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Criterion

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CriterionOnline.com

April 25, 2008

Vol. XLVIII, No. 28 75¢

*'MAY GOD
BLESS
AMERICA'*



Pope achieves objectives critical to future of U.S. Church

NEW YORK (CNS)—On his first trip to the United States as pontiff, Pope Benedict XVI achieved three objectives that could be considered critical to the pastoral future of the American Church.

First, the pope brought a certain closure to the priestly sex abuse scandal that has shaken the Church for more than six years, expressing his personal shame at what happened and praying with a group of victims.

Second, he set forth a moral challenge to the wider U.S. culture on issues ranging from economic justice to abortion, but without coming across as doctrinaire or bullying.

Third, to a Church that often seems divided into conservative and liberal camps, he issued a firm appeal to “set aside all anger” and unite in order to effectively evangelize society.

In the process of his April 15-20 visit, the 81-year-old pope established his own identity in a country that did not know him well and in a sense came out of the shadow of the late Pope John Paul II.

“I feel like I know him a lot better. I learned that he is trying all his best to reach out to the youth,” 18-year-old Gabriella Fiorentino of Yonkers, N.Y., said at a youth rally on April 19.

Did she understand what the pope, a scholarly theologian, was trying to get across?

“Jesus’ message of hope—that is his message,” she said.

The pope addressed clerical sex abuse on five occasions, beginning with his encounter with reporters aboard his plane from Rome. He spoke from the heart about the shame, the damage to the Church and the suffering of the victims.

He also spoke with familiarity about the Church’s efforts to make sure that perpetrators are out of ministry and to

See ANALYSIS, page 8

Left, Pope Benedict XVI waves to the crowd as he departs Yankee Stadium after celebrating Mass in New York on April 20.

(Photos by Catholic News Service)



Youth rally

25,000 young people hear Holy Father’s message of faith and hope at New York youth rally, page 3.



A dialogue of faith

Ecumenical and interfaith leaders with archdiocesan ties meet Pope Benedict in Washington and New York, page 9.



Once in a lifetime

Archdiocesan pilgrims bring home lifelong memories from papal Masses in Washington and New York, pages 10-11.



In U.S., pope preaches message of hope built on faith

NEW YORK (CNS)—From the White House to the U.N. General Assembly hall and from ground zero to the Washington Nationals' baseball stadium, Pope Benedict XVI preached a message of hope built on faith and a joint commitment to defending the dignity of the human person.

He acknowledged the "evil" of the clerical sexual abuse crisis, met privately with a group of victims, and encouraged the U.S. bishops to continue their work to restore trust in the Church and its ministers.

Celebrating Mass on April 19 at New York's St. Patrick's Cathedral with thousands of priests and religious, the pope urged the Catholic Church in the United States to move past divisions and scandal toward a "new sense of unity and purpose."

It is time, he said, to "put aside all anger and contention" inside the Church and embark on a fresh mission of evangelization in society.

Repeatedly during his April 15-20 stay in Washington and New York, he made it clear that he believed the "genuinely religious spirit" of the American people had not been extinguished and could be strengthened.

Tailoring his message to each group that he met, Pope Benedict urged the people of the United States to resist the temptations and trends of modern society by maintaining their traditional values, defending human rights and reaching out with solidarity.

The Vatican billed the trip as a visit to the United Nations—particularly to help mark the 60th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights—and as a pastoral visit to the United States.

Pope Benedict spent three hours on April 18 at the United Nations, addressing the General Assembly and U.N. staffers separately and holding private meetings with the organization's top officials.

He told the General Assembly that fundamental human rights "cannot be applied piecemeal," and cannot be denied or diminished because of "different cultural, political, social and even religious outlooks."

And, he said, when human rights are violated it creates a breeding ground for violence.

"Indeed," he said, "the victims of hardship and despair, whose human dignity is violated with impunity, become easy prey to the call

to violence, and they can then become violators of peace."

Hours before he left on April 20, Pope Benedict celebrated an afternoon Mass at New York's Yankee Stadium.

"In this land of religious liberty," he said, "Catholics found freedom not only to practice their faith, but also to participate fully in civic life, bringing their deepest moral convictions to the public square and cooperating with their neighbors in shaping a vibrant, democratic society."

He urged U.S. Catholics "to move forward with firm resolve to use wisely the blessings of freedom in order to build a future of hope for coming generations."

Meeting U.S. bishops in Washington on April 16, the pope said secularism and materialism can influence the way people live out their faith, causing those who worship on Sundays to act contrary to Church teachings the rest of the week.

Some people think they can pick and choose what they believe, he said.

"We've seen this emerge in an acute way in the scandal given by Catholics who promote an alleged right to abortion," he said.

While Pope Benedict carefully avoided appearances of taking sides in a U.S. election year, in his April 16 speech at the White House he said it was important to preserve the traditional role of religion in American political and social life.

Religious values helped forge "the soul of the nation," and should continue to inspire Americans as they face complex political and ethical issues today, he said.

"Democracy can only flourish, as your Founding Fathers realized, when political leaders and those whom they represent are guided by truth and bring the wisdom born of firm moral principle to decisions affecting the life and future of the nation," Pope Benedict said before holding a private meeting with President George W. Bush.

The visit to the White House was the first official event on his calendar, and it coincided with his 81st birthday, when he heard dozens of versions of "Happy Birthday" sung in his honor.

Also during the trip, he celebrated the third anniversary of his April 19, 2005, election as pope.

That evening, at a boisterous rally with some 25,000 young people on the grounds of the New York archdiocesan seminary in Yonkers, Pope Benedict not only fueled the youths' enthusiasm, he warned them of the dangers of thinking freedom could be divorced from responsibilities and from the truth about God and human beings.

Pope Benedict offered a personal reflection on his own youth in Germany, which he said was "marred by a sinister regime that thought it had all the answers."

Nazism, he said,



Pope Benedict XVI blesses a child during a religious service for the disabled in the chapel at St. Joseph's Seminary in Yonkers, N.Y., on April 19.



Pope Benedict XVI walks with U.S. President George W. Bush, followed by first lady Laura Bush and Jenna Bush, at Andrews Air Force Base outside of Washington on April 15. The pontiff was beginning his first visit as pope to the United States. He celebrated two large outdoor Masses in Washington and New York and addressed the United Nations.

"banished God and thus became impervious to anything true and good."

When freedom disregards absolute truth, relegating it instead to the private sphere of the individual, relativism takes hold, he said.

Truth is neither an imposition nor a simple set of rules, Pope Benedict said. "Ultimately truth is a person: Jesus Christ."

The pope also spoke about the dangers of individualism on April 18 in New York when he presided over an ecumenical prayer service. The pope said he was concerned that in a world marked by a greater sense of global unity and interdependence, the feeling of "fragmentation and a retreat into individualism" is seen in Christian denominations just as it is in the world at large.

The Christian faith is not a matter of picking and choosing what to believe and what to discard from the Scriptures and Christian tradition, he said.

Walking away from tradition has split denominations and makes it increasingly difficult for Christians to give a united witness to a world in search of meaning, the pope said.

Celebrating Mass on April 17 at brand-new Nationals Park in Washington, the pope urged U.S. Catholics to renew their missionary energy at a time when American society is at a moral crossroads.

The pope warned of "signs of a disturbing breakdown in the very foundations of society," and said people need the Church's message of hope and fidelity to the demands of the Gospel.

"The world needs this witness. Who can deny that the present moment is a crossroads, not only for the Church in America, but also for society as a whole?" he said.

Meeting Catholic educators that evening, he said the Catholic identity of a school or university cannot be equated simply with the orthodoxy of course content, but is broader and means ensuring "that each and every aspect of your learning communities reverberates within the ecclesial life of faith."

A primary role of the Church and, therefore, of Church educational institutions is

"upholding the essential moral categories of right and wrong."

Without that moral guidance, he said, "hope could only wither, giving way to cold pragmatic calculations of utility that render the person little more than a pawn on some ideological chess board."

The need to uphold traditional moral values and to stress the fact that truth is not determined by individual preference or majority vote was not a message reserved to U.S. Catholics.

Meeting about 200 representatives of Islam, Jainism, Buddhism, Hinduism and Judaism in Washington on April 17, he encouraged all people of faith "to persevere in their collaboration" to serve society and enrich public life.

The pope said it was not enough for religious leaders to get together to find ways to ensure their people get along with each other.

"The broader purpose of dialogue is to discover the truth," he said.

"By bearing witness to those moral truths which they hold in common with all men and women of good will, religious groups will exert a positive influence on the wider culture and inspire neighbors, co-workers and fellow citizens to join in the task of strengthening the ties of solidarity," the pope said.

The pope met separately on April 17 with the Jewish participants in the interreligious meeting to offer his best wishes for their upcoming celebration of Passover. The next afternoon, he visited Park East Synagogue in New York.

There, the pope said he felt especially close to Jews on the eve of Passover as they "prepare to celebrate the great deeds of the Almighty and to sing the praises of him who has worked such wonders for his people."

He was welcomed at the synagogue by Rabbi Arthur Schneier, 78, an Austrian-born Holocaust survivor, who called his historic visit "a reaffirmation of your outreach, good will and commitment to enhancing Jewish-Catholic relations." †



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The Criterion • P.O. Box 1717 • Indianapolis, IN 46206-1717

The Criterion (ISSN 0574-4350) is published weekly except the last week of December and the first week of January.

1400 N. Meridian St.
P.O. Box 1717
Indianapolis, IN 46206-1717
317-236-1570
800-382-9836 ext. 1570
criterion@archindy.org

Periodical postage paid at Indianapolis, IN.
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POSTMASTER:
Send address changes to:
Criterion Press Inc.
1400 N. Meridian St.
Box 1717
Indianapolis, IN 46206-1717



Phone Numbers:
Main office:317-236-1570
Advertising317-236-1572
Toll free:1-800-382-9836, ext. 1570
Circulation:317-236-1425
Toll free:1-800-382-9836, ext. 1425

Price: \$22.00 per year, 75 cents per copy

Postmaster:
Send address changes to *The Criterion*,
P.O. Box 1717, Indianapolis, IN 46206

Web site: www.CriterionOnline.com

E-mail: criterion@archindy.org

Published weekly except the last week of December and the first week of January. Mailing address: 1400 N. Meridian St., P.O. Box 1717, Indianapolis, IN 46206-1717. Periodical postage paid at Indianapolis, IN. Copyright © 2008 Criterion Press Inc. ISSN 0574-4350.

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Teenagers embrace pope's message of hope at youth rally

By Bryce Bennett

NEW YORK—Pope Benedict XVI shared a message of faith and hope in Jesus, the Church and young people when he spoke to the youth and seminarian rally on April 19 at St. Joseph's Seminary in Yonkers, N.Y.

A crowd of 25,000—including 44 youths and six chaperones from the Archdiocese of Indianapolis—listened attentively to the special message.

The pope began his speech by thanking God for the good that society does in the lives of young people.

"As young Americans, you are offered many opportunities for personal development, and you are brought up with a sense of generosity, service and fairness," Pope Benedict said. "Let us thank God that today many people of your generation are able to enjoy the liberties which have arisen through the extension of democracy and respect for human rights."

Yet he also acknowledged dangers in society. He tried to connect with the thousands of young people in attendance by reflecting on his life growing up in Nazi Germany.

"My own years as a teenager were marred by a sinister regime that thought it had all the answers," Pope Benedict said.

He expanded on the darkness of society and split the areas of darkness into two groups.

The first group is society's "culture of death." He called



A multiethnic group of youths hold food symbolizing the five continents before presenting it to Pope Benedict XVI during a rally for seminarians and young people at St. Joseph's Seminary in Yonkers, N.Y., on April 19.

for people to work for the dignity of every human being, born or unborn.

Pope Benedict also warned that this darkness lives in the mind through temptations and distorted thoughts.

The pope said we can avoid these areas of darkness through four related elements: prayer, the liturgy, charity and religious vocations.

"Dear friends, truth is not an imposition. Nor is it simply a set of rules," Pope Benedict explained. "It is a discovery of the one who never fails; the one whom we can always trust."

A key point to the focus on prayer covered by Pope Benedict is the element of silent prayer. Believers must first develop a strong personal relationship with God, Pope Benedict said. Then, and only then, God will hear the call, and people have to be ready to listen.

"What matters most is that you develop your personal relationship with God. That relationship is expressed in prayer," Pope Benedict noted. "God by his very nature speaks, hears and replies."

Adding to that message, the Holy Father said that prayer and hope are directly related and interchangeable.

"Prayer is hope in action," Pope Benedict proclaimed. "Leave space to hear God's whisper... Listen to God. ... Adore him in his Eucharist."

On the issue of charity, Pope Benedict told the audience, "We must listen deeply to God and respond with proper social action. I urge you to shake off any temptations and devote yourself to charity."

Kaleb Bramer, 16, of St. Gabriel Parish in Connersville, thought Pope Benedict did a good job of reaching the various groups of people present at the rally.

"I thought the rally was awesome," Kaleb said excitedly. "I thought it was impressive in the way he was able to reach the entire audience."

Kaleb felt a connection to the pope's call for sacrifice and service as a way of bringing about God's kingdom.

"I do mission trips in the summer and I find it enjoyable," Kaleb explained. "I also like that I am able to help others."

Pope Benedict concluded his message to the youths and seminarians of America with a discussion of vocations in the Church.

He called for all men and women to look to God for guidance in discerning their true vocation, whether that means holy orders, religious life or married life. The best way to discern a vocation, according to Pope Benedict, is a combination of prayer, service and participation in the liturgy.



Pope Benedict XVI greets the crowd at a rally with youths and seminarians at St. Joseph's Seminary in Yonkers, N.Y., on April 19.

He offered this advice to any person who felt lost or unsure in their discernment.

"Have courage!" Pope Benedict proclaimed. "You, too, can make your life a gift of sacrifice."

(To read the full text of the pope's address, log on to www.CriterionOnline.com and click on the banner for the pope's visit.) †

Youths considering priestly vocation look to Holy Father for guidance

By Bryce Bennett

NEW YORK—Even before they traveled from Indianapolis to New York to see Pope Benedict XVI, Michael Kubancsek, 17, and Peter Jansen, 18, already had an interest in the priesthood.

After hearing the pope speak at a youth and seminarian rally on April 19 at St. Joseph's Seminary in Yonkers, N.Y., they left with a clearer vision of what a vocation to the priesthood might require of them.

"I am seeking an opportunity for God" to show me my vocation,

Michael explained after the rally. "I think this is one of those opportunities."

Peter has a similar feeling.

"I considered it [the priesthood], listened, and my prayer remains to be open to whatever God wants of me," Peter said.

A major element of Pope Benedict's talk to the youths and seminarians focused on the increased discernment of young people to religious life.

"Strive for a pattern of life truly marked by charity, chastity and humility in imitation of Christ," Pope Benedict said.

It is the element of service that interests both youths in their discernment of the priesthood.

See VOCATION, page 14



Peter Jansen serves as a lector at the archdiocesan youth Mass held on April 20 at the National Shrine of Our Lady of Czestochowa in Doylestown, Pa. Also pictured is altar server Michael Kubancsek. Both teenagers are members of Our Lady of the Greenwood Parish in Greenwood and are considering vocations to the priesthood.

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Editorial



Pope Benedict XVI waves to well-wishers as he leaves Nationals Park after celebrating Mass in Washington on April 17.

The pope's visit

What did you go out—to Washington or New York—to see? A holy man? A brilliant man with a message for the Church in the United States?

Well, yes. Pope Benedict XVI is both of those. But they're hardly the reasons why tens of thousands of people went to Washington and New York to see him or millions of others watched on television.

It's simply because he is the pope, the 264th successor of St. Peter, the supreme pastor of the universal Church. Catholics wanted to see him to give witness to their faith.

It matters not that Pope Benedict doesn't have the charisma that his predecessor, Pope John Paul II, had (as seems to be pointed out *ad nauseam*). Or even that Catholics might disagree with some of the things the pope says. It's enough that they want to be in the presence of the vicar of Christ on Earth.

Now that the pope has returned to the Vatican, we must not treat his visit as just an exciting six days. He had important things to say to us, and we must pay attention.

He didn't come here to scold us, but he didn't hesitate to question why members of the faithful who worship in church on Sunday act contrary to their beliefs and Church teachings during the rest of the week.

He specifically pointed to exploitation of the poor, sexual behavior and positions on right-to-life issues that are contrary to Catholic moral teaching.

Checking the secular media, you would think that the pope came mainly to talk about the clergy sexual abuse scandal. He did talk about it—on at least five occasions. He said that he was deeply ashamed and found it difficult to understand how priests could betray their mission, and he said that the Church had to act on three levels: the juridical, the pastoral and preventive.

He also met privately with abuse victims. But this was a no-win situation. The meeting was criticized by some as only a public relations gesture. Of course, he would also have been criticized if he hadn't had the meeting. What more could he have done on this trip?

