Faith helps football players on and off the field

By Sean Gallagher

After beating the Chicago Bears in Super Bowl XL in February, the Indianapolis Colts stormed to another strong start, winning their first seven games of the 2007-08 season.

Even with a faith-filled head coach like Tony Dungy, it might have been easy for players on the team to think they are invincible.

But the players know better. And consecutive losses to the New England Patriots and the San Diego Chargers helped bring that reality into perspective.

Though the Colts are one of the youngest teams in the NFL, the players learned long ago that, no matter how far they go in fulfilling their gridiron dreams, that journey can end suddenly with one bone-jarring tackle that results in a career-ending injury or a series of small injuries that just keep adding up.

This season, the Colts have arguably had more than their fair share of serious injuries. Future Hall-of-Fame wide receiver Marvin Harrison has missed several games with a knee injury. Defensive starters Anthony McFarland and Bob Morris’ season came to a quick end due to knee injuries. Concussions have kept tight end Dwight Freeney’s season ended because of a serious foot injury.

When one player goes down, it gives another player the chance to step up, get more playing time and show he belongs on the field. But an injury can present an opportunity for the sidelined player as well, helping him step back and re-examine what is most important in his life.

Former Colts teammates Rocky Boiman and Keith O’Neil have experienced the effects of injuries this season, and both have relied on their Catholic faith to keep them grounded through the many twists and turns of a professional football career.

Striving for excellence

Last season was Boiman’s first year with the Colts after spending four years with the Tennessee Titans. He played mainly on special teams and had limited playing time on defense as a backup linebacker.

But due to several injuries to defensive players this season, Boiman has been given the opportunity to be part of this important process.

The next step is to get more feedback from the people that make up the Church in central and southern Indiana.

With that in mind, we are looking for people of faith to respond to this question: What things should the leadership of the archdiocese consider in its next planning process based on your experience as a Catholic in this archdiocese? Please take a few minutes to answer this question. We will summarize the responses, and report them in a future issue of The Criterion.

An online version of the questionnaire is also available at www.archindy.org/blessings. Please log on to the Web site to complete the process.

Please submit your answers by Dec. 10. Thank you for taking the time to be part of this important process.

Send responses by e-mail to criterion@archindy.org or mail to The Criterion, 1400 N. Meridian St., P.O. Box 1717, Indianapolis, IN 46206-1717.

Responses for planning process needed by Dec. 10

The Archdiocese of Indianapolis is continuing to gather information to be used in its next strategic planning process.

Archdiocesan officials thank parishioners who have already taken the time to share their insights.

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Indianapolis Colts linebacker Rocky Boiman fights off a block by former Indianapolis Colts linebacker Keith O'Neil walks on the playing field in this undated photo. After being a member of the Colts for two years, O'Neil was cut from the team on Aug. 26. He said his Catholic faith helps him cope with injuries and the tenuous nature of his profession.

“‘I don’t care who gets healthy and who doesn’t. I just pray that we make it to the playoffs,” Boiman said. “I’m not focusing on that. I’m just focusing on getting better every week.”

Boiman is one of six Indianapolis Colts players, including O’Neil, who played for Notre Dame. As a senior, O’Neil started every game and helped Notre Dame win the national championship in 1988.

“Boiman, he also played on special teams. But a series of lingering injuries contributed to his being cut from the team on Aug. 26—his 27th birthday—during the team’s training camp this summer.

As difficult as this was for O’Neil, it’s been a part of his life from the very beginning—literally.

O’Neil’s father was cut from the New England Patriots by then assistant coach Bill Parcells on the day that Keith was born in 1980.

Keith O’Neil grew up with a love of football, played at Northern Arizona University, and survived the final cut and earned a roster spot with the Dallas Cowboys on—you guessed it—his birthday in 2003.

The head coach of Dallas at the time? Bill Parcells. O’Neil eventually made his way to the Colts and was getting ready to start his third year with the team when he was cut on his birthday this year.

Such coincidences might have led O’Neil to think that God was playing a cruel, lifelong joke on him. But he doesn’t see it that way.

“I kind of liked it,” O’Neil said. “It’s something between my father and God and my birthday, and being born in August and always being in football around the day I was born.

“I kind of embraced that, knowing that my father got cut on the day I was born. Maybe I was supposed to play in the NFL because of that.”

O’Neil’s family ties go beyond football and extend to his faith.

“I grew up in a Catholic family that went to Mass every Sunday and had prayer at night,” he said. “It was a very close-knit family who turned to God and to Jesus in times of need.”

O’Neil turned to Jesus last summer as he experienced the two sports-related hernia of his career, an injury that can require a long amount of recovery time.

Just days before being cut, he spoke with The Criterion about his injury and how his faith helped him cope with it. “With this past injury, it was frustrating, and I did lean on God and on my wife, who is a Christian,” O’Neil said. “And we just prayed that whatever happens, that it will be for the best.

“If I do get back on the field, hopefully I can perform to the best of my ability. But if I can’t, we just believe that it’s in God’s hands and we’ll make the most of it.”

O’Neil hasn’t been back on the field yet. But he hopes to play in the NFL again and has received calls from some interested teams.

“I probably needed a season or half a season off,” he said. “And God knew that. I probably wasn’t ready to play in this season.

“My faith definitely does help carry me through these tough times because it is a very tough time right now.”

Growing closer to Christ

Father Peter Gallagher, volunteer chaplain of the Colts and chaplain of Cardinal Ritter Jr./Sr. High School in Indianapolis, said coping with injuries is an opportunity for football players to grow closer to Christ.

“I would try to get them to associate whatever they’re experiencing with the suffering of Christ,” he said. “That’s the whole of the message.

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Readers are invited to share favorite Christmas memories

Favorite Christmas memories are worth telling again and again.

The Criterion invites you to submit a brief story about a special holiday memory for possible inclusion in the annual Christmas Supplement, which will be published in the Dec. 21 issue.

Your Christmas story may be written about a humorous or serious topic related to your faith, family or friends.

Submissions should include the writer’s name, address, parish and telephone number, and be mailed to The Criterion, P.O. Box 1717, Indianapolis, IN 46206 or sent by e-mail to criterion@archindy.org by the Dec. 6 deadline.

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The Criterion
NEW ALBANY—Abortion is a human rights issue, Father Peter West emphasized, not just a woman’s issue.

After praying the rosary outside an abortion clinic in Louisville at 7:30 a.m. on Nov. 10, Father West and Servants of the Gospel of Life Sister Diane Carollo spoke at the “I Love Life” conference at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish.

Father West, a Priests for Life staff member from the Archdiocese of Newark, N.J., and Sister Diane, the director of the archdiocesan Office for Pro-Life Ministry, inspired about 100 conference participants from southern Indiana and Kentucky with their advice about ways to battle the culture of death in contemporary society.

The conference was sponsored by St. Joseph Parish in Sellersburg and held at the New Albany parish.

“It’s always a very sad thing when you’re there in front of [an abortion] mill,” Father West said. “You never know who you’re going to turn away or how many people maybe just saw the crowd and decided not to come that day. We have to keep our efforts on behalf of life, and one of the most important things I think we can do is pray in front of the [abortion] mills.”

He said Msgr. Philip Reilly, who founded the Helpers of God’s Precious Infants in New York, described praying founded the Helpers of God’s Precious Infants in New York, described praying “the miracle of prayer” in the archdiocese in 2000. Msgr. Reilly is now pastor of the New Albany parish.

“Abortion denies human rights to a whole class of human beings,” Father West said, “based on their size, stage of development and where they live—inside the womb.”

He said the U.S. bishops’ document on “Living the Gospel of Life: A Challenge to American Catholics” identifies the right to life as the premier moral issue. Political responsibility must be based on moral principles, he said, and pro-life work must involve emotional efforts. Emphasizing that there is an appropriate time and place to show people pictures of aborted babies, Father West said, “I don’t think people really fully understand the horror of abortion unless they see the images; every person needs to be exposed to the reality of abortion. The pictures are the greatest wake-up call you can send.”

Abortion is the greatest obstacle to pro-life ministry, he said. “We need to pray for ourselves so that we will overcome the fear of speaking out in public about what we know is right, that we will overcome our own apathy, and that we will work diligently to create a new culture of life in which each and every human being will be welcomed, protected, nurtured and loved from the moment of conception to the moment of natural death.”

Sister Diane served as a pro-life sidewalk counselor with Msgr. Reilly in New York. She promoted the Helpers ministry and started offering Project Rachel, a post-abortion reconciliation program, after beginning her ministry in the archdiocese in 2000.

“Abortion is just one of Satan’s many tools against humanity,” she said. “The right to life of people who are incurably or terminally ill, handicapped, women who are tempted to have an abortion, the doctors to use their God-given skills, not to take life but to serve life.”

Sisters for Life was founded by Father Frank Pavone to reach out to clergy, he said, and encourage them to pray the truth about abortion and work for the defense of life in other ways.

“Abortion denies human rights to a whole class of human beings,” Father West said, “based on their size, stage of development and where they live—inside the womb.” He said the U.S. bishops’ document on “Living the Gospel of Life: A Challenge to American Catholics” identifies the right to life as the premier moral issue. Political responsibility must be based on moral principles, he said, and pro-life work must involve emotional efforts. Emphasizing that there is an appropriate time and place to show people pictures of aborted babies, Father West said, “I don’t think people really fully understand the horror of abortion unless they see the images; every person needs to be exposed to the reality of abortion. The pictures are the greatest wake-up call you can send.”

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“Abortion is just one of Satan’s many tools against humanity,” she said. “The right to life of people who are incurably or terminally ill, handicapped, poor and weak are also at risk in the culture of death that is prevalent in contemporary society.”

“More than 50 million unborn children have been destroyed legally through surgical abortions since 1973 in this country,” she said. “In the state of Indiana, 54,506 abortions were recorded in 2000 through 2004. In 2004, Marion County had 3,559 abortions, Clark County had 22, Floyd County had 14, Harrison County had six [and] New Albany had 42.”

Each abortion claims more than one victim, Sister Diane said. “For every child destroyed by abortion, there are two parents—and countless friends and relatives—who must endure the devastating consequences of this choice.

What appeared to be a solution to a problem becomes for many the worst nightmare of their lives. I am not exaggerating when I say that millions of post-abortive parents bear spiritual, emotional and psychological scars from abortion.”

Women and men who suffer in the aftermath of abortion are “survivors of the culture of death,” she said. “They deserve our compassion.”

“Society’s hostile mentality against life thrives in abortion facilities,” she said, as well as in laboratories and fertility clinics.

“Embryonic stem-cell research destroys the unborn, has produced no benefits or cures in treating diseases and yet continues to be promoted over adult stem-cell research that has a proven success rate,” Sister Diane said. “Half a million embryos remain suspended in a frozen state in fertility clinics around the country. This has been going on for 30 years. They will never be implanted in their mother’s womb and will never see the light of day.”

The culture of death teaches people that they can be selective about life, she said. “The sick, elderly and dying are other easy targets. Assisted suicide and euthanasia are on the rise.”

