VATICAN CITY (CNS)—Vatican officials said a new book detailing Blessed Mother Teresa of Calcutta’s long “crisis of faith” illustrates her spiritual strength in the face of doubt.

“This is a figure who had moments of uncertainty and discouragement, experiencing the classic dark night that God gives to chosen people in order to forge them on the road to holiness,” said Spanish Cardinal Julian Herranz, a member of the Congregation for Saints’ Causes.

“These moments of crisis felt by great saints are normal and in line with the Church’s tradition,” Cardinal Herranz said on Aug. 26.

Even Christ experienced a similar spiritual trial in the Garden of Gethsemane and on the cross, he said.

Such moments of “weakness” are in fact “the proof of the greatness of faith of Blessed Mother Teresa and take nothing away from her holiness,” he said.

Cardinal Herranz, who spoke in an interview with the Rome newspaper La Repubblica, said the progress of Mother Teresa’s sainthood cause would not be affected by the letters published in the book.

Vatican and other Church officials were already familiar with the letters because many were first published in 2002, and in fact formed part of the

 mass to mark the 10th anniversary of Blessed Mother Teresa’s death, page 2.

 Vatican officials say new book illustrates Mother Teresa’s strength

‘Katrina was big, but God is bigger’

Two years later, Indiana parishes still help Gulf Coast communities

The weather was unbearably hot and sticky. The work that needed to be done seemed endless.

What could 22 teenagers and eight adult leaders from St. Paul Parish in Tell City do to help the community of St. Bernard Parish, La., recover from the devastation caused nearly two years ago by Hurricane Katrina while they were in Louisiana for a week in late June?

As their trip was coming to an end, the group was cleaning up a park. A van stopped, and children from a nearby daycare center piled out for play time.

The youths from Tell City saw in the happy faces of the boys and girls that progress can be measured by more than the number of houses rebuilt. It’s also measured in love given and received.

“We were having our lunch break, and they pulled up,” said Derrick Woodfield, a member of St. Paul Parish and a high school junior. “A bunch of us played kickball with the kids and had a great time. That park was really all they had.

“We usually only took about a 20-minute lunch break. But that day, we took almost the rest of the day off just to play with those kids. Just to see the smiles on those kids’ faces was awesome.”

Two years after Hurricane Katrina came ashore along the Mississippi-Louisiana coast and ravaged much of the area, the people who remain there still need massive amounts of help in both material and human terms.

But because of the large numbers of previous residents who have permanently moved elsewhere, finding jobs and enough skilled labor to rebuild businesses and homes is a challenge.

In Louisiana, a parish is the term used for the equivalent of the counties found in many other states. Before Hurricane Katrina, St. Bernard Parish, which is southeast of New Orleans, had a population of approximately 67,000, according to local government figures. As of now, the population has dropped to approximately 25,000.

Linda Krueger, a member of St. Paul Parish who helped organize the service trip, knew the challenges facing St. Bernard Parish because her daughter, Theresa, lives there.

“The businesses can’t come back without the people,” she said. “And the people can’t come back without [jobs that] businesses support.”

In addition to helping clean up the park in St. Bernard Parish, the group from Tell City helped prepare a former school building to be converted into government offices. They also cleared a nature trail on the grounds of a museum and readied a public baseball field for use.

But in the midst of all this good work, Linda Krueger’s daughter, Stefanie, wasn’t sure if she and the other volunteers from Indiana were making a difference.

“Every night, I prayed that we would actually feel like we were doing something good,” said Stefanie, a junior at Marian College in Indianapolis and a member of St. Paul Parish in Tell City.

“And then, the last two days, we saw those kids. I just broke down in tears when we saw those kids because that made everything worth it.”

The group from Tell City went south with the intent to help people who live along the Gulf Coast. They accomplished their goal, and gained a lot as well.

“I don’t take stuff for granted anymore, and I try to spend more time with my family.” Derrick said. “There were so many families that got split up. I used to go out to eat all the time. Now, I just lay back at the house and say, ‘We should just have dinner [here] tonight.’”

After the success of their first trip, St. Paul Parish is planning to take another group to Louisiana next June.

St. Paul Parish continues to help Louisiana communities.

Two years after Hurricane Katrina, St. Bernard Parish, La., a high school senior and member of St. Paul Parish in Tell City, carries two young girls in a park in St. Bernard Parish, La., during a June 25-29 volunteer trip sponsored by her parish. The 22 teenagers and eight adult leaders were cleaning up the park when the children arrived from a nearby daycare center.

The workers from Tell City were helping to clean up the park in St. Bernard Parish, which is southeast of New Orleans. The group was led by an adult from St. Paul Parish who helped organize the service trip.

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Small beginnings, big results

Putting a human touch on charitable work is an essential part of Catholic charity, and the volunteer group from St. Paul Parish did this.

Caring for the material needs of people is also important.

Members of St. Bartholomew Parish in Columbus have been hard at work on this aspect, while not ignoring the other, for more than a year in Waveland, Miss. In May 2006, the parish teamed up with St. Clare Parish in the coastal town in the Biloxi Diocese to form St. Clare Recovery. It is a ministry that is working to put families back into homes in Waveland. Many who have received aid are members of St. Clare Parish, but the ministry is dedicated to helping anyone in the town who is in need.

According to Noel Phillips, a member of St. Clare Parish who helps oversee the ministry, in the 15 months that St. Clare Recovery has been up and running, the volunteer work it has coordinated has allowed 122 families to move back into their homes.

This work was brought about through 121 groups of volunteers from 33 states. Overall, more than 1,000 volunteers have logged more than 31,000 service hours.

“I just don’t know how to explain it,” Phillips said. “We are just so grateful that these people have given their time and talent, and come down and help, and to not expect anything in return.”

This massive outpouring of aid from across the nation started with a simple spring break trip for two families from St. Bartholomew Parish.

John McCormack and John Cord took their families down to Waveland in March 2006 to show their teenage children the devastation along the coast, and to lend a hand in helping people there start to recover.

“They were in total chaos, and had no way to really organize volunteers,” Cord said. “There were hundreds of families from their parish that had no homes.”

Their way back to Indiana, Cord and the others on the trip talked about how their one week of work wasn’t enough.

“We just can’t leave and walk away from it,” Cord said.

So they started discussions at St. Bartholomew Parish about helping to house volunteers and coordinate volunteer work through St. Clare Parish. And in a few months, St. Clare Recovery was born.

Jane Crady, Cord’s sister and a member of St. Joseph Parish in Shelbyville, moved to Waveland and lived there for a year while overseeing the ministry.

The ministry expanded by leaps and bounds in a short time, largely through attention it received through its Web site.

“In nine or 10 months, it went from a non-existent ministry to the largest ministry, both dollar- and people-wise, in our parish,” Cord said.

In the 15 months that the ministry has been in operation, the kind of volunteer work that has been coordinated has changed.

In the beginning, “you needed a lot of hands to do clean up,” Cord said. “But as it went on, we discovered that we needed more and more skilled labor, people that actually could do finish work and carpentry and drywall and truly skilled things.”

The need for volunteer labor in Waveland is largely driven by two factors. According to Phillips, Waveland’s pre-Katrina population was approximately 7,000. Now it’s about 4,000. Combine that with a general population drop in the larger region, and the building contractors left there are swamped.

“They are so overwhelmed that they can’t get to them all,” Cord said.

A second reason for the volunteer labor is that many area residents’ homeowner’s insurance is covering only a fraction of the rebuilding costs of their homes.

The members of St. Clare Parish have recovered enough over the past two years that they have now taken over leadership of St. Clare Recovery from St. Bartholomew Parish.

The Columbus faith community, however, is still committed to helping the ministry. Volunteers from St. Bartholomew are still going south, and the parish has committed to contribute $4,000 per month to the ministry until September 2008.

This is in addition to the financial aid given by St. Bartholomew over the past 15 months, and $15,000 contributed by Catholic Charities Indianapolis from the archdiocese’s Hurricane Katrina Relief Fund, which was created after second collections were taken up in parishes across central and southern Indiana in the weeks after Katrina.

The archdiocese’s Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministry has also led two trips where scores of Hispanic youth volunteered through St. Clare Recovery.

