During Indiana visit, papal nuncio reflects on the Church in the Holy Land

Archbishop Pietro Sambi, apostolic nuncio to the United States, talks with Catholic News Service in Washington in late February about the upcoming visit of Pope Benedict XVI. Archbishop Sambi visited Indianapolis earlier this month for a fundraising dinner sponsored by the Franciscan Foundation for the Holy Land to support a home for boys in Bethlehem.

(Edited’s note: This is the first of a two-part interview with Archbishop Pietro Sambi, apostolic nuncio to the United States. Archbishop Sambi visited Indianapolis in early May. Because of space constraints, some of Archbishop Sambi’s responses had to be edited.)

By Sean Gallagher

Archbishop Pietro Sambi, who as apostolic nuncio to the United States is Pope Benedict XVI’s ambassador to America and the Holy See’s liaison to the Church in this country, visited Indianapolis on May 3.

The archbishop’s primary reason for coming to Indiana was to participate in a fundraising dinner sponsored by the Franciscan Foundation for the Holy Land to support a home for boys in Bethlehem.

The residents are students at a nearby Franciscan-run school. They come from families where they have experienced physical abuse or where their parents are substance abusers or suffer from alcoholism.

Archbishop Sambi has a particular interest in the Church in the Holy Land because he served on the staff of the Holy See’s nunciature there in the early 1970s, and later as nuncio to Israel and Palestine from 1998 to 2005.

In addition to serving in the Holy Land and the United States, Archbishop Sambi, in his nearly 40 years of ministry as a Vatican diplomat, has been assigned to Indonesia, Burundi, Cameroon, Cuba, Algeria, Nicaragua, Belgium and India.

Prior to the fundraising dinner, the globe-trotting archbishop, born in northern Italy, sat down for an interview with The Criterion.

Q: Having served as the Holy See’s ambassador to Israel and Palestine for several years, how do you judge from your experience the importance of the work of the Franciscan Foundation for the Holy Land in supporting the Church there?

A: The work of the Franciscans is extremely precious. During my 12 years in the Holy Land, I could measure the preciousness of the presence and the work of the Franciscans.

Being animated by the spirit of St. Francis of Assisi, they are there as an instrument of peace. They repeat every day the prayer of St. Francis, “Make me an instrument of peace. Where there is hatred, make me put love.”

But they are also the supporter of the Christian community. The biggest

Never lose hope for peace

Chinese priests work around disruptions to assess quake damage, deaths

CHENGDU, China (CNS)—Chinese priests had to work around disrupted telephone systems and damaged roads as they tried to assess the damage from the May 12 earthquake centered under Sichuan province that killed more than 12,000 people.

Responding to appeals for aid and prayers on Catholic Web sites, Catholics across China have begun donating money and clothes to help survivors, the priests told the Asian Church news agency UCA News.

The magnitude 7.9 earthquake, which hit just after midday on May 12, had its epicenter beneath Wenchuan County in Sichuan province. Wenchuan is less than 60 miles northwest of Chengdu, the provincial capital.

By May 13, government officials reported that more than 12,000 people had been killed in the quake, but the death toll was expected to rise. Officials said in one city alone more than 19,000 people were buried in the rubble.

Father Simon Li Zhigang, administrator of the Chengdu Diocese, told UCA News on May 13 that he could not reach by phone the priests serving in Wenchuan and Beichuan. About 100 Catholics live in Wenchuan and several hundred more live in Beichuan, he said.

In the Nanchong Diocese, about 150 miles from the epicenter, Sister Wang Yan told UCA News the activities room added to their church building shook for seven minutes and almost everything fell to the floor.

“I thought it was the end of the world,” she recalled.

The night after the quake, dozens of laypeople stayed inside a wooden church in Nanchong because they feared sleeping in their damaged brick houses, she said.

In the neighboring Chongqing Diocese, Father Xie Bangyong told UCA News that fissures appeared in some old churches after the quake, but all priests and nuns in the city were safe.

Chongqing priests divided into groups to see if parishioners were safe.

Hundreds gather at national basilica to dedicate St. Theodora statue

WASHINGTON—More than 500 pilgrims traded umbrellas for sunglasses on May 10 as the heavily overcast sky gave way to warm afternoon sun that shined brightly on the blessing and dedication of the statue of St. Theodora Guérin in Mary’s Garden at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D.C.

The blessing, which occurred outside in the garden where the Indiana limestone statue now stands, followed a Mass at the basilica’s Crypt Church.

Archbishop Pietro Sambi, apostolic nuncio to the United States, presided over the eucharistic liturgy witnessed by an overflow, standing-room-only crowd.

Special to The Criterion

See SAINT, page 3
The Baccalaureate Mass will be on May 21 at 7 p.m. at St. Philip Neri Church in Indianapolis. The graduation ceremony will be on May 23 at 7 p.m. at Scecina’s gymnasium. The class valedictorian is Shane Pferle, the daughter of Chris and Barbara Pferle of Our Lady of Lourdes Parish in Indianapolis. The class salutatorian is John Okerson, the son of James and Maureen Okerson of Holy Spirit Parish in Indianapolis. The archdiocese will be represented at the graduation by Msgr. Schaedel and Lentz.