Contemporary society is obsessed with death, Sister Diane said, and many people see no value in redemptive suffering.

“Jesus and the teachings of the Church provide the antidote to the culture of death,” she said. “… Through Christ and his Church, we learn how to live well and how to die well in the state of grace.”

In a society that is spiritually bankrupt, she said, Christians can take heart from the words of St. Paul for inspiration and advice on how to live in the midst of the culture of death with hope and courage.

“We can identify with St. Paul, the Apostle and missionary, in that we too are missionaries called to witness to the dignity and sanctity of human life,” Sister Diane said. “… It is our calling, by virtue of our baptism, to reintroduce the liberating message of the Gospel to the people of our time.”

Speakers: Be witnesses each day and help build a culture of life

By Mary Ann Wyand

By Mary Ann Wyand

“Mary, Our Lady of the New Advent”

with Msgr. Joseph F. Schaedel

Vicar General for the Archdiocese of Indianapolis

December 5, 2007 • 8:30 a.m.–2:30 p.m.

This day of reflection will focus on the Advent Season, our preparation for Christmas, the Word made Flesh among us. Through the eyes of Mary we will reflect on our lives and how we can best prepare for Christ’s coming here and now.

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Two Americans are among the 23 new cardinals that Pope Benedict XVI will install at a special consistory this Saturday, Nov. 24.

For one, Cardinal-designate John P. Foley, it appears to be a personal honor for his long service to the Church. The 73-year-old archbishop from Philadelphia had been president of the Pontifical Council for Social Communications for 23 years.

Many Americans probably know him best as the narrator for the pope’s televised Midnight Mass at Christmas or as the best as the narrator for the pope’s annual conventions of the Catholic Press Association. He is well known for his intelligence. He is a great storyteller in private moments as well as for his intelligence.

The president of the Pontifical Council for Social Communications, though, has never been headed by a cardinal—although Archbishop Andre Desktur, Archbishop Foley’s predecessor, was named a cardinal after his retirement for health reasons.

When Pope Benedict appointed Archbishop Foley as grand master of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem earlier this year, it seemed likely that he would be named a cardinal since that pontifical order has usually been headed by a cardinal—never by a woman—until this year.

The other new American cardinal is Archbishop Daniel N. DiNardo of Galveston-Houston. In this case, the designation appears to be less of a personal honor for his long service to the Church. The 69-year-old archbishop from Houston had been president of the Pontifical Council for the Causes of Saints for 10 years.

Cardinal-designate John P. Foley, left, and Cardinal-designate Daniel N. DiNardo, both Americans, are among the 23 cardinals that Pope Benedict XVI will install on Nov. 24.

The Catholic population has also grown significantly. The Catholic population has also grown in the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston isn’t the only place in the South where Catholics are growing at an amazing speed. The Archdiocese of Atlanta and the Diocese of Dallas are both six times larger than they were in 1980. The Archdiocese of Miami is larger than it was in 1980 despite the fact that four new dioceses were cut out of its territory.

The Catholic population has also grown in Alabama, North and South Carolina, and throughout the Southwest.

While the rates of religious practice have fallen considerably among Catholics in New England, other places in the East and, to a certain extent, here in the Midwest, the Church in the South and Southwest has become more vibrant.

Surely the pope’s designation of Archbishop DiNardo as a cardinal reflects that.

Some people have expressed surprise that Archbishop Donald Wuerl of Washington and Archbishop Edwin O’Brien of Baltimore were not given the red hat. However, both were only recently appointed to those Sees and have a number of years to go before they are eligible to be a cardinal.

Archbishop Wuerl has been president of the Pontifical North American College in Rome for the last three years.

As for the first American cardinal ever to be named by Pope Benedict, he is a well-respected prelate who has served in a number of important posts.

Cardinal-designate John P. Foley, left, and Cardinal-designate Daniel N. DiNardo, both Americans, are among the 23 cardinals that Pope Benedict XVI will install on Nov. 24.
R

Gracias a los estudiantes por sus oraciones y su apoyo

archbishop/arzobispo Daniel M. Buechlein, O.S.B.

seeking the face of the lord

buscando la cara del señor

I

received a packet of letters from sixth-, seventh- and eighth-graders at St. Mary School in Aurora. Their religion classes sent thank-you and congratulations on the occasion of my 20th anniversary as bishop and 15th as archbishop. I thought I would print some of these letters as a way to show my thanks for their good wishes and prayers as an observance of Thanksgiving Day.

As you readers know, I get a kick out of letters from grade school students. Perhaps the most delightful in this group was the following:

Dear Archbishop Daniel, Hi! I am 12 years old, and I love sports. My favorite sports are soccer, basketball, tennis, softball and volleyball. I have six cats and a dog. My dog’s name is Max. You probably don’t want to read my cats’ names. I have a 19-year-old sister. She is nice most of the time. I have been playing soccer for seven years, basketball for seven years, tennis, softball, and volleyball for one year.

Queenie is my cat. My mom thinks she is an angel. I love my animals so much. Thank you for being the archbishop.

We are praying for you and hope that God will bless you in everything you do. Come visit us at St. Mary’s sometime.

Sincerely, Danille

Dear Danille, I hope to visit your school sometime, maybe next spring. I appreciate your prayers and good wishes and your story of your sister.

Dear Archbishop, Congratulations on being our Archbishop for 15 years. You have been a great source of strength in our school. We have been praying for you in class. We hope that you can stay healthy, and can continue your work here.

Sincerely, Sean

Dear Sean, thank you for your kind words and good wishes. I am always happy to know that you recognize our shortage of priests. And I appreciate your prayers for vocations in your school. Maybe you could become a priest.

Dear Archbishop Daniel, I found out in church that you have been our archbishop for 15 years. We appreciate your devotion and service to the Church. A lot of people pray for you. You have a hard job to do. I’ll keep praying for you, too. We always pray for good vocations at St. Mary’s. In school, our teachers tell us to think about becoming priests, brothers and sisters.

Thank you for answering God’s call. God be with you. Sincerely, Adam

Dear Adam, God be with you, too. I am happy to hear your teachers invite you to consider a vocation to religious life. You mention that my job is important. I appreciate that, but I want to tell you that being a priest or a bishop is also a great blessing. I am happy God called me to do what I want. When God calls, he gives us the grace, the help, to do what he wills. There is a lot of peace in that.

Dear Archbishop, When you were growing up did you ever think about being a priest? Did you go to a Catholic school?

Sincerely, May

Dear May, in fact it was at St. Joseph School in Jasper, Ind., that I first thought of becoming a priest. All along the way I had good support from my family and from my teachers and priests.

Dear Archbishop, I wrote this letter to congratulate you and to say I thought it was cool that you were a Benedictine monk from St. Meinrad. We all appreciate your devotion and dedication along with other stuff you did for the Church. Well, I have to go, Sincerely, Morgan

Dear Morgan, being a Benedictine monk from Saint Meinrad has been an important part of my vocational journey. Thank you for recognizing that it was “cool.”

Dear Archbishop, When exactly did you feel like you were being called to be a priest? I would like to tell you that our school is alive and working. Every day we pray in religion class. I also would like to thank you for your actions and service in the Archdiocese. I will pray for you as you are entering your 14th year as Archbishop of Indianapolis. God bless you. Sincerely, Luke

Dear Luke, I first thought about being a priest at your age. Then as I was going through spiritual formation in seminary, I became more and more certain. I had the help of priests and seminarian friends to say yes to God. I am so glad that I did.

It is encouraging to hear you say your school is alive and that you pray in religion class. I believe it! Thanks for your prayers and those of your classmates. They mean a lot. I pray for you, too.

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

Archbishop Buechlein’s intention for vocations for November

Catholic high schools: that they may be a continued source for promoting the Catholic values of service and giving of one’s life as a gift for others, especially as priests or religious.

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

Lista de oración del Arzobispo Buechlein

Arquidiócesis de Indianapolis

1400 N. Meridian St.

P.O. Box 1410

Indianapolis, IN 46202-1410

Traducido por: Daniela Guanipa

Language Training Center, Indianapolis.

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

Lista de oración del Arzobispo Buechlein

Arquidiócesis de Indianapolis

1400 N. Meridian St.

P.O. Box 1410

Indianapolis, IN 46202-1410

La intención del Arzobispo Buechlein para vocaciones en noviembre

Las escuelas secundarias católicas: que ellas sean una fuente continua para promover los valores católicos de servir y dedicar su vida como regalo a los demás, especialmente en el cargo de sacerdotes o religiosos.

The Criterion Friday, November 23, 2007

Page 5
Benedictine Sister Theresine Will is baking Springerlies, holiday German cookies.

**Critereion staff report**

Benedictine Sister Theresine Will has been making Springerlies since she was a child growing up in Evansville, Ind. Hundreds of thousands of cookies later, she still enjoys the mixing, rolling and baking of these German Christmas delicacies each holiday season for Our Lady of Grace Monastery in Beech Grove.

The oldest of 12 children, Sister Theresine entered Monastery Immaculate Conception in Ferdinand, Ind., in 1948.

“My mom made many delicious cookies for Christmas,” she said, “but her Springerlies were always a special treat.”

Springerlies have the distinctive taste of anise, a licorice-like flavor that is both sweet and spicy. It was a favorite spice of ancient Egyptians, Greeks and Romans.

The cookies are soft for the first few weeks and become harder each day. If refrigerated after a day or two, they will stay softer for a longer period, but some cookie lovers prefer to eat them hard.

For the past 20 years, Sister Theresine has baked 450 dozen cookies annually. Following many years in the classroom, the sister Theresine worked for Archbishop Daniel M. Buechlein for 14 years before her retirement from active ministry in the archdiocese. Currently, she resides at Our Lady of Grace Monastery, where she is a founding member, and stays active throughout the year.

Sister Theresine’s Springerlies recipe is posted on www.criteriononline.com. Her cookies are also for sale at the monastery’s Benedict Inn Retreat and Conference Center, 1402 Southern Ave., Beech Grove.

Sister Theresine’s Springerlies will host a Christmas open house on Dec. 1 from 9 a.m. until 3 p.m. Along with Springerlies, which are a favorite and sell quickly, shoppers also can buy homemade peanut brittle made by Benedictine Sister Mary Carol Mesmer; religious articles and books; handcrafted jewelry made of freshwater pearls, semi-precious stones, sterling silver and turquoise; other handcrafted gifts; and thousands of Christmas items.

Springerlies and other homemade food items ideal for holiday parties or as gifts can also be ordered through the monastery’s bakery by calling 317-788-7581. All fees support the ministries of the sisters.

Benedictine Sister Theresine Will is baking Springerlies for Christmas.
Father Rick Nagel forming team to run Mini-Marathon for vocations

By Sean Gallagher

Tens of thousands of people will run through the streets of Indianapolis next May during the 32nd annual running of the One America 500 Festival Mini-Marathon.

