A mother’s faith

Readers share how mom’s influence shaped their lives

By John Shaughnessy

A mother’s love can make all the difference in the life of her child. So can her faith. When The Criterion asked our readers to share their stories of how their mother lives her faith and influences their faith, we received beautiful tributes of how a mother’s love and faith touches and changes her children’s lives.

As Mother’s Day nears, we present four of those stories. And to all the mothers who bless their children in so many ways with their love, care and dedication, we wish you a happy Mother’s Day filled with extensive rest, complete pampering and God’s continued blessings.

Music lessons

Arlene Locke made sure that every one of her nine children took music lessons. She even sat next to them when they practiced on the piano, making suggestions and offering encouragement. She had the same approach to sharing her faith.

“She was always teaching us,” says Francine Bray, one of Locke’s children. “Her whole life centered around three guideposts: her faith, her family and her music.”

From our first days, she was teaching us about the love of God and our Catholic faith.

Their mother combined her music and faith to teach her children one of the greatest lessons of her life, Bray says. That lesson came near the end of Locke’s life, a life that was marked by singing and playing the organ at several churches in Indianapolis.

“In 1995, she was diagnosed with memory loss,” says Bray, a member of Our Lady of Lourdes Parish in Indianapolis. “She was losing who she was.”

By 2001, her children knew they had to place their mother in a nursing home—one of the most painful decisions of their lives. Yet from that heartbreak came another powerful lesson from their mother.

“Throughout Mom’s life, she had made meditation and prayer a daily priority,” says Bray. “Until she moved to the health care facility, she attended Mass on a daily basis, arriving early so that she could meditate on God’s love. Following her move into health care, she was no longer able to attend daily Mass. But when we did take her to church, her impaired memory, she remembered and recited all of the prayers and sang the songs.

“Our time spent with her during those years was very precious. I’m not sure whether or not she knew that she was teaching us about her faith in God—giving without question, finding peace and embracing solitude, and that our lives are prayers.

“We watched her slow decline. However, she never complained and we believe that the peace and joy she found in prayer and meditation throughout her life sustained her in her final, long journey. She traveled it with faith, peace and dignity, teaching us about faith, family and music until she returned to the Lord on Feb. 5, 2007. We know she rests in peace.”

A mother’s touch

Judy Davis-Fuller sometimes wonders what she would have done if she hadn’t received her mother’s blessing to become a Catholic.

She just knows that her mother’s blessing finally freed her to follow the dream she had for years.

“Just before she died of a malignant brain tumor, I told her I was looking into becoming a Catholic very seriously,” Davis-Fuller says. “She was Methodist, and I wasn’t sure what she would say. She said I had to do what felt right to me and do whatever would make me happy. That was a large leap for her.”

Unlike paparazzi, pope’s photographers snap with class

VATICAN CITY (CNS)—They are not pushy or pesky, rather, the pope’s own paparazzi are the epitome of discretion and class.

Vatican photographers stand out from other media shutterbugs, not just because they’re always dressed in ironed dark suits and ties, but because, coolly clicking away, they’re always dressed in ironed dark suits and ties, but because, coolly clicking away, they’re always dressed in ironed dark suits and ties, but because, coolly clicking away, they’re always dressed in ironed dark suits and ties.

According to the head of the Vatican’s photo service, Salesian Father Giuseppe Colombo, the job of the four official papal photographers is to create a visual record of the pope’s activities and important Vatican events.

With the click of a shutter, photographers immortalize an “unrepeatable masterpiece of an instant,” he said.

For the past 30 years, papal photographers have captured and preserved thousands of unforgettable scenes as varied as Pope John Paul II collapsing into the arms of his aide after being hit by bullets in 1981 to him trying on 1/2-size sunglasses during a 1999 meeting with the Irish rock star.

These photos and more are on display from April 25 to May 27 at a special exhibit at the Braccio Carlo Magno, a hall next to St. Peter’s Basilica, to celebrate the photo

See PHOTOS, page 2

Mother’s Day is May 13. Julie and Dylan Mercado, members of St. Henry Parish in Dayton, Ohio, enjoy a warm afternoon at Ellengerer Park in Indianapolis. She is the daughter of Holy Spirit parishioner Diana Hay of Indianapolis, who is the executive assistant and event planner for St. Peter and Paul Cathedral Parish in Indianapolis. (See related story on page 2.)

See MOTHERS, page 2

See MOTHERS, page 2
Another mom's story: Diana Hay makes the most of her 'Grandma time'

By Mary Ann Wyand

Diana Hay, who has served as executive assistant and events coordinator for SS. Peter and Paul Cathedral Parish in Indianapolis since October 1998, has two grown daughters, Ann Sternberg and Barbara Brinkman, and three young grandsons in Ohio.

Hay admits, it’s hard on her “mother’s heart” to live in another state about 120 miles away from her daughters, son-in-law and three little boys who are the light of her life.

Her oldest daughter, Julie Emard, lives in Dayton with her 3-year-old son, Dylan. Joseph and Kimberly Baker have two sons, 3-year-old Aarón and 1-year-old Daniel, and live in nearby Kettering, Ohio.

“Ah!” Hay asks as she looked at a family portrait. “I’m a close family,” she said, “and we stay emotionally connected by phone and e-mail. When I’m getting intowithdrawal and need to see them, I beg them to send me more pictures of the boys. They were all here for Easter and pictures were taken with every grandchild on my computer. It’s a picture of me with the three boys.

Hay plans to spend Mother’s Day weekend with her family in Dayton. Fortunately, her daughters live near each other so it’s easy to see everyone during weekend visits.

"Being a grandmother is so much more than I ever expected it to be and I just feel such an incredible awe looking at the boys," she said. "They’re all so different and so precious. I love them so much."

As a grandmother, Hay said, she tries not to give her daughters any parenting advice unless they ask for help.

“I do tell them to enjoy their children while they are young,” she said. "It certainly doesn’t take long for them to be grown, married and off on their own so I try to make sure they enjoy every day they have with them."

Hay said she was a “hands-on” mother who always tried to make the most of her daughters’ childhood years.

When Hay looks at her daughters, she can still visualize them during their toddler years all the way through high school in their band or sports uniforms.

“I have so many pictures from when they were little,” she said. “It’s fun to look at them. There’s one cute picture of them when they were having a tea party.

“I love to take pictures so I have albums and albums full of pictures from when they were little and as they grew older,” Hay said.

“Now I have the same kind of pictures with my grandchildren. My daughters make fun of me and say, ‘Oh, Grandma has got her camera.’ I love to watch the boys interact with each other. Those are priceless moments, and I want to save them forever.

Every day, Hay said, the prayers of the universal mother’s prayer, asking God to keep her children and grandchildren healthy and safe.

“God has been there for me in all the ups and downs of life,” she said, “and knowing that brings me comfort.”

Daniel Sarell, director of the archdiocesan Office of Family Ministries, said “technology has come on a long way in bringing us closer together” as families.

“The instantaneous nature of our new communication technologies allows us to stay in touch with each other... in a virtual sense,” Sarell said, “help to bridge the distance and make it as if we are actually present to each other... Perhaps the current use of these technologies can be for keeping families together to the extent that they can maintain ongoing contact with one another in lieu of living closer to each other.”

Grandparents can look at digital postcards sent by e-mail, he said, and watch events in the lives of their grandchildren via live Webcams.

“A few key things have to happen in order for this type of connectedness to be practical,” Sarell said. “Families often need to collaborate with each other to educate their loved ones on the use of technology. [The] technology has to be available and affordable, and schools and parishes can play a role in making their technology resources available to families, for example, by webcasting special events... Families that can’t be physically together still can share common experiences.”

Putting a shine on faith

The smell of Pledge can take Norb Schott back in time, back to his childhood when his mother purchased a furniture in their home to make it glow for the neighbors who gathered for the weekly “block rosary” on the sidewalks in his neighborhood.

“The block rosary was every Tuesday, like seven in the evening,” Schott recalls. “We would line up and pray the rosary. Every woman had to clean up their house before the neighbors came over. My mom made me dust in all the darkest places, all the places she couldn’t reach.”

Still, Schott admires how far his mother’s reach extended to her eight children in matters of faith.

He recalls walking with his mother one day when the bells of Sacred Heart Jesus Church rang at noon, and she told him, “I will teach you how to say the Angelus.”

He remembers how she put her coat over her house dress, piled her children into the family’s old Chevvy and headed for the noon Mass at Holy Rosary Church.

“Her faith was part of everyday life,” says Schott, now a member of St. Paul Parish in Greencastle. “It was a quiet faith that included taking care of your family, praying the rosary, going to Mass and being attentive to your neighbors. By just watching her, I sensed her relationship with God was real. It let me know that God was there to pray to. And that even if I did not have a church at home there was no disconnection. It was real.”

MOTHERS

Diana Fuller-Satterfield is the Rite of Christ Initiation of Adults program coordinator for SS. Peter and Paul Cathedral Parish in Indianapolis since September 2002 at St. Michael Parish in Greenfield.

“The old myths I had grown up hearing about Catholics kept running through my head. I didn’t know anyone who was Catholic, but John wasn’t. His wife, Julie, had two children, Olivia and Evan.

Julie was Catholic, but John wasn’t. His mother knew that in the spring of 2004, John and Julie walked together with nearly the entire service. And the following month, he and Julie walked together with Olivia for her first Communion.

Diana Fuller-Satterfield wanted her son to be able to receive the most precious gift of the Church, she says. “I have to admit that my daughter-in-law had tried, in vain, to get my son to convert for many years, but apparently he just wasn’t ready.

“About a week later, my son called to tell me that he had attended his first RCIA class.

“The following April, he was brought into the Catholic Church. Of course, I cried with the whole world. I know many people think I was there to pray to. And what we did at church was continued at home. There was no place to which we could not go. We were a family. We gathered for the weekly ‘block rosary’ in the middle of the street, and there was no place to which we could not go. We were a family.

“I cannot imagine my life now without the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit as the center of my being,” Diana Fuller-Satterfield says. “I thank them every morning for seeing me safely through the night, for my family and friends, and most of all for the unconditional love and the pure joy I feel at finally being where I am. I am honored to be Catholic. I try to spread God’s love to anyone who will listen.”

A mother’s unusual rule of courtship

Growing up on a farm in central Indiana, Marcela Smith loved to hear the stories that her mother shared about her own youth.

“She often would harness the horse and hitch up the buggy and take us to Mass with the rosary itself,” Smith recalls. “It was a way of praying. She would count the rosary herself.

“My mother told me that if a suitor came over to court a daughter and it was time to say the rosary, he was expected to participate.”