Odonbarg Academy in Odon has a graduating class of 53 seniors. The Senior Mass will be on May 16 at 1:30 p.m. at the Chapel of the Immaculate Conception at Oldenburg. The archdiocese will be represented by G. Joseph Peters, associate executive director of Catholic education.

The graduation ceremony will be on June 1 at 1 p.m. at the chapel. Our Lady of Providence Jr./Sr. High School in Clarksville has a graduating class of 125 seniors. The Baccalaureate Mass will be on May 18 at 2 p.m. at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church in New Albany. The graduation ceremony will be on May 24 at 10 a.m. at the Larkin Center Gymnasium at the school. The class valedictorian is Leah Ersntberger, the daughter of Mindy and Jerry Ernstberger of Holy Family Parish in New Albany. The class salutatorian is Brandon Roberson, the son of Brian and Velvet Roberson of Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish in New Albany. The archdiocese will be represented by Lentz.

Roncalli High School in Indianapolis has a graduating class of 274 seniors. The Baccalaureate Mass will be on May 30 at 6 p.m. at Our Lady of the Greenwood Church in Greenwood. The graduation ceremony will be on May 31 at 10 a.m. at the high school. The class valedictorian is Kelsey Dayton, the daughter of Philip and Nanette Dunn of SS. Francis and Clare of Assisi Parish in Greenwood. The archdiocese will be represented at the graduation by Msgr. Schaedel and Ronald Costello, superintendent of Catholic schools.

Seton Catholic Jr./Sr. High School in Richmond has a graduating class of four seniors. The Baccalaureate Mass will be on May 29 at 7 p.m. at St. Andrew Church in Richmond. The graduation ceremony will be on May 30 at 7 p.m. at Holy Family Church in Richmond. The class valedictorian is Mallory Strohmier, the daughter of Jeff and Laura Strohmier of New Parish, Ohio. The class salutatorian is Wendell Smith, the son of Wendell Smith of St. Andrew Parish in Richmond. The archdiocese will be represented at the graduation by Lentz.

Wanted: Your nominations for annual Catholic Schools Values Awards

Many recipients from past Celebrating Catholic Values programs tell archdiocesan officials that they consider their career achievement award as the greatest honor of their lives. They cherish the award because it represents the values that they espouse every day as a result of their education in Catholic schools.

Each year, Catholic education officials ask the public to nominate one or more Catholic school graduates for a career achievement award who exemplify the values of a Catholic education.

Archdiocesan school leaders are looking for individuals whose ethics, leadership, service and achievements are significant to their community. Nominees can include men, women, clergy and religious. Current Catholic school students and employees are not eligible. Nomination forms are available on the Office of Catholic Education’s Web site at www.archindy.org/ccsv. Search under “forms of Interest/Forms” or click on “CCSV.”

Judges ask that you provide as much information as possible about your nominee. Also, nominees should not be bound by what you are telling us; they are being evaluated. Incomplete forms cannot be considered. All nominations will be kept confidential.

Please return nomination forms by May 30.

(For more information, call G. Joseph Peters, associate executive director of the Office of Catholic Education, at 317-236-1437 or 800-382-9836, ext. 1437, or e-mail petersg@archindy.org)

Moving?
We’ll be there waiting if you give us two weeks’ advance notice!

Name ___________________________
New Address _______________________
City _____________________________
State/Zip _______________________
New Parish _______________________
Effective Date ____________________

Note: If you are receiving duplicate copies please send both labels.

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The Celebrating Catholic School Values: Scholarship and Career Achievement Awards program, which will be held on Nov. 5 at the Indiana Convention Center in Indianapolis. The keynote speaker at this year’s event will be Dr. Kevin Casey, the president of the University of Notre Dame.

Each year, Catholic education officials in the archdiocese hold events each year to showcase its Catholic education in Catholic schools and learning resources. The archdiocese will be represented at the graduation by Msgr. Schaedel and Lentz.

The class salutatorian is Denise McGonigal of St. Pius X Parish in Madison has a graduating class of 16 seniors. The graduation ceremony will be on May 24 at 10 a.m. at the Larkin Center Gymnasium at the school. The class valedictorian is Kristen Lentz.

For more information, contact G. Joseph Peters, associate executive director of the Office of Catholic Education, by phone at 317-236-1437 or 800-382-9836, ext. 1437, or e-mail petersg@archindy.org.

The graduation ceremony will be on June 1 at 2 p.m. at the gymnasium. The class valedictorian is Darren Lainhart, the son of Donald and Kim Lainhart of St. Mary Parish in North Vernon. The class salutatorian is Sydney Davis, the daughter of Roxann Davis of Hanover. The archdiocese will be represented at the graduation by Lentz.