Father Rick Nagel hopes he and lots of young adults will be spreading the good news of vocations in the midst of the sea of participants during the May 3 event. He is encouraging young adults to sign up to participate in the race, commonly known as the “Mini,” as a way to encourage vocational discernment and to elicit prayers for vocations. Team members can also sign up to run or walk the 5-kilometer race.

As associate vocations director for the archdiocese, Father Nagel helps direct vocational promotions in central and southern Indiana. He said he had been thinking about big events that attract a lot of people and enthusiasm as a way to get the word out about vocations to as many people as possible.

“The Mini came to mind and I thought, ‘Let’s run for vocations,’ ” Father Nagel said. “So I started asking people if they’d be willing and they said, ‘Yeah, I’d love to.’ ”

Aaron Neblett, a member of Our Lady of the Greenwood Parish in Greenwood, loves to run and will be participating in the Mini as part of “Team Vocations.”

“What a great opportunity to benefit both your body and your soul as well, and the souls of others, in the cause of vocations and getting that message out,” Neblett said. “If nothing else, it might make somebody curious [about vocations].”

Father Nagel is primarily encouraging young adults to participate in the race with him, but runners of all ages are welcome. He said it is important to sign up as soon as possible because registration for the Mini fills up quickly. The race is limited to 35,000 participants, and more than 26,000 people are already registered as of The Criterion’s press deadline.

Each member of the team will receive a special T-shirt to wear during the race. On one side will be the message, “Vocation … Everyone has one. What’s yours?” The other side of the shirt will list vocations such as the priesthood, marriage and religious life.

“Everybody is called to something special in life,” he said. “To have that as a kind of billboard running down the street undoubtedly would get a lot of attention and people would begin to think, ‘I wonder what my vocation is?’”

Father Nagel is encouraging young people who sign up for the vocations team to ask for prayer pledges. Those who sponsor runners or walkers might, for example, agree to pray a rosary for vocations for each mile the team member completes in the race.

He is also inviting individuals who sign up to pray for vocations while they train in the weeks and months leading up to the Mini.

Although a novice runner, Father Nagel is going to be a part of the team. “I’m going to do my best to prepare,” he said. “I’ve never run very much before. But I’m jazzed about it.”

(For more information about the One America 500 Festival Mini-Marathon or to register for it, log on to www.500festival.com/marathon or call 317-927-3378. For more information on being part of Father Nagel’s vocations team, call 317-236-1490 or 800-382-9836, ext. 1490, or e-mail him at rnagel@archindy.org. You can also visit Facebook.com and go to the “Run for Vocations” listing.)

Life’s a picnic when you’re with Sagamore!
Christmas Shopping Guide

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Just west of the Monon Trail
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Archbishop Wuerl hopes pope’s visit energizes people’s faith

WASHINGTON (CNS)—Washington Archbishop Donald W. Wuerl said he hopes Pope Benedict XVI’s visit to the nation’s capital next spring will deepen the faith of Catholics in the Archdiocese of Washington and give them new energy.

“Personally, I’m thrilled that he will be here and by and all of us,” he said.

“There is so much renewal going on, among our young people, in the whole Church,” he said. “It will be a reaffirmation of that. But also I’d like to think it’s going to be a way of just re-energizing us.”

He said he believes the emphasis of the pope’s trip will be “on the renewal of the faith life of the Church.”

Archbishop Pietro Sambi, apostolic nuncio to the United States, announced the pontiff’s April 15-20 visit to Washington and New York—billed as an “Apostolic Visit to the United States of America and to the Seat of the United Nations”—at the Nov. 12 opening session of the U.S. bishops’ national meeting in Baltimore.

Pope Benedict’s main public event in Washington will be a Mass on April 17 at the Washington Nationals’ new baseball stadium.

Shortly after the nuncio spoke, Archbishop Wuerl told the Catholic Standard, newspaper of the Washington Archdiocese, that the visit “will be an opportunity for all of us in the Church in Washington to show the Holy Father our affection, to show him our profound affection, to show him our profound loyalty, but also to demonstrate to him how alive the Church in Washington is, how profoundly faith-filled the Church is.”

He said that when it was first announced last summer that the pope was considering a U.S. visit next spring “it seemed appropriate to invite him to Washington.”

The fact that the pope would make Washington his first stop “says to me that he sees this as a center representing the entire Church in the United States,” he said. Besides being the home of Catholic University and the national shrine, Washington is the location of the Seat of the United Nations, “which is a center representing the entire human family,” he said.

He said the pope’s plan to address representatives of Catholic higher education highlights the importance of faith formation and Catholic education in the life of the Church.

He said preparing for the papal visit “will be a lot of work, but it’ll be joyful work because we’ll be welcoming the head of the Church. We’ll be welcoming the successor to Peter, and he will come here to say to all of us, ‘Be strong in your faith. ... Be a light of the Gospel to this country.’”

He said he and other Church officials have been laying the groundwork for the visit since August, but he did not know for sure if it would happen until the nuncio officially announced the planned papal itinerary.

The pope is to arrive in Washington on April 15 and meet with President George W. Bush at the White House the following day, which also happens to be the pope’s 81st birthday. That afternoon he will address the U.S. bishops—probably at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, Archdiocese Wuerl said.

After the U.S. bishops’ April 17 meeting with heads of Catholic colleges and universities and diocesan education leaders at The Catholic University of America, followed by a meeting with leaders of non-Christian faiths at the Pope John Paul II Cultural Center.

During a midday press conference on Nov. 12, Archbishop Wuerl said that, in visiting the nation’s capital, “the Holy Father is attempting to speak to the Church throughout the United States.” He said that when it was first announced last summer that the pope was considering a U.S. visit next spring “it seemed appropriate to invite him to Washington.”

The pope is to meet with heads of Catholic higher education leaders at Catholic colleges and universities and diocesan education leaders at The Catholic University of America, followed by a meeting with leaders of non-Christian faiths at the Pope John Paul II Cultural Center.

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Asked how ticket distribution would be handled for the cathedral Mass, Archbishop Wuerl said he did not know yet. “I suspect there will be more people who want to see and be with the pope than there are places at the stadium. ... We have to take into account that there will be people coming from all over the country,” he said. “They will not see this as a Washington event. They will see it as a national event.”

“I think that we have to make sure that people—especially our young people—get a chance to see him,” he added. “That’s going to take some planning on our part, but I think the principle we want to work from is [that] we want to make sure the coming generation of Catholic young people get a chance to see him.”

Christmas Shopping Guide

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Holiday Hours Beginning November 26th
Monday through Saturday: 10 a.m.–6 p.m., Sunday: 10 a.m.–5 p.m.
evils like abortion and racism that can never be supported and the related, but different, moral obligation to serve 'the least of these,' seek justice and pursue peace."

In deciding how to vote, “there may be situations when a Catholic who rejects a candidate’s unacceptable position may decide to vote for that candidate for other morally grave reasons,” the longest document says. “Voting in this way would be permissible only for truly grave moral issues, not to advance narrow interests, or partisan preferences or to ignore a fundamental moral evil.”

Outgoing Saint Meinrad School of Theology president-rector addresses bishops, page 16.

Bishops approve curriculum framework for high school catechism

BALTIMORE (CNS)—A detailed framework for catechetical instruction for high school students will be given to publishing companies after being approved on Nov. 14 by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops.

In a unanimous 220-0 vote, the bishops adopted the 80-page framework that outlines a core curriculum and electives for a four-year, eight-semester course of instruction.

The introduction to the document spells out that it is “a framework and not a tool for direct instruction.” As such, detailed course and topics listed are not necessarily defined or thoroughly developed, it said. Publishing houses are expected to submit their materials before publication for review of their conformity with the framework.

Cardinal-designate Daniel N. DiNardo of Galveston-Houston said some publishers “have become restless about even publishing anything for youth ministry.”

The framework divides a core curriculum into six sections and electives into five sections. Each section cites references in the catechism and other texts to be used as reference. It says core curriculum courses should address:

- The revelation of Jesus Christ in Scripture, including how one comes to know God, and the history and study of Scripture.
- Learning about who Jesus is, through divine revelation, the Incarnation and personal experience, and the challenges of belief.
- The mission of Jesus as Messiah and instrument of redemption, and the moral implications for believers.
- The continuing mission of Jesus in the Church, touching on Church history and structure, ecumenism and its involvement in the world.
- The sacraments, including definitions and in-depth study of each sacrament.
- Life in Jesus, or the discernment of how to live one’s faith.

Electives include sacred Scripture, Church history, discipleship in contemporary contexts, responding to the call of Jesus, and ecumenical and interreligious issues.

Some sections of the framework are quite detailed about what should be included. For instance, the outline for the elective on Church history lists of specifically which topics to cover in each era.

Benghazi studies should include Erasmus and Thomas More, the revival of the studies of classical culture and languages, Christian humanism and a new translation of the Bible, it says. The course should also touch on specific artists, such as Fra Angelico, Giottio, Raphael, Michelangelo, Bramante and Bernini as well as the construction of St. Peter’s Basilica and the Sistine Chapel in Rome and the Duomo in Florence, Italy.

The final text of the framework, as amended by the bishops before final approval, is expected to be ready within a few weeks. ✦

Dana 236-1575 or ddanberry@archindy.org

Meeting at a glance

At their fall general meeting in Baltimore, the U.S. bishops …

- Received details of Pope Benedict XVI’s April 15-20 visit to the United States
- Authorized a new statement on Iraq that says some U.S. policymakers “seem to fail to recognize sufficiently the reality and failures in Iraq and the imperative for new directions.”
- Elected Cardinal Francis E. George of Chicago as their new president and Bishop Gerald E. Kicanas of Tucson, Ariz., as vice president.
- Heard a briefing on an ongoing study of the “causes and context” of clerical sexual abuse.
- Voted to draft a brief policy statement on embryonic stem-cell research and a pastoral document on reproductive technologies.
- Approved a $147.7 million budget for 2008 and a 16 percent reduction in the diocesan assessment fund that supports the USCCB.
- Issued the 2008 version of their quadrennial “Faithful Citizenship” election statement.
- Approved legislation specifying when a bishop must get the consent of his diocesan finance council and college of consultors before certain financial transactions or commitments. The legislation needs Vatican approval.
- Approved three liturgy-related documents concerning music, adjustments of the Liturgy of the Word, and revised readings during Lent.
- OK’d a curriculum framework for catechetical materials for high school students.
- Approved a document on stewardship and teenagers.
- Approved guidelines for catechetical instruction on chastity living for children and teens.

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Chicago Cardinal Francis E. George, the bishops’ newly elected president, and Bishop William S. Skylstad of Spokane, Wash., outgoing president, pray on Nov. 14 during the U.S. bishops’ annual fall meeting in Baltimore.
Dear Friends in Christ:

As we enjoy the Thanksgiving holiday and prepare to celebrate the birth of Christ, we have much to be grateful for in our archdiocese. Let’s remember to turn to God in thanksgiving and prayer for all of the blessings he has bestowed upon us. As good stewards we are called to use what God has given us wisely and to account for how we use these gifts.

