Liturgical logistics: Keeping track of details for pope’s U.S. Masses

VATICAN CITY (CNS)—From the huge windows of his office overlooking St. Peter’s Square, Pope Benedict XVI’s chief liturgist can, and does, keep track of every detail that goes into preparing a papal liturgy. The pope venues in the United States are not directly under his nose, but Msgr. Guido Marini still knows every detail of the two evening prayer services and three Masses that Pope Benedict will celebrate in Washington and New York from April 15-20.

Msgr. Marini, 43, did not plan every element of the five U.S. services, as he does with Vatican services, although he did make suggestions and did have veto power.

In an interview in early April, the monsignor said the readings, the prayers of the faithful, the music, and the readers and servers, for the most part, are those decided by the liturgy organizers in the archdioceses of Washington and New York, who coordinated their efforts with a representative of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops.

Female altar servers will be involved in some of the liturgies in accordance with local diocesan practice, he said. And, just as at the Vatican, men and women will alternate reading the Scriptures and the prayers of the faithful.

Early in the planning process for a papal trip, the monsignor said, his office sends the local Church a set of guidelines, which is “substantially the same” as the set developed during the pontificate of Pope John Paul II.

“A few small things were modified to reflect the liturgical attitudes of Pope Benedict,” he said. They include a request that a crucifix be placed on the altar for eucharistic celebrations, that concelebrating priests be as close to the altar as possible, and that the offertory gifts be limited to the bread, wine and charitable gifts.
the Catholic faith that their son had embraced.

It was only after finishing their second year of RCIA that they finally felt that God was calling them into the full communion of the Church.

Part of the delay was related to getting used to a style of worship that was very different than the one they had been used to their whole lives.

“To me, when I first walked in as a Protestant, the Catholic Church was not very welcoming,” Russ said. “You walk in and you’re just lost. I had no idea what was going on.”

Perhaps a more significant factor was their deep ties to Zion United Church of Christ, where Linda’s family had worshiped for more than 150 years.

“It was really tough to leave my family church,” Linda said. “But I knew I had to. I knew from studying that the Catholic Church was a beautiful thing. We have learned so much.”

Her ultimate choice to enter the full communion of the Church made an impression on Deacon Jenkins.

“For her to make that decision had to be pretty difficult,” said Deacon Jenkins in an interview before the Easter Vigil. “I kind of amazed that, with all of that, she still wants to make this decision to become Catholic.”

Making their own choice

Russ and Linda’s journey into the Church culminated just a couple of months before their son is to be ordained a priest.

This fact made Russ feel a little uncomfortable.

“It’s been good that it’s taken us this long,” he said. “But I hate that it’s coming this close to Aaron’s ordination. I just hate to take away from what he’s experiencing.”

Deacon Jenkins has a different view, describing their choice to join him in the faith as “the ultimate gift.”

Russ and Linda see their son’s embrace of the Catholic faith and his call to the priesthood as being a moment providentially planned by God to invite them into the full communion of the Church.

At the same time, they are convinced that their choice was theirs alone, something that was important for Deacon Jenkins.

One of their RCIA instructors saw that they were making their own choice by how they became involved in their parish community by organizing a trip to St. Meinrad for their classmates.

“I think that shows that they’re the initiative,” said Carolyn Sorber, a member of St. Mary Parish’s RCIA.

Definitive steps

“This is something that really turned me on,” Russ said. “They’re just like my folk guys,” he said. “They’re just like my people. They’re just godly people.”

Deacon Jenkins with students

One of their RCIA instructors, knew from his points where you had to discuss things a little uncomfortable.

“Deacon Jenkins”, pastor of St. Jude the Apostle Parish in Beech Grove, is pastor of Holy Name of Jesus Parish in Beech Grove for a six-year term, effective July 2, 2008.


Rev. Stanley Pondi, administrator of Holy Name of Jesus Parish in Beech Grove, is pastor of Holy Name of Jesus Parish in Beech Grove for a six-year term, effective July 2, 2008.

Rev. Shaun Whittington, administrator of St. John the Baptist Parish in Newgosh and St. Magdalen Parish in New Marion, is pastor of St. John the Baptist Parish in Osgood and St. Magdalen Parish in New Marion for a six-year term, effective July 2, 2008.

Rev. Paul Dede, pastor of St. Jude the Apostle Parish in Spencer, granted permission to retire, effective July 2, 2008.

Rev. William Ernst, pastor of St. Mary Parish in New Albany, granted permission to retire, effective July 2, 2008.
By John Shaughnessy

Like most people, Laura Mason looks forward to her weekends. The 17-year-old Shelbyville youth especially had that feeling about one upcoming weekend that she knew would be filled with music, sports and good times—a weekend that would also be highlighted by her junior prom.

Then Laura received a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity that tempted her to set aside that special high school event.

If you want, Laura was told, there’s a seat for you on a bus that will be filled with 44 youths and six adult chaperones on a trip to see Pope Benedict XVI at a youth rally, a bus that holds just 50 people.

“I was really excited,” recalls Laura about the invitation for the trip on April 17-20. “Then I got out my assignment book and saw all the conflicts. I had two tennis matches that Thursday and Friday, a band concert, a band contest and the junior prom that Saturday night.

“It was a very tough decision, but I decided I could go to prom next year. Not many people get to see the pope at all, let alone attend a rally with him. It’s a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity.”

Laura will be one of the 44 youths and six adult chaperones on the bus that will be filled with Catholics from across the archdiocese. Some of the young people were recommended by their youth ministers, and others were invited because of their service with the Archdiocesan Youth Council.

“I think the trip will be amazing,” says Laura, a student at Shelbyville High School and member of St. Joseph Parish in Shelbyville. “It’s a good idea [that the pope is meeting with young people]. During this past year, my confirmation sponsor made me realize we are the future of the Church. It’s in our hands.”

The Criterion contacted Laura and three other youths to share their thoughts—and their stories of faith—about making the trip to see Pope Benedict XVI, and Joseph Seminary in Yonkers, N.Y., where faith about making the trip to see the pope.

“I think it’s awesome,” says Kyle, who is home-schooled. “I had never been before. Just to see how many people care about how evil abortion and euthanasia are. You know they’re trying to get Roe v. Wade overturned. It makes you want to work hard to get it overturned.”

Those trips and the spiritual retreats he has experienced have shown him how deeply people care about their faith and made him think seriously about his own.

“If they care that much, why shouldn’t I?” he says. “It sparked a fire inside me to care about my faith. People want me to think about the priesthood. I’ve been praying about it, and I’m open to it, to see if that’s where I’m supposed to be.”

A prayer for the future

Jessica Peters’ senior year in high school already had been marked with great moments. Her senior retreat at Roncalli High School in Indianapolis this year drew her even closer to her faith and her friends. She enjoyed playing in the band during her school’s football and basketball games. She also rejoiced in being accepted at Xavier University in Cincinnati to continue her education in college.

Recently, her senior year took another special turn when she was invited on the New York trip to see the pope.

“He’s the symbol of our faith,” says Jessica, 18, a member of the Archdiocesan Youth Council. “I’m just thinking of how much I admire anyone who has devoted their life to the Catholic faith. It will be great to see the other youth who are excited to see him.”

She believes the experience will help strengthen her faith even more.

“I feel pretty good about my faith right now,” says Jessica, a member of St. Mark the Evangelist Parish in Indianapolis. “With all the good things in my life now, it’s easy to be strong in my faith. But sometimes it’s difficult for me to stand up for my faith. That’s why I think this trip will be so good—to be surrounded by people who feel the same way and will stand up for what they believe.”

