Go with Jesus

Triathlete and mother of four runs to share her faith with others

By John Shaughnessy

Like most people who have dreams, Laura Phillips draws hope and strength from a favorite source of inspiration.

The message guides her as she tries to follow her goal of being the best mother possible to her four young children. It also inspired the 36-year-old woman as she completed a grueling endurance event last year—swimming 2.4 miles followed by cycling 112 miles then running 26.2 miles, the three parts of the Louisville Ironman Triathlon.

The words of inspiration also guide her in her latest dream—the “Go with Jesus” program she started at St. Simon the Apostle Parish in Indianapolis, a Saturday morning program that combines running with Scripture reading and faith reflection.

“There’s a passage in Hebrews 12:1-2 that I love,” she explains as she sits at her kitchen table. “It says, ‘Persevere in running the race that lies before us while keeping our eyes fixed on Jesus.’”

Phillips believes the passage serves her well as a parent, a runner and a Catholic who is always willing to share her faith with others.

“My brother-in-law calls me an evangelical Catholic,” she says with a laugh. “He says I’m always praising God and talking to people about it. He’s not used to hearing Catholics talk about their faith.”

Just try to stop Phillips from sharing her faith or finding different ways to spread her love of God.

“She has a lot of energy, a lot of love for life and a lot of love for her faith,” says Father Paul Etienne, the pastor of St. Simon.

See RUN, page 19

Pope expresses deep sadness over cyclone’s destruction in Myanmar

VATICAN CITY (CNS)—Pope Benedict XVI expressed deep sadness and “heartfelt sympathy” after hearing news of the “tragic aftermath” of Cyclone Nargis, which killed tens of thousands in Myanmar.

Newsgathering agency reports on May 6 that more than 22,000 people had been killed and 41,000 were missing after the cyclone’s heavy rains and winds of up to 120 mph swept over southern Myanmar on May 3. The cyclone damaged at least three major cities, including Yangon, the capital of Myanmar and its largest city.

In a telegram sent on behalf of the pope by the Vatican secretary of state, Cardinal Tarcisio Bertone, Pope Benedict said he was praying for the victims and their families, and called for “divine strength and comfort upon the homeless and all who are suffering.”

A copy of the telegram, addressed to Archbishop Paul Zinggthung of Mandalay, president of the Catholic Bishops’ Conference of Myanmar, was released by the Vatican on May 6.

The pope said he was “confident that the international community will respond with generous and effective relief to the needs of those affected by the cyclone.”

As of May 5, Catholic aid agencies were assessing the humanitarian situation in the country.

Carrista Internationalis, a confederation of 162 Catholic relief, development and social service organizations, said in a statement on May 5 that it was gathering information in Myanmar and was concerned about the humanitarian crisis.

“There is an urgent need” for aid workers to “get to the affected areas so that we can assess the damage, and start to provide food, shelter, clean water and medical assistance,” said Dolores Halpin-Bachmann, Caritas emergency response coordinator.

See CYCLONE, page 12
Meet our future deacons

Wayne Davis
Age: 63
Spouse: Chris
Home Parish: St. Michael Parish in Greenfield
Occupation: Retired Attorney

Marc Kellams
Age: 59
Spouse: Chris
Home Parish: St. Charles Borromeo Parish in Bloomington
Occupation: Judge

Why do you feel that God is calling you to become a deacon?
I first began to sense that I may have a call to the permanent diaconate when I started leading various small faith-sharing groups and communities, engaging in Bible studies and serving on Christ Renews His Parish teams. The sense of fulfillment that I experienced in ministering to others and in assisting them to encounter Christ and his Church caused me to think that God may be calling me to some formal ministerial role.

How will being ordained a deacon have an impact on your life and family?
I anticipate that it will open up new avenues for my wife and me as a couple. We have taught Bible studies together for several years, and I think we will be able to work together in many areas of my ministry of the word and charity in ways not previously available to us. We will celebrate our 40th wedding anniversary a few weeks after my ordination, and I believe that God may call us to share our sacramental married life with others who are preparing for or living out this sacrament.

Who are the important role models in your life of faith?
My father, Odie T. Davis, now deceased, was a Baptist minister who modeled for me the importance of charity and Christian leadership. I was also influenced by Father Albert Lauer, now deceased, who was a priest of the Archdiocese of Cincinnati and founder of Our Lady of Presentation Communities and Ministries—commonly known as Presentation Ministries, a canonical lay association. He was the publisher and author of One Bread, One Body, a daily devotional booklet on the readings for Mass.

What are your favorite Scripture verses, prayers and devotions?
My favorite Scripture verses include John 15:5: “I am the vine, you are the branches. Whoever remains in me and I in him will bear much fruit, because without me you can do nothing.” I also like James 2:17: “So also faith of itself, if it does not work, is dead.” My favorite prayers and devotions include the rosary, Chaplet of Divine Mercy, eucharistic adoration and the Prayer of St. Francis.

On June 8, 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, which will be published in the weeks leading up to that important day.
Corrections

Catechumens and candidates from Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish in Terre Haute are Cora Cheesman, Stella Cheesman, Keni May Dickens, Sara Kickens, Steven Johnson, Julie Jo Morlan, Kathy Shepard, Scott Shepard and Kenneth Slater (catechumens), and Toni Lynn Shepard, Scott Shepard and Kenneth Morlan, Kathy Shepard, James Kickens, Steven Johnson, Julie Jo Morlan, Kathy Shepard, Scott Shepard and Kenneth Slater (candidates). Several names were omitted from the archdiocesan list (candidates). Several names were omitted from the archdiocesan list.

Mortality statistics for breast cancer patients reported in a story about Dr. J. Matthew Sleeth’s environmental activism in the May 2 issue of The Criterion differed from information posted on various Web sites. Approximately 40,970 women were expected to die from breast cancer during 2006, according to BreastCancer.org, which also reported that every three minutes a woman in the U.S. is diagnosed with breast cancer—an increase of from one in 20 women in 1980 to one in eight women in 2007.

Archbishop Daniel M. Buechlein celebrates Mass on May 2 at St. John the Evangelist Church in downtown Indianapolis for members of the “Run for Vocations” team that participated in the One America 500 Festival Mini-Marathon on May 3.

After the Mass, members of the team loaded up on carbohydrates during a pre-race pasta supper hosted by the Serra Club of Indianapolis. Members of Bishop Chatard High School’s vocations promotion club SERV (Students Encouraging Religious Vocations) also volunteered at the Mass and supper. The team members all wore special blue and white shirts printed with the message “Vocation ... Everyone has one. What’s yours?” In a circle around this phrase on the back of the shirts was a list of vocations—See VOCATIONS, page 19.

The go... 

Our Lady of Fatima Retreat House invites you to join us as we Celebrate Our Future and welcome our new director

Fr. Jim Farrell Thursday evening June 5, 2008 6:30 pm

Our Lady of Fatima Retreat House

Appetizers served by Jug’s Catering Presentation led by Fr. Jim Farrell begins at 7:30 pm

For more information or to RSVP, please call Cheryl at the number below or send an email to cmcsweeney@archindy.org

Our Lady of Fatima Retreat House 5553 E. 56th Street Indianapolis, IN 46226 (317) 545-7681 www.archindy.org/fatima...
Faith & Precedent/
Douglas W. Kmiec

Hug Mom—in person or in your heart on May 11

It’s been three years now since we lost Mom, and while Mother’s Day prompts these memories, in truth my thoughts of Mom are with me—perhaps every day. One never knows exactly what to say to a friend who has suffered the loss of a loved one, especially aunts and uncles. But with my own experience I can honestly affirm that God fills the world when the mother dies with thousands of precious reminders of her presence in song and place and word.