The pope also reached out to about 200 leaders of Islam, Judaism, Jainism,

Buddhism and Hinduism. He had a special message for Jews as they prepared for Passover and visited a Jewish synagogue. He met with about 250 representatives of ecumenical organizations and a dozen Christian Churches and ecclesial communities for a prayer service. He praised the religious freedom found in our country.

There was speculation prior to the pope's visit that he would reprimand Catholic college presidents for failing to maintain the Catholic character of their institutions. This seemed to be nonsense to us since he spent so much of his life as a university professor.

Sure enough, he said that he wished to "reaffirm the great value of academic freedom," but also said that appeals to academic freedom "to justify positions that contradict the faith and teaching of the Church would obstruct or even betray the university's identity and mission."

Pope Benedict had wise words in his speech at the United Nations, where he spoke about human rights, the importance of multilateral consensus in crises, and protection of "the order of creation." The world should listen to him.

Crowds greeted him everywhere, but none were more enthusiastic than the youths with whom he met, including some from the Archdiocese of Indianapolis, at St. Joseph's Seminary in Yonkers, N.Y. His popularity among young people demonstrates the love they have for their Church and for this pope.

It was said by the media that most American Catholics really didn't know Pope Benedict. They do now. Perhaps many of them were surprised by what they saw because, despite what we and others in the Catholic press have written, the secular media had given people a negative view of the pope.

We hope that his visit will stimulate a renewal and a unity in the Catholic Church in the United States.

And maybe, just maybe, his visit will dispel the idea that he isn't charismatic. The young people think he is.

Charismatic or not, we have a magnificent, brilliant and energetic pope. *Ad multos annos!*

—John F. Fink

Reflection/Dan Conway

More than 600 from Louisville Archdiocese celebrate the 'Sacrament of Charity' with pope in New York

The Church in America gathered on Sunday, April 20, in the house that Babe Ruth built, New York's Yankee Stadium, to celebrate "the sacrament of charity" with Pope Benedict XVI.

Five archdioceses had special reasons to celebrate. This month—on April 8—marked the 200th anniversary of the establishment of the dioceses of Boston, New York, Philadelphia and Bardstown (now Louisville), Ky., and the elevation of Baltimore to our nation's first archdiocese.

But the day belonged to the whole Church—represented in the person of Pope Benedict XVI, the successor of St. Peter and pastor of the universal Church.

The pope's first trip to the United States, with its theme "Christ our Hope," was the occasion for the Mass at Yankee Stadium, and the enthusiasm, joy and fervent devotion of the crowd, representing all 195 dioceses in the United States, reflected a profound sense of unity and solidarity with people of faith everywhere.

The Archdiocese of Baltimore is the grandmother of all U.S. dioceses. Baltimore is the see of our first bishop, John Carroll, and the spiritual home of Catholic Americans who have built up the Church in the U.S. during the past 200-plus years.

But if Baltimore is our spiritual grandmother, Bardstown—the first diocese west of the Allegheny Mountains and the original diocesan see of Catholic settlers in Kentucky, Tennessee, Ohio, Indiana and Illinois—can perhaps be called the mother of Midwestern dioceses and an elder sister to most other Catholic dioceses in our country.

More than 600 Catholics from the Archdiocese of Louisville traveled to New York to celebrate Mass with the Holy Father and Louisville Archbishop Joseph E. Kurtz.

According to Father Charles Thompson, newly appointed vicar general of the Louisville Archdiocese, "We came to New York to celebrate with the universal Church, but this is also a very special day for our archdiocese. More than 200 years of faith and devotion have taken root in Central Kentucky and have produced a fruitful harvest of spiritual vitality.

Letters to the Editor

Carmelites have been a welcoming presence in Indianapolis and surrounding area for years

During Easter, I was visiting family in Indianapolis.

My mother always saves *The Criterion* for when I am home. She had already marked a page of the March 21 issue for me to especially notice and read.

Since I am an Oldenburg Franciscan, I already knew that the Carmelites will be moving to Oldenburg this summer.

I was very happy to see the article near the front. Because of the photo, and perhaps the headline, I assumed the article was on the Carmelites and the gift that they have been to the Church of Indianapolis.

As I read the article, I was disappointed that the Carmelites were barely mentioned. The focus was almost entirely on the Bishop Simon Bruté College Seminary that will be moving in.

Yes, it's good that this will still be a place of prayer—but it will be very different—and the loss was not acknowledged.

The Carmelites have been a welcoming presence for many in the city and surrounding area. Many have worshipped with them and been fed by their style of prayer. Many have gone to them for

We welcome the chance to celebrate this rich tradition of American Catholicism with our sister dioceses throughout the United States."

Pope Benedict is a man of prayer whose presence communicates warmth, serenity and complete confidence in the truth that is revealed in the person of Jesus Christ.

Referring to the Lord's words in the Gospel for the day (Jn 14:1-12), the Holy Father reminded the 58,000 people gathered in Yankee Stadium that while there are many options available to us today, and many roads that each of us may travel, only one way leads directly to the God who is our loving Father. That way is Jesus Christ, who calls each one of us to follow him on the way of truth and freedom.

In his apostolic exhortation "The Sacrament of Charity," the Holy Father describes the Eucharist as the living and active presence of Jesus, who continues to work in the world through the power of the Holy Spirit.

Receiving the body and blood of Christ alongside 58,000 other faithful disciples was a powerful reminder to all that we are called to be one in Christ, "who becomes food for us to satisfy our hunger for truth and freedom."

Pope Benedict says that the Church is "reborn ever anew" through the mystery of the Eucharist, the saving action of Jesus' Passion, death and resurrection.

The Church of Christ was alive in Easter hope during the Mass at Yankee Stadium on April 20. Catholics from every diocese in the U.S. joined the faithful from Boston, New York, Philadelphia and Louisville in affirming the vibrant faith, hope and love of the Church in America. Together, they celebrated the "Sacrament of Charity" with immense joy.

As Indianapolis Archbishop Daniel M. Buechlein said recently, Pope Benedict is a man who knows how to speak the truth with love.

Great love was spoken in Yankee Stadium during the pope's visit. And 200 years of American Catholicism were celebrated and reborn anew.

(Dan Conway is a member of The Criterion's editorial board, and president and chief executive officer of Mission Advancement Services for O'Meara, Ferguson, Whelan and Conway, formerly RSI Catholic Services.) †

spiritual direction.

Carmel has been a refuge, a place of hospitality, a place of quiet and discernment, for many.

Some of this—perhaps all of it—can continue in their new location, but it will be different in Indianapolis and different in Oldenburg.

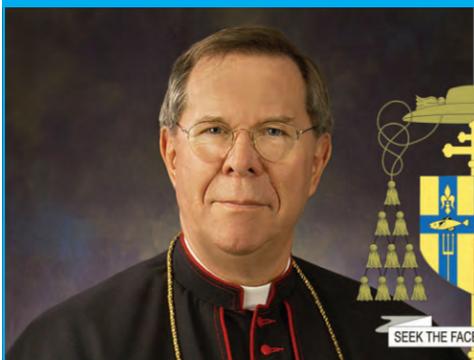
In Oldenburg, we are thrilled that they have chosen to live among us—and we are also sad that they need to move—but the people of Indianapolis will no longer be blessed with their presence, a presence and a spirituality that I'm told one of the local TV stations even covered at length.

I hope that before their move in July you will write an article that recognizes the gift the Carmelites have been to the people of God in Indianapolis.

Yes, they will still be a prayerful witness and presence in the archdiocese, but this is a loss to the people of Indianapolis.

I grew up in St. Michael the Archangel Parish and have many memories of outdoor novenas and even visiting a teacher who entered Carmel. This will be another experience for many of letting go.
Sister Noella Poinsette, O.S.F. Cincinnati

ARCHBISHOP/ARZOBISPO DANIEL M. BUECHLEIN, O.S.B.



SEEKING THE FACE OF THE LORD

BUSCANDO LA CARA DEL SEÑOR

Vocations to the priesthood central to our well-being as a Church

Two Sundays ago, popularly called Good Shepherd Sunday, we observed the World Day of Prayer for Vocations.

The scriptural references to the Good Shepherd suggest the observance. Hopefully, our parish liturgies included petitions for priesthood, diaconal and religious vocations in the Prayer of the Faithful.

If you didn't notice, it is never too late to make prayer for religious vocations a staple part of your daily prayers. I never miss praying for religious vocations in any Mass that I celebrate. If the petition is not included in the Prayer of the Faithful, I insert it.

The need for priesthood vocations is absolutely central to the well-being of the Church. Without the priesthood, there would be no Eucharist. Without the Eucharist, there would be no Church.

There is nothing more central to our Catholic faith and well-being than our eucharistic doctrine and the essential connection with the sacrament of holy orders. Something so central merits a central and ongoing place in our common and individual prayers.

When I received the diagnosis of cancer in late January, my first response was to say, "God's will be done. I offer whatever is to come for vocations to the priesthood, for our seminarians and our priests."

I hope it is needless to say that the offering of my prayer and this unexpected cancer also includes all of you who are in

my pastoral care; yet my first instinct was to lift up vocations, our seminarians and priests because the need for them is paramount, especially in our culture.

I am concerned that many folks take the need for seminarians, religious, deacons and priests for granted. I would hope that every Catholic family appreciates this need, and gives it a place of importance in family considerations.

The need for priests is great. One need only look around to see that the placement of our priests is stretched to the limit. Even if that were not the case, the importance of this ministry should be in the forefront of Catholic preoccupation—not to the exclusion of other priorities, but this one is foundational.

I understand the desire of grandparents and parents to have grandchildren and children to carry on the family name and heritage. Yet isn't it also a privilege and a joy for a family to have a son who through the sacramental ministry of the Church becomes a spiritual father to countless members of the Church family?

In his message for the World Day of Prayer for Vocations, Pope Benedict XVI stressed the point that parish communities have a real sense of the obligation to spread the Gospel. Parishes that embrace this mission are communities where religious vocations thrive.

"Vocations to the ministerial priesthood and to the consecrated life can only flourish in a spiritual soil that is well cultivated," he said.

The Holy Father made a special plea for vocations to foster the missionary life of the Church. He made reference to the foreign missions, which are largely led by priests and consecrated religious.

Our Archdiocese of Indianapolis has had a long and venerable regard for fostering care for the foreign missions. We are probably one of the few dioceses in the United States that has a diocesan mission office. We are visited by many missionaries each year, some from our own families. We want to continue our awareness of the larger mission of the Church.

At the same time, the needs for taking care of our folks within our own 39 counties cannot be overlooked. Home mission needs here at home beckon for a generous response to God's call for more priests, deacons, and consecrated women and men.

The pope reminded us that, in order to promote vocations for the mission of the Church abroad and at home, our children and young people need to be educated in the Catholic faith. This need, again, finds its first place in the family home with our parents, who are the first teachers of the Church.

Our archdiocese makes great sacrifices so that youth and young adult ministry, including vocational awareness, is made

available, not only through our archdiocesan-sponsored programs, but also through our schools and parish programs. We need the support of you parents, teachers and pastoral leaders in order to make these accessible to our children, youth and young adults.

Four years ago, we launched our Bishop Simon Bruté College Seminary in conjunction with the academic program of Marian College. The seminary is doing a great job and, in the process, a "culture of vocation" is being renewed at the high school and college level in our archdiocese.

Admittedly, this is a bold venture, but when one considers the central importance of the priesthood for the welfare of our local Church, it is truly paramount for our mission. †

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 April

Priests: that they may joyfully and faithfully live out their priestly promises and encourage other men to embrace God's call to the priesthood.

Las vocaciones sacerdotales son fundamentales para el bienestar de nuestra Iglesia

Hace dos domingos, observamos el Día Mundial de las Oraciones por las Vocaciones, popularmente conocido como Domingo del Buen Pastor.

Las referencias al Buen Pastor en las escrituras sugieren dicha observancia. Seguramente la liturgia de nuestra parroquia incluyó peticiones por las vocaciones sacerdotales, diaconales y religiosas en la Oración de los Fieles.

Por si no se habían dado cuenta, nunca es demasiado tarde para pedir por las vocaciones religiosas como parte importante de nuestras oraciones diarias. Nunca dejo de pedir por las vocaciones religiosas en todas las Misas que celebro. Si la petición no está incluida en la Oración de los Fieles, la incorporo.

La necesidad de vocaciones sacerdotales es absolutamente fundamental para el bienestar de la Iglesia. Sin sacerdotes no habría Eucaristía. Sin la Eucaristía, no habría Iglesia.

No hay nada más fundamental para nuestra fe católica y su bienestar que nuestra doctrina eucarística y la conexión esencial con el sacramento del Orden sacerdotal. Algo tan fundamental merece un lugar importante y constante en nuestras oraciones diarias e individuales.

Cuando recibí el diagnóstico de cáncer a finales de enero, mi primera reacción fue decir: "Que se cumpla la voluntad de Dios. Ofrezco lo que sea que esté por venir por las vocaciones sacerdotales, por nuestros seminaristas y nuestros sacerdotes."

Supongo que no necesito decirles que el ofrecimiento de mi oración y este cáncer inesperado también incluye a todos ustedes los que se encuentran bajo mi custodia pastoral; sin embargo mi primer instinto fue elevar las vocaciones, nuestros seminaristas

y sacerdotes porque la necesidad que tenemos de ellos es primordial, especialmente en nuestra cultura.

Me preocupa que muchos no valoran la necesidad que tenemos de seminaristas, religiosos, diáconos y sacerdotes. Me gustaría que cada familia católica tomara en cuenta esta necesidad y le diera un lugar de importancia en las consideraciones familiares.

La necesidad de sacerdotes es grande. Sólo tenemos que mirar a nuestro alrededor para ver que la colocación de nuestros sacerdotes ha llegado hasta el límite. Aunque ese no fuese el caso, la importancia de este ministerio debe ocupar el primer plano de la preocupación católica, sin excluir otras prioridades, pero esta es fundamental.

Comprendo el deseo de los abuelos y padres de tener nietos e hijos que perpetúen el apellido de la familia y su legado. Y sin embargo ¿no es también un privilegio y una dicha para una familia tener un hijo que, a través del ministerio sacramental de la Iglesia, se convierta en un padre espiritual para innumerables miembros de la familia de la Iglesia?

En su mensaje del Día Mundial de la Oración por las Vocaciones, el Papa Benedicto XVI enfatizó el hecho de que las comunidades parroquiales tienen un verdadero sentido de la obligación que supone difundir el Evangelio. Las parroquias que abrazan esta misión son comunidades donde florecen las vocaciones religiosas.

"Las vocaciones para el sacerdocio ministerial y la vida consagrada sólo pueden florecer en un terreno espiritual que esté bien cultivado," dijo.

El Santo Padre hizo una súplica especial porque las vocaciones fomenten la vida

misionaria de la Iglesia. Hizo referencia a las misiones extranjeras, las cuales están principalmente dirigidas por sacerdotes y religiosos consagrados.

Nuestra Arquidiócesis de Indianápolis durante mucho tiempo ha prestado una venerable atención tendiente a fomentar el interés en las misiones extranjeras. Somos probablemente una de las pocas diócesis en Estados Unidos que tiene una oficina misionaria diocesana. Todos los años nos visitan muchos misioneros, algunos de nuestras propias familias. Deseamos continuar creando conciencia de la misión más extensa de la Iglesia.

Al mismo tiempo, no podemos pasar por alto la necesidad de cuidar de nuestros fieles dentro de los 39 condados. La misión necesita aquí localmente atraer una respuesta generosa al llamado de Dios para más sacerdotes, diáconos, mujeres y hombres consagrados.

El Papa nos recordó que para promover las vocaciones para la misión de la iglesia a nivel internacional y nacional, nuestros niños y jóvenes necesitan ser educados en la fe católica. Esta necesidad, encuentra su primer lugar en el hogar de la familia con nuestros padres quienes son los primeros maestros de la Iglesia.

Nuestra arquidiócesis hace grandes sacrificios para que los jóvenes y el ministerio de adultos jóvenes, incluyendo la concienciación vocacional, esté a disposición no sólo a través de nuestros programas patrocinados por la arquidiócesis

sino también en los programas de las escuelas y parroquias. Necesitamos el apoyo de ustedes: padres, maestros y dirigentes pastorales para hacerlos accesibles a nuestros niños, jóvenes y jóvenes adultos.

Hace cuatro años, iniciamos nuestro Seminario Universitario Arzobispo Simon Bruté en conjunción con el programa académico de la Universidad Marian. El seminario está haciendo un excelente trabajo y, en el proceso, se está renovando una "cultura de vocaciones" a nivel de la secundaria y la universidad en nuestra arquidiócesis.

Sin duda alguna, es un proyecto audaz, pero si consideramos la importancia capital del sacerdocio para el bienestar de nuestra Iglesia local, es verdaderamente primordial para nuestra misión. †

¿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 Indianápolis
1400 N. Meridian St.
P.O. Box 1410
Indianapolis, IN 46202-1410

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

La intención del Arzobispo Buechlein para vocaciones en abril

Sacerdotes: ¡Que ellos realicen sus promesas como sacerdotes con júbilo y fe y den ánimo a otros hombres para que contesten la llamada de Dios al sacerdocio!