Jessica is counting on that spiritual growth to help her when she starts college.

“I’ll be on my own in college,” she says. “There will be a lot of temptations. Once I see it’s OK to be strong in my faith, I think it will be a lot easier. I think I’ll be able to look to God and trust that he’ll help me make the right choices. I think I’ve gotten better at putting my faith in him. God will take care of me.”

“This is my faith. This is my belief.”

When he steps on the bus to see the pope in New York, Ian Barnstead will think of another trip that changed his life and his faith.

It was on spring break in 2006 when he was part of a youth group from St. Luke the Evangelist Parish in Indianapolis that traveled to Biloxi, Miss., to help people whose lives and homes had been devastated by Hurricane Katrina.

“Going to Biloxi took me out of my comfort zone and helped me experience my faith in the real world,” says Ian, 17, a member of the Archdiocesan Youth Council.

“I think it was breaking out of my shell. It helped me experience the love of Christ.”

One moment from that trip especially made a difference.

“There was a eucharistic procession we did late at night from the church to the gym where we were staying. It was the first time I was in that kind of procession. It was a quiet night, and we were all walking down the street holding candles and singing. I had never experienced the Eucharist in that way. That was the climax of the week. It made me think, ‘This is my faith. This is my belief.’ I have to take it seriously and take action.”

He’s tried to follow that approach for two years.

“My faith is growing,” says Ian, a junior at North Central High School in Indianapolis. “I’ve grown a lot since I started taking my faith seriously, but I still have a long way to go.”

He views the trip to see the pope as a special part of that journey.

“I think it’s awesome. It shows the Holy Father really cares about youth. He’s carrying on the message of Pope John Paul II—that we are the future of the Church and he cares about us.”

—Ian Barnstead

For 16-year-old Kyle Field, the trip to New York to see Pope Benedict XVI will be another amazing part of a longer, incredible journey of faith that has led him to consider the priesthood.

“In fact, this will be the second time in less than two years that Field will experience being in the pope’s presence. In the fall of 2006, he was part of a pilgrimage to Italy that was led by Father Michael Fritsch, his pastor at St. John the Apostle Parish in Bloomington.

“A guardian angel helped to pay for me to go on that trip,” Kyle recalls.

“Before the trip, Father Mike asked me to come visit him at the rectory. He said, ‘How would you like to go to Rome?’ He said there was a person who was paying for who was paying for my trip. It was an awesome opportunity. I heard the pope’s Wednesday address. Any opportunity to hear him and see him again, I’m going to take. I’m not sure what he’ll say to the American youth, but I’m sure it will be amazing.”

Kyle has the excitement as another recent journey of faith he made to Washington, D.C., in January for the annual March for Life.

“It was amazing,” says Kyle, “who is home-schooled.” “I had never been before. Just to see how many people care about how evil abortion and euthanasia are. You know they’re trying to get Roe v. Wade overturned. It makes you want to work hard to get it overturned.”

Those trips and the spiritual retreats he has experienced have shown him how deeply people care about their faith and made him think seriously about his own.

“If they care that much, why shouldn’t I?” he says. “It sparked a fire inside me to care about my faith. People want me to think
A heartfelt Easter welcome to our Holy Father, Pope Benedict XVI

“The death and resurrection of the Word of God incarnate is an event of invincible love, it is the victory of that love which has delivered us from the slavery of sin and death. It has changed the course of history, giving to human life an unattainable goal and renewed meaning and value.”

—Pope Benedict XVI

2008 Easter message

The Church in central and southern Indiana welcomes with great joy the successor of St. Peter, Pope Benedict XVI, on the occasion of his first official visit to the United States. Representatives of our archdiocese will be present in Washington, D.C., and New York as the pope meets with clergy, religious and lay leaders from all regions of our country. The rest of us will watch eagerly as the covers the pope’s visit in vivid detail.

We will also join the Holy Father in prayerful support as he addresses world leaders at the United Nations—urging them to work tirelessly for life, for human dignity and for peace throughout the world.

Pope Benedict’s comparatively short pontificate has already been a distinguished one. Calling on his many years as a teacher and writer, the Holy Father has used every opportunity available to him to exercise his special ministry as a witness to the person of Jesus Christ and to the mystery of his Resurrection.

Pope Benedict’s homilies, his weekly catechises, his encyclical letters, and all his communications—formal and informal—speak of his profound faith in the reality of Christ’s Resurrection.

This is not a myth, he tells us in his Easter message. The Resurrection is real. And it really matters in our personal lives and in the life of our global community—past, present and future.

The Holy Father arrives in America this Easter season during a time of political, economic and cultural turmoil. We Americans are eager to hear the pope’s message of hope. And we need to be reminded of the primacy of love (caritas), and the call to set aside our personal wants and desires for the sake of the greater good.

While the pope is here, we know he will affirm the sacredness of human life. He will call for an end to the inhumanity of war and the abuse of human freedom and dignity.

We know that he will invite us to cast off despair and find hope in the person of Jesus Christ. We also know that he will urge us to be grateful, generous and responsible in our use of the spiritual, material and environmental resources entrusted to our care as citizens of one of the world’s richest and most powerful nations.

Finally, we can be sure that Pope Benedict will call each and every one of us to experience the joy of Easter, which can only come through our personal participation in the Easter mystery, the selfless love and sacrificial giving of Christ our Redeemer.

The Catechism of the Catholic Church (#643) tells us that Peter and the Twelve were primary witnesses to Christ’s Resurrection along with Mary Magdalene and the women who came to anoint the body of Jesus.

From this perspective, Pope Benedict, and our own Archbishop Daniel M. Buechlein are called to carry on (in a special way) the original and enduring witness to the Resurrection of the Apostle Peter.

But the catechism goes on to say that all baptized Christians have important roles to play as the successors of the first community of believers, “those who came up with him from Galilee to Jerusalem, who are now his witnesses to the people” (Acts 13:31).

So, as members of this particular community of believers, the Archdiocese of Indianapolis, we are all called to be witnesses to the Resurrection.

In this spirit, let us extend to our Holy Father, Pope Benedict XVI, an authentic Easter welcome that reflects our hospitality, our hope and charity, and our faith-filled confidence in the decisive victory that Christ has won over sin and death—here in the United States and throughout the world. Now and forever. Amen.

—Daniel Conway

Pope Benedict XVI greets the crowd gathered for recitation of the Regina Coeli prayer in St. Peter’s Square at the Vatican on April 6.

Letter to the Editor

Find a quiet place in your home and pray for one hour each week

A few months ago, I wrote a letter to the editor pertaining to adoration of the Most Blessed Sacrament in chapels available throughout the city.

Now, I would like to make a suggestion to those who cannot go to one of these chapels because of age, health or precarious situation or whatever reason.

I would like to suggest that they choose one day of each week to go to a quiet place in their home and pray for one hour. I would suggest that this be done on the same day and hour each week, if possible, so it becomes a habit. If there are others in your home, it might serve you well to tell them what you will be doing for the next hour to avoid any disruptions.

I would also like to suggest that you build a “shrine” in this room, with perhaps a crucifix and/or statues, as a mental reminder of your focused prayer.

I think God will bless you for doing this.

And I would like to add a suggestion to this practice: spend some of this hour praying for those who could spend time in one of the chapels, but not...
Mamá y papá fueron verdaderamente mis maestros de vida y de fe

A

bril es el más sentimental para mí. Todas las fechas de vida nueva y de muerte atraviesan a mi corazón. Es también el mes de mis cumpleaños. Este año celebré mi sesquicentenario en el monasterio, y el vigésimo cumpleaños como obispo. Y sigue siendo cierto, cada año se hace más cálido.

