Serving the Church in Central and Southern Indiana Since 1960

By Mary Ann Wyand

Miraculously, Deacon Eric "Rick" Nagel recalled, he survived two serious car accidents—with only minor scratches—as a young adult, which helped inspire him to say "Yes!" to God's call to the priesthood. During the second accident, caused by a reckless driver on Interstate 70 in Indianapolis nine years ago, Nagel prayed for God's protection as his Jeep rolled four times down a steep embankment. He felt "a sense of being held in and embraced" in his seat as the mangled Jeep rolled to a stop. Dazed but amazingly unharmed, he climbed out of the wreckage and walked about 15 yards then experienced yet another miracle when he glanced down at the ground and found his Grandmother Nagel's rosary beads—which he always kept in his car—lying in the tall grass.

Her rosary beads are a treasured keepsake and symbol of the strong faith in God that he learned as a child growing up on his German family's 350-acre grain and livestock farm near Rensselaer, Ind. He picked up her rosary beads and put them in his pocket then stood there feeling disoriented as people came to help him. A police officer turned down the embankment to see if he was hurt then surveyed the wreckage of his Jeep and a small cargo trailer hitched to it.

"I've never seen somebody walk away from something like that alive, much less without a scratch," the officer said. "God must have something special planned for you, and you'd better start listening."

That night, Nagel promised God that he would go back to Mass, pray every day and discern God's will for a year.

"I believe in miracles," he said. "I believed that there was something that I was supposed to do. I didn't know exactly what it was then. But through prayer, Mass and adoration in the year to come, I was reminded of the times a young priest and my Dad asked me if I ever thought about the priesthood and of Pope John Paul II saying 'Be not afraid. Come follow me.'"

decision to enter the formation process." Now 42, Deacon Eric Paul Nagel will be ordained to the priesthood for the Archdiocese of Indianapolis by Archbishop Daniel M. Buechlein at 10 a.m. on June 2 at SS. Peter and Paul Cathedral in Indianapolis. He believes his family's support and several miracles led him to say "Yes" to God's call to the priesthood.

Going green: Vatican expands mission to saving planet

VATICAN CITY (CNS)—Expanding its mission from saving souls to saving the planet, the Vatican is going green.

A giant rooftop garden of solar panels could be installed, but that it was too early in the game to name names. Even though Vatican City State is not a signatory of the Kyoto Protocol, a binding international environmental pact to cut greenhouse gases, its inaugural solar project marks a major move in trying to reduce its own so-called carbon footprint, that is, the amount of carbon dioxide released through burning fossil fuels.

The carbon dioxide slashing solar panels will be installed sometime in 2008 after prototypes, environmental impact reports and other studies have been completed, Cuscianna said. In a May 23 article in the Vatican newspaper L'Osservatore Romano. See SOLAR, page 2

Does seven days on food stamps make one weak?

WASHINGTON (CNS)—It's one thing to walk in somebody else's shoes. It's another thing to live in somebody else's pantry—for an entire week. Yet that's just what four members of Congress did in mid-May.

Only two members in the House, Reps. Tim Ryan, D-Ohio, and Jan Schakowsky, D-Ill., took up the challenge; McGovern and Emerson, having issued the challenge, did so as well.

The challenge showed how far $21 of groceries go today. The answer: Not very.

For Ryan, a Catholic, "the real lesson is not that you can't get food or not enough food, but it's the kind of food you eat," he told Catholic News Service.

Ryan's menu for the week consisted largely of angel-hair pasta, spaghetti sauce, peanut butter and jelly, wheat bread, cornmeal and cottage cheese.

"It's not the fruits, not the vegetables that you want," he said.

Food stamp recipients, even if they did make different buying priorities, often didn't have access to fresh produce at their neighborhood stores or access to transportation where they could buy fresh produce—even if they could afford it.

The legislative focus of the challenge was the Feeding America's Families Act, which would increase food stamp outlays by $4 billion a year over the next five years, about a 10 percent increase over current levels.

The bill would most likely be incorporated into the farm bill, a five-year reauthorization that affects everything.
Cuscianna wrote that safeguarding the environment was “one of the most important social justice issues.”

“Frankly, as long as the war’s going on, there’s not going to be money for these kinds of things,” Ryan added.

The Feeding America’s Families Act would both increase benefits and expand the groups of people eligible for food stamps, according to Emily Byers, a senior policy analyst for Bread for the World, a Christian anti-hunger lobby.

“The minimum benefit is $10 a month and this bill increases that,” Byers said. “It excludes certain types of savings [such as retirement savings when people are calculating eligibility]; right now, you sort of have to be able to spend down all of your savings [before qualifying for food stamps]. You can still save for retirement and get food stamps, according to Emily Byers, a senior policy analyst for Bread for the World, a Christian anti-hunger lobby.

The average $21 weekly food stamp benefit level, the focus of the Food Stamp Challenge, should increase as well, she noted.

Byers said the bill also extends food stamp eligibility to adult legal immigrants who have been in the United States for less than five years. In the 1996 welfare overhaul, Congress instituted a five-year waiting period for food stamp eligibility to all immigrants, she added.

“Even if you did everything by the book, you had to wait five years,” Byers said. “Children were reinitiated a few years ago, but adults still have to wait five years.”

The Feeding America’s Families Act is so new that even some of its most likely allies haven’t signed on yet.

“We’ve told Rep. McGovern [one of 35 co-sponsors] that we’re supportive and we’re writing him a letter telling him we are, but we haven’t sent it yet,” said Debbie Weinstein, executive director of the Coalition on Human Needs, an alliance of national organizations promoting policies to assist low-income and other vulnerable people.

At a May 22 “children’s summit” hosted by House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., and attended by Weinstein, participants heard an address by Dr. Deborah A. Frank, a pediatrics professor at Boston University’s School of Medicine, that “described food stamp as medicine. Children need to have the proper dose. And Pelosi Pelosi was listening intently, and I think moved by the craving need for children to have the right nutrition.”

Despite a week on, peanut butter, cornmeal and cottage cheese, Ryan said the Food Stamp Challenge was “a wonderful experience. I enjoyed it so much. It was a

him to help power the Vatican’s energy needs with renewable resources.

He recalled how, in his 2007 World Day of Peace message, Pope Benedict warned of “the increasingly serious problem of energy supplies” that was leading to “an unprecedented race” for the earth’s resources.

Cuscianna also found inspiration from Pope John Paul II’s 1990 peace message, dedicated in its entirety to "serious problem of energy supplies" that was leading to "an unprecedented race" for the earth’s resources.

…

...
Brotherly love
Valedictorian, sibling with Down syndrome have special bond

By John Shaughnessy

The relationship between brothers as they grow up can often be a delicate balance between being close friends and coming close to being bitter rivals.

For the older brother, there’s often the challenge of paving the way and setting the standard.

