A passion for service

By John Shaughnessy

Here’s the one statistic that Bob Tully wants you to remember when you consider whether young people today are committed to making a difference in their communities and the world.

As he teaches a course called Christian Ministry at Roncalli High School in Indianapolis, Tully requires his students to do 48 hours of community service during the semester-long class. It’s a daunting challenge in young lives that also include homework, jobs, college applications, extracurricular activities, and time for friends and family.

So it comes as an eye-opening surprise when Tully shares the average number of community service hours that students in his class actually performed: 104.

The need to revitalize the faith among young people is not only felt in the United States—where the network’s coverage of Hurricane Katrina, the Iraq elections, the London bombing attacks and the death of Pope John Paul II. Yet it’s another historic moment that has little attention from this pope to date, but where 43 percent of the world’s Catholics live.

It also broadens the horizons of the pope’s two-year pontificate, taking him outside Europe, where four of his previous five trips have occurred.

“What we find is that every person has a spark inside them,” says Tully, a teacher, coach and campus minister at Roncalli. “If we can fan the spark, we’ve found the kids love to make a difference in the world.”

Here are the stories of several high school students in the archdiocese who represent the incredible commitment that young people make in improving the lives of others.

A champion for children

In five years, Susie Bickel has gone from wanting to be a track star to being in a wheelchair for a while to becoming a champion for other children in Washington, D.C.

When she was 10, Susie fell during a track practice, hurting her wrist. The pain lingered for months, a period during which she experienced fevers as high as 103 degrees, and doctors struggled to find the cause of her failing health. She was rushed to the hospital one day by her parents when the pain became unbearable and she turned pale.

While she was hospitalized for a week, doctors determined she had juvenile rheumatoid arthritis—a condition that sounds minor to many until they learn that it’s the leading cause of disability for children, Susie says.

“It’s different from regular arthritis,” she says. “It can affect all my joints at the same time and my organs. Once the pain was so bad I had to be in a wheelchair for a month. I have to be given tons of medicine. I had to be home-schooled my freshman year because the

Papal trip to Brazil turns spotlight on Latin America

VATICAN CITY (CNS)—Pope Benedict XVI is making his first trip to the Western Hemisphere in mid-May, traveling to Brazil to open a strategizing session with Latin American bishops. The May 9-13 visit begins with a string of pastoral events in Sao Paulo, where the pope will meet with young people and canonize the first Brazilian-born saint.

Then he moves to the basilica of Our Lady of Aparecida, where he will inaugurate the Fifth General Conference of the Bishops of Latin America and the Caribbean, celebrating Mass and delivering a major speech to participants of the May 13-17 meeting.

The trip turns a spotlight on Latin America, a geographical area that has had little attention from this pope to date, but where 43 percent of the world’s Catholics live.

As the Vietnam War came to an end in 1975, Nguyen’s family raced toward one of the last American cargo planes taking South Vietnamese residents out of the country. After being sent to three refugee camps in three different countries, Nguyen’s family finally arrived in the United States—a move that has made all the difference, she contends.

Still, she often thinks about what might have been if her family hadn’t made that plane, if they had to stay in Vietnam. That thought stays with her, especially when she views news reports from Vietnam showing children struggling to live in poverty.

It’s why she became co-founder of Help the Hungry, an organization that strives to alleviate global hunger by providing humanitarian relief to poverty-stricken families.

“Help the Hungry is my way of making a difference and offering some hope,” Nguyen said. “It helps me realize I do have

Spirit of Service winners use blessings to help others

By John Shaughnessy

Even as she lived her version of the American dream, Betty Nguyen knew she had to do more with her life—especially when she remembered a haunting moment from her childhood.

Born in Vietnam, Nguyen is now a CNN anchor who has contributed to the network’s coverage of Hurricane Katrina, the Iraq elections, the London bombing attacks and the death of Pope John Paul II. Yet it’s another historic moment that changed her life forever.

As the Vietnam War came to an end in 1975, Nguyen’s family raced toward one of the last American cargo planes taking South Vietnamese residents out of the country. After being sent to three refugee camps in three different countries, Nguyen’s family finally arrived in the United States—a move that has made all the difference, she contends.

仍然，她说她经常思考什么可能已经如果她家庭没有做出那趟计划，如果他们必须留在越南。那个想法停留在她的心里，尤其是当她看到越南的新闻报道显示孩子们在贫困中挣扎生活。

这就是为什么她成为创办者之一是帮助饥饿，一个组织，这努力来缓解全球饥饿，通过提供人道主义援助到贫困家庭。

“帮助饥饿是我在世界上的一个改变和提供一些希望的方式，”Nguyen说。“它帮助我意识到我有

CNN anchor Betty Nguyen speaks at the Spirit of Service Awards Dinner on April 26.
TEENS

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pain was so bad.”

Now a sophomore at Cardinal Ritter High School in Indianapolis, Susie works hard to increase awareness about the disease that affects 300,000 children in the United States. Earlier this year, she made her second trip to Washington, D.C., to meet with the staffs of U.S. Congresswoman Julia Carson and Senators Evan Bayh and Richard Lugar to seek their support of the Arthritis Prevention, Control and Cure Act.

“Susie is a great educator and a powerful example of someone who lives and breathes this disease,” says Ed Willis Jr., president of the Indiana chapter of the Arthritis Foundation. “Here she is, just 15 years old, struggling to even walk through the halls of Congress just to talk to someone about her condition. Susie should be proud of what she’s accomplished.”

If she is, she keeps it to herself. Instead, she talks about the nationwide shortage of pediatric rheumatologists and the need for early diagnosis to prevent permanent disability. She also mentions the upcoming Arthritis Walk fundraiser in Indianapolis on May 19.

“Right now, I’m doing really good,” she says. “I’m able to participate in things at school, which is great. I just want to help in finding a cure in any way I can. I always want to know if I can do more.”

A drive for independence

Daniel Kent had saved the money he needed to make his dream come true: $4,000 for a used car that would give him the independence that most teenagers seek.

Yet Kent decided to use the money to jump-start two organizations that he believed could change lives.

Using most of his savings, he founded Senior Connects, a volunteer organization that gives senior citizens the computer training to connect with others. He also started Net Literacy, an organization that provides computers for children to help in their education.

“I really wanted to have this organization grow beyond a backyard project,” says Daniel, a senior at Brebeuf Jesuit Preparatory School in Indianapolis. “To do that required immense paperwork and legal aspects that were mind-boggling.”

Daniel believes the money was well-spent. Since 2003, Senior Connects has provided computer access to about 20,000 senior citizens in independent and assisted-living facilities in three states. His volunteer organization has also raised more than $500,000 in grants and donations of computers, many of which his group has refurbished and given to children from needy families.

“It started when I volunteered at a public library, teaching computer skills,” he says. “One day, I was teaching a gentleman who said he really enjoyed what I was doing and was talking to me about a friend at his retirement community. His friend was confined to a wheelchair, and he couldn’t learn how to use a computer because there was no one at the retirement home to teach him. I wanted to help this friend.”

When Daniel couldn’t find a program to help the man, he started Senior Connects. Now, there are about 150 student volunteers in the program that is expanding across the country.

Daniel’s rewards include the cookies that senior citizens sometimes bake for him. His parents also bought him a 2001 green Subaru sedan because “they got really tired of driving me all around,” Daniel says with a laugh.

“Our generation has been labeled ‘The Me Generation’ by a lot of sociologists and the general media,” he says. “My personal goal is to help everyone. By empowering others, not only do you provide them with more opportunities, it builds and leads to other people helping others.”

“We’ve all been changed by this”

The image of the small boy crying at the hearts and gnawing at the consciousness of Sarah Comminskey, Elisabeth Patterson, Claire Schaffner and Eleanor McReynolds.

The four seniors at Bishop Chatard High School in Indianapolis kept thinking about the boy after they screened Invisible Children, a documentary about the civil war in Northern Uganda that focuses on how children are kidnapped by the rebel army and forced to become soldiers.

“They show different kids,” Claire says. “Some have starved, some have been attacked with machetes. They’re missing legs, and one boy cries because he’s been forced to kill. There’s also this boy who says he can’t cry because if he does it will show his weakness. Then the boy starts crying. It’s like the whole grief of a nation is exemplified in this little boy.”

Touched, the four friends decided to try to help the children who flee from their homes and walk miles to find shelter at hospitals, schools and parks away from the rebel camps.

They raised money for the children by selling DVDs of the documentary and creating T-shirts that read “Invisible Children” on the front and “If you don’t see them, who will?” on the back.

They also raised awareness through their efforts to have the documentary shown in school assemblies.

“We’ve all been changed by this,” Elisabeth says. “We’re all made in the image of God,” Sarah says. “No matter what race, color or origin we come from, we all deserve to be treated like God’s children. We should definitely help any way we can.”

“We’ve all been changed by this,” Eleanor says. “This has helped us find that God has a plan for every person. God has blessed us. He wants his children to look out for other children around the world.”

The small moments that last

In four years at Roncalli, Laura Mountiel has performed more than 430 hours of community service. But it’s not the time she remembers; it’s the small moments that linger forever in her mind.

Like the elderly couple she met during a weeklong service trip to Appalachia last summer, a couple who must have thanked her and her fellow workers at least 20 times for completing a badly-needed paint job for their house. Or the smile on the face of the dead man after they built a new porch for his house.

“The things we were doing seemed so small to us, but it seemed like a new beginning to them,” Laura says.

There are also the memories of playing bingo nearly every Wednesday afternoon at an Indianapolis nursing home.

“We’d listen to their stories, and it made them happy,” she says. “They usually had a countdown board to when we would come again.”

She has also taught a Sunday School class for 2-year-olds at her parish, St. Barnabas in Indianapolis. And she has led A Promise to Keep sessions for middle-school students, talking to them about chastity and abstaining from sex until marriage.

“I don’t have a lot of free time because I do a lot of extracurriculars,” Laura says. “But when I have the time, I make it. I’m really not that hard for you to do. It makes you think about and appreciate what you have.”