My mom loved Mother’s Day, but then she had a child’s glee for any holiday, some of which I am convinced she just made up. Holidays replete with her wonderful dinners, board games, long walks and laughter restored the little community of the home.

You never really had to say anything for Mom to know everything. She knew my friends and disposition as I climbed the front steps. There was no hiding your feelings—happy or sad, worried or confident—because she noticed and knew what to say to lift any burden you carried to her door.

Mom wasn’t all talk either. She knew how to get things done, often in far more practical and direct ways than her son, although she would permit me to think that education she worked with me to obtain contributed more than it did. I’ve never remarked seeing my mother depressed or angry. Oh yes, there were those occasions, but I don’t remember them. God apparently doesn’t permit it. One suspects the Moms’ Union in heaven under the stewardship of dear mother Mary saw to it.

As the simple yet compelling message shared on the running shorts worn by Father Nagel’s team during the Mini-Marathon stated, “Vocation. … Everyone has one. What’s yours?”

For the hundreds who answered Father Nagel’s call, their vocation included praying for others. By simply offering their petitions, they have touched the lives of countless others.

When it comes to nurturing more vocations or any other challenge that we face in life, may we always remember what one team member said: “The power of prayer is immense.”

—Mike Krokos

OPINION

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Douglas W. Kmiec

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—Mike Krokos

A spirit worth emulating

They usually minister quietly, giving of themselves selflessly with little or no fanfare. It could be serving as a catechist, bringing Communion to the homebound, being a voice working for justice and equality in our community or serving as a good steward both locally and globally.

When it comes to voluntarism, visit any parish in the Archdiocese of Indianapolis and you will invariably find people who are stepping up to the plate and offering their hands and hearts daily to serve others.

This week’s front-page story on the annual Spirit of Service Awards Dinner, which raised $245,000 for Catholic Charities Indianapolis, justifiably puts several humble archdiocesan servant-leaders in the spotlight.

Though they deflect the praise they receive for sharing their gifts with others, each honoree reflects the words that the late Pope John Paul II once shared: “It is not enough to discover Christ—you must bring him to others!”

Bringing Jesus to others is indeed what these servant-leaders have done in their parishes and community for years. Sadly, the work never ends at Catholic Charities and its agencies throughout the archdiocese. In fact, the needs of the less fortunate continue to grow. If you are interested in learning more about volunteer opportunities in your area, visit Catholic Charities Web site at www.archindy.org/vocations.

We congratulate all the people recognized at the 2008 Spirit of Service Awards Dinner, and pray that others may follow their lead in putting their hands and hearts into action.

—Mike Krokos

Myths and facts about immigration

(EDITOR’S NOTE: This is the first in a seven-part series of unabridged, reform articles prepared by the Indiana Catholic Conference. Capsule forms have been prepared for use in parish bulletins. Diocesan newspapers throughout the state have agreed to publish the series in its longer form.)

Perceived myth: Immigrants take jobs and opportunities away from Americans. Known fact: The largest wave of immigration to the U.S. since early 1900s coincided with our lowest unemployment rate and fastest economic growth. Immigrant entrepreneurs also create jobs U.S. workers compete with.

While there has been a comprehensive study done of immigrant-owned businesses, there are countless examples: In Silicon Valley, companies started by Chinese and Indian immigrants generated more than $19.5 billion in sales and nearly 73,000 jobs in 2000. (Source: Immigration and Unemployment: New Evidence, Alexis de Tocqueville Institution)

Aren’t immigrants taking jobs from U.S. workers? Why do businesses hire them?

During the 1990s, half of all new workers were foreign-born, filling gaps left by native-born workers in both the high- and low-skill ends of the spectrum. Immigrants fill jobs in key sectors, start their own businesses and contribute to a thriving economy. The net benefit of immigration to the U.S. is nearly $10 billion annually.

As Alan Greenspan points out, 70 percent of immigrants arrive in prime working age. If Americans haven’t spent a penny on their education, yet they are transplanted into our workforce and will contribute $500 billion toward our Social Security system over the next 20 years.

The U.S. Department of Labor projects that by 2010, the U.S. will have created 22 million new jobs—9 million more jobs than new (native-born) workers entering the job market. This gap will grow even larger after 2010 as the “baby boomers” reach retirement age and leave the labor force.

Our immigration laws do not reflect this demographic and economic reality. Our immigration laws should be reconciled with the economic laws of supply and demand.

Immigration reform would address a range of problems—legalizing a workforce that is here to stay, providing more legal visas for workers to come in the future, and providing for the temporary employment of foreign workers who help American employers in sectors of the economy that require seasonal jobs.

—Mike Krokos

Photo by Chuck Cook, IndyStar
La celebración de la maternidad como una hermosa vocación

La celebración del Día de las Madres es una oportunidad para que sea el momento en el que a nuestras madres queridas, en vida y en el cielo, que tanto nos han amado y cuidado, se les dé a ellas su justo valor. Es un momento de realización de nuestro amor y nuestra gratitud hacia esta hermosa vocación que es la maternidad.

Celebrando la maternidad como una hermosa vocación

La observación de Mother’s Day es un día realmente especial, pero no para los comercios, sino para aquellos que tienen un verdadero amor y respeto por las madres. Es un día para recordar el sacrificio y el amor incondicional que las madres nos ofrecen desde la infancia hasta la adultez. Es un día para celebrar el impacto que tienen en nuestras vidas.

El Día de las Madres tiene un potencial para ser un día significativo y espiritual. Sin embargo, a menudo se convierte en un día de compras y regalos. Es importante recordar que el verdadero significado de este día es el de respeto y gratitud hacia las madres.

En el pasado, el Día de las Madres se celebra en todo el mundo. Sin embargo, en el caso de las madres solteras, el día puede ser más complicado. Muchas de estas madres se encuentran solas, sin apoyo y sin reconocimiento.

Hasta donde me conoce, nunca se me ha respondido de forma apropiada por su trabajo, pero siempre he sentido un gran respeto por su determinación y dedicación.

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May 9-10
Our Lady of Fatima Retreat House, 5535 E. 56th St., Indianapolis. “The Escape from Motherhood,” Benedictine Sister Paula Hagen, presenter, $75 per person. Information: 317-545-7681 or www.archindy.org/fatima

May 15
Our Lady of Peace Cemetery, Marion Chapel, 1200 Harrodest Road, Indianapolis. Monthly Mass, 2 p.m. Information: 317-574-8898 or www.catholiccemeteries.com.

May 16
St. Rita Parish, 1373 Dr. Andrew J. Brown Ave., Indianapolis. 11th annual “Sister to Sister Celebration,” 7-9 p.m. Information: 317-632-9349.

May 18

May 19
Our Lady of Fatima Retreat House, 5355 E. 56th St., Indianapolis. “Mother’s Day Mass and Brunch,” Mass, 10 a.m, breakfast, $15 per person, children 5 and under no charge. Information: 317-545-7681 or www.archindy.org/fatima.

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God blesses us when we lovingly care for our aging parents

By Mary Eileen Andreasen

Caring for our aging parents brings a big bundle of worries to our daily lives. It adds weight to our already heavy days. What if they fall? What did the doctor say? Should they be driving? Would they benefit from assisted living? Overnight, it seems that we became the caregivers, and they became dependent on us and on others. Somehow they slipped quietly from protecting us to needing our protection.