For the younger brother, there’s often the challenge of following in footsteps and striving to measure up to the standard that has already been set.

Then there’s the story of Robbie and Tommy Steiner, two high school students who offer a touching twist to the story of how brothers sometimes interact.

As the older brother, 19-year-old Robbie has set the gold standard in his recently completed four years as a student at Our Lady of Providence Jr./Sr. High School in Clarksville.

He was co-valedictorian of the Class of 2007, sharing the recognition as top academic student with fellow senior Kristin Mooney. He was also the president of the Student Council, a member of Students Against Drunk Driving, an actor in the theater program, and a swimmer and diver on the school swim team.

Yet when school officials talk about Robbie, they also make sure to note his relationship with his younger brother, Tommy, a 16-year-old freshman at Providence.

“Tommy has Down syndrome,” says Robbie. “I’m excited to see him in the hallways having a great time. This year, we were both on the swim team at Providence. That was cool because we had never been on a team or in an extra-curricular activity together. That was fun to share.”

This summer, the brothers will also share time together at the national convention of the Down Syndrome Congress in Kansas City, Mo., in August.

Robbie will lead a conference workshop for young people whose siblings have Down syndrome. He has also been active in the Down Syndrome Support Association of Southern Indiana, a group the boys’ mother started.

“She has a mutual respect and admiration,” says their mother, Ann. “Robbie is an actor, and Tommy is his biggest fan. There’s no sibling rivalry. They just both think a lot of each other.”

As co-valedictorians, Robbie and Kristin shared a speech when their class graduated.

“We’re very close [and] we spend a lot of time together,” Robbie says. “He’s my inspiration in life. He’s taught me a lot about acceptance and patience. He’s very motivated to achieve goals, which gives me motivation, too. He’s excited about what he accomplishes, even if it’s the little things. It helps me keep in perspective that life is about the little things, not the big things.”

The two children of Ann and Bob Steiner have enjoyed being at Providence together.

“The freshman year has been the best year of Tommy’s life,” says Robbie, whose family belongs to Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish in New Albany. “I’m excited to see him in the hallways having a great time.

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As co-valedictorians, Robbie and Kristin shared a speech when their class graduated on May 26, a speech that focused on the future and how Providence has prepared its 2007 graduates for that reality.

For Robbie, the future includes attending Indiana University in Bloomington, which means he and Tommy won’t share the same school or the same house starting in late August.

“It will be a challenge,” Robbie says. “I’ll have to play it by ear. It will be hard for Tommy and me. Luckily, I won’t be too far away.”

The brothers plan on staying close.

St. Vincent de Paul Society

“Estate” Sale

A Fund Raising Event

Wednesday, June 6, 2007
8:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Thursday, June 7, 2007
8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

GREAT selection of furniture, antiques, glassware, crystal, beautiful collectibles

Bring this Ad in and receive 10% discount on purchase

SVdP Center • 1201 E. Maryland St. • Indpls. (Southeastern Ave. to Leota St., one block south)

Marriage Supplement

Marriage ANNOUNCEMENTS

July 20, 2007, issue of The Criterion

If you are planning your wedding between July 1, 2007, and February 1, 2008, we invite you to submit the information for an announcement on the form below.

Pictures

You may send us a picture of the couple. Please do not cut the photograph. The picture must be wallet-size and will be used as space permits. We cannot guarantee the reproduction quality of the photos. Please put name(s) on the back of the photo. Photos will be returned if a stamped, self-addressed envelope is enclosed.

Deadline

All announcements and photos must be received by 10 a.m. Thursday, June 28, 2007. (No announcements or photos will be accepted after this date.) All announcements without photos must be received by the same date.

Use this form to furnish information —

Clip and mail to: ATTN: BRIDES, The Criterion, P.O. Box 1717, Indianapolis, IN 46206

Deadline: Thursday, June 28, 2007, 10 a.m.

Enter only as shown.

FEE ENCLOSED

BRIDE First Middle Last

GROOM First Middle Last

Wedding Date Church City State

Bride’s Parents

Mailing Address City State Zip Code

Bride’s Father:

Bride’s Mother:

BRIDE First Middle Last Daytime Phone

GROOM First Middle Last Daytime Phone

Signature of person furnishing information     Relationship Daytime Phone

The Criterion  Friday, June 1, 2007
The Criterion  Friday, June 1, 2007

**Editorial**

Most Rev. Daniel M. Buechlein, O.S.B., Publisher
Greg A. Otolski, Associate Publisher
Mike Krokos, Editor
John F. Fink, Editor Emeritus

**A snapshot of the Class of 2007**

Their average age is 35 this year. The youngest is 25 and the oldest is 68. One-third of this year’s class was born in another country, primarily Vietnam, Mexico, Poland or the Philippines. More than 60 percent completed college and had full-time work experience—mostly in education—before embarking on their latest chapter in life. What group is represented by this snapshot of statistics? It’s the Church’s national ordination class of 2007. The figures also show 475 priests expected to be ordained in the United States this year. Thanks to the Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate at Georgetown University, these facts and figures give us a sense of the lives led by the men who have been or will be ordained in the coming weeks to serve our Church family as God’s newest priests. What we can glean from the national statistics is the personal vocation journey of each individual surveyed. How many were influenced by family, friends or others in ordained ministry to consider the priesthood? How many considered a vocation at a young age? Which individuals sensed a call to serve the Church later in life? While each individual’s story is no doubt different, we believe a closer look at the Class of 2007 would reveal some commonalities, including a moment or two where God’s Providence played a role in each man’s discernment process.

Fortunately, in the past three issues of The Criterion, we’ve been able to do just that by sharing the respective faith journeys of deacons Thomas Kovatch, Eric Nagel and Randall Summers to the priesthood at 10 a.m. on June 2 at SS. Peter and Paul Cathedral in Indianapolis. Archbishop Daniel M. Buechlein will ordain deacons Thomas Kovatch, Eric Nagel and Randall Summers to the priesthood at 10 a.m. on June 2 at SS. Peter and Paul Cathedral.

While their approaching ordination day brings them much joy, the soon-to-be priests also know challenges await them in their new ministries.

**Letters to the Editor**

**Thanks for Catholic Campaign for Human Development contributions**

I wish to acknowledge with deep gratitude your archdiocesan contribution from the 2006 Appeal for the Catholic Campaign for Human Development.

In his first encyclical, Pope Benedict XVI defines clearly a vision for a just society which includes eliminating poverty and protecting human dignity. He writes, “...within the community of believers there can never be room for a poverty that denies anything what is necessary for a dignified life” (“Deus Caritas Est,” #20). Your recent contribution of $99,967 from your 2006 Catholic Campaign for Human Development (CCHD) collection will make a real difference in our efforts to break the cycle of poverty in America. Thank you very much for this generous support.

