April 5. ♦
Father John O’Brien loved Mass, making wooden crosses

By Mary Ann Wyand

Father John P. O’Brien, who retired as pastor of St. Bridget of Ireland Parish in Indianapolis, passed away on November 12, 2006 in Yorkville, Ill. He was 69.


Father Gerald Kirschhoff, archdiocesan vicar for Advocacy for Priests, pastor of St. Pius X Parish in Indianapolis and dean of the Indianapolis North Deanery, was the homilist.

Msgr. Joseph F. Schaeidel, vicar general, remembered Father O’Brien as “welcoming and friendly,” and “prided of the fact that he, too, had attended Saint Meinrad Seminary and was a classmate of our archbishop.”

Father J. Joseph McNally, a retired diocesan priest and long-time friend, remembered Father O’Brien as a dedicated priest who loved celebrating Mass, always helping his younger brother, Timothy, and enjoying making wooden crosses.

“I’ve known John since 1953 when he went to the seminary out of the eighth grade,” Father McNally said. “His dad died when he was in about the sixth grade … and he lived at St. Vincent Orphanage in Vincennes, Ind., for two years. … He knew when he was 12 years old that he wanted to be a priest, and he kept that dedication all these years.”

Father O’Brien was very intelligent, Father McNally said, and was an avid reader.

“One of his favorite things [to reflect on] was ‘What would Jesus do?’” Father McNally said. “He is an excellent confessor, very compassionate and empathetic. It would always be ‘What would Jesus do?’ I really do believe that he lived that. He was a good priest. … He prepared homilies very well.”

Father O’Brien was always ahead of his time in some ways,” Father McNally said. “Twenty-five years ago, he was on the first committee to study the … diocesan … and he did a whole lot of research. He had documents from all over the United States.”

After undergoing eye surgery last February, Father O’Brien fell and sustained serious head injuries that required surgery about six months ago.

“Since last February, he hadn’t really been the same,” Father McNally said. “His speech was impaired. … He was granted early retirement for health reasons after being at Liberty for about 11 years.”

Father O’Brien never complained throughout his illness, Father McNally said, even though “he had some really tough times.”

His father came from Ireland and he was proud of his Irish heritage, Father McNally said. He was such a devoted fan of University of Notre Dame sports that he collected about 20 “Fightin’ Irish” caps.

“Father O’Brien enjoyed making crosses,” Father McNally said. “That was his hobby. He loved woodworking. [After his death], I must have found 100 wooden crosses. He usually designed them himself.”

John Patrick O’Brien was born on Sept. 2, 1937, in Indianapolis to Timothy John and Margaret (Doherty) O’Brien. He grew up in St. Joseph Parish, formerly located on the near east side of the city, and attended Holy Cross School then completed his grade school education at St. Vincent Orphanage.

He attended the former Saint Meinrad High School, the former Saint Meinrad College—where he earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Biology—and Saint Meinrad School of Theology.

He was ordained to the priesthood by the late Archbishop Paul C. Schulte on May 3, 1964, at Saint Meinrad Archabbey Church.

Father O’Brien celebrated his first Mass at Holy Cross Church in Indianapolis on May 10, 1964. He began his first assignment as associate pastor pro-tem of the former Assumption Parish in Anderson, Ind., for a year.

In 1964, Father O’Brien resided at St. Agnes Parish in Nashville.

On Nov. 11, 1964, he was named associate pastor of Sacred Heart Parish in Clinton and also served as an instructor at the former Schulte High School in Terre Haute.

On May 16, 1966, Father O’Brien was named associate pastor of St. Mary Parish in New Albany. He served there until June 1, 1968, when he was appointed associate pastor of St. Patrick Parish in Terre Haute. He also served as director of the Catholic Youth Organization in the Terre Haute Deanery.

On July 5, 1973, Father O’Brien was named pastor of the former Assumption Parish in Indianapolis.

Four years later, on Nov. 30, 1977, he was appointed pastor of St. Bernadette Parish in Indianapolis.

His next assignment, on July 6, 1983, was as administrator of St. Joseph Parish in St. Leon and St. Martin Parish in Yorkville, with residence in Yorkville. On April 1, 1984, he was named pastor of St. Leon and St. Martin parishes.

Two years later, he was appointed pastor of St. Rose of Lima Parish in Franklin on July 5, 1985. On Nov. 19, 1991, he resigned his pastorate at St. Rose of Lima Parish and resided at St. Matthew Parish in Indianapolis.

On Nov. 6, 1992, he was granted permission to serve as the Catholic chaplain for St. John’s Health Care Corporation in Anderson, Ind., for a year.

In 1994, Father O’Brien resided at St. Agnes Parish in Nashville.

On Nov. 11, 1994, he was named associate pastor of St. Gabriel Parish in Connersville then was appointed administrator of the parish from July 5, 1994, until Aug. 1995.


He was granted permission for early retirement for health reasons on Nov. 29, 2006.

He was preceded in death by his parents and a brother, Timothy O’Brien.

Memorial gifts may be made to the Knights of Columbus Scholarship Fund.†

Vatican statistics confirm growth of Church in Asia, Africa

VATICAN CITY (CNS)—The latest Vatican statistics confirm that the Church’s population and ministerial workforce are continuing to shift to developing countries, especially those in Africa and Asia.

Figures released on Feb. 12 showed that the overall number of Catholics increased to nearly 1.12 billion at the end of 2005, an increase of 1.5 percent from the previous year.

The Catholic growth rate was slightly higher than the world’s overall population increase, which was 1.2 percent. Catholics now represent 17.2 percent of the global population, the Vatican said.

The statistics were released in connection with the presentation of the 2007 edition of the Vatican’s yearbook, known as the Annuario Pontificio, which catalogs the Church’s presence in each diocese.

The Church’s population grew fastest in Africa, where the number of Catholics increased 3.1 percent in 2005, about half a percentage point higher than the overall population growth rate on the continent.

In Asia, the number of Catholics was up 2.7 percent, and in the Americas was up 1.2 percent. In Europe, there was a very slight increase in the number of Catholics, the Vatican said.

Similar geographical differences were reflected in the number of priests and seminarians.

The number of Catholic priests around the world was 406,411 at the end of 2005. This was an increase of 2,520, or about 0.6 percent, over the previous year.

Broken down by continent, the increase was 3.6 percent in Africa, 3.1 percent in Asia, 2.7 percent in the Americas, and 0.4 percent in Europe.

The global distribution of priests continued to swing slowly toward Africa and Asia, and which at the end of 2005 had 20.3 percent of the world’s priests; in 1985, that number was about 11 percent.