Antes de que necesitaran cuidados especializados, cuando lo visitaba en la casa, a veces yo dormía hasta más tarde que él. Inevitablemente, lo escuchaba recitar sus plegarias matutinas en voz alta, las mismas plegarias que él, mamá, mi hermano y yo declamamos juntos en la mesa para desayunar. Esta costumbre de prácticas en familia quedan grabadas de manera profunda y perdurable.

Mamá y papá eran miembros activos en el apostolado de nuestra parroquia local en Jasper mucho antes de que fuese popular la palabra “colaboración” en el ministerio. Ellos ejercían un generoso liderazgo en las organizaciones y proyectos de la parroquia, siempre preguntándose y preocupándose de si tendrían la capacidad de ejecutar la tarea. Mientras todavía podíamos, especialmente después de haberse retirado, papá era un visitante habitual de las personas que estaban confinadas. Mamá encomió en la escuela Holy Family hasta que su salud lo permitió, y después de que mi papá había perdido su capacidad para recordar cosas, cuando celebraba la Misa en la casa con él, recordaba las plegarias matutinas de cada plegaria y respondía vigorosamente.

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Events Calendar

April 11
St. Pius X Church, 7200 Sarto Drive, Indianapolis: “Notre Dame Celebration and Handbell Choir Concert,” 7:30 p.m. no charge. Information: 317-257-1085 or e-mail gracefulmusic@msn.com.

Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish, 4598 Oak Ridge Road, Carmel, Ind. (Diocese of Lafayette): Couple to Couple League of Greater Indianapolis, Natural Family Planning (NFP) class, 7-9 p.m. Information: 317-848-4866.

April 12
St. Boniface Parish, St. Meinrad: “Gregorian Chant Workshop,” Fri. 7-8:30 p.m., Sat. 10 a.m.-3 p.m., Mass, 4:30 p.m., lunch $8 per person, must be pre-ordered: Information: 812-742-5063.

St. Roch Parish, Family Center, 3603 S. Meridian St., Indianapolis: “Single Seniors” (NFP) class, 11 a.m.-1 p.m., author, $8 per person, must be pre-ordered: Information: 317-353-9249 or e-mail teresa_short@shadyspring.org.


April 13
St. Bartholomew Parish, House of Joseph, 523 Fabyan Road, Indianapolis: Divorced, Separated or Widowed Singles, social, 6-15 p.m. Information: 317-919-8116.

St. Anthony Parish, 379 N. Warnam Ave., Indianapolis: Eucharist party, 1:30 p.m., $3 per person.

Marion College, 3200 Cold Spring Road, Indianapolis: Tournées Festival, French Film Festival, “Les Miserables,” 7 p.m. Information: 317-955-6213 or e-mail afagan@marian.edu.

MKVS: Divine Mercy and Glorious Cross Center, Rexville, located on 925 South, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. and 12 miles south of Versailles, Confession, 1 p.m., Mass, 2 p.m., on Sunday third holy hour and pitch-in, groups of 10 pray the new Marian Way, 1 p.m., Father Elmer Burlewker, information. Information: 812-689-3551.

April 15

April 16

St. Nicholas Church, 6461 E. St. Nicholas Drive, Sunnys, Eucharistic healing service, rosary for vocations, praise, worship, music, 6-11 p.m. Information: 317-622-8007.

April 17

St. Therese of the Infant Jesus (Little Flower) Parish, 1401 N. Bosart Ave., Indianapolis: “Smart Discipline Parenting Program,” 6-8:30 p.m. Information: 317-333-9249 or e-mail teresa_short@shadyspring.org.

April 18
Northside Knights of Columbus Hall, 2100 E. 71st St., Indianapolis: Catholic Business Exchange, Quality Lunch and Christ Renews His Parish groups. Annual business meeting, 1 p.m., buffet lunch, programs, 12 p.m. Information and registration: www.catholicbusinessexchange.org.

April 19
St. Michael the Archangel Church, 3354 W. 30th St., Indianapolis. Helpers of God’s Precious Infants Pro-Life Mass, Father Paul Landwert, celebrant, 8:30 a.m., followed by rosary outside aid clinic and Benediction at church. Information: Archdiocesan Office for Pro-Life Ministry, 317-236-1699 or 800-382-9836, ext. 1569.

Northside Knights of Columbus Hall, 2100 E. 71st St., Indianapolis: Indianapolis North Deanery Scholarship Fundraiser, “Tripoli Tribute to Joe and Barb Krier,” 7 p.m.-midnight, $30 per person. Information: 317-872-5088 or e-mail sherrymp@comcast.net.

Marion College, 3200 Cold Spring Road, Indianapolis: Tournées Festival, French Film Festival, “Voyage au Sud” (Heading South), 7 p.m. Information: 317-955-6213 or e-mail afagan@marian.edu.


Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish, 14598 Oak Ridge Road, Carmel, Ind. (Diocese of Lafayette): Catholic Charismatic Renewal of Central Indiana (CCCC), “Life in the Spirit” retreat, 8:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m. Information: 317-592-1992 or e-mail cccr@hot.ospirt.com.

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish, 10655 Hazelwood Road, Carmel, Ind. (Diocese of Lafayette): “Gabriel Project Day of Reflection 2008,” 9 a.m. Mass, 9:30 a.m.-12:15 p.m. retreat: Information: 317-844-5658 or e-mail iblanch@thebodal.org.

White Violet Center for Eco-Justice, Saint Mary-of-the-Woods, St. Mary-of-the-Woods. 10th annual Earth Day celebration, 11 a.m.-3 p.m., entertainment, biodynamic gardening presentations, educational opportunities, food, baked goods, hands-on activities, free, good will donation welcome. Information: 812-535-3131.

April 20
Marion College, 3200 Cold Spring Road, Indianapolis. Tournées Festival, French Film Festival, “Le Foulard de l’Est Rouge (A Gorro Without a Cat),” 2 p.m., Chats Percheris “The Case of the Green Cat,” 7 p.m. Information: 317-955-6213 or e-mail afagan@marian.edu.

April 21

April 22–26
Holy Spirit Parish, rectory, conference room C, 7243 E. 10th St., Indianapolis. “Divorce and Beyond Program,” 7:30 p.m. $50 per person includes meals. Information: 317-236-1569 or 800-382-9836, ext. 1596 or e-mail mbrodie@ghcy.org.

April 26
St. Francis Hospital, 8111 S. Emerson Ave., Indianapolis. Skin cancer screening, 9 a.m.-noon, no charge. Information: 317-782-4422.

VIPs
Paul J. and Irene (Patterson) Bacher, members of Holy Family Parish in New Albany, will celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary on April 12. The couple was married on April 12, 1958, at St. Francis Assisi Church in Louisville, Ky. They have two children, Mark and Matthew Bacher, and four grandchildren.

Harold and Betty (Tylicki) Braun, members of Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ Parish in Paro, will celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary on April 13. The couple was married on April 12, 1958, at St. Francis Assisi Church in Louisville, Ky. They have three children, Daniel, David and Timothy Braun. They have three grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

Solosit
Priestly Fraternity of St. Peter Father Michael Magiera, associate pastor of Our Lady of the Most Holy Rosary Parish in Indianapolis, sings during an April 2 rehearsal for the Master’s Chorale of Central Indiana’s April 6 performance of “Praise to God—a Concert of Sacred Baroque Music” at St. Pius X Church in Indianapolis. Father Magiera is the featured soloist. Before his ordination, he sang professionally for 32 years in the U.S. and Europe.