Last year, CCHD was able to receive nearly $9 million to community organizing and economic development projects in 47 states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico. The projects are planned and managed by local groups who are working for affordable housing, living wages, accessible health care, improved schools and access to social services. Your leadership and the faithful and committed service of David Siler, your diocesan director, are sources of great encouragement to all of us.

Timothy F. Collins
Catholic Campaign for Human Development executive director

**Letters Policy**

Letters from readers are welcome and every effort is made to publish those from as many people and representing as many viewpoints as possible. Letters should be brief, relevant, well-expressed and temperate in tone. They must reflect a basic sense of courtesy and respect.

The editors reserve the right to select the letters that will be published and to edit letters from readers as necessary based on space limitations, pastorial sensitivity and content (including spelling and grammar). In order to encourage opinions from a variety of readers, frequent contributors may be limited to one letter every three months. Concise letters (usually less than 300 words) are more likely to be printed.

Letters must be signed, but, for serious reasons, names may be withheld.

Send letters to “Letters to the Editor,” The Criterion, P.O. Box 1717, Indianapolis, IN 46206-1717.

Readers with access to e-mail may send letters to criterion@archindy.org.
La Iglesia y la Eucaristía no pueden existir sin la pr Esenc a de ambas.

(Tercer de la serie)

El Papa Benedicto XVI dedicó una sección de su exhortación apostólica "Sacramentum Caritatis" ("El Sacramentum de la caridad") a la relación que existe entre la Iglesia y la Eucaristía.

El Papa Benedicto escribió: "Esta relación íntima de la Eucaristía con otros sacramentos, y con la existencia cristiana se comprende en su raíz cuando la Iglesia como sacramento—a signo y instrumento—of the unity of all people' (no. 16). The criterion of the Holy Spirit, 'she is the sacrament of Trinitarian communion' (no. 16). As the universal sacrament of salvation, "the Church receives and at the same time expresses what she herself is in the seven sacraments, thanks to which God’s grace concretely influences the life of the faithful, so that their whole existence, redeemed by Christ, can become an act of worship pleasing to God" (no. 16).

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Events Calendar

June 1
University of Notre Dame: Notre Dame. Catholic Divine Mercy Ministry, “The North American Conference of Separated and Divorced Catholics” - pre-conference July 2-5, International Conference July 5-7. Reservations due June 1. 574-631-6691 or e-mail ccdind@nd.edu.

June 3-13
St. Therese of the Infant Jesus (Little Flower) Parish, 1401 N. Bosart Ave., Indianapolis, Sun.-Thurs., 5-11 p.m., Sat. 3-11 p.m., Sun. 11:30 a.m.-5 p.m., rides, games, food, entertainment. Information: 317-357-8352.

June 6

Our Lady of the Most Holy Rosary Parish, 520 Stevens St., Indianapolis. CYAN meeting, 6-8 p.m., St. Sarah, special guest, 10 a.m.-noon.

June 8
St. John the Evangelist Church, 1201 E. 30th St., Indianapolis. “Apologetics for Youth,” 1-3 p.m. Information: 317-537-3546.

June 9

Our Lady of the Most Holy Rosary Church, 2520 Stevens St., Indianapolis. “Apologetics for Youth” Wednesday Mass, 6:30 p.m. Information: 317-638-5551.

June 10
St. John the Evangelist Church, 1201 E. 30th St., Indianapolis. A telephone number to be contacted by a member of the prayer group. Prayer line: 317-767-6479.


June 11
St. John the Evangelist Church, 1201 E. 30th St., Indianapolis. “Apologetics for Youth,” 1-3 p.m. Information: 317-537-3546.

June 14-16
Apologetics for Youth, 1-3 p.m. Information: 317-537-3546.
Seminary to sponsor retreat, welcome new vice rector

By Sean Gallagher

For years now, many people in the archdiocese have worked to build up what Pope John Paul II called a “culture of vocations,” an atmosphere where being a priest, sister or brother was seen as a real possibility, and a good one at that, by young people and their families. Now those efforts seem to be paying off, according to Father Robert Robeson, rector of the Bishop Simon Bruté College Seminary at Mary Immaculate College in Indianapolis.

One sign is that three weeks before the registration deadline, there were already more young men signed up for this year’s Bishop Bruté Days than there were for last year’s retreat and camping experience. However, there are still slots available. Boys ages 13-17 can sign up by June 6 for the event that will take place June 16 at the Bradford Woods Retreat Center near Martinsville.

Bishop Bruté Days is designed to strengthen young men in their faith, build up their virtues, and open their hearts and minds to the possibility that God may be calling them to a priestly or religious vocation. Having fun through athletic activities, canoeing, swimming and campfires is also part of the experience.

Last year’s 16 participants came from several deaneries throughout the archdiocese. Father Robeson thinks an event like Bishop Bruté Days can help young men who are open to the priesthood to feel connected.

“It makes them feel not so isolated, not so unusual,” he said. “It kind of makes the possibility of being a priest more attractive. It normalizes it.”

Half of those who came to last year’s Bishop Bruté Days are signed up for this year’s retreat.

One participant, Alex Wilson, a member of St. Louis Parish in Batesville, said of the first retreat. “These past days here in Bradford Woods have increased my love of the faith. I got to meet a lot of good, young Catholic boys, like myself, and also got to have fun with the seminarians.”

Ten seminarians from Bishop Bruté Simon College Seminary and Saint Meinrad School of Theology in St. Meinrad will help lead the retreat.

Several archdiocesan priests will give presentations, celebrate Mass and be available for confession.

Included among them will be two of the archdiocese’s newest priests, deacons Thomas Kovatch and Eric Nagel, who will be ordained to the priesthood with Deacon Randall Summers on June 2 at SS. Peter and Paul Cathedral in Indianapolis. While Father Robeson is busy preparing for Bishop Bruté Days, he’s also looking forward to ministering with Father Paul Etienne, who will become Bishop Simon Bruté College Seminary’s vice rector on July 3.

“Father Etienne has a deep faith in the Church, a deep love for Christ and a deep commitment to the Church,” said Father Robeson. “At the same time, he’s very easy to connect with, a very approachable, kind and compassionate guy.”

Father Etienne was ordained a priest in 1992 and served as the archdiocese’s vocations director from 1995-98. He has served on the Bishop Simon Bruté College Seminary’s Policy Board since the seminary was established in 2004.

“I am very excited about helping with priestly formation,” said Father Etienne, who has been pastor of Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish in New Albany for nine years.

“I just have a great love for the Church, and a great love for the priesthood. And I’m glad to have an opportunity to share that with guys that are thinking about that same walk of life.”

In addition to serving as the college seminary’s vice rector, Father Etienne will be the pastor of St. Simon the Apostle Parish in Indianapolis. Although he’ll have a lot of duties to juggle, he thinks the two positions can benefit each other.