Events Calendar

April 27
SS. Peter and Paul Cathedral, 1347 N. Meridian St., Indianapolis. **Catholic Charismatic Renewal of Indiana (CCRCI), "Eucharistic Healing Service,"** 2-5 p.m. Information: 317-592-1992 or e-mail ccrci@inholyspirit.org.

Riverwalk, 6729 Westfield Blvd., Indianapolis. **"Art for Beds,"** benefits **Gennesaret Free Clinics**, 4-7:30 p.m., \$80 per person. Information: 317-639-5645 or www.artforbeds.org.

St. Vincent de Paul Parish, 1723 I St., Bedford. Catholic Community of Lawrence County. **"Nourish Your Body and Soul: Holy Hour and Presentation on the Eucharist,"** Franciscan Father Elias Mary Mills, presenter, 6:30 p.m., dinner prior to presentation, 5:30 p.m., free-will offering. Information: 812-275-6539 or e-mail parish@svsbedford.org.

MKVS, Divine Mercy and Glorious Cross Center, Rexville,

located on 925 South, .8 mile east of 421 South and 12 miles south of Versailles. **Confession, 1 p.m., Mass, 2 p.m.,** on third Sunday holy hour and pitch-in, groups of 10 pray the new Marian Way, 1 p.m., Father Elmer Burwinkel, celebrant. Information: 812-689-3551.

April 28
Indiana Historical Society, 450 W. Ohio St., Indianapolis. **"The Pope's Maestro" lecture,** Sir Gilbert Levine, conductor, free, 7:30 p.m. Information: 317-232-1882 or www.indianahistory.org.

Our Lady of Fatima Retreat House, 5353 E. 56th St., Indianapolis. **Mass, 9 a.m.,** continental breakfast, no charge. Information: 317-545-7681 or www.archindy.org/fatima.

April 29-June 3
Holy Spirit Parish, rectory, conference room C, 7243 E. 10th St., Indianapolis. **"Divorce and Beyond Program,"** session 2, 7:30 p.m., \$30 per person includes materials. Registration: 317-236-1596 or

800-382-9836, ext. 1596, or e-mail mhess@archindy.org.

May 1
Jewish Community Center, Laikin Auditorium, 6701 Hoover Road, Indianapolis. **Candidate debates for 7th Congressional District,** co-sponsored by Indiana Catholic Conference (ICC), Republican debate, 7 p.m., Democratic debate, 8 p.m., Mathew Tully, moderator. Information: 317-926-2935.

St. Francis Education Center, 5935 S. Emerson Ave., Suite 100, Indianapolis. **Support for People with Oral, Head and Neck Cancer, share group meeting,** 7-8:30 p.m. Information: 317-782-4422.

May 2
Our Lady of the Most Holy Rosary Church, 520 Stevens St., Indianapolis. **Lumen Dei meeting,** Mass, 6:30 a.m., breakfast and program at Priori Hall, Sean Gallagher, reporter and columnist for *The Criterion*, "Seeking Holiness in the Workplace," presenter,

\$10 members, \$15 guests. Information: 317-919-5316 or e-mail LumenDei@sbcglobal.net.

Benedict Inn Retreat and Conference Center, 1402 Southern Ave., Beech Grove. **Catholic Charismatic Renewal of Central Indiana (CCRCI), First Friday Mass,** teaching, 7 p.m., Mass, 7:30 p.m. Information: 317-592-1992 or e-mail ccrci@inholyspirit.org.

May 3
Meridian Hills Country Club, 7099 Spring Mill Road, Indianapolis. **Second annual Franciscan Foundation for the Holy Land's Indiana fundraising dinner,** Archbishop Pietro Sambi, Vatican Ambassador to the United States, speaker, 6-10 p.m., \$200 per person. Information: 866-905-3787 or e-mail info@ffhl.org.

May 4
Saint Meinrad Archabbey, 200 Hill Drive, St. Meinrad. **Monte Cassino Pilgrimage,** "Mary's Remembrance of Things Past," Benedictine

Father Germain Swisshelm, 2 p.m. Information: 800-682-0988 or e-mail news@saintmeinrad.edu.

May 6
Archbishop Edward T. O'Meara Catholic Center, 1400 N. Meridian St., Indianapolis. **Catholic Adult Fellowship Indy Chapter, informational meeting,** 7-8:30 p.m. Information: 317-876-5425 or e-mail nshoefer@themoreiknow.info.

St. Gabriel the Archangel Parish, 6000 W. 34th St., Indianapolis. **"Catholics Returning Home,"** six-week series, 7:30-9 p.m. Information: 317-291-5376.

May 7
Ritz Charles, 12156 N. Meridian St., Indianapolis. **"Hats Off to Spring" style show and luncheon,** benefits Little Sisters of the Poor and St. Augustine Home for the Aged, social, 11:30 a.m., lunch, noon, \$35 per person. Reservations: 317-843-0524.

St. Mary Parish, 317 N. New Jersey St., Indianapolis.

Solo Seniors. **Catholic, educational, charitable and social singles 50 and over,** single, widowed or divorced, new members welcome, 6:30 p.m. Information: 317-897-1128.

May 10
St. Joseph Church, 312 E. High St., Corydon. **Pentecost Day of Reflection,** Passionist Father Bernie Weber, presenter, light lunch, no charge. Information: 812-738-2742.

St. Roch Parish, Family Center, 3603 S. Meridian St., Indianapolis. **"Single Seniors" meeting,** 1 p.m., age 50 and over. Information: 317-784-1102.

May 11
Our Lady of Fatima Retreat House, 5353 E. 56th St., Indianapolis. **Catholic Charismatic Renewal of Central Indiana (CCRCI), Pentecost Mass of Renewal,** 2:30 p.m., wear red clothing. Information: 317-592-1992 or e-mail ccrci@inholyspirit.org. †

Retreats and Programs

April 26
Oldenburg Franciscan Center, 22143 Main St., Oldenburg. Fourth annual **Women's Conference, "Rocking Chair Wisdom,"** Mary Malloy and Jeanne Hunt, presenters. Information: 812-933-6437 or e-mail center@oldenburgosf.com.

April 27
Our Lady of Fatima Retreat House, 5353 E.

56th St., Indianapolis. **"Pre Cana Program,"** marriage preparation program for engaged couples. Information: 317-236-1596 or 800-382-9836, ext. 1596.

April 28
Our Lady of Fatima Retreat House, 5353 E. 56th St., Indianapolis. **Mass, 9 a.m.,** continental breakfast, no charge. Information: 317-545-7681 or www.archindy.org/fatima.

April 28-May 2
Saint Meinrad Archabbey, 100 Hill Drive, St. Meinrad. **"Preaching the Word: The**

Gospel of John," Benedictine Father Denis Robinson, presenter. Information: 800-581-6905 or e-mail MZoeller@saintmeinrad.edu.

May 1-2
Oldenburg Franciscan Center, 22143 Main St., Oldenburg. **"Spiritual Directors In-Service,"** Information: 812-933-6437 or e-mail center@oldenburgosf.com.

May 2-3
Oldenburg Franciscan Center, 22143 Main St., Oldenburg. **"Men's Golf Retreat,"** Information: 812-933-6437 or e-mail

center@oldenburgosf.com. †

May 2-4
Saint Meinrad Archabbey, 100 Hill Drive, St. Meinrad. **"Simplicity Retreat Revised: A Way of Life,"** Benedictine Father Noël Mueller, presenter. Information: 800-581-6905 or e-mail MZoeller@saintmeinrad.edu. †

Priests to celebrate ordination anniversaries

Six priests of the archdiocese are celebrating the 50th anniversary of their priestly ordinations this year.

Three of the diocesan priests will have celebrations that are open to the public.

Msgr. Harold Kneeven, administrator of St. Mary Parish in Greensburg, will celebrate his anniversary with a Mass of Thanksgiving at 2:30 p.m. on May 18 at St. Mary Church, 302 E. McKee St., in Greensburg. A reception at the parish will follow the liturgy.

People who are not members of St. Mary Parish and would like to attend the celebration are asked to make reservations in advance by calling 812-663-8427 or

sending an e-mail to anavarra@stmarysgreensburg.com.

Father William Munshower will celebrate his anniversary at the regular 5:30 p.m. Saturday Mass on May 10 at St. Thomas Aquinas Church, 46th and Illinois streets, in Indianapolis. A reception at the parish will follow the Mass.

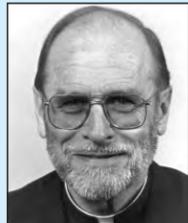
Those interested in attending the Mass and reception should make reservations in advance by calling 317-926-0782 or sending an e-mail to nmn922@iwon.com. Father Munshower requests "no gifts please."

Father Harold Ripperger, pastor of St. Mary Parish in Lanesville, will

celebrate his anniversary at the regular 5:30 p.m. Saturday Mass on May 18 at St. Mary Church, 2500 St. Mary's Drive, in Lanesville. A reception and dinner at the parish will follow the Mass.

People interested in attending should make reservations by May 7 as follows:

- Last names from A to D should call 812-949-1610.
- Names from E to H should call 812-951-3664.
- Names from I to P should call 812-738-0169.
- Names from Q to S should call 812-952-2508.
- Names from T to Z should call 812-952-3871. †



Msgr. Harold Kneeven



Fr. William Munshower



Fr. Harold Ripperger

'Run for Vocations' team members to be blessed at Mass

The public is invited to a Mass at 6 p.m. on May 2 at St. John the Evangelist Church, 126 W. Georgia St., in Indianapolis.

Members of the "Run for Vocations" team who are participating in the One America 500 Festival Mini-Marathon on May 3 will receive a special blessing during the Mass.

Prayer pledges for team members may be submitted by logging on to www.archindy.org/vocations.

Several dozen young adults have signed up to be part of the "Run for Vocations" team to raise awareness about vocational discernment in the Church.

During the race, they will wear T-shirts with the message "Vocation ... Everyone has one. What's yours?" on the front and a list of vocations—the priesthood, marriage and religious life—on the back. †

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Catholic students at Virginia Tech record CD to offer hope and healing

BLACKSBURG, Va. (CNS)—By noon on April 16, 2007, Bryan Schamus, a member of the Newman Community at Virginia Tech, knew that at least 22 people had been killed on campus. He quickly gathered with other student leaders of the university's Catholic campus ministry to figure out how to respond to the tragedy, which would later become known as the deadliest school shooting in U.S. history.

By the end of the day, 33 students and faculty members, including the gunman, had died.

A Mass of healing at the Newman Center that evening "was jampacked with maybe close to 200 people," Schamus recalled.

People of all faiths had gathered for mutual support, consolation and comfort. What participants found were uplifting, youthful voices singing about hope and love overcoming fear.

For Schamus, and all those involved in the project, the past year has been a journey of transformation culminating in the creation of a CD of those songs released on April 16 in memory of the lives lost at Virginia Tech.

Called "Voices of Hope," the CD is a message of hope, faith and transformation.

"Instead of being victims, we're witnesses of the real power of God that helps us to stand up, to walk and to live," said Schamus, now a senior and director of the CD. "If there's any community in the world that needs to be at the cross right now, it's us."

Father John Grace, Virginia Tech's Catholic campus minister, couldn't agree more.

"When I got here, I heard a lot of stories about what happened and the response of the Catholic community to that violence," said Father Grace, whom the Richmond Diocese assigned to the campus shortly after the tragedy.

Since the tragedy occurred in the midst of the Easter season, students chose appropriate songs that communicated love, hope and comfort.

(Editor's note: The CD is available online at catholic.org.vt.edu/voicesofhope or by e-mail at VTvoicesofhope@gmail.com. The cost is \$15, including shipping. All proceeds will help defray the cost of production and support the Newman Community's future service and mission trips.) †

Book her Principal to sleep on roof, dye her hair thanks to students' r reading

By John Shaughnessy

The number of books that students needed to read to get their principal to sleep on the roof of their school: 1,000.

The number of books that students needed to read to get their principal to also dye her hair purple: 5,000.

The reaction of students at St. Gabriel School in Indianapolis when their principal, Sarah Watson, announced they had reached both goals: Priceless.

"The students loved it," says Elizabeth Bain, an eighth-grade student who is also the Student Council president. "They love the idea of her sleeping on the roof and dyeing her hair. It's great motivation."

On May 1, Watson plans to dye part of her hair purple. On the night of May 2, she plans to sleep on the roof of the school.

"A couple of the teachers have decided to join me on the roof," Watson says. "We've also invited everybody from the school to camp out in the school's field."

It's all part of Watson's efforts to increase student reading after a new library was built at the school last summer.

"We wanted to make sure the library would be used to its full potential," she says. "We just weren't seeing students read for pleasure so we wanted to increase their reading at home."

In October 2007, Watson set the challenge of having the students read 1,000 books.

"They did it in a month," she recalls. "They wanted me to sleep out on the roof in the middle of winter. They thought that would be funny."

Watson said she would wait for warmer weather. Still, she did give the students

another challenge.

"I told them that if we can read 5,000 books, I'd dye part of my hair purple," she says. "There was definitely applause and yelling."

Watson says the inspiration for the reading challenges came from the book *Miss Malarkey Leaves No Reader Behind* by Judy Finchler.

"In the book, the student body was challenged to read 1,000 books, and the principal would sleep on the roof and dye his toupee purple. Miss Malarkey is one of the teachers," Watson says.

The school has charted the number of books the students have read by using small pink symbols of gators, the school's mascot. The gator



St. Gabriel School principal Sarah Watson of Indianapolis will sleep on the school's roof and dye her hair purple as a result of the students reaching two reading goals this year.

symbols fill the walls outside the principal's office.

"I really didn't think we'd meet the goal of 5,000 books," Watson says. "I wasn't worried about dyeing my hair, but it's exciting to see the excitement to read."

The principal has the same reaction to sleeping on the roof and getting her hair dyed purple.

"I'm actually kind of excited about it," she says.

The challenges are part of the fun approach that Watson brings to education. When the school had a fundraiser this year that involved selling pies, she agreed to have a pie thrown in her face by the student who sold the most.

"It's been a crazy year for me," she says with a smile. †

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ANALYSIS

continued from page 1

implement better screening of would-be priests.

At one point, he mentioned that when he read the case histories of the victims, he found it hard to imagine how a priest could betray his mission to be an agent of God's love.

These were far more detailed and direct comments on the issue than were ever made by Pope John Paul, and there was a reason: As Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger, Pope Benedict headed the doctrinal congregation, which took over the handling of sex abuse cases in 2001.

What Cardinal Ratzinger saw in those files led him to denounce, in early 2005, the "filth" inside the Church—even among its own priests.

The pope's unscheduled meeting with five sex abuse victims was a moving and tearful encounter. It seemed to mark an emotional turning point for several of those who participated and perhaps indirectly to others among the thousands of victims in the United States.

Overall, the pope left the strong impression among Americans that, on the sex abuse issue, he "gets it."

The pope's broader issue in the

United States was what he called the "attack of a new secularism" that threatens to undermine traditional moral values and the voice of religion in public affairs.

He articulated this challenge on several occasions, most notably telling 45,000 people at a Washington Mass that American society is at a moral crossroads.

"We see clear signs of a disturbing breakdown in the very foundations of society: signs of alienation, anger and polarization on the part of many of our contemporaries; increased violence; a weakening of the moral sense; a coarsening of social relations; and a growing forgetfulness of God," he said.

To counter these trends, he said, people need the Church's message of hope and fidelity to the demands of the Gospel.

What was striking about the pope's approach was that it was framed in a very positive context. Over and over, he praised the United States for blending a secular form of government with a moral order based on "the dominion of God the Creator."

He quoted George Washington, who called religion and morality the "indispensable supports" of political prosperity, and cited Franklin Roosevelt's statement that "no greater thing could come to our land today than a revival of the spirit of faith."

The pope warned, however, that today this secular-moral balance risks tipping

CNS photo/Ettore Ferrari, Reuters



Pope Benedict XVI prays at ground zero in New York on April 20. The pope spoke with family members of some of the victims of the 2001 terrorist attacks and with those who were first responders to the disaster.

toward a godless, individualistic form of freedom. He made his argument more relevant by linking it to a popular contemporary issue: environmental degradation.

"The earth itself groans under the weight of consumerist greed and irresponsible exploitation," he told young people. In the pope's view, ecology is part of an ethic of respect for creation and the Creator.

When it came to the Church and its sometimes divided membership, the pope had an equally encouraging approach. Time and again, he praised the vitality of parish life and movements, and noted U.S. Catholics' continuing contribution to the life of the country.

He said he was convinced that God was preparing a "new springtime" for the Church in the United States.

The pope looked honestly at shortcomings, too, lamenting that some Catholics disagree with Church teachings, including the issue of abortion. But his solution, expressed to bishops, was a long-term program of religious education, not a set of short-term marching orders or penalties.