Beyond the time and energy that we expend on their daily care, we witness firsthand the frailty of the human condition in its terrifying weakness. It’s alarming because we realize that their situation will become our future, too.

Like all things, there is great blessing in sacrifice, and God is never to be outdone in generosity.

Situations such as these are God’s canvas. His artistry is apparent.

Stubborn old men can bless and embrace their sons. Warring siblings can be reunited and reconciled. Tender moments occur in daily life.

We can witness a beautiful strength in our parents as they teach us some final, profound lessons.

We realize that death can be peaceful and even healing. We finally grow up even as we anguish that we don’t have the time required to adequately care for our aging parents.

The frailty and dependence of our parents can reveal startling truths about us.

Am I generous enough? Can I serve them without resentment? Can I ignore old wounds? How much time and energy will this cost me?

When we ask these hard questions in prayer, God drenches us with his grace.

He reassures his people in the lifeboat beyond the grave.”

Are our elderly parents safe enough in their own homes? Where and how do they want to live their lives? How can we maximize their comfort and security? What are their health concerns? What are their medications? Who are their doctors? What home care agencies and living options are in the vicinity?

Not only do we need to know the facts, we also need to deeply understand the spiritual needs of our aging parents.

Do they have enough social interaction and prayerful companionship? When family members are not visiting them, is anyone around who can help them? Are they tormented by the demons of old age, frightened by loneliness and isolation? Do they feel that God still loves them?

Our culture is far too dismissive of the elderly, and not inclined to understand their deepest desires or their need simply to be valued by others.

Elders need unconditional love and respect for their wisdom, not indifference. They need to know that they have been surrounded by those they love.

Where is the faithful community that loves this person, whether it is family members, friends or parishioners?

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Elders need unconditional love and respect for their wisdom, not indifference. They need to know that they have been surrounded by those they love.

Lea, a political candidate from Arizona, fills in for me Tuesday and Wednesday mornings, and on some Saturdays. I can’t wait until I can do the grocery shopping or sit quietly from protecting us to needing our protection.

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George Eliot said, “I love not only to be loved, but to be told I am loved; the realm of silence is large enough beyond the grave.”

In the end, when death knocks, will those special loved ones be present for our elderly loved ones?

Our elders wonder. “When I die, who will care?”

Caring for aging parents isn’t just for children. It’s a responsibility for adults. We should not shrink from this cup, but instead drink deeply then surrender our lives and precious time, praying our way through the experience.

We can find God in our own frailty, not just in the limited capacity of our parents. If we take this experience to prayer, God will comfort us, saying, “I will not leave you orphans” (Jn 14:18). It’s never easy to see a parent decline or become ill. It is further disturbing to realize that because of genetics we might also suffer the same illnesses.

However, when we extend ourselves and bring out our old wounds, worries and exhaustion to prayer, blessings emerge in our daily life.

We will witness the strength and beauty of our parents. We will be blessed with moments of tenderness. We will awaken to how precious our parents are—just in time.

(Earl Eileen Andreasen has worked in health care ministry for many years. She is the coordinator for aging and disabilities ministry for the Archdiocese of Omaha, Neb.)

Discussion Point

Pray with elderly, help do chores

This Week’s Question

What are some ways that people can help a family where an aging parent lives with an adult child?

“The biggest help to me would be someone coming in and giving me time to do things I wanted to do, sometimes coming to say the rosary with me. There is support just in the presence of someone who loves you enough to love your parent, too.” (Diane Heyse, Kenmore, Wash.)

“In my culture in Mexico, older people always live with their family. Here you can help by taking the older person out or helping [the adult child] care for them if they are very sick.” (Gabriela Campos de Marcus, Tucson, Ariz.)

Notice what’s going on and offer to help, for example, [by] doing the grocery shopping or sitting with the older person for an evening just to take [the] pressure off.” (Jerry Joyce, Euclid, Ohio)

When caring for someone, there may not be time for the simple things that need to get done so you can offer to help with yard work, cook a meal or [to] clean the house. Even more important is to offer the caregiver a regular time that you could come and watch the elderly person, perhaps [for] two hours once a week.” (Mary Owens, Tampa, Fla.)

Lend Us Your Voice

An upcoming edition asks: What does eucharistic adoration mean to you?

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. © 2008 by Catholic News Service.
Faithful Lines/Shirley Vogler Meister

A tribute to all mothers—anytime and anywhere

As if Criterion readers don’t already know, this is Mother’s Day weekend! My “Faithful Lines” column is not only a tribute to mothers currently in our lives, but it is a reflection of the future and all mothers who have gone before us.

Recently, my sister and her husband shared with me a story about their first great-grandchild—a beautiful boy born in February. His smiles and the changes in his expressions made the pictures me made want to cuddle him, but that’s not possible since he lives in another state.

This naturally prompted me to recall the love and wonder and joy that I felt when I was pregnant then delivering and caring for our three daughters. I also was thrilled by the births of our two grandsons.

There have been times during those years when I might have been open to adopting additional children, and I have also contemplated the possibility of “mothering” foster children.

With all my heart, I compliment those married couples who have opened their hearts and homes to other people’s children under many different circumstances and from many different places. I have known single men and women who also do this well.

I also know women who have placed their babies for adoption, and I wrote the following poem as a tribute to the mothers who had done this in a book titled If I Had My Life to Live Over I Would Pick More Daughters.

**The Sacrifice**

A child is growing somewhere in this weary world, an innocent unaware of emotions shattered, a child whose life around mature hearts is curated, whose every wish now being mattered. Lovingly, she chose to yield birth at the throne, she bore with courage in her unwed pride. Clearly, she saw paternal lack of worth as parent or as spouse: poignant, raw.

Reality pressed close and she perceived how her hope was left to give her son, that good intent would not then be realized.

The sacrificial web was firmly spun. Adoptive keepers now assume his care and fill his time with love far removed from lineal love that even now still dares to grow—a selfless love already proved.

(Shirley Vogler Meister, a member of Christ the King Parish in Indianapolis, is a regular columnist for The Criterion.)
 Feast of Pentecost/ Msgr. Owen E. Campon

The Sunday Readings

Sunday, May 11, 2008

• Acts 2:1-11
• 1 Corinthians 12:36-7, 12-13
• John 20:19-23

Pentecost, the feast celebrated this weekend, is the greatest day of the Church’s year for Easter and Christmas. It is interesting in this sense. It is the only ancient Jewish feast still observed by the Church. In the beginning, Christians almost invariably were of Jewish heritage. However, quite early in Christian history, the Apostles took the Gospel far and wide. As a result of these missionary efforts, many people came into the Church who did not have Jewish backgrounds.

At that time, a series of political upheavals created great stress in traditional Judaism. All these developments meant that the attention that once would have been paid to Jewish feasts, just as the Lord observed these feasts, faded and eventually ended altogether. Pentecost is the lone exception.

For Jews, Pentecost celebrates the divine bringing together of them as a people. In this act of God, more than just ethnic or national unity was created. They were unified as a people in their mission to be true to God and to profess God before all the nations.

Christians see Pentecost as their holy day, recalling the moment when God the Holy Spirit vivified the Apostles. Receiving this act of God, more than just ethnic or national unity was created. They were unified as a people in their mission to be true to God and to profess God before all the nations.