And all this work that has changed the lives of many families in Waveland started with a small weeklong trip taken by families from Columbus.

“It is very simple. We talk about this all the time,” Cord said. “It’s obviously a ministry that God wanted there.”

Correction

In the Aug. 17 issue of The Criterion, the newspaper featured stories on Laura Williamson and Julia Krauseko, who were honored with the Courageous Heart Award by St. Elizabeth Coleman Pregnancy and Adoption Services.

The newspaper incorrectly stated that St. Elizabeth Coleman Pregnancy and Adoption Services is an agency that is part of Catholic Charities Indianapolis.

St. Elizabeth Coleman Pregnancy and Adoption Services is one of six agencies of the Secretariat for Catholic Charities, of which Catholic Charities Indianapolis is also an agency. †

Mass to mark 10th anniversary of Mother Teresa’s death

Blessed Teresa of Calcutta, better known as Mother Teresa and the foundress of the Missionaries of Charity, died on Sept. 5, 1997.

A Mass in observance of the 10th anniversary of her death will be celebrated at 6 p.m. on Sept. 5 at SS. Peter and Paul Cathedral, 1347 N. Meridian St., Indianapolis.

Archbishop Daniel M. Buechlein will be the primary celebrant of the Mass, which is open to the public.


What does Mother Teresa mean to you?

Mother Teresa has a special meaning for you, we invite you to share your story with Sean Gallagher, a reporter for The Criterion.

You may e-mail your contributions to sglahger@archindy.org or mail them to him at PO Box 1717, Indianapolis, IN 46206. †

Blessed Teresa of Calcutta

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CNS photo/Nancy Wiechec
**Immigration issues are focus of bishops’ Labor Day statement**

WASHINGTON (CNS)—Immigration issues, including the “failed immigration debate” that preceded Congress’ unsuccessful vote to change the U.S. immigration policy, were highlighted in the U.S. bishops’ annual Labor Day statement. “This vital national immigration discussion polarized our people, paralyzed the Congress and failed our nation,” said Bishop Nicholas DiMarzio of Brooklyn, N.Y., chairman of the bishops’ domestic policy committee, in the statement. “After this debate, we are a society more divided, a people more confused and a nation unable to move forward on one of the most serious and complicated issues we face as a nation.” Although members of Congress could not work together on immigration policy, some low-wage workers were able to work together to carve out a better life for themselves, one of the “signs of hope” pointed out by Bishop DiMarzio in his statement.

**Dated Sept. 3, the statement, “Labor Day 2007: A Time to Remember: A Time to Recommit,” was released on Aug. 24. Bishop DiMarzio was critical of the immigration policy debate. “In my view, sometimes anger trumped wisdom, myths overwhelmed facts and slogans replaced solutions,” he said. “Immigration reform, to re-engage the hard issues, to search for practical and realistic solutions, to recommit to issues, one of the “signs of hope” as does the Mother Theodore Catholic Consortium.**

Our Lady of Fatima Retreat House 5553 E. 56th Street Indianapolis, IN 46226

(317) 545-7681 www.archindy.org/fatima

“AGING GRACEFULLY: A RETREAT FOR 60’s AND OLDER”

with Fr. Noel Mueller, OSB October 5-7, 2007

This program will focus on how to best allow God’s grace to enhance our senior years. The weekend begins with check-in at 6:00 PM Friday evening and concludes after lunch on Sunday.

Cost is $150.00 per person or $280.00 per married couple.

Call us to register or go to our website: www.archindy.org/fatima

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**Consortium now known as Mother Theodore Catholic Academies**

The challenge was distinct: Find a new name for the group of six Indianapolis Catholic schools that work together to provide a quality education for center-city students.

Starting this school year, the group of six schools will be known under the “umbrella” name of Mother Theodore Catholic Academies—replacing the previous title of Catholic Urban School Consortium.

“The Catholic Urban School Consortium didn’t speak as clearly as to what our mission is as does the Mother Theodore Catholic Academies,” says Connie Zittnan, director of the academies. “If you look at Mother Theodore, she came to serve the sick and the poor and to educate them.” Zittnan also explained the reasoning for naming the academies as “Mother Theodore” instead of “St. Theodora.”

“Throughout history, the Sisters of Providence have always considered her as Mother Theodore, their mother figure of the order,” Zittnan explains. “They see a mother as someone who nurtures, who guides the future, someone who shapes spirits, minds and futures. When you think of a mother figure and what they do. It just blends together. It’s a natural joining of the mission.”

That mission is shared by the six Catholic schools that form the group: Holy Angels School, Holy Cross Central School, Central Catholic School, St. Andrew & St. Rita Academy, St. Anthony School and St. Philip Neri School.

The shared mission of the group began in September 2004, driven by Archbishop Daniel M. Buechlein’s desire to continue to provide a quality Catholic education to center-city students.

The approach complements that desire by helping the six schools operate more efficiently by consolidating and coordinating such areas as finances, maintenance and marketing.

“We are growing,” Zittnan says. “We have increased our enrollment more than 150 students. Our enrollment is more than 925. We continually take students through the first week of September. We are happy for added growth.”

The teachers, staffs and volunteers at the six schools—and at the academies’ archdiocesan office—are looking forward to a new school year, Zittnan says.

“There is a sense of excitement, a sense of growth and a sense of promise.”

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**Workers harvest watermelons at Maple Creek Farm, an organic family farm near Detroit in August. Labor Day, honoring working people of America, is marked on Sept. 3 this year.**

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*Free Mass at 5:30 P.M.*

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**Workers harvest watermelons at Maple Creek Farm, an organic family farm near Detroit in August. Labor Day, honoring working people of America, is marked on Sept. 3 this year.**
The criterion Friday, August 31, 2007

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Editorial

Like Pope John Paul II, Little Leaguers teach value of sportsmanship

Sometimes the most poignant lessons in real life come from the people we least expect.

And the situations where these teachable moments take center stage are not always in the home or school or at Mass on Sunday. They can happen any time.

It doesn’t matter if one is young, old or middle-aged. As humans, our emotions can run the gamut.

What makes one person celebrate a wonderful achievement can bring no more.

While in victory and heartbreak in athletics, we can also learn what true sportsmanship and respect for a game is all about. From children, no less.

Such were the lessons shared at the recent Little League World Series played in Williamsport, Pa.

In one of the most compelling championships in recent Little League history, a team from Warner Robbins, Ga., beat a team hailing from Tokyo, Japan, 3-2 on Aug. 26.

The extra-inning contest (Little League games are normally six innings) ended in the bottom of the eighth inning when 12-year-old Dalton Carriker hit a game-winning home run to break a 2-2 tie and give the Georgia team the Little League World Series championship.

What followed was something we, as adults, should take note of and can learn from. It seems to be something too many of us have forgotten or put on the backburner where athletic competition is concerned.

After Dalton rounded the bases and was mobbed at home plate by his Georgia teammates, television cameras pampered to distraught Japanese players lying on the field, sobbing uncontrollably as they reacted to the gut-wrenching loss.

While Japanese coaches tried to console their players, the Georgia players hugged and high-fived each other.

But their celebration only lasted a moment.

Seeing their Japanese counterparts and their reaction, the Georgia players walked back onto the playing field and began to console their opponents, offering hugs, handshakes and kind words to the players from Japan. Two different teams, two distinct cultures, yet the players offered a lesson in humility and, yes, compassion.

Seeing their actions were one of the most impressive displays of sportsmanship demonstrated in recent years.

It was another example of how so many of us can learn simple life lessons from members of our younger generation.

While we sometimes get caught up in the raw emotion of a sports moment, we cannot forget that with a warmer also comes a loser.

That’s where sportsmanship must be a part of the equation. And whether the players realized it or not, both Little League teams were taking a page from the Vatican’s office of “Church and Sport.”

Created in 2004 just prior to the Summer Olympic Games in Athens, Greece, the Vatican office provides plenty of words of wisdom as to how the culture of sport is concerned.

The office tries to foster “a culture of sport” that promotes athleticism “as a means for bringing about well-rounded growth of the person and as an instrument of peace and brotherhood among peoples.”

The late Pope John Paul II was behind the Vatican sports office’s ministry, and his hope for how it can be a school of virtue were among his reasons for creating the office.