Europe continued to lose priests and was home to 48.8 percent of the world total in 1985. Europe had 55 percent of the world’s priests.

The distribution numbers were relatively unchanged for the Americas, which has about 30 percent of the total number of priests, and for Oceania, which has about 1 percent of the total.

Regarding seminarians, the Vatican said that globally the number increased 1.2 percent in 2005, from 113,044 to 114,439. Africa led the way with an increase of 3.46 percent, followed by Asia with 2.9 percent.

The Americas had an increase in seminarians of 0.6 percent, while Oceania remained virtually unchanged. In Europe, the number of seminarians dropped 1.9 percent.

For every 100 seminarians in the world at the end of 2005, 32 were from the Americas, 26 were Asian, 21 African, 20 European and one from Oceania, the Vatican said.†
Let’s give up something different this Lent

Bob Zyskowski

So, you’re looking for something to “give up” for Lent again, are you? Here are a few ideas to take us beyond the usual: give up candy or desserts. Ash Wednesday this year is Feb. 21.

• Let’s give up looking for a job on the back. This Lent, let’s do our best to look for a job each day for someone who will never be able to put food on the table. When we get good at that, we can try doing something for each day for someone who will never even be able to eat a crumb.

• Let’s give up trying to be comfortable all the time. Instead of seeking comfort, let’s find something that looks a little unreal and put God’s gifts—our brains, our talents, our resources—to work on behalf of that activity, organization or program.

• Let’s give up trying to one-up others. There’s a Hindu proverb that goes like this: “There is nothing noble in being superior to some other person. True nobility comes from being superior to your previous self.” Let’s find something we can improve about us.

• Let’s give up taking care of No. 1. Instead of thinking about how everything and anything impacts us, let’s think about how others are going to be affected—by proposed new laws, by policies, by trends, by economic shifts—by our own actions and behavior.

• Let’s give up being practical. Instead, let’s be kind. Blessed Teresa of Calcutta once said, “Kind words can be short, but their echoes are forever.”

• Let’s give up being in a hurry. Let’s

Let’s give up something different this Lent. We must follow Christ’s example where poverty is concerned.

I’m confused as to why The Criterion would publish such an emblazoned letter to the editor in the Feb. 9 issue that completely misrepresents the state of poverty in our country, implies that the poor are the cause of their own poverty, and apparently exempts those who are not poor from being part of the “suffering of civilians and of all the victims of conflicts.”

Quoting St. Augustine, the Holy Father says, “God created us without aid, but he did not choose to save us without our aid.” We are all responsible for taking care of and sharing the gift of peace.

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Quoting St. Augustine, the Holy Father says, “God created us without aid, but he did not choose to save us without our aid.” We are all responsible for taking care of and sharing the gift of peace.
Grace of Lenten practices can lead us to savor the joy of God

I
t is hard to believe that Ash Wednesday and Lent are at our doorstep.
It is time to start thinking about how we make the most of the special graces of those 40 days.
We might begin with a meditation on the meaning of Ash Wednesday. I am always edified by the numbers of folks who are instinctively drawn to that rather austere day in the calendar year.
One could say that everything about the liturgy of Ash Wednesday comes into focus around one theme: Remember who you are.

And that admonition suggests some questions. Where did I come from? Where do I want to go? Who am I living for? What am I living for? Is God in the picture? Does some other idol, some other god procreate and drive my heart?

Perhaps to keep us honest, the Church confronts us with gritty ashes to help us remember that in the end, our bodies, and much of what we spend ourselves for, will come to that—ashes. Especially when we are younger, we may be a bit incredulous, a bit unimpressed by this reminder, yet we can’t dismiss the practice of ashes. The liturgy reminds us that we are dust and unto dust we shall return.

It is another meaning we can ascribe to the use of ashes. It begins with their origin. The ashes used to sign us are their origin: The ashes used to sign us are a bit unimpressed by this reminder, yet we are younger, we may be a bit incredulous, a bit unimpressed by this reminder, yet we can’t dismiss the practice of ashes. The liturgy reminds us that we are dust and unto dust we shall return.

Es momento de comenzar a pensar sobre cómo podríamos abrir nuestros corazones a la gracia de esos 40 días.
Quizás debamos comenzar con una meditación sobre el significado del Viernes de ceniza. Siempre me motiva la dignidad de personas que se sienten instintivamente atraídas a ese día bastante austero del calendario.
Podríamos decir que toda la liturgia del Viernes de Ceniza se centra en un solo tema: Recordar quiénes somos.


Alguien dijo una vez que la concentración en sí mismo es un instinto animal. La integridad de nuestra humunidad se desarrolla en la aventura de la propia entrega, no en la concentración en el enfoque en el que todo lógica será enjuagada.
Pero ¿qué no pase? ¿Quién no fracase ante el esfuerzo más allá de la voluntad propia y la preocupación en el propio ser? Por ello, en la época sagrada de la Cuaresma se nos llama a arrepentirnos de nuestras muchas gracias. Para mí tiene mucho significado que los homíneos que sean incluyendo en la víspera de la Cuaresma a nuestra parroquia.

El arzobispo Buechlein nos llama a prestar atención a las obras de caridad y la justicia. El arzobispo Buechlein nos llama a prestar atención a las obras de caridad y la justicia. El arzobispo Buechlein nos llama a prestar atención a las obras de caridad y la justicia.

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Parish to host conference

Our Lady of the Most Holy Rosary Church, 520 Stevens St., Indianapolis. Lumen Dei meeting, Mass, 6:30 a.m., breakfast and program at Priory Inn. $10 members, $15 guests. Information: 317-556-3418 or call Lumen Dei (317)341-0000.

St. Francis Hospital, 811 S. Emerson Ave., Indianapolis. Seminar for cancer patients and their families, “Tired of Thinking or Too Tired to Think: Managing Fatigue and Chemo Brain,” noon-2 p.m. lunch served. No charge. Information: 317-725-5555.

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 Hosey, keynote speaker, 8 a.m.-3:45 p.m. Information: 317-241-6314, ext. 126, or e-mail dnc@stjcrescentparish.org.

St. Michael the Archangel Parish, 3354 W. 30th St., Indianapolis. Help desired to host conference on the Holy Eucharist titled “Let the Fire Fall” at 8 a.m. on March 10 at the Batesville High School auditorium, 1 Bulldog Blvd., in Batesville. Scheduled presenters include Aggie Neugebauer and Peter Herbeck, leaders in the National Catholic Renewal Ministries. The registration fee, which includes lunch and dinner, is due by March 1 and costs $50 per person. For more information, call 812-623-8097 or e-mail StNicholasCatholicChurch@yahoo.com.