For the second reading, the Church presents a passage from First Corinthians. Absolute faith in Christ as God and Savior is key. It also is vital. Without grace, humans are confused and liable to even a fatal mistake.

St. John’s Gospel is the source of the last reading, a Resurrection narrative.

The risen Lord appears before the Apostles. As God, possessing the Holy Spirit, Jesus grants the Apostles the power to forgive sins, which was extraordinary because only God can forgive sins.

Reflection

For weeks during this season, the Church has recapitulated the Resurrection. It has exalted explicitly that Jesus is Lord and that Jesus lives!

As this season has progressed, the Church, through the readings at Mass, has called us to realize what effect that the Resurrection has upon us and upon human history.

The salvation achieved by Christ on Calvary will never end. It is for all time and for all people. It will be accomplished through the Lord’s disciples in every consecutive age.

While true conversion requires a completely free and uncompromised individual decision, Christians have bound together in the Church because they share their identity with Christ and the grace of the Spirit.

Thus, they bear together the mission to bring God’s mercy and wisdom to the world. Christians, however zealous, cannot be ships passing each other silently in the night.

Rhetorically, Acts reveals, they are part of the community still gathered around the Apostles under the leadership of Peter, and still looking to the Apostles for guidance and direction.

The Church offers itself. It is the gathering of true believers, who rely upon the Apostles for their knowledge of the Savior. Through the Apostles, the community links itself to the Savior, to the Father and to the Spirit.

On this feast, the Church teaches a very contemporary lesson. In 2008, as 20 centuries ago, it is the Apostolic Church, the community created by God to bring divine mercy to weary and wandering humans. As was the case in Jerusalem so long ago, it loves all, serves all and speaks of hope to all. Quite visibly, it still gathers around the Apostles, with Peter at the center.†

My Journey to God

Signs of God’s Hands in Spring

Beneath an azure blue and washed cloudless sky is seen a canopy and carpet of verdant green vibrant in a crisp spring morning for all to see.

The signs of God’s hands are seen everywhere:

- birds resound their mating calls
- tree leaves are small and immature allowing sunlight to apply its life force to small plants push upward through winter matted soil
- The signs of God’s hands are seen everywhere only yesterday the ground was barren and frozen small animals emerge from winter habitats waterways begin to murmur and gurgle snow melt and winter rains provide a force

The signs of God’s hands are seen everywhere:

- marshes come alive with escalating activity
- beneath the water life forms are energized
- the fields are smiling and woods are alive with blossoms
- an aura of quiet peaceful roaring in the wood

The signs of God’s hands are seen everywhere in the spring rains that promise renewal and renewal

In the peacefulness of the spring woods as cloistered solitude with the insects between their chorus of song sound the bursting buds and flower heads turned to the face of God

Beneath an azure blue and washed cloudless sky a green sea of tranquility and perfect peace beckons to all who heed and listen attentively

By Thomas J. Rillo

Q

What is that? (Missouri)

† direct violation of the seal of confessional
- a bishop ordaining another bishop
- excommunicating another bishop
- and rejection of the Catholic faith through apostasy, heresy or schism

While our present laws on the matter are much simplified, this area of Church legislation remains quite complex because the Church wishes them to apply in only the most serious cases, and only when absolutely necessary for the common good of the Catholic faithful.

Many circumstances, such as the age of the individual and fear or ignorance concerning the sanction at the time of the action, affect whether or not an excommunication is actually occurred.

For example, no automatic excommuni
cation applies to individuals who are under age 16. (See Canons #97, #1323 and #1324.)

It is essential to note that invoking such severe punishments, whether in the New Testament itself or in Church law, is always intended to be the good of the community as well as for the direction and healing of the one who has sinned against that community.

Thus, no excommunication or interdict is permanent and irrevocable. It always includes the invitation to repentance and return, and holds out the promise of forgiveness from God and the community of the faithful, the Church.

In the Apostles’ Creed, we say that Jesus descended into hell. Why would be, a perfect person, go to hell even for a short time? (Illinois)

That word in English does not mean the hell of the damned. From the old Teutonic word “hela”, it is a Latin (or Greek or Hebrew) word which means the “lower regions” where ancients believed that people would go after death without implication of reward or punishment.

Use of the word in the creed may be unilingual, but it has not been traditional for so long that it will hardly be changed now.

(A free brochure in English or Spanish, answering questions that Catholics ask about baptism practices and sponsors, is available by sending a stamped, self-addressed envelope to Father John Dietzen, Box 3135, Peoria, IL 61612. Questions may be sent to Father Dietzen at the same address or by e-mail in care of jjdietzen@aol.com)
Meeting the Challenge at the Crossroads: NCEA Indy 2008

May 2008

Dear Partners in NCEA Indy 2008:

“Crossroads: Where Challenge Meets Opportunity” was the theme when approximately 7,000 Catholic educators met in Indianapolis March 25-28 for the 105th annual Convention of the National Catholic Educational Association and the National Association of Parish Catechetical Directors Convocation. It was the first time the Archdiocese of Indianapolis hosted this important gathering and by all accounts our guests had a wonderful experience.

Many thanks to the hundreds of you (students, parents, educators, clergy, musicians, catechetical leaders, corporate sponsors and others too numerous to mention) who all helped make NCEA Indy 2008 successful. Archbishop Daniel M. Buechlein and all of us in the Office of Catholic Education are most grateful and realize that it is your work that generated the positive responses from participants.

I specifically want to recognize our local committees including the executive team and the management team for NCEA Indy 2008, along with their many subcommittees. Through their work and with the generous support of our corporate sponsors we were able to host receptions at the Indianapolis Motor Speedway, the Indianapolis Museum of Art, a party for teachers, and the very successful Sacred Sounds Concert featuring the musical gifts of our students. These local organizers also created the welcoming environment for our participants and planned inspiring liturgies that helped remind us of our mission to spread the Gospel.

The Criterion staff worked with us to publish a great convention supplement with wonderful stories about our schools and parishes and we are grateful for them in assisting us in that endeavor. The supplement, provided to all convention participants through the benevolence of RCL/Benziger, may be accessed at www.archindy.org/ncea/, where you can also find follow-up stories and pictures from the event.

The Indianapolis Convention and Visitors Association staff was also generous in donating their time and expertise, as were the Catholic colleges of the Midwest. Through these partnerships, the archdiocese was able to host a wonderful convention and lay the foundation for further relationships that will benefit our students and schools.

Convention visitors attend the annual NCEA/NPCD event for spiritual and educational development. I believe our own St. Theodora Guérin, a foundress of Catholic education and faith formation in Indiana, would be proud that we made this opportunity possible for thousands to continue this tradition here in her mission territory.

May God bless all of you for your contributions to the success of NCEA Indy 2008!

Annette “Mickey” Lentz
Executive Director,
Catholic Education and Faith Formation
Archdiocese of Indianapolis
Meeting the Challenge at the Crossroads: NCEA Indy 2008
CCF president exhorts Bishop Chatard seniors to give back

By Sean Gallagher

With less than a month before they graduate from high school, the seniors of Bishop Chatard High School in the Indianapolis North Deanery got some advice to last a lifetime from Jim Schellinger, president of the board of trustees of the archdiocese’s Catholic Community Foundation.

Schellinger, a Democratic gubernatorial candidate and member of Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish in Indianapolis, exhorted his young listeners on April 30 to realize how special they are, remain true to their values, and remember to give back to their Church and the broader community.

Since most of the seniors at Bishop Chatard will likely go to and graduate from college, Schellinger emphasized how special they are by telling them that, on average, only 1 percent of the world’s population gets to do that.