“Sport must be accompanied by moderation and training in self-discipline,” Pope John Paul II said in his 2004 World Day of Tourism message. “It will very often also require a good team spirit, a respectful attitude, appreciation of the qualities of others, honest sportsmanship and humility in recognizing one’s own limitations.”

In an address in June 2004, the late Holy Father also told members of an Italian sports center that practicing sport, “if lived according to the Christian vision, becomes a prime generator of deep human relations and favors the building of a more peaceful and coordinated world.”

May all people of faith learn from the pope’s words and the Little Leaguers’ example so that one day we all may be united in humility and compassion as brothers and sisters in Christ.

— Mike Kroksos

Opinion

Be Our Guest

Msgr. Joseph F. Schardel

Traditional Latin Mass has a devoted following in Archdiocese of Indianapolis

Controversy has been swirling like incense ever since Catholic News Service published a recent column about the pre-Vatican II Latin Mass by Father Peter J. Daly.

The column also appeared in the Aug. 17 issue of The Criterion, Internet weblogs (“blogs”) are full of accusations that Father Daly’s account of a neighboring pastor who offers the traditional Latin Mass are inaccurate, and were mentioned without that pastor’s approval.

Now the two pastors are in a suit; one wants to drag an auxiliary bishop into the fray.

These blogs read like soap operas.

The Aug. 24 issue of The Criterion featured letters from readers critical of Father Daly’s column. Two writers mentioned the beautiful celebration of the traditional Latin Mass at Our Lady of the Most Holy Rosary Church in Indianapolis.

As pastor of Holy Rosary Parish, along with our associates, Priests Fraternity of St. Peter Father Michael Magiera, I can say that we are grateful and proud.

As vicerector of the archdiocesan and as pastor of a parish that has offered the traditional Latin Mass along with the Novus Ordo (post-Vatican II Mass) for nearly 10 years, I can only say that my observations and experiences are not the same as Father Daly’s.

We are one, unified parish. We are growing; we are getting “younger.” I would have to say that my statements about the “old Mass,” and how and why it is celebrated the way it is, are simply misleading.

We are aware of important points to be made from this controversy.

To begin with, Catholic News Service is operated by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops. It is certainly inappropriate for any column—particularly a pastor—to utilize CNS as a tool to vent personal ideas or to second-guess a recent decision made by the Holy Father.

Accompanying the pope’s recent encyclical letter, his letter to the bishops, the second paragraph of his letter comments about the observations created from news reports and judgments made without sufficient information.

Later on, in the same letter, Pope Benedict XVI comments on his personal experience with the hopes and confusion that often followed the reform of the liturgy. It is clear that the pope only issued this directive after long, prayerful consideration and consultation.

Before ending his letter, the Holy Father asks that three years into the motu proprio the bishops should “send to the Holy See an account of your experiences.”

The pre-Vatican II takes effect on Sept. 14. No one is in a position to second-guess the decision before it even takes effect. I believe it is grossly flawed and based on very limited (and evidently flawed) personal experience or personal preferences.

I believe that the pope is genuinely interested in unity with those inside or outside the Church who have been alienated or unauthorized or unauthorized changes in the liturgy. To ram one’s opinions (liturgical or otherwise) down people’s throats, as Father Daly did in his column hardly seems “in the Spirit of Vatican II.”

It is more important, take into account the Holy Father’s sense that people long for the “sacred” and transcendent in the liturgy.

More than 12 years ago, the late Cardinal Joseph Bernardin spoke at the annual meeting of the National Federation of Priests Councils in San Diego. In soaring imagery, Cardinal Bernardin reminded priests that they are to be bearers of the mystery of God.

As the late prelate acknowledged a crisis of confidence and confusion among priests then (and today), he exhorted us to embrace the role as “bearers of Sacred Symbols” which draw others to God’s love in Christ.

Particularly in today’s world, people long for that sense of mystery. The liturgy enables us to enter through the risen Jesus Christ into the Mystery Who is God.

Pope Benedict XVI must be keenly aware of this; more than to provide perspective on the life of the Church.


The church was packed with people of all ages. Bishop Matano commented, “If and when it is a church of ours, so be it.”

I am not yet convinced that the recent motu proprio will be what it takes to fill our churches.

Father Peter Daly is a regular customer of the Criterion. His opinion piece did not imply that he had any personal experience. It did not announce that he had contacted the pastor at Holy Rosary Church.

The church, as is always the case, has a devoted following.

I believe that the Holy Father’s words and the Little Leaguers’ example so that one day we all may be united in humility and compassion as brothers and sisters in Christ.

I was not yet convinced that the recent motu proprio will be what it takes to fill our churches.

Letters to the Editor

When Catholic Church boldly stands firm for the truth, it imitates Christ

After reading the editorial by John Fink (“One True Church”) in the Aug. 3 issue of The Criterion, I was not surprised, but I was deeply pleased.

I have been practicing Catholic for 65 years, and that teaching that the Holy Catholic Church is “the one true Church” is ancient and nothing new.

The Catechism of the Catholic Church states, in part, “… Hence they could not be saved who, knowing that the Catholic Church was founded by necessary by God through Christ, would refuse either to enter it or to remain in it” (4946).

And this by no means excludes sincere people from gaining salvation for in the following paragraph we read, “Those who, through no fault of their own, do not know the Gospel of Christ or his Church, but who nevertheless seek God with a sincere heart, and, moved by grace which he has sent them, will as they know through the dictates of their conscience—those too may achieve eternal salvation” (CCC, 847).

Our Lord and Savior did not mince words, but bold statements to the Church, who can have been alienated or unauthorized changes in the liturgy. To ram one’s opinions (liturgical or otherwise) down people’s throats, as Father Daly did in his column hardly seems “in the Spirit of Vatican II.”

I have not yet convinced that the recent motu proprio will be what it takes to fill our churches.

When our Catholic Church boldly stands firm for the truth, it imitates Christ and is showing the sure way to eternal life, still the right way.

Paul Kachinski

Greenwood
La Eucaristía es el origen de todas las formas de santidad

(Décimo sexto y último de la serie)

E stá semana concluyo mi resumen y reflexión sobre la Eucaristía de Pope Benedict XVI, titulada “Sacramentum Caritatis” (“The Sacrament of Charity”), que se publicó el año pasado. A continuación, me interesa hacer una reflexión sobre la Eucaristía que se publicó a comienzos de este año.

Esta exhortación expone la esencia de las presentaciones y propuestas producto del Sínodo de Bishops sobre la Eucaristía. Sin embargo, la enseñanza tan extensa que dividía a los participantes en este sinodado era tan esencial que no se puede sino exponer las marcas de su propia ingenio teológico y espiritual. No puedo imaginar otra enseñanza más significativa y oportuna que toque de manera tan fundamental la vida de nuestra Iglesia.

Hacia el final de la exhortación, el Papa reflexiona sobre las implicaciones sociales del misterio eucarístico. Escribía: “La unión con Cristo que se realiza en el Sacramento nos capacita también para nuevos tipos de relaciones sociales: la ‘mística’ del Sacramento tiene un carácter social.” En efecto, “la unión con Cristo es el mismo tiempo unión con todos los demás a los que Él se entrega. No puedo tener Cristo sólo para mí, sino que puedo pertenecerle en unión con todos los que son suyos o lo están...”

La Eucaristía es sacramento de comunión entre hermanos y hermanas que aceptan reconocerse en Cristo, en el cual ha hecho de jídeos y paganos un solo pueblo, dirigiéndolo con un manto de caridad que se extendía a todos. (cf. Ef 2:14). Sólo esta constante tensión hacia la reconciliación permite conmunicar dignamente el Cuerpo y la Sangre de Cristo (cf. Mt 5:23-24). Cristo, por el contrario, impulsa hacia reconciliación entre hermanos y, de modo particular, apremia a los que están enfrentados por las diferentes visiones sobre el diálogo y al compromiso por la justicia. No cabe duda de que las condiciones para existir una unión de la economía, el comercio y la explotación sexual. Todos estos problemas, que a menudo ocultan otras dolencias, son los que despiertan viva preocupación. Sabemos que estas situaciones no se pueden afrontar de manera superficial. Precisamente, gracias al Mysterio que celebremos, debemos denunciarse las circunstancias que visten tan traviesa la dignidad del hombre, por el cual Cristo ha derramado su sangre, aﬁrmado así el alto valor de cada persona” (n. 89).