Father Thomas Scecina Memorial High School in Indianapolis has a graduating class of 68 seniors. The Baccalaureate Mass will be on May 18 at 1:30 p.m. at the Chapel of the Immaculate Conception at Oldenburg. The archdiocese will be represented by G. Joseph Peters, associate executive director of Catholic education.

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School officials are already planning for the Celebrating Catholic School Values: Scholarship and Career Achievement Awards program, which will be held on Nov. 5 at the Indiana Convention Center in Indianapolis. The keynote speaker at this year’s event will be Catholic author Mary Higgins Clark.

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Legends and legacies

CYO honors dedicated volunteers for service

By Mary Ann Wyand


Seven Catholic Youth Organization volunteers honored with St. John Bosco Awards on May 8 for their longtime service to children and teenagers as coaches at archdiocesan parishes clearly enjoy talking about the many intangible benefits of serving others.

CYO coaches receive much more than they give to others, the Bosco Award recipients agreed, and they have priceless memories to prove it.

The five men and two women were thrilled to accept the coveted Bosco Award presented by Msgr. Joseph F. Schaeidl, vicar general, during the CYO Volunteer Awards Ceremony at the basilica Oct. 15.

Even more exciting, the honorees said during interviews, are the countless opportunities to help children and teenagers learn life’s fundamentals and have fun with new friends in the process.

“It’s not about winning or losing, they said, but about creating opportunities for personal growth through achievements that affirm each CYO participant. Edward J. Tind, CYO executive director, noted during the program that the archdiocesan youth organization was founded nearly 70 years ago.

Thanks to dedicated volunteers, Tind said, CYO is able to reach 20,000 boys and girls who annually participate in one or more of the 14 sports offered as well as the science and music contests.

“Each year we have probably 2,500 volunteers in various CYO programs,” Tind said. “These seven [Bosco Award recipients] have given many hours of their lives helping young people and influence their lives in the Catholic traditions.”

In doing so, he said, these distinguished volunteers joined the many other Bosco Award recipients from the past six decades who have left amazing legacies by sharing their time and talents with young people.

St. Matthew parishioner John Sahm of Indianapolis has coached CYO football and basketball teams for 17 years and served as the parish football coordinator.

It’s a legacy learned from his father, William Sahm, the legendary CYO director from 1954 until his death in 1973.

“St. John Bosco is a big part of our family life,” Sahm recalled. “I’m the eighth of nine children. My brothers and sisters have been involved, and it’s a kind of paying tribute to him in terms of being a volunteer. I think he would expect it.”

Life lessons learned through CYO sports help young people gain confidence, he said, and prepare them for the many challenges of adult life.

“I think more than anything [coaching] means being a teacher and mentor,” Sahm said, “and also setting a strong Christian example for the kids.”

St. Joan of Arc parishioner Dr. Charles Hasbrook of Indianapolis keeps busy with his CYO basketball practice, but can’t imagine not coaching CYO basketball, volleyball, track and cross country for 23 years, organizing basketball skills clinics or providing free physicals for children and teenagers so they can play CYO sports.

Sponsors should also be recognized with Bosco Awards, Hasbrook said, because CYO volunteer service is a commitment that adds to the busyness of family life.

Coaches and doctors share the same goal, he said, to help people get better.

“I love watching a [new] team come together,” Hasbrook said. “Obviously, it’s hard to learn the system and play as a team. It’s fun to watch that happen. The CYO rules on playing time are very important. Everybody gets to play. CYO understands what sports can give people in life. The life lessons are really important.”

Our Lady of Lourdes parishioner Colleen Kenney of Indianapolis has played kickball since the fourth grade and coached kickball for 23 years.

“Kickball is a wonderful tradition at Our Lady of Lourdes Parish,” Kenney said. “I enjoy coaching kickball because it’s a sport that everyone can participate in and feel good about themselves.”

Coaching CYO teams involves “camaraderie and opportunities to share your faith,” she said, “and teaching the kids life lessons about getting along with people and that winning is not always important. It’s about having fun.”

St. Pius X parishioner Rob Doyle of Indianapolis is a busy attorney who learned the value of coaching CYO sports from his late father, Jack Doyle.

Doyle said he teaches them that “true leadership is about service, and you will be a leader of people if you serve them in many different ways.”

He has coached CYO teams for 17 years and believes that coaching is mostly about “being a symbol of Christ to the kids.”

St. Luke the Evangelist parishioner Dan Wagner of Indianapolis has coached CYO girls’ basketball teams for 17 years and enjoys working with fourth-graders as well as teenagers.

See CYO, page 15

A larger than life-size statue of St. Theodore Guérin, the foundress of the Sisters of Providence of Saint Mary-of-the-Woods, stands in Mary’s Garden outside the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington.

Declaration of Independence, constantly are built on the theme of Divine Providence. War was [St. Theodora] a woman of intuition? Was she reading a sign of the times? Did she see, as Archbishop Sambi was saying, a new Pentecost? I believe so,” Father Coughlin said.