“Now, if you don’t think you’re special, think about those statistics,” he said.

Schellinger also said that the legacy we leave when we die in large part comes about through remaining true to our values.

“One hundred years from now, [there will be] all new people,” he said. “None of us will probably be here to talk about it. So make sure that you leave your mark, and you leave the world better than when you found it.”

He told the Chatard seniors that they leave their mark on the world by being good stewards and by giving back to others.

Schellinger explained that the importance of giving back to the community was instilled in him by his parents. He said it’s so important to him now that he sees his gubernatorial campaign as “an extension of giving back.”

He said the importance of stewardship really hit home for him when, as a young adult, he became a member of Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish and the pastor gave him envelopes to put in the Sunday collection.

“But it’s more than just giving money back,” said Schellinger. “It’s about giving time and giving your talent because you have so much to give back. … Be sure that you understand the importance of giving back because when you give back, guys, it will come full circle back to you so many times and as so many blessings in other ways.”

Chatard senior Suzy Nasser, a member of St. Thomas Aquinas Parish in Indianapolis, said she was glad that Schellinger took time to speak to her and her classmates, who are part of an age group that she said sometimes doesn’t pay much attention to current events.

“Everybody is too busy watching MTV and VH1 at the age of 18,” Suzy said. “No one turns on the news. [So] it’s kind of cool that he came in during our school hours to [talk] to us.”

Vatican official challenges colleges to be ‘unambiguously Catholic’

PLYMOUTH TOWNSHIP, Mich. (CNS)—You can’t have a college or university that “happens to be” Catholic; the institution’s Catholic identity ought to unmistakably permeate every discipline, and its graduates ought to be willing to stand up for the Church.

This was part of the message delivered by Cardinal Francis Arinze, who spoke at a fundraising dinner on April 16 for the SS. Peter & Paul Educational Foundation. The Nigerian cardinal is the head of the Vatican’s Congregation for Divine Worship and the Sacraments, and former president of the Pontifical Council for Interreligious Dialogue.

During his speech at the Inn at St. John’s banquet center in Plymouth Township, he outlined what the Catholic faith community ought to expect of their institutions of higher learning.

“No only should it be a community of scholars and students, representing different branches of human knowledge,” Cardinal Arinze told the gathering of about 200 people, “but at the same time, it should be an academic institution in which Catholicism is vitally present and operative.”

For more than 127 years, St. Vincent Health has been serving as a voice for the voiceless. With 17 ministries serving 45 counties we have an opportunity to amplify the voices of those most in need. This includes the more than 561,000 Hoosiers who are living without health insurance. Of this group, approximately 62% are working-age adults with incomes at or below 200% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL).

Throughout Cover the Uninsured Week 2008 — April 27 - May 3 — St. Vincent Health will be addressing this issue by serving as official enrollment centers for Indiana Governor Mitch Daniels’ Healthy Indiana Plan (HIP). HIP is designed to offer basic health coverage to qualified Hoosiers who do not have access to employer-sponsored health insurance.

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Friendship with Christ: The goal of evangelization

By John Valenti

The Church’s vision for evangelization was summarized well by Pope Paul VI: “The task of evangelizing all people constitutes an essential mission and our deepest identity; the Church exists in order to evangelize.” (“On Evangelization in the Modern World”)

Evangelization is the incorporation of new members into the Church and ongoing faith formation. It is an entrance into a friendship with Christ which humanizes mankind and the world.

According to a recent survey released by the Pew Forum on Religion & Public Life, Catholics account for nearly one-quarter of U.S. adults. Nevertheless, former Catholics outnumber Catholic converts by roughly four to one, and approximately one in 10 adults are former Catholics. Overall, one-third of those who were raised Catholic have left the Church.

Some speculate that Catholics have left the Church because of poor religious instruction. That is one explanation. But if our adult Catholics suffer from religious illiteracy, another question is: “Why should anyone be interested in religion or anything else which does not effectively communicate the positive aspects of participation?”

Bishop Robert Vasa of the Diocese of Baker, Ore., stated, “Without an evangelized heart, without falling in love with Christ—which is really what it means to be evangelized—the practice of the faith redounds to duty and obligation. There is only a slim possibility of persevering in the practice of a faith that is viewed primarily or exclusively this way.”

Auxiliary Bishop Salvatore Cordileone of the Diocese of San Diego echoed the sentiments: “The need for better catechesis and ongoing adult formation is widely recognized. To keep our people in the Church, their Catholic identity must result from deep love for and cultural connection with their faith tradition. If they don’t, and if they are unhooked from this deep-seated Catholic identity, then it is not surprising if they go elsewhere to find it.”

Some helpful questions we might ask of ourselves and our parishes are:

- Is lifelong adult faith formation at the core of your planning and resources?
- Are catechetical efforts placed within the context of evangelizing the baptized?
- Are programs centered on conversion to Christ and our Catholic faith?
- Does your parish promote evangelization efforts through renewal programs and hospitality?
- Does the parish reach out to inactive Catholics and newcomers of various ethnicities?
- Do you encourage training and leadership development for the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults and other adult faith coordinators?

The work of evangelization and adult faith formation is never done. Both require a lifelong process of ongoing faith development. We also need Catholics to evangelize and animate our Catholic faith. The challenge is to make adult faith formation and evangelization a priority.

(A John Valenti is the associate director for evangelization and catechesis for the archdiocese’s Office of Catholic Education.)

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Tyler James, a Special Religious Education participant at St. Simon the Apostle Parish in Indianapolis, holds his baptismal candle as Father Daniel Staublin, pastor of St. Malachy Parish in Brownsburg, watches with Tyler’s parents, Dr. Nettie Viera and Richard James, during the archdiocesan SPRED Mass on April 27 at St. Mark the Evangelist Church in Indianapolis.

“A direct line to God”

By Mary Ann Wyand

Ten-year-old Tyler James was excited about his baptism during the archdiocesan Special Religious Education program Mass on April 27 at St. Mark the Evangelist Church in Indianapolis.

Tyler participates in the SPRED Group at St. Simon the Apostle Parish in Indianapolis, and his parents, Dr. Nettie Viera and Richard James, were hopeful that he would understand the meaning of the sacrament.

Smiling, Tyler asked questions as Father Daniel Staublin guided him through the rite of baptism. He was curious about the baptismal font, held very still when the holy water was poured on his head, joyfully accepted the lit candle that represents the light of Christ, and said “thank you” to the priest.

His parents were overjoyed that their son, who has developmental disabilities, was able to be received into the Church.

As pastor of St. Malachy Parish in Brownsburg, Father Staublin enjoys participating in the archdiocesan SPRED ministry of faith sharing and symbolic catechesis, which prepares people with special needs to receive the sacraments of baptism, reconciliation and the Eucharist.

During his homily at the SPRED Mass, Father Staublin reminded everyone that Jesus will always be with us.

“No matter where we wander, Jesus is always in the crowd, always with us,” Father Staublin said. “He sent his Spirit to be with us. So every time we might feel like we’re a little lost or a little alone or we’re not sure where we are, all we have to do is look through the eyes of faith and that Spirit of God will show itself, usually in other people. Maybe it’s our Mom or Dad or brothers or sisters or the people we live with. God is always there, and it is that Spirit that we receive in baptism, … that Spirit and presence of God that is always with us. So we don’t have to be afraid. We don’t have to be alone.”