El Papa Benedicto se refiere a la Eucaristía como el “alimento de la verdad y la inocencia del hombre”. Escribía: “No podemos permanecer pasivos ante estos procesos de globalización y de secularización que hacen crecer desmesuradamente en todo el mundo la diferencia entre ricos y pobres... es imposible permanecer callados ante ‘las imágenes sobrecogedoras de los grandes campos de prisiones o de refugiados—concentrados en muchas partes del mundo—concentrados en precarias condiciones para librarse de una suerte peor, pero necesitados de todo. Estos son nuestros hermanos y no son nuestros hermanos y hermanas. ¿Acaso los hijos no vienen al mundo con las mismas esperanzas legítimas de felicidad que le dieron?” El Señor Jesús, “Papa de los hombres, nos apremia a denunciarse y denuncia en nombre de estos necesitados” (n. 89). En “Queridos hermanos y hermanas, la Eucaristía es el origen de toda forma de santidad, y todos nosotros somos llamados a la plenitud de vida en el Espíritu Santo...” Por eso, es necesario que en la Iglesia se cree realmente, se celebre con devoción y se viva intensamente este santo Mysterio” (n. 90).

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

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

El Santo Padre concluye su exhortación: “Queridos hermanos y hermanas, la Eucaristía es el origen de toda forma de santidad, y todos nosotros somos llamados a la plenitud de vida en el Espíritu Santo...” Delante de tales imágenes, “…deberemos acelerar aún más la conciencia de la humanidad. Averiguar qué nuestro compromiso común con la verdad puede y debe proporcionarnos nuevas esperanzas. ‘El alimento de la verdad nos impulsa a denunciar las situaciones injustas del hombre, en las que a causa de la injusticia y la explotación se muere por falta de comida, y nos da nueva fuerza y ánimo para trabajar sin descanso en la construcción de la comunidad del amor’” (n. 90). Hace un llamado a las diócesis y a las comunidades Cristianas para que enseñen y promuevan la doctrina social de la Iglesia. Soltar el dinero a sus iglesias para que se concentren en la “tela de la sociedad” y el respeto a toda la creación, incluyendo el mundo animal y natural.

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
August 31
St. Paul Hemitage, 501 N. 17th Ave., Beech Grove. Ave Maria Guild, fall rummage sale, 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Information: 317-881-7109.

August 31-September 3
Sacred Heart Parish, 5580 W. 92nd St., Clifton. Little Italy Festival, Water Street in downtown Clifton, Fri.-Sat. 11 a.m.-11 p.m., Sun. 11 a.m.-11 p.m. Mon.-Fri. 11 a.m.-11 p.m. Information: 765-832-8468.

September 2
Sr. John the Evangelist Parish, 999 E. Base Road, Enosburg. Parish festival, fried chicken, n a.m. Information: 912-934-2840.

September 2-3
Sr. Kathleen, Sr. Mary Sefapano, M.C. Open house to honor Catholic Charismatic Renewal tine Church, St. Mary Hall, Brookville. quilts, 10:45 a.m.-2:30 p.m., September 2-3. Information: 812-278-9925.

September 3
St. Anthony’s Hermitage, 300 W. Main St., Ferdinand. Marian Way, 1 p.m. Information: 812-933-0661 or farm@seidata.com.

September 4
Sr. Mary Sefapano, the former Meredith Riedeman, prior to entering the order, Sister Mary Sefapano, M.C., a Franciscan Sister Kathleen Branham, a native of Indianapolis, will celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary on Aug. 31. They were married on Aug. 31, 1957, at the St. Anthony Church in Indianapolis. The couple has eight children: Marie Dommer, Missionary Sister M. Zita. Monteforte, Greg, John, Keith, Matt, Mike and Roger Montforte. They have 18 grandchildren. †

September 5

September 6

September 7
St. Mary Parish, 777 S. 11th St., Mitchell. “A Day of Reflection and Renewal,” 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Information: 317-282-9377.

September 8
St. Pauls Parish, 5267 N. Hamp- burg Road, Obese. Turkey dinner, crafts, chil- dren’s games, quilts, 4-7:30 p.m. Information: 317-862-5554.

September 9

September 9-10
St. Mary’s Guild, 1400 N. Meridian St., Indianapolis. Holy Cross Parish, 1011 E. St. Clair St., Indianapolis. Blue Mass will honor police officers, firefighters and emergency medical technicians honoring police officers, firefighters and other public servants. Information: 317-919-5316 or e-mail Lumen Dei@sbcglobal.net.

September 10-14
St. Mary Parish, 777 S. 11th St., Indianapolis. Holy Cross Parish, 1011 E. St. Clair St., Indianapolis. “Devoir and Beyond Protection,” six-week session, 7:30 p.m. per person. Information: 317-236-1586 or 800-382-9836, ext. 1596.

September 11
St. John the Evangelist Parish, 120 Hadley Road, Mooresville. Seminar for cancer patients and their families, noon-2 p.m., lunch registered participants. Information: 317-787-8727.

September 11-24
St. Francis Hospital, 1201 Hadley Road, Mooresville. Dinner Theater, “all you care to eat” buffet. Sat. dinner 6 p.m. Information: 317-236-1586 or 800-382-9836, ext. 1596.

September 12
St. Mary Parish, 777 S. 11th St., Indianapolis. Holy Cross Parish, 1011 E. St. Clair St., Indianapolis. “Devoir and Beyond Protection,” six-week session, 7:30 p.m. per person. Information: 317-236-1586 or 800-382-9836, ext. 1596.

September 13
St. John the Evangelist Parish, 1201 Hadley Road, Mooresville. Dinner Theater, “all you care to eat” buffet. Sat. dinner 6 p.m. Information: 317-236-1586 or 800-382-9836, ext. 1596.

September 14
St. John the Evangelist Parish, 1201 Hadley Road, Mooresville. Dinner Theater, “all you care to eat” buffet. Sat. dinner 6 p.m. Information: 317-236-1586 or 800-382-9836, ext. 1596.
18 Oldenburg Franciscan sisters celebrate jubilees

Eighteen Sisters of the Third Order of St. Francis in Oldenburg are celebrating jubilees this year.

Marling 75 years as Oldenburg Franciscans are Sisters Mary Mark Deters, former Holy Trinity School in Indianapolis, Joannes Pardo, Dorothy Steckler and Marie Celine Wilhelm.

The 60-year jubilarians are Sisters Marta Aiken, Irene Hoff, Timothy Kavanaugh, Kathleen McCarthy, Dolores Jean Nellis, Catherine Raters, Jacinta Stein, Virginia van Benten, Marie Werdmann and Claire Whalen.

Celebrating 50 years with the congregation are Sisters Helen Eckstein, Rose Marie Weckenmann and Agnes Wilhelm.

Sister Mary Mark Deters ministered as a teacher at St. Louis School in Batesville.

She also served as a teacher and principal at Catholic schools staffed by the congregation in the Evansville Diocese as well as in Ohio, Illinois and Missouri.

Sister Mary Mark is currently in retirement and lives at St. Claire Hall at the motherhouse.

A native of Indianapolis, Sister Therese de Lourdes Galm served as a teacher and organist at the former Holy Family School in North Vernon.

She also ministered as a teacher and principal at Oldenburg Academy of the Immaculate Conception in Oldenburg for 20 years.

In the archdiocese, Sister Therese de Lourdes also taught at Little Flower School in Indianapolis and St. Mary School in North Vernon.

Sister Therese de Lourdes also served as a teacher and guidance counselor at Father Thomas Secena Memorial High School in Indianapolis.

She also served as motherhouse minister and in later years ministered in pastoral care for the sisters at the motherhouse.

Sister Therese de Lourdes is currently in retirement and lives at St. Clare Hall at the motherhouse.

A native of Richmond, Sister Joannes Pardo ministered in domestic service at the Marian College in Indianapolis, St. Louis Parish in Batesville and St. Andrew Parish in Richmond.

From 1979-85, Sister Joannes served as director of food service at the motherhouse.