St. Theodora was canonized by Pope Benedict XVI on Oct. 15, 2006, at St. Peter’s Square in Rome. †
“This is a big one!” said Ken Hackett, president of Catholic Relief Services, describing the current world food crisis.

Hackett told me that several dangerous elements have merged to create “the perfect storm that’s causing a silent tsunami.”

While increasing oil prices are hurting all of us at the gas pump, more importantly, they are driving up fertilizer and transportation costs, making food production and shipment far more expensive. Hackett explained.

As Chinese and Indian economies continue to grow, many people are eating more meat. But raising animals for people to eat is a very inefficient way to feed human beings. Grain goes much further—when people eat grain instead of feeding them to animals that will be slaughtered.

Furthermore, there is much less food on the global market because Australia, normally a large grain exporter, is experiencing drought conditions, and other countries are actually banning food exports, Hackett said.

In addition, he said that new speculators and venture capitalists are doing their share to increase food prices.

And then there is biofuel. Hackett said that ethanol fuels made from corn have lowered the amount of this grain available for human consumption, contributing to increased grain prices. Cellulosic ethanol, made from nonedible plants like switch grass, would be a far better option.

According to Catholic Relief Services, the price of wheat has doubled in less than a year, while corn, maize, and soy are trading at well above their 2008 levels. Rice—the staple food for about 3 billion people worldwide—has tripled in cost in the last 18 months.

United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon said that without full funding for emergency requirements, “We risk again the specter of widespread hunger, maltreatment and social unrest on an unprecedented scale.”

His statement reflects Pope Benedict XVI’s recent address at the U.N. in which he said, “Victims of poverty and desperation and whose human dignity is violated implore us to find easy prey for the call to violence.”

This current food crisis has created tens of millions of new hungry human beings, said CRS’s president. And it will continue to worsen unless we act now!

Catholic Relief Services is asking every American Catholic to quickly e-mail or write him or her a U.S. representative and urge them to:

1. (Add at least $500 million and hopefully as much as $900 million to the 2008 Supplemental Appropriations for Title II Food for Peace emergency programs.

2. Provide an additional $100 million in the Supplemental Appropriations bill to replenish the Bill Emerson Humanitarian Trust fund reserve so that this essential fund will have adequate resources to respond to future hunger emergencies.

3. Provide additional funding to the Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance to pay seeds for poor farmers to ensure that they will have crops to harvest in the coming season.

4. Provide an estimated $52 million to the 2009 Agriculture Appropriations bill for Title II Food for Peace programs. Adequate funding should help prevent a similar food crisis next year.

5. Establish a “safe-box” fund—solely dedicated for agriculture and related development—to address chronic hunger.

Also, please help CRS reach more hungry people by making a generous donation to Catholic Relief Services, P.O. Box 17090, Baltimore, MD 21203-7090.

Making a Difference/Tony Magliano

A global food emergency

Myths and facts about immigration

(Editors’ Note: This is the second in a seven-part series of immigration reform articles prepared by the Indianapolis 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 don’t pay taxes.

Known fact: Immigrants pay taxes in the form of income, property, sales and other taxes at the federal and state level.

As far as income tax payments go, sources vary in their accounts, but a range estimates that the economic benefits of immigrants who are not in a position to reaps the biggest windfall from taxes paid by their average immigrant pays nearly $410 billion to the federal, state and local taxes.

Undocumented immigrants pay income taxes as well, as evidenced by the Social Security Administration’s “suspect file” (taxes that cannot be matched to workers’ names and Social Security numbers), which grew by $20 billion between 1990 and 1998 (Source: www.immigrationonline.org/articles/tax_study.htm).

How do immigrants pay taxes?

Immigrants pay taxes in a number of ways, including income and sales tax. The majority of undocumented immigrants pay income taxes using Individual Taxpayer Identification Numbers (ITINs) or false Social Security numbers. Studies show that immigrants contribute more in taxes and Social Security payments than they consume in public resources.

The most authoritative study conducted by the National Research Council found that the foreign-born population pays nearly $1,380 per year more than he or she uses in services, such as education and health care.

In addition, the Social Security system reap the largest windfall from taxes paid by immigrants. The Social Security Administration reports that it holds approximately $240 billion in the earnings of immigrants who are not in a position to claim benefits (Testimony by Social Security Administration before the Senate, March 2004).

In addition to state income taxes, all immigrants, including undocumented immigrants, pay the same sales taxes and property taxes—whether they own homes or taxes are passed through to rents—as everyone else. The majority of state and local costs of schooling and other services are funded by these taxes.

The National Research Council also estimates that the economic benefits of immigration run as high as $10 billion a year. Immigrants contribute to the economy by working in jobs and performing services vital to our way of life, and contribute to the common good through their service and their taxes.

Most Rev. Daniel M. Buechlein, O.S.B., Publisher
Greg A. Otulski, Associate Publisher
Mike Krokois, Editor
John Fink, Editor Emeritus
ARCHIBISHOP/ARZOBISPO DANIEL M. BUECHLEIN, O.S.B.