Kordes Retreat Center, 841 E. 14th St., Ferdinand, Ind. “Praying through Lent: Lectio Divina,” Benedictine Sister Maria Tarte, presenter. Information: 812-367-2777, 800-880-2777 or kordes@thedome.org.

Saint Meinrad Archabboty, 100 Hill Drive, St. Meinrad. “Benedictine Peace: Not As The World Gives,” Benedictine Father Vincent Tobin, presenter. Information: 812-357-6611 or e-mail tobins@smarc.org.

February 24-25 Saint Meinrad Archabboty, 100 Hill Drive, St. Meinrad. Mid-week retreat, “The Atrium,” 7-11 p.m. Information: 812-787-8277, ext. 239.

Easely Winery, 205 N. College Ave., Indianapolis. Theology on Tap, annual Indianapolis Catholic Social Justice event, 7-10 p.m. $20 per person. Information: www.indytheology.com.

Deaborn Country Club, State Road 148, Aurora. Knights of Columbus Club 2211, hallroom dance, “Dance Like the Stars,” 7:30-11:30 p.m. $30 per person. Information: 812-926-8577.


Events Calendar

Parish Mission, “Renewed in the Spirit,” Father James Ferrill, presenter, 7-8:30 p.m. Information: 812-948-2262.


February 23 St. Theresa of the Infant Jesus, 5034 N. Bosart Ave., Indianapolis. Lenten fish fry, 4-30-7 p.m., $5 adults, $3.50 seniors. $5 children under 10. Information: 317-357-8752.

St. Gabriel the Archangel Parish, 6000 E. 38th St., Indianapolis. Lenten fish fry, 5-7:30 p.m., carryout available. Information: 317-291-7014.

St. Gabriel the Archangel Parish, 6000 W. 34th St., Indianapolis. Marian College, Department of Theology, Lenten Scripture Series, “Palm Sunday,” 9-30 a.m. 9:15 a.m. Information: 317-291-7014.

February 24 St. Michael the Archangel Parish, Parish Life Center, 3354 W. 30th St., Indianapolis. Cardinal Ritter High School, football Booster Club, social and dinner, 6-30 p.m. $20 per person. Information: 317-924-4333, ext. 131, or jdg@s-a-cpa.com.


St. Elizabeth/Colleen to host speaker

St. Elizabeth/Colleen Pregnancy and Adoption Services will host Paula Parker-Sawyer, executive director of the State of Indiana’s Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives, 8:30 a.m. on March 14 at the Allison Mansion on the campus of Marian College, 3200 Cold Spring Road, in Indianapolis. The event starts with a wine and cheese reception at 6:30 p.m. It is part of St. Elizabeth/Colleen’s Women’s Forum 2007. Tickets are $35 per person. Proceeds benefit Tree of Life, a Catholic Charities agency. To reserve tickets or for more information, call 317-787-3412 or e-mail nmtates@stelizabeths.org.

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Indianapolis parish to sponsor annual Lenten speaker series

By Sean Gallagher

Our Lady of the Most Holy Rosary Parish, 520 Stevens St., in Indianapolis, will host its seventh annual Lenten speaker series, titled “Spaghetti and Spirituality,” on Feb. 28 and March 7, 14, 21 and 28. Prior to dinner and each week's presentation, eucharistic adoration will start following the conclusion of the noon Mass in Latin. Another Mass, celebrated in English, will be held at 5:45 p.m. A light, meatless pasta dinner begins at 6:30 p.m. at Msgr. Priori Hall. Each presentation will begin at approximately 7:15 p.m.

Although series organizer and Holy Rosary parishioner Bruce Konicek appreciates listening to the variety of nationally known speakers that the series has attracted over the years, he said that entire evening’s schedule, including adoration, available confession and Mass, is what makes it so beneficial. “The talks get them there. The spaghetti gets them there,” he said. “[But] the entire evening really encompasses and reflects some of the real beauties and treasures of the Church.”

Konicek also expressed his hope that those who attend the series might take some of the knowledge they gain from it and share it with friends and loved ones who might be estranged from the Church. “It’s really an invitation for people to express their charity and evangelize others that they deeply care about,” he said.

On Feb. 28, author and speaker Patrick Madrid will offer his presentation on “Search and Rescue: How to Bring Your Family and Friends into— or Back Into—the Catholic Church.”

Father Eric Albertson, a military chaplain and priest of the Diocese of Arlington, Va., will speak on March 7 about his experience serving in Iraq in his presentation titled “Dear Brave Soldier: A Pictorial Account of a Chaplain’s Experience in Iraq.”

Those who come to Holy Rosary on March 14 will hear nationally known author and speaker Marcellino D'Ambrosio discuss the question “Who Needs Confession?”

Author and speaker Kenneth J. Howell will delve into some controversial issues in Church history on March 21 in his presentation, “Breaking Through the Myths of History: Galileo and Early Christianity.” March 28 will be the final day in a 40 hours devotion/parish mission for Holy Rosary. Father of Mercy William Casey will be preaching on the topic of “Mission for Truth.”

Those interested in attending any session of Holy Rosary Parish’s “Spaghetti and Spirituality” series should notify the parish no later than 5 p.m. on the Monday prior to a specific program.

While the dinners and the presentations are free, donations will be accepted.

(For more information or to make reservations, call Our Lady of the Most Holy Rosary Parish at 317-636-4478.)†

Pope says lay movements can help bishops care for their own souls

VATICAN CITY (CNS)—A bishop can turn to Catholic lay movements not only when he needs an organized group to implement his pastoral plans, but also when he needs to care for his own soul, Pope Benedict XVI said.

When a movement gathers its “bishops-friends” together, it helps them experience “a more intense communion of hearts, a stronger mutual support and a greater shared commitment to showing that the Church is a place of prayer and charity, a house of mercy and peace,” the pope said.

Pope Benedict spoke on Feb. 8 at a joint audience for 80 bishops participating in a conference sponsored by the Focolare movement and 110 bishops attending a meeting organized by the Community of Sant’Egidio.

LAY movements that have emerged over the past century that are active in the Archdiocese of Indianapolis include Focolare, Community and Liberation, Regnum Christi and the Schoenstatt movement.

The pope said that from his days as a professor in Germany, he has been convinced that “really, the movements are a gift of the Holy Spirit to the Church.” The fact that the movements have reached out to bishops who draw strength from their spirituality and activities proves that “the diversity and unity of gifts and ministries are inseparable in the life of the Church,” he said.