She also ministered in Ohio, Missouri and New Mexico.

Sister Joannes has ministered in Pedalcare at the motherhouse.

Sister Dorothy Steckler, formerly Sister Bernarda, a native of Noblesville, Ind., taught at St. Gabriel School in Connersville as well as St. Lawrence, St. Mark, St. Michael and St. Gabriel schools in Indianapolis.

She also taught in the archdiocese at Our Lady of Perpetual Help School in New Albany and St. Joseph School in Shivelyville.

From 1966-97, Sister Dorothy served as parish minister at St. Mary Parish in Laneville.

She also ministered at Catholic schools staffed by the congregation in the Evansville Diocese as well as in Ohio and Missouri.

Sister Dorothy is currently serving at Mother of Sorrows School in Louisville.

A native of Brookville, Sister Marie Celine Wilhelm served as a teacher and principal in the archdiocese at St. Louis School in Batesville as well as Our Lady of Lourdes and St. Lawrence schools in Indianapolis.

She also ministered at Catholic schools staffed by the congregation in the Evansville Diocese and in Indianapolis.

Sister Marie Celine is currently ministering in community service at the motherhouse.

Sister Marta Aiken taught at the former St. Mary Academy in Indianapolis and Marian College in Indianapolis as well as Oldenburg Academy of the Immaculate Conception in Oldenburg.

She also ministered at Catholic schools staffed by the congregation in Oldenburg and Missouri, and served as a hospital chaplain in Louisiana and Florida.

Sister Marta is currently serving as a chaplain and as director of pastoral care at the motherhouse.

A native of Bath, Sister Irene Hoff, formerly Sister Immaculata, taught at Our Lady of Lourdes School in Indianapolis as well as the former St. Francis de Sales and St. Bernardine schools in Indianapolis. She also served as a teacher and principal at St. Mary School in Rushville.

Sister Irene also ministered at Catholic schools staffed by the congregation in the Evansville Diocese and in Oldenburg.

She also served as coordinator of central food service and community service at the motherhouse.

Sister Irene is currently serving as curate of the Immaculate Conception.

A native of Indianapolis, Sister Timothy Kavanaugh served as a teacher and principal at St. Joseph School in Shivelyville, St. Vincent de Paul School in Bedford, St. Gabriel School in Indianapolis and Cardinal Ritter Jr./Sr. High School in Indianapolis.

She also taught at Catholic schools staffed by the congregation in the Evansville Diocese and in Ohio.

Since 1987, Sister Timothy has served as pastor associate at St. Gabriel the Archangel Parish in Indianapolis.

Sister Kathleen McCarthy, formerly Sister Mary Agnes, taught at St. Lawrence School in Lawrenceburg and the former Holy Trinity School in Indianapolis.

She also served as a teacher and principal at Catholic schools staffed by the congregation in Cincinnati.

Sister Kathleen is currently ministering in community service at the motherhouse.


In Indianapolis, she taught at St. Rita School, Father Thomas Secena Memorial High School, Cardinal Ritter Jr./Sr. High School and Marian Catholic schools.

Sister Dolores Jean also initiated then served as director of the congregation’s development office in 1984 and ministered as director of alumnae at the Oldenburg Academy of the Immaculate Conception until 1989.

She also served at Catholic schools staffed by the congregation in the Evansville Diocese and in Ohio and Missouri.

Sister Dolores Jean currently ministers as attendance secretary and receptionist at Cathedral High School in Indianapolis.

A native of Indianapolis, Sister Catherine Raters, formerly Sister William Cecile, served as a teacher and principal at St. Mary Child Center in Indianapolis.

Also in Indianapolis, she taught at Our Lady of Lourdes School, the former St. Bernadette School and Martin University.

She also taught at Catholic schools staffed by the congregation in Kentucky, Ohio and Missouri.

Sister Catherine currently serves as a tutor and assistant kindergarten teacher at Little People’s Prep Day School and Arlington Elementary School in Indianapolis.

Sister Jacinta Stein taught at Little Flower, St. Monica, St. Lawrence and Our Lady of Lourdes schools in Indianapolis as well as at St. Mary School in Greensburg, St. Vincent de Paul School in Bedford and St. Mary School in Aurora.

She also taught at Catholic schools staffed by the congregation in Missouri and Ohio.

Sister Jacinta is currently in retirement and lives at St. Clare Hall at the motherhouse.

A native of Beech Grove, Sister Virginia van Benten, formerly Sister Lucia, ministered at Our Lady of Lourdes School, Father Thomas Secena Memorial High School and Marian College in Indianapolis.

Sister Virginia also taught at St. Susanna School in Plainfield and St. Louis School in Batesville.

She also ministered at Catholic schools staffed by the congregation in Ohio and Kansas.

From 1998-99, she served as director of personnel services at the motherhouse.

Sister Virginia is currently the archives researcher for the congregation at the motherhouse.

Sister Marie Werdmann, formerly Sister Louis Clare, ministered at the former Holy Rosary School, former St. Bridget School and former Holy Trinity School in Indianapolis.

She also taught at St. Monica, Holy Cross Central, St. Gabriel and St. Rita schools in Indianapolis as well as at Catholic schools staffed by the congregation in the Evansville Diocese and in Ohio, Missouri and Mexico.

From 1979-85, Sister Marie initiated the congregation’s office of personal growth and was its first director.

Sister Marie is currently ministering in community service at the motherhouse.

Sister Claire Whalen, formerly Sister Mary Giles, taught at St. Christopher School in Indianapolis and later served as chairperson of the education department at Mariana College in Indianapolis.

From 1979-86, Sister Claire ministered as director of personnel services for the congregation at the motherhouse.

For the next three years, she served as dean of academic affairs at Mariana College.

In 1993, Sister Claire began her ministry as program director for Michaela Farm in Oldenburg.

Sister Claire is currently working in outreach programs at Michaela Farm.

A native of St. Nicholas, Ind., Sister Helen Eckstein, formerly Sister Antonella, taught at Holy Name School in Beech Grove then at St. Michael School in Brookville from 1965 until 2005.

She also taught at Catholic schools staffed by the congregation in Ohio.

Sister Claire is currently ministering in community service at the motherhouse.

Sister Rose Marie Weckenmann, formerly Sister Mary Sarah, taught at St. Mary School in Aurora and St. Vincent de Paul School in Bedford as well as St. Monica School and Cardinal Ritter Jr./Sr. High School in Indianapolis.

From 1969-79, Sister Rose Marie served as a teacher and principal at Oldenburg Academy of the Immaculate Conception.

She also ministered at Catholic schools staffed by the congregation in Ohio.

Sister Rose Marie is currently serving as media center coordinator for the Archdiocese of Cincinnati.

A native of Covington, Sister Virginia van Benten, formerly Sister Antoinette, taught at St. Michael School in Brookville, the former Vincennes Schools, St. Mary School Beech Grove and the former Holy Family School in Oldenburg.

From 1969-87, Sister Agnes ministered at Our Lady of Perpetual Help School in New Albany.

She also taught at Catholic schools staffed by the congregation in Ohio.

Sister Agnes also ministered at Rolling Hills Health Care.
There are many challenges to many poor children and families. By Sean Gallagher

There are many challenges to many poor children and families. Archbishop Buechlein noted that the door-to-door ministry also benefited the seminarians:

“Hands-on experience can help our seminarians understand this aspect of our ministry. "As a matter of fact, as I listen to them talk about the door-to-door experience, it became an opportunity for evangelization. It was challenging for the guys, but they tell me they would do it again.”

Father Eric Johnson, archdiocesan vocations director, said the visits did more than keep the seminarians involved in something important when he visited families. He approached seminarian Martin Rodriguez, a member of St. Mary Parish in Indianapolis who is a junior at Marian College in Indianapolis and resides at the Bishop Simon Bruté College Seminary, about coordinating the project. The seminarians and religious went into a lot of homes.

“The idea was to get the seminarians and the academies involved in something important when he visited families. We wanted to do something to give them an experience because you saw people right in their houses. “They definitely got their exercise this summer,” he said. “And the schools are anchors for these neighborhoods and involved in something important when he visited families.”