Left, Roncalli High School student Laura Mountiel helps to refurbish a home during a weeklong service trip to West Virginia.

“We’ve all been changed by this”
Deacon: Woods ‘at peace’ and ‘right with God’ as execution date nears

By Mary Ann Wyand

Death row inmate David Leon Woods, who is scheduled to die by lethal injection early on May 4 at the Indiana State Prison in Michigan City, Ind., told a priest and deacon that he is “at peace.” He said he believes he is “right with God.”

Deacon Malcolm Lunsford has not “seen monsters” on death row, “just a lot of guys who’ve gone wrong somewhere.”

That includes David Leon Woods, an inmate scheduled to be executed by lethal injection on May 4 at the Indiana State Prison in Michigan City. Deacon Lunsford describes Woods as the most remorseful inmate he has ever met.

Woods, now 42, was 19 when he stabbed a neighbor, Juan Placencia, 21 times during an attempt to steal a television. He was sentenced to death on March 28, 1985.

Deacon Lunsford said that while Woods has been on “the row” he has “learned to forgive himself. He’s never denied his guilt. He’s never created a problem.”

Woods serves as a porter to his fellow inmates, bringing them meals and water.

Deacon Lunsford has been ministering to prison inmates since he was ordained to the diaconate for the Diocese of Gary, Ind., in 2000. During his weekly visits to the state prison, he makes an effort to come early to spend time with Woods, but he can only communicate with the prisoner from outside the cell.

“We talk, and he’s completely at peace,” the deacon said, noting that Woods insists he’s “ready” for his execution.

The deacon cited the efforts of Wanda Callahan, Woods’ spiritual director from the Church of the Brethren in Goshen, Ind., in working with the prisoner.

“The important thing is that he’s forgiven himself. He realizes he’s done wrong,” Deacon Lunsford told the Northwest Indiana Catholic, diocesan newspaper of Gary.

“In order to be at peace and be with Our Lord, you have to be at peace with yourself.”

The state prison in Michigan City has 21 inmates on death row. Deacon Lunsford and his wife, Shirley, along with other deacons and clergy, spend time with inmates on Tuesday evenings. Services alternate weekly between Masses and Communion services. Permission has recently been granted to bring all the death row inmates to one cell for Mass.

Two years ago, Deacon Lunsford attended the execution of Gregory Scott Johnson, a convicted murderer. He said for Woods who had argued that he is mentally retarded and should not be executed. The attorneys also had unsuccessfully petitioned the Indiana Supreme Court to consider evidence that Woods suffers from brain damage and dysfunction.

Deacon Plaiss, who ministers as the communications director for the Gary Diocese, said in a May 1 telephone interview that Woods “seemed to be at peace” when he visited him on death row in recent months.

Deacon Plaiss said Deacon Lunsford also ministers to prisoners incarcerated at the state prison and visited Woods, who is not Catholic, on a regular basis.

“It’s one thing to argue the merits of the death penalty in the abstract. Deacon Plaiss said, “but when you get up on death row and you see the guys, you have a different perspective.”

“I always keep in mind that the men who are on death row have committed heinous crimes and they have victims,” he said, “and those victims have families and they’re suffering as well. But when you talk to the men up on death row and you hear their story … you want to say, ‘These men are [made] in favor of life imprisonment without parole, noted that the death penalty has long been eliminated in other developed countries. Studies have shown, the bishop said, that capital punishment “does not help effect healing in the families of victims and does not deter crimes.”

Woods has some relatives who occasionally visit him. Other visitors have included some of his victim’s children, who came to forgive him, Deacon Lunsford said.

“David’s had a hard life,” the deacon said, citing family and other personal problems. “He’s just a nice young man. You see these guys in prison and you wonder what in the world happened to them to get them in prison.”

“All we can say is that he is ‘at peace’ and ‘right with God’ as execution date nears.

**Deacon Malcolm Lunsford**

Deacon Plaiss, who ministers as the communications director for the Gary Diocese, said in a May 1 telephone interview that Woods “seemed to be at peace” when he visited him on death row in recent months.

“It’s different when you talk to them,” Deacon Plaiss said.

“Woods is a spiritual director, Wanda Callahan, from the Church of the Brethren in Goshen, Ind.”

**Related Story, page 13**
We’re certainly not opposed to positive thinking. In fact, we wholeheartedly encourage it. But we would venture to suggest that there is more to life than thinking positive thoughts. Francis, we find the whole matter superstitious and part of the New Age nonsense.

It came from the New Age movement, according to an article in The Secret, which reported on the success of The Secret. It said that Byrne stumbled across Esther Hicks, a New Age guru who had already taught the “Law of Attraction” for 20 years. They teamed up, and Hicks narrated the original DVD released in 2006. Hicks insisted, though, that it wasn’t really her doing the narrating, that she was merely channeling a collection of otherworldly spirits who call themselves “Abraham.”

Hicks and Byrne subsequently had a falling out, and the present DVD was produced without her narration—or, presumably, “Abraham.”

Sometimes lost in the idea of thoughts controlling events is the idea that negative thoughts cause negative events. This means that the individual is to blame for all the suffering that comes into his or her life. If you’re sick or poor or have a bad accident, it’s because you weren’t thinking positively. This can be dangerous stuff.

Byrne is right about one thing: The Catholic Church has opposed this “Law of Attraction” for almost 100 years ago. Apparently, she had positive thoughts about publishing a bestseller. The “secret” for doing so is actually well-known: to determine what lots of people want to read and give it to them. Obviously, there are plenty of people who want to know the secret of getting wealthy. Haven’t we heard all this before?

Of course we have. Norman Vincent Peale’s book on The Power of Positive Thinking was a bestseller for decades. And it’s hard not to hear the preachers who assure us that we’ll get wealthy if only we listen to them—and, of course, send money to help their ministry.
Modesty helps us live according to God’s plan

Recently, after Mass at one of our parishes, a young woman in a dress that with the coming of spring and summer I need to tell folks they should dress modestly and not so short. I would make the case that modesty should be characteristic at any time, not just in the summer. It is essential that we keep in mind the principle that

how we celebrate the Eucharist affects how we believe. Active participation does not mean we attend Mass just to participate in a socializing event with friends. The eucharistic banquet which avows us also celebrates an awesome mystery. Gathered at the altar the sacrifice of Christ is re-presented in mystery; it is the decisive event of our salvation.

Greater approachability to this marvelous gift is important. But so is respectful awe. Active participation includes respectfully listening to God’s Word, responding in song as well as being attentive to the eucharistic mystery and worthy reception of Communion. This requires a certain degree of composure, stillness and silence.

The architecture of our more recent churches provides a narthex or gathering space for friend-making and visiting before and after Mass.

St. Charles Borromeo once told his priests that if they are seriously distracted during Mass, perhaps they need to reflect on what they were doing in the sacristy beforehand. The need for composure and focus applies to us all. Part of that stillness and composure does, indeed, include how we dress and whether or not we are participating in something which are more “laid back,” “come as you are” celebrations.

Moreover, we must have gone overboard. Loss of a sense of the sacred is a loss. It is essential that we keep in mind the principle that

self-control. A modest person dresses, speaks and acts in a manner that supports and encourages purity and chastity, not in a manner that would tempt or encourage sinful sexual behavior. Modesty protects the mystery of the person in order to avoid exploiting the other. … Modesty ensures and supports purity of heart, a gift that enables us to see God’s plan for personal relationships, sexuality and marriage.

Admittedly, our Church’s promotion of the virtues of modesty and purity is a sign of contradiction in an overly eroticized society. The awesome mystery of the human person is at stake and that has serious consequences.

Do you have an intention for Archbishop Buechlein’s prayer list? You may mail it to him at: Archbishop Buechlein’s Office
Archdiocese of Indianapolis
1400 N. Meridian St.
P.O. Box 1410
Indianapolis, IN 46202-1410

The Criterion  Friday, May 4, 2007

Seeking the Face of the Lord

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

The Criterion  Friday, May 4, 2007

Seeking the Face of the Lord

Buenos Días de la Catedral

La modestia nos ayuda a vivir según el plan de Dios

Recientemente después de Misa en una de nuestras parroquias una joven me dijo que con la llegada de la primavera y del verano debía decirles a los jóvenes que nos reunimos para celebrar la Misa como en otros tiempos. En la Iglesia moderna, presenta un nártex o espacio de encuentro antes y después de la Misa.

Si uno sigue las directivas litúrgicas recientes, tanto de la Santa Sede como de la Confederación de Obispos Católicos de EE.UU., uno de los temas de discusión se refiere al sentido de lo sagrado y del respeto debido a la celebración de la liturgia. Sin duda, una diferencia entre la ropa vestimenta informal es más aceptable en nuestra cultura y esto no tiene nada de malo. Sin embargo, este es un tema serio. “La modestia nos ayuda a vivir según el plan de Dios para las relaciones personales, la sexualidad y el matrimonio” (Catecismo Católico de Estados Unidos para Adultos, USCCB, pp. 441-42).

Ciertamente el estímulo de las virtudes de la modestia y la pureza de nuestra iglesia es un símbolo de contradicción en una sociedad plagada por el erotismo. El maravilloso misterio de la persona humana está en juego y eso tiene graves consecuencias.

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

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

Traducido por: Daniela Guanipa, Language Training Center, Indianapolis.