Pope Benedict said the variety of lay movements responds to the variety of needs and blessings found among the world’s peoples.

“In the rich Western world where, even though a culture of relativism exists, at the same time there is a widespread desire for spirituality, and your movements witness to the joy of the faith and the beauty of being Christian,” he said.

In the world’s poorest countries, he said, “they communicate the message of solidarity and make themselves the neighbors of the poor and the weak” with love that is both human and divine.

The pope said “communion between bishops and the movements” could be the spark needed for “a renewed commitment by the Church to proclaiming and witnessing the Gospel of hope and love in every corner of the world.” He prayed that in forming solid friendships, the bishops and the movements would help each other in the work of evangelization, service to the poor and peacemaking.

†
Failed romance leads to new life, says youth rally speaker

By John Shaughnessy

After his girlfriend ended their relationship, Matt Smith wondered if his life was worth living.

Instead, the break-up led to a moment that changed his life in a way he never expected. “I was 20,” recalls Smith, who will be the keynote speaker at the annual Archdiocesan High School Youth Rally on March 3–4. “She dumped me. She dropped me like a rock. That first break-up does turn your life upside down.”

So did attending a Mass shortly after the break-up. The Mass was part of an event for Life Teen, an Arizona-based, international Catholic movement whose goal is to move teenagers closer to Christ. “I stepped into this church feeling my life was ending,” Smith says. “When I was there, I saw young people who were seriously about their faith. I could see it brought them joy and the clarity of their faith. Four months later, I was volunteering for that group. Six months later, I moved to New Orleans for that reality show.”

While the break-up led Smith to a closer God, MTV’s hit reality show, The Real World New Orleans, brought Smith’s dedication to his faith up close and personal to a national television audience in 2000. Despite the show’s talk about how much his faith meant to him. He showed empathy for a roommate that everyone else rejected. He shared that he was a virgin and saving himself for marriage. “The response I received was very good,” Smith notes. “You don’t get a lot of religious sitcoms, religious movies or religious themes on television. Television is filled with promiscuous people, unrealistic ideals of beauty and unrealistic expectations in general. When people saw someone like me who is a real Christian, a real Catholic, something resonated with them.”

Father Jonathan Meyer has no doubt that Smith will connect with young people when he speaks at the Archdiocesan High School Youth Rally at Our Lady of Providence Jr./Sr. High School in Clarksville.

“He covers the challenging topic of our faith and reveals that it is possible to be Catholic in our world,” says Father Meyer, archdiocesan director of Youth and Young Adult Ministry. “Many young people relate to his ‘cool’ approach to Catholicism.”

Father Meyer hopes the high school youths will also relate to the workshops at the rally, which has the theme “The Fantastic Four and Countless Other Supernatural Heroes.” The Fantastic Four and Superman, Mark, Luke and John. Their lives can be an inspiration to today’s youth, says Father Meyer.

“Another one?” the pope quipped. More than anything else, soccer has made Cardinal Bertone a household name in Italy. Not only is he a lifelong supporter of Torino, and as an archbishop of Genoa he once did radio play-by-play for a local soccer match.

Last fall, he declared—jokingly, he later insisted—that the Vatican should field its own national soccer team for the World Cup. More recently, he said it would be beautiful if the Vatican could send an American team to the 2008 Olympics in Beijing and hear the Vatican anthem played in a Chinese stadium.

His high public profile has left some people wondering whether the new secretary of state has any energy left for diplomacy or Church administration. Some say it’s not easy for ambassadors to get a meeting with Cardinal Bertone, but others report that he is well organized and has done his homework on the most pressing international issues.

After chairing a closed-door Vatican summit on China in January, Cardinal Bertone drew praise for his knowledge of the various aspects of the situation and his ability to direct the discussions to conclusion.

It was extremely well-organized, and Cardinal Bertone was very able,” said one informed source.

Alberto Melloni, an Italian Church historian, said Cardinal Bertone helped design a “diplomatic masterpiece” during the pope’s visit to Turkey last fall, when the “the pope made it clear to everyone that we oppose Turkish entry into the European Union despite the pope’s previous statement on pastoral reality.”

In effect, Melloni said, Cardinal Bertone’s diplomacy should not be detached from pastoral reality,” said one informed source.

“He’s not undertaking an anti-Sodano operation. He didn’t arrive with a vacuum cleaner, with the idea of sweeping out the people chosen by his predecessor,” Melloni said.

As for his penchant for keeping in the public eye, Melloni said the cardinal has always liked to socialize and communicate. “He’s a true Salesian, he wants to be with people,” Melloni said.

Some think Cardinal Bertone’s time is being taken up by too many strictly Italian events, like liturgies for Italian youth groups or visits to Italian hospitals.

But popes and Vatican officials have often chosen the universal Church through the pastoral environment that surrounds them, and quite logically it’s the same kind of people who are crowding the secretary of state with invitations.

Italy, to be sure, is enjoying Cardinal Bertone’s presidency. The fact that the German pope chose an Italian cardinal as his right-hand man was extremely important in a country that feels it is not taken seriously on the papacy on temporary loan to foreigners.

And though everyone agrees it’s too early to talk about papal elections, Cardinal Bertone’s popularity already has led some observers to place him at the top of the list of Italian “papabili” in the event of a future conclave.

2007 Women’s Forum featuring Paula Parker-Sawyers, executive director of the Indiana Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives

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Catholic lawmakers author immigrant-friendly legislation

By Brigid Curtis Ayer

Heeding the call of Indiana’s Catholic bishops recently released pastoral letter, “I Was a Stranger and You Welcomed Me: Meeting Christ in New Neighbors,” four Catholic lawmakers are taking the shepherds’ words to heart in the state legislature—authorization legislation to help immigrants—legislation “that goes beyond superficial slogans” to extend authentic Christian hospitality to new neighbors.

Sen. John Broden (D-South Bend), Sen. Tom Wyss (R-Fort Wayne), Sen. Joe Zakas (R-Granger) and Rep. Mike Murphy (R-Merrillville) are authoring bills to protect immigrants against fraud and ease some aspects of their life in Indiana.

A change in culture, climate, language and government adds up to a daunting obstacle course for new immigrants to overcome. It is not surprising that immigrants often seek legal advice to help them navigate citizenship and a language barrier has opened the door for new immigrants to fall prey to a new kind of fraud—legal services fraud.

Senators Broden and Zakas, who are both practicing Catholics and attorneys, would like to put an end to this type of fraud through legislation they are co-authoring.