“I think my work in the parish as a pastor is certainly going to impact the experience that I bring to the formation of, hopefully, future priests,” he said. “But also, I know that the reading and the formation I’m doing around the priesthood is going to strengthen me in the role that I’m performing in the parish as well.”

Although Father Etienne’s duties at the college seminary haven’t been established, he will be working in the “external forum” with the seminarians, which is separate from the formation they receive from spiritual directors and confessors.

Father Robeson foresees Father Etienne helping him deepen the priestly formation that goes on at the college seminary.

That will become more necessary as additional seminarians at Bishop Bruté start filling up all four years of the college’s formation cycle and more dioceses send their seminarians there.

Father Robeson said that for the 2007-08 academic year, there could be as many as 20 seminarians from as many as five dioceses studying at the Bishop Simon Bruté College Seminary.

(Those interested in registering for this year’s Bishop Bruté Days should contact Father Robeson at 317-955-6126 or at robeson@archindy.org. There is a $40 registration fee for the retreat.)

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Grady Gaynor, a member of Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish in Carmel, Ind., in the Lafayette Diocese, receives Communion from Father Robert Hausladen on June 15, 2006, during the first Bishop Bruté Days held at Bradford Woods Retreat Center near Martinsville.
NAGEL continued from page 1

The people of God are so amazing, and I can’t wait to learn from them.”

His June 2 ordination is a reminder of the parish retreat in high school when a young priest asked him if he had thought about the priesthood. That question stayed with him after he graduated from Rensselaer Central High School in 1983, served a year as state president of Future Farmers of America then earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Agricultural Education at Purdue University in West Lafayette, Ind., in 1988.

He worked as a high school teacher, in youth leadership development then as an FFA administrator before beginning his seminary studies at Saint Meinrad School of Theology in St. Meinrad in 2002. He was ordained a transitional deacon by Archbishop Buechlein on Oct. 28, 2006, at Saint Meinrad Archabbey Church.

Deacon Nagel describes himself as “a farm kid at heart” who loved to play outside and raised hogs to pay for college. He credits his family, his devotion to Jesus and Mary, and his admiration for the late Pope John Paul II for his vocation.

“Our Lady has been so important in my vocation, my calling and my faith formation over the years,” he said. “That started when I was a kid. It’s a great blessing for families to pray together.

“The first memory I have of my Grandmother Nagel is her teaching me to pray the rosary, she said. “I remember sitting on her lap. My Mom’s mother, Grandma Kerber, also prayed the rosary regularly as did my parents. I remember a young man being involved with the Knights of Columbus. My father was active in the Knights and—being invited to come to their meetings and eventually becoming a member—I was always moved by the prayer of the rosary that the Knights would pray together as men.

“From learning it from my grandmother to seeing that beautiful prayer witnessed by men brought it full circle to me that Our Lady guides us and brings us to her Son,” he said. “All my life I’ve had that beautiful relationship with Mary.

“Definitely when my grandmother passed away they said she had her rosary beads in her hand,” he recalled. “At the funeral, my father gave her rosary beads, and that was one of the most special gifts anyone could ever give me short of the faith that came with it. That devotion has carried me through so many tough times.”

As a young adult, he wasn’t always faithful to regular prayer and Mass, but always carried his rosary beads in his pocket.

“When I was frustrated or sometimes in times of joy, I would pick up the rosary and pray it while I was driving so that was always the thread for me,” he said. “I think Mary watched after me through the good times and the bad, and eventually helped me to come back full circle [to his faith].”

His father, Gerald, who died in 1997, also talked with him about the priesthood.

“I was shocked and said, ‘Dad, I’m not even going to Mass regularly,’” he recalled. “‘His response was ‘God has certainly worked greater miracles than that.’…. My parents trusted that the seed was planted and God would do the rest.

“God is so faithful,” he said. “He never lets you down. He’s so persistent, and he was being patient with me all this time.”

“My Mom has always been a model of steadfast faith and a prayer warrior for our family and countless others,” he said. “She is the glue for our family all being together and practicing the Catholic faith.”

St. Augustine parishioner Rita Ann Nagel of Rensselaer is thrilled that God has called one of his nine sons to the priesthood. She said her late husband would be so happy that one of their nine children said yes to God.

“It’s very overwhelming and very humbling to think that God has chosen one of our children to serve him,” she said. “You think, ‘How did this happen to our family?’ I guess God chooses those he wants.”

Her husband was a wonderful father and Christian role model, she said. “He and Richard were very, very close. Rick is feeling his absence physically, but he says, ‘Mom, I feel Dad with me through all this.’”

She said the loss of his father and surviving two car accidents “deepened his convictions that he wanted to be a priest and that God was calling him.”

During his seminary years, she said, ministry immersion trips to Haiti and Guatemala as well as pilgrimages to the Marian shrine in Medjugorje, Yugoslavia, and to international World Youth Days with Pope John Paul II and Pope Benedict XVII strengthened his faith and his desire to serve the people of God.

“I think he was very, very touched with World Youth Day and Pope John Paul’s message,” she said, “and I think Medjugorje was a wonderful experience for him. One of the young men that he met there—and helped carry to the top of the mountain—is coming to the ordination from the United Kingdom. It’s amazing to me that the man would come all this way.”

Holy Trinity parishioners in Edinburgh, her son’s parish, are hosting Francis McDermott, who relies on a wheelchair.

All the members of the large Nagel family will attend the ordination Mass, she said, except for a grandson who is serving in Iraq and will be remembered in prayer by relatives during the liturgy.

Father James Bonke, defender of the bond for the archdiocesan Metropolitan Tribunal and part-time associate pastor of Christ the King Parish in Indianapolis, has served as one of his priest mentors.

“Rick is genuine, he has integrity, he loves people, and he’s truly looking forward to being a priest,” Father Bonke said. “He loves the Church, he loves the priesthood and he has a deep spirituality. Rick has been in my prayers often throughout these past four years. … I’m looking forward to him joining the presbyterate of the archdiocese.”

Longtime friend John Demerly, a member of St. Susanna Parish in Plainfield, said, “one of Rick’s greatest gifts is his ability to quickly connect with anyone, including the elderly, the middle-aged and young children, giving them and helping them. He’s a spiritual guy, … an example of Christ. I think as a priest he’s going to make sure he plants the seeds of vocations in young people.”

(A profile of Deacon Thomas Kovatch was published in the May 25 issue of The Criterion. A profile of Deacon Randall Summers appeared in the May 18 issue. They can be read at www.CriterionOnline.com.)
by Mary Ann Wyand

Trust in God’s loving Providence carried St. Theodora Guérin through the trials of daily life in the wilderness of west-central Indiana from 1840 until her death in 1856. So it was fitting that the Gospel reading from Luke during the Indianapolis East Deanery Mass of Thanksgiving for St. Theodora served as a reminder that dependence on God helps people cope with life’s adversities.