‘Sustaining the Spirit’ convention will be held April 19 in Columbus

“Sustaining the Spirit,” an archdiocesan ministry convention, will feature Dominican Sister Donna Ciangio of Caldwell, N.J., as the keynote speaker. The convention begins at 8:30 a.m. and continues until 4 p.m. on April 19 at St. Bartholomew Church, 1306 21st St., in Columbus. Sister Donna is the director of Church Leadership Consultation in Caldwell, N.J., and is an adjunct faculty member at Drew University in Madison, N.J. She will discuss “My Passion is The Parish, Which Gives the Church Essential Life” in her keynote address and “Engaging All Generations in the Parish” during her workshop presentation.

“Our goal for the day is to assemble the best thinking and practice contributing to effective parish ministry for evangelization, Christian initiation and lifelong faith formation,” explained John Valenti, archdiocesan associate director of evangelization and faith formation. Valenti said the day will benefit parish leaders of adult faith formation, Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults and Special Religious Education (SRED) as well as members of small Church communities and Church Renewes His Parish groups.

(The registration fee is $10 per person or $25 per person for four or more people from the same parish. To register, log on to http://archindy.org/congregation/registration by the April 17 deadline.)
For several months, dozens of young adults across the archdiocese have been in training. They’re running mile after mile to prepare for the One America 500 Festival Mini-Marathon on May 3 in Indianapolis.

They’re also in spiritual training because they hope running in the race, also known as the “500,” will raise awareness about vocations since tens of thousands of people participate in the marathon each year.

They’re all members of the “Run for Vocations” team, a program initiated by Father Rick Nagel, archdiocesan associate director of vocations.

And they’re asking that Catholics across the archdiocese join them spiritually in their effort by pledging prayers for every mile that they will run.

Those interested in praying for vocations should log on to www.archindy.org/vocations and click on “Send in your prayer pledges.”

Father Nagel and the other young adults on the team will wear a specially made T-shirt 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 such vocations as the priesthood, religious life and marriage.

With so many thousands of people who may see the shirts, Father Nagel thinks the vocation runners’ impact could be big.

Everybody is called to something special in life,” Father Nagel 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?’”

Victor Neff, a member of St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception Parish in Aurora, is already pondering that question as an archdiocesan seminarian.

He will run in the Mini for the first time as part of the “Run for Vocations” team.

“Physical exercise has always been a spiritual part of my life,” Neff said. “I talk to God and pray when I run. It’s wonderful that a group of us can do this. It’s the Church praying and exercising together.”

Julie Burns, 27, a member of St. Joan of Arc Parish in Indianapolis, is also on the “Run for Vocations” team. She sees it as a chance for young adults Catholic to strengthen their faith together.

“I think that it is really important for young adults of faith to have opportunities for fellowship and consider the ‘Run for Vocations’ such an opportunity,” Burns said. “It makes me sad that I don’t see as many people my age at Mass as people from other stages of life. I think any opportunity that creates fellowship among young adults is wonderful because it can help build the young adult community within the Church.”

Lissa Ritter, a 35-year-old mother of five and member of St. Louis Parish in Batesville, has run in mini-marathons in other cities, and she and some of her friends jumped at the chance to participate in the Indianapolis race for what she called “a higher purpose.”

“I love the fact that I’ve asked family and friends to support me with [prayer] pledges,” Ritter said. “This alone has stirred up some great conversation and much-needed attention to vocations.

“In addition, while I’m out training, I’ve been praying with my friends.”

John Demerly, a 34-year-old member of St. Susanna Parish in Plainfield, also has five children and is a member of the “Run for Vocations” team.

While training for the Mini, he prays along with a recording of the rosary that he has on his MP3 Player.

He hopes that being part of the team will set a good example for his children.

“It is always my hope that at least one of my children considers the religious life,” Demerly said. “Certainly, this is God’s will more than it is mine so I will accept whatever he wills.”

“I do hope that through showing my commitment to training that they will get a better understanding of the importance of physical activity, commitment, sacrifice and prayer.”

The evening before the race, all team members gather for prayer at a Mass scheduled to start at 6 p.m. The runners will receive a special blessing at the Mass.

Catholics across the archdiocese, especially those who are making prayer pledges for the team, are invited to attend the May 2 Mass at St. John the Evangelist Church in downtown Indianapolis.

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Building bridges

Finnish principal impressed by Hoosier hospitality during visit

By Mike Krokos

Ask Kaija-Leena Salovaara about her impressions of Indiana, and you quickly learn that Southern hospitality has nothing on Hoosier hospitality.

"People here are so friendly, and my hosts have been so kind," said the principal of Central School of Viiala in Akka, Finland, recently.

"I love how people take care of one another," she said. "I love it here.

Salovaara’s name may look familiar. She was a host to Immaculate Heart of Mary School principal Annette Jones when the Indianapolis educator visited Finland last fall. The Criterion featured a story in its Dec. 14, 2007, issue. Log on to www.archindy.org/criterion/locals/2007/12/15/finland.html to read the story.

Thanks to the Fulbright Teacher Exchange Program sponsored by the U.S. Department of State’s Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, Jones was able to travel to northern Europe for more than a month last fall to see a Finnish school operate firsthand.

Established by an act of Congress in 1946, the Fulbright program provides opportunities for teachers, administrators and other faculty to participate in a direct exchange of positions with colleagues from other countries.

Thus, Jones served as Salovaara’s host when the Finnish principal visited the United States during the month of March.

“The first goal was to make Kaija feel comfortable in the U.S.," Jones said, "because it would be such a transition. We wanted to make her feel at home.

When it comes to transportation, there are no yellow school buses in Finland. Most children live close enough to walk to their neighborhood schools, Salovaara said. While in Indianapolis, the Finnish principal took part in the National Catholic Educational Association convention, where she attended various seminars and visited exhibit halls.

Since it was her first trip to the United States, Salovaara also took time to travel to Chicago, San Francisco and Florida. She also visited Amish country in Nappanee, Ind. Her stay in Indianapolis included visits to the Children’s Museum, Indianapolis Motor Speedway and Indiana State Museum.

In San Francisco, she sampled crab meat. Other food musts included Ghirardelli chocolate and a hamburger.

“They were both good,” she said.

Salovaara usually eats ham, cheese and cucumbers for breakfast. In Finland, she paused. “Even your squirrels are bigger than ours,” she laughed.

Salovaara added that she will never forget how overwhelmed she was by the vastness of America.

“The U.S. is so big,” Salovaara said.

Salovaara added that she will never forget how overwhelmed she was by the vastness of America.

That introduction included spending lots of time at Immaculate Heart of Mary School, where Salovaara moved from classroom to classroom, soaking in what each instructor and the students had to offer.

While she learned many things, Salovaara shared her unique perspective from a world away as well. Her visit even became part of the lesson plan.

The school hosted an International Day on March 12. There was a Finnish Day and Immaculate Heart of Mary students were allowed to wear slippers, like their European counterparts do, and spend part of the school day outside.

There was also a map of Finland placed in the school’s front office. (For those who need a refresher, Finland is comparable to the state of Montana in size, and is home to approximately 5 million people.)

Another geography lesson taught the students this tidbit:

• Board a plane in Indianapolis, fly 1½ hours north, and you’ll touch down in Detroit.
• Get on a jet in Finland, fly ½ hours north, and you’ll end up at the Arctic Circle.

Cultural differences were also brought to light. You can walk the halls at Immaculate Heart of Mary School and pass open classroom doors throughout the campus.

If you walk the halls at Central School of Viiala in Akka, Finland, closed classroom doors are the norm.

“There is openness in everything here,” Salovaara said. “People are so polite and open, and they aren’t shy.