Sen. Bill 445, the Broden-Zakas bill which was heard in the Senate Judiciary Committee on Feb. 7, would punish a person who knowingly or intentionally implies they are an attorney who is not properly trained by the Bureau of Immigration Affairs enter into immigration law, they may cause irreparable harm to families.

“Immigration law is very complicated. When people not properly trained by the Bureau of Immigration Affairs enter into immigration law, they may cause irreparable harm to families. At this time, Indiana statutes have no teeth. It is crucial that we offer protections to consumers.”

— Congregation of Holy Cross Father Chris Cox

Sister Karen said she is seeing an increase in depression and anxiety among the immigrant community. She said that the government really needs to “find a path for citizenship for those who have lived here for some time now.”

The Senate Judiciary Committee did not vote on Senate Bill 445 due to a few technical amendments, which needed to be drafted. However, a vote by the Senate panel could be taken this week.

While gaining citizenship has been the most notable problem among immigrants, some who have temporary visas who are in the United States legally find getting a driver’s license equally difficult.

The Real ID Act of 2005, a federal law aimed at providing better national security, requires anyone obtaining a driver’s license to provide a Social Security number. However, immigrants who are in the United States legally with temporary visas are not issued Social Security numbers, and therefore cannot be issued a driver’s license.

To remedy this problem, Sen. Wyss has co-authored a Senate Bill which would allow Indiana’s Bureau of Motor Vehicles (BMV) to issue a one-year driver’s license to a legal immigrant who does not have a Social Security number. Before an Indiana driver’s license would be granted, the applicant would have to verify eligibility for a Social Security number and verify the applicant’s lawful status in the United States.

Sen. Bill 463 was scheduled for a hearing on Feb. 13 in the Senate Committee on Homeland Security, Transportation and Veterans Affairs, a panel which Sen. Wyss chairs. Sen. Wyss is a parishioner at St. Vincent Parish in Fort Wayne, Ind., in the Fort Wayne/South Bend Diocese. Sen. Victor Heinrold (R-Route 21) is a co-author of the bill.

Rep. Murphy has authored a similar bill, House Bill 1523. The measure allows Indiana’s Bureau of Motor Vehicles (BMV) to issue a one-year driver’s license to immigrants with temporary visas. Rep. Murphy is a member of St. Jude Parish in Indianapolis.

To view the Indiana bishops’ statement on welcoming immigrants, go to the Indiana Catholic Conference’s Web page at www.indianacc.org. Click on “Resources” and scroll down to “Immigration.”

(Brigid Curtis Ayer is a correspondent for The Criterion.)
The men and women religious present at the Mass came to serve the Church in central and southern Indiana from near and far.

Providence Sister Jane Bodine grew up in the town of St. Mary-of-the-Woods in the shadow of the motherhouse of the community—she joined 70 years ago. She was taught in grade school by members of the Sisters of Providence, and one sister in particular helped plant the seeds of her vocation when Sister Jane was still very young. “Even in the first grade, I was so impressed with [Sister Clara’s] kindness that I said to my mother that I was going to be just like her,” Sister Jane said. “I’ve never quite made it. She really impressed me from the very first day of school.”

Sister Jane went on to teach at Catholic schools in Illinois and Indiana, including Our Lady of Providence High School in Clarksville and the former Ladywood Academy in Indianapolis. Beginning in 1981, Sister Jane helped her congregation establish a development office that raises funds to support its life and ministries. With the support of Lilly Endowment Inc., she went on to help numerous religious communities across the United States do the same.

Unlike Sister Jane, Providence Sister Noreen Wu grew up in Taiwan, far away from her congregation’s motherhouse. Raised a Buddhist, she was introduced to Catholicism as a student at Providence University in Taiwan, a school founded by the Sisters of Providence of Saint Mary-of-the-Woods.

“The first thing I learned in college was that God is love,” said Sister Noreen, who joined the Sisters of Providence 25 years ago. “I just felt that [Catholicism] was a religion that could help me to deepen my faith, to deepen my relationship with God, with myself and with others.”

Sister Noreen is currently a doctoral student in counseling psychology at Indiana State University.

Benedictine Sister Amelia Banet grew up at St. Mary-of-the-Knobs. A founding member of Our Lady of Grace Monastery in Beech Grove, she taught and was involved in parish ministry in Perry County in the Tell City Deanery for more than 50 years.

Now residing at her community’s monastery in Beech Grove, Sister Amelia currently works in the business office of the sisters’ St. Paul Hermitage adjacent to the monastery.

“I’m very happy in my life,” said Sister Amelia. “I find great fulfillment in my religious vocation. I like to be of service to others, and I still can do a lot of that here at the Hermitage.”

Franciscan Sister Joan Elise Smith was raised in Dayton, Ohio, and joined her Oldenburg-based religious community in 1946. During many decades of teaching, Sister Joan Elise served at Catholic schools in Ohio and Indiana, including St. Therese of the Infant Jesus (Little Flower) School and the former Holy Trinity School, both in Indianapolis, and the Oldenburg Academy of the Immaculate Conception in Oldenburg.

She has participated in the annual Day of Consecrated Life Mass several times and appreciates worshiping together with members of several religious communities living and ministering in the archdiocese.

“I think it brings out the many facets of God,” said Sister Joan Elise. “It’s very creative. We’re not all alike, but we’re all following him.”
Scouts from across archdiocese gather for annual honors

By Brandon A. Evans

More than 300 Girl and Boy Scouts were honored during a special ceremony on Feb. 11 at SS. Peter and Paul Cathedral in Indianapolis.

The annual event is a chance for Archbishop Daniel M. Buechlein, a former Boy Scout, to help the youths keep religion as an important part of the Scouting experience.

Saying that his own vocation to the priesthood was “nurtured and nourished” by Scouting, the archbishop added that he might not be where he is today without his time spent as a Boy Scout.

We all need God, he said, and he encouraged all those present to take their faith seriously.

A myriad of awards are presented each year to various members of troops across central and southern Indiana. Boy Scouts can earn the Ad Altare Dei award or the Marian Award and the Parvuli Dei Award. Girl Scouts can earn the Spirit Alive Award and the Family of God Award.

Archbishop Daniel M. Buechlein congratulates a Cub Scout during the Religious Emblems Presentation for Scouts on Feb. 11 at SS. Peter and Paul Cathedral in Indianapolis.

“I Live My Faith Award. Cub Scouts can receive the Parvuli Dei Award and the Light of Christ Award, and Brownies can receive the Family of God Award. Additionally, several adults were honored with the Bronze Pelican Award for their dedication to Catholic Scouting. This year, there was another award tucked away in the middle of the honors: the Girl Scouts’ Spirit Alive Award. Only one girl in the archdiocese has previously earned this award, and on Sunday a troop of girls became the first group to earn it.