“Where your treasure is, there also will your heart be” (Lk 12:34), part of the Gospel reading, provides insight into how St. Theodora was able to leave her home in France and courageously travel across the ocean to serve God and his people. By putting God first, she was able to face an uncertain future in an unknown land with Providence sisters to found Saint Mary-of-the-Woods.

Archbishop Daniel M. Buechlein was the principal celebrant for the East Deanery Mass on May 23 at Holy Spirit Church in Indianapolis, which was offered in thanksgiving for St. Theodora’s life and ministry.

“We also seek her intercessions for the needs of our archdiocese,” the archbishop told Catholics during the bilingual liturgy.

“It was a very solemn Mass,” Holy Spirit parishioner Juan Fuentes of Indianapolis said after the liturgy as he and his wife, Linda, read a St. Theodora holy card printed in Spanish.

“We’re very grateful for being invited to it,” he said. “We’re loving that they’re having the two languages used in the Mass. The bilingual Mass is really nice. You get to know a little bit of our culture and we get to know a little bit of yours, and it’s praise to us.”

Lindsay, read a St. Theodora holy card printed in Spanish.

Fuentes of Indianapolis said after the liturgy as he and his wife, Linda, read a St. Theodora holy card printed in Spanish.

“It’s remarkably that she was able to survive on the frontier like she did and make the best of it, and also to build a college and a lot of grade schools.”

During her years in Indiana, St. Theodora “was ill and had some rough times,” he said. “It was interesting reading a little bit about her life [in The Criterion] when she was canonized.”

Father Joseph Redman, pastor of Holy Spirit Parish and dean of the Indianapolis East Deanery, said he enjoyed concelebrating the bilingual Mass with the archbishop and so many other priests.

He said the archbishop “gave us the opportunity to be a part of acknowledging in our lives the necessity of looking to the virtues of those who have gone before us, and have been declared by the Church as having those virtues worthy of living in our own lives.”

Father Redman said he appreciates St. Theodora’s “perseverance at living God’s will and doing that in Indiana, which was really the hinterlands.”

Music ministers Tom Costello and Teresa Eckrich sing the responsorial song during the Indianapolis East Deanery Mass of Thanksgiving for St. Theodora Guérin on May 23 at Holy Spirit Church in Indianapolis. Costello is the business manager at St. Therese of the Infant Jesus (Little Flower) Parish in Indianapolis and Eckrich is the music director there.

Archbishop Daniel M. Buechlein was the principal celebrant during the bilingual Mass of Thanksgiving for St. Theodora on May 23 at Holy Spirit Church.

Representatives of the 12 Indianapolis East Deanery parishes participated in the liturgy.

Concelebrating the Mass with Archbishop Buechlein were many priests.

“Father Riedman said he appreciates St. Theodora’s “perseverance at living God’s will and doing that in Indiana, which was really the hinterlands.”

Jeff Ellenberger of New Palestine kisses his son, Nathan, while his daughter, Claire, kneels beside them during the Mass of Thanksgiving for St. Theodora. Jeff and Patricia Ellenberger and their five children are members of St. Michael Parish in Greenfield.

Holy Spirit parishioner Michelle Catalina Gámez of Indianapolis looks at the words of the entrance song during the Mass of Thanksgiving for St. Theodora Guérin on May 23 at Holy Spirit Church in Indianapolis.
Lessons for a Christian life.
That's the goal of A Promise to Keep: God's Gift of Human Sexuality, the archdiocese’s 13-year-old volunteer peer mentor chastity program.

Archbishop Daniel M. Buechlein thanked several hundred high school students from central and southern Indiana for their help with abstinence education at Catholic grade schools and parish religious education programs during an April 27 luncheon at the Archbishop O’Meara Catholic Center in Indianapolis.

The archbishop told the teenage peer mentors how important it is to live out the values and virtues of Church teachings and model them to others.

Oldenburg Academy junior Steven Hammoor of West Harrison, a member of Holy Guardian Angels Parish in Cedar Grove, took a historical look at sin in his luncheon speech.

“From the beginning of time, we have been shaped by sin,” Steven said, “and perhaps that’s the reason that we are all here today, the reason we are sharing this meal together and the reason that we make up this piece of the Body of Christ. We are fighting the spread of a disease as ancient as humankind.

“In our fight, we are a part of A Promise to Keep,” he said. “We are promoting good values by turning away from sin and encouraging others to find the peace within them that comes from being a part of the Body of Christ.”

Father Thomas Seccema Memorial High School junior Anna Frick, a member of Holy Spirit Parish in Indianapolis, told the teenagers she takes to heart St. John Bosco’s words that, “Purity is a precious jewel, and the owner of a precious stone would never dream of making a display of his riches in the presence of thieves.”

The saint’s words remind her of “why abstinence is so sacred and essential to me as a human being,” Anna said. “The looks on the children’s faces are enough for me to want to be a mentor, and also the fact that teaching them makes them and me closer to God.”

After his opening prayer, Father Jonathan Meyer, director of youth ministry for the archdiocese and associate pastor of St. Luke the Apostle Parish in Indianapolis, emphasized how important it is for Catholics to live out the Gospel messages as youths and adults.

Marquisha Bridgeman, faith-based coordinator for Indianapolis Mayor Bart Peterson, presented a proclamation honoring the A Promise to Keep program for exceptional community service to Margaret Hendricks, who coordinates the chastity program for the archdiocesan Office of Catholic Education.

Bridgeman, who attended St. Andrew the Apostle School and graduated from Cathedral High School in Indianapolis, also thanked the teenagers for making the decision to abstain from sex until marriage and their willingness to share that important message with grade school students.

“What they’ve decided to do by serving as mentors and in their individual decisions is so important,” she said after the luncheon, “and it has such an impact not only on their lives, but also on the lives of others who hear that [abstinence] message.”
Faith Alive!

Catholicism is world’s most multicultural institution

By Brian M. Kane

Among my earliest memories of being Catholic are those of my family standing together in my small parish church in New Windsor, N.Y., reciting the Apostles Creed or the Nicene Creed. Almost everyone in our parish was alike. We were Irish with some Italians and occasionally a Polish Catholic or two. There was a comfort in being with familiar faces and practices. We were united, we were one, as a faith community.

As I grew older, my horizons expanded and I came to know Catholics from other cultures. Over the past 40 or so years, I have heard the creed recited in many different languages. As a theologian, I have been privileged to join with Catholic communities throughout the United States and the world to celebrate Mass. The same liturgy and creed are proclaimed in Bangalore, India, and the Crown Heights section of Brooklyn, N.Y., as well as Tulsa, Okla., and Rome, Italy, and countless other places in the world.