La intención de vocaciones del Arzobispo Buechlein para mayo
Seminarios: Que ellos sean fieles a la oración y estudien, y continúen en su deseo de servir a Dios y la Iglesia como sacerdotes!
May 4
Our Lady of the Most Holy Rosary Church, 520 Sr. Stevens St. 812-357-6501.
May 6
Saint Meinrad Archabbey and School of Theology, Aparry, 20th St. 812-357-6493.
May 7
holy hour, Mass 2 p.m., Father Elmer Bawien, celebrant. Information: 812-689-5551.
May 7
Saint Bartholomew Parish, 1306 27th St. 812-357-6437.
May 7-9
The 7 p.m. eight-week series through July 2. Information: 812-379-9553, ext. 333.
May 7
Mount Saint Francis Retreat Center, 115 W. Amity Drive, Mount Saint Francis, Louisiville. Catholic Charismatic Renewal, Mass, 7 p.m. Information: 502-239-0208 or e-mail msfrc@msfranciscans.com.
May 8
Saint Paul Hermitage, 501 N. 17th Ave., Beech Grove. Ave Maria Guild meeting, 12:30 p.m. Information: 317-881-5818.
May 8
May 11
May 12
Christ the King Parish, 1827 Kessler Blvd., E. Indianapolis. Devotional Retreat, “The Holy Spirit in the Life of the Church,” 9 a.m.-4 p.m. $20 per person, registration deadline May 1. Information: 317-253-2195, ext. 4.
May 13
May 17
Our Lady of Fatima Retreat House, 5353 E. 56th St., Indianapolis. “My Life in My Life,” Father Jonathan Meyer, presenter, 8 a.m.-3:30 p.m. $375 per person. Information: 317-545-7681 or www.archindy.org/fitma.
May 18-20
May 19
May 20
Our Lady of Fatima Retreat House, 5353 E. 56th St., Indianapolis. “Pre Cana Conference for engaged couples,” 1:45 p.m. Information: 317-545-7681, 317-236-1596 or 382-0863, ext. 1596.
May 20
Kordes Retreat Center, 841 14th St., Ferdinands. “Still Full of Sap, Still Full of Life,” Benedictine Father Godfrey Mullen, presenter. Information: 317-883-2777 or kordes@thedore.org.
May 20
Our Lady of Fatima Retreat House, 5353 E. 56th St., Indianapolis. “Labyrinth 201,” Bill Coleman, presenter, 7-9 p.m., free-will offering. Information: 317-545-7681 or www.archindy.org/fitma.
May 22-24
May 29
May 30
Saint Meinrad Archabbey, 100 Hill Drive, Saint Meinrad. “Praying with Icons,” Benedictine Father Theodore D, presenter. Information: 812-933-0661 or e-mail mzoeller@saintmeinrad.edu.
June 1-22
Kordes Retreat Center, 841 14th St., Ferdinands. “Mindfully, A Preached Retreat,” Benedictine Sister Macrina Wiederkehr, presenter. Information: 812-933-0661 or e-mail mzoeller@saintmeinrad.edu.
June 24-30
Kordes Retreat Center, 841 14th St., Ferdinands. “Praying the Psalms,” Benedictine Father Godfrey Mullen, presenter. Information: 317-883-2777 or kordes@thedore.org.
June 26-27
Our Lady of Fatima Retreat House, 5353 E. 56th St., Indianapolis. “Your Own Basket,” Registered Pharmacists work individually with seniors to assess their medications, appointment required. Information: 317-782-6660.
July 9-16
July 25, 26 or 27
July 28-31
Kordes Retreat Center, 841 14th St., Ferdinands. “Praying the Psalms,” Benedictine Father Theodore D, presenter. Information: 812-933-0661 or e-mail mzoeller@saintmeinrad.edu.
August 12-17
Saint Meinrad Archabbey, 100 Hill Drive, Saint Meinrad. “Praying with Icons,” Benedictine Father Theodore D, presenter. Information: 812-933-0661 or e-mail mzoeller@saintmeinrad.edu.
August 8-13
August 13-14
Saint Meinrad Archabbey, 100 Hill Drive, Saint Meinrad. “Praying with Icons,” Benedictine Father Theodore D, presenter. Information: 812-933-0661 or e-mail mzoeller@saintmeinrad.edu.
August 19-23
August 26-27
Kordes Retreat Center, 841 14th St., Ferdinands. “Praying the Psalms,” Benedictine Father Theodore D, presenter. Information: 812-933-0661 or e-mail mzoeller@saintmeinrad.edu.
September 9-12
Kordes Retreat Center, 841 14th St., Ferdinands. “Meditation in the Rose Garden,” 3145 SE. Thompson Road, Indianapolis. Senior Promised Program, registered pharmacists work individually with seniors to assess their medications, appointment required. Information: 317-782-6660.
Catholic Charities leaders, beneficiaries ask Congress to cut poverty in half

WASHINGTON (CNS)—Leaders of Catholic Charities USA were joined on April 26 by two people who have received aid from their local Catholic Charities affiliates to ask Congress to act to cut poverty in half by the year 2020.

Father Larry Snyder, Catholic Charities’ president, said he found it inconsistent in the United States, which has “more color than Cuba” and more Nobel winners per capita, that “35 million find it hard to give themselves adequate nutrition every day” and 37 million live in poverty.

Father Snyder said he signed a letter this week that requests that help made to Catholic Charities affiliates last year were up 14 percent over 2005 levels. In 2005, aid was given to 6 million people.

“We see the plight of the working family that holds down two or three jobs to make ends meet, but have trouble ends meeting or finding an affordable place to live,” Father Snyder said, adding that persistent poverty too often leads to family discord and divorce.

“I hope the Congress can help assist Catholic Charities and do whatever it can to stamp out poverty in the country,” said Robbie Banner of Baltimore, who has received aid from Catholic Charities affiliates there.

Banner praised Catholic Charities for what it “has done for me the last 20 years of my lifetime.”

“Twenty years ago, at that time, I had very little money on my life. I came in contact with Catholic Charities through their soup kitchens—ones of those places that feeds the homeless.”

After talking with a Catholic Charities worker there, he added, “I started thinking about my life.”

Charitable Beche, he said, gave him “all the assistance I needed—and I’m thankful—physically, spiritually, mentally and morally. ... I’m grateful to them for that today.”

McCoy of Denver, who brought with her to Washington, three homeless women she has known, confirmed how the cost of living has risen since “my first round of parenting.”

Then, milk is $1.89 a gallon and a loaf of bread cost 45 cents. Now, milk is $3 a gallon and a loaf of bread has tripled in price to $1.35 a loaf.

“I have to be careful in spending now because I don’t have as much money as I used to,” McCoy said. “It takes a lot of food to feed these children,” she said, gesturing in their direction. “They are really growing. I am working every day as a certified nursing assistant, but I need the stable income to help me get through.”

Father Snyder said one of the top priorities in cutting poverty would be to increase the nutrition provisions—including food stamp outlays—in the farm bill currently being worked on in Congress. Catholic Charities USA is one of several Catholic and other religious organizations that have formed the Religious Working Group on the Farm Bill.

“God does care how we behave as a nation,” said the Rev. David Beckmann, head of Bread for the World. “I’m grateful to them for that today.”

Banner praised Catholic Charities for what it “has done for Catholic Charities affiliates last year were up 14 percent over 2005 levels. In 2005, aid was given to 6 million people.

“The good news is lawmakers have created new permanent funding streams for both the state’s housing trust fund and also for local housing trust funds,” Tebbe said. “The measure will also allow new local housing trust funds to be created in other communities.”

The Criterion  Friday, May 4, 2007

While much of the attention on the state’s budget has been geared toward property tax relief and whether slot machines will be added to Indiana’s horse racing industry, the Indiana Catholic Conference (ICC) has kept a watchful eye on the budget for another reason—to raise the dignity of lower-income families in Indiana.

Several important funding pieces to help low-income families moved in and out of the state’s budget bill throughout the last days of the session, and even were moved during the final hours before the Indiana General Assembly was scheduled to adjourn on April 29 by midnight.

Access to health care for the uninsured, funding for affordable housing, scholarship tax credits and special savings accounts for low-income families topped ICC’s list of priorities which were attached in some way to the passage of this year’s state budget bill.

By Brigid Curtis Ayer

“The ICC’s list of priorities which were attached in some way to the passage of this year’s state budget bill. “The good news is lawmakers have created new permanent funding streams for both the state’s housing trust fund and also for local housing trust funds,” Tebbe said. “The measure will also allow new local housing trust funds to be created in other communities.”

The Criterion  Friday, May 4, 2007
Survivor says God uppermost in his mind during rampage

ROANOKE, Va. (CNS)—Derek O’Dell has a lot of stories to tell as a survivor of the nightmare shootings at Virginia Tech in Blacksburg on April 16.

A fundamental one is that his faith in God was foremost in his consciousness from the first moment the shooter, Seung-Hui Cho, entered the Norris Hall classroom where sophomore O’Dell was in German class.

He said his faith was with him “just about the whole time” as Cho fired on O’Dell and his classmates. When the shooter left the room, O’Dell, who had been shot in the arm, and another student barricaded the door against his possible return. Indeed, after more shots were heard outside, Cho came back to their classroom and tried to force his way in.

“When I was holding the door, I was praying to God that we—all of us in the class—would survive,” O’Dell recalled a few days after the tragedy. “I felt like God really answered my prayers. I found out today [four days later] that four more people from our class survived who I thought had died. It was truly a miracle.”

O’Dell, 20, a lifelong member of Our Lady of Nazareth Parish in Roanoke, said that most of the students in his introductory German class had become good friends.

In the immediate aftermath of the shooting when police arrived to hustle survivors out of the building, O’Dell said, “I thought maybe only about four of us made it.” It turned out that in a class of about 20 students, only five in his classroom, including his professor, died in the massacre.

Of the horrific moments in the classroom, O’Dell remembered he was aware of God’s presence “in the midst of all of it.”

“I can’t even remember all that I did,” he told The Catholic Virginian, newspaper of the Richmond Diocese. “It was like an angel or God guiding me when I was barricading the door.”

“I get to tell the story over and over. But the people who died, they can’t tell their story. I can try, but I can’t ever do them justice,” he said quietly.

He noted that he “definitely saw acts of heroism,” including the police who he said had to shoot chains that Cho used to lock the doors, “all the while protecting us while trying to get us out.” He added that he believed his professor tried to stop the shooter when he first entered their classroom, “but he just shot too quickly, I guess.”