Roncalli High School juniors Julianna Knight, Lauren Lucas and Kaela Clemens, along with sophomore Kathleen Coyle, make up Troop 1602 at St. Mark the Evangelist Parish in Indianapolis. Together, they have more than 40 years of time spent in Scouting. They decided about a year ago to pursue the difficult Spirit Alive Award—and part of earning it meant planning and presenting a retreat.

Julianna said that the idea to pursue the award was presented to the troop, which took a vote on the idea before proceeding. “They did research on their faith and on the saints and then hosted a retreat for junior high girls called ‘Women of God’ last fall,” said Theresa Lucas, one of the troop’s co-leaders.

Juliana, another troop co-leader, said that she was “absolutely” proud of the girls for their achievement—something she said took nearly a year of planning and work to pull off.

“I wouldn’t say it was intimidating for me,” Lauren said. Having been to several retreats before, she knew what was expected and what needed to be done. “I thought no one would show up—that was my biggest fear,” she said.

It was a fear that proved unfounded as about 25 girls participated and prompted retreat after we’re done,” she said, noting that three members of her troop only have one more year of Scouting left before they graduate from high school.

Kaela said that their troop started out much larger when they were younger, and now consists of just the four girls whose friendship has led to their desire to keep the troop together.

“I think it’s nice for younger kids to see that it doesn’t stop at grade school,” Lauren said, adding that she would “encourage girls to stick with it,” even when things get difficult.

Father Thomas Schliessmann, pastor of St. Rose of Lima Parish in Franklin and Holy Trinity Parish in Edinburgh and archdiocesan chaplain of Scouts, read from a poem during his homily, driving home the importance of Scouts living a Christian life.

“May our awards and our medals of honor be a reminder to ‘point us and others for the faith, the Church and Christ’”—point us and others forward.” †
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WASHINGTON (CNS)—Congress should heed the warnings of a recent report on global warming, with priority given to how climate change will affect the poor, the chairman of the U.S. bishops’ Committee on International Policy urged.

In a Feb. 7 letter to congressional leaders, Bishop Thomas G. Wenski of Orlando, Fla., said the recently released report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change has clearly and compellingly outlined the case for urgent action to address the potential consequences of climate change.

The letter urged the U.S. government to base responses to global warming on the common good “rather than the demands of narrow interests,” and to place priority on the poor, “who will bear the greatest burdens and pay the greatest price for the consequences and costs of climate change.”

In a June 2001 statement, “Global Climate Change: A Plea for Dialogue, Prudence and the Common Good,” Bishop Wenski noted, the bishops said climate change “is not about economic theory or political platforms, nor about partisan advantage or interest-group pressures. It is about the future of God’s creation and the one human family.”

On Feb. 2, the intergovernmental panel, an international working group established by two U.N. agencies, approved a summary report for policymakers, “Climate Change 2007: The Physical Science Basis,” which “assesses current scientific knowledge of the natural and human drivers of climate change, observed changes in climate, the ability of science to attribute changes to different causes and projections for future climate change.”

Among its details, the report said, “Warming of the climate system is unequivocal, as is now evident from observations of increases in global average air and ocean temperatures, widespread melting of snow and ice, and rising global average sea level.”

Bishop Wenski noted that the report makes clear that climate change “is the greatest threat to the poor and those who are the least able to respond to the demands of these changes.”

The report, he said, makes it clear that the issue of climate change must be resolved “as a matter of conscience and justice.”

The bishops, in the letter, urged policymakers to commit to the full implementation of the Kyoto Protocol and other international agreements. They also called for the development of a comprehensive plan to help the poor, who are least able to guard against the consequences of climate change.

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Black Catholic priest-historian retraces his own history

WASHINGTON (CNS)—Benedictine Father Cyprian Davis, one of the leading historians of the black Catholic experience in the United States, came to the Catholic Church thanks in part to history. But it wasn’t the kind of history that’s reflected in his own books.

“Ever since I was a kid—I was a devout books on history,” said Father Cyprian, now 76 years old. “It’s part of the reason I became a Catholic.

“I converted when I was kid—I was in my teens. … One of the books I remember reading was unbelievable: H.G. Wells’ The Outline of History—and H.G. Wells was not a great Christian man,” he said, laughing.

“I wasn’t worried about that. I was into all the descriptions of what was going on, what the popes did. I thought it was great. So it was not an intellectual understanding that led me into Catholicism. This was a typical, I guess, sort of adolescent interest.”

Later on, Father Cyprian said, “I began to read other things. I never would describe my interest, really, right now in bringing up to date the book I wrote on the history of black Catholics,” Father Cyprian told CNS in a Feb. 7 telephone interview from St. Meinrad.

“I was getting a degree in history, and I had specialized in a sense when I wrote my dissertation. It was dealing with monastic history,” he said. “When I went away to study history, I had no desire to study American history, particularly because I was not interested in reading about slavery, and to read about the problems of race and so forth. That was a painful subject, and I didn’t want to spend my time doing that.”

Father Cyprian returned to the United States in 1963. And what a time it was.

“All those times were in ferment, especially in regard to civil rights, and that’s when I began to realize its importance. People began to come and ask me about being black and Catholic: ‘What is my place in the Church?’” Cyprian said.

“I began to realize that this is important. … That’s when I began to do my own research.”

The research hasn’t ended. “I’m interested, really, right now in bringing up to date the book I wrote on the history of black Catholics,” Father Cyprian told CNS.

“Catholicism’s particularly because I was not interested in reading about slavery, and to read about the problems of race and so forth. That was a painful subject, and I didn’t want to spend my time doing that.”

Father Cyprian was originally intended to write about black Catholics. “That really began to grow within me when I almost finished my career as a student at the University of Louvain in Belgium. Father Cyprian told CNS in a Feb. 7 telephone interview from St. Meinrad.

“If I convert into history, I had specialized in a sense when I wrote my dissertation. It was dealing with monastic history,” he said. “When I went away to study history, I had no desire to study American history, particularly because I was not interested in reading about slavery, and to read about the problems of race and so forth. That was a painful subject, and I didn’t want to spend my time doing that.”

CLIMATE
continued from page 1

“continued greenhouse gas emissions at or above current rates would cause further warming and induce many changes in the global climate system during the 21st century that would very likely be larger than those observed during the 20th century.”

The report predicted that at the current rate of increase, the following will occur:

• Snow cover and sea ice will contract, with increased thawing in the permafrost and arctic summer sea ice almost disappearing by late in the 21st century.