I have come to appreciate that while diversity and unity may appear to be polar opposites, they are partners. Diversity alone eventually becomes solitary and lonely as individuality and uniqueness become ever more themselves. Unity by itself results in uniformity. Together, however, diversity and unity complement one another because they are two sides of the same coin. This is particularly true of the unity amid the diversity in the Church.

In an age that has only begun to discover the diversity of the world, the Catholic Church stands out as the most international and multicultural institution the world has ever known. Catholics profess belief in “one holy, catholic and apostolic Church.” These signs help us to understand the connection between the diversity and unity that characterize the Church.

Faith itself is a gift from God. Through the Church, through us, God constantly proclaims this truth in history. This is what we mean when we say that the Church is “holy.”

Holiness is witnessing to this truth. Oneness and holiness work hand in hand.

“It is nothing extraordinary to be holy,” Mother Teresa wrote in the last reflection before her death 10 years ago.

“Holiness is not the luxury of the few,” she wrote. “Holiness is a simple duty for you and for me. We have been created for that.”

Each of us is called to be a witness, to be a disciple, to be holy.

In Greek, the word “catholic” means “universal.” Christianity is a global faith present in every culture in the world. Many American Catholics are unaware of the many forms of liturgy and disciplines that exist throughout the Church. Eastern-rite Catholics, like those from the Maronite and Ukranian Catholic communities, for example, maintain different spiritual, liturgical, and canonical traditions from Latin-rite Catholics, but all profess the same faith.

Catholics also profess that our faith community is “apostolic.” In the early centuries as the Church grew, it was inevitable that conflicts would arise. When that happened, Christians would return to the teachings and the authority of the Apostles and their successors as a way of resolving those problems. They followed the advice given by one of the earliest Christian writers, Ignatius of Antioch, an early bishop and martyr. Ignatius wrote letters to the Churches he had founded as he was being brought to Rome to die in the Coliseum. In those writings, he exhorted believers to be unified in their faith. He stated that this was to be accomplished through unity with the bishop, a successor of the Apostles.

In the celebration of the Eucharist with the bishop, the community connected itself with the Apostles. In approaching the altar, it left all of its divisions behind. Even today, we continue to make this connection explicit. During Holy Week, usually on Holy Thursday, in every diocese throughout the world, the bishop celebrates a chrism Mass where he blesses the oils that will be used in every parish in his diocese to baptize, confirm and heal the sick.

The chrism is sent out to each parish church as a sign of the unity of that parish community with the bishop who stands with the Apostles. From its very origins, the Church has celebrated diversity.

At Pentecost, the Apostles preached the Gospel in Jerusalem to people from many different nations and everyone heard it in their own language. Those who accepted the Gospel became unified (Acts 2:8).

St. Paul wrote: “For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; for the same Lord is Lord of all” (Rom 10:12). He didn’t mean that there were literally no longer Jews and Greeks, slave or freeman, male or female, but that the distinctions ceased to be significant in the oneness, the unity of faith.

(Brian Kane is associate professor of moral theology and chairperson of the department of philosophy and theology at DeSales University in Center Valley, Pa.)

God calls us to unity in diversity

By Edmond Brosnan

In their 2000 statement “Welcoming the Stranger Among Us: Unity in Diversity,” the U.S. bishops expressed this connection explicit. During Holy Week, usually on Holy Thursday, in every diocese throughout the world, the bishop celebrates a chrism Mass where he blesses the oils that will be used in every parish in his diocese to baptize, confirm and heal the sick.

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(Brian Kane is associate professor of moral theology and chairperson of the department of philosophy and theology at DeSales University in Center Valley, Pa.)

Discussion Point

Diocese and parish embrace cultures

This Week’s Question

How does your diocese serve, welcome and make a place for its diverse cultural groups?

“The Archdiocese of Indianapolis has a Hispanic Life Department,” the Archdiocese’s Hispanic Life coordinator Camille Stoeckinger said. “My work is to show the universality of the Church.”

“We go to Spanish Masses at other churches and help with transportation or any way we can. ... That’s what being a Roman Catholic is about—loving your neighbor as yourself.”

“Both on parish and diocesan levels,” said Waltermann, Richmond, Ind. “The Archdiocese of Indianapolis has a Hispanic Life Department,” the Archdiocese’s Hispanic Life coordinator Camille Stoeckinger said. “My work is to show the universality of the Church.”

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Helpful words of wisdom for newlyweds

According to the Rogers and Hammer-stein song from “Cinderella,” “It’s butting out all over....”

Weddings are “butting out” a lot, too. It is estimated that 10.8 percent of all weddings occur this month.

The next most popular month for weddings is August at 10.2 percent. The month with the least weddings is February at 4.7 percent.

So, we are now into the month when more newlyweds are starting their lives together at any other time of the year. That is why this week’s “Faithful Lines” highlights couple of all ages.

“Dear God, grant that I and my spouse may have a true and understanding love for each other. Grant that we may both be filled with faith and trust. Give us the grace to live with each other in peace and harmony. May we always hear each other’s weaknesses and grow from each other’s strengths. Help us to forgive each other’s failings and grant us mercy, kindness and gentleness and the spirit of placing the well-being of each other ahead of self. May the love that brought us together continue to grow and shine with each passing year. Bring us both very closer to You through our love for each other. Let our love grow perfectly. Amen.”

If I had this prayer when Paul and I got married, I would have insisted that it be shared at our Mass. However, I only recently read it in a book titled To Have and To Hold: Poems, Blessings, and Wishes for Newlyweds.

Candidly, this collection comes from the same woman, June Cotner, who produced两个人。“The Dark Side of Love.”

In addition to vegetables and fruits, the family membered turkeys used are called “heritage breeds” rather than the commercially popular varieties more conducive for fast production and fast growth. The results were delicious and challenging, including allowing the birds to run free and providing them food for their own consumption. This leads not only to better nutrition in our food, but also to fresher, more nutritious food.

The book’s argument also sounds sensible to me in its discussions of the food chain and the eating of meat. In nature, one animal eats another to survive and thrive, and so on up the chain to humans, who domesticate animals just for that purpose. This not or unnecessary, but a natural way to gain protein.

In relation to this, Kingsolver noted that many people today have no knowledge of where food comes from, and are ignorant of the most common food chains. In nature, one animal eats another to survive and thrive, and so on up the chain to humans, who domesticate animals just for that purpose. This is not cruel or unnecessary, but a natural way to gain protein.

In contrast, the book’s argument also sounds sensible to me in its discussions of the food chain and the eating of meat. In nature, one animal eats another to survive and thrive, and so on up the chain to humans, who domesticate animals just for that purpose. This not or unnecessary, but a natural way to gain protein.

“O, what is so rare as a day in June, when the lily’s in its prime? O, what is so rare as a day in June, when the lily’s in its prime?”