Smith’s father obviously passed the faith on to her; her six children.

“My mother told me a lot about her,” Smith says. "She couldn't reach."
Urban ministry in Brazil faces challenges of violence, over crowding

By Mary Ann Wyand

Jesús was an undocumented immigrant. Franciscan Father Tom Fox reflects on that reality—in the Scripture passage about the Holy Family fleeing to Egypt to escape King Herod’s wrath and find a safe place to live (Mt 2:13-15, 19-23). When he discusses his concerns about the plight of undocumented immigrants living in the United States.

Father Tom, who serves as a Hispanic ministry assistant in the archdiocese, joined several diocesan and order priests for a peaceful march and rally on May 1 in downtown Indianapolis to promote justice for undocumented immigrants, human rights and legislative concerns related to immigration laws.

Several marchers carried a banner with the theme “El Sueño continuo...legalización para todos” (“The dream continues...legalization for all”).

The march and rally were held on the feast of St. Joseph the Worker, celebrated as Labor Day in many countries.

Media coverage of the march listed the crowd size as 6,000 to 8,000 people, Father Tom said. He thought about 12,000 people participated in the peaceful demonstration.

Last year, he said, city officials estimated that 25,000 people walked in the first immigration march.

During the short march on Monument Circle after the march, Father Tom helped distribute postcards addressed to Sen. Rick Santorum of Pennsylvania and other members of Indiana’s congressional delegation.

The postcards asked the senators and representatives to pass a comprehensive immigration reform bill such as House Resolution 1645—the STRIVE Act—introduced by Rep. Luis Gutierrez (D-Ill.) and Rep. Jeff Flake (R-Ariz.)—which is supported by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops.

The U.S. bishops’ Justice for Immigrants campaign promotes comprehensive immigration reform that includes “a legalization process for the undocumented with a viable pathway to citizenship,” a new worker visa program which includes worker protections, adequate wages and a chance to earn permanent residence, reductions in family reunification backlogs, restoration of due process protections for immigrants, and policies which address the root causes of migration, such as economic inequality in sending communities.

“The [Gutierrez-Flake] legislation would be a good start for the debate [about immigration reform],” Father Tom said. “We collected the postcards and will...hand-deliver them to the [congressional] offices so we will be able to show support for the bill.”

He expects Congress to address that pending immigration reform legislation or a similar Senate bill in coming weeks.

Father Tom represented the Archdiocese of Indianapolis at the “Justice for Immigrants: A Journey of Hope” national convocation on April 17-19 in Washington, D.C., a campaign organized to offer hope and promote justice issues.

As part of his archdiocesan ministry, Father Tom will work with a committee to address local immigration concerns.

Franciscan Father Arturo Ocampo, pastor of St. Patrick Parish in Indianapolis, told march participants during the rally that he marched as an American citizen and Franciscan friar to help undocumented people receive justice in this country.

“There were a lot of Americans that were marching,” Father Arturo said. “This [march] is not just undocumented people. We were marching for justice. I think it’s very important for us as Americans to give witness to the freedom that we have in our country just as we are called to give witness by loving one another and following Christ. We too must give witness by exercising our rights to speak the voice of those who cannot speak.”

Father Arturo said he prays for justice for all people and is concerned about the children of undocumented immigrants.

“Our spiritual prayer is a prayer of action because we are aesthetically involved with the people who are undocumented [that we are serving],” Father Arturo said. “The archdiocese, the friars, the priests of the archdiocese and many laypeople are reaching out to those in need—especially the immigrants—so this is a team effort on the part of the Church, and I think we’re doing a wonderful thing.”

In his speech, Father Arturo reminded the people that, “We—the American people—and the immigrants are the salt of the earth. We cannot allow our country to rot in politics. That doesn’t do us any good.

His speech also was “an expression of gratitude to God for this wonderful country,” he said. “There’s no other country like this in the world.”

Commenting on the march theme, Father Arturo said, “Our goal is for legislation that would welcome all the immigrants. However, my particular concern...is those who are in school. The children are not at fault. They were brought to this country or they were born here, and their parents don’t have Social Security numbers. They are entitled to an education. They are entitled to continue their studies and to pursue that dream which you and I have been able to realize because of who we are. The children are my main concern.”

He said the march was an important witness about the need for immigration reform.

“We marched together as brothers and sisters in faith,” Father Arturo said. “I would say that 80 percent of the people that marched are Roman Catholic, and that speaks to a tremendous effort on the part of the Church.”

Urban ministry in Brazil faces challenges of violence, over crowding

São Paulo, Brazil (CNS)—Outside a nondescript house behind a wall on the outskirts of Brazil’s largest city, a clothesline full of tiny shirts flutters in the breeze.

In a cramped room inside, three small children draw diligently under the eye of a teacher, while several older children alternately play and fight as the aroma of rice and beans wafts through the first floor. These close quarters will be home for the youngsters for the next six months while their mothers try to find jobs and somewhere else to live, and start to put a bitter past behind them.

The seven women currently living at the shelter with their 17 children are among several diocesan and order priests for a ministry assistant in the archdiocese, joined several diocesan and order priests for a ministry assistant in the archdiocese, joined.

It’s the kind of situation that Pope Benedict XVI will encounter that Pope Benedict XVI will encounter.

Franciscan Father Tom Fox reflects on that reality—in the Scripture passage about the Holy Family fleeing to Egypt to escape King Herod’s wrath and find a safe place to live (Mt 2:13-15, 19-23). When he discusses his concerns about the plight of undocumented immigrants living in the United States.

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Point Benedict XVI

Evangelical Christians pray inside Renaisser em Cristo Church in São Paulo, Brazil, on May 2. The church was filled with about 4,000 worshippers. Conversions from Catholicism to Protestantism are increasingly common throughout Brazil.

Jucara Terezinha Zottis, who is active in various ministries in Santa Rita de Cassia Parish in a working-class neighborhood in in the southeast of the city. The church was filled with about 4,000 worshippers. Conversions from Catholicism to Protestantism are increasingly common throughout Brazil.

The theme of the conference of bishops in Aparecida will be mission and discipleship, and one likely outcome will be a push to regain some of the ground that has been lost to evangelical groups.

Terezinha hopes that the bishops will recommit to “the evangelization of a people that is being oppressed” and to making the Latin American Church “a missionary Church, a prophetic Church, a committed Church” reeducated to work for justice and a better life for the region’s poor.”

Pope Benedict XVI

Evangelical Christians pray inside Renaisser em Cristo Church in São Paulo, Brazil, on May 2. The church was filled with about 4,000 worshippers. Conversions from Catholicism to Protestantism are increasingly common throughout Brazil.
Faith & PrecedenTV
Douglas W. Kmiec

Graduation thoughts: Do we honor women at home and at work?

It’s graduation time, and in most places as many women as men will be handed college degrees. A survey of close to 62,000 people, fashion magazine Elle suggests that men and women are becoming a lot alike in the workplace. Men and women are similarly ambitious and competitive as well as equally honest. But there is an essential difference: Women are twice as likely to interrupt the business day to take care of a child.

Do we as a culture facilitate the additional and vital role that women continue to play as primary caregiver?

It’s doubtful. This seems decidedly shortsighted in a world that knows well that a stable home life is essential—for the civic good, the health of children and their education, even the redirection of violent personalities a la Virginia Tech.

According to the teaching of recent popes (Paul VI, John Paul II and Pope Benedict XVI recently said: “The fundamental task of the evangelization of cultures is the challenge to make God visible in the human face of Jesus. In helping individuals to recognize and experience the love of Christ, we awaken in them the desire to dwell in the house of the Lord, embracing the life of the Church. This is our mission.”

It doesn’t matter who we are: Irish-Americans, African-Americans, Hispanic-Americans, German-Americans, Mexican-Americans or the children of any other race, ethnic or cultural heritage. None of us needs “pro forma display of religiousness.”

What we need is a new evangelization. We all need to experience the love of Christ and to embrace our fundamental identity as members of the one family of God. We all need to seek the face of the Lord—and to work together to transform our world in accordance with God’s plan.

— Daniel Conway

Letters to the Editor

Government creates many of our country’s immigration problems

The children born here within our borders are our citizens and are our children. How can we abandon them? They are citizens, just as you and I, and all who were born here.

So the question we must deal with is how do we protect our citizens, our children.

We can’t protect them by sending their parents away. There is no closer relationship than that of parent and child. How can we disown our own children? Can we tear them from the arms of their parents? We can’t. To me, this is the major problem to be solved.

Another problem, which the government creates for itself, is that it tells the Mexican people and their president to tell them, “Come to the U.S.” “Don’t come to the U.S.” “Come to the U.S.” Perhaps this is to get cheap labor for their rich constituents.

The third problem, which the government sends to jail the border guards who attempt to protect our border. It says one thing and does another. This is a problem the White House and the government has created for itself and allowed to happen.

A White House which says it is above the law if it doesn’t agree with it—and government officials who say they are it to demands for increased corporate performance (profits) and the advent of new technology (cell phones, laptops and Blackberries) which raise the expectation that one will be in the office—at least virtually—at all times.

These increased demands are made on men and women who are fathers and mothers. But if somebody’s mom is going to work in the business, we say, “Yes, but be better at putting in the same time as the next guy?” Finding new clients, closing deals and managing the budget are ongoing realities.

Our sense of equality is promised on scorekeeping. We tend to ignore the papal advice and women are simultaneously nefulous commitments to office and home.

And if we are honest, some men and even some women who choose not to raise children might actually resent making allowances for those contributing to the dual communities of work and family.

How might we change things? Piton off, ask chief executives to take a closer look at reality. Top executives with ample resources for full-time childcare may be more willing to do this.

Second, we might press all those folks running for president for creative thinking on how we might reverse the economic compensation of those who are working and nurturing family at the same time.

In 2007, the papal instructors may warrant a respectful update. Neither women nor men should be honored more for their work outside the home, but then again, women alone should not have to keep demonstrating against an unbending culture how extraordinary love can accomplish both.