In a comment aimed at people inside and outside the Church, he said the faith is more than a set of rules and suggested that more attention should be given to external challenges.

"Perhaps we have lost sight of this: In a society where the Church seems legalistic and 'institutional' to many people, our most urgent challenge is to communicate the joy born of faith and the experience of God's love," he said.

One of his strongest themes was

Church unity. During a Mass at St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York, he expressed disappointment with the formation of divisions within the Church between Catholic groups, generations and individuals.

The Church, he said, needs to "put aside all anger and contention," and turn its gaze together toward Christ.

During a Mass at Yankee Stadium on his last day in New York, he told Catholics to remember that all Church groups, associations and programs exist only to support and foster deeper unity in Christ.

The papal Masses highlighted the diversity of the Church in the United States which, as the pope said, comes together in a "common commitment to the spread of the Gospel." These were colorful, musical liturgies, and the pope seemed pleased with them.

The papal visit did not register very high on topical issues. He avoided partisan political questions, did not mention Iraq and, although he visited ground zero, certainly did not dwell on terrorism.

His United Nations address was not a state-of-the-world survey, but a call to conscience on the moral foundations of human rights.

The pope's focus was religion and its place in all areas of life.

Before the papal visit, most Americans said they didn't know a lot about Pope Benedict.

When he left the country, they were more likely to view him as he described himself upon his arrival: as "a friend, a preacher of the Gospel and one with great respect for this vast pluralistic society." †



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Ecumenical, interfaith leaders with archdiocesan ties meet pope

By Sean Gallagher

Pope Benedict XVI made his apostolic journey to the United States in large part to strengthen the faith of Catholics in this country and to address the United Nations.



Rev. Dr. Sharon Watkins

He also met with representatives of several world religions in an interfaith event on April 17 in Washington and leaders of many Christian traditions in an ecumenical event on April 18 in New York.

Two people with ties to the Archdiocese of Indianapolis were participants in these gatherings.

Sayyid Syeed, the national director of the Plainfield-based Islamic Society of North America's Office of Interfaith and Community Alliances, was one of only a handful of religious leaders to personally greet and briefly speak with the pope during the interfaith meeting in Washington.

"I told him that we are really celebrating today, in his presence, the achievements that we have [made] in America in interfaith [dialogue]," Syeed said. "[It] has actually become a way of life here in this pluralist country."

Syeed said he also told Pope Benedict that "we are particularly proud of the relationships that we have developed with the Catholic Church, and the cooperation and dialogue that we have developed over the years."

In a sign of the importance that he places on Muslim-Catholic relations, Syeed also told the pope that "we need to be very careful, very cautious in keeping that legacy and in building on it. Sometimes certain expressions or gestures, misunderstood or misstated, could jeopardize that precious legacy that we have created."

More than 10 years ago, Syeed helped create an annual dialogue between the leaders of the Islamic Society of North America and the U.S. bishops. This series of meetings, which started in Indianapolis, has expanded to yearly meetings on the west and east coasts and in the Midwest.

Syeed said he came away from the meeting with Pope Benedict knowing what interfaith dialogue means for the pontiff.

"He articulated the importance of interfaith dialogue for him in very clear and succinct language," Syeed said. "This [meeting] was a symbolic affirmation of the fact that we are friends, that we have a common destiny, that even [the pope] fully understands the importance of this."

At the end of his address at the interfaith meeting, Pope Benedict exhorted his listeners to persevere in their important task of dialogue.

"Dear friends, let our sincere dialogue and cooperation inspire all people to ponder the deeper questions of their origin and destiny," the pope said. "May the followers of all religions stand together in defending and promoting life and religious freedom everywhere."

"By giving ourselves generously to this sacred task—through dialogue and countless small acts of love, understanding and compassion—we can be instruments of peace for the whole human family."

As its general minister, Rev. Dr. Sharon E. Watkins is leader of the Indianapolis-based Disciples of Christ, a Christian tradition that has a formal ecumenical dialogue with the Catholic Church.

Archbishop Daniel M. Buechlein is the Church's main representative in that dialogue.

Watkins participated in an ecumenical prayer service with Pope Benedict on April 18 at St. Joseph Church in New York.

Like Syeed, Watkins came away from her experience with the conviction that Pope Benedict values ecumenical



Sayyid M. Syeed, national director of the Plainfield-based Islamic Society of North America's Office of Interfaith and Community Alliances, greets Pope Benedict XVI on April 17 during an interfaith gathering at the Pope John Paul II Cultural Center in Washington.

relationships.

"I think that the event itself was a witness to the value that Pope Benedict XVI places on Christian unity," said Watkins. "The service was an experience of ecumenical hospitality—very much designed to help us all be at ease together."

She also saw the pope's power to gather leaders of so many Christian communities.

"I was impressed by the range of Christian traditions represented at the service," Watkins said. "No Christian leader in the world other than the pope would be able to gather such a diverse group of leaders."

"Pat Robertson and James Forbes were there; Orthodox and Pentecostal and mainline Protestants and evangelicals. To come together in prayer, led by the Holy Father, was powerful."

During the service, Pope Benedict spoke about the importance of a clear Christian witness in a culture where the value of the Gospel is placed in doubt.

"The very possibility of divine revelation, and therefore of Christian faith, is often placed into question by cultural trends widely present in academia, the mass media and public debate," the pope said. "For these reasons, a faithful witness to the Gospel is as urgent as ever. Christians are challenged to give a clear account of the hope that they hold."

Watkins thinks that ecumenical relationships can be important in communicating this witness.

"I think that, as Christians, when we find those places that we can stand together we have found a place of great witness," she said. "If we can work together in the name and Spirit of Christ, we can have a powerful effect on the ordering of society."

(To read the pope's addresses at the interfaith and ecumenical meetings, log on to www.CriterionOnline.com and click on the banner for the pope's visit.) †

Educators, charities official reflect on papal experiences in Washington

By John Shaughnessy

For David Siler, it was a moment when he felt deeply the pride of being Catholic.

For Annette "Mickey" Lentz, it was the reassurance that her life's work continues to be a great gift to children and young people.

For Daniel Elsener, it was the affirmation of knowing that an education built upon faith can lead to amazing possibilities.

Those three leaders in the archdiocesan community experienced those reactions after being in the presence of Pope Benedict XVI during his visit to the United States from April 15 to April 20.

Here are their stories:

'I've never done that before'

Within 24 hours in Washington, D.C., David Siler experienced two of the most amazing moments he has known as a Catholic.

First, on April 16, he was part of the crowd that stood on the South Lawn of the White House, welcoming Pope Benedict XVI to the United States.

"News accounts said it was the largest event or gathering at the White House in its history," said Siler, the executive director of the archdiocese's Secretariat for Catholic Charities and Family Ministries. "I was able to be there through Catholic Charities USA. It was great to be part of that historic event."

On April 17, Siler was just 20 rows from the pope, part of the crowd of 46,000 people who filled Nationals Park for the first public Mass of the pope's pilgrimage to the United States.

"While the pope was sitting there, I was snapping pictures in the Communion

line," Siler says. "I've never done that before. It was really an electric atmosphere, almost like a rock concert. We were there two hours early and the energy just kept building. When the announcer said the pope had arrived in the stadium, the applause and the cheering just erupted. It was amazing."

Still, there's a different memory that Siler holds dearest from seeing the pope.

"Just being in the presence of that many Catholics—the pride and enthusiasm of being with that many Catholics with our Holy Father there to encourage us. He just reminded us to be a sign of hope to the world. His message was very encouraging and uplifting. I felt very proud to be Catholic."

'He made you feel at peace'

They were among a select group chosen to meet Pope Benedict XVI, a group of about 350 individuals that represented many of the best and brightest people in Catholic education.

Some were presidents of Catholic colleges and universities. Others were the leaders of Catholic education for dioceses and archdioceses across the United States, including Annette "Mickey" Lentz, the executive director of Catholic Education and Faith Formation for the Archdiocese of Indianapolis.

In 47 years as a Catholic educator, Lentz has had the kind of contagious, effusive approach to education that has inspired others to try to make a difference in the lives of young people. Yet as she listened to the pope talk about Catholic education on April 17 at The Catholic University of America in Washington, she was the

one being inspired.

"He was so affirming," Lentz recalled. "He recognized the importance of Catholic education and how important it was to him and the Church. After 47 years in Catholic education, it was like, 'Wow! It has been worth it.' It said to me, 'This is your ministry. This is your vocation.' I felt really touched by his presence."

She especially appreciated hearing about his insistence on keeping a Catholic identity in schools and universities.

"I really loved hearing that," she said. "With freedom goes responsibility and discipline. If we're going to proclaim the Good News, it isn't easy, but that's our job, that's our ministry."

At 66, she also drew encouragement from the energy of Pope Benedict, who turned 81 during his visit to America.

"There was an up-close-and-personal time with him," she noted. "There's just this joy in his eyes. He made you feel at peace. He's very spry, too. It was a side I thoroughly enjoyed getting to see. It was a moving experience."

Seeing the whole picture

Daniel Elsener was also part of the one-hour meeting on April 17 that Pope Benedict had with Catholic educational leaders from across the United States.

"For me, it was very meaningful," said Elsener, who has been president of Marian College in Indianapolis for nearly seven years while his experience in Catholic education extends some 30 years, including time as the leader of the archdiocese's Office of Catholic Education.

"It was very encouraging and affirming. The Holy Father is, obviously, kind of at the end of the line and sees the



Annette "Mickey" Lentz



Daniel Elsener



David Siler awaits the start of the papal Mass on April 17 at Nationals Park in Washington.

whole picture. I've been in education a long time, and I just don't know of a time when I was more enthused and felt more a part of a tightly knit community of educational leaders."

During his address, Pope Benedict encouraged the audience "to evoke among the young the desire for the act of faith, encouraging them to commit themselves to the ecclesial life that follows from this belief."

Elsener said the Marian College community has been working hard to meet the pope's challenge by providing intellectual formation for the seminarians of the Bishop Simon Bruté College Seminary in Indianapolis and by forming future lay ecclesial leaders.

He also said that a house of discernment for women at Marian College who are considering religious life is scheduled to open during the next academic year.

"There was a large vision laid out by the pope... [and] an affirmation for the progress we've made."

(Reporter Sean Gallagher contributed to this story. To read the pope's address to educators, log on to www.CriterionOnline.com and click on the banner for the pope's visit.) †



Pilgrims of all ages make trip to nation's capital for papal Mass

By Mary Ann Wyand

Archdiocesan pilgrims of all ages said they were energized by feelings of joy and hope on April 16-17 when they saw Pope Benedict XVI in Washington.

A Saint Mary-of-the-Woods employee, two Lumen Christi Catholic School students from Indianapolis, an Indiana University sophomore from Terre Haute, two sisters from Richmond and Indianapolis, a 91-year-old Indianapolis woman, and a Malaysian immigrant described their pilgrimage to Washington as an incredible life-changing experience.

New eyes of faith

Diane Weidenbenner of Terre Haute, director of marketing and communications for the Sisters of Providence of Saint Mary-of-the-Woods, grew up in a Baptist family in Denver. She remembers watching television coverage of Pope John Paul II's pilgrimage to Denver for the World Youth Day celebration in August 1993. "I saw his visit from a Protestant perspective," she said. "I've only been a Catholic for eight or nine years."

Years later, during a trip to Rome with her husband, Joe, they saw Pope John Paul waving from his window at the Vatican.

On April 17, she was excited to see Pope Benedict, if only from a distance, during the papal Mass at Nationals Park in Washington.

"Now I was seeing the pope from Catholic eyes," Weidenbenner said. "My perception of the pope is that he is very warm and personable. He canonized St. Mother Theodore Guérin, and I've read more of his writings. ... That really meant a lot to me to see his personal relationship with Jesus and with God."

Unforgettable lessons

Lumen Christi Catholic School junior Bridget McHugh, a member of St. Matthew the Apostle Parish in Indianapolis, said it was "a really humbling experience" to participate in Mass with Pope Benedict and 19 other Lumen Christi students at Nationals Park in Washington.

"It's really calming," Bridget said. "You see the Holy Father and just forget about everything else, and focus on the Eucharist and what a cool experience it is to be there. ... You could see the joy on his face—how happy he was to be there."

Lumen Christi sophomore Joseph Perry, a member of St. Roch Parish in Indianapolis, said during the Mass "it made me feel great that a lot of people were supporting the pope."

The Mass was "a once-in-a-lifetime experience so



Pope Benedict XVI celebrates Mass at Nationals Park in Washington on April 17. Thousands turned out for the pope's first public Mass of his pastoral visit to the United States.



Lumen Christi Catholic School students in Indianapolis pose for a group picture on April 16 on the steps of the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington. The students and chaperones also participated in the April 17 Mass celebrated by Pope Benedict XVI at Nationals Park in Washington.

you have to cherish it," Joseph said. "He inspired me to hold true to our faith. Pope John Paul II did, too."

Worth the long waits

Indiana University sophomore Justin Mascari and his father, Richard Mascari, who are members of Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish in Terre Haute, were able to see Pope Benedict four times in Washington by waiting and waiting and waiting.

"To see him four times, we waited about 10 hours," Justin said, "and the drive there was about 24 hours total."

On April 16, they stood near the White House on Pennsylvania Avenue for two hours to get a glimpse of him riding by in the popemobile. Then they waited two-and-a-half hours on the road to the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception to see him again.

"It was definitely worth it," Justin said, "just to catch him for maybe 20 seconds."

The huge Mass at Nationals Park on April 17 "was the most moving experience of seeing him," Justin said. "It was obviously special because it was a Mass, but being there with 46,000-plus people made you feel proud about being Catholic."

Pilgrim sisters

St. Mary parishioner Cathy Funkhouser of Richmond and St. Jude parishioner Becky Flack of Indianapolis grew closer to God and each other as sisters during their pilgrimage to the nation's capital.

They said getting tickets from the Archdiocese of Indianapolis for the papal Mass at Nationals Park in Washington was an answer to prayers and a special blessing.

"It was one of the most powerful experiences I've ever had," Funkhouser said. "When [the pope] came into the stadium, it took your breath away because of the presence of the Holy Spirit. You just felt a tremendous amount of faith. It was like nothing I have ever felt before. I shook during the entire Mass. ... I try very hard to live a Christ-like life, and it strengthened me and grounded me even more in my faith."

Flack said they also felt "a holy presence" in the city



A young man waves papal flags during the Mass with Pope Benedict XVI at Nationals Park on April 17.

because of tens of thousands of Catholic pilgrims excited to be there.

"When [the pope] came into the stadium, it was as if you were uplifted," Flack said. "I immediately started crying tears of joy. It was just the power of the Holy Spirit's presence. The Eucharist—the consecration—was just beautiful. It was much, much more than I could have ever imagined. I don't think words can explain that."

Trip of a lifetime

In her 91 years, St. Luke the Evangelist parishioner Mary Ellen Finkbeiner of Indianapolis said, the pilgrimage with her daughter, Mary Ann Roberts of Tucson, Ariz., to see Pope Benedict XVI in Washington is one of her best memories even though they didn't get to see the pontiff.

Her son, Charles Finkbeiner, is a founding trustee of the Pope John Paul II Cultural Center in Washington. She and her daughter were scheduled to meet Pope Benedict there on April 17. However, the pope's schedule was changed, and they only got to watch him on television even though they were in the same building.

She passed through the building's security check with help from Cardinal Edward Egan of New York.

"We were waiting to go into the center and I was standing next to Cardinal Egan," she recalled. "He was so nice. I said, 'Cardinal, you go right ahead.' But he said,



'Awesome' and 'electric' among words pilgrims use for N.Y. Mass

By Mike Krokos

The words came easily for some. You could hear the emotion in other voices as they tried to put the experience into words.

"Awesome," "electric" and "once in a lifetime" were among the phrases used by those who attended the April 20 Mass with Pope Benedict XVI at Yankee Stadium in New York.

Pilgrims from the Archdiocese of Indianapolis took time on April 21 to reflect on the experience. Here are some of their stories:

The Holy Father 'on our soil'

It wasn't the first time that Msgr. Joseph F. Schaedel had been in the presence of a pope, but witnessing Pope Benedict XVI up close and personal in the United States left a lasting impression on him.

"Seeing him on our soil was more striking to me," said Msgr. Schaedel, archdiocesan vicar general, who is also pastor of Our Lady of the Most Holy Rosary Parish in Indianapolis.

Msgr. Schaedel concelebrated Mass with Pope Benedict XVI on April 19 at St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York. He also concelebrated at the April 20 Mass at Yankee Stadium.

The Mass for priests and religious at St. Patrick's Cathedral was the first Mass ever celebrated by a pope at the church, Msgr. Schaedel noted.

"It was just overwhelming to see the pope in our New York City in St. Patrick's Cathedral," said Msgr. Schaedel, who was an archdiocesan representative at the Mass with Benedictine Father Julian Peters, administrator pro-tem of SS. Peter and Paul Cathedral Parish in Indianapolis.