• Heat waves and heavy precipitation will become more frequent.

• Typhoons and hurricanes will become more intense, more frequent and more common farther north and south than has been normal.

• Precipitation will likely increase in high latitudes and decrease in subtropical regions, leading to more flooding in some regions and droughts elsewhere.

• Sea levels will rise over the 21st century, and during the rapid development of the 21st century, and during the rapid development of the 21st century.

Bishop Wenski said. “We participate not as climate experts or as scientists, but rather as teachers who fear that the moral and human dimensions of these decisions will be overwhelmed by political, economic or ideological pressures,” he wrote.
God is present in family routines and rituals

By Mary Jo Pedersen

Family life is a wonderful and very demanding vocation. Its demands make themselves known in many forms, among them the routines of daily living. Sometimes parents and/or children feel frustrated as they carry out seemingly endless routines at home. They know that family life is graced by God, but during some periods the stress and fatigue that usually accompany the responsibilities of daily life only serve to complicate this picture. Routines become an identity for adolescents, academic achievement and good health in young children, and stronger family relationships.

By David Gibson

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Family Traditions

Routines are a reality in every family. By David Gibson

Families need leisure time

This Week’s Question

What does your family do together—during leisure time on week days—to “break the routine” of daily life?

“Generally, we all try to make it to whatever activity the kids are involved in—basketball, dancing, ... We keep our kids as involved as possible. There’s not too much idle time. My wife and I both work so it’s tough, but we try to eat dinner together.” (Marc Gargano, Hermitage, Pa.)

“We have two daughters. One lives out of town and one is a senior in college so it’s mostly my wife and I at home. We just share about our day. We talk about the challenges of living our faith and dealing with day-to-day choices. ... Mostly, we just spend informal evenings together.” (Tim McCudden, Skowhegan, Maine)

“Three of our kids are grown, but despite our jobs my husband and I get together to visit or two or three times a week with the two who live locally. ... We meet our son, daughter and family at church on weekends. The more we can do with our grandchildren, especially going to church, is a good touchstone that eventually shows them that as a family we think church and our faith are very important.” (Cheryl Theigs, Salem, Neb.)

Lend Us Your Voice

An upcoming edition asks: Invent a virtue. What attitude or behavior would you like to label a virtue because you think our world truly needs it?

To respond for possible publication, send an e-mail to cpreen@catholicnews.com or write to Faith Alive! at 3211 Fourth St. N.E., Washington, D.C. 20017-1100.

Running Press in 2003, offers hundreds of ideas for spicing up the ordinary routines of family living by creating rituals and traditions that bond family members together while also getting things done.

Cox suggests, for example, a family game hug before going off to school or to work in the morning. This ritual helps family members get out the door with a smile.

One day a week, choose a pizza or grilled-cheese sandwich for the evening meal, she said. Repetition can turn a routine meal into a tradition.

And a special handshake or a blessing on the forehead can make departure or arrival times less stressful.

Cox has suggestions for dealing with bedtime stress and keeping children calm in the grocery cart, happy in their car seats and helpful in the laundry room as practical ways to spice up family routines.

We believe that family life is a vocation, a call to holiness. That doesn’t mean it has to be boring. Even simple routines like after-school snacks, weekly chores or visits to extended family members contribute to family health and well-being.

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(Mary Jo Pedersen is coordinator of the Leadership in Family Life Training Program for the Archdiocese of Omaha, Neb.)

Family life is graced by God

Family life is a vocation. That doesn’t mean it has to be boring. Even simple routines like after-school snacks, weekly chores or visits to extended family members contribute to family health and well-being. Faith Alive! (David Gibson edits Faith Alive!)
Perspectives

Here are some traditional Marian prayers

(Seventeenth in a series)

It’s a shame that so many Catholics today are unaware of some of the Church’s prayers to Mary. They are some of them:

First, there’s the Salve Regina, which originated in the 1st century: “Hail, holy Queen, mother of mercy, our life and our sweetness and our hope. To you do we cry, poor children of Eve. To you do we send up our sighs, mourning and weeping in this valley of tears. To you, then, most gracious advocate, our eyes of mercy toward us, and after this our exile show us the blessed fruit of your womb, Jesus. Amen.”

God, the moral is, even priests can be saved. OK.

Not only that, but we’re also encouraged to read what the Church teaches about us. What’s more, if we don’t like it, we can bring it to the glory of his Christ your Son was made known by the Incarnation of Christ. Amen.

Ku Klux Klan.

Not only that, but we’re also encouraged to read what the Church teaches about us. What’s more, if we don’t like it, we can bring it to the glory of his Christ your Son was made known by the Incarnation of Christ. Amen.

(Shirley Vogler Meister, a member of St. Paul the Apostle Parish in Greencastle, is a regular columnist for The Criterion.)

Our times are different, our needs are different, our goals are different, but the message remains the same: “My dear children, listen to me and you will find peace.” Amen.

In conclusion, to all my fellow believers, let us pray for each other, let us trust in God, and let us live our lives according to his teachings. Amen.
The Sunday Readings

Sunday, Feb. 18, 2007

• 1 Samuel 26:2,7-9, 12-13, 22-23
• 2 Corinthians 15:45-49
• Luke 6:27-38

The First Book of Samuel provides the first reading for this weekend. Originally one volume, Samuel was divided into two books.

This book and this reading reach far back into the history of God’s people. The people completed their long, exhausting migration across the Sinai Peninsula to the land that God promised them.

They settled in the land and organized themselves into a state with Saul as their king. Rising among them, as spokesman for God, are judges and prophets.

While many people judged Saul and subsequent kings on the basis of their efficiency as rulers, the prophets inevitably judged the kings by considering whether or not a given monarch led the people to a closer and more fervent relationship with God. In retrospect, by the standards of the prophets, all the kings failed, at least to a degree. Some were better than others.

During the period covered by First Samuel, the neighboring Philistines presented a threat to Israel. The Philistines, who were a Mediterranean people, were pagans. If they militarily overtook Israel, the religion centered on the one God of Jacob would be at risk.

Saul himself lost credibility because he tried to assume for himself religious roles to which God had not chosen him. Efforts to dethrone Saul developed. David was a part of these efforts. However, David decided not to assassinate the king if given the chance, but to trust that God would right the wrongs.

St. Paul’s First Letter to the Corinthians is the source of the second reading. If not formally schooled in Greek philosophy and cosmology, Paul certainly was a learned, sophisticated man in a culture very much attuned to Greek philosophy. Unlike classic Hebrew theologians, he saw dualities in human nature, the physical or earthly and the spiritual.