(Douglas W. Kmiec, a professor at the Pepperdine University School of Law, writes for Catholic News Service.)
A friend of mine asked me to help him review our Catholic teaching about our devotion to Mary, and the saints and angels. Fairly often, we Catholics are criticized for our devotion to the Blessed Mother Mary and the angels and saints. We are sometimes accused of worshiping Mary or of making false gods of the saints, and our devotion to Mary, the Blessed Mother of Christ, is often seen as adoration of a woman. In fact, we do not adore Mary as we adore God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. True, we sometimes pray to the Blessed Mother, but it is a prayer asking for her intercession. We believe her intercession is powerful with God because of all humans she is the closest to Jesus as his mother. That privileged position of Mother of God does not render her divine, but it is powerful nonetheless. When I try to help critics understand our beliefs about our prayers and devotions to Mary, I use the example of asking a friend to intercede with some important person. We ask someone close to the important person (to whom we do not personally have access) to help us, to intercede for us. So it is with our prayer to the Blessed Mother or to a favorite saint. Throughout the ages, devotion to the Mother of God in our tradition has been consistent. The late Pope John Paul II brought new awareness to the important role of Mary in our faith. He was strongly convinced that she had intervened in his life on several occasions. Of course, he grew up with a great devotion to Mary inherited from his father and his Polish heritage.

Perhaps the most striking example of his conviction about the intercession of Mary in his life was at the time of the attempted assassination on his life. He was firmly convinced that while “one finger pulled the trigger, another finger,” that of the Blessed Mother, directed the bullet less than a centimeter from a mortal wound. He gave the infamous bullet to the shrine of Our Lady of Fatima, where it has been placed in Mary’s crown. He gave the blood-stained white sash he was wearing that fateful day to the Shrine of Our Lady of Czestochowa. The sash hangs next to the famous icon of Our Lady.

These gestures of the late Holy Father are not acts of adoration of Mary; they are an expression of his love for her and his gratitude for her intercession. Miracles are the work of God; they may be mediated through the intercession of Mary or the saints. Because of the holiness or merit of their lives, we believe they can intercede for us.

When miracles were ascribed to St. Theodora Guérin in the process of her beatification and canonization, we believe they were granted by God through her intercession. Her holiness, itself a grace of God, won God’s special intervention as a response to prayer to Mother Theodore asking for her intercessory help.

I have a special devotion to St. Joseph as well as to the Blessed Mother. I pray for his intercession for particular intentions daily. There is a saying that St. Joseph’s intercession is “slow but sure.” Does that mean I adore St. Joseph? No. It means that because of his having parental responsibility for Jesus in his childhood and youth he surely enjoys a down-to-earth relationship with him. He was a saint who worked with his hands and was attentive to God’s directions.

I also have a special regard for Mother Theodore Guérin and Blessed Teresa of Calcutta. They poured out their entire lives for Jesus in the most difficult circumstances. Surely the merit of their lives gives them intercessory power before God.

While we have favorite images and icons of Mary and the saints, we do not worship images as is sometimes believed by non-Catholic friends. Our statues and pictures are reminders of our veneration for the Mother of God and the saints. It is much like our keeping photos of our loved ones before us as a reminder of our care for them and their care for us.

The United States Catholic Catechism for Adults notes: “Based on our faith in the Incarnation of Christ, we venerate images of Christ, Mary, the angels, and the saints. We do not worship the images themselves, but in venerating the image, we venerate whoever is portrayed—Jesus Christ, Mary, a saint, or an angel. This, in turn, can lead us to a deeper contemplation of God himself” (p. 347).

Our veneration of an image or a saint is not adoration. Genuine devotion or veneration, in fact, always leads us to God.

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

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

Arimón dice: “Mediante el sacrificio de la Santa, van a recibir las gracias que la Santa ha de Dios. Para el sacrificio de la Santa, van a recibir las gracias que la Santa ha de Dios. El Catecismo Católico de Estados Unidos para Adultos observa: “Básindanos en nuestra fe en la Encarnación de Cristo, veneramos imágenes de Cristo, María, los ángeles y los santos. No adoramos las imágenes en sí mismas, pero al venerarlas, veneramos a quienes ellas representan: Jesús, María, un santo, o un ángel. Esto nos permite llevar a cabo una contemplación más profunda del propio Dios.” (p. 347).

La veneration de una imagen o un santo no es adoración. La devoción o veneration genuina, nos conduce siempre a Dios.

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

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

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

May 11

May 14

May 15
St. Alphonse the Great Byzantine Church, St. Mary Hall, 1117 Bain Ave., Indianapolis. Catholic Charismatic Renewal of Central Indiana, prayer meeting, 7:15 p.m. Information: 317-592-1992. Information: 812-933-0661 or e-mail michaelafarm@seidata.com.

May 17
St. Eunice Parish, 47-30 p.m., center receives 15 percent of sales. Information: 317-788-7881.

May 18
Marian University, 1011 S. Clair St., Indianapolis. Catholic Charities Indianapolis Adult Day Services, “2007 Summer Breaks,” 6-9 p.m., $25 per person. Information: 317-236-1536.

May 19
Knights of Columbus Hall, 2100 E. 70th St., Indianapolis. Catholic Business Exchange, Greg Rakesteine, director of sports development for ESPN, speaker. Mass, 6:30 a.m., buffet breakfast and program, $10 per person. Information: www.catholicbusinessexchange.org.

May 20

May 23
St. Michael the Archangel Church, 3355 S. 30th St., Indianapolis. Annual Holy Helpers of God’s Precious Infants Pro-Life Mass, 8:30 a.m., followed by rosary outside abortion clinic and Benediction at church. Information: Archdiocesan Office for Pro-Life Ministry, 317-236-1569 or 800-382-9836, ext. 1569.

May 24
Catholic Ritter Hall, 3800 W. 30th St., Indianapolis. 13th annual Cardinal Ritter Race Party, 6 p.m., $35 per person includes buffet dinner. Information: 317-927-7825 or e-mail archdiocese@cardinalritter.org.

May 26
Sisters of St. Francis, Michaela Farm, Oldenburg. “Weaving Your Own Basket,” 1-3 p.m., Sister Stephanie, presenter. Information: 812-933-0661 or e-mail michaelafarm@seidata.com.

Knights of Peter Claver Mass
St. Rita parishioner Curtis J. Guyon of Indianapolis, left, and April Lynn Voner of Denver, the newly elected Northern District presidents of the Knights of Peter Claver and Ladies Auxiliary, bring up the gifts during a mass celebrated by Archbishop Daniel M. Burke in April 29 at the Adams Mark Hotel in Indianapolis. The liturgy was part of the organization’s Northern District Regional Conference held from April 28-29. The Knights of Peter Claver was founded in 1909 in Mobile, Ala., and is the largest historically African-American Catholic fraternal organization in the United States. Father Kenneth Taylor, director of the archdiocesan Office of Multicultural Ministry and pastor of Holy Redeemer Church, and Father Patrick Biederman, pastor of SS. Peter and Paul Catholic Parish in Indianapolis, concelebrated the Mass.

Regular Events

Second Saturdays
St. Agnes Parish, Brown County Public Library, Nashville, Brown County Wounded Support Group, 3 p.m. Information and directions: 317-988-2778 or 812-988-4429.

Third Sundays
Christ the King Church, 3827 Kesler Blvd., E. Drive, Indianapolis. Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, 2 p.m.-7 a.m. Monday, rosary, 8 p.m. Open until midnight.

Knights of Columbus Hall, Mater Dei Cougar, 1318 N. Delaware St., Indianapolis. Breakfast buffet, 30 a.m.-1 p.m., adults $5, children under 12, $2.50. Information: 317-631-4373.


Info: 812-535-3313, ext. 434.

Third Tuesday
St. Francis Medical Clinic, 110 N. 17th Ave., Suite 300, Beech Grove. Chronic pain support group, 7:30 p.m. Information: 317-631-1177.

Third Wednesdays
Holy Name of Jesus Church, 89 N. 17th Ave., Beech Grove. Holy Hour and rosary, 6 p.m. Information: 317-784-5454.

St. Francis Home Health, 438 S. Emerson Ave., Greenwood. Cancer support group meeting, 6-8 p.m. Information: 317-257-1505.

St. Francis Hospital, 1201 Hadley Road, Mooresville. Cancer support group meeting, 6-8 p.m. Information: 317-257-1505.

Mary, Queen of Peace Church, Blessed Sacrament Chapel, 1005 W. Main St., Danville. Divine Mercy Chaplet, 7 p.m. Information: 317-745-5600.

St. Jude Church, 5355 McFarland Road, Indianapolis. Rosary, 6:15 p.m. Information: 317-783-1445.

Calvary Masssoleum Chapel, 435 Troey Ave., Indianapolis. Mass, 2 p.m.

St. Elizabeth/Colleman Pregnancy and Adoption Services, 2500 Churchman Ave., Indianapolis. Daughters of Isabella, Madonna Circle meeting, noon, dessert and beverages served. Information: 317-849-5840.

St. Joseph Church, 1375 S. Mickley Ave., Indianapolis. Adoration of Blessed Sacrament, 11 a.m., Sat., Mass, 5-8 p.m. Information: 317-244-9002.

St. Vincent de Paul Church, 1723 S. Bedford. Catholic Women in Faith meeting, 7-9 p.m., open to women 18 years and older. Information: 812-275-6559.

Third Thursdays
St. Michael the Archangel Church, 3315 W. 10th St., Indianapolis. Mass, 6:30 p.m. for God’s Precious Infants monthly pro-life ministry.

St. Mary of the Woods, Church of the Immaculate Conception, St. Mary-of-the-Woods. Mass for Life by archdiocesan Office for Pro-Life Ministry, 8:30 a.m., drive to Clinic for Women (abortion clinic), 3067 W. 16th St., Indianapolis, for rosary, return to church for Benediction.

Fourth Wednesdays
St. Thomas More Church, 1200 N. Indiana St., Mooresville. Mass and assisting of the sick, 6 p.m. Information: 317-831-4142.

VIPs
John R. and Dolores A. Williams, members of Our Lady of the Greenwood Parish in Greenfield, celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on May 4. The couple was married on May 4, 1957, at St. Elizabeth Church in Chicago, Ill. They have six children: Donna Marie, James, John Jr., Michael Sr., Theresa and Father William Williams. They also have nine grandchildren.

Knights of Peter Claver Mass
St. Rita parishioner Curtis J. Guyon of Indianapolis, left, and April Lynn Voner of Denver, the newly elected Northern District presidents of the Knights of Peter Claver and Ladies Auxiliary, bring up the gifts during a mass celebrated by Archbishop Daniel M. Burke in April 29 at the Adams Mark Hotel in Indianapolis. The liturgy was part of the organization’s Northern District Regional Conference held from April 28-29. The Knights of Peter Claver was founded in 1909 in Mobile, Ala., and is the largest historically African-American Catholic fraternal organization in the United States. Father Kenneth Taylor, director of the archdiocesan Office of Multicultural Ministry and pastor of Holy Redeemer Church, and Father Patrick Biederman, pastor of SS. Peter and Paul Catholic Parish in Indianapolis, concelebrated the Mass.