Msgr. Schaedel said he believes the pope was moved by the support of the more than 2,200 priests and religious at the Mass, who gave the Holy Father several standing ovations.

"I thought he was really taken with the loving support of the priests and religious," he said.

"Electric" was the word that Msgr. Schaedel used to describe the Mass on the following day at Yankee Stadium.

Though he laughed about having to vest for the liturgy in the Yankees' batting cage, Msgr. Schaedel said there was a reverence during the entire Mass. But, he added, because of Pope Benedict's presence, "before and after [the Mass], you'd think it was a rock star" that the crowd was cheering for.

The pope's homily during that Yankee Stadium Mass resonated with his message during his entire visit, Msgr. Schaedel said.

"We all have to focus on Christ our hope," he said.

The vicar general was also "very touched" by the prayer service that the Holy Father attended at Park East Synagogue in New York.

The encounter on April 18 marked the first time a pope has visited a Jewish place of worship in the United States, and it came a day before the start of the Jewish Passover.

"Catholics and Jews in New York have been friends for years," Msgr. Schaedel said. "It was great to see that."

A lasting impression

Joseph Rivelli, a member of St. Joan of Arc Parish in Indianapolis, was also present at the Mass at Yankee Stadium.

Seeing so much of the Church present in one place for the Mass left a lasting impression.

"You just looked around the crowd and you saw priests," Rivelli said. "You saw seminarians. You saw deacons, bishops, bishops in wheelchairs. You saw nuns from all different orders. And you saw lay people from all different ethnicities."

The universal nature of the Church was on display for him in a special way because he stayed in a guest house of the Franciscan Friars of the Renewal in Newark, N.J., where men from across the country as well as Italy and Nigeria have come to serve the poor in that city.

In addition to emphasizing the ethnic expansiveness of the Church here and now, the Mass with the pope at Yankee Stadium also reminded Rivelli of generations of believers before and after him.

When Pope Benedict spoke warmly during his homily about his meeting the previous evening with youths at St. Joseph's Seminary in Yonkers, N.Y., Rivelli thought of his own young children and their generation.

"We have to give them the hope and strength to persevere," he said. "They are the next generation that is going to proclaim Christ. As a father, I feel that's my vocation and I have to instill that in my children."

In the short term, Rivelli looked forward to sharing his vivid memories with his family when he returned to Indianapolis.

"[Those memories] won't ever leave me," he said. "My Dad's picking me up at the airport. He's 81. He's the same age as the pope. To be able to share with him my experience and then to share it with my family is just going to be incredible."

A 'surreal' experience

The euphoria started the moment the popemobile and its occupants arrived.

And it continued as the vehicle slowly wove around Yankee Stadium.

Just ask Pat and Carrie O'Connor.

The couple, who are members of St. Joan of Arc Parish in Indianapolis, were among Hoosier residents who made the pilgrimage to New York for the April 20 Mass.

"It was surreal," said Pat of the Mass.

"Knowing you were going through the same ritual [with Pope Benedict as the Mass celebrant], you hang on every word," he said.

"Where we were sitting, it [the popemobile] slowly came around in front of us," he said. "The pope got out and went into the dugout [to get vested]. Having that line of sight was incredible.

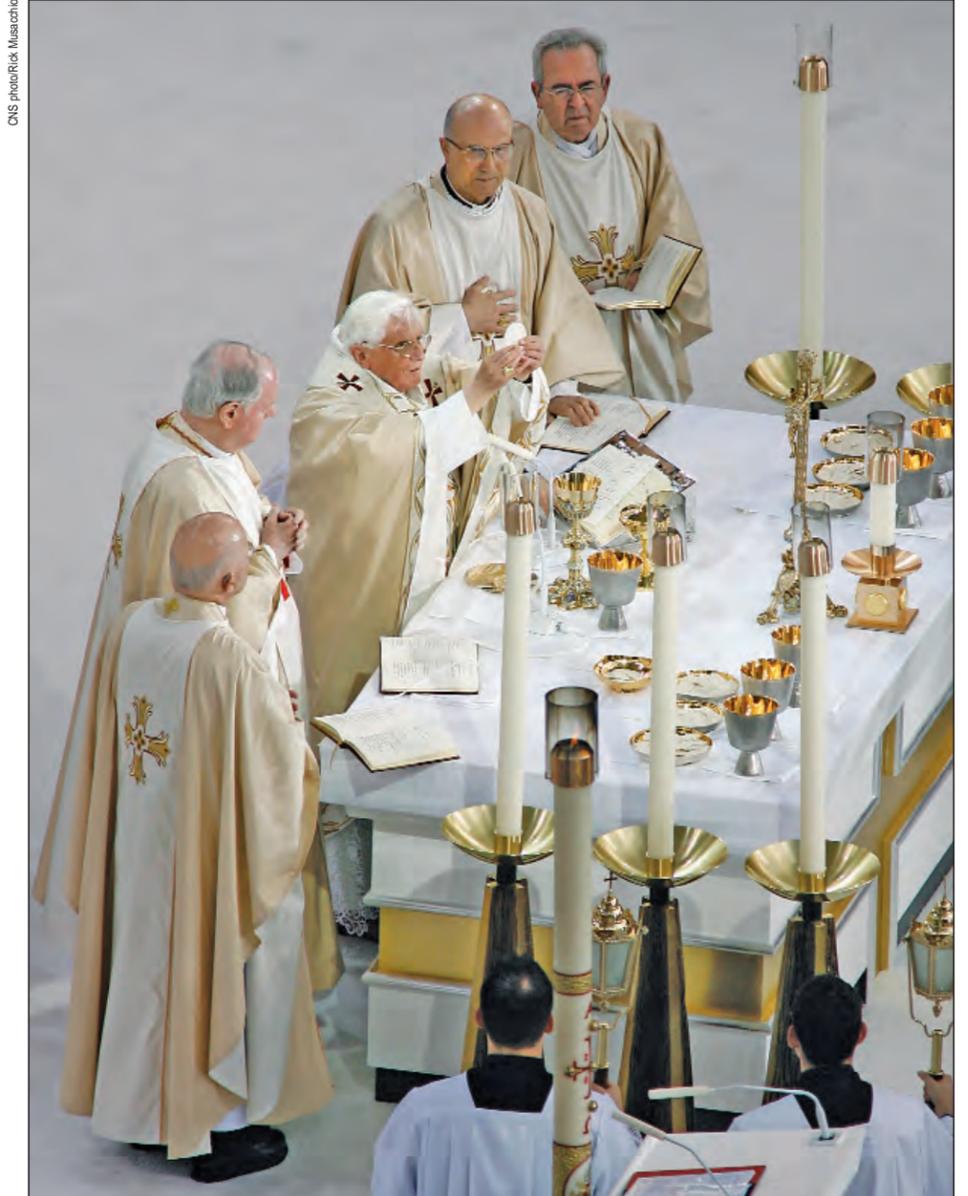
"The euphoria in the stadium, it was palpable," Pat added. It was evident "the euphoria and affection that people had for him."

Though the Mass was the highlight of the weekend, Pat also saw the pope's motorcade on Friday and Saturday through the streets of New York.

"We stayed with my wife's sister, and she lives right across the street from the [Park East] synagogue" that the pope visited, he said.

For Carrie, it was also exciting to see "the love I saw from everyone [at the Mass]. It was just utter joy."

She added that she will remember two things from this once-in-a-lifetime experience: the roar of the crowd and chants of "Papa! Papa!" as the Holy Father entered Yankee Stadium and the release of the doves right before the Mass began.



Pope Benedict XVI elevates the host during a Mass at Yankee Stadium on the final day of his pastoral visit to the U.S. on April 20.



A priest gives Communion to a man in the upper deck at Yankee Stadium in New York during an April 20 Mass celebrated by Pope Benedict XVI.

Missing work for the pope

Missing a few days of work to see Pope Benedict XVI in New York was worth it.

At least it was for John and Kristina Racanelli.

The couple, who are members of St. Bartholomew Parish in Columbus, took vacation time to make their pilgrimage to New York.

"It was awesome. It was uplifting and inspirational the entire day," said John, who is a pilot.

"What struck me was the energy of the crowd and how everybody was brought together through his [Pope Benedict's] presence," he said. "We all felt, as soon as he arrived, a shared joy and adoration."

The look on the Holy Father's face is something else etched in John's memory.

"He had a peaceful, humble, loving smile on his face the whole time. It really warmed my heart.

"Also, the incredible sense of grace I got during the Eucharist. It was like nothing I

had ever experienced before," John said. "It was intense and overwhelming."

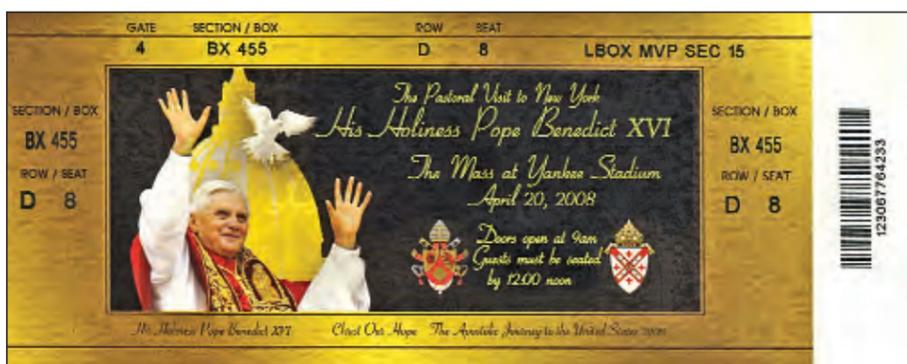
His wife, Kristina, who is an engineer, said two things stuck out for her from the Mass: the excitement, enthusiasm and joyfulness of the crowd, and the sense that everyone was there together enjoying the once-in-a-lifetime experience.

She was also happy to hear the Holy Father, during his homily, encourage and affirm vocations to the priesthood and religious life, and call for the respect of all human life, especially the unborn.

"We were really touched by everything he said," Kristina said, and by Pope Benedict's joyful attitude, reverence and humility.

"You can see he is serving the Lord, and his whole attitude reflects that," she said.

(Reporter Sean Gallagher contributed to this story. To read the full text of the pope's homily from the Yankee Stadium Mass, log on to www.CriterionOnline.com and click on the banner for the pope's visit.) †



This ticket was printed for the papal Mass held on April 20 at Yankee Stadium in New York.



Youths take in sights during visit to Big Apple

By Bryce Bennett

NEW YORK—The visit and message of Pope Benedict XVI to the United States affected millions of Catholics in America.

For a group of 44 young people and six chaperones from the archdiocese, the journey to New York to see the pope became a pilgrimage of hope and faith.

The trip started on the morning of April 17 in the parking lot of the Archbishop O'Meara Catholic Center in Indianapolis. While television cameras captured the scene, parents and other well-wishers sent the group off on the 14-hour bus ride to Sacred Heart High School in Yonkers, N.Y.

The group arrived at the high school at 10:30 p.m., weary and tired. Still, the anticipation and excitement for the trip remained strong.

"I came on the trip because I thought it would be a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity," explained Andrew Defeo, 17, of St. Lawrence Parish in Indianapolis. "I went on the Biloxi [Mississippi] trip and ever since that point I have grown in my faith. This trip is a continuation of that faith."

The group spent the next day, April 18, touring sites in New York. On the warm, sunny day, the group visited Times Square, Grand Central Station, Rockefeller Plaza, St. Patrick's Cathedral (where Mass was celebrated), St. Peter's Church, ground zero, Radio City Music Hall and the home of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton. The youths also experienced a glimpse of the life of a typical New Yorker by riding the subway and eating authentic New York pizza at John's Pizzeria.

Kent Clady, principal of Our Lady of the Greenwood School in Greenwood, served as a chaperone and was impressed by the deep faith of the youths.

"One moment that blew me away was at St. Peter's Church when the youths were given the option of going inside to pray [in the church] or to sit outside on the church steps," Clady said. "One young person was sitting in St. Peter's and praying. His friends were calling for him to come outside and sit on the steps. His response was 'Why would I go outside when I could stay here with Jesus?' I thought that was such a profound thing for a young person to say. There was nothing held back on this trip."

Sarah Watson, principal of St. Gabriel School in Indianapolis, agreed with Clady.

"The moments the high school students gave to God through prayer and silence really impressed me," Watson noted.

The main event, the youth rally with Pope Benedict XVI, came on April 19.

Once again, the youths rose early in the morning and shuttled to St. Joseph's Seminary in Yonkers. They arrived at Chidwick Field at about 10 a.m. and claimed their space in the front section of the crowd. While the crowd of 25,000 waited for the pope's arrival, people were entertained by bands, dancers, choirs and singers, including "American Idol" and Grammy Award winner Kelly Clarkson.

Stephen Hawkins, 18, of St. Thomas More Parish in Mooresville, was impressed with the diversity of the crowd.

"I think it shows that the Church is truly universal," Stephen explained.

The Holy Father entered the seminary's gates at about 4:30 p.m. and addressed the crowd at 5 p.m. His message centered on hope in Jesus Christ.

"If we walk in the footsteps of Christ, we are led on a journey of hope," Pope Benedict said.

The message of hope resonated with David Schroeder, 15, from St. Andrew Parish in Richmond.

"It was one of the most memorable experiences of my life," David noted. "In our world right now, there is a lot of crisis, and to hear the word 'hope' gives you comfort."

The rally concluded that night near 7:30 p.m. The size of the crowd did not allow the archdiocesan youths to arrive at Sacred Heart High School until about 10 p.m. Despite the long, tiring day, the youths were nourished by the message of hope and guidance from Pope Benedict.

When the youths returned to Sacred Heart, they celebrated Mass. The celebrant was Father Rick Nagel, associate pastor of Our Lady of the Greenwood Parish in Greenwood. He reminded the youths not to lose any opportunities to spread the pope's message of hope when they returned to Indianapolis.

"Each of you has an opportunity. What will you do with it?" Father Nagel asked.

That invitation was also expressed by Father Jonathan



Archdiocesan youths pose on the streets of New York during their recent pilgrimage.

Meyer, director of youth ministry for the archdiocese. He was confident in the faith-sharing abilities of this group of young people.

"These young people get it. They are living it. Their faith is very real," Father Meyer said. "These young people have the grace in not just Christ, but also in the fullness of his Church."

The group made the return trip to Indianapolis on April 20. On the drive home, they made a special stop at the National Shrine of Our Lady of Czestochowa in Doylestown, Pa., which is a replica of an original shrine in Poland.

During the visit, Pauline Father Bartlomiej Marciniak talked about the history of the shrine. He also gave the youths a message—one that was shared constantly by the pope and others during the four-day pilgrimage—of faith and hope in the grace of Christ.

"Don't worry," Father Bartlomiej said in his Polish accent. "Put hope in Jesus Christ always."

(For a blog and photos from the youth's pilgrimage to New York, check the "Online Only" features at www.CriterionOnline.com.) †

Pope inspires Bishop Bruté seminarians at New York Mass

By Sean Gallagher

In 1987, Father Robert Robeson was a young graduate student at the University of South Carolina when he participated in an ecumenical prayer service led by Pope John Paul II on the campus.

It was his first time to see the pope.

Two decades later, Father Robeson led a group of seminarians, who were close to the same age he was when he first saw the pope, to participate in a Mass celebrated by Pope Benedict XVI on April 20 at Yankee Stadium in New York.

"The memories from 1987 are still etched vividly in my mind and in my heart," said Father Robeson, the rector of the Bishop Simon Bruté College Seminary in Indianapolis. "It had an enormous impact on my life and on my faith especially."

"I don't think it will be any different for these young men. I think it's going to have a huge impact on their faith."

Father Robeson and the seminarians sat along the first base line of the stadium in the middle deck during the liturgy.

The Mass with the pope was a big event in many ways for second-year college seminarian Daniel Bedel.

Just seeing Pope Benedict enter the stadium overwhelmed him.

"I was trying to take pictures with my camera and I started shaking. I couldn't really take a good picture," said Bedel, a member of St. John the Evangelist Parish in Enochsburg in the Batesville Deanery.

Although Bedel, the other Bishop Bruté seminarians and Father Robeson were excited about seeing the pope, they knew that the pope would focus on Christ.

"Everybody gets all really excited about him, but what is his job?" Father Robeson asked. "His role, his great gift and what makes him such a great pope is the fact that he always, always points to Christ. His role is to lead us to Christ and to help us to come to know Christ more fully."

Bedel experienced that in a powerful way just before Communion when everyone, including the pope, prayed, "Lord, I am not worthy to receive you, but only say the word and I shall be healed."

"When he said those words, it really hit me that this is the pope, but the Mass is about Jesus Christ," Bedel said. "He

takes all of that attention that people put on him and turns it toward Christ, which is exactly what the pope should do."

In his homily during the Yankee Stadium Mass, Pope Benedict in part focused on Christ by encouraging his listeners to "find the source of our ultimate happiness in [Christ] who is infinite love, infinite freedom, infinite life. In his will is our peace."