Rodriguez recently spoke with seminarians and religious went into a lot of homes. The seminarians and religious went into a lot of homes. The idea was to get the seminarians and the academies involved in something important when he visited families. We wanted to do something to give them an experience because you saw people right in their houses. “They definitely got their exercise this summer,” she said.

There are lots of things that go into a seminarian’s several years of priestly formation. But Rodriguez said he was involved in something important when he visited families who live near the academies.

“I think that Catholic schools offer a very good education,” he said. “And the schools are anchors for these neighborhoods. “If we promote them and we help all those children have a better education, then, later in life, they will be better citizens and, who knows, maybe good priests as well.”

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Grants totaling $10 million were announced for the 2007-08 school year, the first year of the Future Campaign. The Legacy for Our Mission: For Our Children and the Future campaign was launched in 2004, it was hoped that it would encourage more Catholics across the archdiocese to volunteer their time and talent for the mission of their parishes and of the archdiocese as a whole. The campaign has a monetary goal of $100 million that would help address mission and ministry needs of the 150 parishes in central and southern Indiana. These funds would also support various shared ministries in the archdiocese, such as the support of retired priests and the ministry of Catholic Charities. Finally, the money contributed through the campaign would support various home mission ministries across the archdiocese. These include parishes and schools that often serve the underprivileged in our society. As of Aug. 23, nearly $78 million had been pledged through the campaign. These pledges came from more than 25,000 participants from 115 archdiocesan parishes. In addition, some 13,000 people across the archdiocese have volunteered their efforts for their parishes and the archdiocese as a whole in the campaign.

When the seminarians visited the families, they discussed the tuition assistance the archdiocese is able to offer students. "Many of the families did not realize this," Zittman said. “And so we have verbalized that when they’re come to register.”

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Ted Karras keeps hearing that his football team won’t have a prayer as it begins its first season in the 71-year history of Marian College in Indianapolis.

He keeps hearing that his team—made up of mostly freshman and sophomore students who have never played in a college game—doesn’t stand a chance of winning even one game in a 10-game schedule that begins on Sept. 1 at William Penn University in Oskaloosa, Iowa.

And every time that Marian’s head football coach hears those predictions and doubts, he instinctively reacts in the same way that the Karras men have always responded to a challenge in football: his muscles tense, his eyes sear with passion, and his whole body pulsed with the knowledge and the belief that he will give every ounce of energy to overcome the doubters and their predictions.

After all, this is a man whose father played on the 1963 Chicago Bears world championship team, a man whose uncle is the former all-intensity, all-pro Alex Karras, a man whose favorite moment as a player came when he played for Northwestern University in 1984 and sacked the Indiana University quarterback in the end zone for a safety—points that ended up being the difference in the game.

“I wasn’t recruited by IU,” Karras, 42, recalls. “I felt I was overlooked. I can identify with the kids I’m trying to recruit at Marian. I look for heart and the hunger to want to continue to play.”

Besides, anyone who wants to say that Karras, his coaches and his 100 football players at Marian don’t have a prayer definitely don’t know them. In fact, Karras now lives his life by a certain prayer—a prayer that his father, a convert to the Catholic faith, insisted that his son use before a game he coached in 2003.

Karras was coaching for Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology then and his team was preparing to play Washington University in St. Louis, a team that Rose-Hulman hadn’t beaten in 11 years.

“My dad asked me to say the prayer in front of the team before the game,” Karras recalls. “I wasn’t sure about doing it, but he was emphatic. He got mad at me. He said, ‘You have to.'” I gave my pre-game speech, said the prayer and I had everyone repeat it before we took the field. It was an extremely tough game. We ended up winning in the last minute, it was a big upset. I’ve been saying the prayer ever since.”

The prayer is known as “the prayer of Jabez”—Jabez came to the God of Israel. “Oh God, you would bless me and enlarge my territory! Let your hand be with me, and keep me from harm so I will be free from pain.” And God granted his request” [1 Chr 4:9-10].

“He explained how God wants us to ask for his blessings and that’s what we have to do in our lives. I trust believe that God wants the best for us, and that we also have to do our part and be there when help is needed,” says Billy Cobb, a defensive end, before one of the hottest Augusts in Indianapolis history.

“Coach Karras is definitely a great leader,” says Cobb, a 2006 graduate of Roncalli and a member of Marian’s first football team. “He doesn’t have a prayer, but he’s there. He’s there for the players. He’s there for the team. He’s there to talk to you, he’s there to talk to him, he’s there. He also talks about academics first, which is important at a school like ours.”

Will Roush also appreciates that faith is a part of the football program at Marian, including the prayer of Jabez.

“It was the first time I’ve ever heard that prayer,” says Roush, 19, a 2006 graduate of Roncalli and a member of Marian’s football team.

“Coach Karras is definitely a great leader,” says Cobb, a 2005 Roncalli graduate and a member of St. Jude Parish in Indianapolis. “He’s there to talk to you when you need it. He’s taught on the football field, but whenever you need to talk to him, he’s there. He also talks about academics first, which is important at a school like ours.”

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“It was the first time I’ve ever heard that prayer,” says Roush, 19, a 2006 graduate of Roncalli and a member of Our Lady of the Greenwood Parish in Greenwood.

“It’s short and to the point. It’s nice to have prayer as a constant in the football program just like it was in high school.”

Assistant coach Wayne Racine shares this insight about Karras: “A lot of coaches lose that sense of humility. He doesn’t.”

Maybe that explains one of the answers Karras gives when he is asked to share one of the highlights of the football program so far.

He refers to an e-mail he received from a college administrator who parked her car illegally in a grassy spot on campus, a grassy spot that turned into a muddy swamp during a torrential downpour that day. When she tried to leave her makeshift parking spot that night, her car became stuck in the mud until a group of football players came to her rescue. The administrator wanted to let Karras know how “chivalrous” his players were.

That’s just exactly what Karras wants to hear about the off-field efforts of a team named the Knights.

On the field, he will expect—and demand—their best, too. That starts with the first game in the school’s history on Sept. 1. It will continue with the team’s first-ever home game at 2 p.m. on Sept. 8 at Pike High School in Indianapolis—against McKendree College.

“I have a true sense of urgency, and I try to stress that to my team in everything I do,” Karras says. “My approach is we’re going to take the field expecting to win. I think anything can happen on a football field. I’m real excited. It’s going to be interesting to take the field for the first game.”

He knows that his team has a prayer.

“It’s been a long journey,” he says. “My faith has helped me. There have been some down days. There have been great days, too. In any process like this, you have to be strong in your faith. I’m trying to motivate them to believe that anything is possible.”

Ted Karras

Marian College football coach eager to open inaugural season

By John Shaughnessy

The criterion for the first game.

A banner inside the football coaches’ office at Marian College proclaims the first football season in the school’s 71-year history.
The best heart team. The best outcomes.

Mo Moriarity
HEAD FOOTBALL COACH, CARMEL HIGH SCHOOL

The best heart care in Indiana. Period.
Lilly Endowment announces clergy renewal program

Lilly Endowment Inc. has announced that the popular Indiana Clergy Renewal Program will continue for its 10th year. So far, more than 280 Indiana congregations have received grants that have enabled them to send their ministers far and wide on voyages of renewal and refreshment. The congregations, too, through their own programs and plans during the sabbaticals, often experience renewed energy and purpose.

Through the program, the endowment offers congregations up to 40 grants of up to $45,000 each to support renewal programs for their pastors. Up to $15,000 of that amount may be used to help the congregation fulfill pastoral duties, said Craig Dykstra, the endowment’s senior vice president for religion.

“Most of them have never taken a sabbatical. These are not ‘burned-out’ pastors, but hard-working people whose duties have left them little time to stop—just stop—for a while,” Dykstra said. “As one pastor told us after his sabbatical, ‘If you think you’re too busy to get away, you’re busier than you need to be. The renewal program can help you understand that.’”

With these grants, pastors travel to places anywhere in the world, explore the historical traditions of their faith, renew family and friendship ties, read, write, worship and pray—whatever helps them draw more deeply on the sources of renewal that give them energy and sustain them in their ministries.

“These are intentional times of replenishment,” Dykstra stressed. “They are not vacations. Successful proposals combine a sense of coherency among the proposed activities, usually drawn together in a thematic unity that is apparent in the proposal. This is not a fill-in-the-blanks application. It takes time for the pastor and congregation to put together a well-thought-out plan. Among the proposals, there is a great deal of variety, but the point is always renewal—of body, mind, and spirit—in the deepest possible sense.”