People are shy in Finland.”

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“The U.S. is so big,” Salovaara added.
Carpenter says building altar for papal Mass is an ‘awesome’ job

POOLSVILLE, Md. (CNS)—For Deacon Dave Cahoon, working at his St. Joseph’s Carpentry Shop on a quiet country road in Poolesville, this year’s Holy Week was one like no other.

“How awesome is this? It’s Holy Thursday, and I’m working on the altar for the Eucharist, for the papal Mass. How awesome is that?” he said, smiling.

With a hammer and chisel, the carpenter worked on a long maple board for the base of the altar that Pope Benedict XVI will use for his April 17 Mass at Nationals Park in Washington.

“This is an awesome job to have,” said Deacon Cahoon, who has worked as a carpenter for nearly three decades, fashioning many church and home furnishings over the years at his shop, which includes a sawmill.

“I can take it from a tree to the finished product,” he said in an interview with the Catholic Standard, Washington’s archdiocesan newspaper.

The day before Holy Thursday, he picked up the metalwork for the altar, which was designed by two Catholic University of America graduate students, John-Paul Mikolajczyk and Ryan Mullen. They also designed the papal chair and the ambo that will be used at the Mass.

Deacon Cahoon graduated from Good Counsel High School in Wheaton in 1974, in the same class as Greg Campbell, an artist and blacksmith who oversaw the production and completion of the altar’s ornate metal framework.

“It’s gonna look awesome,” said Deacon Cahoon, who has completed dozens of carpentry jobs for the Archdiocese of Washington, including building the mobile altar used for the Mass for Life that follows a youth rally each January at the Verizon Center sports arena in downtown Washington.

He praised the work of craftsmen who participated in building the papal altar at each step, and he praised the work and spirit of the students who designed the pieces.

Working on the papal altar “is the highlight of my craft. It’s all gonna be downhill from here,” the carpenter said.

Nearby, the ambo for the papal Mass and the papal chair, also crafted in maple by Deacon Cahoon, were nearly complete.

“I’m gonna have hundreds of hours [invested] in this thing. On a project like this, you really work on one piece at a time,” he said.

Later, he smiled when contemplating the tight deadline for building the furniture for the papal Mass. “One day late won’t make it,” he said, laughing.

The year after Pope John Paul II visited Washington in 1979, Dave Cahoon had been offered a job at the National Institutes of Health after doing graduate work in physics at Catholic University. To help pay for his education, he had been doing carpentry work during his summers between classes.

“I realized I really enjoyed carpentry,” he said of the profession he took up. Growing up in St. Mary’s Parish in Rockville, he had taken the confirmation name of Joseph, and when he opened a carpentry shop, he named it after St. Joseph, a carpenter who became the patron saint of carpenters.

“Here was a patron saint, working behind the scenes in my life,” he said. “I had always liked woodworking, but I never thought of it as a career.”

Deacon Cahoon and his wife, Rani, have two grown daughters, Casey and Jessie. Ordained a deacon in 1991, he serves at St. Mary’s Parish in Barnesville. He built the new altar there.

“I get to kneel quite regularly [there] at my altar,” he said.

The pope said his message of Christian hope had particular relevance to the United Nations at a time when the world needs hope more than ever before — hope for peace, justice and freedom.

But he said this hope can never be fulfilled without obedience to the law of God, which Christ expressed in the commandment to love one another.

“Do to others as you would have them do to you, and avoid doing what you would not want them to do. This ‘golden rule’ is given in the Bible, but it is valid for all people, including nonbelievers,” he said.

The pope said that although his itinerary will take him to only two cities, his visit aims to reach out to everyone, especially those in need.

“I want you to know that ... my heart is close to all of you, especially to the sick, the weak and the lonely,” he said.

Jesuit Father Federico Lombardi, the Vatican spokesman, told reporters on April 8 that the pope could be expected to focus largely on religious and moral values during his visit.

During his visit to the United Nations, he said, the pope will probably concentrate on human rights.

At ground zero in New York, the pope will not make a speech, but will descend to the bottom of the 70-foot-deep pit, recite a prayer and light a candle in remembrance of those who died in the Sept. 11 tragedy: survivors, relatives of the dead, and members of the police, fire and civil defense departments.

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Welcome, new Catholics

The 459 catechumens listed are people who had never been baptized and—within the past year—were baptized, confirmed and received their first Eucharist.

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In Westminster lecture, Blair says faith can transform humanity

TONY Blair, 54, a former British Prime Minister, has spoken of his “passionate” conviction that religious faith can transform humanity for the better.

Blair, now the Middle East peace envoy, said he wanted to promote the “idea of faith itself as something dynamic, modern and full of present relevance.”

He told 1,600 people gathered in the Catholic Church just days before Christmas, said he wanted to help bring people back to a faith that is “passionate”.

For years, it was assumed that as humanity progressed intellectually and matured morally, so religion would decline,” he said.

“Faith is not in decline, he added. “It isn’t disappearing inevitably under the weight of scientific and technological progress.”

“Today is more than ever when we need to discover and rediscover our essential humility before God, our dignity as found in our lives being placed at the service of the source and goal of everything,” Blair said.

Catholics

continued from page 11

St. Mary, North Vernon
Ethan Ruudlingler and Katherine Smith (catechumens); Amie Brunner, Erich Kopitzke, Darla Besteman, Connie Ruedlinger, Leonard Ruudlingler and Erin Treadway (candidates)

St. Patrick, Salem
Kristi Humphrey, Jennifer Martin and Norma Smith (candidates)

St. Ambrose, Seymour
James Boyt, Shannen Day and Roman Perez (catechumens); Melissa Lemarr (candidate)

Tell City Deacary
St. Boniface, Falda
Amanda Gudorf (candidate)

St. Meinrad, St. Meinrad
Samantha Edwards (catechumen)

St. Paul, Tell City
Shend Hagedorn, Phillip Kling, Brenda Pund and Mike Rogers (catechumens); Carol Black, James Black and Austin Craig (candidates)

St. Pius, Terre Haute
Thomas McCullough (catechumen)

St. Benedict, Terre Haute
Amy Isbell, Darci James, Amanda Payne and Larissa Turner (catechumens); Judy Hogan (candidate)

St. Joseph University, Terre Haute
Tim Wilson (candidates)

St. Margaret Mary, Terre Haute
Donna Leggett, Audrey Nelson and Lisa Nelson (candidates)

Sacred Heart, Clinton
Gayle Findley and Michelle Henrich (catechumens); Alan Beckley, Benjamin Beckley, John Brunette, Rebecca Crawford, Carrie Evans, Tyra Howard, Baelee Stearley and Richard Zellars (candidates)†

St. Paul, The Apostle, Greencastle
Caroline Cupp, Elizabeth Heisser, Jessica Savarese and Louisey Savarese (catechumens); Nicholas Cupp and Drew Olson (candidates)

Sacred Heart of Jesus, Terre Haute
Cora Cheesean, Lilian Cheesean and Stella Cheesean (catechumens); Toni Cheesean (candidate)

St. Ann, Terre Haute

St. Patrick, Terre Haute

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By Mary Ann Wyand

Embracing and celebrating diversity helped St. Joan of Arc Parish and School in Indianapolis earn national recognition.

Father Gay Roberts, administrator, and Mary Pat Sharpe, principal, accepted a Catholic Identity Award from William H. Sadlier, Inc. and the Archdiocese of Indianapolis during the National Catholic Educational Association convention on March 25 at the Indiana Convention Center in downtown Indianapolis.