Those words echoed in the heart of Martin Rodriguez, who is a third-year college seminarian at Bishop Bruté, as he was on the long road trip back to Indianapolis the day after the Mass.

"That really struck me because I've seen many people who struggle to find their own vocation," he said. "They keep running away from it."

Toward the end of his homily, Pope Benedict exhorted the young people to consider a priestly or religious vocation.

"Young men and women of America, I urge you: Open your hearts to the Lord's call to follow him in the priesthood and the religious life," the pope said. "Can there be any greater mark of love than this: to follow in the footsteps of Christ, who was willing to lay down his life for his friends?"

After the pope made this invitation, the huge congregation responded with loud cheers.

"That really was encouraging because not only is the Holy Father kind of congratulating you for taking up the call, but you have 60,000 Catholics from across the United States who are also encouraging you through this applause," Bedel said. "I hope that with that message and with the applause that young men that are maybe thinking and praying about a vocation might step up and take charge of that."

During the Mass, the pope also honored the contributions that Catholic immigrants to the United States have made to the Church over the past two centuries.

Rodriguez, who is originally from Mexico, is one of the more recent of these immigrants.

Yet in New York, he witnessed a far greater diversity of believers than he had experienced up to now, seeing scores



Father Robert Robeson, left, rector of the Bishop Simon Bruté College Seminary in Indianapolis, stands with seminarians on the Staten Island Ferry during their trip to New York to attend the Mass on April 20 at Yankee Stadium with Pope Benedict XVI. The seminarians are, from left, Martin Rodriguez, Gregory Lorenz, Timothy Wyciskalla, Adam Ahern, Andrew Proctor, Benjamin Syberg and Daniel Bedel. All except Ahern are archdiocesan seminarians. Ahern is affiliated with the Archdiocese of Cincinnati.

of Catholics who came to the United States from across Central and South America and many Asian countries.

"That really gives you a sense of the universal Church," Rodriguez said. "It's not only the Archdiocese of Indianapolis. It was the whole Church that came together to see the successor of Peter."

As he was driving a van of seminarians back to Indiana the day after the liturgy, Father Robeson looked forward to a bright future in the wake of the pope's apostolic journey to the United States.

"It gave me a great sense of hope to see our seminarians so inspired by the Holy Father," Father Robeson said. "This was the third time that I had seen the pope, but every time it's filled me with a deep emotional power."

"You can feel the presence of the Holy Spirit. It's like you're a little kid again."

(For more information on the Bishop Simon Bruté College Seminary, log on to www.archindy.org/bsb.) †



Coming of Age/Karen Osborne

Yankee Stadium papal Mass helps worshippers make connections

Human beings are social creatures. We yearn for understanding and solidarity, for common ground and a common purpose. We want to be included.



That's one reason why people were drawn to the recent papal Masses at stadiums in New York and Washington: Thousands of people in one place, praying with each other and cheering on their mutual belief, is a

powerful way to fulfill this need.

Who knows how many of the thousands of people twirling gold and white flags in the air to welcome Pope Benedict XVI to New York's Yankee Stadium on April 20 would call themselves lonely?

How many people feel separated from others because of their beliefs? How many felt disconnected when they walked through those stadium doors?

More than you would think. Teenagers are particularly susceptible to feeling like they don't belong.

"In-crowds" embrace ostracism. An emphasis on popularity and "being cool" makes it even harder to carve out a place that teens can call their own.

That's why I loved the papal Mass at Yankee Stadium. It felt like the ultimate in-crowd: Everybody belonged, no matter what their age, race or personal perspective.

These days such events are criticized for being too close to secular events, such as rock concerts or theatrical productions.

I don't think that's the proper perspective. A good rock concert is an excellent metaphor for how the earliest Christians felt about their faith and the kind of connection all of us are searching for.

I think back to the last concert I attended, to that one particular song that everyone was waiting for, the one that made everyone sing at the top of his or her lungs, that made everyone in the room feel like they were friends even though we were technically strangers.

That's what connection feels like.

There's a reason why rock concerts—and Catholic youth conferences and papal Masses, for that matter—feel so refreshing. They tell us that we stand with thousands of others who have similar beliefs and priorities, no matter how popular or unpopular they are.

They tell us that we are not alone. People leave events like these feeling like they can take whatever the world throws at them.

It's not surprising that teens often feel disconnected from their parishes. I've heard



Pope Benedict XVI arrives at Yankee Stadium in New York on April 20 for a Mass with a congregation of nearly 58,000.

teens talk about being marginalized when they give suggestions about worship or parish life, about how adults and teens in their parishes can't seem to bridge the generation gap.

Nor do they often see other teens enjoying their time in the parish. Many teens feel like they're not part of the parish in-crowd.

That's a painful thing.

People describe papal visits, meetings of the National Catholic Youth Conference and World Youth Days as being "electric" because they connect teens in particular to faith and friends.

But teens don't have to wait for these large events. They can create uplifting moments in their everyday lives, actively

stitching together a connection wire by wire until that electricity sparkles wild, bringing them closer to God and other people.

Teens can join or even start a youth group, speaking up, reaching out, and sharing their talents and excitement with others. I urge them all to wave their flags and watch what happens!

An initial euphoria won't last forever, but it's a fantastic encouragement and a great way to create the welcoming, open in-crowd that we're all in search of.

As Mass-goers at Yankee Stadium found out last weekend, connection is contagious.

(CNS columnist Karen Osborne is a staff writer for The Evangelist, the newspaper of the Diocese of Albany, N.Y.) †

Faith and Precedent/Douglas W. Kmiec

Papal shame at sexual abuse crisis 'spoke for us all' as Catholics

Pope Benedict XVI came to the United States with a profound message of hope. He was greeted by hundreds of thousands, perhaps millions, during his apostolic journey.



What drew these people young and old, of every race and ethnicity, and of both genders? It wasn't mere celebrity. The pope's

message was magnetic because it was premised upon an authentic understanding of the freedom of the human person.

Who is this human person? He is God's creation. He does not see himself as a victim of circumstance or as a faceless office worker or an unidentified number in a factory. He does not live half-heartedly or passively in solitude, but fully in community.

He is a person who appreciates that, despite his imperfection, God has imprinted the design of the natural law within him. And in that design, he is to use his free will in the pursuit of human good. This pursuit is

to be found largely, as the pope said, "in personal, moral decisions."

Some members of the media saw that emphasis as ironic given their insatiable interest in Church scandal. Of course, sometimes the media thinks it is God and, in some ways, the confusion is understandable. Many who are young and the old in this country spend far more time watching the flat-screen than in worship or in service to each other.

The media give a Faustian bargain, however, making a person seem larger than life only to cut him down to size. Americans have been watching this for months now with their presidential candidates.

So it was to be expected that when the television industry turned the great electronic magnifier upon Pope Benedict that the same thing would happen.

"Yes, we will show the joyous faces of those waving papal flags and singing 'Happy Birthday' to the Papa, but in exchange, dear Holy Father, we will parade the Church's dirty laundry for all to see."

It is understandable therefore, even if regrettable, that so much of the news coverage has focused on the scandal among

the tiny percentage of clergy who succumbed to evil.

American Catholics know this sadness of soul has been very costly to the Church. Human lives that had invested their innocent faith at young ages were scarred with ugly behavior and memory.

Billions have been paid out in compensation—much of it diminishing the possibility for new schools, enhanced charities or greater parish outreach, whether the accountants admit it or not.

When the pope said he was ashamed, he spoke for us all. And it may have been at that moment that the media thought it had prevailed yet again. Even before the great man set foot on American soil, the pope and his Church had been put in their place.

But then a strange thing happened. The transcendent message of Pope Benedict outshined the depth of the scandal, just as the truth of the Gospel always casts away the darkness. The Church was not diminished by its apology, it was strengthened.

While no amount of money could rectify the harm, even the excessive sums already paid, the pope's message moved

the Church back upon its foundations.

The Church in America has put into place structures to guard against the inevitability of sin, but now it was returning to something even more important than sackcloth and ashes for healing: its essential teachings.

Like so many parishioners who prayerfully have stayed committed to the liturgy throughout the long ordeal, the Church was back on message with head unbound and hope renewed. It is a message not of wealth or power or attention, but of recommitment to "the intrinsic relationship between the Gospel and the natural law."

What does that mean? That in homilies and catechism classes and university classrooms, as Pope Benedict XVI reminded his bishops, the Gospel of Christ will be seen for what it is—a "sound understanding of freedom, seen in positive terms as a liberation both from the limitations of sin and for an authentic and fulfilling life."

(Douglas W. Kmiec, a professor at the Pepperdine University School of Law, writes for Catholic News Service.) †

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PILGRIMS

continued from page 10

'No. I'm going to take your arm and we'll go in together.' That was kind of neat for me."

Inside the center, she said, "we thought that hopefully the pope would come up [to our conference room]. We were praying that he would come up, but he didn't get there."

Pope Benedict "walks so well for 81," she said after watching him on TV. "I'm blessed to have been able to go. Cardinal [Adam] Maida [of Detroit] came and gave us the pope's blessing at the dinner, and everyone there received a rosary that was blessed by Pope Benedict. I've been using it, too. I pray the rosary every day. I have one that was blessed by Pope John Paul II so I'll have to interchange them now."

Pinnacle of faith journey

For Anthony Lee, attending the papal Mass at Nationals Park in Washington with his wife, Jane, was the pinnacle of his faith journey.

"It was tremendous," said Anthony, a member of St. Luke the Evangelist Parish in Indianapolis since 1990.

"Our pope is very genuine and warm," he said. "You can see he is a kind, good, holy person."

A native of Malaysia, Anthony converted to Catholicism in 1958 when his mother, a strict Buddhist,



Pope Benedict XVI blesses a girl as the eucharistic gifts are brought forward during Mass at Nationals Park in Washington on April 17.

finally gave him her blessing to join the Church.

In Washington, Anthony said he was awestruck to be at a Mass celebrated by a "descendant of St. Peter" and "receive his blessing."

When the crowd of 46,000 sang "The Lord's Prayer" in unison, he said, "It was a tremendous thing."

(Editor Mike Krokos contributed to this story. To read the full text of the pope's homily from the Mass at Nationals Park, log on to www.CriterionOnline.com and click on the banner for the pope's visit.) †

VOCATION

continued from page 3

Michael uses the Holy Father as his greatest example of service and devotion to the Church.

"For me, Benedict as a man, pastor and pope has embraced his role as vicar of Christ and as a shepherd for Christ," said Michael, a member of Our Lady of the Greenwood Parish in Greenwood.

Peter sees work that still needs to be done in the Church. He sees a message that still needs to be spread to those who believe and to those who do not.

"Leading people back to the faith is an important element for me," said Peter, also a member of Our Lady of the Greenwood Parish in Greenwood.

The pope's message of hope also inspired both teens. Michael sees a direct correlation between hope, the administration of the sacraments and the priesthood.

"The pope's message is [one] of hope," Michael explained. "Our hope is in the sacraments and in the Eucharist. To administer the sacraments, we need Catholic priests."

Father Jonathan Meyer, director of youth ministry for the archdiocese, sees these two teenagers as youths who impress him in their faith. He credits this to great personal prayer and a solid family base of Catholic teaching.

"They impress me in two ways," Father Meyer said. "First is their maturity, second is that they both come from good families. They are living examples of the truth. They realize that the truth is alive."

Father Meyer realizes that the discernment process can be difficult for any young person deciding on a vocation. That is why he reminds everyone to use techniques like prayer to help with the process.

"Personal prayer is so important. You find your vocation in silence," Father Meyer said.

Pope Benedict said that another guiding tool in the discernment of a call to religious life is taking the time to develop relationships with those who are already ordained.

"No perfect community exists, but I encourage you to speak with brothers, sisters and priests about religious life," Pope Benedict preached.

Peter hopes to be a seminarian in the fall at the Bishop Simon Bruté College Seminary in Indianapolis. As a seminarian, he would take classes at Marian College in Indianapolis.

"Next year for me is college seminary. It is a place for me to truly discern," said Peter, a senior at Center Grove High School. "There is always the chance that I could be wrong, and I would accept that."

Michael, a junior at Center Grove High School, also is considering becoming a seminarian in the future. He also remains open to other options, and thinks his service to the Church is what is most important right now.

"I can't offer the sacraments or the Eucharist," Michael said. "But my reverence can serve as an example to the younger people, especially my siblings." †

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Parents can do many things at home to nurture a child's faith

By Mary Jo Pedersen

When an infant cries out because she is hungry or wet and a parent picks her up, comforting and feeding her, she learns her first lesson in prayer. She begins to trust that when she is in need and cries out, someone who loves her will respond.

This is a basic foundation for prayer. Before cognition or ability to speak, she experiences in a thoroughly human way the love of God through the faithful loving actions of her parents. Until she can think abstractly at around age 9 to 11, a child learns about God in this very concrete way.

Parents don't need a theology degree or religious certification to be their children's teachers. Some of the practices at home that help pass on faith happen almost by osmosis, while others are more intentional.

By the age of 5, long before a child receives formal religious instruction, a child's values and basic beliefs are set. A parent's example is the first teacher.

When parents love as unconditionally as they can, forgive repeatedly, and show understanding and compassion, children concretely experience these realities. When they are older and learn the lesson that God loves, forgives and shows mercy, children know from experience what that means.

Watching a parent help a sick neighbor, serve a meal to the homeless or help out in the parish effectively teaches a child that service to others is a value.

Going to Mass on Sunday teaches a child the habit of worshipping God. Faith is "caught" as well as taught.

There are different kinds of teaching that go on at home in the ordinary circumstances of everyday life which are essential to a child's faith formation. One subtle manner of teaching takes place in the midst of setting household rules and disciplining children.

When children are not allowed to settle conflicts with their fists, but are taught to solve differences with words and compromise, they learn the beatitude "Blessed are the peacemakers."

By the time a child goes to religious formation class, he should already know by lived experience what it means "to be a peacemaker."

At home, a child learns values of respect for human life and the skills for nonviolent conflict resolution even before he can talk.

A child can memorize the Ten Commandments in school, but can only obey the commandments if that child knows the difference between right and wrong, and has enough self-discipline to make a right choice.

That ability to be self-disciplined—not



Triplet girls prepare for their first Communion at a parish in Yonkers, N.Y. Parents can pass on the faith to their children in the home through the ways they discipline them, pray and speak with them and show examples of how the faith is lived out in service.

just out of fear of punishment—is developed over time under the watchful eyes of parents.

Even a home's environment teaches a child about the faith.

Crucifixes and images of Jesus, Mary and the saints communicate that this is a household of faith. Rituals and traditions of faith also instruct children: prayer before meals and bed, house blessings at Epiphany, the Bible set in a place of honor, an Advent wreath and Christmas creche, etc.

If parents are unfamiliar with such sacramentals and traditions, many practical resources are available, such as "Faith and Fest in Family," a CD with hundreds of ideas and prayers for celebrating faith at home.

In addition to these informal ways of teaching children about God and faith, there are more intentional ways available, too.

Studies show that children are twice as likely to take their faith into adulthood if parents do these three things at home:

- They talk about God and faith matters with their children. Parents can get help in starting conversations by reading Catholic

newspapers, magazines and newsletters, and listening to Catholic radio and TV programs.

- They celebrate faith with rituals and traditions.

- They serve others, particularly the poor and marginalized.

In the midst of busy family schedules, parents often feel that they cannot focus on faith-filled conversation, ritual and service. Though these are everyday activities, it takes thought and planning to pay attention to them.

But there are many aids for parents. Most parishes have written materials for parents to assist them with practical things to do at home to nurture faith and

service projects to participate in as a family.

Many parents find having a book with practical ideas for faith-sharing is helpful. Two excellent books for parents are *52 Simple Ways to Talk with Your Kids about Faith* by Jim Campbell and *Raising Faith-Filled Kids* by Tom McGrath.

In disciplining children, in conversation and prayer, with rituals and traditions, and active service to others, parents hand on the riches of faith to their children at home. Participation in parish programs is an essential complement to their efforts.

But the most effective teaching that parents do is modeling a growing faith. As Cardinal Joseph Bernardin once said to parents, "Perhaps the most fundamental contribution you can make to the religious formation of your children is to mature in faith yourself."

(Mary Jo Pedersen writes from Omaha, Neb., and is the author of *More Than Meets the Eye: Finding God in the Creases and Folds of Family Life*, from St. Mary's Press.) †

'In disciplining children, in conversation and prayer, with rituals and traditions, and active service to others, parents hand on the riches of faith to their children at home.'

Discussion Point

Children's questions show curiosity about God

This Week's Question

What are some questions you've heard from children that reveal their curiosity about God?

"I teach at a Christian nursery school. They ask 'How does God know what we're doing?' 'How can he see us?' Basically, they question how God knows everything." (Judy Cutuli, Montrose, N.Y.)

"The other day when my son and I were riding in the car, we noticed the sky was beautiful [and dramatic]. It was near sunset, there were clouds because a storm was coming and some rays of sunlight were coming through the clouds. He asked if that was God." (Donna Pecoraro, Elkridge, Md.)