Faithful Hope, and Charity

Adoption: A choice we can all live with

Babies are often not conceived under the best of circumstances. For whatever reason, whether the baby is the new child or the mother and father and the child are not receiving the best of care, an unintended pregnancy, parents essentially have two choices—abortion, to become parents, or to choose another parent to raise the child.

One of our Catholic Charities agencies in the Archdiocese of Indianapolis, St. Elizabeth/Coleman Pregnancy and Adoption Services in Indianapolis and St. Elizabeth—Catholic Charities in New Albany, are dedicated to the very help of ensuring that all life be possible for children and families. To this end, the value of adoption as a choice for a parent is clear. Currently in the United States, of all unmarried women who give birth, more than 90 percent choose only about 2 percent choose adoption!

Our experience at our two St. Elizabeth’s agencies is that one of the major factors in this low rate of adoption is the lack of awareness of the many different options available. Many people still have an outdated notion that parents choosing adoption have little control over the life they choose for their child. The fact is adoption laws have changed considerably since the 1970s. Today, expectant parents have the ability to not only choose the couple to adopt their child, but to even choose to meet and interview the prospective parents. The parents placing the child have the right to choose the adoptive parents, and even the birth mother can maintain an ongoing relationship with his or her child by letter and/or e-mail correspondence (called semi-open adoption) or even meet face to face at periodic intervals (open adoption).

These changes to the field of adoption have empowered biological parents to make more choices about the life that the child will live. Adoption helps to keep families together. However, once that child is conceived, we may not approve of the circumstances but we still need to love and care for the child. Birthparents love their child and purposely choose adoption to serve the best interests of their child. At any given time at our two agencies, dozens of married couples who are not able to have their own family, or who would prefer to adopt await the chance to become a family by adopting a child born to another mother or father.

Abortion is simply not an option. In pro-life language, being pro-choice is not acceptable. Abortion is a contradiction of any concern for the life of a child. Just because a woman and a man conceive a child does not necessarily mean they are using contraception.

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To learn more about these two pro-life agencies, log on to www.CatholicCharitiesIndy.org

David Siler is executive director of the Network for Catholic Charities and Family Ministries. E-mail him at dsiler@archindy.org
Trinity Sunday/Mgr. Owen F. Campion

The Sunday Readings
Sunday, June 3, 2007

• Proverbs 8:22-31
• Romans 5:1-5
• John 16:12-15

The Church celebrates Trinity Sunday this weekend, and it uses the celebration to teach us about the Holy Trinity, the mystery of three Persons in one God.

For its first reading, the Church offers us a passage from the Book of Proverbs that is one of a series of books in the Old Testament called the Wisdom Literature.

The purpose behind the writing of all these books was to reassure pious Jews that their belief in majestic God was not in the least contrary to sound human reasoning. This reading reveals the essential link between God and the quality of wisdom. Wisdom is of God. “The Lord begot me,” Wisdom declares in the reading. “From of old,” it continues to say, “I was poured out upon the earth.”

We cannot be wise unless we partake in the divine Wisdom. In short, we cannot understand life without this wisdom.

The Epistle to the Romans furnishes the second reading. As so often appears in the writings of the Apostle Paul, the reality of Jesus and of life in Jesus are majestically presented. Through the Lord Jesus, and through the sacrifice accomplished by Jesus in the Incarnation and in the Redemption, humans are at peace with God.

God’s love comes to us through the Holy Spirit. This statement affirms the Spirit’s divine identity. Love is dynamic. It is not a commodity. Love is something essential to the lover. It is not an item to be handed on.

St. John’s Gospel provides the last reading. As is typical of all the parts of the Fourth Gospel, the reading literally grows with eloquence and grace. This passage is a direct quotation from Jesus. In it, the Lord powerfully reassures the Apostles that the Holy Spirit will come to strengthen and empower them.

“He will guide you with all truth,” the Lord tells the Twelve.

So the reading establishes the place of the Apostles in the unfolding of salvation. It testifies to the esteem in which the Church holds the Apostles—and their successors—today.

The reading also reveals the Trinity, albeit obliquely. The Holy Spirit will convey God’s truth to the Apostles. As with love, truth is not a commodity. It is an awareness of what actually is. It is a frank look at reality. Only the wisest, namely God, possesses this unobstructed view of reality.

Finally, the reading reveals the place of the Lord Jesus. The Holy Spirit of God will give glory to God in the bestowal of divine wisdom upon the Apostles. Jesus foretold the coming of the Spirit. God sends the Spirit. Guided and strengthened by the Spirit, the Apostles continue Christ’s works of salvation.

Reflection
The Church teaches that the Holy Trinity is one of the greatest revelations of God. It is indeed. As such, the Church not only presents this teaching to the world in the very solemnity of infallibility—and the Church will never compromise the teaching—but also includes confession of the Trinity in all its formal creeds.

From the moment that Catholic parents teach toddlers the sign of the cross, through extensive studies at the highest levels of institutional education, Catholics hear of the Trinity and they know that it is basic to the Catholic Tradition.

Nevertheless, even for those who believe, it can be quite dry, an academic statement of a reality that has little relevance. To the contrary, it is relevant to everything we are and to everything we do. It explains creation. It explains salvation. It explains God.

God is love. God is all-wise. God is all-knowing. We belong to God. In God’s unchanging love is our hope for peace now and for joy foreverafter. †

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 submission.
Send material for consideration to “My Journey to God,” The Criterion, P.O. Box 1717, Indianapolis, IN 46206 or e-mail to criterion@archindy.org.

My Journey to God
Everything
This little thing is all I have to give, Meself, nothing more or less. But in the end when nights are long and days are but a dream I’ll know that I have given everything.

By Helen F. Welter

(Helen F. Welter is a member of St. Barnabas Parish in Indianapolis. Students at St. Mary School in Alexandria, Ind., wear T-shirts at a celebration after completing the Seminarian Sponsor Spring on May 23. The relay race raised more than $13,000 for the education of seminarians in the Diocese of Alexandria. Students raised the funds from sponsors and bought T-shirts to support future priests.)

Daily Readings
Monday, June 4
Tobit 1:1-3, 2:1a-8
Psalm 112:1-6
Mark 12:1-12

Tuesday, June 5
Boniface, bishop and martyr
Tobit 2:9-14
Psalm 112:1-2, 7-9
Mark 12:13-17

Wednesday, June 6
Norbert, bishop
Tobit 3:1-11a, 16-17a
Psalm 25:2-9
Mark 12:18-27

Thursday, June 7
Tobit 6:10-11; 7:1bcde, 9-17; 8:4-9a
Psalm 128:1-5
Mark 12:28-34

Friday, June 8
Tobit 11:5-17
Psalm 146:2, 7-10
Mark 12:35-37

Saturday, June 9
Ephrem of Syria, deacon and doctor of the Church
Tobit 12:1, 5-15, 20
(Responsae) Tobit 13:2, 6-8
Mark 12:38-44

Sunday, June 10
The Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ
Catharine of Siena
Psalm 110:1-4
1 Corinthians 11:23-26
Lake 9:11b-17

Sacrament of penance heals and reconciles people to God

Q Have a problem with confession. No. I’ve had bad experiences with two priests. One chewed me out so severely for missing two weekends of Masses that I was in tears. I had been in the hospital, but he said that was no excuse as there was a chapel in the hospital.