Shortly after his parents retrieved him from campus, O’Dell and his mother, JoAnn Hawley, talked with their pastor at Our Lady of Nazareth, Msgr. Joseph Lehman.

One thing from the conversation that stayed with him, he pointed out, was that “Father Joe said to leave the killer’s actions as a mystery of faith. I want to do that.”

Regarding the killer, “I did forgive him,” O’Dell continued, explaining, “I figured he just snapped. But later, after hearing he sent all that stuff to the TV network and planned it—now it’s harder to forgive.”

Cho sent a package to NBC News that included a video he made and his hate-filled written ramblings.

“T’ll try to continue to pray and try to forgive, but it definitely will be a long journey,” said O’Dell.

Roger O’Dell, his father, said the messages of love and forgiveness that have poured in to the family “definitely will be a long journey,” said O’Dell.

Roger O’Dell, his father, said the messages of love and hatred “has helped them deal with the experience,” he added. ❑

The Catholic Virginian
FCC is only allowed to regulate indecency, obscenity not allowed to do at this point,” Tomeo explained. “The restrictions on violence on television, which they are going to work with Congress to try to legislate...

The Great Dignity, Potential and Responsibility of Women was the theme for the conference, which was sponsored by the Marian Center of Indianapolis and archdiocesan Office for Pro-Life Ministry.

“Tomeo, a media specialist who left secular journalism because God called her to work for Catholic Radio,” criticized the entertainment industry for producing media to spread discontent and envy.


“They are so concerned about it that they are now going to work with Congress to try to legislate [restrictions on] violence on television, which they are not allowed to do at this point,” Tomeo explained. “The FCC is only allowed to regulate indecency, obscenity and profanity on radio and television.”

Urging the women to become “culture warriors,” she said Catholics need to engage the culture to combat the spiritual war that hurts families and individuals.

“Satan hates women,” Tomeo said. “It’s pretty obvious—with abortion, birth control and pornography—the way women are being used and abused.”

As a teenager, Tomeo said she struggled with an eating disorder caused by media pressure about the importance of beauty, which is continually emphasized in TV programs and advertisements.

“No one can... tell me it’s just a TV show or it’s just a movie or it’s just a video game because the debate is over,” she said. “The research... shows a connection between the impact that the media is having on women, primarily in the areas of body image, pornography and sexual promiscuity.”

“Discouragement is one of the devil’s greatest tools,” Tomeo explained, and Satan uses the entertainment media to spread discontent and envy.

Citing a report on the sexualization of girls that was released by the American Psychological Association in February, Tomeo said the study showed that women and girls suffer greatly from media images that glorify beautiful actors and models.

“The APA report found out that they have problems when their value is directly related to sexual appeal or behavior, emphasis is placed on personal appearance and a person is made into an object for sexual use,” she said, “and that all media forms—music, TV, radio and movies—contribute to this problem... They saw an increase in eating disorders, depression and low self-esteem related to the way women are portrayed in the media.”

Tomeo said the association’s report corresponds with one by the Parents Television Council that claims half of high school students in the U.S. have had sexual intercourse, and one case of a sexually transmitted disease is diagnosed for every four sexually active teens.

Inappropriate Internet use by teenagers on social chat room Web sites also is extremely alarming and dangerous, she said. “One-third of teens have talked with strangers online about meeting in person.”

Violence portrayed in the media also is a huge problem, Tomeo said. “The Parents Television Council came out with a study in January called ‘Dying to Entertain.’ They found that violence increased in every major time slot on television. On all the crime shows, the violence is very perverse and involves some sort of sexual activity.”

Researchers also found that at least 10 percent of youth violence was caused by anti-social behavior...
Study finds U.S. Hispanics drawn to charismatic Churches

WASHINGTON (CNS)—The Church familiar to and preferred by Hispanic Catholics in the United States is a livelier, more charismatic place than the one most American Catholics are used to, finds a new survey on Latinos and religion.

A detailed survey by the Pew Hispanic Center and the Pew Forum on Religion and Public Life released on April 25 says about a third of U.S. Catholics are Latinos and that they are bringing a more evangelical style of faith into the broader Church as their numbers grow.

Despite an overall drop in the percentage of U.S. Hispanics who are Catholic—due largely to those who joined evangelical and Pentecostal Churches—Latinos will continue to represent an ever-larger share of the U.S. Catholic population because of immigration and high birthrates, it said.

About 68 percent of U.S. Hispanics say they are Catholics. While in many respects Latinos differ little from the general U.S. population in their religious attitudes and activities, Roberto Suro, director of the Pew Hispanic Center, said analysts were surprised to see the depth of what he called “renewal Christianity” among people of Latino origin or descent.

In a telephone press conference about the study, “Changing Faiths: Latinos and the Transformation of American Religion,” Suro said Latinos are much more likely than the general U.S. public to be involved in Churches where an enthusiastic, hand-clapping, arms-raised style of worship and prayer is typical.

Fifty-four percent of Hispanic Catholics were identified as charismatics on the basis of statements they were asked to discuss about their feelings about the Catholic Church and why they left. Thirty-one percent of Hispanic Protestants said they were Pentecostals, and 26 percent described themselves as charismatics.

“The contrast to the non-Hispanic population is stark: Less than one in five non-Hispanic Protestants are charismatics,” the survey said.

About 18 percent of all Hispanics said they had converted because of a marriage. The greatest dissatisfaction was voiced about the inspiration of a particular pastor, followed by 26 percent who said it was the preference of the person being interviewed.

Churches where an enthusiastic, hand-clapping, arms-raised style of worship and prayer is typical also were a major factor in why they left. Forty-six percent said they disapprove of Church restrictions on divorce, but only 5 percent said that was why they left.

In response to questions about other possible areas of dissatisfaction, majorities of former Catholics said they think the Church respects women at least as much as men (66 percent) and is welcoming toward immigrants (75 percent).

Among all Hispanics surveyed, 83 percent of those who converted said their main reason for changing faiths or Churches was a desire for a more direct, personal experience of God. The second most common reason, given by 35 percent, was the inspiration of a particular pastor, followed by 26 percent who said it was related to a personal crisis and 14 percent who converted because of a marriage.

The study counted as a conversion any change such as leaving one Protestant Church for another, moving into or out of the Catholic Church, or dropping out of religious practice altogether. A personal invitation also was important.

Among all Hispanic converts, 74 percent said they first heard about their new Church from a family member or friend.

The study of 4,016 Hispanic adults was conducted by telephone between August and October 2006. The sample size was larger than is typical in sociological surveys to get a better sense of what non-Catholic Hispanics had to say, Suro and Lugo said.

The margin of error for the entire survey is plus or minus 2.5 percent; plus or minus 3.3 percent for Catholic respondents; and plus or minus 4.8 percent for evangelicals.

Interviews were conducted in both English and Spanish, depending upon the preference of the person being interviewed.

The survey also delved into connections between religious beliefs and politics, the role of ethnic Churches, and religious practices and beliefs.
Soon-to-be graduate returning to Africa to build clinic

By John Shaughnessy

When Margaret Khan steps forward to receive her diploma on May 5, she will be like most college seniors—reaching another important milestone in the remarkable journey of life.

Yet Khan’s journey seems even more special because of how it began and where she hopes it will lead.

Just seven years ago, Khan left her home in Africa and came to the United States to help her sister-in-law care for her child who was born with severe disabilities.

That experience was part of Khan’s motivation for getting a job at a hospital then later deciding to become a registered nurse.

Now, at 43, Khan is preparing to receive her bachelor of science degree in nursing from Mariano College in Indianapolis—a degree she hopes to use to return to her village in Uganda to build a needed clinic for the people there.

“I had gone back there this summer,” Khan says. “In the whole region, there were only two registered nurses. In the area where I was born, most of the people don’t have access to health facilities. The more information I got, the more inspiration I got to do something.

Her dream has gained the support of Sister Demetria Smith, a member of the Missionary Sisters of Our Lady of Africa and a mission educator for the archdiocese, who lived and worked in Uganda for 20 years.

“I would never have the energy and the courage to pursue this like she has done,” Sister Demetria says. “She has a dream to help her country and her village.”

Serving as a consultant, Sister Demetria told Khan that the clinic will need two important elements: water and an extra room where people can stay for the night because many of them will have to walk miles to reach the clinic. She also told Khan that collecting donations of aspirin, vaseline, bandages and plastic gloves will help the clinic better serve its patients.

“We need the strength of God to do this,” Sister Demetria says. “We need the help of the Holy Spirit and other people to do this.”

One person who has already stepped forward to help Khan is Michael Olson, a physician assistant at St. Vincent Hospital in Indianapolis. Olson had been seeking the right international project to make a difference when his wife, Patricia, told him in December about one of her friends from work—Khan—and her dream.

“I’ve traveled a lot,” says Olson, a member of Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish in Carmel, Ind., in the Lafayette diocese. “I’ve seen how much need there is in the world.

Another reason I want to become involved is that Christ taught us we need to take care of the sick and children. And this is a project where we can do both.”

Khan and Olson made a fact-finding trip to Uganda in March. They were both moved by the children affected by malaria and the families devastated by the AIDS pandemic in Africa.

They have set up a non-profit organization for the Muira Village Health Center, and their goal is to open the clinic in 2009. Besides providing basic care to people, they want the clinic to have a birthing room and offer midwife services.

Before her dream of a clinic becomes a reality, Khan wants to pursue her master’s degree and continue working as a bedside nurse to develop her skills. Right now, she also wants to save the feeling of graduating from college.

“It’s unbelievable,” she says, her eyes dancing. “It’s not been easy, but with everyone’s encouragement, I’ve done it.”

Her friend, Patricia Olson, gives her all the credit. She’s amazed at how Khan pursued her college degree while working full time at Seton Specialty Hospital in Indianapolis, where they first met.

“She’s inspirational,” Patricia Olson says. “She’s overcome huge obstacles, muscled through, and created a dream for herself and other people.”