May crowning
Rebecca Willow of Carmel, Ind., in the Lafayette Diocese, a home-schooled student who is a member of Our Lady of the Most Holy Rosary Parish in Indianapolis, places a crown on the statue of the Immaculate Heart of Mary during a May crowning ceremony on May 6 at Holy Rosary Church.

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Catholic Charismatic Renewal of Central Indiana, teaching 7-9 p.m., followed by praise, worship and Mass. Information: 317-592-1992, www.inholyspirit.org or e-mail vic@inholyspirit.org. Holy Name School, Jerry Craney Performance Center, 89 N. 17th Ave., Beech Grove. “Musical ‘97,” 7:30 p.m., $2 per person or $5 per family. Information: 317-784-5454.

St. Mary-of-the-Woods, Church of the Immaculate Conception, St. Mary Hall, 1117 Bain Ave., Indianapolis. Catholic Charismatic Renewal of Central Indiana, prayer meeting, 7:15 p.m. Information: 317-592-1992. Information: 812-933-0661 or e-mail michaelafarm@seidata.com.
Parishes meet unique needs in Legacy for Our Mission campaign

By Sean Gallagher

The Archdiocese of Indianapolis has 150 parishes. That’s a lot. Each parish has its own unique role to play in the Legacy for Our Mission: For Our Children and the Future campaign. At the same time, no matter how different the needs of one parish might be from another, the members of both can support the archdiocese’s shared ministries through their participation in the campaign.

St. Bartholomew Parish in Columbus saw the dedication of a new church in March 2002 and the completion of a new gymnasium in 2003. As a result, when the Legacy for Our Mission campaign was launched in 2004, St. Bartholomew did not have significant capital needs which required the support of parish members. But, according to its pastor, Father Clem Davis, the campaign came at the right time to help the parish overcome its debt from its previous building projects.

Currently, St. Bartholomew Parish has to spend $75,000 per year to service its previous building projects.

"If we don’t have to be taking that [$75,000] out of operations for debt service, we could be doing any number of other things with that," Father Davis said. "Clearly, we want to get out from under that particular burden."

How the parish would use those freed-up funds in the future has not been determined. But Father Davis said that the community is using its participation in the campaign to plan for its future ministry needs. In addition to eliminating its debt, St. Bartholomew Parish also plans to use part of the $4 million it hopes to raise through the campaign to replace the school’s heating and air conditioning system, and to make improvements to the school’s restrooms.

"Unlike St. Bartholomew Parish, which has witnessed two large building projects over the past decade, the facilities of St. Joseph Parish in Clark County have largely remained unchanged for a generation."

Its last building project happened in 1971 when a parish hall was constructed. Now, new housing developments are popping up all around the rolling wooded hills surrounding the New Albany Donnelly parish. As a result, it is experiencing growth in its membership.

The parish community is using its participation in the Legacy for Our Mission campaign to accommodate this growth.

Jerry Rauck, chairman of St. Joseph Parish’s finance commission, thinks the campaign is starting at just the right time. "We’ve had a lot of new parishioners come in that have wanted to get involved, and you’ve got a lot of the families that have been involved for a long period of time," Rauck said. "And that’s why I think the timing is perfect for us to do the things we’re doing here."

"We’re practically rebuilding it," said Conventual Franciscan Father John Curran, St. Joseph Parish’s pastor. "An addition will also be made to its 126-year-old church, which will include a reconciliation room and handicap-accessible restrooms."

"St. Joseph is definitely going to have a big future," Father John said. ""

Legacy for Our Mission campaign more than halfway to its goal

By Sean Gallagher

When it was launched in 2004, the Legacy for Our Mission: For Our Children and the Future campaign had an ambitious goal of raising $100 million. By accomplishing this goal, the archdiocese hopes its parishes, shared ministries and home missions will be set on firm ground for years to come.

Two years later, with 74 parishes having participated in the campaign, nearly $60 million has been pledged. "The results thus far give us strong confidence in the remainder of the campaign," said Joseph Therber, executive director of the archdiocesan Office of Stewardship and Development.

"The parishes that are participating this year have done an excellent job of identifying parish ministry priorities and recruiting leadership teams who will get the job done and leave a positive imprint for our children and the future."

In addition to gathering important donations for ministry throughout central and southern Indiana, the Legacy for Our Mission campaign has also seen more than 10,000 Catholics volunteer their time and talent to make it a success.

"The breadth of volunteer and financial participation is a testament to the presence and power of stewardship in the archdiocese," Therber said. "We have seen parish prayer teams come alive through the campaign, countless members become involved in setting parish priorities and understanding the archdiocesan Church, and generous financial gifts come about after a re-evaluation of personal spending patterns—all of which reflect God’s will in the Legacy for Our Mission campaign."

"Parish dreams coming true—from a re-evaluation of a new kitchen, a new basement storeroom, new meeting rooms that can also serve as classrooms, and new restrooms—"We’re practically rebuilding it," said Conventual Franciscan Father John Curran, St. Joseph Parish’s pastor. "An addition will also be made to its 126-year-old church, which will include a reconciliation room and handicap-accessible restrooms."

"St. Joseph is definitely going to have a big future," Father John said. ""

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Archbishop calls Miter Society members to life of prayer, service

By Brandon A. Evans

True Christian charity flows from prayer and enables us to show the face of Jesus to the world. True charity knells before God for its strength and withers without him. This inseparability of prayer and charity was the theme that Archbishop Daniel M. Buechlein stressed during a May 2 Mass at SS. Peter and Paul Cathedral in Indianapolis with Catholics from various parishes that are part of the Miter Society.

The society is made up of faithful stewards who have made large gifts to the annual United Catholic Appeal (UCA) or the recent Legacy for Our Mission campaign. For Our Children and the Future campaign. It consists of people who have made significant sacrifices for the benefit of the local Church. There are about 300 Miter Society members, but because of the ongoing Legacy for Our Mission campaign, 1,900 people were added as honorary members this year.

“Every gift to the UCA is greatly appreciated, and we try to show this in many different ways,” said Ron Greulich, director of major gifts for the archdiocese. “We promptly thank people and let them know how their generous gifts are making a difference in the lives of many.

Though the Miter Society’s focus is on those who are able to give in a more significant way, it is our hope that it will also serve to motivate others, who are in a position to do so, to increase their giving to the United Catholic Appeal.”

The annual Mass is one way to show gratitude to the Miter Society. Members also receive periodic pastoral letters from the archbishop and are assured of his prayers. Some members participate in an annual day of prayer or a tour of a home mission site that has benefited from their gifts.

But the Mass was not a chance for people to sit in the warm glow of their recent generosity. Although they received thanks from the archbishop, more importantly, the members of the Miter Society received solid advice on how to truly live a life of charity.

 “[Pope Benedict XVI] tells us that our obligation as a Church to do works of charity is inseparable from our duty to proclaim God’s word and to celebrate the sacraments,” Archbishop Buechlein said.

Further quoting the Holy Father, he said, “People who pray are not wasting their time even though the situation appears desperate and seems to call for action alone. Pity does not undermine the struggle against the poverty of our neighbors, however extreme.”

Prayer, in reality, is one thing we need for God to turn our weakness into his strength, Archbishop Buechlein said.

Looking to Blessed Teresa of Calcutta, the archbishop shared some of her humbling words: “I don’t think there is anyone who needs God’s help and grace as much as I do.”

Buechlein stressed during a May 2 Mass at Indianapolis with Catholics from various parishes that are part of the Miter Society.

If you take one thing from the life of St. Theodora, it’s that we need to place our complete trust in God’s Providence,” he said. “If we do that, the Lord will give us what we need.

“We can find that same focus on prayer and absolute trust if we study the life of our first bishop, Servant of God Simon Bruté.”

“Many of the archdiocese conducts its capital campaigns,” he said, “it is always with the emphasis that we never lose sight of keeping what we are doing rooted in prayer and thanksgiving toward God.”

That was exactly what the Mass on May 2 was all about: prayerfully gathering to not only give thanks for the generosity of certain individuals, but to give over to God grateful hearts for all his good gifts and ask for the strength to continue.

Archbishop Daniel M. Buechlein and other Wells-Richardson priests offer the eucharistic prayer at SS. Peter and Paul Cathedral during a Mass for members of the Miter Society on May 2.
A man on a mission

Jim Seebeck helps bring renewal process to parishes

By Sean Gallagher

In 1990, Jim Seebeck was a benchwarmer at St. Monica Parish in Indianapolis. He went to Mass and helped with the parish’s liturgical music, but not much else. Father Clem Davis, his pastor at the time, recently said Seebeck was at that time “one of those invisible people.” Then Seebeck participated in a Christ Renews His Parish renewal weekend, and his life has not been the same.

For nearly 15 years, Seebeck, who is currently a member of Our Lady of Grace Parish in Noblesville, Ind., in the Lafayette Diocese, has been helping parishes across the archdiocese begin their own Christ Renews process.

“It’s hard to tell how many of our parishes Jim and Tina [his wife] have influenced because of the spiral nature of the program’s growth,” said John Valenti, archdiocesan evangelization coordinator.

“He has had a hand in dozens of [Christ Renews] outreach programs, sustainability efforts and pastoral care of more Christ Renews leaders than I can count,” Valenti said.

Yet as important a role as he has played in the renewal of the faith of many Catholics and parish communities in the archdiocese, Seebeck said his own experience of Christ Renews is much like what has happened in the lives of many men and women who have gone on their own renewal weekend.

He likened himself and many others before the retreat weekend as living the minimum life of faith that the Church requires—going up to a line, but no further.

“Before, you didn’t know there was more stuff out there,” Seebeck said. “Then you get across that line and you think, ‘Wow. I can go anywhere I want with this.’ And then you want to share it with everybody. That’s what Christ Renews does.”

—Jim Seebeck

“Before, you didn’t know there was more stuff out there. Then you get across that line and you think, ‘Wow. I can go anywhere I want with this.’ And then you want to share it with everybody. That’s what Christ Renews does.”

Jim Seebeck

Jim Seebeck became a symbol of love for him that other people picked up on.”

Christ Renews His Parish is a nearly 40-year-old parish renewal process where separate groups of men and women participate in weekend retreats that are facilitated by other men or women of the parish.

These leaders usually would have had their own retreat six months earlier then worked through a formation process to help them prepare to be retreat leaders. But when a parish is starting its participation in Christ Renews, separate outreach teams of men and women from other parishes who have been on and led the retreats elsewhere come in to lead the first weekend.

Seebeck and his wife, Tina, have helped organize or lead such outreach teams at parishes in Indiana and Kentucky for nearly 15 years.