SEEKING THE FACE OF THE LORD

BÚSCANDO CARA DEL SEÑOR

The Criterion is an instrument of evangelization for all

Esta es la columna número 800 que he escrito consecutivamente para The Criterion desde que me convertí en arzobispo en 1992.

Mis artículos son de aproximadamente 800 palabras. Si multiplicamos 800 por 800, obtendremos muchas palabras. Por supuesto, no hay mérito en la cantidad de palabras en sí.

Mi intención es proporcionar palabras de instrucción práctica sobre las enseñanzas de la Iglesia, palabras de fe y de esperanza, y en algunas ocasiones, palabras polémicas. Intento ofrecer palabras de inspiración que nos alimenten en nuestras vidas cotidianas de fe.

Deseo hacer mi parte para respaldar el principio fundamental de nuestra publicación semanal, The Criterion, a saber, como instrumento de evangelización. Mi intención es enseñar la fe del Evangelio junto con los demás artículos publicados semanalmente.

Si se toma en cuenta la finalidad de publicar un semanario católico, resulta fácil comprender por qué exijo que tratemos de hacer llegar el The Criterion a cada hogar dentro de nuestra iglesia local.

Entiendo que algunas personas manifestarán con fuerza su desacuerdo con el The Criterion de nuestra parroquia. Es su derecho expresar su desacuerdo, pero es mi responsabilidad enseñar la fe como obispo. Como obispo, he prometido y comprometido con la tarea de registrar, interpretar, explicar y difundir la fe que hemos recibido. Es una tarea maravillosa que aprecio y disfrutamos. Para mí, es un instrumento que nos permite comunicar la palabra de Dios.

Por mi, el artículo semanal es como una conversación sobre las cosas importantes de la vida, nuestra fe y nuestra Iglesia. Recibió la inspiración para escribir un artículo semanal del Papa Juan Pablo II, cuando, desde el día de mi ordenación, me alentó a que hiciera énfasis en mi papel como obispo. La segunda inspiración provino directamente de mi mamá. Años atrás, recurrió a comenzar cuánto le gustaba la columna del Obispo Henry Grimmelsman en el periódico diocesano de Evansville.

El medio impreso quizás no sea tan popular hoy en día como lo era antes de los grandes avances en la tecnología de la comunicación. Pero los pensamientos impresos ofrecen una mejor oportunidad para la reflexión personal. Los asuntos de fe se toman en registros tangibles con un poco más de permanencia que las presentaciones orales. Por supuesto, todos los medios de comunicación son importantes.

The Criterion no es un instrumento común en el sentido de que cumple con una finalidad única, es decir, la evangelización. Es una fuente dedicada fundamentalmente a proporcionar información relevante a la Iglesia Católica. La tarea que he comprometido en cada capítulo es proporcionar información que se incluye en ese propósito, el personal de la editorial de nuestro periódico toma decisiones en lo que es apropiado.

Por ejemplo, como principio, The Criterion no publicará enseñanzas contrarias a la doctrina de la Iglesia en cuanto a la fe y a la moral. Ni tampoco publicaremos materiales que sean desleales al Sumo Pontífice ni a la Santa Sede. Asimismo, no conocemos al segmento de información pertinentes a la Iglesia. Sin embargo, podemos publicar información que apreciamos y disfrutamos.

La víspera de las elecciones nacionales representa una época difícil para los periódicos religiosos. No es de sorprender que la gente desee leer noticias publicitarias favorables para el candidato político que aprecian. Como principio, The Criterion no publicará materiales que sean desleales a la Iglesia Católica.

El arzobispo Buechlein, del periódico The Criterion, no apoya ningún partido político en particular, ni sus candidatos. Esto se toma comprensión ya que de alguna manera la Iglesia tiene una profunda preocupación sobre las cuestiones morales y espirituales que son esenciales en la vida de la sociedad.

Los líderes de la Iglesia tienen la obligación y por lo tanto el derecho, de hablar sobre estas cuestiones. Hacerlo de modo tal que no sea perjudicial, es todo un desafío. Hacemos lo mejor que podemos para evitar el partidismo, aún cuando preferiríamos hacer algo distinto.

Inevitablemente, algunos candidatos requieren censura. Ya sea que se considere justo o no, las acciones del obispo Buechlein Católica respecto al grado de objetividad se examinan cuidadosamente por funcionarios federales, quizás incluso más que otras entidades.

Quisiera aprovechar esta oportunidad para extender mi agradecimiento al personal de The Criterion por ejercer su responsabilidad profesional y religiosa con admirable prudencia. La producción de nuestra publicación semanal supone un gran trabajo y los plazos de entrega imponen gran presión. Nuestro equipo siempre cumple con los plazos y lo hace con un número limitado de ayudantes.

Sé que muchos de ustedes aprecian el The Criterion porque me lo dicen. Gracias por su apoyo.

Le ruego que encuentre un lugar en sus oraciones por este aspecto de nuestro apostolado.