Margaret Khan hopes to make a difference in the lives of African children and families by building a clinic in her native Uganda.

Nearly 600 students to graduate at Catholic colleges in archdiocese

Criticism staff report

Students, families and educators will join in the celebration as the three Catholic colleges in the archdiocese hold their graduation ceremonies in May.

Marian College

With 368 graduates, Marian College will have the largest graduating class in its history when it holds its 70th annual commencement at 10 a.m. on May 5. The commencement address will be given by Kevin Kruesi, principal of Franklin Central High School in Indianapolis, Koers will be among three people receiving honorary degrees from Marian College. The father of four will receive an honorary Doctor of Public Service degree.

Senior class president Joseph S. Newton will also speak at the commencement.

Marian will also present honorary degrees to Jeanne (Wierck) Atkins and Michael Browning.

Atkins is the president and founder of Atkins International Foods, which was recognized in 2006 as the Indiana family-owned business of the year by the U.S. Small Business Administration. Atkins started the business in 1980, selling cheesecakes from the family’s home in Carmel, Ind.

She is a member of the Order of Secular Franciscans and a former board member of the Catholic Community Foundation, the Little Sisters of the Poor and Our Lady of Fairview Retreat House in Indianapolis.

Atkins will receive an honorary Doctor of Business Administration degree for her life and career of “prayer, perseverance and perspiration.”

Browning will receive the honorary Doctor of Human Letters degree for his “extraordinary contributions to the economic, cultural and entertainment landscape of central Indiana.”

A 1968 graduate of the University of Notre Dame, Browning is the chairman of the board and president of Browning Investments Inc. in Indianapolis.

He serves as the chairman of the athletics initiative of the “Make History” campaign at Marian. He is also a member of the board of directors and the executive committee of the Indiana Sports Corporation. He also led the negotiations which resulted in the relocation of the National Collegiate Athletic Association headquarters to Indianapolis.

Saint Mary-of-the-Woods College

Affectationally known as “Sister Tricia” to the thousands of children she has served, Charity Sister Patricia A. Cruise will be the main speaker at commencement for Saint Mary-of-the-Woods College on May 5.

The commencement for the 149 members of the graduating class will begin at 2 p.m. in the St. Meinrad Auditorium of the college’s Conservatory of Music.

As the president of Covenant House since 2003, Sister Patricia leads the international organization—with 21 sites in six countries—that is dedicated to serving “suffering children of the street with absolute respect and unconditional love.”

She will receive an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degree.

The college will also honor Providence Sister Marie Kevin Tighe with an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degree. She served as the vice postulator and promoter of Mother Theodore Guerin’s cause for sainthood.

Saint Meinrad School of Theology

Forty-eight students are expected to receive master’s degrees when Saint Meinrad holds its commencement at 2 p.m. on May 12.

The ceremony will take place in the archdiocesan’s Bede Theater, where graduates will receive degrees that include Master of Divinity, Master of Theological Studies and Master of Arts in Catholic Thought and Life.

The commencement address will be given by Bishop Frederick Campbell of the Diocese of Columbus, Ohio.
The Archdiocese of Indianapolis is hosting a pilgrimage to World Youth Day in Sydney, Australia, from July 9-22, 2008. At the time of the pilgrimage, youths must be at least 16 years old to participate. Youths under the age of 18 must be accompanied by a parent or legal guardian. Legal guardianship must be signed over for the duration of the trip to an adult attending World Youth Day. The appointed guardian must also sign the visa requirement for the minor.

The pilgrimage, youths must be at least 18 years old to participate. Youths under the age of 18 must be accompanied by a parent or legal guardian. Legal guardianship must be signed over for the duration of the trip to an adult attending World Youth Day. The appointed guardian must also sign the visa requirement for the minor.

The cost of the trip is $3,359 per person. The package includes:
- Round-trip airfare from Indianapolis to Australia.
- World Youth Day registration. (Youth in Europe will register the archdiocesan group for World Youth Day.)
- Ground transportation in Australia.
- Simple accommodations.
- Meals provided by Harvest Tours during the pre-pilgrimage tour.
- Most meals provided by World Youth Day during the pilgrimage.
- Admission to all World Youth Day venues.
- Tour guide assistance.
- Daily Mass and prayers.
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The pilgrimage is open to parish groups and local church groups. Youths under age 18 must be chaperoned at a ratio of five minors per one adult. Chaperones must be at least 25.

The pilgrimage will include stops in Brisbane, Sydney and other parts of Australia. The highlight of the pilgrimage will be the celebration of the World Youth Day Mass with Pope Benedict XVI in Sydney on July 20, 2008. More than 2 million Catholic youths are expected to attend.

Archdiocese hosting pilgrimage to 2008 World Youth Day

Please join us for a community open house and tour the new Seton Specialty Hospital in Indianapolis on April 25, 2007 from 4-7 p.m. Seton Specialty Hospital is now located at 8050 Township Line Road in Indianapolis, across from St. Vincent Women’s Hospital.

The opening of Seton Specialty Hospital begins a new day in the delivery of long-term acute care. We are dedicated to improving the quality of life for patients in their journey from acute care to a stable health condition – in body, mind and spirit. To learn more, call 317.338.CARE.
Christ calls us to share his love with others

By Fr. Robert L. Kinast

Pope Benedict XVI’s first encyclical, “God Is Love” (“Deus Caritas Est”), surprised a number of observers by offering a reflection on love.

The encyclical is divided into two parts.

The first part is a speculative discussion of the nature of love and its two basic forms—“eros” and “agape.”

The second part is more practical and describes two basic ways of practicing love: justice and charity.

Throughout the encyclical, the pope emphasizes the unity and interrelatedness of the topics he addresses: love of God and love of neighbor, the body and soul of the whole person, reason and faith, Church and state, justice and charity, “eros” and “agape.”

“Eros” is the fundamental form of love, a person’s impulse to possess someone or something as his or her own. It is a response to another’s appealing qualities, and indicates a desire for what one lacks or yearns for.

To achieve its goal, however, “eros” must mature and be purified. Otherwise, it will remain focused exclusively on the satisfaction of self-centered, material desire.

“Agape” is the form of love that fulfills the natural impulse of “eros.” It is self-giving love that seeks the good of the beloved to whom one is attracted. As such, it is exclusive love, showered on the beloved alone, and permanent, lasting forever. This is the love the Bible extols. It is the basis for the love story between God and creation that the Bible recounts. Such love is virtuously equated with the nature of God.

As the pope makes clear, both forms of love derive from God. While God lacks nothing essential to the divine nature, God’s desire to receive the love and gratitude of creatures is a manifestation of divine “eros.” However, people can choose to return the love or withhold it.

When we respond positively to God’s desire for our love, God surrounds us with “agape,” enabling us to extend ourselves in love of neighbor. This is a self-giving love—pouring oneself out for the other.

From the perspective of Christian faith, God’s “agape” most fully and clearly is revealed in the love of Jesus. But because human freedom entails the possibility of turning away from this love, God’s “agape” must also be understood as complete self-giving in the crucifixion and death of Jesus. This is the utmost expression of God’s desire for our love, and it is an unconditional invitation for us to receive God’s love in return.

Drawing on this general background, in the second part of the encyclical the pope discusses the practice of love—charity. He emphasizes that it is an essential responsibility of the Church and should be carried out in an organized way if it is to be effective.

In this sense, it is not the role of the Church to establish the just ordering of society. That is the responsibility of politics and, of course, of the lay faithful engaged in that work.

The pope explains that the Church’s role is to contribute to a just society by forming the consciences of those who serve in political life, stimulating greater insight into the requirements of justice.

Moreover, even in the most just society, the ministry of charity always will be necessary. Love of neighbor is not a goal attained once and for all. It is an ongoing part of human life.

The Church’s ministry of charity should be characterized by a direct response to specific situations, taking the form, for example, of feeding the hungry, sheltering the homeless, caring for the sick and visiting those in prison.

The pope says it should be independent of political parties and ideologies, and should not be used as a method for proselytizing or imposing the Christian faith on others.

Those who carry out this ministry should be professionally competent and also filled with heartfelt concern for people. They should cooperate with other charitable organizations, cultivate a humility that reminds them they are instruments of the Lord and maintain a vigorous prayer life.

In his Lenten message for 2007, Pope Benedict XVI summarized the distinction between “eros” and “agape,” and he used the image of Christ “whom they have pierced” as the symbol of our responsibility to recognize “the wounds inflicted upon the dignity of the human person” and “to fight every form of contempt for life and human exploitation.”

In short, the “agape” that God desires to share with us—and abundantly bestows when we respond—is intended to be given again to others as love of neighbor.

(Ether Lawrence E. Mick is a priest of the Archdiocese of Cincinnati, Ohio.)

Eucharist shows us God’s love

By Fr. Lawrence E. Mick

In the celebration of the liturgy, the words we use speak of God’s love for us. The Penitential Rite reminds us of God’s steadfast love never gives up on us.

In the preparation of the gifts, we enter into a love relationship with us.

In the celebration of the liturgy, the Penitential Rite reminds us of God’s love of neighbor, the body and soul of the whole person, reason and faith, Church and state, justice and charity, “eros” and “agape.”

“Eros” is the fundamental form of love, a person’s impulse to possess someone or something as his or her own. It is a response to another’s appealing qualities, and indicates a desire for what one lacks or yearns for.

To achieve its goal, however, “eros” must mature and be purified. Otherwise, it will remain focused exclusively on the satisfaction of self-centered, material desire.

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In short, the “agape” that God desires to share with us—and abundantly bestows when we respond—is intended to be given again to others as love of neighbor.

(Ether Lawrence E. Mick is a priest of the Archdiocese of Cincinnati, Ohio.)

Discussion Point

Positive attitude strengthens love

This Week’s Question

When is it most difficult to love? Is it still possible to love under those circumstances?