Here is our annual archdiocesan accountability report rendering an account of our stewardship of the human, physical and financial resources of the Church in central and southern Indiana. It has been my privilege for the past 15 years to have had the responsibility of leading the Archdiocese of Indianapolis. We are blessed in our archdiocese to have dedicated clergy and religious, hard-working lay leaders and generous parishioners. I believe one of our greatest accomplishments in recent years has been the advancement of stewardship as a way of life. Stewardship is an acknowledgement that everything we have comes from God. It’s the basis for authentic Christian living.

Legacy for Our Mission Campaign
The Legacy for Our Mission Campaign has been an amazing story. This capital-stewardship campaign is in its final phase and we are close to reaching our $100 million goal. More than 26,000 households have prayerfully brought forth more than $90 million so far. I am hopeful that we will reach or surpass our goal before the end of the year. Every net dollar of proceeds from the campaign will be used for ministry through capital, endowment, or operating support to parishes, schools, and agencies throughout the archdiocese. (A more detailed account of the campaign can be found inside in the report submitted by Jeffrey D. Stumpf, chief financial officer for the archdiocese.)

One of the most gratifying results of the Legacy for Our Mission Campaign has been the eagerness of people to become more involved in the life of their parish and the archdiocese. Through the campaign, more than 13,000 people have enlisted as volunteers at their parish or in other archdiocesan ministries. This reflects more than one in every eight archdiocesan households. I believe this increase in lay involvement will produce great benefits for our archdiocese in the future.

The success of the Legacy for Our Mission Campaign is a sign that our archdiocese is thriving. It also shows that we understand that although much of our faith life is lived at the parish level we also see ourselves to be family of faith—an archdiocesan-wide family. We are all in this journey together.

Vocations
We now have 25 seminarians in formation. We have a great group of future pastors. They are bright, committed and very caring and bring with them a rich and real-life experience. We ordained three men to the priesthood in 2007 and hope to ordain two more in 2008. In 2009, we anticipate ordaining five men to the priesthood.

Our Bishop Simon Bruté College Seminary on the Marian College campus in Indianapolis continues to be a source of hope and a sign that a “culture of vocations” is taking root in our archdiocese. We have 11 seminarians for the Archdiocese of Indianapolis residing at the seminary as well as four seminarians for the Diocese of Evansville, two for the Diocese of Lafayette in Indiana and one for the Archdiocese of Louisville.

We must continue to pray for vocations and for our seminarians. Ask the Lord to send more workers for the harvest. And please pray for your priests.

Catholic schools excel
Our archdiocesan schools continue to be recognized for their achievement and commitment to excellence. St. Pius X School in Indianapolis was selected as a national Blue Ribbon School of Excellence last month by the U.S. Department of Education. Our schools have earned 22 National Blue Ribbons in the past five years.

Enrollment at our schools continues to increase. We now have more than 23,000 students attending 71 Catholic schools in southern and central Indiana. This makes us the fifth largest school system—public or private—in Indiana.

Celebrating St. Theodora Guérin
It’s been just over a year since our archdiocese and the universal Church celebrated the canonization of St. Theodora Guérin, the founder of the Sisters of Providence of Saint Mary-of-the-Woods near Terre Haute in 1840.

We honored the legacy of St. Theodora by celebrating a series of Masses throughout the archdiocese this past year. The concluding Mass in this series was held on St. Theodora’s feast day on Oct. 3 at Our Lady of Providence Jr./Sr. High School in Clarksville. All of these Masses were well attended. Having our own saint, if you will, has strengthened the awareness in our archdiocese of the sacrifices that our ancestors made to give us the beautiful Catholic heritage we enjoy today and all the benefits that come with it.

St. Theodora’s ceaseless prayer and faithfulness continue to be a model for all of us as we work to carry out Christ’s mission throughout our archdiocese.

Strategic planning
We are in the process of putting together a new strategic plan for the archdiocese that will provide us a roadmap for identifying and meeting the challenges we face as an archdiocese for the next three to five years. We have been having meetings with various groups throughout the archdiocese and have asked for your help in preparing this plan through questions that have appeared in The Criterion. (Please see the strategic planning question on the front page of this week’s Criterion and respond.)

City Future Task Force
Just over a year ago we convened the City Future Task Force. This group, made up of clergy and lay leaders, has spent the past year studying how the archdiocese can best carry out its mission in the downtown Indianapolis area as well as best minister to the growing Hispanic community in the downtown and near downtown area. Two working groups—the Downtown Parish Life Task Force and the Hispanic Ministry Task Force—are preparing recommendations to be delivered to me in the next two to three months.

Catholic Charities
Our six archdiocesan Catholic Charities agencies are going through a process to review each of the nearly 35 programs they operate to serve the most vulnerable in our communities. Motivated by a call issued by Pope Benedict XVI in his Encyclical Letter Deus Caritas Est (God is Love) to ensure that no member of God’s family goes without the necessities of life, Catholic Charities is working to see that as a Church we are providing the best and right kind of services. We have learned so far from this review process that Catholic Charities needs to collaborate more closely with parishes in the archdiocese. This review will continue in 2008 and you will be hearing more about how we are working to improve our care of the poor and vulnerable among us.

Annual Appeal changes
It’s been nearly 10 years since we combined the local parish stewardship initiative with the United Catholic Appeal into what we now as Called to Serve: Parish Stewardship and United Catholic Appeal. It’s time to look at our annual appeal to see how we can improve it and freshen it up.

I believe the timing is right for this, because during the Legacy for Our Mission Campaign, we integrated the Called to Serve appeal into the first year of every parish’s campaign. This means that 2004 was the last year that all parishes in the archdiocese conducted Called to Serve at the same time. Next year, we will be rolling out some enhancements in the appeal to re-emphasize stewardship principles, refresh communications, and illustrate the fact that every parish—and, thus, each parishioner—has a role to play in the ministries of our archdiocese. You will be hearing more about this in 2008.

Conclusion
It may seem a ways off, but planning has already begun for the 175th anniversary of the Archdiocese of Indianapolis, which we will celebrate in 2009. We plan to have a large celebration at the new Lucas Oil Stadium in Indianapolis in the spring of 2009. You’ll be hearing much more about this in the coming months.

The months leading up to this anniversary provide an opportunity to reflect on our rich history and all that we have to be thankful for. It’s also the perfect time to think about where we are going as an archdiocese as we continue to do God’s work.

Thank you for your support and God bless you!

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Cardinal Daniel M. Buechlein, O.S.B.
Archbishop of Indianapolis
### Summary of Financial Status

This summary of the financial status of the Archdiocese of Indianapolis reflects activities of the chancery of the archdiocese and certain affiliated agencies with direct accountability to the Most Reverend Daniel M. Buechlein, O.S.B., Archbishop of Indianapolis. The information presented has been derived from the audited financial statements and does not include the activities of parishes, missions and schools of the archdiocese. All significant transactions among entities detailed in this summary have been eliminated. The complete audited financial statements are available for public inspection at [www.archindy.org/financial/archdiocese.html](http://www.archindy.org/financial/archdiocese.html).

#### Chancery and Certain Entities of the Archdiocese of Indianapolis

**Combined Statements of Financial Position as of June 30, 2007 and 2006**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ASSETS</th>
<th>2007</th>
<th>2006</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cash and cash equivalents</td>
<td>$26,922,029</td>
<td>$17,951,201</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investments</td>
<td>164,442,887</td>
<td>135,267,341</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Receivables:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contributions, net</td>
<td>42,333,342</td>
<td>23,890,110</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deposits and loan fund, net</td>
<td>21,398,722</td>
<td>22,418,745</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amounts due from parishes</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>and other archdiocesan entities, net</td>
<td>4,079,590</td>
<td>5,690,158</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accrued interest income</td>
<td>363,886</td>
<td>353,580</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other, net</td>
<td>2,745,341</td>
<td>2,927,844</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total receivables, net</td>
<td>70,920,881</td>
<td>55,280,437</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other assets</td>
<td>1,268,866</td>
<td>1,641,975</td>
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<tr>
<td>Burial spaces and other inventories</td>
<td>2,992,328</td>
<td>3,116,869</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Land, buildings and equipment, net</td>
<td>15,102,222</td>
<td>15,640,057</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL ASSETS</td>
<td>$281,649,213</td>
<td>$228,897,880</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Chancery and Certain Entities of the Archdiocese of Indianapolis

**Combined Statements of Activities for the years ended June 30, 2007 and 2006**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SUPPORT AND REVENUES</th>
<th>2007</th>
<th>2006</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Assessments</td>
<td>$8,959,190</td>
<td>$8,569,300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Service fees</td>
<td>21,516,600</td>
<td>20,771,623</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Capital campaigns and contributions</td>
<td>25,002,314</td>
<td>18,045,357</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United Catholic Appeal</td>
<td>5,762,963</td>
<td>6,386,426</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sales of goods and services</td>
<td>4,478,507</td>
<td>4,385,691</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Program service fees and other</td>
<td>5,593,319</td>
<td>5,720,427</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other public support</td>
<td>3,939,406</td>
<td>6,025,077</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interest income and investment return</td>
<td>27,633,640</td>
<td>11,389,127</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL SUPPORT AND REVENUES</td>
<td>$102,885,939</td>
<td>$79,293,028</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>EXPENSES</th>
<th>2007</th>
<th>2006</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Salaries and wages</td>
<td>$14,089,029</td>
<td>$14,038,291</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Employee benefits and taxes</td>
<td>3,709,141</td>
<td>3,308,741</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health care costs</td>
<td>13,783,734</td>
<td>15,447,839</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Retirement plan contributions</td>
<td>4,344,119</td>
<td>3,969,950</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cost of equipment and supplies sold</td>
<td>2,190,654</td>
<td>2,320,477</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Administrative and supplies</td>
<td>3,132,579</td>
<td>2,645,590</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Property insurance</td>
<td>3,150,443</td>
<td>3,204,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Depreciation</td>
<td>5,816,168</td>
<td>4,810,177</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bad debts</td>
<td>5,344,281</td>
<td>2,584,988</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Professional services</td>
<td>5,593,319</td>
<td>5,720,427</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Specific assistance</td>
<td>5,918,960</td>
<td>5,009,374</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contributions 4,583,636</td>
<td>4,804,651</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Capital campaign funds donated to parishes and others</td>
<td>433,233</td>
<td>1,030,013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Loss on debt extinguishment</td>
<td>2,545,782</td>
<td>2,525,931</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL EXPENSES</td>
<td>$71,456,340</td>
<td>$70,479,736</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CHANGE IN NET ASSETS</th>
<th>2007</th>
<th>2006</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NET ASSETS: Beginning of year</td>
<td>$122,507,185</td>
<td>$113,693,893</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NET ASSETS: End of year</td>
<td>$153,936,784</td>
<td>$122,507,185</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The Catholic Community Foundation is a separate, not-for-profit corporation established by the Archdiocese of Indianapolis to professionally invest and administer numerous individual endowment funds for the benefit of parishes, schools, agencies, and other institutions affiliated with the archdiocese. As of June 30, 2007, the Catholic Community Foundation comprised 339 separate endowment accounts and 104 charitable gift annuities with $161.4 million.
Combined Statement of Activities by Secretariat, Vicariate and other operating groups