Do you have an intention for Archbishop Buechlein’s prayer list? You may mail it to him at:

Arzobispo Buechlein’s Archdiocese of Indianapolis 1400 N. Meridian St. P.O. Box 1410 Indianapolis, IN 46202-1410

...¿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 Ganaui, Language Training Center, Indianapolis.

La intención de vocaciones del Arzobispo Buechlein para mayo

Seminarios: Que ellos sean fieles a la oración y estudios, y continúen en su deseo de servir a Dios y la Iglesia como sacerdotes!
May 16-18
St. Joseph Parish, 125 E. 38th St., Indianapolis. Day of Reflection, May 19
Our Lady of Fatima Retreat House, 5353 E. 56th St., Indianapolis. Day of Reflection, May 19
Information: 317-236-1596 or 800-561-9836, ext. 1596.

May 18
Father Keith Hosey, presenter, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. at 382-9836, ext. 1596. Mittelschmerz retreat, May 19
Our Lady of Fatima Retreat House, 5353 E. 56th St., Indianapolis. Day of Reflection, May 19
Information: 317-236-1596 or 800-561-9836, ext. 1596.

May 19
St. Rita Parish, 1733 Dr. Andrew J. Brown Ave., Indianapolis. Days of Reflection, May 20
St. Rita Parish, 1733 Dr. Andrew J. Brown Ave., Indianapolis. Days of Reflection, May 20
Information: 317-788-7581 or e-mail parish@svsbedford.org

May 20
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St. Bernadette Parish in Indianapolis, will celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary on May 22. The couple was married on May 22, 1948, at St. Therese of the Infant Jesus (Little Flower) Church in Indianapolis.
They have nine children: Jean Adams, Kathleen Brackman, Marie Gunter, Colleen Simon, Judith Schiwer, Therese Warren, Aletha and Timothy Lenahan, and the late Mark Lenahan. They have 19 grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

VIPs
James Robert and Mary Susan (Reiter) Lenahan, native of St. Bernadette Parish in Indianapolis, will celebrate their 60th wedding anniversary on May 22.

David and Carrie (Smith) Kemp Jr., members of St. Monica Parish in Indianapolis, will celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary on May 17 by attending the 5:30 p.m. Mass at St. Monica Church then receiving guests at the Emmus Center from 7 p.m. until 9 p.m.
The couple was married on May 17, 1958, at Holy Angels Church in Indianapolis. They have three children: David Kemp III, †
Paul and Shirley (Eckstein) Miller, members of Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ Parish in Indianapolis, will celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary during the May 17 Mass on May 17 by attending the 5:30 Mass and offering a reception for family members and friends at the Loretto Church of the Holy Cross.
The couple was married on May 17, 1958, by St. Meinrad Archabbey, 100 Hill Drive, St. Meinrad, and the late Joanne Schaub. The couple has 12 children and 24 grandchildren. †
Pope stumbles briefly during Pentecost Mass at St. Peter’s Basilica

VATICAN CITY (CNS)—Pope Benedict XVI stumbled briefly during a Pentecost Mass at the Vatican, but rose to his feet and went on with the 90-minute liturgy. After censing the altar at the beginning of the Mass in St. Peter’s Basilica on May 11, the pope appeared to trip over the small platform that holds his chair directly in front of the altar. He went down on both knees and leaned against the chair. Aides quickly helped him up, and the pontiff appeared unshaken.

The Vatican spokesman, Jesuit Father Federico Lombardi, said afterward that the stumble was “a small incident of no consequence.” He noted that there was no reaction of alarm among the thousands of people present in the basilica.

“Anyone with an ounce of understanding could see that there was no reason for concern,” he said.

The pope, 81, has looked alert and nimble during his events at the Vatican in his first three years in office. Later in the day, addressing pilgrims from his apartment window, the pope smiled about a technical glitch that kept his microphone from working. When it finally came on, he told the waiting crowd: “Finally, we have a voice.”

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 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.

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

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

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

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Archbishop Pietro Sambi speaks at fundraising dinner in Indianapolis

By Sean Gallagher

Archbishop Pietro Sambi was in Indianapolis earlier this month to participate in a fundraising dinner sponsored by the Franciscan Foundation for the Holy Land (FFHL) in support of the Franciscan Boys Home in Bethlehem.

More than 230 people attended the May 3 dinner, which was held at the Meridian Hills Country Club in Indianapolis.

Archbishop Sambi, who is a special adviser to the national board of the FFHL, supports the foundation’s work, in part, because he spent more than seven years in the Holy Land while serving as the Holy See’s apostolic nuncio to Israel and apostolic delegate to Jerusalem and Palestine.

He has served at the apostolic nuncio to the United States since 2005.

A large majority of the people who attended the function have made pilgrimages to the Holy Land.

Msgr. Joseph F. Schaedel, vicar general, spoke during the presentation on how a large number of archdiocesan Catholics support the Church in the Holy Land through the FFHL.