It had been four years since then and I have a phobia about going now. I’m not even sure anymore what to do there as things have changed.

I came back to the Church about 20 years ago after being away a long time. My husband had left me twice for another woman before he got a divorce.

I love the Church and going to Mass, but what should I do about confessing? Should I just quit the Catholic Church? (Nebraska)

A No, don’t quit the Catholic Church. Apart from everything else, from what you tell me, that would just add to your anxieties and frustrations.

First, I hope you are continuing to receive the Eucharist when you go to Mass. According to Church regulations, since you’re clearly not conscious of any serious sin, you’re not obliged to receive the sacrament of penance before receiving Communion (Canon Law #899 and Catechism of the Catholic Church #4147).

I’m truly sorry for your unhappy experiences, but please don’t allow them to control the rest of your life.

As is true for all the sacraments, Jesus and the Church want this to be a happy and spiritually healing contact with the compensatory mercy and love of God.

Celebrating the sacrament of penance or reconciliation is not complicated or difficult. Don’t worry about which words to use.

Usually, as the ritual for this sacrament instructs, the priest will say a brief prayer before you begin or read a short passage from the Scriptures.

Then begin in whatever way you wish. Tell the priest the main things for which you ask God’s forgiveness and help.

He may ask you to fill in any gaps or offer some thoughts to reflect on then ask you to perform a penance to signify your sorrow and desire to grow in holiness. The priest will then say the prayer of absolution.

The “changes” in the sacrament of penance are not so much in procedures as in more attention to the causes of our sinfulness and spiritual weaknesses, and to our cooperation with the healing grace of God. The priest should, as much as possible, help you to do that as you receive the sacrament.

Finally, my comment above is not to suggest that we receive this sacrament only when we are conscious of mortal sin. Its healing, forgetting and strengthening powers are such that it should be in some way a regular part of our spiritual lives as Catholics.

Q Does the Church still require that a child receive a saint’s name at baptism? (Mississippi)

A The Rite of Baptism does not require parents to choose the name of a saint for their child.

However, the tradition of thoughtfully and prayerfully naming the child after one of the saints is still good.

Among other things, it is one way of reminding and inspiring children early on that their faith places them in a long line of Christian heroes who have gone before us and that their lives can be holy, too.

Q Where was Mary born? On a trip to Greece, we were taken to an island where the Blessed Mother was said to have been born.

If this is true, how did she come to Bethlehem and Nazareth? (Illinois)

A To the best of our knowledge, Mary was born in Jerusalem. While there may be some doubt about that, I know of no tradition that places her birth in the area you indicate in your letter. Perhaps you’re thinking about the ancient city of Ephesus, which—according to some traditions—was the home of John the Evangelist in his later years.

Since Jesus—shortly before his death on the cross—gave Mary into John’s care, this tradition could go back to Mary’s final days in Ephesus.

It is more commonly believed, however, that she spent her last years in or around Jerusalem and died there.

Send questions to Father John Dietzen, Box 3315, Peoria, IL 61612 or by e-mail in care of journal@archindy.org. †
Franciscan Sister Catherine Ann Hillman was a teacher and nurse.

Franciscan Sister Catherine Ann Hillman died on May 18 at St. Clare Hall, the health care facility for the Congregation of the Sisters of the Third Order of St. Francis, at the motherhouse in Oldenburg. She was 91.

The funeral of Christian Burial was celebrated on May 21 at the motherhouse chapel. Burial followed at the sisters’ cemetery.

The former Florence Leonia Hillman was born on June 26, 1915, in Richmond.

She entered the Oldenburg Franciscan community on Sept. 8, 1938, and professed her final vows on Aug. 12, 1944.

Zimmerman. Grandmother of two.


REED, Grant H., Jr., 64, St. Anthony, Indianapolis, May 7. Husband of Mary Ellen Reed. Father of Grant Reed III. Son of Grant Reed Sr. Brother of Marsha Hughet. Grandfather of one.


Sister Catherine Ann Hillman taught grade school students from 1941 until 1960 at the former St. Francis de Sales School in Indianapolis and St. Michael School in Brooklyn. She also taught at Catholic grade schools in Ohio, Missouri and Illinois.

From 1960 until 1993, Sister Catherine Ann served as a lector at the sisters’ liturgies at the motherhouse.

Surviving are many nieces and nephews. Memorial gifts may be sent to the St. Francis, P.O. Box 100, Oldenburg, IN 47036.
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Also seeks part-time organist for Sunday liturgy. Should be proficient in vocal directing, have over 500 families together and four services answered. Pat or Larry Donnell, St. Philip Parish, 6961 Salem Ave. Trotwood, Ohio, 45426. (937) 255-8900 or (937) 269-5155.

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St. Joseph Catholic Church in Dule, Indiana and St. Nicholas Catholic Church in Santa Claus, Indiana are currently seeking applications for a full-time (part-time will be considered) Director of Music and Liturgy. The two parishes have over 500 families together and four services on the weekend. Education and experience in liturgical theology, proficiency in vocal directing, organ and piano desired. Primary responsibilities include pastoral presence and participation in all liturgical experiences, including music selection and accompaniment, liturgical planning, music ministry, and teaching experience. Candidate should possess a Master’s Degree in Liturgical Theology, musical training, knowledge of Catholic liturgy. Salary negotiable. For an interview, please contact:

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Dedicated to Our Lady

Women help children make and pray the rosary

By John Shaughnessy

As a teacher, Richard Duncan knows the value that hands-on experiences can have for students.

He has seen how that approach can especially make a difference when students make their own rosaries from scratch.

“It’s no small feat given the basic materials of beads, crucifixes and string,” says Duncan, the middle school religion teacher at St. Michael School in Greenfield. “The whole process takes about a week. Students are taught how to use the rosary, what each mystery means and how to focus their thoughts reverently in the actual process of saying the rosary.”

For the past four years, four women who are members of St. Michael Parish have come to the school each spring to instruct the children about how to make rosaries.

“We tell them that Mary has asked us to say the rosary,” says Mary Anne Grande and pray the rosary. “They’re so devout with the rosaries after they make them,” she says. “They hold them so carefully and reverently.”

Grande believes the children’s prayers become even more special when they hold the rosary they’ve made.

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