Although Seebeck has lost count of the number of archdiocesan parishes he has worked with, 47 parishes—nearly a third of all the Catholic faith communities in central and southern Indiana—have begun Christ Renews since 1995.

Now Seebeck, in tandem with Valenti, has formed the archdiocesan Christ Renews His Parish Committee, a subcommittee of the archdiocesan Evangelization Commission, of which Seebeck is also a member.

The committee is planning new training seminars to help parish leaders make their Christ Renews process more effective.

One way that the information to be shared at these seminars will be gathered will be through the committee’s Web site. To view it, log on to www.archindy.org/evangelization and click on “Christ Renews His Parish.”

The committee eventually hopes to establish message boards on its site that would allow people who have gone through Christ Renews to share what they think can make the process go more smoothly or what aspects they think might need to be improved.

“Right now, there is no outlet for that kind of communication,” Seebeck said, “and that’s what we want to be.”

Father Davis, who so long ago saw Seebeck in the background at St. Monica Parish, recently observed him at an Evangelization Commission meeting speaking articulately about Christ Renews and the impact it can make on the life of faith of individuals and parish communities.

“It was exciting,” Father Davis said. “I got to see where the Lord works powerfully in the life of this man. His life is very different from what it would have been without the experience of Christ Renews.”

Seebeck, whose own life was so dramatically changed by Christ Renews and who, in turn, strengthened the faith of so many others, has high hopes for the archdiocesan Christ Renews His Parish Committee.

“Our hope and prayer is that we can bring Christ Renews to every single parish in the archdiocese some day,” he said, “and evangelize as many people as we can in the process, and just support it in whatever way that we can.”

(To learn more about Christ Renews His Parish, log on to www.archindy.org/evangelization and click on “Christ Renews His Parish.”)
Web site’s mission is to spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ

By Mike Krokos

One million and counting:
That’s how many pages have been viewed on the Archdiocese of Indianapolis’ Web site during the last 18 months.

Three hundred thousand. That figure represents the number of visitors the Web site has had over that same time period.

“We have about 950 people come to the archdiocesan Web site each day,” said Brandon A. Evans, archdiocesan Web site manager, who also serves as The Criterion’s online editor.

Thanks to a Web site redesign that was launched last October, more and more people have been visiting the archdiocesan site. The Criterion’s online edition has risen from about 50-60 visitors per day in 2005 to 250 people daily.

While the number of people visiting agencies’ Web pages is increasing, Evans says that the Web site’s overall mission remains a constant: to spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ and to inform people about all aspects of archdiocesan life.

Evangelization is at the heart of every archdiocesan ministry, and that is taken to heart where the Web site is concerned, Evans said.

“As a local Church, we offer so many diverse services and chances for people to learn and live the Gospel,” he said, “and each of our subsites is a reflection of that particular agency’s way of going about that mission.”

For example, the evangelization office’s Web site includes links to adult faith formation, outreach to inactive or inalienated Catholics, ecumenism, small Christian communities, the Rule of Christian Initiation of Adults, Christ Renew His Parish and Disciples in Mission.

“The goal of our site is to be an online home for Catholics and to be a tool of evangelization, to draw all people more deeply into the Gospel of Jesus Christ, and to help them stay connected to the broad world of our faith,” said John Valenti, associate director of evangelization and faith formation for the Archdiocese of Indianapolis.

People from all walks of life are looking for something meaningful, and a growing number of them are going online for answers, Valenti said.

“The Internet is more than just a medium of communication. The Internet in itself is a ‘community,’” he said. “Jesus asks us to take his message ‘to the ends of the earth’” (Mt 28:19).

“If this is the medium people are using to look for the truth, then that is where we need to be,” Valenti said. “We have the truth of Jesus Christ and must use all the available tools to make the voice of the Lord comprehensive and accessible.”

Since the World Wide Web knows no boundaries where age is concerned, Valenti said he believes the Internet is an effective way to reach today’s younger generations of Catholics.

“The Web is revolutionizing the tools of evangelism,” he said. “Our Web site provides news and information in a high-tech age to a culture conditioned for quick responses and quick service.

“In order to evangelize successfully, we have a number of pages and links with explanations of the Gospel, thought-provoking articles and question-and-answer sections,” Valenti said.

“The Web site serves as a place where people can explore the Christian faith,” he noted, “and look for the answers for their own questions concerning it.”

In his dual role as archdiocesan Web site manager and online editor for The Criterion, Evans says catechesis is consistently on his mind as he updates Web site material.

“There are so many Catholics hungry for the rich answers that the Church provides—or looking for that authentic angle on a Church story that they are not finding in the secular press,” he said, “and I hope in some way that our site can bring those things to people.”

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In the hands of God! Archbishop Buechlein reflects on years as bishop

To estimate his 26 years as bishop, Archbishop Buechlein recently was on a personal retreat to reflect on the past at a chapel at the Arch of Theotokos in Minneapolis and Indianapolis. While on retreat, he received a vision of a purple flower from The Criterion about three years of ministry

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'Being there' is at heart of spreading faith on college campuses

By John Shaughnessy

The light sometimes shines in unusual ways—like the way Notre Dame Sister Carolyn Sur uses a combination of nature, prayer and readings from Christian literature to bring people closer to God on weekday mornings at Saint Mary-of-the-Woods College.

The light also peaks through in unexpected places—like the classroom where Dominican Father Bob Keller celebrates Mass at noon at Indiana University in Bloomington.

By being there, Sister of 45 years also uses creative, less traditional ways Notre Dame Sister Carolyn Sur teaches or through a service project. But the religious connection starts in one of the theology classes she teaches. "There are great needs on a college campus," she said. "There's something going on," Father Bob said. "It was difficult my freshman year to uphold my beliefs in the classroom where Dominican Father Bob Keller celebrates Mass at noon. I think there's a Butler Catholic Community. The group was also helped by the college's Center for Faith and Vocation, which is led by the president of the Butler Catholic Community. The group was also helped by the college's Center for Faith and Vocation, which is led by another three years at Butler. Sister Carolyn has also helped spur that growth as the leader of the Butler Catholic Community. The group was also helped by the college's Center for Faith and Vocation, which is led by the president of the Butler Catholic Community. The group was also helped by the college's Center for Faith and Vocation, which is led by another three years at Butler. The Butler Catholic Community was a busy time for students and faculty. They had a morning meditation on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays—a meditation that involves both prayer and readings from Scripture, Sister Carolyn's own spiritual practice and, sometimes, just sitting in a light of glowing candles that students at Marian College in Indianapolis held during a vigil to remember the people who were killed at Virginia Tech University two days earlier.

"Evangelization is part of the Gospel, to not only speak the word but follow up with the action," said Markovich, the director of campus ministry at Marian College. "There were 50 people for the vigil during what was a busy time for students and faculty. They had tears coming down their cheeks. When it gets down to it, we turn to God to get us through the pain," he said. "There is always hope in God and our faith. The students exemplify that hope and love of Christ by being there. They witness the grace of God through their actions." Those two phrases—"being there" and "witness the grace of God through their actions"—are at the heart of spreading and enhancing the Catholic faith on college campuses.

Yel the call to evangelization on college campuses is a challenging one, according to Sister Carolyn, the campus minister at Saint Mary-of-the-Woods College.

"There are great needs on a college campus," she said. "There's so much competition from the media these days promoting commercialism, violence and secularization of society. The parish church and the nuclear family don't have the same power as in the pre-television era. We need to compete with that and expose them to the values of the Church. That's a form of evangelization. Hopefully, they'll become more formally Catholic down the road. She also reaches out to students from other Christian denominations. "Since less than 50 percent of our campus is Roman Catholic, my goal is to offer something that's meaningful to everyone," she said. "I need to offer programs outside formal liturgy. I feel that the seeds of faith the family has planted need to be honored."

At 21, Melissa Hintmann sees her Catholic faith as the core of her being, a faith she wants to share with others. When she first came to Butler University in 2004, the board committee of students. We delegate different social programs. We started saying the rosary once a month. Ash Wednesday is probably our biggest Mass of the year. More than 300 people come.

The Butler Catholic Community was also recognized this year as a diversity organization by the college, a distinction that Hintmann believes will help spread awareness of the faith to non-Catholics.

"We have more dedicated people now," said the pharmacy student from St. Louis. "I think the students realize the state of the Mass and the state of Catholicism on campus depend on them at this stage. They're more willing to take ownership," she said. "I also see the faculty and staff taking a more active, public role. I think that's very important to how we have developed."

Leading people to Christ is also the focus of the Dominicans' efforts at Indiana University in Bloomington and Purdue University in West Lafayette, Ind.

"We want to be the Catholic presence to higher education—students, faculty and staff," said Dominican Father Bob Keller, the pastor at St. Paul Catholic Center in Bloomington. "To do that, we think in terms of programming and creative loitering. I'll go on campus and go to an office to visit a professor. Or we go over to the food court and just sit there and hope to meet students. It's not an agenda. It's just being there."

Father Bob shared those comments during an interview last fall at St. Paul's, where the center offers weekday morning Masses, a meditation prayer service on Tuesday evenings, Bible study groups on Tuesday and Wednesday nights, and six regular weekend Masses, including a Spanish Mass.

"When you're dealing with students of that age level, they have a tremendous amount of freedom," Father Bob said. "To get their attention and be persuasive is a challenge. They have a lot of groups interested in them."

"The other challenge is to be intellectually in pace with them. You can't say, 'The Church has always done this or the pope says this.' You can't lose credibility with them. One of the things I find a lot—which I'm happy about—is that there's a consciousness of justice. They aren't satisfied with the way things are. They want to make a better world."

In a recent conversation, Father Bob noted that 11 Indiana University students were baptized at St. Paul this year. Another eight IU students from different faiths were received into the Catholic faith.

"There's something going on," Father Bob said. "It could be we're on campus more or it could be the students who are Catholic. Other students see the way they are. Whatever it is, God is at work here."

The challenge of evangelization on college campuses usually can be met by one important approach, according to Sister Carolyn.

"I think it's very important to live your faith passionately," she said. "If that happens, evangelization will be a natural overflow."

Shining the light

As part of their ministry to "meet people where they are," Dominican Father Bob Keller, left, and Dominican Brother Patrick Tobin share lunch with Indiana University students Kellermarie Sorg and Greg Jansen in Bloomington.

Notre Dame Sister Carolyn Sur, campus minister at Saint Mary-of-the-Woods College, is shown with students on a trip to Chicago in 2006. Sister Carolyn is standing in the center of the back row.
Sharing the Word

Small faith communities transform the Church

By Mary Ann Wyand

When the priest prayed, he often contemplated a map of the world as a reminder that Jesus is a gift from God for all people.