“This is a cause that is traveling around the country,” he said. “I think that our local Catholic parishes have done a tremendous job. We, here in Indiana, we want to be supportive. We want to be part of this.”

Franciscan Father Vasko, president of the Franciscan Foundation for the Holy Land, also rekindled the growth of the foundation in Indianapolis and how people here are supporting the home in Bethlehem, where young boys who come from families troubled by substance abuse, alcoholism or child abuse can live while attending a nearby Franciscan-run school.

“It’s been said that the Church in the Holy Land is caught between a hammer and an anvil in the difficult conditions brought about for it, on the one hand, by the Israeli occupation, and on the other, by Palestinian leaders, both in Gaza and the West Bank. Do you think this is a valid characterization?”

It has been said that the Church in the Holy Land is caught between a hammer and an anvil in the difficult conditions brought about for it, on the one hand, by the Israeli occupation, and on the other, by Palestinian leaders, both in Gaza and the West Bank. Do you think this is a valid characterization?

Archbishop Pietro Sambi, apostolic nuncio to the United States, speaks on May 3 at the Meridian Hills Country Club in Indianapolis during a fundraising dinner sponsored by the Franciscan Foundation for the Holy Land.

The dinner supported the Franciscan Boys Home in Bethlehem. Photos of the home’s residents are displayed next to Archbishop Sambi.

“We have experienced the conflicted reality of Jerusalem. We have felt the heanness in our hearts at the Crucifixion. We have experienced his land, but we also experience him in our midst.”

Archbishop Sambi said that the spiritual vitality of the Holy Land is, in large part, due to the fact that a living Church still exists there, a Church that is a small minority, and one that needs support from other believers to persevere.

“This is because around the holy places there is a community of Christians who pray, and love and who hope,” Archbishop Sambi said. “If the day would come—I pray to the Lord that it will never happen—that there would be no Christians in the Holy Land, even those most holy places would become like a cold museum from which you go out as you enter.”
During the Mass when he inaugurated his pontificate in April 2005, Pope Benedict XVI called on people to center their lives on Jesus: “If we let Christ into our lives, we lose nothing, nothing, absolutely nothing of what makes life free, beautiful and great.”

He ended his homily by echoing the words of Pope John Paul II and evoking the core message of the Second Vatican Council: “Open wide the doors to Christ, the Good News about Jesus everywhere. But missionary work took nothing away from his deeply affectionate personality and enormous attachment to the communities that he founded. Paul was no bloodless salesman who thought only in terms of jobs done and successes achieved in his work. He was a scholar and one of the leading lights in the New Testament. We should ask ourselves what he was feeling when he wrote the passages.

A window at St. Peter’s Church in Sorrent, Germany, depicts the conversion of St. Paul. Pope Benedict XVI plans to proclaim a year dedicated to St. Paul in preparation for the 2,000th anniversary of the Apostle’s birth. The Pauline year will begin on June 29, 2008, and conclude on that date in 2009. When we read St. Paul’s letters in the New Testament, we should ask ourselves what he was feeling when he wrote the passages.

The Apostle longed to suffer like Christ and with Christ because he had the sure hope of being raised from the dead and living with him (Phil 3:8-11). Paul offers a spectacular example of someone who encountered Jesus and allowed that experience to radically transform his life. The Apostle was driven by a consuming desire to spread the Good News about Jesus everywhere. But missionary work took nothing away from his deeply affectionate personality and enormous attachment to the communities that he founded. Paul was no bloodless salesman who thought only in terms of jobs done and successes achieved in his work. He was a scholar and one of the leading lights in the New Testament. We should ask ourselves what he was feeling when he wrote the passages. "Fall in love with Jesus, stay in love with Jesus." (Betty Malone, Gulfport, Miss.)

In a letter to Christians in Asia Minor, Paul said: “If Christ be in me, the flesh is dead because of sin, but alive by virtue of the Lord (1 Thes 4:13-18).”

In a letter to Christians in Asia Minor, Paul said: “If Christ be in me, the flesh is dead because of sin, but alive by virtue of the Lord (1 Thes 4:13-18).”

When we read Paul’s letters in the New Testament, we should ask ourselves: What was Paul feeling when he wrote this passage? How did he open here a window on the intense emotions that he felt toward his fellow Christians and toward Jesus himself? To echo once again the language of Pope Benedict, Paul’s emotional life was “free, beautiful and great.”

So too was the way that the Apostle thought about the Good News of Christ’s death and resurrection, and what it involved. One shining example of how Paul’s powerful thinking unfolded through the grace of Christ is evident in his first letter to the Corinthians. Paul reflects on the Resurrection merely within a Christian framework. In expressing his hopes about the final coming of Christ in glory, he thinks simply of the Christian community, both those who will already be dead and those who will still be alive at the coming of the Lord (1 Thes 4:13-18). Eight or 10 years later, Paul’s horizon of thought has expanded dramatically. He now understands the Resurrection to be working itself out, through the power of the Holy Spirit, for the good of the whole created world. All human beings and the entire cosmos are waiting for the glorious transformation that will come (Rom 8:18-25). Putting Christ at the center of his daily thoughts immensely enriched Paul’s mind along with his heart and his entire life. It can do the same for each of us.