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SUPPORT AND REVENUES</th>
<th>EXPENSES</th>
<th>CHANGE IN NET ASSETS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chancery</td>
<td>$4,975,241</td>
<td>$2,172,465</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clergy and Parish Life Coordinators</td>
<td>3,645,508</td>
<td>4,318,167</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spiritual Life and Worship</td>
<td>1,048,687</td>
<td>1,218,920</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Catholic Education and Faith Formation</td>
<td>8,147,320</td>
<td>11,775,411</td>
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<td>Lay Ministry and Pastoral Services</td>
<td>452,819</td>
<td>345,551</td>
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<td>Catholic Charities and Family Ministries</td>
<td>10,564,071</td>
<td>9,986,972</td>
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<td>Communications</td>
<td>2,056,758</td>
<td>2,137,509</td>
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<td>Finance and Administrative Services</td>
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<td>3,709,507</td>
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<tr>
<td>Stewardship and Development</td>
<td>2,216,323</td>
<td>1,872,030</td>
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<td>Vicariate Judicial</td>
<td>404,847</td>
<td>397,343</td>
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<tr>
<td>Parish Shared Services and Support</td>
<td>27,487,277</td>
<td>28,188,847</td>
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<td>Catholic Community Foundation and ADLF</td>
<td>27,377,630</td>
<td>12,671,612</td>
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<tr>
<td>Legacy for Our Mission Capital and Endowment Campaign</td>
<td>18,313,602</td>
<td>9,416,169</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eliminations</td>
<td>(12,140,354)</td>
<td>(16,754,163)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Combined Total June 30, 2007</td>
<td>$102,885,939</td>
<td>$71,456,340</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Breakdown of Change in Net Asset Results for the year ended June 30, 2007 (in thousands)

- Actual:
  - Combined operations $1,053
  - Parish Shared Services and Support (702)
  - Catholic Community Foundation, ADLF, Investing and Debt Activities 23,606
  - Legacy for Our Mission Capital and Endowment Campaign 8,897
  - Other reconciling items and eliminations (1,424)
  - Combined Change in Net Assets $31,430

Archdiocese of Indianapolis Values

- Prayer and spiritual growth
- Lifelong learning and sharing our faith
- Parish and family, the individual and community
- Compassion and respect for human life and all creation
- Justice and consistent moral standards
- Proactive leadership and shared responsibility
- Vital presence in urban, suburban, and rural neighborhoods
- Stewardship

Property Insurance Expense 1997 through 2007

Parish Sunday and Holy Day Collections 1997 through 2007

Legacy for Our Mission Capital and Endowment Campaign

Clergy and Lay Health Care Expenses 1997 through 2007

2006 Called to Serve/United Catholic Appeal
As we approach the Thanksgiving and Advent seasons, the Archbishop of Indianapolis has declared a month of thankfulness and more than $6 million to be thankful about. The 2006-07 fiscal year, which ended June 30, 2007, was our third consecutive year of break-even financial operations. The goal has also continued to experience growing stewardship, steady investment returns, challenging employee benefit expenses and facilities expenses. The people who operate the archdiocese supports the parishes and support the ministries of the Church as evidenced through the results of the Legacy for Our Mission Campaign. This report highlights several significant areas of our financial operations.

Chancery 2006-07 Operating Results
The chancery and agencies of the Archdiocese of Indianapolis are funded through annual fundraising and larger endowment distributions. The goal of the Chancery is to provide support to parishes and agencies of the archdiocese. This goal includes the following:

- A 2.3 percent increase in parish Sunday and holy day collections.
- A 9.9 percent (annualized) increase in endowment earnings.
- A 18.1 percent versus our policy benchmark of 17.9 percent.

The 2006 Chancery balance sheet highlights several significant areas of our financial operations:

- 18.1 percent versus our policy benchmark of 17.9 percent.
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MADISON—St. Patrick Parish’s historic and recently restored cemetery chapel was rededicated on All Souls Day with a standing-room-only crowd on hand for the celebration.

Father John Meyer, pastor of Prince of Peace Parish in Madison, celebrated Mass in the chapel on Nov. 2 with about 50 parishioners and guests.

Walking in a circle around the chapel, which is ringed by the graves of former priests, Father Meyer blessed each guest, the graves of their ancestors and the chapel.

Parishioners literally stood on the shoulders of the founding fathers of the parish during the Memorial Mass because the bodies of Father Hyppolytus Dupontavice and Father Joseph Petit are interred beneath the chapel floor.

Dedication program after the liturgy, Camille Fife, president of the Westerly Group, which coordinated the restoration work, said historical records indicate that in May 1874 the line of mourners stretched all the way to downtown Madison for Father Dupontavice’s funeral.

John Stacier, executive director of Historic Madison Inc., praised Geoff and Josie Fox, who donated funds and led the effort to restore the chapel even though they now live in San Jose, Calif.

“I was drawn into the [chapel restoration] project, as many of you have been, through Josie and Geoff’s love of this community,” Stacier said, “and their interest in preserving this very special part, not only in Madison history, but in our parish history.

“Today we gather to celebrate the amazing rehabilitation of St. Patrick’s Cemetery Chapel,” he said. “Built in 1874, this small yet well-designed structure is the focal point of this historic cemetery. Created as a resting place for the remains of those who have completed their labors in this life, it remains for the living a symbol of our faith and a touchstone of our shared architectural heritage. It is no accident that venerable places like the chapel exist in our community.

“Wrought by skilled hands in stone, brick, wood and plaster, the chapel was created to withstand the ravages of time and the tempests of nature.

“But over the years, Stacier said, nature did take its toll on the chapel.

“Several years ago, the fate of the chapel seemed uncertain when a miracle occurred,” he said. “Josie and Geoff Fox, all the way from California, offered to support the rehabilitation of this marvelous building. Not only that, but they explored the way from California, offered to support the rehabilitation of this marvelous building. Not only that, but they explored the way from California, offered to support the rehabilitation of this marvelous building.

“Josie Fox said when she was a child in Muncie, Ind., her grandmother would sing and play the organ. Her family would attend Mass at St. Patrick Church, she said. ‘I will never forget it.’

“Father John Meyer, pastor of Prince of Peace Parish in Madison, celebrated an All Souls Day Mass on Nov. 2 at the historic St. Patrick Cemetery chapel.

At right, Father John Meyer, pastor of Prince of Peace Parish in Madison, celebrates an All Souls Day Mass on Nov. 2 at the historic St. Patrick Cemetery chapel.

Above, Madison-area Catholics stand outside the recently restored St. Patrick Cemetery chapel during the rededication ceremony and All Souls Day Mass on Nov. 2. The original crucifix, which is being restored in Cleveland, was donated to the parish by Mary Prenatt in the early 1900s.

Madison Mayor Al Huntington also offered his thanks and praise for the restoration work that saved the chapel, which he called “the keystone” of the parish cemetery.

Stacier said it is a rarity to encounter “two such devoted and passionate preservationists.”

Madison Mayor Al Huntington also offered his thanks and praise for the restoration work that saved the chapel, which he called “the keystone” of the parish cemetery.

“Cemeteries tell a story,” the mayor said. “When you walk through and look at the names, you can imagine the history of some of the lives that are buried here. I also think about the strength of our Catholic community and how strong it has been from our past. Members have played such an important part, not only in the church, but [also] in leadership roles in the community. You can see that by looking at the names on the [cemetery] markers. So it is a very important part of our heritage. … of our history” Huntington also presented a city plaque to Geoff and Josie Fox, who are members of St. Christopher Parish in San Jose, in recognition of and appreciation for their leadership roles in the community.

Dave Dionne, chairman of the Prince of Peace Catholic Cemeteries Committee, noted that the chapel has been standing for more than 100 years, but desperately needed structural repairs.

Josie Fox said when she was a child in Muncie, Ind., her mother would bring her to Madison to visit her grandparents, John and Josephine Steinberger, at their two-story farmhouse near the cemetery.

“In those early days, I observed close-hand the spirit of this community and the special effort of the parishioners at St. Patrick’s Church among the farmers that were here,” she said. “At that time, probably one-third of the community was still farming. That took place, as you know, up here on the hill. … I will never forget it.”

Her family would attend Mass at St. Patrick Church, she said, and her grandmother would sing and play the organ. After Mass, they would visit the graves of relatives at the cemetery.

“I could see the expression in my grandmother’s, my mother’s and my aunt’s faces as they observed the chapel,” she said. “It is such a sacred building, and they were concerned that it [would] survive for future generations. I have had the privilege of trying to make that happen.”

(Michael Moore is a member of Prince of Peace Parish in Madison.)†

CARDINAL RITTER HIGH SCHOOL

PLACEMENT TEST

Saturday, December 8th
9 am - 12 pm

The Cardinal Ritter High School Placement Test will be Saturday, December 8th from 9:00 am – 12:00 pm. This test is for all current 8th grade students considering attending Cardinal Ritter High School for their freshman year. Testing begins at 9:00 am on the day of the test. Please contact the Admissions Director, Steve Pappas, for additional information at vpappas@cardinalritter.org, or 317-924-4331 ext. 122

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Or
indianapolis@maxhealth.com

If you are a victim of sexual misconduct by a person ministering on behalf of the Church, or if you know of anyone who has been a victim of such misconduct, please contact the archdiocesan victim assistance coordinator:

Suzanne L. Yaminick, Chancellor, Archdiocese of Indianapolis, PO Box 1410, Indianapolis, Indiana 46206-1410
317-236-7325 or 800-382-9836, ext. 7325

Report sexual misconduct now
Saint Meinrad president-rector shares his experiences with bishops

By Dan Conway

Saint Meinrad president-rector shares his experiences with bishops

 basic and fundamental task in centered on the importance of tradition of educating priests Indiana seminary’s long stewardship of the southern to render an account of his song”—one last opportunity Bishops who send students to October that he will step retirement and health care. 20 percent of the amount projected for aid elderly religious. 94 percent of donations (U.S. average is $65,985) is the average annual cost religious need skilled nursing care. $49,850 is the average annual cost of (U.S. average is $65,985) Parish envelopes collected December 8 and 9

Please be generous with your donations!

**RETIRED FUND FOR RELIGIOUS**

**74** is the average age of retirement from compensated ministry.

**19,521** religious have less than 20 percent of the amount projected for retirement and health care.

**5,452** religious need skilled nursing care.

**$49,850** is the average annual cost of skilled nursing care for a religious. (U.S. average is $65,985)

**94 percent of donations aid elderly religious.**
Prophets and prophecy are often misunderstood. There are people who still think of prophecy as predicting a future hidden from everyone else, much as fortune-tellers and tarot card readers are supposed to do. Prophecy does have a future orientation, but not in this sense. 