Father George Plaster, pastor of St. Mark Parish, ministered to people with developmental disabilities at the former St. Vincent New Hope in Indianapolis for 10 years and celebrated Mass there weekly when he served as a hospital chaplain.

He said the SPRED Mass “brings back memories” because he got to see some old friends who used to live at New Hope.

“Our [SPRED] friends have such a deep faith. They are so honest and open and trusting. They know that God loves them. They will tell you that God loves you.”

—Roni Wyld

Adult faith formation programs helps Catholics evangelize

By John Shaughnessy

Lynn Hansen remembers how desperate the woman was, how she longed to embrace a faith that could make a difference in her life.

As Hansen listened to the woman share her story and her struggles, the director of religious education at St. John the Apostle Parish in Bloomington saw the connection to her own search for faith—and how Catholics led Hansen to the Church and to the feeling that she had “finally made it home.”

For Hansen, born into a Presbyterian family, there was a defining moment from her childhood when her mother was struggling for her life in a Catholic hospital.

“I was too young to go to my mom’s room so I had to stay in the waiting room with my younger brother,” she recalls.

“There was a statue of St. Francis in the waiting room. This [religious] sister came over and asked me if I was OK. She asked if I knew who that statue was. She told me that St. Francis is watching over me and

See ADULT, page 15

During an adult faith formation event on April 24 at St. Bartholomew Parish in Columbus, Kathy Davis-Shanks, right, a pastoral associate at the parish, speaks with, from left, Greg Andrews, who was received into the full communion of the Church at the parish at the Easter Vigil; Isabel Hernandez, a member of the parish; and her husband, Enrique Hernandez, who was also received into the full communion of the Church at the parish at the Easter Vigil.
Speaking and Listening

✝ After renewing your faith or learning more about it, be willing to speak about it when faith matters come up in conversations with friends, relatives or co-workers.
✝ When appropriate, tell others a story about how your faith in Christ has made a real and positive difference in your life.
✝ “Always be ready to give an explanation to anyone who asks you for a reason for your hope, but do it with gentleness and reverence” (1 Pt 3:15).
✝ Listen attentively and compassionately to co-workers who talk with you about personal or family problems. If appropriate, offer to pray for them and/or with them.
✝ If a friend, relative or co-worker tells you about something good that has happened in his or her life, say with simplicity and with a smile on your face, ‘Thanks be to God’ or ‘Praise God.’

Prayer

✝ Pray every day that God will inspire all members of the Church to proclaim the Gospel in their thoughts, words and deeds wherever they live and work.
✝ Pray for courage, wisdom and opportunities to evangelize.
✝ Pray in public when you are eating at a restaurant. Don’t be shy to let people see you make the Sign of the Cross.
✝ Pray with your children or grandchildren.
✝ Pray for priests, deacons, religious and the lay faithful proclaiming the Gospel in “the missions,” i.e., in lands where the Church does not yet exist.

Study and Renewal

✝ Read the Bible every day.
✝ Read the U.S. Catechism for Adults. Better yet, start a study group at your parish.
✝ Learn more about your faith through programs at your parish, books, the Internet and Catholic radio or television.
✝ Renew your faith by getting involved in Cursillo, going on a retreat or experiencing a Christ Renews His Parish weekend in your faith community.
✝ Build up a home library of Catholic pamphlets, books, recordings, videos and DVDs, and share them with people who could benefit from them.

Everyday Life

✝ Ask God to help you accept your daily crosses willingly and with a smile. Approaching our ordinary annoyances in this way may very well make others turn their heads, raise their eyebrows and ask you why you’re different.
✝ Make your home for those who you welcome there a faith-filled place by displaying religious objects (crucifixes, pictures of the saints, etc.) in prominent locations.
✝ Show sincere care for another person.
✝ Be a bearer of Good News.
✝ Do your best, with the grace that God provides, in your vocation and in your career.

Works of Charity

✝ Support missionaries with financial contributions.
✝ Help a neighbor in need by bringing them meals when they are sick or are bringing home a new baby and help them with yard work or shoveling sidewalks and driveways.
✝ Volunteer at a soup kitchen, homeless shelter, crisis pregnancy center or local chapter of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul.
✝ Visit the sick or help with a jail ministry, “for I was … ill and you cared for me, a prisoner and you visited me” (Mt 25:36).
✝ “Your light must shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your heavenly Father” (Mt 5:16).
he'll always watch over me.”

Father Plaster said of the liturgy attended by about 170 SPRED friends, family members, catechists and guests, “The people’s faith is very sincere,” he said. “It’s really an honor to be able to host such a special liturgy. I believe those who are called to this ministry [as volunteer catechists] must receive many graces and blessings so they’re able to help people who are in need of special religious education.”

St. Mark parishioner Mike Risch, who has Down syndrome, enjoys participating in SPRED liturgies, retreats, faith-sharing groups and social activities. He helped with the Mass as a hospitality minister. “He made me cry,” Risch said, to welcome people to his parish and watch as Tyler was baptized in the Catholic faith. “It looks to me, as a small, gold crucifix, to be pinned on his tie. Risch said, ‘I like to wear it for Jesus.’

Twelve parishes in central and southern Indiana host SPRED Groups. St. Paul Parish in Tell City has offered this ministry for 30 years. St. Malachi Parish in Brownstown and St. Pius X Parish in Indianapolis began SPRED Groups 10 years ago. St. Louis Parish in Bainbridge, St. Thomas More Parish in Mooresville and the Richmond Catholic Community also host SPRED Groups.

In Indianapolis, people with developmental disabilities may also participate in SPRED at St. Andrews the Apostle, St. Monica, Holy Spirit, St. Luke the Evangelist, St. Mark the Evangelist and St. Simon the Apostle parishes.

Roni Wyld, coordinator of the 10-year-old SPRED ministry for the archdiocesan Office of Catholic Education, said the program provides faith sharing, symbolic catechesis and sacramental preparation for children from age 6 and adults.

“People with developmental disabilities have all different levels of abilities,” Wyld explained. “We celebrate our friends’ abilities… We pair them with [volunteer] companions and use symbolic catechesis. We start with symbols from everyday life and proceed from that. We meet with our friends at the parishes twice a month through the school year. We have a reading from the Gospels, share a faith message with every person and use motions with songs.

During liturgies, she said, “we slow the Mass down a little bit so it’s easier for people to stay with us.” Wyld said she sees the presence of the Holy Spirit in this beautiful, inclusive ministry for the multifaceted body of Christ.

“Our [SPRED] friends have such a deep faith,” she said. “They are so honest and open and trusting. They know that God loves them. They will tell you that God loves you. They will tell you that they love you. They bring you into their world of purity and holiness. It’s like a direct line to God.”

Some of the participants enjoy sharing their faith, Wyld said, and know how to evangelize others. They invite their friends with developmental disabilities to SPRED Group activities, and many of their guests later join the Church.

Wyld hopes more parishes will begin SPRED Groups to serve people of all ages with special religious education needs.

“We all have disabilities,” she said. “Some of us just wear them on the outside. Some of us have them on the inside. This is the family of God. This is the body of Christ. Every single person has a gift to share. It doesn’t matter about their ability or disability.”

St. Pius X parishioners Joe and Jan Stetzel of Indianapolis are grateful that their 36-year-old daughter, Jenny, is able to participate in the SPRED ministry.

“I think children with special needs are so close to God anyway,” Jan Stetzel said, “but helping them understand and appreciate their faith is so important.”