Father Jose Marins, a Brazilian priest and author who is internationally known for his ministry with small Christian communities, shared that story about a Jesuit mentor in Rome during his Feb. 16 speech at St. Barnabas Parish in Indianapolis.

His keynote address was part of the Convocation for Small Faith Communities sponsored by the archdiocesan Evangelization Commission.

“The small Christian community will always be a mystery … in the tradition of the Church,” Father Marins said. “The Church is the socialization of the mystery of God so Church is a mystery. It is the power of the Spirit … [and] the inexhaustible gift of God.”

Small faith communities are “a concentration of the Church in communion with the parish,” he said, just as an “embryo is a concentration of a person.”

During 35 years of traveling the world to minister to Catholics in many countries, Father Marins has heard fascinating stories about the life of the Church.

In one small faith community in a Third World country, he said, none of the community members could read so they were unable to share Scripture with each other from the Bible.

Instead, their love for God compelled two members of the faith community to walk about two hours to another village every week, Father Marins explained, where an educated man read the Gospel passage for the coming Sunday to them.

After memorizing the Scripture passage, he said, they returned to their home and were able to proclaim the Gospel to the people there.

This contemporary faith story is an example of life in the early Church communities in the years after the Resurrection, Father Marins said, when Christians passed the word of God to each other through stories told in small groups that met in homes.

In small faith communities today, he said, “we are repeating the pastoral experience of the early Church [through the Middle Ages].”

The domestic Church continues to give life to the larger Church through the prayers of small groups within parishes, Father Marins said, as “the visible, efficacious sign of Jesus.”

The Church is comprised of “people living Jesus’ style of life,” he said. “A small [faith] community is a surprise of the Spirit … a living cell of the reign of God.”

But in more affluent countries, he said, Christians often are evangelized by the consumer society and are not evangelizing others as a missionary people.

“People are becoming consumers of the sacraments,” Father Marins said. “Some places have become much more [of] a corporation than a Christian community.”

Father Marins said parishes and small faith communities can learn from the examples of the early Church communities and the work of the Second Vatican Council.

“For we Christians, our vocation is the world, not the sanctity,” he said. “In the sense that every day we need to look at the world and ask, ‘How is the reign of God going on?’”

Throughout the world, he lamented, Latinos are leaving the Catholic faith for membership in charismatic Protestant Churches.

“In Latin America, millions leave the Church,” Father Marins said. “In the United States, the bishops said the Latino migrants are the ones who are leaving the Church in a big percentage. We are happy because [Latinos] are present in our celebrations, but for each one that is there you can count 10 [Hispanics] that are not there. They are going to the different Christian traditions.”

He said the majority of Christians only share the “experience of Church” during liturgies on Saturday or Sunday.

“The goal of the Church is to [promote] the reign of God,” Father Marins said. “Mission is a style of life. We are to be Catholic. Ministry and service open the door. All we have to do is ask, ‘Would you like to join me at my church this Sunday?’”

We have every reason to be proud to be Catholic. We have every reason to have a high opinion of our Church, our parish programs and our outreach ministries. We must not neglect this most vital lifeline to evangelizing new people.

St. Francis said, “If given only a sip of water and a few berries, a bird will sing all day.” Say it and sing it. We have every reason to shout Catholic.

(John Valenti is associate director of evangelization and faith formation for the Archdiocese of Indianapolis.)

VALENTI
continued from page 9

are freely given in health care—not everyone who benefits from great, Christ-centered education and loving care even considers actually joining the Catholic Church.

We are not in the business of proselytizing, but we are in the business of “making disciples.”

Maintaining brick, mortar and steel is not the mission. Jesus is the mission, the message and the messenger who is asking us to draw people close to him.

That starts with an invitation to explore what it means to be Catholic. Ministry and service open the door. All we have to do is ask, “Would you like to join me at my church this Sunday?”

We have every reason to be proud to be Catholic. We have every reason to have a high opinion of our Church, our parish programs and our outreach ministries. We must not neglect this most vital lifeline to evangelizing new people.

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A flip of the coin

After thieves hit, parishioners strike back, donate $7,800 to school children’s fund

By John Shaughnessy

Pat Witt couldn’t believe it when she learned that thieves had stolen a huge bank of coins that school children at her Indianapolis parish had donated to help children in Africa.

As the news of the theft spread through St. Matthew the Apostle Parish, so did the shock and anger that someone would stoop so low as to steal about $400 from a fund raiser that has become an annual tradition at the school. “It was gut-wrenching to think someone would walk off with the coins the kids had collected,” says Witt, the parish’s pastoral associate.

Yet from that unthinkable act has come an equally stunning response of generosity from a parish that wasn’t willing to let the thieves steal something special from its children.

The story began in early Lent—at the beginning of the school’s spring break—during either the late night of March 25 or the early morning of March 26, according to Father Paul Shikany, the pastor of St. Matthew Parish.

Since the beginning of Lent, a huge container had been placed inside the church so children could donate their coins to help Dr. Ellen Einterz care for children who live in the African country of Cameroon. A physician who grew up in St. Matthew Parish, Einterz has spent more than 20 years in Africa, trying to bring hope and health care to a land devastated by endless cases of malaria, malnutrition, cholera and AIDS.

The huge container—which had a sign that read, “Coins for Cameroon”—was placed near a framed picture of Pope Benedict XVI.

“The school children really got involved with it through the years,” Witt says. “It even became a little competition among the classes to see who could raise the most money.”

When Father Shikany discovered the container of coins was missing, he initially thought that someone associated with the parish had taken it to count the money. Yet when he found that no one had, he called the police.

“The container itself weighs about 150 pounds, and we figure there was about $400 in it,” he says. “It’s so big and awkward that you had to have more than one person to lift it. And you’d need a truck to put it on. You couldn’t get it in the back seat of a car.”

Father Shikany also called Corrine Einterz, the mother of Ellen Einterz, to tell her what had happened.

“She told me, ‘Hopefully, they needed the money more than the kids of Cameroon did.’” Father Shikany recalls.

He also shared the news of the theft with parishioners during Masses on the weekend of March 31 and April 1. He never expected what happened next.

“It was just to let people know, and then all of a sudden this generosity came out,” he says. “A number of people said they wanted to make it up for. They asked how much was in it. I said about $400. One man wrote a check for $400. Another wrote a check for $1,000. Then we got a second check for $1,000. Ultimately, we had $7,800 in two weekends.”

When Father Shikany later shared that news with parishioners at Mass, it was greeted with smiles and applause. That reaction was echoed by the Einterz family.

“Obviously, it turned out very well,” says Corrine Einterz. “People just stepped forward and did much more than what was ever collected. It was great. I sent an e-mail to Ellen and her first comment was, ‘Holy cow!’ She was thrilled!”

After hearing the news from her mother, Ellen Einterz sent an e-mail to the parish. She said the money will be used to help AIDS patients, and provide malaria protection for pregnant women and their eventual newborn children.

“I wish I could personally thank everyone who contributed,” she wrote. “As you know, sometimes all it takes is a few dollars to get someone going again. And just as every single patient is precious to us, so too is every single donor. A big ‘thank you’ to all!”

So far, U.S. has most groups for World Youth Day, organizers say

SYDNEY, Australia (CNS)—The United States had the largest number of groups registered for World Youth Day 2008 in the first 50 days of online group bookings.

Organizers said they were delighted with the response, which indicates that 65,000 pilgrims—including 23,000 from the U.S.—are already planning to attend the event on July 15-20, 2008. Registrations for individual youths open in July.

Dunny Casey, chief operating officer for World Youth Day, called the early registrations “very encouraging.” He said the largest number of registrations came from the United States.

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 sign the legal minimum requirement for the minor.

Youths under 18 must be chaperoned at a ratio of five minors per one adult. Chaperones must be at least 25. The pilgrimage is open to parish groups and individuals.

The cost of the trip is $3,359 per person.

Meanwhile, horse trainers at Royal Randwick Racecourse in Sydney have asked for compensation for when the venue is used for the royal and papal Mass. Approximately 200,000 pilgrims will camp overnight at the track, which will have to have all railings removed before the event. Horse trainers expect that the trampling of the grass will also mean they have to replace the turf.

The New South Wales Trainers’ Association estimates that the track will be unusable for six weeks, costing them more than $12 million in relocation fees for 800 racehorses.

“But it’s the relocation of people which costs the most so it could be more costly,” said Anthony Cummings, spokesman for the trainers.

The racecourse’s sole tenant, the Australian Jockey Club, has urged the track’s owners, the state government and Randwick City Council to reach agreement with all stakeholders on the question of financial compensation.

“We need an agreement,” said Tony King, chief executive of the Australian Jockey Club. “We may be Christian and loving, but we’re also practical.”

For showtimes and to buy tickets visit www.LandmarkTheatres.com...
Woods executed; prayer at vigil calls it ‘dark act’

MICHIGAN CITY, Ind. (CNS)—Called in prayer a “dark act done under the cover of night,” the execution of convicted murderer David Leon Woods was carried out in the early hours of May 4.

Woods, 42, had been sentenced to death 22 years earlier for the stabbing death of a family friend and neighbor, Juan Placencia, during an attempted robbery in April 1984 in Garrett, Ind.

Woods was 19 at the time.

In April 1984 in Garrett, Ind. during an attempted robbery of a family friend and neighbor, Juan Placencia, Woods, who reportedly had experienced and hoped they would stay the execution.

With appeals exhausted and clemency denied by Gov. Mitch Daniels, a group of death penalty opponents began to assemble at the Indiana State Prison parking lot shortly before sunset on the eve of the execution to keep vigil in support of the crowd that Woods was reportedly under the influence of drugs.

“David is a special person, a godly person and he has no fear at all tonight,” said Tommy Yeager, the prisoner’s brother-in-law. “He is at total peace and feels when he leaves here tonight he will be walking with Jesus.”

A tearful Yeager pointed to Scripture while noting that people are so quick to judge others for what they do wrong.

“If you read the Gospel of Matthew, it asks why do we condemn our brother for murder?” Yeager said. “Love and forgive them, for as you judge so will you be judged. Why do you notice the speck in your brother’s eye and not the log in your own?”

Speaking on behalf of his brother-in-law, Yeager told the crowd that Woods was grateful for their prayers and support, and hoped his death would bring light to the issue of the death penalty in this country.

Lea Govert, a member of Holy Spirit Parish in Winfield Township in northern Indiana, regularly attends death vigils at the state prison.

Citing the late Cardinal Joseph Bernardin of Chicago, Govert said it is worth repeating his expression that life is a seamless garment from birth until natural death.