Paul drew upon this Greek understanding to say that spirits are uplifted and spared from death by a believer’s true turning to God in Christ.

For its third lesson, the Church this weekend presents a passage from St. Luke’s Gospel.

In any time, the Lord’s words quoted in this reading would be a challenge. People can be hurt by the unkindness and even the viciousness of others. They can be deceived and thwarted, even in legitimate and honest undertakings. The conniving of others can frustrate them.

Therefore, to call people to love their enemies was, as it still is, a tall order. Nevertheless, this was the call spoken by Jesus. This passage not only calls upon disciples to love enemies, but also sets the bar for this love, which should be lavish, unlimited and, in the minds of humans, even ridiculous.

Loving others, Christians should not judge them. They should not condemn. An undercurrent here is that avoiding being a harsh judge of others is only logical for any human, who inevitably succumbs to sin, at least to some degree.

Reflection
The Church has put before us, beginning with Christmas, the feast of the Epiphany and the feast of the Baptism of the Lord, the beautiful image of Jesus. He is a human as are we. He is the Son of God. He frees us from sin.

Proceeding through January and early February, the Church invites us to follow Jesus. On Wednesday of this week, the Church will call us to the practice of prayer and penance in Lent.

What goal do we seek in Lent? What does discipleship mean?

The first and third readings are clear. We must love God and we must love others, even enemies. We must trust God. We cannot rely on human, or earthly, judgments. We are a spiritual people, citizens of the higher world that is heaven, if we wish to be.

My Journey to God

Jesus Wept

She sits, tear-filled eyes
Shaded with her hand,
Waiting.

There He is!
The long familiar stride
Raising dust into
The hot dry air.

“Why weren’t you here?
Did you not know?
My brother, your friend has died!”

If only.
She kneels at His feet,
Heartbroken.
He extends His hand,
Lifting her out of the dust,
Searching her face,
Stained by her tear.

Instantly He understands
Her loss, her suffering.
He can hold the pain no longer.
Tears fill His eyes.

In this human state,
Overcome by empathy.

(Trudy Bledsoe is a member of St. Christopher Parish in Indianapolis and the Secular Chair of Peter, Apostle 1 Peter 5:1-4)

Daily Readings

Monday, Feb. 19
Sirach 1:1-10
Psalm 93:1-2, 5
Mark 9:14-29

Tuesday, Feb. 20
Sirach 2:1-11
Psalm 37:3-4, 18-19, 27-28, 39-40
Mark 9:30-37

Wednesday, Feb. 21
Ash Wednesday
Joel 2:12-18
Psalm 51:3-6a, 12-14, 17
2 Corinthians 5:20-26
Matthew 6:1-6, 16-18

Thursday, Feb. 22
The Chair of Peter, Apostle 1 Peter 5:1-4
Psalm 23:1-6
Matthew 16:13-19

Friday, Feb. 23
Polycearp, bishop and martyr
Isaiah 58:1-9a
Psalm 51:3-6a, 18-19
Matthew 9:14-15

Saturday, Feb. 24
Isaiah 58:9-14
Psalm 86:1-6
Luke 5:27-32

Sunday, Feb. 25
First Sunday of Lent
Deuteronomy 26:4-10
Psalm 91:1-2, 10-15
Romans 10:8-13

Question Corner/Fr. John Dietzen

Canonization requires miracles and evidence of life of holiness

Q One of the miracles attributed to the New American saint, St. Theodora Guérin, was the healing of a man’s blindness.

I am a retired ophthalmologist and would like to know what it was—perhaps an optic nerve atrophy that suddenly recovered or retinal detachment that healed itself or maybe even a corneal scar that disappeared on its own. Or was it a case of ‘blindness’?

Why aren’t we told more about such miracles? Letting the public in on them would be a great way of evangelizing. (Florida)

A The steps toward canonization in the Catholic Church are detailed and complex. Normally, two authenticated miracles are required—one before beatification and another before canonization, the final official declaration that the individual is one who is with God in heaven, whose life is a model of Christian holiness and whose intercession with God on our behalf may be sought in the public prayer of the Church.

Mother Theodore Guérin, the foundress of the Sisters of Providence, whose motherhouse is Saint Mary-of-the-Woods west of Terre Haute, Ind., was canonized by Pope Benedict XVI on Oct. 15, 2006.

Philip McCord, an employee of Saint Mary-of-the-Woods College, who is blind, was one of the candidates. He was vice-postulator and promoter of Mother Theodore’s cause for sainthood.

Did she reflect in her life a continuous and faithful love of God and neighbor? What specific practices and virtues give evidence of that love?

At one final step in the process, Pope John Paul II said of Mother Theodore, “Her life was a perfect blend of humanness and holiness.”

The Chair of Peter, Apostle 1 Peter 5:1-4

The Criteron  Friday, February 16, 2007

The Criterion  Friday, February 16, 2007
Rest in peace

Please submit in writing to our office by 10 a.m. Thursday before the week of publication; be sure to state date of death. Obituaries of archdiocesan priests serving our archdiocese are listed elsewhere in The Criterion. Order priests and religious sisters and brothers are included here, unless they are natives of the archdiocese or have other connections to it; those are separate obituaries on this page.

The Criterion   Friday, February 16, 2007

Page 18


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Sun., March 4: Knowing God’s love and practical information on how to pray

Mon., March 5: The gift of the Mass and the importance of family

Tues., March 6: The passion of Jesus Christ and reconciliation service

Wed., March 7: Healing service and the new life of discipleship

Divine Word Father Otto Otto Schellenberger was missionary

Divine Word Father Otto Otto Schellenberger, who served as a missionary in Papua New Guinea for many years, died on Jan. 9 at the Society of the Divine Word’s Chicago Province headquarters in Techny, Ill. He was 92.

The Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated on Jan. 13 at Techny. Burial followed at the order’s cemetery there.

Otto George Schellenberger was born on Sept. 2, 1914, in Georgetown.

He went to the Divine Word order’s headquarters in Techny in 1932, and completed high school and two years of college. He professed his first vows on Aug. 6, 1937, and perpetual vows in 1941. He was ordained a priest on Aug. 15, 1942.

In 1944, Father Schellenberger was one of 20 Divine Word priests assigned to serve as missionaries in Papua New Guinea to help counter Japanese influence during World War II. He traveled there with 7,000 American soldiers.

He later earned a Bachelor of Science degree at Purdue University in West Lafayette, Ind., and Master of Science degree in Education at Loyola University in Chicago.

In Papua New Guinea, Father Schellenberger taught agriculture at Fatuna College before being sent to Maramuni Valley to establish a church there.
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