(For information about the archdiocesan SPRED program, call Roni Wyld at 317-235-1448 or 800-382-8383, ext. 1448.)
All Catholics are called to evangelize in their everyday lives

By Leslie Lynch
Special to The Criterion

Evangelization
The word, all by itself, provokes anxiety in many Catholics. We may conjure up images of going forth in pairs to knock on doors or hand out religious tracts on street corners. If this is our frame of reference, it is no surprise that many Catholics do not feel an urge to “evangelize.”

But we are called to evangelize. Jesus tells us to go forth and make disciples of all nations (Mt 28:19). So what is evangelization, and how are we to accomplish it?

Coming to terms
According to the American Heritage Dictionary, to evangelize means to spread the Gospel. Note that responsibility for conversion is not assigned to the evangelizer. But the expectation of action of some sort is. The evangelizer is simply the worker who labors to fulfill Christ’s mission.

The good news, especially for those of us who are shy or introverted, is that the Catholic Church does not require us to be the worker who labors to fulfill Christ’s mission.

The Church provides open arms, room for questions and searching, and a place of solace and comfort for those in pain. The “soapbox” approach to evangelization is not required of us. We are not required to hand out religious tracts on street corners, knock on doors or knock on doors or {(Leslie Lynch is a member of St. Mary Parish in Lanesville.)}

In this file photo, Holy Trinity parishioner Barbara Pierse of Edinburgh helps Lilia Perez improve her English language skills during a class at the parish in 2004. A key part of evangelization is seeing the presence of God in others and acting in a loving way toward them.

In any case, the Holy Spirit does the work. The person involved is the only one who can accept or reject the challenge of conversion. Keep in mind that the conversion sought by God in any given situation may well be our own! Jesus challenges us to step out of our comfort zone. At times, this requires courage and sacrifice, but mostly it requires fidelity to God. Evangelization is at the core of the two great commandments of our faith—to love God with all our heart, soul and might, and to love our neighbor as ourselves. How and when, then, can we not share the Gospel?

Evangelization is simply another word for love—love in action.

(Thomas Lynch is a member of St. Mary Parish in Lanesville.)

For More Information Contact: Sr. Nicolette Eileen, OSB 1445 Southern Avenue Beach Grove, Indiana 46107 317.787.3267 ext. 3032 nicolette@benedictines.com Visit our Website www.benedictines.com

Sisters of St. Benedict Come and See Vocation Retreat Weekend June 20-22, 2008 Our Lady of the Greenwood parishers Brittany and Ariel Doucette and their year-old daughter, Anastasia, of Indianapolis enjoy family time in their home in 2005. Often, we can share the Gospel most effectively with those people, such as friends and relatives, that God has placed in our lives.

[This retreat is designed for single, Catholic women between the ages of 18-40]

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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 ofarchdiocesan priests serving our archdiocese are listed elsewhere in The Criterion. Order priests and religious sisters and brothers are included here, unless they are native to the Archdiocese of Indianapolis or have other connections to it; those are separate obituaries on this page.


BUCHER, John Jr., 93, St. Michael the Archangel, Indianapolis, April 19. Husband of Ruth Bucher. Father of Barbara Iwema and Bob Bruce. Great-grandfather of eight.†


CLARK, Vindal W., 42, St. Martin of Tours, Martinsville, April 23. Brother of Lisa Brown, Linda Daffron and John Clark.


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Positions Available

Director of Capital Development
Bishop Chatard High School, the North Deenery Catholic high school of the Archdiocese of Indianapolis, is seeking a Director of Capital Development to coordinate and implement the school’s capital, annual and endowment fundraising initiatives.

Interested applicants are invited to e-mail or send a letter of interest and resume to:
Elberta Cato, Bishop Chatard High School
5885 Crittenden Ave.
Indianapolis, IN 46220.
E-mail: ecato@bishopchatard.org
Phone: (317) 525-1541 Ext. 2259

Deadline for submission is May 16, 2008.

Payroll Specialist

The Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Indianapolis is seeking a full-time payroll specialist to work in a fast-paced, multi-tasked environment. Significant knowledge of payroll, excellent data entry skills (speed and accuracy), and customer service skills are essential. Please send cover letter, résumé, and list of references to:
Ed Isakson, Director-Human Resources
eisakson@archindy.org

Positions Available

Athletic Assistant Position
Bishop Chatard High School

Bishop Chatard High School, the North Deenery Catholic high school of the Archdiocese of Indianapolis, is accepting applications for the position of Athletic Assistant in the school’s Athletic Department. This position advances the mission of the school through clerical and administrative support to the school’s interscholastic athletic programs. The ideal candidate should have office administrative experience; an undergraduate bachelor’s degree; be strong and comfortable in a diverse multi-task environment; and have the ability to positively interact with our array of students, parents, colleagues and general public.

Interested candidates should submit letter, résumé, and 3 references to:
Mike Ford
Director of Athletics
Bishop Chatard HS
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Indianapolis, IN 46220

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Parish. “She came to me a couple of months ago wanting to give people an opportunity to run and to read Scripture together before they run so they would have that faith-sharing atmosphere. I always want to have the Word of God on their mind as they run. I thought that was a pretty unique idea.”

That’s the essence of her “Go with Jesus” program, a program that combines Bible reflection, a prayer and then a walk or a run.

“It’s my way of bringing the St. Simon community together physically and spiritually,” she says. “It’s taken me two years to get the guts to do it. It’s been good so far. Each week, we seem to add two people.”

“I had a really good friend whose grandma always used to say ‘Go with Jesus’ when you left her house. In my mind, I don’t think this is going to be about walking or running. It can be about any dream you have, and how you can go with Jesus with anything in your life.

The program started after the birth of her fourth child, Kate, three years ago. At first, she wanted to do it to get her body back in shape. Then she wanted to do it as a way to share her faith.

“Then she wanted to do it as a way to share her faith.”

The family has several mementos of Laura “Iron-Mom” Phillips’ triathlon accomplishment.

Laura Phillips rides her bicycle during the 2007 Louisville Ironman Triathlon.

“First, she wanted to do it to get her body back in shape. It’s been good to be healthy together physically and spiritually,” she says. “It’s taken me two years to get up the guts to do it. It’s been good so far.”

She competed in the triathlon, she was cheered by her four children: Jack; 9; Sam; 7; Will; 5; and Kate. 3. They rang cow bells for her and yelled, “Go, Mom, go.”

“l know that you’ve been called to do something. And you know that Jesus will pull you through.”

She finished the competition in 14 hours and nine minutes, far ahead of her goal of 15 hours. As usual, there was a higher purpose that drove her to succeed, too.

One of the reasons she competed in the triathlon was to raise money for an Indianapolis-area non-profit organization called Creating Hope. The organization was started by a wife and mother who was diagnosed with cancer. While in the hospital for treatments, the woman used her love of watercolor painting to help her cope while she was separated from her husband and children.

The woman eventually died, but the effort continues to help cancer patients by providing them with creative outlets.

“She was about my age when she died.” Phillips says. “It’s such a small foundation, but it really does touch people.

That sense of caring marks her approach to life, says her husband, Chris Phillips.

“She’s inspirational because she leads by example,” Chris says. “She’s just a true spiritual leader. For Laura, it’s not about her, it’s about helping others. Our family motto is ‘respect.’ Laura obviously passes that along to our children.”

Her children have also received her joy for life. As she competed in the triathlon, she was cheered by her four children: Jack; 9; Sam; 7; Will; 5; and Kate. 3. They rang cow bells for her and yelled, “Go, Mom, go.”