“Prophecy” comes from two Greek words meaning “to speak for” or “on behalf of” someone. In a religious context, it is assumed that God has communicated a divine message to the prophet, who in turn informs the people. A prophet is thus inspired by God, but this doesn’t necessarily mean that God speaks directly into the ears of the prophet.

In modern times especially, it is more likely that prophets discern God’s message by analyzing and interpreting contemporary events. Such prophetic discernment is certainly guided by the Holy Spirit, but it usually entails careful reflection, study, prayer and dialogue with others.

Perhaps the best description of prophecy today comes from the Second Vatican Council when it declared that the Church has the responsibility of “reading the signs of the times and interpreting them in the light of the Gospel” (“Pastoral Constitution on the Church in the Modern World,” #4). The council did this with regard to marriage, culture, politics, economics and warfare as well as the renewal of the liturgy, the updating of religious life, the ecumenical movement and many other issues.

As the council made clear by word and example, this kind of prophecy is a task for the whole Church. Whereas in the Bible prophecy is ordinarily ascribed to an individual, such as Isaiah or Jeremiah, in today’s world prophetic action is more likely to occur through movements and organizations, such as the Catholic Alliance for the Common Good, Pax Christi or NETWORK, the national Catholic social justice lobby organization. One person may be a prophetic catalyst or initiator, such as Dorothy Day for the Catholic Worker Movement, but prophetic change occurs when many people take joint action.

A prophetic message usually has two aspects. One is a critique of a current situation, for example, the problems associated with illegal immigration or the lack of health insurance for millions of citizens. Because this analysis is rooted in the Gospel, it recalls the teachings and values which are relevant to the present situation.

In the case of immigration, this includes the dignity of each person and the value of labor as well as respect for just laws. In the case of health insurance, it is the right to adequate health care and one’s personal responsibility for maintaining good health as well as cost-effectiveness and profitability.

The other aspect of modern prophecy is a projection based on a Gospel analysis of what is likely to happen if necessary changes aren’t made. This is where prophecy’s futuristic dimension comes into play. It is not a secret revelation of what is to come, but a logical anticipation of where the present is heading.

If current wasteful practices motivated by greed and selfishness aren’t corrected by a sense of our stewardship of the Earth’s resources, ecological disaster will follow. If the crushing debt of poor countries is not alleviated through compassion and a belief in the common good, unnecessary human suffering will continue to a scandalous degree.

Anticipating dire results if conditions like these don’t improve can give prophecy a doom-and-gloom character, but genuine prophecy also holds out a positive vision of life if changes for the better are made.

It sees diverse cultures enriching one another rather than conflicting with one another, new technologies like the Internet accessible to everyone rather than confined to the few, and medical resources available to those most in need of them rather than only to those who are able to afford them.

Whether a critique or a projection, a prophetic message may be delivered by word or action. The word may be fully spelled out as in bishops’ pastoral letters or current problems or it may be a bumper sticker reminder that, “If you want peace, work for justice.”

The action may be symbolic, such as the NAACP burying the “n” word in a coffin, or it may be strategic, such as the annual January pro-life marches followed by visits to legislators.

Prophecy is not always welcome because they point out what is wrong with the status quo and call for change. They hold people accountable for their actions, lay out the consequences of harmful decisions and sometimes pay the price for their efforts.

In the criminal justice system, prophetic voices advocate for fair treatment of prisoners.

In the business world, they value their employees and customers more than increasing profits.

In the arts and entertainment field, they challenge and nurture the human spirit more than achieve commercial success.

There are prophets in family homes who respect and listen to their children while instilling in them values, such as simple living and service that may be counter-cultural.

The question today is not so much what prophecy is, but whether we are ready to take the prophetic action that God expects of us as Christians.

(Father Robert L. Kinast is a pastoral theologian in Prairie Village, Kan.)

Discussion Point

Positive attitude resolves differences

This Week’s Question

What attitudes or approaches are needed to address a troubled situation constructively?

“Line your positive approach and have to focus on the long term, not the short term. You can convey that by trying not to let anger or emotions seep into situations... I ran into that in business recently with a man I had worked with for 20 years. He changed the agreement we’d had. [At first, I was upset] but I thought about it and realized, ‘It’s only money.’ So I concentrated on our ongoing relationship.” (Ralph Brinslin, Akron, Ohio)

“As the director of employee health at work, I often handle difficult situations. We actually bring in both employees [involved in a dispute]. I talk with each and get their perceptions, and then it’s my job to guide them. Usually, the problem is a matter of their perception.” (JoAnn Shea, Riverview, Fla.)

Situation is often resolved just by discussing the problem and help them to see it through the other person’s eyes.” (Wanda Blaskowski, Fisher, Minn.)

Lend Us Your Voice

An upcoming edition asks: How would you respond if someone asked what God is like? To respond for possible publication, send an e-mail to cgreene@catholicnews.com or write to Faith Alive! at 3211 Fourth St. N.E., Washington, D.C. 20017-1100.
Biblical women: David's wife, Michal

(Michal, the daughter of King Saul, was mitten with David. When Saul learned of it, he was glad because he thought that Saul would use Michal to kill David, whom he saw as...)

Comencioa/Cynthia Dyews

When we are pressed to come up with reasons why we’re thankful at the Thanks-giving table, we often tend to produce clichés. Most of us are thankful for family, food, and that we are safe and secure. We also tend to produce clichés.

For one thing, I am eternally grateful that I was born into a Christian-based society in a developed country like the U.S. The freedoms I have, especially from or where to sleep safely, are lots more than those. They come from or where to sleep safely. I'm much more fortunate he belonged to a nation named Palestine. After Saul's death, David lived in Hebron, where he had other wives. I am thankful to God, Abigail and Eglah. They were his two others. He thought he could kill him if she didn't help him escape. David was on the run from Saul for a long time. He escaped to a place of 100 foreskins of 100 Philistines. Saul hoped they would kill him. But David gave Michal in marriage to a man named Palmet. After Saul’s death, I am thankful for the peace and freedom this brought to me as a Christian. David sent messengers to Palmet. I am thankful for the opportunity to speak with an angel who ordered them to bring David back, bed or to wherever he was. David met some folks who ordered them to bring David back, bed or to wherever he was. David met some folks who ordered them to bring David back, bed or to wherever he was. David met some folks who ordered them to bring David back, bed or to wherever he was. David met some folks who ordered them to bring David back, bed or to wherever he was. David met some folks who ordered them to bring David back, bed or to wherever he was.


Thanksgiving weekend reminds us to count our blessings. At the Thanksgiving table in our family, we take turns expressing gratitude for someone or someone special. Listening to these grateful thoughts, I find myself thinking of those who are not able to spend time with their loved ones as well as those who are living community meals in shelters or on sidewalks and those who will not eat at all.

In the weeks before Thanksgiving, mail usually brings a number of pleas from or where to sleep safely. I can only imagine how stressed they must be to not know where the next meal will come from or where to sleep safely. I have a glimpse of such situations this year when I was given a box... by Emmeline Sparks at Horizon House (www.horizonhouse.cc) near downtown Indianapolis.

A few months ago, I learned from a local newspaper that there are free pamphlets available that explain the right approaches to take when encountering panhandlers. With the help of other agencies and organizations, the pamphlets exist thanks to Indianapolis Downtown Inc. (www.indydt.com or 317-237-2222).

They list several places providing food assistance, shelter, and counseling to the Central Kitchen at 1330 N. Pennsylvania St., which is just east of SS. Peter and Paul Cathedral. They also list several of the emergency shelters and outreach places.

To get to this point of caring requires "a fundamental change of consciousness—of each person who inhabits it." The works are a "celebration of God's creative work. Nature is not only beautiful, but also it illustrates the genius and order of God's plan for the world and the world's need for the sunshine all speak to us of the divine joy we share in our presence."

When you get right down to it, how can we not be thankful? And, thankfully not only on Thanksgiving, but every day.

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

The Bottom Line/Antoinette Bosco

What is spiritual talkology for Catholics? For years, I have spoken with many Catholics who tell me they are "spiritual, but not religious." When I ask for specifics on what they mean, I often hear vague, and vague answers. For instance, "We're not adhering to religious means to follow the rules." While I have never regarded my faith as an old-fashioned, off-the-track religion, I do follow—I follow the words of the Lord Jesus Christ—"exalting Christ in very word that invites the question, "Does that mean you're religious or spiritual?"

With that acknowledgment, I can honestly say I saw a new offering on the subject from Orbis Books to be good news. My colleague, Michael Leach, is editing a series of new books called Catholic Spirituality for Adults. These are being written by some of the best Catholic authors today, said these writers have been asked to explore the spiritual dimensions of their faith, to tell us what they learned as they came to see each journey. "The series is all about seeing... the good of the world is in the eyes of our eyes, within and around all us," Leach said.

The first book of the series is Reconciliation by Desmond Tutu and Miroslava (Mimi) Mont网球. He says simply, honestly, "Spirituality is about relationship. God has entered into a covenant with us and invites us into a life of friendship." Meditating on this, I know honestly that friendship is a key. "If we want to be on that street in partnership with God, we become his agents, working with him to realize his purposes. We can say we both spiritual and religious.

Servants of Mary Joyce Rupp is an author of more than 20 books who writes on prayer. Part of her ministry is to give "spiritual direction" to faith seekers, "Someone who will listen as they tell me how they’re changing her into a Christlike person," Sister Joyce wrote. "In doing so, I would like to learn more... With this guidance, she then recognized the growth in her life as a dedicated minister, a faithful sister, a servant of God, and a moral mediator and a person strongly committed to global justice issues. She was truly being challenged in every way.

What better definition for "spirituality" than that? It underscores the meaning of spirituality as expressed by Leach. Each book of his new series, he said, "reflects the act of loving the Lord, the one who created us, and makes us understand our responsibility to global justice issues. She was truly being challenged in every way.

To be a part of this celebration means we must understand that we have a relationship with each other, a relationship with God, and a responsibility to the world itself.

Another contributor to the series, Father Richard J.士兵, adds, "Spiritual practices can never be at odds with the genuine welfare of the planet and each person who inhabits it."

To get to this point of caring requires "a fundamental change of consciousness—of each person who inhabits it." I wrote Father Albert Nolan in his book Jesus Today, he begins a chapter titled, "With Other Words, he continues. He began with this opening sentence: "Loving God and loving one’s neighbor are obviously central to Jesus’ spirituality."

If we need an underscore definition of what it means to be spiritual, here it is: (Antoinette Bosco is a columnist for Catholic News Service.)
Feast of Christ the King! Msgr. Owen F. Campion

The Sunday Readings

Sunday, Nov. 25, 2007

• 2 Samuel 5:1-3
• Colossians 1:12-20
• Luke 23:35-43

The Second Book of Samuel is the source of this feast’s first reading. The reading recalls the reign of King David in Israel, which was from 1004 to 971 B.C.

In this weekend’s reading, David becomes the king of Israel. When reading about David, or his predecessor, Saul, or Solomon, the mention of the kings is important to note that the kings were much more than governmental authorities or political figures in the eyes of the ancient Hebrews. The task of every king was to strengthen the union between God and the people.