“It is difficult [to love] when you are hurt or disappointed by someone. If I think about the good qualities . . . of the person, . . . the bad feelings dissipate.” (Monica DeCarlo, Philadelphia, Pa.)

“It is most difficult to love someone who is filled with negativity. . . As we get older, we can learn that we can love that person but not their actions.” (Betty Flach, Cleveland, Ohio)

“If you can get over your anger, but you can’t get over your love for the people you care about most.” (Randi Schilling, New Hampton, Iowa)

“When someone has harmed a child, such as a mother who would sell her child, [it is difficult to love]. But it is not our place to judge . . . As Christians, we should still love and pray for the person.” (Kim Baenziger, Lebanon, Tenn.)

“It is a human condition to naturally hate the one who hates you. . . You could try [to love in return]. But what you need is God’s grace.” (Faith Flaherty, Franklin, Mass.)

An upcoming edition asks: Why do you consider the Sunday Eucharist important?

Lend Us Your Voice

To respond for possible publication, send an e-mail to greens@catholicnews.com or write to Faith Alive! at 3211 Fourth St. N.E., Washington, D.C. 20017-1100.
One of our sons and a grandson dropped in for a couple of days while they were in the area visiting prospective colleges. We had dinner together and another son and his family who live nearby, contributing a variety of favorite foods and reminiscences, always to our delight and reinforcing the love we all share.

After the visitors left early on their last day, I felt that usual letdown. No matter how old they are or how old I get, I cry when my children leave. I guess it’s generic because my mom did the same thing.

At any rate, when I pulled myself together and went around the house straightening up, I discovered something that made me cry all over again. My son had made his bed. Neatly.

Now, that may not sound like much, but it meant something special to me. When they lived at home, I was their house mother, responsible adults, spouses, parents and reinforcing the love we all share. But now, many, many years later, here was this 48-year-old man pleasing his mom by thoughtfully making his bed. It got to me.

When they leave home, you wonder what residual impact you leave with your children and customs your kids will take from their experiences as children. It warms my heart to see my son’s bed, not because he’d made it, but because he knew I would like it.

It was the oldest son installed our old “popcorn party” custom when his children were small. Every Sunday evening, he’d do his best and dress in their ‘jamies, the kids would take their seats in front of the television set to watch the Walt Disney show and eat special snacks.

Back in the day, if we were pretty solvent that week, the snacks would be soda pop and potato chips. This was a big deal because our kids never got to drink pop otherwise. If it was an evening, they settled for popcorn and Kool-Aid, but either way they thought it was a special occasion.

Yet another son (we were blessed with several of them) is involved today in house churches. He says it’s because we used to drag him and the other kids around to “look at historic houses” and we’d go on vacation. Speculating on how it would be to live in this or that house was fun and cheap entertainment for the entire family. Our oldest son adopted this custom himself, taking his family to realtors’ open houses on weekends. He said his children would run from room to room, exclaiming, “I’d dibs on this room!”

Not to be outdone in reliving their childhood, our oldest adopted the custom of teaching the children to play with toys like blocks and mom’s castoffs for dress-up clothes. She bought him a Malcolm and dressed in their art fairs as she’d been taught, them “ewny weepy spider” and show them how to blow bubbles.

We always hope and pray that our kids will carry forward the moral values and practices we think are important, along with the fun customs and events they remember fondly from childhood.

They may not seem terribly important at the time, but I think those little popcorn parties and show house visits can add up to stability. They become part of the way kids learn to be morally responsible adults as they attend to current events and seekers of a good will.

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

Faith, Hope and Charity/David Siler
Share the Ride

Every year at this time, Catholic Charities agencies throughout the country are doing a survey to collect data about the types of services provided and the number of people receiving services.

The variety of care that is given to the poor and vulnerable by Catholic Charities is staggering. In our own archdiocese during the 2006 calendar year, we had the privilege of intervening in the lives of more than 94,577 individuals at a cost of nearly $8 million. Combined with all of the other Catholic Charities agencies throughout the country 7,449,119 people were provided assistance regardless of religion, race or social background.

The numbers tell only a small part of the story because this care may be very brief—as in the form of a single hot meal or a single counseling session—or as extensive as several months of housing for an entire family or pregnancy care.

The real stories are found in the profound ways that lives are changed and sometimes even saved through our intervention.

The services of Catholic Charities in the Archdiocese of Indianapolis are provided by six agencies: Catholic Charities Bloomington, Catholic Charities Violins & Drumsticks Telf City, Catholic Charities Terre Haute, St. Elizabeth/Coleman Pregnancy and Adoption Services, Catholic Charities Evansville and St. Elizabeth-Catholic Charities in New Albany. Together, these six agencies provide programs that meet the needs of the poor and vulnerable. A full listing and description of each program can be found at www.CatholicCharitiesIndy.org.

Our staff of nearly 150 full and part-time employees, along with 2,504 volunteers giving in excess of 88,000 hours of service, were able to be there for people like our homeless families, dozens of refugee families seeking to resettle in Indianapolis and so many whose lives are turned around thanks to the war-torn parts of the world, hundreds of school-aged children who have no place to go after school, 35 families who adopted a child, hundreds who received counseling services and more than 300 seniors in need of loving care—just to name a few.

On behalf of the thousands who experienced the love of Christ through our staff and volunteers, I want to thank you. Many of you contribute financially to the work of Catholic Charities through your gifts to the United Catholic Appeal, the United Way or through direct gifts.

In addition to the people you provide much needed prayer support for our work. If you would like to join us by praying for our employees, volunteers and those we serve, you can find our Catholic Charities common prayer on our website.

The most commendable gift is the one that I get from people when I speak about the work of Catholic Charities is, “I had no idea we did that!”

You now have a better idea, and I hope that you will share in the pride of knowing that when we talk about Catholic Charities we are living out Jesus’ call in the Gospel of Matthew, Chapter 25, to serve by helping the poor.

(David Siler is executive director of the Secretariat for Catholic Charities and Family Ministries. E-mail him at dsiler@archindy.org.)

Perspectives

The message in the first chapter of Genesis

(Third in a series of columns)

Genesis, the first book of the Bible, begins, “In the beginning,” which are also the first words of the Prophet John the Baptist’s Gospel.

Genesis can be divided into two parts. The first 11 chapters discuss the time of creation and the earliest humans while chapters 12 through 50 describe the travels and exploits of graphic ancestors. The first part is myth, with every story describing some sort of model of the physical world that is similar to oral lore of tribal groups. The second part, the stories of the patriarchs and matriarchs relate individual events that shaped the special identity of Israel. Here are the differences between the two parts. The first part is set in time that is before human history. Its exact place is vague—somewhere to the East. The persons seem like symbols—nothing is known of their lives. Many of the stories have the form of myths and others are known to have existed in Mesopotamia. Most of the events take place in a natural setting unlike our own. The purpose of the stories deals only with the beginnings of humanity long before Israel’s time.

By contrast, the second part of Genesis is set in historical times well-known to ancient records. It takes place in Mesopotamia, Palestine and old Egypt. That is, the people have names and engage in actions typical of the second millennium B.C. The stories are largely historical, or at least similar to oral lore of tribal groups. The major stories keep events close to the type of experience all human eras share. And the purpose is to trace the direct tribal and clan ancestors of Israel. Genesis is not about one author. It’s a complex work. The final editor, whoever he might have been, could have used several sources or literary traditions. There are, for example, two accounts of the creation, one in the first chapter and the other in the second chapter.

The message that the myths of chapters 1-11 tries to convey is that there is a tension between the human and the earth and the human response of disobedience or sin. The first three chapters tell the story of creation, which is good, but also the first human sin. The fourth and fifth chapters show how the evil of sin spread through the world. God then decided that he might begin again, so he sent the great flood. He then began again with Noah and his family. People were multiplied across the earth, but sin persisted.

There’s a general pattern to these stories: God created humans lovingly, but history records how people disobey God and sin, God announces punishment, the punishment is given and God appears in compassion by showing mercy and a new blessing.

Adam and Eve, Cain and Abel, the angels and the women, the wicked generation of the flood, the sons of Noah, the people who build the tower of Babel, all are given signs of God’s love and bountiful provision as they fill the earth. Yet each generation rises in disobedience.

Faithful Lines/Shirley Vogler Meister
An awakening to Christ’s Divine Mercy

My home is a few blocks from my parish church so I often hear our relatively new bells chime at the usual Angelus times as well as for Masses and special spiritual events.

However, when I first heard the bells at 1 o’clock that afternoon, I was perplexed. I soon learned that this is the time for Divine Mercy devotion that is being initiated by Sr. Maria Faustina Kowalska of the Congregation of Sisters of Our Lady of Mercy in St. Louis. I knew little about the practice or St. Faustina. I found this strange since I am a cradle Catholic. Then when The Criterion listed the parishes that were planning Divine Mercy holy hours on the Sunday after Easter, I was curious enough to make it a priority.

The first thing I read when opening the Divine Mercy program that afternoon at Christ the King Church was this quotation from Pope John Paul II: “... the light of Divine Mercy will illumine the way for men and women of the third millennium. The message realized that this devotion was well-attended, but not just because there had been exposition of the Blessed Sacrament in previous years. In fact, exposition and adoration continued afterward, too.

I was edified by this as well as by the service itself—the heartfelt singing by the congregation. Father Tony Voiz’s inspiring message of the devotion’s meaning to himself and himself himself. The dignified presence of the Knights of Columbus holding vigil and participation in the procession of the Holy Eucharist also provided a reverent ambiance.

Divine Mercy devotions began with Christ’s apparitions to Sister Faustina— who was canonized in 2000—appearances in which she recalled has death on the cross as noted by the sister in her diary: “At three o’clock, implore my mercy, especially for sinners; and, if only for a brief moment, immerse yourself in my Passion, particularly in my abandonment of the Cross. You will find the hour of great mercy in this hour. I will refresh everything to the soul that makes a request of me on the virtue of my Passion.”