Presented on Easter Tuesday, the award for “Problem-based Learning in the Science Classroom,” by Providence Sister Theresa Boland, addressed “place-based education.” Kugler’s book was inspired by the benefits of attending catholic schools for years.

Problem-based learning is the process by which students explore a concept or idea through hands-on experiences with the community and the environment. Students then return to the classroom to reflect on their findings and solutions.

Participants are asked to exercise that blossoming of their life in personal vocation. “Why did God put you here and how are you best going to exercise that blossoming of your life in your personal vocation? ’Why did God put you here and how are you best going to exercise that blossoming of your life in your personal vocation?” —David Bowie

...it's a very diverse environment here, and there is much respect and appreciation for everyone.”

Local speakers share insights at national Catholic educational convention

By Mary Ann Wyand

Archdiocesan presenters featured during the National Catholic Educational Association convention on March 25-28 in Indianapolis offered a variety of “how to” programs for educators from throughout the U.S. and several other countries.

“Let’s do something” —David Bowie

"My passion is the parish which gives the Church essence" —Sister Dona Clangio, O.P., Keynote Speaker

Workshop Opportunities for Parish Leaders

- Parish as an Inviting Community
- Life after RCIA and Christ Renews His Parish
- Restoring Lost Children
- Riot of Christian Initiative of Adults (RiCA) Frequently Asked Questions
- Ten Top Questions Asked About Christ Renews His Parish
- How to Promote Hispanic Adult Formation Ministry
- Oasis for Religious: How to Avoid the Bull’s-Eye
- Starting and Sustaining Small Church Community Formation
- Special Religious Education (SPIED)

For Parish Leaders of Adult Faith Formation, RCIA, Small Church Communities and Christ Renews His Parish.

Saturday — April 19, 2008
8:30 AM — 3:30 PM
St. Bartholomew Catholic Church
1306 27th St. Columbus, IN 47201

St. Joan of Arc Parish
57 percent passing the ISTEP (Indiana Standard Testing for Educational Progress) to 86 percent passing the proficiency test.

In addition to building school enrollment and improving academic standards, Sharpe said, St. Joan of Arc staff members regularly welcome non-Catholic students into the Church.

“Our mission as a Catholic Church is to be open and respectful to everyone,” she said. “That’s what we’re called to do. … It’s a very diverse environment here, and there is much respect and appreciation for everyone.”

Admission is free but free will offerings are accepted to defray expenses.

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To register:
www.archindy.org/events

Contact: John Valenta
Archdiocese of Indianapolis • Evangelization and Adult Faith Formation
Phone: 317-236-1342 • Fax: 317-261-3564 • E-Mail: jvalenta@archindy.org

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“Gods of Wasteland” is a morally lethal new form of music, which is being marketed specifically to young people.

Michael Matt, editor of The Remnant Online and author of the book “Gods of Wasteland,” delves into the history, ethics, importance and destructiveness of rock music — a destructiveness that is passed from their parents, families from their roots and society from God Himself.

Matt’s discussion provides invaluable insight into what’s wrong with rock music and how one goes about combating what they believed was a morally lethal new form of music, which is being marketed specifically to young people.

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LITURGY
continued from page 1

Msgr. Marini said the Vatican did not dictate the choice of music and hymns for the U.S. liturgies. “The repertoire is rather vast,” he said. “There will be Gregorian chant, polyphony and some hymns that are more popular in the American repertoire. “I really like this variety of styles that has been prepared for the celebrations,” he said.

After the Vatican’s liturgical guidelines were sent to the United States, the coordinator appointed by the bishops’ conference, Msgr. Anthony Sherman, came to Msgr. Marini’s office to discuss the initial choices for the U.S. liturgies. “We discussed the liturgies, suggestions were made and decisions were taken,” he said.

In February, Msgr. Marini and two of his assistants, including U.S. Msgr. William V. Millea, traveled to the two cities for more discussions, fine-tuning and site visits. “A few more details, such as which altar servers will be where, will be determined during quick runs throughs hours before the liturgies.”

Msgr. Marini knows that changes in papal liturgies at the Vatican have been fueling speculation and heated discussions on Italian blogs and Web sites; he insists on the increased use of older liturgical elements—such as Gregorian chant and ancient vestments—do not indicate a return to the past, but rather reflect “development in continuity.”

“In the liturgy, as in the life of the Church itself, development in continuity should be visible,” he said. “There are great riches, treasures that we have received, that we cannot forget, but this does not mean we oppose new developments. “Those who have preceded us created works of art, not so they would be admired in a museum, but so they would be used,” Msgr. Marini said. “Using them today underlines our continuity with the past as we walk toward the future.”

As for rumors that Pope Benedict is preparing to celebrate publicly a Mass according to the Tridentine rite, Msgr. Marini said that as far as he knows that is just a rumor.

“My office has heard nothing of this. I know there are rumors, but I have not been asked to plan anything,” he said.

The U.S. liturgies will raise an issue Pope Benedict, on more than one occasion, has said is problematic: preserving a sense of prayer and participation at a Mass where there are hundreds of concelebrants and tens of thousands of people in the assembly.

Msgr. Marini said many people at the pope’s April 17 Mass in Washington’s Nationals Park and April 20 Mass in St. Peter’s Square will receive Communion in the form of hosts that will have been consecrated earlier.

He said the practice, while not optimal, is common for papal Masses with a large crowd. “If a priest were to take the Eucharist from the altar to the back of the crowd, he would not be able to reach the farthest points of the assembly before Mass ended,” he said.

Instead, the msnipsignor said, small temporary chapels housing the Blessed Sacrament are set up at various points near the back of the crowd. A priest or deacon is stationed at each chapel and coordinates the distribution of Communion from that point.

The question of the number of concelebrants “is not simply an aesthetic question, but has substance,” which is why it is the subject of ongoing study at the Vatican, he said.

In addition to highlighting the unity of the celebrant and the concelebrants and the bond between the concelebrants and the altar, “there must be a direct relationship, including a visual one, between the words of consecration and the matter that is being consecrated,” he said.

The consecration question demonstrates that, although Msgr. Marini, his co-workers, consultants and predecessors have considered and continue to study every aspect of papal Masses, they are still searching for perfection, he said.

Nevertheless, the extremely soft-spoken monsignor said, “I hope the liturgical celebrations presided over by the Holy Father may be an example and also provide an orientation for the Church in the United States.”

“Exploring the Governance Relationship between the Catholic School and the Parish” by Father Jeffrey Godocker, the Catholic chaplain at Butler University in Indianapolis, emphasized that “the Church, especially its schools and social services, will thrive through the full engagement of the laity.”

Elsener said keys to successful governance include organization, preparation, investment of time and belief in the mission in order to achieve success in planning, fundraising, accountability, relevance, marketing and communication.

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THE SPIRIT OF CARING*
FaithAlive!

Papal trips are much more than just a news event

By Sharon Roulier

With 104 apostolic journeys outside Italy, Pope John Paul II was the most widely traveled pope in history. When many people, including those in the Roman Curia, asked why he traveled to foreign countries, Pope John Paul would respond by saying the trips that he was making to the local Churches demonstrated that they “have a place in the universal Church,” said John Thavis, Catholic News Service Rome bureau chief, who has covered papal trips since 1984.

Thavis said Pope Benedict XVI vowed at the beginning of his papacy in 2005 not to travel as much as his predecessor. “However, he’s already done seven foreign visits,” Thavis noted. “Once you’re pope, it’s hard to say no when people invite you to go.”

So far, Pope Benedict has traveled to Germany twice, and once to Turkey, Brazil, Poland, Spain and Austria.

The pope will make his first apostolic journey to the United States as the spiritual leader of the Catholic Church in April. The six-day trip will begin April 15 in Washington and continue to New York.