Also important is the fact that while heredity eventually played a role in kingship succession, the kings were seen as God’s gifts to the people. Through them, God led the people to peace and prosperity.

A passage from the Epistle to the Colossians is the Church’s choice for its second reading. This epistle was written to the Christians of the Colossae, a moderately important city of the Roman Empire.

Boldly, the epistle asserts that Jesus is the absolute center of creation. Elloquent and profound, this reading acclaims Jesus as the “image of the invisible God.” He is God, the Creator. In Jesus, all human beings and certainly all Christians come together and, more wondrously, bond with God. Therefore, through Jesus, all people have reason to hope for eternal salvation.

Some thoughts about the Colossians are from the Gospel reading. It is a passage from Luke’s powerful Passion Narrative that recounts the trial and execution of Jesus.

The Gospel recalls the inscription placed above the head of Jesus on the cross. It read, “The King of the Jews” in Hebrew, Greek and Latin.

The Romans wanted no one to wonder why this unfortunate man was being subjected to the horrifying death of crucifixion. The three languages were used to make clear to all and any that the crucified had presumed to challenge the mighty Roman emperor. Anyone else guilty of such effrontery would pay.

However, for Luke’s Gospel, this Roman tactic to deter future treason was instead divine revelation. It situated Jesus in Salvation history. God had chosen the Jews. They were to proclaim God throughout the world. Jesus was supreme among them, the perfect witness to God’s presence and love, even in the darkness and terror of Calvary. Jesus gives the greatest gift of divine love, forgiveness from sin.

Reflection

Although Canada, our closest neighbor to the north, is a constitutional monarchy, and a number of powerful and stable countries around the world also are monarchies—from Japan to Spain to The Netherlands—we Americans always have a hard time understanding what monarchs are so the meaning of this feast may elude us.

Almost 20 years ago, King Baudouin I of Belgium, who since has died, made headlines when he refused to approve an act of the Belgian Parliament legalizing abortion. It was unprecedented.

The king said that he would not allow himself to be an agent in legalizing abortion. However, his action, while controversial, caused many people in Belgium and other countries to re-think their views about abortion. They saw that the king had expressed the highest of values.

This feast comes from the European experience of monarchy. Jesus, the king of the Jews in Pilate’s estimate, the king of creation, by death on Calvary displayed the unqueuestioning and resolute devotion to God that alone is the key to salvation for any of us.

My Journey to God

The Tapestry

Our lives are like a Tapestry Woven by the Weaver of Time. A colorful pattern of blues and reds,Interwoven with purples and greens. Some strands are light and delicate, Grossamer strands of silk; These are the joys and the loves, The beautiful times in our lives. Other strands are thick and sturdy, Coarse fibers of wool and hemp, These are the trials that test us, The texture that takes our measure. A silken Tapestry is pretty, But fragile and easily torn. A Tapestry woven with coarser fibers Stands the test of time. The Master Weaver braided us together, Each strand and color highlights the other. Alone, we are pale, weak and often wounded, Together we are His masterpiece.

By Sandra Hartlieb
(Sandra Hartlieb is a member of St. Lawrence Parish in Indianapolis. A cloth is removed from a tapestry bearing the faces of 498 Spanish martyrs during their beatification Mass at the Vatican on Oct. 28. The tapestry hangs from St. Peter’s Basilica during the outdoor Mass.

Daily Readings

Monday, Nov. 26
Daniel 1:1-6, 8-20
(Response) Daniel 3:52-56
Luke 21:1-4

Tuesday, Nov. 27
Daniel 2:31-45
(Response) Daniel 3:57-61
Luke 21:5-11

Wednesday, Nov. 28
Daniel 5:1-16, 17-28
(Response) Daniel 3:62-67

Thursday, Nov. 29
Daniel 6:12-28
(Response) Daniel 3:68-74

Question Corner/ Fr. John Dietzen

Rosary may date to 15th century as devotion to Jesus and Mary

Over being devoted to the Blessed Virgin Mary all my life—I’ve 84 years old—I have several questions. Where did the rosary originate? Who put the prayers together? What are all the extra prayers necessary today? Is the Hail Holy Queen part of the rosary? I find it puzzling when I see a statue of Mary holding the rosary.

I pray the rosary often, but my strong relationship to Jesus tells me that he loves me with much love and will answer all my prayers. (Ohio)

A First of all, there is no required or official way to say the rosary (from the Latin “rosarium,” which means “a rose garden”).

In fact, different countries, different Catholic cultures, vary in the sequence and number of rosary prayers. In Rome, for example, during the 1500s, the rosary of 15 decades was chosen by the Pope. Today, it varies from country to country. Mary was not given a rosary until 1671, when Pope Benedict XIV added the Hail Mary, the Glory Be to the Father and the additional three Hail Marys and a Glory Be to the Holy Spirit. The rosary had reached much greater prominence.

The rosary developed gradually over several centuries, beginning most likely with the growth of popular devotions to Mary and Jesus in the 12th century. With a desire to bring the uneducated laity into closer contact with the liturgy, people were invited to recite 150 Our Fathers, matching the 150 psalms in the Divine Office.

Rosary may date to 15th century as devotion to Jesus and Mary

Over time, Hail Marys were added, everything from 5-150 “decades” separated by the Lord’s Prayer. For a long time, the entire rosary encompassed 150 mysteries. Why was the original rosary carried out with a book. Finally, it was recognized that, if the rosary were to be a popular prayer, it needed to be simplified.

During the 1500s, the rosary of 15 decades and mysteries prevailed, and the second half of the 15th century and the Glory Be to the Father were added. The rosary had reached much greater prominence.

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Readers may submit prose or poetry for faith column

The Criterion invites readers to submit original prose or poetry relating to faith for possible publication in the “My Journey to God” column. Submit original prose or poetry for faith column to the Criterion, P.O. Box 1717, Indianapolis, IN 46206 or e-mail to criterion@archindy.org.

(Guest columnist)

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Pope urges world aid for victims of cyclone in Bangladesh

VATICAN CITY (CNS)—Pope Benedict XVI urged international assistance for Bangladesh, where thousands were killed in one of the worst cyclones in the country’s history.

“In recent days, a tremendous cyclone struck southern Bangladesh, causing numerous victims and serious destruction,” the pope told pilgrims at his Sunday blessing at the Vatican on Nov. 18.

The pope expressed his condolences to the families of the dead and said he hoped the international community, which moved quickly to aid the survivors, would continue to provide relief.

“I encourage every possible effort to help these brothers and sisters who have been so sorely tried,” he said.

Officials estimated that at least 3,150 people died when the cyclone tore through coastal areas of Bangladesh on Nov. 15 with winds estimated at 150 mph. Relief agencies said the final death toll could reach 10,000.

In Dhaka, Bangladesh, the head of the nation’s charitable agency said Caritas officials were rushing aid to areas along the coast.

“Though there were warnings of the cyclone, its impact has been deadly. The people have been badly affected,” Auxiliary Bishop Thaddeus Gomes of Dhaka, chairman of Caritas Bangladesh and secretary-general of the Catholic Bishops’ Conference of Bangladesh, told Catholic News Service on Nov. 19.

Bishop Gomes said Caritas officials had rushed to the worst-affected areas, like the port city of Chittagong, to assess the needs of the affected people and plan the Church’s relief work.

Caritas Bangladesh appealed for food aid and tarpaulins or plastic sheeting and blankets to provide shelter to the families rendered homeless by the cyclone. “Crops have been destroyed in water-logged areas, fishermen communities and day laborers have lost their sources of income, and thousands of people are too poor to have any food stocks in their homes,” said the appeal.

Caritas said its national, regional and field offices had taken preventive measures and joined in cautioning the villagers along the coastlines to flee the coastal areas.

Many villagers could find no trace of their homes when they returned the next day.

Bishop Gomes said although many simple Church structures in the areas have also been damaged, there has been no report of damage to any major Church properties.

Meanwhile, the international Caritas network responded with pledges of financial assistance. For instance, Catholic Relief Services, the U.S. bishops’ international relief and development agency, pledged $500,000 in aid. Christians make up less than 1 percent of Bangladesh’s estimated 150 million people, nearly 90 percent of whom are Muslim. Hindus and Buddhists account for the rest of the population.

In his main talk at the Sunday Angelus, Pope Benedict spoke about how Christians are called on to face daily trials—including natural catastrophes—with the confidence of faith.

History follows its course, which includes human drama and suffering, but it still embodies a “design of salvation” introduced by Christ’s life, death and resurrection, he said.

Christians therefore should trust in God’s love as they cope with difficulties and apprehensions, he said.

“We don’t fear the future, even when it appears ominous, because the God of Jesus Christ, who took up history to open it up to its transcendent fulfillment, is its alpha and omega, the beginning and the end,” he said.

He said Christ guarantees “every small but genuine act of love.” †
Obituaries of archdiocesan priests and religious sisters and brothers on this page. They are natives of the archdiocese or have other connections to it; those are separate obituaries on this page.


What’s better at fighting the flu than grandma’s chicken soup?

A flu vaccination.

The flu season runs from November through February, and can even extend to March or April. So be sure you are ready and know the signs of when to see a doctor using the following guidelines:

- **Persistent fever** – Although a fever accompanies the flu, you should see a decline in temperature by the third to fifth day. If a fever remains high, it could be a sign that you may have a more serious infection.
- **Difficulty breathing/ chest pain** – The flu should not cause shortness of breath or chest pain. Therefore, these could be symptoms of a more serious problem such as heart disease, asthma, pneumonia or others.
- **Vomiting** – An inability to keep fluids down could result in dehydration. If you’re unable to stay hydrated you may need to be hospitalized to receive fluids intravenously.
- **Persistent coughing** – If you have a cough for more than 2 to 3 weeks, your doctor may want to examine you to ensure that you don’t have a secondary infection that would require antibiotics.
- **Persistent headaches and congestion** – A stuffy nose is typical with the flu, but if symptoms persist it may be a sign of a sinus infection where antibiotics are necessary for treatment.

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**Governor: Business is a fellowship that can better society**

By Mary Ann Wyand

Funny, faith-filled and forthright, Gov. Mitch Daniels mixed humor, Scripture and persuasive arguments in a keynote address to Catholic Business Exchange members on Nov. 16 at the St. Pius X Council’s Northside Knights of Columbus Hall in Indianapolis.

“You’re very kind to share this opportunity with a misguided Protestant,” Indiana’s 49th governor, who is an elder for Tabernacle Presbyterian Church in Indianapo-

lis, told more than 220 Catholic business men and women attending the organization’s monthly breakfast meeting.

“I think that we were given free will and … the chance to try to change things—change them for the betterment of all our fellow man,” he said. “That is what I see organizations like this doing, [and] … each of you individually in your own business is doing.”

Praising Lucious Newsom for his community ministry to the poor as founder of The Lord’s Pantry 19 years ago in Indianapo-

lis, Daniels said, “I come as a member of a slightly different faith, although I must say if Roman Catholicism brought Lucious Newsom into the fold maybe I need to start thinking about it myself.”