One pastor echoed Dykstra’s statement. “The most prevalent impact on the congregation was that we bonded beyond any expectations we could have had. By working together and intentionally putting God and the Church first, we grew as one and beyond any expectations we could have had. By working together and intentionally putting God and the Church first, we grew as one and accomplished things that we were not sure were possible,” he said.

The program is open to all Indiana congregations that have an ordained pastor. Applications must be postmarked by Jan. 29, 2008, and grant recipients will be notified by late May 2008.

For more information, log on to www.lillyendowment.org and click on Religion, call 317-946-7350, e-mail indianaclergyrenewal@yahoo.com, or write Jean M. Smith, program director, Lilly Endowment, 2801 N. Meridian St., Indianapolis. Those who would like to attend should fill out the invitation card that accompanies the application (or that is available on the endowment’s Web site) and return it to the endowment by Sept. 20.

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Biblical women: Jacob’s wives and consorts

(Fifth in a series of columns)

Last week, I wrote about the way Rebekah and her son, Jacob, deceived Isaac. Rebekah’s husband, Isaac, had died, and Jacob’s brother, Esau, had married a wife. He no sooner reached Haran, where Rebekah had grown up, then he married a wife, named Rachel, daughter of his uncle, Laban, Rebekah’s brother. Laban also had an older daughter, Leah.

The Bible says, “Leah had lovely eyes, but Rachel was well formed and beautiful” (Gen 29:17). We used to hear that phrase in our minds, reimagined in love with Rachel. He proposed to Laban that he would work for Laban for seven years in return for Rachel. Laban agreed, and Jacob served him for seven years.

At the end of the seven years, Laban hosted a great wedding feast. As night fell at the end of the feast, he led the veiled bride to Jacob’s tent. That night they consummated their marriage. But when morning came, “Jacob was amazed: it was Leah!” (Gen 29:25).

Jacob immediately confronted Laban, asking, “How could you do this to me?” Laban simply replied, “It is not customary in our country to marry off a younger daughter before an older one.” But not to worry, he said, Jacob could marry both Rachel and, too, he promised for more years of service to Laban. But he didn’t have to wait seven years; he married Rachel a week later.

So Jacob had two wives. Not just two wives, but also their maidservants. Leah begat Reuben, Simeon, Levi, Judah, Issachar, and Zebulun—and a daughter, Dinah. Rachel had two children, Joseph and Benjamin. Bilhah was their younger daughter, too. And Zilpah had two sons, Dan and Naphtali.

Jacob remained in Mesopotamia for 20 years before he had a falling out with Laban. He fled with his family to Shechem, and then Bethel, where God changed his name to Israel, but then moved on.

Rachel was pregnant with Benjamin during this time and, as they neared Bethel, she went into a difficult labor. She died during the childbirth and Jacob buried her in Bethel. Her tomb remains to be one of the main places of pilgrimage for those who visit the Holy Land.

Cultural Cornucopia

Our week was up and the end of Labor Day weekend

Well, it’s already Labor Day and summer is over. Nut!

We’re now on the move, where we’re now located in the neck of the woods that we established last spring, and somewhere around here our heads are heard in our land: time flies, where did the spring (or so that go, blah-blah-blah. The flowers are now being tamed, they point this past year. You’re being tilled, fall weddings celebrated, club meetings and community service planned and carried out after the summer hiatus.

It’s the end of something, true, but it’s also the beginning of a new season of activity. It seems to set a theme for a day dedicated to labor and those who practice it is celebrated at this time of year.

We need to give thanks, physical labor in honoring Labor Day. There were hard carriers and stonemasons and scullery maids and many more who worked who earned our praise. Today the nature of work has often changed to more cerebral or technical jobs that are considered “backbreaking” work. Many are those who work or worker deserves to be. Well, most work. There are those who are working who are engaging in grossly vulgar or immoral presentations who are doing what we’re doing. Many are those who are doing it.

The kids are mostly back at school even though the heat goes on (isn’t that from a summer hiatus.

Cynthia Dewes

Honoring workers on Labor Day weekend

The first Monday of September is Labor Day in the United States and Canada. Until recently, I did not realize that Canadians and Americans celebrate this observance simultaneously. It would be well if all nations did the same because those who works should be recognized for what they do and remembering the benefits they bring.

Unfortunately, some of us might not know this. In many countries, slavery is still practiced so we who work, should be grateful for our freedom to do what we want.

In fact, although many people also might not know this, there is even “underground slavery” in our country through illegal trafficking and prostitution. If anyone doubts this, please do an Internet or a library search.

Slavery is a hateful word, but unfortunately it has been condemned and practiced for countless centuries in countless places.

The Civil War ended legal slavery in our country, but it still continues in clandestine ways.

Labor willingly done, however, is a blessing of our time and others, whether with compensation or not.

As mentioned in a recent column, compensation are a must. We need recognition, too. Labor Day reminds us of that.

When checking a dictionary for the word “labor,” we can find many definitions ranging from physical or mental exertion to a service in rank of the pastime of childhood. We know that labor can be recognized as easy or difficult, methodical or erratic, kill us with a thousand cuts or solitary—and in countless other ways.

The work is really classified when you can say ours is a “labor of love.” For instance, during and after a successful career, my husband has been the assistant chief mechanic and certified railroad engineer at the Indiana Transportation Museum in Noblesville.

As a volunteer, this is his passion, although he also is a baritone with the Indianapolis Maennerchor, which was founded in 1854 and is the oldest male chorus in the U.S. And he still enjoys photography. I can attest to the fact that these activities fuel the bulk of his time and energy, but are “labors of love.”

Having a passion for a particular type of work is not all, whether we are working in America or work as a volunteer, is more than a blessing. It is a way of life.

The true purpose of Labor Day, however, is mostly to recognize those who keep our nation’s economy working on a daily basis, burners through their employment.

Yet, every family, all priests and ministers, all industry, every college, university, every hospital and all medical personnel, and every dedicated worker that society is in the world should be honored on Labor Day.

However, happily, Labor Day is also a day of rest. May we enjoy it in a leisurely way no matter what we are doing.

(Shirley Vogler Meister, a member of Christ the King Parish in Indianapolis, is a regular columnist for The Criterion.)
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The Sunday Readings

Sunday, Sept. 2, 2007

• Sirach 3:17-18, 20-28
• Hebrews 12:18-19, 22-24a
• Luke 14:1-7, 14

The Book of Sirach furnishes the first Scripture reading for this weekend. The text is among those bibli cal volumes collectively called the Wisdom Literature. This designation means that those books attempt to show that the Jews' ancient faith in the one God of Israel, and their insistence that God's law be obeyed, are in no way illogical or unwise. To the contrary, to possess genuine wisdom means that a person realizes the fact that God lives and reigns, and also knows that all persons and all things are subject to God.

This weekend's reading expressly refers to humility. While Christianity and spirituality more often are associated with humility, it was a virtue very much admired, and evident, in the Old Testament. This especially was the case with many of the prophets, and adversely even of the kings. For instance, David, whom God had chosen to be king, rebelled against God and sinned. However, in the end, David humbly turned back to God, repenting his sins.

"Sirach," the name of this book, derives from the name of the author mentioned in the book. The author was Yehuda (or Jesus in English), the son of Sira. This book was written in Egypt by Jewish immigrants from the Holy Land or possibly by descendants of such immigrants around 132 B.C. The date of composition can be determined because the forward says that it was authored during the reign of Pharaoh Ptolemy VII and the dates of this reign are known in world history.

The Epistle to the Hebrews is the source of the second reading. Speaking with Hebrew symbolism and references to Hebrew history, this reading recalls that whereas the ancient followers of the foreward says that it was authored such immigrants around 132 B.C. The date written in Egypt by Jewish immigrants from the book. The author was Yeshua (or Jesus Wise Literature.