"I've heard questions like, 'Why can't we see God?' 'Who created God?' and 'Why do we call it Good Friday when Jesus died?'" (Cindy McFadden, Alpharetta, Ga.)

"A lot of kids want to know if dogs go to heaven. In junior high, they often ask about what is a sin and why certain things are sins." (Chris Keeven, Millstadt, Ill.)

Lend Us Your Voice

An upcoming edition asks: When Jesus performed a miracle, what was he saying to those who witnessed it?

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. †



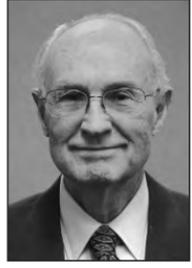
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From the Editor Emeritus/John F. Fink

Biblical women: Four whom Jesus healed

(Thirty-seventh in a series)

The Gospels tell us about four instances in which Jesus healed women—or girls in two cases.



The first occurred when Jesus was in Capernaum (Lk 8:40-56). A synagogue official named Jairus asked Jesus to come to his home and cure his 12-year-old daughter. Recognizing the official's faith, Jesus started to go off with him, followed by a large crowd.

But before they got to Jairus's home, we get the story of a woman who had been afflicted with hemorrhages for 12 years.

The first-century doctors couldn't seem to help her. A woman who was menstruating was considered to be ritually unclean and was not supposed to have physical contact with others.

But this woman was desperate. She hoped that perhaps she would be healed if she could

only touch part of his clothing—the tassel on his cloak, according to Matthew's account. (The Mosaic Law prescribed that tassels be worn on the corners of one's garment as a reminder to keep the Commandments.)

When she did touch Jesus' clothing, her flow of blood immediately dried up. But Jesus somehow realized that power had gone out of him, looked around and asked, "Who touched my clothes?" (Lk 8:45). The woman approached and told him the whole story. Jesus told her that her faith had saved her and bade her go in peace.

With the woman cured, he continued toward Jairus's house. They were met by people who informed them that Jairus's daughter had died. Jesus ignored them and told Jairus, "Don't be afraid; just have faith" (Lk 8:50). Earlier, Jairus had faith that Jesus could heal his daughter, so Jesus told him to just continue to have faith.

When Jesus told the crowd at the home that the girl was only sleeping, they ridiculed him. He took Jairus and his wife to the girl's bedside and told the girl to get up. She did so immediately, and began to walk around.

A third healing also involved a girl. This

time it happened in the district of Tyre, in modern Lebanon (Mt 15:21-28).

A Canaanite woman, not a Jew, approached Jesus and begged him to drive a demon out of her daughter. At first, Jesus demurred, saying that he was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. He even seemed insulting when he said, "It is not right to take the food of the children and throw it to the dogs" (Mt 15:26).

The woman, though, was persistent. "Please, Lord," she said, "for even the dogs eat the scraps that fall from the table of their masters" (Mt 15:27). That did the trick. Jesus recognized how great the woman's faith was, and told her that her daughter was healed. She was.

The fourth healing was of an elderly woman who appeared to be suffering from osteoporosis because "she was bent over, completely incapable of standing erect" (Lk 13:11).

She had been that way for 18 years. Jesus laid hands on her and she at once stood up straight. This time it didn't seem to depend on the woman's faith. †

Cornucopia/Cynthia Dewes

This should not be an 'us' and 'them' world

In early summer, two new "greats" will join our family.

As of this moment, their names will be Rasmus and Joaquin, boys born to two of our granddaughters. Rasmus is a Scandinavian name for our German baby, and Joaquin is a Spanish name for our American baby.



They will join our Dutch-Korean-American, Norwegian, Korean and German

family members in our rapidly-globalizing family. It seems to me this is a worthy American phenomenon, which is spreading around the world. It's a celebration of inclusion, not division.

Lately, I've been reading Garry Wills' book on *What Paul Meant* in which he discussed St. Paul's evangelization of the Gentiles.

St. Paul went against the disapproval of his fellow Jews by welcoming Gentiles to participate in salvation offered by the Jewish Messiah. He said that, in Christ, there was no more Jew or Gentile, slave or freeman, etc. All were alike in God's eyes.

The Jews were upset with St. Paul because they believed themselves to be exclusive in God's favor as a chosen

people. They couldn't imagine that God would allow just anybody into the club, and certainly not those who didn't follow the Jewish Law and were uncircumcised.

This has the familiar anti-immigrant ring to it, the old "mongrelization of our community" argument so beloved of those who would close our borders and our minds to others. It's a way of thinking that began with original sin and has cropped up in human history ever since. I'm sure that the Jews of St. Paul's era didn't invent it.

The Celts and other early Europeans resented invasions by the brutish Vikings. Cultured Romans feared and hated the uncivilized Huns threatening their borders. Japanese people traditionally felt superior to Koreans, and African tribes lived or died according to tribal pecking orders. Somehow, throughout time, there has always been an "us" and "them" human mentality.

Well, if we really believe what St. Paul said, namely that we're all alike in God's eyes and all welcome to God's graces, then we need to abandon this idea. And no more so than during a presidential campaign such as we are witnessing at present.

The reason I am ranting about this now is because of e-mails I've received, articles I've read and remarks I've heard from other people who claim to be devout

Christians. Sad to say, many of these denounce Islam as evil, implying that American Muslims are not to be trusted.

Of course, the corollary is that presidential candidate Barack Obama is a closet Muslim because of his parentage and dubious damning evidence composed of his quotations, photographs, speeches, religious affiliations and whatever. Ergo, Obama is not to be trusted.

In addition, much to my chagrin, I've sensed a subtle racism in many people's attitude toward this candidate. Apparently, we've come far enough along in race relations to know better than to be bigots out loud, but secretly we still can't tolerate the idea of a black president.

So, we're back to "us" and "them" again. No matter what political party or candidates we favor, this is wrong. It's right up there with other crass displays of class, rank, superiority, fear and hate.

St. Paul reminded us that Jesus taught that we should love unconditionally as God loves us. We must trust in this advice even though we may be disappointed now and then. It's true we may be subject to human error, but we're still made in God's image.

(Cynthia Dewes, a member of St. Paul the Apostle Parish in Greencastle, is a regular columnist for The Criterion.) †

Faithful Lines/Shirley Vogler Meister

Meditative poems at end of National Poetry Month

Even though we are into the Easter season, I still feel somewhat rooted in the Lenten mode.



I don't know if this is because Lent was particularly meaningful to me this year or because I have some underlying issues to resolve.

Thinking about Lent reminded me that Jeff Hensley, the editor of *The North Texas Catholic*,

shared a poem with a group of Catholic writers, including me. I still read this poem often, and each time it nudges me closer to the brilliant light of the Easter season.

Lenten Cycles

The long slow ride of Lent,
The circling cycle of days,
like the circling cars
of the old drive-in burger stand scene,
promising newness beyond the everyday,
beyond the same old, same old,
passing by the open window.
Hoping for Nirvana,
hoping for love,
hoping for the final piece

to fit into life's puzzle.

And someday the cycle ends,
the circling days,
the flipping calendar pages,
the unending movement of time
come to fruition
and life and Easter
resolve, like a slow, visual effect,
fading into the Bright and Timeless
colors of eternity
—Hope fulfilled.

Without further comment, I share here two more poems by Hensley.

They are haiku, a Japanese poetic form that we both admire and enjoy writing. Mine are limited.

Hensley, who writes this prolifically as a form of journaling, has created a thick sheaf of faith-based haiku. His poem was inspired by nature.

Everywhere Presence

I must be honest:
This three-quarters mile of stream
Invites my worship.
But not how you think.
Eyes drawn to light on water

Look beyond to God.
Sacrament of stream,
Sparkling sunlight and bird song
make him present here.
Nature's Eucharist,
Thanksgiving and offering,
creekside liturgy.

In the Storm, not in its Eye

You had to be here
to fully appreciate
sense of God's presence.
It was palpable,
And many I talked to said
they could feel it, too.
No explanation.

It is difficult to choose only a few poems. I hope someday that much of the material in Hensley's ongoing journals will become a faith-inspiring meditative book.

If readers or publishers want to learn more about his poetry and haiku, send an e-mail to hilltopglimpse@aol.com.

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

Faith and Family/Sean Gallagher

Be happy like a child playing in the waves

Even within our own relatively small state of Indiana, we have a good deal of geographic variety.



There are the rolling wooded hills of the south, winding rivers that crisscross the state, miles and miles of farmland, and the lakes and sand dunes of the north.

But even with all of the grandeur that God has bestowed on us Hoosiers, it's a good thing now and then for us to go beyond our borders to take in the glory of his creation that other states can provide.

My family did this recently with a trip to Pensacola, Fla. It was the first time that my young sons had been to the sea.

It especially made an impression on my nearly 6-year-old son, Michael, as he stood on the beach, saw the immensity of the Gulf of Mexico before him and heard the constant crashing of the waves against the shore.

He had an absolute blast playing in the tide as it ebbed and flowed around his legs and feet.

I, on the other hand, sat there a bit transfixed watching him fearlessly having so much fun with something so enormous and powerful, something that was entirely unknown to him just hours before.

Sometimes Michael would stand there slightly crouched with his eyes locked in on an incoming wave. And when it would hit him, he'd squeal with joy.

At other times, he'd be a little further back, just sitting up on the sand, blithely watching the foam of the last bit of a wave bubbling up around his legs.

Boston College philosophy professor and renowned Catholic author Peter Kreeft said that such a picture of a child playing in the surf is the best image of humanity's place in the universe.

"[We're] little children playing in the waves. Waves of life. Waves of energy. Waves of Providence. Waves of God-stuff. The stuff God is made of: beauty, truth, and goodness."

Kreeft said a child playing in the waves reminds us that the universe is "a big toy."

"When we become adults, we lose the knowledge that the universe is God's toy to play in. And we lose the sense of being small and happy. Instead, we become large and worried. The surf can make us all children again, in two seconds if only we'd let it."

In those times when I'm not so good as a father, I think that the tasks and duties I have to do around the house or at work are much more important than just playing with my sons.

Spending time with them at the shore made me feel like a kid with them. I played with Michael in the waves. He, Raphael, my 3-year-old son, and I made sand castles and sand churches together.

All of the "bigger" things that I thought were so important just seemed to wash away with the tide.

It's my prayer for myself and for all fathers, especially those of young children, that this reminder of what is truly important that the sea provided for me will re-echo in my heart like the constant rolling of the waves.

Children know what's really important. They know how to approach the world in a way that will make you truly happy.

They and all of us should be like little kids playing in the waves.

(To listen to Peter Kreeft's reflection on the sea, log on to www.peterkreeft.com/audio/12_sea-spirituality.htm.) †

Sixth Sunday of Easter/Msgr. Owen F. Campion

The Sunday Readings

Sunday, April 27, 2008

- Acts 8:5-8, 14-17
- 11 Peter 3:15-18
- John 14:15-21

The Acts of the Apostles once again furnishes the first reading during this Easter season.



In the readings of the weekends earlier in this season, the identity of the Apostles has clearly been given.

The Apostles—absent Judas, of course—had exercised the very power of

Jesus in naming a new member of their group, Matthias, who succeeded the dead Judas. Peter healed the sick. On behalf of the Apostles, Peter spoke as Jesus had spoken.

It was not just simply that the Apostles had been with Jesus as specially selected students and followers, but also that they discharged the divine power that had belonged to Jesus and they continued the mission of Jesus the Redeemer.

In this reading, the announcement of this identity continues. While Acts already has clearly established that Peter was the head of the Apostles, the character of Apostle belonged not just to him. It was also with the others.

Thus, in this reading, the central figures are Philip and John. They performed miracles as Jesus had performed miracles.

However, they were not on their own. They were part of the community in Jerusalem that had Peter as its head, and around Peter were the other Apostles.

This group of Apostles in Jerusalem sent Philip and John to Samaria. So the Apostles together had authority, and each member within the group recognized this authority. They looked to the salvation of all people, even of Samaritans, who were so despised by the Jews. Finally, they bore within themselves the Holy Spirit, and they could give the Holy Spirit to others.

The second reading is from the First Epistle of Peter.

This reading is a strong, joyful and enthusiastic proclamation of Jesus as Lord. It calls believers to hear the Lord

and to follow the Lord. The Lord should be in their hearts and minds.

St. John's Gospel furnishes the last reading.

Not a Resurrection narrative, it nonetheless serves the Church's purpose as it teaches us this weekend. After celebrating the Resurrection for these weeks since Easter, the Church gently is summoning us to look at our lives.

This reading is our blueprint for life. Our task as disciples is to love others as Jesus loved all. It is clear. In God's love, given to us in the Lord, is our salvation.

Indeed, the very act of giving us a blueprint for living is a vitally important gift given in love to us by God.

Reflection

The next major liturgical event for us will be the celebration of the feast of the Ascension of Jesus. Soon after this feast, we will celebrate the feast of Pentecost. Within sight now is the close of the Easter season.

For these weeks, the Church has informed us of the Resurrection of Jesus, gloriously occurring after the dreadful events of Good Friday. It has shared with us its joy, copying the joy of the first Christians. It has told us again and again of the risen Lord's appearances and admonitions.

Gently, gradually, but definitely, the Church has begun the process of leading us to ask what the Resurrection deeply and really means for each of us individually.

It is being very strongly catechetical. First, it reassures us. Contact with Jesus was not lost with the Ascension when Jesus returned to the Father. Contact remains very clearly in the visible, institutional Church.

The Church stands on the Apostles. It offers us the service of the modern successors of Peter and the other Apostles.

Through them, we still hear the words of Christ. In the sacraments they give us, we still access the power of Christ's eternal life.

Finally, in the splendid reading from John's Gospel, the Church tells us how to live. We must love others. †

Daily Readings

Monday, April 28

Peter Chanel, priest and martyr
Louis Mary de Montfort, priest
Acts 16:11-15
Psalm 149:1b-6a, 9b
John 15:26-16:4a

Tuesday, April 29

Catherine of Siena, virgin and
doctor of the Church
Acts 16:22-34
Psalm 138:1-3, 7c-8
John 16:5-11

Wednesday, April 30

Pius V, pope
Acts 17:15, 22-18:1
Psalm 148:1-2, 11-14
John 16:12-15

Thursday, May 1

Joseph the Worker
Acts 18:1-8
Psalm 98:1-4
John 16:16-20

Friday, May 2

Athanasius, bishop and doctor
of the Church
Acts 18:9-18
Psalm 47:2-7
John 16:20-23

Saturday, May 3

Philip and James, Apostles
1 Corinthians 15:1-8
Psalm 19:2-5
John 14:6-14

Sunday, May 4

The Ascension of the Lord
Acts 1:1-11
Psalm 47:2-3, 6-9
Ephesians 1:17-23
Matthew 28:16-20

Question Corner/Fr. John Dietzen

Anointing of the sick is for people who are seriously ill

Our parish has begun giving the anointing of the sick twice a year.



We have a flyer that explains who may receive the sacrament. The way I read it, one must be really sick, terminally ill or really old. I don't seem to qualify.

I was born with a hole in my esophagus that was repaired with cat gut, a new procedure in 1962. That part of my esophagus is now reduced in size and there is no natural muscle action to push the food down. If I forget to chew my food well or run out of water, food gets stuck and restricts my breathing.

I suppose one could define it as potentially terminal because when bread or a pill gets lodged there it sure feels like my time has come. It's frightening to me and my family. Doctors say it is a rare condition.

Would I qualify for the anointing? To look at me, no one would know that I have this trouble. (Wisconsin)

I doubt that any priest would say you are not a valid candidate for the anointing of the sick.

The introduction to the Church's "Rite of Anointing and Pastoral Care of the Sick" (#8-#12) lists the following who may receive this sacrament:

1. Those who are seriously ill due to sickness or old age.
2. Those who have already been anointed, but are now suffering from a different illness, or if the danger becomes more serious in the same illness.
3. Those who are to undergo surgery because of a serious illness.
4. Old people who are weak from age, even if no dangerous illness is present.
5. Sick children, if they have sufficient use of reason to be comforted by this sacrament.

You possibly remember when almost none of the people mentioned in these five categories would have received what was then called extreme unction, literally "the last anointing."

The sacrament was put off until the person was in the immediate process of dying (the Latin phrase was

"in extremis").

So much was this true that families often hesitated to ask a priest to administer the anointing until the last minute because they were afraid that they would terrify the individual who was near death.

The Church's vision of this sacrament is obviously different today. The true sacrament for the dying is not the anointing of the sick, but the Eucharist, called "viaticum," something to help us "on the journey" when one receives it at the time of dying.

Anointing of the sick is broader. People who are seriously ill—actually dying or not—need God's help in many ways, including to keep up their spirit and not weaken in faith under the pressure of temptation in suffering. Thus, "seriously ill" does not necessarily imply imminent death.

The intent of the Church is clearly to make the graces of this sacrament available to anyone who can appropriately and with good faith receive them.