The trip is historic, with the pope addressing the United Nations General Assembly, meeting with President George W. Bush and visiting ground zero.

There will be several public events during the visit, including Mass at Nationals Park in Washington and Yankee Stadium in New York. The full itinerary is available at www.uspapalvisit.org and www.catholicnews.com/papalvisit.

“It’s important for the pope that he visit the U.S.,” said Thavis. “The Catholic Church in the United States is very important in the universal Church, and in the United States it is important as well. I’m certain he wanted to visit the U.S. at least once in his pontificate.”

“Christ Our Hope” is the theme of the papal visit.

The pope sees his U.S. visit “as a time to encourage people, and we’re hoping it is also a time of renewal for people.”

—Helen Osman

There have been more than 5,000 requests for media credentials to cover the pope’s travels in the U.S., said Osman. “It’s a wonderful challenge, trying to accommodate all that interest. We want to keep the solemnity and spirituality of the event while realizing that the modern communications media can be a great partner in helping us to get the Good News out.”

When the pope travels to other countries, the “local press is filled with stories about the pope and the Catholic Church, which generates good publicity,” said Thavis. It often brings world interest to the country he visits.

As for the pope, his world travels also serve to widen his vision, said Thavis. “They’re learning too,” he said of the popes who have traveled to foreign lands, “especially if they’re going to Third World countries.”

Preparations have been under way for the pope’s trip to the U.S. since early last fall, with much of the work being handled by local dioceses in cooperation with the Holy See.

“It’s very complicated and very detailed,” but the Vatican advance team has had experience in planning papal trips for 30 years, said Thavis. Once the cities are chosen following many talks, an advance team comes to the location selected two or three times and considers the following details:

• What time will the pope arrive?
• How close will he get to the people?
• Will he say anything?
• Is there a sound system?
• What will the stage look like?
• Will there be a motorcade?
• If he’s in a building, does it have an elevator?
• How many steps will he walk from the car to where he is going?

The Vatican advance team will also review the liturgies which are planned by the local dioceses. Keep in mind too that the pope does not travel alone. He flies on a chartered airplane, usually leaving Italy on Alitalia. He is accompanied by an entourage of 20 to 25 staff members from the Vatican along with 50 to 70 journalists, who also require seating and lodging during all events. Much of the papal visit will be broadcast on local television and cable stations across the country. Osman said streaming video will be available on www.uspapalvisit.org. The Catholic Channel on Sirius Satellite Radio is expected to provide coverage. (Radio broadcasts of the pope’s journey to the United States can also be heard in the Indianapolis area by tuning in to 89.1 PM or anywhere in the archdiocese by logging on to www.catholicradioindy.com and clicking on the “listen now” button.)

Certainly not everyone will be able to be present for each of the pope’s engagements while in the U.S., but Osman encourages Catholics to think about what the pope’s visit means to them personally because it is more than just a news event.

The pope’s U.S. visit “can be an opportunity for people to participate in the Church in a rather unique way,” Osman said. “We hope people will stop and ask themselves, ‘What is my relationship with the Church and within the larger community?’ We want the pope’s message to inspire people during and following the days he is with us.”

(Pope Benedict XVI embraces a group of children during his visit to a Franciscan-run drug rehabilitation center in Guaratingueta, Brazil, on May 12, 2006. Apostolic journeys made by popes to countries around the world show the importance of local dioceses in the universal Church. CNS photo/Kai Pfaffenbach, Reuters)


Discussion Point

Papal visit represents hope, love, healing

This Week’s Question

What does the pope visiting the U.S. mean to you?

“It’s like Jesus himself coming. We had the Old Testament, but Jesus came himself and brought the New Testament. It was like a breath of fresh air that enhanced our spiritual ways and life. Because he represents Jesus Christ, the pope’s coming also represents hope, love and healing.” (Jerry Goodhouse, McLaughlin, S.D.)

“He shows that he loves us and cares about us enough to make such a trip.” (Teresa Deegan, Honolulu, Hawaii)

“I’m very excited. We can hear him and read his writings, but his visual presence for people is wonderful. You can’t beat seeing someone special in person.” (DAnn Bird, Milford, Conn.)

“He represents Catholics all over the world, but his coming here will make him seem more real to me and my world. I think I will focus in on his presence and [watch and listen more carefully] to what he’s doing and saying.” (Jennifer Wucherer, St. Cloud, Minn.)

Lend Us Your Voice

An upcoming edition asks: Describe how you or a friend converted to a life in Christ.

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: Mary Magdalene

From the Editor Emeritus/Cornucopia
(Thirty-fifth in a series)

April 11, 2008

Mary Magdalene has fascinated writers and artists for two millennia. More probably has been written about her than any other biblical woman except the Blessed Virgin.

In recent years, she has been called Jesus’ lover, the mother of his children (or at least child).

Through the centuries, she has been identified as one or both of the public sinners I wrote about last week.

Reading Chaucer was a bit easier, except the Blessed Virgin. I read a Prologue in Middle English. By the time we worked our way through the 19th century Romantics, we had learned of various attitudes toward work, marriage, gender roles and killing of other sentient life. Religious faith was still an important part of life then, but social attitudes were changing. Lord Byron and others led the way with new opinions about sexual freedom, human rights, and the importance of individualism. Poems were lofty and grand, but also humorless and rather depressing in their view of the human condition. Paradise may have been lost and regained in his greatest poetry, but it lacked the slyly funny optimism I felt in Catholic works.

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The weather was awful, but I was reminded of times past when the wind was brisk, the days, parents helped children make the first snowman. It was awesome to see the kites flying over the dark area. Families delighted in this, with a smile. The weather was chilly, almost happily—or crying because some kites crashed. From March through better weather months, kite flying is popular.

After a few false starts and frustrated launching, the kids were happy and airborne. The boy is in control as Dad shows him how to let out the string, little by little. The kite flies and the boy is happy.

On the first windy March afternoon, they set out to land their wood and paper spaceship. Dad instructs his son on how to spin the string. The boy is happy when Dad lets go.

A few false starts and frustrated launching, the kids were happy and airborne. The boy is in control as Dad shows him how to let out the string, little by little. The kite flies and the boy is happy.

When we seek his kingdom first, Christ control your hearts. And be thankful" (Col 3:9-11)."
The Way of the Cross

The journey of your suffering, Carrying your Cross to Calvary—
The Cross that took on our compassion
And the power of your glory,

So let me journey with you
And perhaps learn something new.
Open my eyes and heart, Lord,
As I take each step with you.

You were condemned by Pilate,
"Are you the King of the Jews?"
Sadly, I too at times
Have washed my hands of you.

You willingly accept the Cross,
My sins add to its weight.
How many crosses have I shunned,
Unwilling to embrace?

Three times you fall along the way,
Each more agonizing than before.
I too have fallen often,
My courage and strength restore.

You meet your mother, Mary.
It is as Simon bore the load
I am a mother who cannot comprehend
Mary’s heart pierced by the sword.

Simon and Veronica,
Your vulnerability they embrace.
Help me shoulder others’ burdens
And see the image of your face.

The weeping women you console,
(Cathy Dearing is a member of St. Barnabas Parish in Indianapolis.)

Church requires Catholics to receive sacrament of penance

In a past column, you discussed a question from a lady who was concerned about confession without mortal sin.

She was told that since she had no mortal sins to confess she was wasting the priest’s time.

After that, she had been to confession only a few times over many years, and wondered about going to Communion.

In your response, you wrote, "Nothing in anything you said is a reason to forego receiving Communion."