“I’m here to bear witness that this should not happen,” Govert said.

Many in attendance expressed concern for the mitigating factors surrounding the execution. Woods was only 19 at the time and reportedly under the influence of drugs.

During the appeals process, defense attorneys questioned state methods for determining if Woods had some degree of mental retardation, which would have deemed him ineligible for execution. Woods also had accepted full responsibility for his actions and expressed remorse.

“At this point in my life there is no use I can see doing anything about this. We need to stop the violence,” said Burkhart, a teacher who serves Amnesty International as an Indiana death penalty abolition coordinator.

“Killing people to show that killing people is wrong really is not a way to end the violence.”

Mary Lou Piklinton said she had hoped that Gov. Daniels would commute Woods’ sentence to life in prison without parole or the U.S. Supreme Court would stay the execution.

“His last gentleman,” she said. “He asked me to pray for him before he went to prison. He said he would stay the execution.”

Mary Lou Piklinton, Woods’ mother, was overwhelmed with emotion as she talked about how much she would miss her son.

“Thank you all for your prayers and God be with you,” she said.

Mary Ann Piklinton Yeager was only 9 years old when her brother went to prison for his crime. She called her brother her spiritual guide, and explained how he had come to minister to many of his fellow inmates, bringing the hope of Christ into their lives.

For Woods, even the last meal shared with his family the previous evening had spiritual overtones. As Woods enjoyed a meal of pizza and soda pop with the 12 people closest to him, he called the gathering the “breakfast of the bread.”

“David asked for a birthday cake,” Piklinton Yeager recalled.

While it was not his birthday, he explained to his family that the day of his execution would become a new birth with Jesus, she said. Woods spent those last moments comforting his family and telling them not to worry, saying he understood the sorrow and pain his victim’s family had experienced and hoped they could one day find a way to forgive him.

According to Piklinton Yeager, Woods also admonished his family to strive to become better people themselves.

“He told my mom to stop talking about people so much,” she said. “He asked her to try to be better and she promised him she would.”

(Critcian senior reporter Mary Ann Wyand contributed to this story.)

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This guy has done everything he’s supposed to do. He’s changed, shown remorse and yet we’re going to kill him anyway,” said Sean Napier, a frustrated local resident.

During a break from a prayer vigil in front of the Governor’s Residence in Indianapolis shortly before midnight on May 3, St. Susanna parishioner Karen Burkhart of Plainfield said she had hoped that Gov. Daniels would commute Woods’ sentence to life in prison without parole or the U.S. Supreme Court would stay the execution.

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(Critcian senior reporter Mary Ann Wyand contributed to this story.)

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Love and charity are the Church’s nature and mission

By Dennis Marshall

One of the most beautiful passages in St. Thomas Aquinas’ “Summa Theologica” reads, “The Son is not just any word, but the word breathing love.”

In that brief statement, St. Thomas Aquinas sums up the confession that stands at the center of Christian faith—namely, that the trinitarian God is love itself and that this love has been made known to us in the incarnation of Jesus Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Pope Benedict XVI’s encyclical letter, “God Is Love,” the pope writes. “The world” is the invitation that Pope Benedict XVI extends to all who hear it to receive the “The Church is about the people of God, and Church is about the people of God, and Church is about the people of God.”

“God commands us to love others,” says St. Thomas Aquinas.

God commands us to love others

By Carole Norris Greene

“To experience love and in this way to cause the light of God to enter into the world” is the invitation that Pope Benedict XVI extends to people in his encyclical letter titled “Deus Caritas Est” (“God Is Love”).

“Love is possible, and we are able to practice it because we are created in the image of God,” the pope writes. “The command of love of neighbor is inscribed by the Creator in man’s very nature.”

Yet, a friend who is a canon lawyer explained, “You cannot love what you do not know.”

Knowing the object of love is important, pouring its life out for the life of the world.

According to Pope Benedict XVI, the Church fulfills the obligations of love in three distinct but not separate ways.

First, the Church discharges its obligation of love when she proclaims the good news of Jesus Christ crucified, died and risen, inviting all who have “ears to hear” to share in the fullness of grace and truth.

Words are not enough, however. The word of love that the Church announces to the world must be accompanied by an authentic witness exemplified in a life of holiness by its members.

Where the Church’s preaching fulfills the great commission given her by Christ, the testimony of a holy life demonstrates the Church’s willingness to be conformed to Christ’s love even to the point of death.

Everything the Church says and does should testify to nothing less than the one in whom “we live and move and have our being.”

Secondly, the Church fulfills love’s commands when she celebrates the sacraments. As Christ’s own example shows us, it is impossible to accomplish the will of God unless one’s life is firmly rooted in prayer. The sacraments are the means that Christ has chosen to be actually present in, and to, the Church.

In the Eucharist, the Church is nourished by Christ’s own body and blood. By it, we are transformed more fully into his image and strengthened so that we might fulfill the purpose to which we have been called.

It is impossible to achieve love’s goal without Love himself actively working in us. For this reason, worship is not optional to the life of faith.

Thirdly, the Church realizes the obligations of love through service. The corporal and spiritual works of mercy are ways by which the Church imitates the Lord, who “came not to be served but to serve.”

These works give expression also to the Church’s desire to fulfill the great commandments: to love God with one’s entire being and to love one’s neighbor as one’s self.

In this respect, it is an indispensable requirement of the Church that she express her love and gratitude for God concretely in service to others. It is by loving and serving those whom we see that we demonstrate our love for the one whom we cannot see.

Furthermore, it is in this active love for others that God who cannot be seen is made manifest.

In short, in the same way Christ made the Father known through the works he did, so also does the Church make Christ known through her service to others.

As Pope Benedict points out, the responsibilities that give expression to the Church’s nature and mission are inseparable from one another:

• Witness without prayer and service reduces the obligation to love to a rigid dogmatism.
• Service without prayer and witness makes God’s love indistinguishable from other forms of social and political activism.
• Worship without witness and service buries love in the tomb of mechanical ritual observance.

It should be evident why these alternatives do not express the richness of the Church’s true life and purpose.

Witness, worship and service together make known the Church’s true nature. In them, it should be readily seen that the Church is not just any word, but Christ’s word, his bride, bearing his love to the world.

(Dennis Marshall is an associate professor of theology at Aquinas College in Grand Rapids, Mich.)

Discussion Point

Christians serve others with love

This Week’s Question

In your words, why is the Church a “community of love”?

“Because we see the face of Christ in those we encounter.” (Carolyn Von Tersch, Denison, Iowa)

“First, because everybody who goes to church is there as a human being with love in his [or her] heart. When we go, it is because we know God is there, and that other people are there for the same reason with their hearts open to the love of God will give us. It’s so nourishing.” (Joan Waite, Lake Worth, Fla.)

“If everybody looks at the Church as what it truly is—the body of Christ—then they will treat everyone like Christ would want them to treat others.” (Debbie Knoblock, Romeo, Mich.)

“The Church is about the people of God, and Church is about the people of God, and Church is about the people of God.” (Karleen Dell ’Ova, Durham, N.H.)

Lend Us Your Voice

An upcoming edition asks: What must happen if a pattern of negative behavior is to stop or change for the better?

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

Twentieth Century

Underestimating your value? Don't.

Antiques Roadshow catches ordinary people in an endearing position: their nerve-racking television debut. They tend to be targets for being sized up, dressed in coral, spattered in rouge and sitting in fluffed-up curves. Then an appraiser declares, "I'm richer than they thought they were." Many people are shocked.

The possessor were persons they tried to project stones, giving way to a Macau Curry, and the leaves ruffled expressions such as "Oh my landa" or "Eyes are!"

Some can'tathom the dollar value, repeating “You're kidding!” in a stunned daze. Others focus on one fact to navigate through their shock. For one man, that was the handle of his sword, which, evidently, was made of rhinoceros horn. "The most amazing thing is the rhinoceros!" he exclaimed. "I thought that was a fake!"

Now in its 11th season, Public Broadcasting System's Roadshow is currently being filmed in Indianapolis, which should be fertile ground for curly gourds and my lanitas. It's one of a reality TV shows that stimulates rather than saps brain cells. It's packed with obscure tidbits.

"This artist always painted a blue bird in the upper right corner which he signed 'The Rhinoceros!' " he exclaimed. "I thought that was a fake!"

That phrase lingered in my mind long after I turned off the TV; "the maker's mark." The rhinoceros is a symbol of India's power, and the maker is the most famous artist of all time. In six days, he created Niagara Falls and the Great Wall of China. And it's called "The Night that Van Gogh later ripped off." We are each unique, a limited edition, one of a kind. We know what does to the value of the art.

It's important that we keep this mind in mind. We are each unique, a limited edition, one of a kind. We know what does to the value of the art.

Faithful Lines/Shirley Vogler Meister

Recapping the miracles of motherhood

Every Mother's Day, I enjoy sweet nostalgia remembering the various stages of motherhood that I have enjoyed but also endured. A mother's life is beautiful. Even the Blessed Mother knew the pain and the sorrow of her role.

Now, I share with my readers a Mother's Day weekend delightful anthology with yeast-risen recipes from the book of Miracles: Motherhood: Prayers and Poems for a New Mother, published by Center Street/Heritage Book Group (www.centerragroup.com). The book comes from seasoned writer and speaker June Cotner, who has produced 15 other books in this genre.

A few highlights from the Miracles book, however, is that it is a timeless volume encompassing pregnancy, birth, new baby, childhood, the toddler years, Christenings, and host of the "Religion on the Line" radio talk show, captured the essence of Cornelia. Her book, The Line, is a regular columnist for The Criterion (www.junecotner.com). The book, a regular columnist for The Criterion, is a regular columnist for the Catholic News Service and host of the "Religion on the Line" radio talk show, captured the essence of Cornelia. Her book, The Line, is a regular columnist for The Criterion, is a regular columnist for The Criterion, is a regular columnist for The Criterion, is a regular columnist for The Criterion, is a regular columnist for The Criterion, is a regular columnist for The Criterion, is a regular columnist for The Criterion, is a regular columnist for The Criterion, is a regular columnist for The Criterion, is a regular columnist for The Criterion, is a regular columnist for The Criterion, is a regular columnist for The Criterion, is a regular columnist for The Criterion, is a regular columnist for The Criterion, is a regular columnist for The Criterion, is a regular columnist for The Criterion, is a regular columnist for The Criterion, is a regular columnist for The Criterion, is a regular columnist for The Criterion, is a regular columnist for The Criterion, is a regular columnist for The Criterion, is a regular colum
**The Sunday Readings**

**Sunday, May 13, 2007**

- Romans 21:10-14, 22-23
- John 14:23-29

The Acts of the Apostles again provides the first reading for a weekend in the Easter season. The gates are open and available to anyone. Written on the city’s walls are the names of the 12 tribes of Israel. It is another symbol to say that salvation is offered to all people. St. John’s Gospel gives this weekend its third reading. It is one of the most eloquent passages in the New Testament. Three points are important.