At www.thedivinemercy.org, readers will find everything they need to know about the popular devotion, and how to prepare for it, including the Chaplet of Divine Mercy, which includes special use of the rosary. If nothing else, I have learned that whenever I hear the bells or notice it is 3 p.m. when elsewhere. I might not be able to make it to the Church, but I can be present for an instant. And, in our case, for the sake of Your Sorrowful Passion, have mercy on us and on the entire world.”

How simple that is!

(Cornucopia, a member of St. Paul the Apostle Parish in Greencastle, is a regular columnist for The Criterion.)
Sacrament of Love

The bread of life

The body of Christ

A circle of forgiveness

The cross of redemption

Waiting for my acceptance

Laying in the palm of my hand

Time stopped, the world suspended

He and I alone together in one accord and one mind

No voices were heard, no choir sang

A vision of my Savior standing before me

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The precious blood of the Lamb

The gift of eternal life for me

(Patty Boller made her profession of faith and was confirmed at the Easter Vigil on April 7 at Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ Parish in Indianapolis. She wrote this poem about receiving the Eucharist for the first time after participating in a Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults Mystagogy reflection on Holy Week.)

My Journey to God

Question Corner/By John Dietzen

Church opposes capital punishment for theological, justice reasons

Q What is the Catholic Church’s position today on the death penalty?

The understanding is that the Church strongly opposes capital punishment, but some friends insist there is no clear position one way or another. Who is right? (Pennsylvania)

A The latest authoritative Catholic statement concerning the death penalty was issued in a position paper prepared by the Vatican for the World Congress Against the Death Penalty, which was held in Paris in February 2007.

Its stand against killing another human being, for whatever crime, is clear and strong, as is, by the teaching of many national and international conferences, including our own.

The document notes that there has been a growing awareness of the challenges posed by recent executions. But Christians recognize the inalienable dignity of human beings, it said, and this is the basis for recognizing “the universality and totality of human rights, beginning with the right to life.”

Use of the death penalty, it continues, is not only a denial of the right to life, but also “an affront to the human dignity shared by all humankind.”

No countries, it said, “have a right to take human life.”

Societies and nations have a duty to protect their citizens from aggressors, but it “hardly possible” to justify the use of capital punishment today. States now have at their disposal other means of “effectively preventing crime” without definitively taking a life. It is another way of saying that poor people get executed while rich people do not.

These are the reasons that Pope Benedict XVI claimed, in an address last February, “non-violence for Christians is not a vague or abstract concept, but a person’s way of being, the attitude of one who is convinced of God’s love and power, who is not afraid to confront evil with the weapons of love and truth alone.”

They are also the reasons the new Vatican document speaks approvingly of “[g]roups and individuals that are working with renewed commitment and vigor for the abolition of capital punishment and for the imposition of a universal moratorium on its application.”

It is worth noting that our country is not in very respectable company on the death penalty. Approximately 95 percent of all known executions took place in China, Iran, Saudi Arabia and the United States.

Since 1990, nine countries are known to have executed child offenders. The total for the United States and Iran is larger than for all the other seven countries combined.

(A free brochure on ecumenism, including questions on intercommunion and other ways of sharing worship, is available by sending a stamped, self-addressed envelope to Father John Dietzen, Box 3515, Peoria, IL 61612. Call or e-mail at our Father Dietzen at the same address or by e-mail at jddietzen@aol.com.)

Daily Readings

Monday, May 7
Acts 14:3-18
Psalm 115:1-5, 15-16
John 14:21-26

Tuesday, May 8
Acts 14:19-28
Psalm 145:10-13ab, 21
John 14:27-31a

Wednesday, May 9
Acts 15:1-6
Psalm 122:1-5
John 15:1-8

Thursday, May 10
Blessed Damien Joseph de Veuster of Moloka‘i, priest
Acts 15:7-21
Psalm 96:1-3, 10
John 15:9-11

Evening Prayer II
Psalm 145:1-6, 10-13c, 18-19a
Psalm 113:1-9
Psalm 146:1-6

Friday, May 11
Acts 15:22-31
Psalm 57:8-12
John 15:12-17

Saturday, May 12
Nereus, martyr
Achilleus, martyr
Pancreas, martyr
Acts 16:1-11
Psalm 101:1-2, 3, 5
John 15:18-21

Sunday, May 13
Sixth Sunday of Easter
Acts 15:1-2, 22-26
Psalm 67:2-3, 5-6, 8
Revelation 21:10-14, 22-23
John 14:23-29

The Sunday Readings

Sunday, May 6, 2007

• Acts of the Apostles 15:21-27
• Revelation 21:1-5a
• John 13:31-33a, 34-35

Once again in this Easter season, the Acts of the Apostles supplies the first reading for the Mass.

This weekend’s reading tells the story of some of Paul and Barnabas’ missionary activities in Asia Minor that were prominent cities in the Roman Empire of the first century A.D.

Ancient traditions see all the Apostles as missionaries, and some of them went far and wide to proclaim the Gospel.

However, Acts gives an account of many of Paul’s missionary efforts. No Scripture gives similar details about the other Apostles.

The reading is more than a travelogue. It is a lesson about the faith of Paul and Barnabas. It also reveals some of the living conditions of these two great figures in early Christianity.

As they spoke to Christians in the cities they visited, the Apostles told the followers of Christ that hostility and difficulties faced them. During their travels, Paul and Barnabas met hostility and endured difficulties. Their warnings hardly came from paranoia or as a strategy to build regard for themselves and endure difficulties. Their warnings were for the benefit of future Christians who would face similar trials and triumph.

This weekend’s readings proclaim the spectacular death as well as the rising of Jesus from the dead, but also call upon us to respond by following the Lord. For the second reading from Revelation explains, eternal life with God in heaven will be our reward.

While still in this life, we authentically become disciples by loving God, each other and all people as Jesus loved us. In this divine love, Jesus died on Calvary as a sacrifice. In God’s plan, divine love triumphed when Jesus rose.

We are not alone in our efforts to be with God and to love as Jesus loved. The Apostles are with us in their successors to the early bishops, such as Barnabas, who still guide us and endure difficulties.

The New Testament in the translations and versions that have been used for centuries, is highly poetic and symbolic. It is moving and strikingly beautiful in its imagery, but often its symbolism is so involved or so unique to the first century that understanding the book is not easy without reading scholarly commentaries along with the text itself.

In this reading, the vision is of a heaven, symbolized by the holy city of Jerusalem, but it is a transformed Jerusalem and is of God. It is a look into eternity and to the reward promised to those who love God.

St. John’s Gospel is the source of the last reading. This is not a Resurrection Narrative, but is strongly reminiscent of the Resurrection and the Lord’s death on Calvary.

Jesus obliguously refers to the Crucifixion. He refers to rising from the dead. Eternal life is an option for humans who follow the Lord in obedience to God, in sacrifice and in faith. With Jesus, the faithful will die, but also rise to eternal life.

Reflection

A month ago, the Church called us to joy and the deepest faith to celebrate the resurrection of Jesus after the terrible event of the Crucifixion.

And certainly, but relentlessly, the Church has called upon us personally to respond to Jesus, to bond ourselves with the salvation brought to humanity by Jesus.

This weekend’s readings proclaim the sacrificial death as well as the rising of Jesus from the dead, but also call upon us to respond by following the Lord.

My Journey to God

The Criterion Friday, May 4, 2007

Psalm 67:2-3, 5-6, 8
Revelation 21:10-14, 22-23
John 14:23-29

By Patty Boller

The bread of life

The body of Christ

A circle of forgiveness

The cross of redemption

Waiting for my acceptance

Laying in the palm of my hand

Time stopped, the world suspended

He and I alone together in one accord and one mind

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Indianapolis to host National Pastoral Musicians convention

By Sean Gallagher

In the next two years, the way that many people experience liturgy in the archdiocese and across the United States will undergo significant changes. A new text for the Mass will be implemented, and a new Directory for Music and the Liturgy will guide bishops in their review of texts for songs used in the liturgy.

Included in the directory will be a list of standard hymns and songs that will be required to be in all future hymnals and missalettes.

These major developments, as well as the practical ins and outs of leading liturgical music effectively, will be the subject of much discussion at the national convention of the National Association of Pastoral Musicians (NPM) to be held in Indianapolis from July 9-13.

Charles Gardner, liturgical music director for the archdiocese and an NPM board member, sees the convention as a special opportunity for music leaders in archdiocesan parishes as well as people who volunteer in choirs or as cantors or instrumentalists, noting that the convention will have many practical break-out sessions.

“Helping people to prepare to do their job, to raise their skill levels as cantors, as organists, those are consistently needed jobs, to raise their skill levels as cantors, as "organists," those are consistently needed jobs,” Gardner said. “Not only will they learn something, but one of the large things,” Gardner said. “We want to be hospitable in this town.”

“Helping people to prepare to do their job, to raise their skill levels as cantors, as organists, those are consistently needed jobs,” Gardner said. “Not only will they learn something, but one of the large benefits to be a part of several thousand people who are like a choir. It gives you a boost.”

He also said that the convention will be an opportunity for those in the archdiocese interested in liturgical music to volunteer to greet the thousands of attendees who will descend upon Indianapolis from across the nation.

“Helping to welcome people here is very important,” Gardner said. “We want to be hospitable in this town.”

Gardner noted that the uncertainty of what will be happening in the liturgy in the coming years will have an effect on at least one significant part of the convention: people’s buying habits.

“At these conventions, a lot of times people will buy music. And right in this period of transition, the paperback publishers of worship aids have the edge,” he said, “because if you’re going to make an investment in a bound book—even though the great majority of the music isn’t service music—you probably are going to hold back a little bit and say, ‘I want to wait and have the new texts in there.’ ”

Another topic of discussion may be a recent online survey that the NPM undertook to determine the priorities of leaders of pastoral music, on the one hand, and the priorities of those in the congregation, on the other.

The survey, which was not scientific, asked the question, “What helps you to sing the liturgy?”