Pray—Obey

"Respect always. Pray without ceasing. In all circumstances give thanks, for this is the will of God for you in Christ Jesus. Do not quench the Spirit." (1 Thes 5:16-19)

"Let's look first at the qualifications for being a sponsor at baptism. One requirement is that a godparent not be the father or mother of the one to be baptized (Canon #893). We are told that parents no longer may fulfill this condition. †

"Parents may be presenters, godparents, or other relatives. The family and godparents.

"The location of reconciliation is meant not only to make up for sins, but also to help remedy the weaknesses that cause our sins. Often, a priest feels that some action, like an act of kindness, will serve that purpose better than a few prayers.

"The Church encourages such penances. The ritual for this sacrament explains that the satisfaction or penance imposed should correspond to the seriousness and the nature of the sins confessed, to the extent possible. "This satisfaction may be suitably performed by prayer, by self-denial, and especially by service of neighbor and works of mercy, through which the social aspect of sin and its forgiveness may be expressed" ("Rite of Penance," #18).

"You're fortunate to have a priest who cares that you receive the greatest benefit from this sacrament. †

Readers may submit prose or poetry for faith column

The Criterion invites readers to submit original prose or poetry related to their faith and experiences of prayer for possible publication in the "My Journey to God" column. Selections for consideration are also 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 845, Marion, IN 46953 or e-mail to criterion@archindy.org.
CHA president chosen most powerful figure in U.S. health care

WASHINGTON (CNS)—More powerful than body-builder-turned-governor Arnold Schwarzenegger? It’s true if you’re Sister Carol Kasian.

The issue isn’t about who can lift the greatest weight in the gym. It’s about who’s got more muscle in the health care arena.

Sister Carol, a Daughter of Charity who served as chief executive officer of the Catholic Health Association, the trade group for Catholic hospitals, finished first in the sixth annual reader poll conducted by Modern Healthcare magazine of the 100 most powerful people in health care.

Schwarzenegger, the governor of California, finished third. Mississippi, Republican Gov. Haley Barbour, who has turned the state around, was second.

Sister Carol topped all corners, including presidents, presidential candidates, congressional movers and shakers, federal officials, hospital executives, educators and public policy vanguards in the survey, which was published on Aug. 27.

She was ranked 26th in the 2006 poll. In 2004, Sister Carol had just assumed the CHA presidency the previous November.

In profiling Sister Carol, the magazine said she has “somehow managed to connect with all the disparate interest groups without alienating any of them.”

But being the most powerful doesn’t get you everything.

“Quite frankly, I think we’ve learned more about the breadth and worthiness of this country until the American people demand it,” Sister Carol told the magazine.

“I’m not sure that any one person or association has enough power to move our health care system to where it needs to be for the good of this nation,” she added. “Until we have that critical mass of American people saying ‘We want it,’ loud enough and dominant enough, we won’t have the coordinated responsiveness from the powers that need to come together to build a health system worthy of this nation.”

Sister Carol, 63, has been a member of the Daughters of Charity for 43 years. She is the first woman to have just assumed the CHA presidency the previous November.

In the past year, the CHA, under her leadership, has stumped for renewal of the State Children’s Health Insurance Program, lobbied for greater access to health care for all, and advocated for the continued tax-exempt status of hospitals.

Prior to assuming the CHA presidency, Sister Carol had chaired the board of Catholic Health System Group, based in Pennscola, Fla. She also had headed Providence Hospital in Washington for 15 years.

Missouri Catholics join in efforts for real ban on human cloning

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. (CNS)—Missouri voters will get another crack at a true ban on cloning if a grassroots petition campaign, led by physicians and backed by Catholic leaders, is successful.

Dr. Lori Buffa, a pediatrician in St. Peters, has filed with Missouri Secretary of State Carahnn a proposed 300-word constitutional amendment that a coalition called Cures Without Cloning hopes to place before Missouri voters next year.

Carnahan has 30 days to act on the amendment language and write the language that will appear on the ballot. Cures Without Cloning will then have until May 4, 2008, to collect between 140,000 and 150,000 signatures to place the issue on the Nov. 4, 2008, general election ballot statewide.

Buffa said the Cures Without Cloning amendment would clarify the definition of cloning by “asserting that human cloning and attempts to clone” a human being, but redefined “cloning” only as “to implant or attempt to implant in a uterus” a genetically engineered embryo.

Buffa said this language allows research laboratories to create cloned embryos as long as those embryos are not implanted in a mother’s womb.

The Amendment 2 definition of cloning “is not the scientific definition of cloning that I have read in any scientific or medical journals,” Buffa said.

“Dr. Nostradamus, a fictional character, would have written that as the description of cloning in the Bible,” he said.

Buffa said this language allows research laboratories to create cloned embryos as long as those embryos are not implanted in a mother’s womb.

The Amendment 2 definition of cloning “is not the scientific definition of cloning that I have read in any scientific or medical journals,” Buffa said.

“As a doctor, I know that human cloning is dangerous, it’s unproven and it’s wrong,” she said, noting that the cloning process now protected in the state constitution by Amendment 2 is the same process that created the famous cloned sheep, Dolly.

Buffa said the proposed Cures Without Cloning amendment would still allow all medical stem-cell research that does not involve the cloning of human beings.
Diocese celebrates 150th anniversary with Eucharistic Congress

By Ann Carey

NOTRE DAME, Ind.—Thousands of Catholics made the pilgrimage to the University of Notre Dame campus on Aug. 18 to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend.

While oppressive heat and heavy rains affected much of the country, northern Indiana enjoyed an unusually mild August day, and persistent gray clouds even held back their mists until everyone had gathered in the Joyce Athletic and Convocation Center for the event’s closing Mass.

Some participants came on buses chartered by their parishes. Others drove with their families, often meeting up with fellow parishioners once they arrived on campus. Like some of the other pilgrims, Dan and Karen VanOverberghe’s family from New Carlisle, Ind., proudly wore T-shirts with their parish’s name on the front. Shuttle buses ran continuously from parking lots to deliver people to the various pilgrimage venues on campus, but many people brought their own “wheels” for moving around, including wheelchairs for seniors and strollers and wagons for the youngest generation.

The day’s events began with an ecumenical prayer service in the Basilica of the Sacred Heart that was filled to capacity. An array of Christian pastors and leaders from around the city of South Bend lined the front of the sacred sanctuary along with Bishop John M. D’Arcy of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend and Archbishop Daniel M. Buechlein of the Archdiocese of Indianapolis. Archbishop Buechlein presided at the service and, at Bishop D’Arcy’s request, gave a reflection on the early Church’s “collage of ministry” as an insight into how different Christians can appreciate what each contributes to the Church.

The university’s Our Lady of Lourdes Grotto also was crowded all day long due to ongoing recitation of the rosary. Daylong eucharistic adoration in the Alumni Hall Chapel was a suitably quieter venue with a stream of worshippers throughout the day.

Pilgrims offered the sacrament of reconciliation at 45 stations sprinkled around the campus.

Father John Stecher of the University of Saint Francis in Fort Wayne, Ind., told Today’s Catholic that confessions had been “steady” all day. There weren’t long lines of people waiting, he said, but people milling around would come to confession when they saw that a priest was free.

University of Saint Francis sophomore Megan Gumble said that, for her, confession was the best part of the congress.

“It’s probably the best confession I’ve had in like, five years,” she said. “I don’t know the priest’s name, but he was fabulous.”

A vast array of workshops in morning and afternoon sessions kept the pilgrims moving between buildings, and many first-time visitors to Notre Dame enjoyed touring the campus while walking to their chosen workshops.

First-time visitor John Fedele of St. John the Baptist Parish in New Haven, Ind., pronounced Notre Dame “breath-taking” as he admired the preservation of historical artifacts and buildings on the campus.

Workshops at the congress included adult, family and youth tracks. Some were interactive, like the family concert with Amanda Vemon that recruited entertainers out of the audience of families with children from preschool through age 8.

Other more heady adult workshops covered everything from Scripture to the Blessed Mother to the Eucharist. The bishop said it has left his people, such as young people here today with their families and youths all seemed surprised to see so many with children from preschool through age 8.

Top 5% in the nation for overall orthopaedic care.

Bishop John M. D’Arcy celebrates the closing Mass of the Eucharistic Congress at the University of Notre Dame on Aug. 18.

St. John the Baptist Parish in New Haven, Ind., pronounced Notre Dame “breath-taking.”

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