Jesus calls upon the disciples to love each other. The mere construction of this passage illustrates the fact that following the Gospel will not be easy. However, following Christ will not be impossible. The Holy Spirit will provide assistance and strength.

Finally, for those who truly love God, peace will be with them. It is not necessarily an absence of conflict or the peace that hopefully exists among people or among nations. It is the peace of mind, heart and soul that comes from knowing that right is served and that God is present.

**Reflection**

Already, the Church is directing us to Pentecost, but it is not dwelling on a mere anniversary. It is telling us that if we accept Jesus and live by the Gospel, God will be with us in the presence of the Holy Spirit. Then the Church gives us very practical advice. To be with God in the heavenly Jerusalem is the only true source of peace. Anything else is death.

We reach God’s heavenly Jerusalem by our decisions every day, following the Lord. Guidance in this regard is not coincidental nor is it always reliable if it simply represents our personal judgment. God is in the Church. The Church is here to teach us, judging as it must the questions of our time.

There is no escaping the fact that the early Christian faith, as revealed in the New Testament, was critically involved with the notion of the visible Church, built on the Apostles.

**Readers may submit prose or poetry for faith column**

The Criterion invites readers to submit original prose or poetry relating to faith or experiences of prayer for possible publication in the “My Journey to God” column. Seasonal reflections also are appreciated. Please include name, address, parish and telephone number with submissions. Send material for consideration to “My Journey to God,” The Criterion, P.O. Box 1717, Indianapolis, IN 46206 or e-mail to criterion@archindy.com.

**Dear Reader**

Could you help me locate one of your past columns on the subject of blessings assigned by laypeople and the fact that there is no provision in doctrine for such blessings? Priests in my parish continue to engage in this fiction, asking the audience to extend their hands while the priest recites some phrasings. I do not participate in these prayers. (Illinois)

A 20 years. If I had, the column would not seem to be given by laypeople. The “General Introduction” of the ritual notes that the “ministry of blessing involves a particular exercise of the priesthood of Christ . . . in keeping with the place and office within the people of God belonging to each person.”

In other words, all baptized Christians share in the priesthood of Christ to some degree, which makes them eligible, within their role in the Church, to exercise that priesthood by bestowing blessings.

Among the many blessings explicitly mentioned for laypeople’s use are the blessing of sons and daughters, blessing of an engaged couple, blessing on the occasion of a birthday, blessing of animals, blessing of Advent wreaths and Christmas trees, blessing of homes and a blessing in thanksgiving.

For all blessings, the ritual gives suggested prayers, Scripture readings, intercessions and a Prayer of Blessing, which a layperson says with hands joined, temporal making the sign of the cross over the other person.

A priest or deacon says the prayer with arms outstretched over those being blessed or otherwise present, usually making the sign of the cross over them.

The Catholic Household Blessings and Prayers volume is especially useful for developing a prayerful spirit in a Catholic home.

**Daily Readings**

- Monday, May 14
  - Acts 1:15-17, 20-26
  - Psalm 113:1-8
  - John 15:9-17

- Tuesday, May 15
  - Acts 16:22-34
  - Psalm 138:1-3, 7c-8
  - John 16:5-11

- Wednesday, May 16
  - Acts 17:15, 22-18:1
  - Psalm 148:1-2, 11-14
  - John 16:12-15

- Thursday, May 17
  - Acts 18:1-8
  - Psalm 98:1-4
  - John 16:16-20

- Friday, May 18
  - John 1, pope and martyr
  - Acts 18:9-18
  - Psalm 47:2-7
  - John 16:20-23

- Saturday, May 19
  - Acts 18:23-28
  - Psalm 47:2-3, 8-10
  - John 16:23b-28

- Sunday, May 20
  - The Ascension of the Lord
  - Acts 1:1-11
  - Psalm 47:2-3, 6-9
  - Ephesians 1:17-23
  - or Hebrews 9:24-28, 10:19-23

**Laypeople may offer blessings and prayers for other people**

The book includes many prayers and rites already common in Catholic families, such as blessings before meals and after meals. It also has dozens of other blessings that most parents and other laypersons would never think about—a mother’s blessing of a child when nursing or feeding, a blessing in times of suffering and need, a blessing on wedding anniversaries and so on.

It is not uncommon, and seems within the requirements for blessing ceremonies, for someone to ask others to participate by extending their arms toward those being blessed as he prays the blessing prayer.

I have done this at baptisms, inviting the family and friends present to extend their hands as the priest or deacon says the final blessing and makes the sign of the cross over the child and the parents. Perhaps the occasion you mention is the dismissal of catechumens after the Liturgy of the Word on Sundays during Lent. In many parishes, the priest asks the congregation to extend arms in prayer for the catechumens, perhaps as the choir sings a prayer for them.

It’s not a formal blessing, but it is a beautiful and touching symbol of the entire parish’s support and is much appreciated by those receiving the blessing.

Both books are available through bookstores or from USCCB Publishing by calling 800-235-8722.

**Question Corner/Fr. John Dietzen**

My Journey to God

**Ode to St. Anne**

Imagination tempts me When I think of you, St. Anne. What possible elation Could surpass the perfect plan? You hold your grandson, Jesus, As you sing the tribal lore, To be heard forevermore. This portrait of contentment Speaks as only silence can. I know you held my hands. Hold him, hold him close, St. Anne. By Dorothy M. Colgan

(Dorothy M. Colgan is a member of St. Meinrad Parish in St. Meinrad. This stature of St. Anne and Mary as a child is at Our Lady of the Most Holy Rosary Church in Indianapolis.)

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The Criterion  Friday, May 11, 2007
Harry Dearing served archdiocese as business manager for 16 years

Harry T. Dearing, a former business manager for the Archdiocese of Indianapolis, died on May 4. He was 81. The Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated on May 7 at Holy Spirit Church in Indianapolis. Burial was at Calvary Cemetery in Indianapolis.

Benedictine Sister Mary Joan Wargel was founding member of monastery

Benedictine Sister Mary Joan Wargel, formerly Sister Mary Lima, died on April 22 at St. Paul Hermitage in Beech Grove. She was 86 and was a founding member of Our Lady of Grace Monastery in Beech Grove.

The Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated on April 26 at the monastery chapel. Burial was at the sisters’ cemetery.

Surviving are four sisters, Alice Larance of Evansville, Ind.; Sylvia Lewis of Mount Vernon, Ind.; and Benedictine Sisters Dorothy and Reine Wargel of Beech Grove, and a brother, Benedict Wardge of Evansville.

Memorial gifts may be made to Our Lady of Grace Monastery, 1402 Southern Ave., Beech Grove, IN 46017.


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Harry T. Dearing, a former business manager for the Archdiocese of Indianapolis, died on May 4. He was 81. The Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated on May 7 at Holy Spirit Church in Indianapolis. Burial was at Calvary Cemetery in Indianapolis. A longtime member of Holy Spirit Parish, Dearing served the archdiocese for 16 years. He was founding member of monastery.


ROBERTS, Margaret Mary (Mauder), 85, Immaculate Conception, Rushville, April 28. Mother of Marcia Fish, Mary Beth Kerfy, Margaret Speranza, David and Stephen Roberts, Sister of Mary Eileen Johnson, Charles, Clarence and Frederick McMillan. Grandmother of two.

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Bloomington Mass honors St. Theodora

By Mike Krokos

BLOOMINGTON—Janis Dopp and St. Theodora Guérin go way back.
Sort of.

As a young girl attending St. Emeric School in the Diocese of Gary, Ind., in the late 1950s, Dopp remembers hearing of then Mother Theodore Guérin.

One of Dopp’s teachers, a Daughter of Divine Charity sister, gave her a holy card with a third-class relic of Mother Theodore.

Although she can’t remember the reason the gift was given, Dopp said getting the card was special.

“I put it in my prayer book, and I still have it today,” she said.

“I treasured it then, and I still do.”

On April 30, Dopp and other members of Bloomington Deanery parishes gathered with Archbishop Daniel M. Buechlein at St. Charles Borromeo Church to take part in another of the continuing series of liturgies throughout the archdiocese in honor of St. Theodora, Indiana’s first saint.

“It was a thrill to see this unfold over the last few years,” said Dopp, who serves as St. Charles Borromeo’s director of religious education.

While Dopp was familiar with St. Theodora’s missionary work, Indiana University students Jessica Richers, John Cecil and Anna Silva were impressed to learn more about Indiana’s first saint and her commitment to Catholic education.

“I didn’t realize Saint Mary-of-the-Woods College [founded by St. Theodora in 1840] is the oldest Catholic college for women in the United States,” Cecil said.

Richers appreciated the way the Mass drew people from all parts of the deanery.

“It’s exciting to see everyone come together for this,” she said.

Joe Brake, who teaches sixth-grade religion and history at St. Charles Borromeo School, said he was able to incorporate St. Theodora’s sainthood into his curriculum.

“We spent a great deal of time on the canonization process, what it means to be a canonized saint and [asking] them to intercede for us,” he said.

Brake, who is also youth minister and director of religious education at St. John the Apostle Parish in Bloomington, called the special celebration a wonderful event.

“I’m not very often that the archbishop comes to your parish to celebrate a saint from Indiana,” he said.

In his homily, Archbishop Buechlein said people of faith owe St. Theodora “a great debt of gratitude” for her commitment to founding Catholic education in Indiana.

He called her a great woman of accomplishments who had “an all-consuming love for God,” and a person who “gave her entire life to Jesus in prayer.”

God “blessed her as a valued missionary of faith in truly missionary times,” the archbishop said.

Each of us can follow St. Theodora’s example, he added.

“All of us are called to be missionaries in our way,” Archbishop Buechlein said, “to live our faith, to be proud of our faith.”

Christopher Brake, a third-grader at St. Charles Borromeo School, receives Communion from Archbishop Buechlein.

Members of Bloomington Deanery parishes pray during the special April 30 Mass honoring St. Theodora.

Altar servers and priests process into St. Charles Borromeo Church at the beginning of Mass.

Cay Smith of St. Charles Borromeo Parish proclaims the first reading at the April 30 Mass.

Indiana University students, from left, John Cecil, Anna Silva and Jessica Richers enjoy hospitality at the St. Charles Borromeo Parish Hall after the special April 30 Mass.