The most important factor for the 1,541 respondents involved in music ministry was the leadership of organ or instrumentalists (66.4 percent), while only 39.9 percent of those not involved in music ministry said that this was an important factor for them.

According to the survey, the leading aid to help those 808 respondents not involved in a music ministry to sing during Mass was familiarity of the melody (52.2 percent) followed closely by the easy-to-sing nature of a melody (51.4 percent).

These two factors were, respectively, the seventh and eighth most important factors for those involved in music ministry, coming in at respectively 46.7 percent and 43.5 percent.

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MOTHER of several. Great-grandmother of seven.

AUGSTINE Home for the Aged. He was 94.


Great-grandfather of 13.


VoGES. Sister of Bessie and Henrietta Tenbarge and Patricia St. Paul, Tell City, April 15.

JARBOE, Marie G. April 18. Mother of Suzette Been.

RUSHVILLE, April 20. Brother of Joseph Koczan. St. Mary HAHN, Lester V. 85, great-grandmother of several.

Husband of Jack Downey. With three convenient hospital campuses, a medical staff of more than 700 doctors and 4,000 employees to serve your needs.

The heart to listen and anticipate
Consistently improving our services and facilities, including a $40 million expansion currently under way in Mooresville.

The courage to listen and anticipate
With machines and machines, medicine and faith
A philosophy of healing that incorporates our Franciscan values of compassionate concern, joyful service and respect for life.

With the foresight to advance cardiology
5-star rated by HealthGrades® in treating heart attacks in 2005.

Awards the 2004 and 2005 HealthGrades Distinguished Hospital Awards for Clinical Excellence.

The heart to achieve excellence

With three convenient hospital campuses, a medical staff of more than 700 doctors and 4,000 employees to serve your needs.

Rebuild and restore
Top 5% in the nation for overall orthopaedic care.

A philosophy of healing that incorporates our Franciscan values of compassionate concern, joyful service and respect for life.

We are leading the way

Please submit in writing to our office by 10 a.m. Thursday before the week of publication; see the announcement for 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 living in another archdiocese or have other connections to it; those are separate obituary notices that are listed elsewhere in The Criterion.

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With three convenient hospital campuses, a medical staff of more than 700 doctors and 4,000 employees to serve your needs.
effort in Catholic education.

The “growing influence of postmodern hedonist secularism,” which is seen as dra-
matically eroding the traditional values of the predominantly Catholic continent.

Marriage and the family, which the pope said are “signs of yielding under the pres-
sure of lobbies” that push for legislative changes and which are threatened by the incre-
ses in cohabitation, cohabitation and adultery.

Economic injustice and the fight against poverty, along with the growing pheno-
menon of migration, which also impacts family

The pope is well aware that many Latin American bishops believe the Church stands at a turning point after losing ground in recent decades.

At the last Synod of Bishops in 2005, the pope intended the idea that Catholic Cardinal Claudio Hummes told the assembly that in Brazil—the most populous Catholic country in the world—the number of Catholics was declin-
ing by about 1 percent each year, with many losing to Protestant sects.

“We have to wonder: How long will Brazil be a Catholic country?” Hummes said.

According to the Vatican’s statistics, this is the Catholic percentage of Latin American popu-
lations has dropped from over 40 percent in the last 25 years, but many believe the official figures don’t tell the real story.

In Brazil, for example, the Vatican says 85 percent of the population is Catholic, but experts who follow census figures say the real number may be closer to 70 percent.

The general conferences of Latin American bishops are considered

Custodial Staff

SS. Francis and Clare Church in Greenwood, IN is seeking a full-time Custodian to begin immediately. Duties include ongoing cleaning of Parish Center and Assisi Center, some facility setup, handling and restocking of equipment. Requirements include a high school diploma (or its equivalent) and at least one year of custodial experience. Applicants should be self-
starters and be able to work well with others. Applicants should be able to lift, carry and push at least 75 lbs.

Please send résumé to the address below or call for an applicant form:

St. Gertrude Catholic Parish, 64145.

Phone: (317) 859-4673

Equal Opportunity Employer

Youth Minister

St. Gertrude’s Church, a suburban Cincinnati parish of 2000 families staffed by the Dominican Friars, is seeking a full time youth minister to further the development of a dynamic, comprehensive youth ministry. Applicant must be a graduate of a Catholic high school or the equivalent. Experience in the Catholic faith and good communication, leadership and organizational skills. Applicants are required to have a BA in Theology/Religious Studies or a related field and at least three years of pastoral experience. Competitive salary commensurate with education and experience. Send résumé with references to: The Criterion Friday, May 4, 2007 Page 19
a purpose beyond the work I do.”

Nguyen shared her story and that message during the April 26 Spirit of Service Award Dinner in Indianapolis, an event that raised more than $220,000 to benefit Catholic Charities Indianapolis in its efforts to help the poor and the vulnerable.

The dinner was also a celebration of this year’s seven Spirit of Service Award winners, who live these words from Nguyen: “I have been blessed, and with that blessing I must take responsibility.”

Consider the work of Dr. Mercy Obotime, a member of St. Luke Parish in Indianapolis who is also the medical director of St. Francis Hospice and St. Francis Neighborhood Health Center in Indianapolis. In 2003, on her 40th birthday, the native of Nigeria extended her care for others by starting the Mercy Foundation, dedicating her organization to bringing hope, mission trips and medical supplies to the people of her homeland.

Consider the efforts of Louise Collet, who has dedicated more than four decades of volunteering to help children, the poor, the sick, the hungry, the elderly and patients with Alzheimer’s disease. A member of Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish in Indianapolis, she has always looked for the less fortunate through her commitments at the Cathedral Kitchen, St. Augustine Home for the Aged and A Caring Place, a Catholic Charities Indianapolis program that provides adult day services.

Martha and Bill Kuntz earned their award for the countless ways they have quietly worked behind the scenes to improve the lives of others. Bill has also volunteered for more than 40 years with the Catholic Youth Organization, the organization that his father led when Bill was a child. And Martha is also involved with Christ Renewed His Parish efforts at their parish, St. Jude in Indianapolis.

Dr. Raymond Pierce Jr. was saluted for his lifelong commitment to the Church, the community and the improvement of people’s lives. A member of St. Monica Parish in Indianapolis, the retired orthopedic surgeon was one of the original board members of the archdiocese’s Multicultural Ministry Commission. He is involved in efforts to improve the health care of the poor and to fight sickle-cell anemia, a disease that predominantly strikes the black community.

Consider the Community Service Award for his contributions to the archdiocese and the city of Indianapolis, including being a board member of St. Vincent Health, and helping the United Way and the American Heart Association. He is a member of St. Alphonsus Parish in Zionsville in the Lafayette Diocese.

The Corporate Leadership Award was given to Fifth Third Bank for its many contributions to the central Indiana community and the archdiocese, including being a generous sponsor of the Spirit of Service Awards Dinner and the Celebrating Catholic School Values Awards Dinner.

Archbishop Daniel M. Buechlein saluted the award winners, saying, “Your commitment to selflessly serving the poor, the sick, the elderly and anyone in need is an inspiration to all of us. You are humble servant-leaders who have truly answered God’s call to be called ministers and friends of others.”

The need for that compassion continues to grow because of the increasing number of people who need help, said David J. Buehler, the executive director of Catholic Charities Indianapolis.

Last year, Catholic Charities Indianapolis helped nearly 20,000 through its 11 programs, he said. “We served people in our support programs that include counseling, family education, and after-school and summer camp programs for at-risk youth. We served the elderly and their caregivers in our community through Adult Day Services and the Senior Companion programs, and provided those in need with temporary shelter, food, clothing and job assistance.”

The generosity of donors and volunteers has allowed Catholic Charities Indianapolis to reach more people every year, he added. That spirit of generosity was echoed by the award winners, who each received a videotaped acceptance speech that was shown to the audience as they received their awards.

“We are all called by God to serve,” Obotime said.

A depth of humility also bonded the award winners.

“We are humbled by this honor,” Bill Kuntz said. “What we have been given pales in comparison to the many gifts God has given us, starting with our Catholic faith.”

Legacy for Our Mission: For Our Children and the Future

St. Michael’s Ministries Seek Room to Grow

St. Michael Parish in Bradford now offers 70 different ministries to its members and the surrounding community. As the ministry outreach has grown over the decades, so has the demand for space. Today, the parish hall that has served so well for 35 years is now simply inadequate for current needs.

With the help of proceeds from the Legacy for Our Mission campaign, St. Michael hopes to build a parish life center that will provide additional space and truly be the hub of parish activity.

“Some time ago, we realized that our religious education building was not keeping pace with the increasing enrollment in our faith formation programs. Classes are being held in every available space in our church complex. We’ve reached seating capacity for our annual parish festival in September. While the educational and service needs of our parish are barely being met, we are unable to grow and flourish as we are called to do by Scripture,” said Father John L. Fink, pastor since 2003.

Activities currently held in the parish hall would be moved to a new life center, along with offices of the parish staff. The center would have a gymnasium, rooms for smaller gatherings and an open area twice the size of the current hall, along with a much larger kitchen and pantry. Plans are also included for restrooms that meet the needs of all parishioners.

“Through the Legacy for Our Mission campaign, we also hope to raise the funds necessary to enlarge our current parish hall and remodel it into a long-needed education building,” Father Fink said. The building would house all faith formation classes in a single facility, accommodate pre-school programs and provide accessibility to a shared library and resource room.

Roger Harbeon, Legacy for Our Mission campaign chairman and St. Michael parishioner for 23 years, commented, “We have a strong youth program that revolves around religious education and provides activities to build the connection with the church. We hope that with a new parish life center, that program will continue to grow. The Legacy for Our Mission campaign is integral to getting that project completed.”

St. Michael Parish was founded in 1835 to provide education building,” Father Fink said. The building would house all faith formation classes in a single facility, accommodate pre-school programs and provide accessibility to a shared library and resource room.

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