We are wrong that one of the commandments of the Church is that we receive the sacrament of penance at least once a year, whether or not we are guilty of serious sin?

We learned that it is sinful to receive the Eucharist if we have not confessed our mortal sins to confessors.

In the past 800 years.

(A free brochure answering questions about the Church’s sacramental life and obligations is freely available.)

Readers may submit prose or poetry for faith column

The Criterion invites readers to submit original prose or poetry relating to faith or experiences of prayer for possible publication in the "My Journey to God" column.

Question Corner

Fr. John Dietzen

The old Baltimore Catechism No. 3 (St. Joseph Edition, Question #293), which for decades defined authoritative beliefs and practice for American Catholics, says the obligation for annual confession binds “if we have a mortal sin to confess.”

The present Catechism of the Catholic Church (#1457) and current canon law (#999) say the same.

The version references also are appreciated. Please include name, address, parish and telephone number with submissions.

Send material for consideration to: "My Journey to God," The Criterion, P.O. Box 1717, Indianapolis, IN 46206 or e-mail to criterion@archindy.org.
Please submit in writing to our office by 10 a.m. Thursday before the week of publication; be sure to state date of death. Obituaries of archdiocesan priests serving our archdiocese are listed elsewhere in The Criterion. Order priests and religious sisters and brothers are included here, unless they are natives of the archdiocese or have other connections to it; those are separate obituaries on this page.


BALSOF, Mary E., Elizabeth Quinlan. Sacred Heart of Jesus, Indianapolis. Separate obituaries on this page.


MCCORMICK, Mary Rita, 89, St. Mary, New Albany, March 29. Mother of Mary Lynkowitz, Brian, Bruce, Chris, Marc and Paul McCormick. Grandmother of five.


WELCH, Patricia C., 79, St. Thomas Aquinas, Indianapolis, March 27. Sister of Judy Henderson and Joan Welch.


Cardinal Dulles gives farewell speech as Fordham's McGinley professor

NEW YORK (CNS)—Warmth and congeniality characterized Cardinal Avery Dulles’s farewell address on April 1 as the Laurence J. McGinley professor of religion and society at Fordham University.

Cardinal Dulles, a Jesuit theologian, ended his 20-year series of annual McGinley lectures, from 1998 to 2008, with a short summary of his theology and a synopsis of his previous lectures.

The 89-year-old cardinal has addressed theological issues and spoken on secular issues, such as politics, human rights and the death penalty.

The cardinal is confined to a wheelchair and incapable of prolonged speech as a result of post-polio syndrome, which he contracted when he was in the Navy 62 years ago, so Jesuit Father Joseph P. O’Hare, Fordham’s former president, gave the presentation for the cardinal.

Father Robert P. Imbrell, a New York archdiocesan priest, who is associate theology professor at Jesuit-run Boston College, presented an analysis of the cardinal’s speech. The priest referred to himself as a “Jesuit in pectore,” or “in his heart,” which refers to the pope’s privilege of naming cardinals whose names he keeps a secret.

In his lectures, which have always been well attended, the cardinal has defined Catholic orthodoxy and explored oft-debated topics.

He said his principal aim in his lectures was “to present and classify the existing opinions” and “to criticize views that are inadequate.”

He always tried “to incorporate the valid insights of all parties to the discussion, rather than perpetuate a one-sided view that is partial and incomplete,” he said.

“I think of myself as a moderate trying to make peace between (opposing) schools of thought. While doing so, however, I insist on logical consistency. Unlike certain relativists of our time, I abhor mixtures of confusion,” Cardinal Dulles said.

He began his theological lectures “by asking what others, especially authoritative voices, had to say about pertinent questions,” he said. “Everyone asked, ‘Is it sufficient to note the consensus,’” he added.

It’s a spectrum of opinions that existed, “I sought out the best features in each major position,” he continued. He said his intention was “to give an informed judgment as to which positions are sound and which should be rejected.”

In each case, “I am willingly adhering to the testimony of my faith, his orthodoxy, his spirituality and his commitment to the Society of Jesus. He also offered a final word against the materialism, relativism, subjectivism, hedonism, scientism and spiritual anti-intellectualism he said is found in modern society.

“Western thought,” he said, “followed in the path of cognitive realism for many centuries before the revival of agnosticism in the Renaissance.” The cardinal repeated Pope John Paul II’s admonition that philosophy should seek to “resume its original quest for eternal truth and wisdom.”

Cardinal Avery Dulles

The Roman Catholic Diocese of Covington, Kentucky, seeks to identify qualified candidates for this central Curia position that will open due to retirement effective September 1, 2008. The Diocesan Finance Office administers the temporal goods of the Diocese under the authority of the Bishop of Covington.

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Father Robert P. Imbrell, a New York archdiocesan priest,
Pope Benedict prays JPII will help him build on spiritual gifts

VATICAN CITY (CNS)—Pope Benedict XVI arrived to celebrate a Mass in St. Peter’s Square at the Vatican on April 2, marking the third anniversary of Pope John Paul II’s death. Pope Benedict prayed that Pope John Paul would intercede for him with God, helping him to gather and build on the spiritual gifts that the late pontiff gave to the Church.

At Vatican, pilgrims remember pope as man of peace, father figure

VATICAN CITY (CNS)—Pilgrims gathered in St. Peter’s Square to mark the third anniversary of Pope John Paul II’s death remembered him as a man of peace and a pastoral father who inspired a whole generation of young people around the world.

Tens of thousands of people of every age and nationality attended the April 2 outdoor memorial Mass celebrated by Pope Benedict XVI. Banners and flags, many of them representing Poland, fluttered in the gentle breeze under Rome’s warm spring skies.

Pope John Paul “really felt like a father figure, and the way he loved Christ inspired me to love God more,” said Carolina Robles, 25, of Lubbock, Texas. She told Catholic News Service that the late pope convinced her that committing oneself to God was something that every young person needed to do and could do.

“Being young, he made me think I could do that and not wait until the end” to follow Christ, she said.

“He knew young people had a yearning for God in their hearts,” said Robles, one of a small group of graduate students of theology studying in Rome this spring.

Another Texas student, Stephen Schietinger of Austin, said when Pope John Paul died, “I felt this void. It suddenly felt like this ‘pastoral father who had watched over me my whole life’ and ‘who had personally cared for me wasn’t there anymore,’” said Schietinger, 22.

Father Stefan Leckier, a member of the Institute of the Incarnate Word, said the pope’s main message throughout his nearly 27-year pontificate was “to gather the youth and to be a real father for them and to give them a strong message of truth.”

The priest from Antwerp, Belgium, said the Polish pope helped all people “feel at home in the Church.”

“The late pope was popular in part, he said, because people saw him as a man who practiced what he preached. ‘He was a man who suffered under communist rule, who was true to himself even during persecution. What he believed and what he did were united, and I think people feel that when someone is true’ to his or her beliefs, he said.

Federico Gels of Mendoza, Argentina, said the late pope “could communicate the Word of God really well.”

He always urged young people not to be afraid “because God is with you, Jesus needs you. So I think that’s why the youth loved him,” he said.

Sebastian Mekonnen said Pope John Paul “gave us a lot to be thankful for, and I’m here to pray for him.”

“His joy and love were contagious,” said the 26-year-old from Dallas.

Many pilgrims said they were happy Pope John Paul’s sainthood process was going forward. Teresa DeBee of Essex, England, said the pope, who always prayed for peace, deserved to be honored in such a way.

Nikki DeMarco and her husband, Anthony, who reside in Vicenza, Italy, said they did not think the canonization process was going too slowly.

“In this world of instant gratification, it is nice some things take awhile,” she said.†

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