“My kids are learning from me. They can do anything they dream, they can accomplish with hard work,” she says. “I hope they have learned to dream without fear and to know that anything is possible. There are so many people who have dreams of doing something. God will hold you up to do what you want to do.”

For her, that includes being the best mother she can be, starting with sharing her faith with her children.

“I want to do one thing for my faith so they know that any time they call for help from their mom or God, they’re going to get that help,” she says. “My husband and I are both involved in our faith community. We want our kids to see that we are blessed, and we can help to bless the lives of others.”

She has found another way to share that belief at St. Simon Parish.

“Besides the ‘Go with Jesus’ program, she also helps with the ‘Healthy Kids’ physical activity program at the school. About 50 students have joined the program.”

“I really do feel I’m a normal person who has been blessed,” she says. “I hope I can pull more people along for the ride with me. That’s part of going with Jesus. Where are we going with him? Well, wherever he sends us.”

The latitude is 39° 52’ 15” N, and the longitude is 86° 30’ 55” W.

Laura Phillips

Submitted photos

Associate Director of the Pastoral Office for Education & Youth Catechesis

The Pastoral Office for Education and Youth Catechesis has a position opening for an Associate Director of the Pastoral Office for Education & Youth Catechesis. Areas of responsibility include curriculum and instruction, assessment, professional development, communication, and supervision of the superintendent/director when necessary. Qualifications include: commitment to the mission of Catholic education, advanced degree in education administration, excellent writing and oral communication and highly effective interpersonal and public relations skills.

The position requires a letter of application and resume by June 1, 2008 to:

Mr. Joe Hurr
Pastoral Office for Education & Youth Catechesis
2300 South Ninth Street
Lafayette, IN 47909-2400
or e-mail

mwilliams@dioceseoflafayette.org

YOUTH MINISTER

Precious Blood Parish in Dayton, Ohio seeking a full-time Youth Minister to join our dynamic youth ministry team. This person is responsible for the development and coordination of comprehensive ministry program that maximizes the growth of youth in grades 7-12. The Youth Minister seeks to incorporate the youth into full participation in our faith community so they find in their parish a welcoming place of prayer, growth, learning and play. Candidate must be an active Catholic parishioner in good standing who has demonstrated strengths in the following areas: accountability, communication, decision making, innovation, initiative, leadership and teamwork. Minimum qualifications would include a baccalaureate degree in pastoral ministry, religious studies, theology, religious education, or another related field.

Certification in Youth Ministry or a comparable pastoral program and/or experience in youth ministry is a plus. A strong candidate would demonstrate an outstanding commitment to faith formation, both personal and professional. Salary will be competitive with education and experience and includes a health care, life insurance, and retirement package. Please send a letter of application with resume to: Submitted photos

Mr. Joe Hurr
Precious Blood Parish
4961 Medical Center Pkwy 
Dayton, OH 45416 or

jhurr@preciousbloodchurch.org

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The Criterion Friday, May 9, 2008

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beginning, but we cannot see the end."

Castroneves, who was the keynote speaker at the annual Spirit of Service Awards Dinner on April 30 in Indianapolis, said hearing those words was comforting.

What was just as important in Castroneves’ faith journey was having an audience with Pope John Paul II at the Vatican in 2004.

“That to me was the most important moment of my life, to be in such an incredible presence, in a room with such incredible energy, with a vibe, it was like a movie,” he said.

When he got the chance to personally meet the Holy Father, Castroneves said he went blank.

“I kissed his ring and said, ‘I’m honored to be here,’” he said.

And he blessed me. For that moment, … to have my family—my mom, my sister, my dad—it was just so special,” he said.

Though Castroneves has gained fame in recent years, he still makes giving back to the community a priority.

Castroneves noted, including giving your time, which is what the race car driver decided to do.

Now a resident of Miami, Castroneves and his sister, Kati, decided three years ago to volunteer at the Miami Rescue Mission.

“They needed someone to listen and to talk,” Castroneves said, “to laugh, and to take care of them.”

The rewards of volunteering there, he said, were “priceless.”

“At the end of the day … when I say goodbye to those kids, to see their smiles on their face, that was priceless,” he said.

“Instead of just giving my time, I was receiving something that is very hard to get these days, that is true love.

“They loved me because I was there, just spending time and listening to them.”

After that experience, Castroneves decided to join the YMCA in Miami to “help not just the kids, but everybody who needs a little bit of love.”

Love was at the heart of the annual Spirit of Service Awards Dinner on April 30 in Indianapolis, including Saint Mary-of-the-Woods College, Marian College, the Sisters of Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Indianapolis, including Saint Mary-of-the-Woods College, Marian College, the Sisters of Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Holy Angels Parish in Indianapolis, they have participated in numerous volunteer activities, including serving as extraordinary ministers of holy Communion, running errands for shut-ins and visiting parish families grieving after the death of a loved one.

Constance Merkel was saluted for living the Gospel through her faith and pro-active leadership at St. Barnabas Parish in Indianapolis. In response to the 1985 U.S. bishops’ pastoral Economic Justice for All, she started a social action committee at the parish, which continues to provide a blueprint for making a difference locally and globally. Her leadership is reflected in a variety of parish outreach projects.

A member of St. Lawrence Parish in Indianapolis, Doris S. Parker was recognized for her pioneering spirit and dedication to eliminating poverty, fighting racism and creating opportunities for people who weren’t always given the dignity they deserve as children of God. She has served on the boards of directors of the Indianapolis Urban League, Community Action Against Poverty, the National Campaign for Human Development and the Central Indiana Council on Aging.

A special Community Service Award was given to the Hulman-George Family. For more than six generations, the Hulman-George family has served the community through charitable giving to Catholic organizations, universities and hospitals that benefit citizens of both Terre Haute and Indianapolis, including Saint Mary-of-the-Woods College, Marian College, the Sisters of Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Gibault Home for Boys and St. Elizabeth/Coleman Pregnancy and Adoption Services.

The Corporate Leadership Award was given to the Shiel Sexton Company Inc. Since its beginning in 1962, the company has helped build and develop many schools. It often provides “in-kind” donations for construction services as a way of helping schools and organizations. In 2007, Shiel Sexton donated $200,000 to Providence Cristo Rey High School in Indianapolis. The company also sponsors four students at Providence Cristo Rey through its corporate work-study program.

A sense of humility was evident in the award winners, who each made a videotaped acceptance speech that was shown to the audience as they received their awards. Msgr. Joseph F. Schaedel, vicar general, saluted the award winners. He also encouraged those in attendance to continue showing compassion to the most vulnerable members of society.

“Never forget the people that you serve by your participation and your support of this event,” he said. “They are forever grateful.”

Catholic Charities Indianapolis helped more than 27,000 people through its 11 programs last year, said David Behrumar, executive director of Catholic Charities Indianapolis, and the numbers grow every day.

“We served families who couldn’t afford a place to live, families and individuals who needed emergency assistance—food or help paying their rent or utilities,” Behrumar said.

“We provided young people with a safe learning environment after school and during the summer. We helped families with relationship problems, and people caught in cycles of homelessness and also abuse.”

It is when we uplift individuals and rally the community to minimize the hurdles that we are most focused on the core attempt of our work, Behrumar said.

“To carry out our mission, many hands are needed. It is through our continued support of Catholic Charities Indianapolis … that we are able to address the serious needs of the poor and the hurting in our midst.”

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