As the ritual puts it, "A prudent or reasonably sure judgment, without scruple, is sufficient for deciding on the seriousness of an illness."

In other words, make a decent decision as best as you can, which—judging from your letter—it seems that you already have. The fact that others may not know of your illness is irrelevant. It is serious and is certainly potentially dangerous. If you're still uncertain, ask your parish priest. I'm sure that he will agree. †

My Journey to God

Benediction

The force of heaven's nearness
Manifested on our shore,
An interlude of glory
Poised to echo evermore.

Infused with newfound vigor,
We embrace the pontiff's zeal.
We grasp the torch as offered—
May we keep its fire real.

Our land still rapt in wonder,
Our souls bear renewed chrism.
Heaven radiates our world
And leaves a lasting prism.

By Dorothy M. Colgan

(Dorothy M. Colgan is a member of St. Meinrad Parish in St. Meinrad. Pope Benedict XVI waves as he arrives at Andrews Air Force Base outside Washington on April 15.)



CNS photo/Max Rossi, Reuters

Readers may submit prose or poetry for faith column

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

Seasonal reflections also are appreciated. Please include name, address, parish and telephone number with submissions.

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

Rest in peace

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.

BUCHANAN, Josephine F., 90, St. Jude, Indianapolis, April 15. Mother of Charlotte Houser and Deborah Wood. Sister of Sarah Clements and Joseph DeLuca. Grandmother of nine. Great-grandmother of 26. Great-great-grandmother of one.

CATHCART, Shirley A., 73, Our Lady of the Greenwood, Greenwood, April 13. Wife of James Cathcart. Mother of Debbie Craig, Lisa Smith, Deanna, Don, John and Mike Cathcart. Grandmother of 10. Great-grandmother of 10.

CHRISTIE, Maxine (Gaines), 79, St. Joan of Arc, Indianapolis, April 5. Mother of Yolanda Hill, Teresa Knox, Antonia Wright, Michella, Renee, Michael and Ronerik Christie. Sister of Margaret Colbert, Edith Orton, Mildred Pate, Erlene and Adrian Gaines. Grandmother of 19. Great-grandmother of 42. Great-great-grandmother of two.

DeGOTT, Mary V., 91, St. Anthony of Padua, Clarksville, March 30. Mother of Danny and Frank DeGott Jr. Sister of Samuel

Newton. Grandmother of two. Great-grandmother of two.

DOERFLEIN, Donald M., 88, St. Michael, Brookville, April 2. Father of Denise Cotty, Donna Labella, Gregory and Ronald Doerflein. Brother of Cliff Doerflein. Grandfather of eight. Great-grandfather of four.

DOHONEY, Mary E., 77, Holy Family, New Albany, April 12. Mother of Sheila and Steven Dohoney. Sister of Charlene Sarles. Grandmother of four.

DOLNICS, Dorothy, 85, Holy Spirit, Indianapolis, March 26. Mother of Doreene Dolnics.

GROSS, James Kuderer, 49, St. Monica, Indianapolis, April 12. Husband of Laurie Ann (Schaefer) Gross. Father of Rebekah and Bryan Gross. Son of James and Sylvia (Kuderer) Gross. Brother of Kelly Ratz and Joseph Gross.

KANE, Mary Kathyleen (Welch), 83, St. Joan of Arc, Indianapolis, April 9. Mother of Marguerite Galloway, Alicia Kane-Schnorr, Leo and Patrick Kane. Sister of Virginia Flannigan. Grandmother of nine. Great-grandmother of one.

KELLEY, Larry A., 59, Prince of Peace, Madison, April 7. Father of Melony Fisher and Gregory Kelley. Brother of Denise Chatham, Bernard, Brian, Gerald and Rodney Kelley. Grandfather of two.

KRIEGER, Dorothy Rose, 90, St. Anthony of Padua, Clarksville,

March 30. Mother of Walter Krieger Jr.

LAWHORN, Alice A., 85, Holy Spirit, Indianapolis, March 26. Mother of Paulette Curson, JoEllen Nuftul, Daniel and Timothy Lawhorn.

MADIGAN, Richard P., 90, St. Luke the Evangelist, Indianapolis, March 31. Father of Cathy King, Michael and Rick Madigan. Grandfather of nine. Great-grandfather of five.

MILLAY, Patricia Diane, 54, St. Agnes, Nashville, April 4. Wife of Terry Millay. Mother of Mary Eastridge, Jennifer Scott and Christopher Millay. Daughter of Harold Stanley. Grandmother of four.

MULLER, Margaret T., 90, Immaculate Heart of Mary, Indianapolis, April 10. Mother of Sharon Concannon, Patricia

Boesche, Mary Spanke, Judy and David Muller. Sister of Marjorie Thompson. Grandmother of 12. Great-grandmother of 10.

PETERS, Patricia, 75, Holy Name of Jesus, Beech Grove, March 26. Mother of Kathryn Weller and David Peters. Grandmother of 10. Great-grandmother of two.

ROSALES, Jorge Luis, 16, St. Anthony, Indianapolis, April 5. Son of Efred and Lilia Rosales. Grandson of Francisca Castaneda, Petrana Rojo and Jose Guadalupe.

RUDOLPH, Francis Robert, 93, St. Lawrence, Lawrenceburg, April 13. Husband of Helen Rudolph. Father of Sue Struble, Jack and Jim Rudolph. Grandfather of nine. Great-grandfather of 10.

SCHOENSTEIN, Martha L., 91, Prince of Peace, Madison,

April 7. Mother of Robert Schoenstein Jr. Grandmother of three. Great-grandmother of two.

SHUKWIT, Stanley J., 84, Christ the King, Indianapolis, April 11. Husband of Anne Shukwit. Father of Joanne Sutton, Patricia, Mark and Robert Shukwit. Grandfather of 14.

SNODDY, Beverly Ann (Moore), 63, St. Gabriel, Connersville, April 12. Wife of Virgil Snoddy. Mother of Charles, Jeffery, Richard and Timothy Snoddy. Sister of Mary Hiers and Jean Lynn. Grandmother of six.

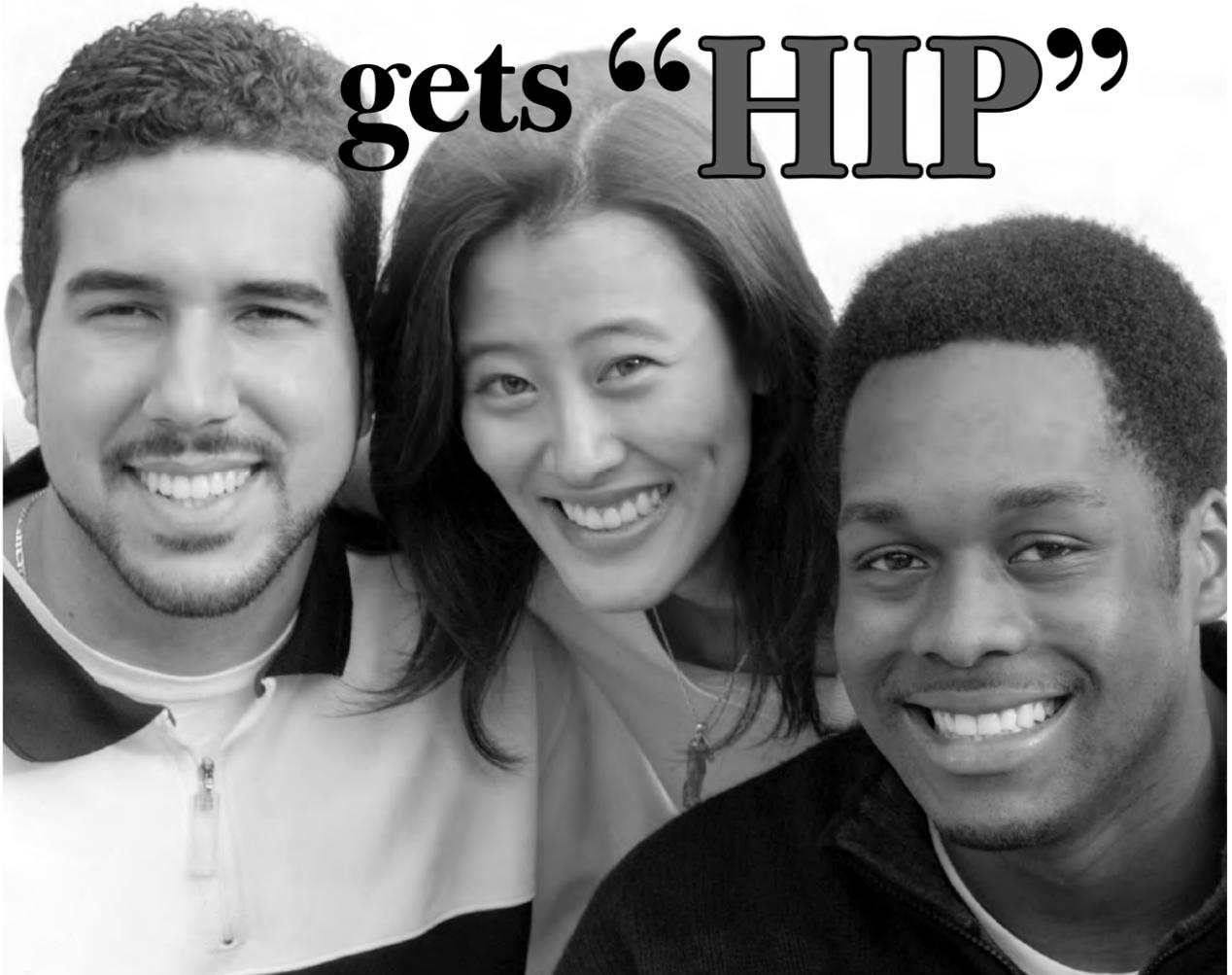
STRONG, Anne Elizabeth, 83, St. Luke the Evangelist, Indianapolis, April 5. Mother of Mary Cardwell, Joey Smith, Angel Wadman, Jenny Weller, Lisa West, Kari Wykes, Mark, Mike, Pat and Tim Strong. Sister of John Snyder.

UPHAUS, Howard, 75, St. Mary, Richmond, March 25. Husband of Evelyn Uphaus. Father of Cheri Dailey, Jennifer Grogan, Jeff, Paul and Steve Uphaus. Stepfather of Karen Walton, Terry and Timothy Kimble. Brother of Joy Holthouse, Ric and Tim Uphaus. Grandfather of 18. Great-grandfather of six.

WEISMILLER, Margaret Ann, 76, St. Lawrence, Lawrenceburg, April 3. Sister of Mary Lansing and Frank Weismiller. Aunt of several.

WOLTER, Robert J., 74, St. Mary, Greensburg, April 12. Husband of Marlene Wolter. Father of Dianne Shaw, Brian and Dale Wolter. Brother of Isabelle Schoettmer, Charles and Leo Wolter. Grandfather of six. Great-grandfather of six. †

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Positions Available

Music/Liturgy Director

Saint Joseph University Parish in Terre Haute, IN, an active parish of approximately 750 households and with a substantial campus ministry, invites applicants for the position of director of Music and Liturgy.

The successful applicant will be a person of strong faith; have a thorough understanding of Roman Catholic liturgy; and hold a Bachelor's degree in Music or Liturgical Music, or have comparable experience in liturgical music ministry. Compensation will be commensurate with education and experience.

Applicants responding by June 1st will be given preferential consideration though screening will continue until the position is filled. For a full description of the position expectations, duties and responsibilities; application requirements and additional information about the parish go to www.stjoeup.org.



Permanent Deacons
Archdiocese of Indianapolis
FIRST ORDINATION CLASS

Meet our future deacons

On June 28, history will be made at SS. Peter and Paul Cathedral in Indianapolis when 25 men from central and southern Indiana will become the first permanent deacons ordained for the

Archdiocese of Indianapolis.

This week's issue of *The Criterion* continues a series of profiles of these men that will run in the weeks leading up to that important day. †

Larry French



Age: **59**
Spouse: **Therese**
Home Parish: **St. Joseph Parish in Jennings County**
Occupation: **Retired U.S. Postal Service Letter Carrier; now working part time in sales**

Who are the important role models in your life of faith?

My first two role models were my Mom and Dad. Mom was [an] everyday moral and faith guide for my siblings and myself. My Dad had a great devotion to the Church, its priests and to the sisters who taught at St. Ambrose School. My wife, Terri, has been my guide of faith. Another role model of mine, Father Joseph Moriarty, has been a very dear friend and was the first one who saw "deacon" material in me. He has been a source of inspiration and faith for both Terri and me.

What are your favorite Scripture verses, prayers and devotions?

Psalm 100 is one reading that gets me excited about the coming day. I also enjoy Eph 4:29-32: "Never let evil talk pass your lips, say only the good things men need to hear." With that opening, it reminds us how to be positive when talking to someone, and how hurtful idle talk can be. The Memorare is a favorite of mine because it reminds me of the times I would go to my own mother, God rest her soul, to ask forgiveness or assistance. My patron saints are St. Lawrence and

St. Joseph.

Deacons often minister to others in the workplace. How have you experienced that already, and how do you anticipate doing that in the future?

I have had discussions on family matters, wives and girlfriends on the workplace floor. These men are not Catholic and they have no idea what a deacon is, but they know who Larry is. They know I have been taking classes, but that is about it. What they do know and understand is that I will listen to them, and I care about them and their families.

Why do you feel that God is calling you to become a deacon?

I feel that God has been calling me for a long time. I have been serving my parish community for many years. Year after year, I have become a little more active in parish life and service. My calling to become a deacon has been a blessing because I am allowed to serve my parish in an even greater capacity. There is a calling I feel deep inside me. I cannot explain it. It is an invitation I cannot refuse. I do not know what or where the deacon program will lead me, only to say that I feel that Jesus Christ is leading me. †

Age: **39**

Spouse: **Mary Ellen**
Home Parish: **Our Lady of the Greenwood Parish in Greenwood**
Occupation: **Attorney**

David Henn



Who are the important role models in your life of faith?

The first role models in my faith life were, and continue to be, my parents. I am blessed to have parents who devoted themselves to raising their family in a home filled with faith and love. The second role model in my faith life has been my wife, Mary Ellen. She truly is the spiritual center of our home, keeping me and our children grounded in our Catholic faith. The third role model in my faith life would be my pastor, Msgr. Mark Svarczkopf.

What are your favorite Scripture verses, prayers and devotions?

I have a particular devotion to St. Joseph—a devotion which has grown over the past several years. As our children get older and more involved with school and extracurricular activities, I feel a strong connection to St. Joseph, who was a husband, a father and a worker. I know that, in many ways, he has walked the road that I am on now, and I often find myself in conversational prayer, asking St. Joseph to intercede on my behalf, seeking the guidance and strength of the Holy Spirit to be a better father and husband.

Deacons often minister to others in the workplace. How have you experienced that, and how do you anticipate doing that in the future?

As an attorney, it is common to encounter people who are facing problems in their lives, their families or their work. People come to lawyers seeking legal solutions to their problems. As a deacon, it is my hope that with the grace of God I can also make present to those people the truth that Christ loves them and is present with them.

How will being ordained a deacon have an impact on your life and family?

Our children, Sydney and Collin, were 5 and 3 when we started this journey five years ago. They cannot recall a time when their Dad was not preparing to become a deacon, and they have grown up in a house dedicated to ministry. The children participate in our ministries, such as accompanying me when I take Communion to shut-in parishioners, and we have fun as a family doing these things. And the children share their experiences with their friends at school. Perhaps hearing Sydney and Collin talk about these things, especially about how much fun they have sharing this time with their Mom and Dad, will carry the ministry of deacons to a new generation. †

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Archbishop discusses maintaining peace in Burundi

NOTRE DAME, Ind. (CNS)—Archbishop Evariste Ngoyagoye of Bujumbura, Burundi, came to the Conference on the Future of Catholic Peace-building with a story of Catholic engagement that brought about peace in Burundi. He left with a renewed sense of the vigilance necessary to maintain peace and justice in his country.

"We weren't sufficiently vigilant during this period," Archbishop Ngoyagoye told Catholic News Service through an interpreter at an interview during the conference, where he

was reminded of a U.N. warning that up to half of the regions emerging from war return to war within five years.

The April 13-15 conference at the University of Notre Dame, aimed at articulating a Catholic theology and ethic of peace by bringing together academics and on-the-ground peace builders, will lead to revisions in the agendas at an upcoming bishops' conference meeting and diocesan synods, he said.

"It's very important that from beginning to end there be clarity of purpose," Archbishop Ngoyagoye said, noting that he will be careful to identify the audience, adapt the message to different levels of the population and engage a broad base in the synods.

He said he also will focus on relationships between truth and the history of violence, justice and forgiveness, and reforms in the judicial system as well as monitoring the effects of international debt relief for the country, making sure money goes to the people.

Burundi, which started working with the U.S. bishops' overseas aid agency Catholic Relief Services and the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops in 2004, hosted a Catholic Peacebuilding Network conference in 2006. †

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