Newsom, a former Baptist minister who is now a member of Our Lord Jesus Christ Parish in Indianapolis, sang “Amazing Grace” for the gathering before the program then accepted applause for his poverty relief efforts in Marion County.

“If you want to feel small and inadequate in your [faith] walk,” Daniels said of Newsom, “if you want to be reminded of how far all the fallen people have to go, you will find, anywhere around here where I know of, a better example of someone who lives the Christian life—and I mean lives it every waking moment—that than man right there.”

The governor also offered praise for the goals of the Catholic Business Exchange, which was founded three years ago by St. Thomas Aquinas parishioner Jim Liston of Indianapolis to bring business people together for friendship, faith-sharing and networking.

Daniels said business is a fellowship of people who are organized to provide some goods or services to citizens who freely choose to exchange goods or services to better their families [and] help the next generation step further forward than they do.”

The White House also praised the breakthrough on Nov. 20, saying that President George W. Bush’s June 2007 executive order expanding stem-cell research using “ethically responsible techniques” was “intended to accelerate precisely the kind of research being reported today.”

“The president believes medical problems can be solved without compromising either the high aims of science or the sanctity of human life,” said press secretary Dana Perino. “We will continue to encourage scientists to expand the frontiers of stem-cell research and continue to advance the understanding of human biology in an ethically responsible way.”

WASHINGTON (CNS)—Scientists and ethicists alike hailed as a breakthrough two studies that showed human skin cells can be reprogrammed to work as effectively as embryonic stem cells, thus negating the need to destroy embryos in the name of science.

Separate studies from teams led by Shinya Yamanaka of Kyoto University in Japan and Junming Yu and James Thomson of the University of Wisconsin-Madison were published online on Nov. 20 by the journals Cell and Science, respectively.

“The methods outlined in these papers fully support our hope to see for some time,” said a statement from the National Catholic Bioethics Center in Philadelphia.

“Such strategies should continue to be pursued and strongly promoted, as they should help to steer the entire field of stem-cell research in a more explicitly ethical direction by circumventing the moral quagmire associated with destroying human embryos,” it added.

By adding four genes to the skin cells, the scientists were able to create stem cells that genetically match the donor and have the ability to become any of the 220 types of cells in the human body.

“The induced cells do all the things embryonic stem cells do,” Thomson, who isolated the first embryonic stem cells in 1998, said in a university news release. “It’s going to completely change the field!”

Unlike the ethicists, however, Thomson called on scientists to continue research involving the destruction of human embryos.

More study is needed to ensure that the newly made cells “do not differ from embryonic stem cells in a clinically significant or unexpected way, so it is hardly time to abandon embryonic stem-cell research,” he said.

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Ethical and scientific breakthroughs seen in new stem-cell studies

Gov. Mitch Daniels talks with Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ parishioner Lucious Newsom of Indianapolis, who founded The Lord’s Pantry ministry to the poor 19 years ago. They shared a moment at the Northside Knights of Columbus Hall in Indianapolis on Nov. 16 before the governor spoke about faith and commerce during the Catholic Business Exchange meeting. Msgr. Joseph F. Richardson, vicar general, was the celebrant for the Mass before the program.

Daniels said he is “always very reticent to talk about faith personally, particularly in a crowd like this. I know how far I have fallen and how far short I come of the life that God and Christ want me to live.”

He said his Presbyterian pastor once preached that “we’re all walking [on our faith journey] every day and that the best epitaph on one’s tombstone is that of a mourner who died climbing.”

Humility is “the central instruction of our faith,” Daniels said, and it is important “to recognize our smallness, our common shortcomings and the need always to remember the greatness—the overwhelming, transcendent greatness—of the God who made us.”

Along with humility comes perspective, he said, about doing secular work.

“What I’m doing is trivial and temporary,” he said, while clergy “deal in the important and the permanent.”

“Trying to keep that in mind, I hope, improves one in one’s own work,” Daniels said. “It doesn’t mean that you’re less serious. That’s not the intention. It means that you’re very, very hard at work, and you can’t know that it will always only have a modest place in God’s plan. … In coming together as people of business who are people of faith in a way like this, I just do not doubt that we truly are furthering God’s work.”

After his speech, the governor told The Criterion that he appreciates the amount and variety of humanitarian work that the Catholic Church and its members provide to help people in need.

“Praising ‘the effect it has on lives in this country and all over the world,’” Daniels said, “‘the scale of it is not known to many people, … the enormous scale of compassionate work that Catholics in both organized and individual ways do all over the world. This would be so much less a world without it.”

Liston said the governor, who frequently referred to Scripture, was “so passionate about his own faith and just really seemed to be excited about being at this program with the emphasis on faith and business.”

St. Joan of Arc parishioner Barbara Jones of Indianapolis said, “It was wonderful to hear the governor share his feeling that ethics in business is always a positive thing and will lead to growth within the economy and in our personal lives. I particularly enjoyed that he shared his faith and the way in which his faith impacts his own daily business life.”

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GEORGE W. WILMUT, Scottish scientist who created Dolly the cloned sheep in 1996, told the London Telegraph that he had decided in light of the new findings to abandon his efforts to clone human embryos and would instead concentrate on research involving the new reprogramming techniques.

“The National Catholic Bioethics Center said Wilmut’s change of heart “flowed largely from practical considerations,” but that the scientist also had acknowledged that the new approach was “easier to accept socially.”

“Persistence in seeking creative scientific breakthroughs and actively pursuing alternative approaches can help resolve serious ethical problems and allow us to maintain the ethical integrity of science while achieving important scientific and medical efficiencies,” the statement said.†
Hundreds turn out to pray during ‘40 Days for Life’ campaign

By Mary Ann Wyand

Hispanic Catholics prayed all night on Saturdays in front of the Planned Parenthood abortion clinic in Indianapolis during the recent “40 Days for Life” prayer campaign there. Hundreds of other pro-life supporters continued the prayer vigil during the daytime hours from Sept. 26 to Nov. 4 outside the largest abortion facility in the state at 8590 Georgetown Road.

St. Luke parishioner John Hanagan of Indianapolis participated in the prayer campaign and later talked with pro-life sidewalk counselors about the results.

“That first week we had three ‘saves,’” Hanagan said. “Three women decided to keep their unborn babies rather than have them aborted. Considering how difficult it is to gain access to those coming in for abortions at Planned Parenthood [due to the fenced property], that was amazing. We only have one brief chance to offer help as they drive by us there … so three saved babies in the first four days was enough to make the whole 40 days worthwhile.”

The pro-life counselors reported less traffic coming into the abortion clinic during the 40 days of prayer. Hanagan said, and some of the women were willing to stop and talk with them.

“All [the sidewalk counselors] were very appreciative of those [people] that came out to pray,” he said. “The whole atmosphere was one of peacefulness and prayer.”

Hanagan said he prayed in front of the clinic again on the Tuesday after the close of the “40 Days for Life” campaign, and was pleased that a Latino woman and her child were there as well as a woman with older children who were home-schooled.

“It was a good sign that the prayers at Planned Parenthood would continue,” he said, “until there are no more abortions here.”

St. Luke parishioner Elaine Rigney of Indianapolis, who helped coordinate the pro-life prayer campaign, welcomed several hundred people to the closing rally on Nov. 4 at the St. Augustine Home for the Aged Chapel in Indianapolis.

“The prayer campaign was very successful,” she said.

Retired Indy-car driver Johnny Parsons of St. Christopher Parish in Indianapolis shares his faith and thanks pro-life supporters during the closing rally for the “40 Days for Life” prayer campaign on Nov. 4 at the St. Augustine Home for the Aged Chapel in Indianapolis. Parsons is raising his grandson and is a member of American Racing Ministries.

“Because of each and every person who came out and prayed with us more than 300 participants.”

Other rally speakers included a driver who raced in the Indianapolis 500 and two state legislators. They offered their thanks to the volunteers who prayed for an end to abortion in front of the clinic every day for nearly a month and a half.

Retired Indy-car driver Johnny Parsons of St. Christopher Parish in Indianapolis, State Sen. Greg Walker (R-Dist. 21, Columbus) and State Sen. Jeff Drouza (R-Dist. 21, Westfield, Ind.) were among the speakers who encouraged pro-life supporters to continue praying in front of abortion clinics.

“When you turn yourself over to the Lord and are touched by the Holy Spirit, the Spirit will bless you and guide you,” Parsons said. “All of you are here because the Spirit brought you here, and what you have done for the Lord is going to be well-rewarded. We know that through the Scriptures.”

Parsons also talked about the opportunity to raise his grandson.

“For those that have lost children, just know that you’re going to be with your child again,” Parsons said. “The Lord has promised you that in the next world, and he is a forgiving God.”

St. Patrick parishioner Luis Fernando Aguayo of Indianapolis, a member of the Hispanic Catholic Family Movement, was one of the pro-life supporters who prayed outside the abortion clinic on Saturday nights in shifts from 7:30 p.m. until 7:30 a.m.

During some of those nights, Aguayo said, there were as many as 60 Latino people praying together there.

“This is not the end of prayers,” he said. “This is the beginning of prayers.”

Walker told the gathering not to feel discouraged about their pro-life efforts because “God can act upon the prayers of a few righteous, and do exceedingly, abundantly, beyond what we are able to comprehend.”

As faithful Christians, he said, “you have the power to move mountains in your words and your expressions from within your heart to the Lord. Don’t ever forget that. … You’ve seen God work in your lives in ways that you never could have imagined.”

“God is not using the mighty and the noble of this age to fulfill his work … and defend those who cannot defend themselves,” Walker said. “… God is going to use the lowly, God is going to use those who are not proud of heart to fulfill his purpose.”

“I want to encourage everyone and commend everyone that has been a part of the 40 days of prayer,” he said. We are reminded that this is a beginning, not an end. I’ve read the statistics about the successes [of the national campaign] in other cities. … Know that God has respect for those who submit to him.”

Drouza, who is a member of St. Maria Goretti Parish in Westfield, in the Lafayette Diocese, said it is a pleasure to work in the state legislature to defend life.

“When we go down to the statehouse, obviously we have a job to represent the people in our district,” he said. “But also, we have a responsibility—morally, legally and ethically—to defend the most vulnerable in society.”

Drouza said when he and his wife, Cheryl, took their six children to pray the rosary at the abortion clinic on a Friday evening during the prayer campaign, one child said, “I’m fighting against the law.”

As a legislator who makes the laws and also as a father, Drouza said, he struggled to answer that “basic, simple question” of “How can we permit this in our society?”

By Mary Ann Wyand

SEniors Turning Lives around graphic: The Arc of Indiana

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www.StElizabethCatholicCharities.org

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2017-12-15 12:00:00

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St. Elizabeth/Coleman Pregnancy and Adoption Services

2500 Churchman Ave., Indianapolis, IN 46203, 317-787-3412

24-hour Crisis Line 888-459-0049

www.StElizabeths.org

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