(Jesuit Father Gerald O’Collins is currently a research professor of theology at St. Mary’s University College in Twickenham in the United Kingdom. He has published 50 books, most recently Jesus: A Portrait, published by Orbis Books.)

A statue of St. Paul the Apostle stands in Copenhagen, Denmark. He was known as a fiery preacher and zealous community builder.

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Biblical women: Mark's mother and Rhoda

(Fortieth in a series)

Poor Rhoda. When this incident happened, he never expected that we would be reading about it almost 2,000 years later.

I guess that Luke thought it was so funny that he included it. By inserting it when he wrote his Acts of the Apostles, the author of the New Testament from most of Acts, which is all so serious.

In Acts 12, the chapter that reports the incident, Chapter 12, he couldn’t be much more serious because it involves a death door, that is, the Apostle James. Then he arrested Peter and put him in prison under the guard of four captains. It was determined that Peter wouldn’t escape. But Peter did. While he was sleeping between two soldiers, an angel tapped him on the wrist. The angel told him to put on his shoes, then put on his cloak. He quietly explained what had happened to him, and told them that Peter was at the gate. They told her that Peter was at the gate. They couldn’t believe what she told them. After all, Peter had been sleeping in prison. She ran out of the gate and found the guards, who were surprised to see Rhoda answer it. She asked who was there. When she recognized Peter’s voice, instead of going to the door, she said, “You are surprised to see me, Peter?” For all ages, an expanding golf course will which host a PGA tournament in 2010, and the French Lick Winery, which sells good quality wine. A shuttle bus carries people between the hotels and these places.

On the West Baden grounds sits an old log cabin with an interesting history. When the West Baden Hotel features a high-domed ceiling, gilded cornices and stained glass features, such as the Rookwood pottery made to order to recreate the originals. All hotels and these places.

The West Baden Springs Hotel, located a mile from the equally grand French Lick Hotel in Southern Indiana, is one of these historic buildings. It was opened in 1844. The hotel was constructed with material salvaged from a burned-down hotel that was once a conjunction of the three hotels.

There is even a railroad museum and train engine display of the narrow-gauge train that ran on the property. However, the hotel and these places.

The Criterion   Friday, May 16, 2008

Perspectives

Go and Make Disciples/John Valenti

Catholic schools and the Church’s primary mission of evangelization

In Pope Benedict XVI’s address to Catholic educators assembled in Rome in April, the Holy Father shared some thoughts regarding the mission and identity of Catholic education. He noted two points in the pope’s remarks that are worthy of note:

The first was what he termed those present for their dedication, generosity and selfless contributions, the generosity of those working in inner-city schools, which serve both our country and the Church. For this, the pope expressed his profound gratitude.

The second came when the pope called for religious brothers, sisters and priests to not abandon the school apostolate. In fact, he asked them to renew their commitment to schools, especially those in poor areas. In places where there are many hollow promises which lure young people away from the path of truth and goodness, the pope’s witness to the evangelical counsels is an irreplaceable gift, he said.

The pope referred to what he called the “disciplina of truth.” “Disimonia,” a Greek word meaning “service,” is a shorthand method of referring to the evangelical counsels. What is connected to the pope’s remarks where the pope’s words

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Faithful Lines/Shirley Vogler Meister

Class reunions renew old friendships

Last month, I accompanied my husband, Paul, to his Catholic Grade School reunion for the Class of 1947 in Bellefontaine, Ill.

That’s not a misprint. This is the 61st year since my high school and my classmates graduated from the grade school.

This reunion was held at the National Shrine of Our Lady of the Host at St. Anne’s Academy in Bellefontaine, Ill., our hometown.

I thought grade school reunions were non- interesting because I would not recognize many of the students I had known so well. When Herod Agrippa discovered the next day that Peter had escaped, he ordered the guards to be increased. Mary’s son, John, who was called Mark, later accompanied Paul and Barnabas on their missionary journey, but deserted them when they were planning their second trip. Barnabas wanted to take John Mark again, but Peter had told him not to take Mark. Barnabas separated, and Barnabas took Mark to Cyprus. The next evening, a few days after the feast of St. Mark’s, Mary’s home seems to have been the gathering place for the Christians in Jerusalem. Rhoda was a maid in Mary’s home. Peter knocked on the gateway. Rhoda answered it. She asked who was there. She recognized Peter’s voice, instead of going to the door, she said, “You are surprised to see me, Peter?”

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Paul’s class was also specially blessed to have not only wonderful women who dedicated their lives to God as nuns, but also a man who was ordained to the priesthood and faithfully served as bishop of the Diocese of Dodge City, Kan. Now retired and continuing his ministry in the KansasDiocese, Bishop Stanley G. Schlachtener celebrated the Mass held before the reunion dinner.

He began studying photography at West Baden Hotel. When the hotel was barely stabilized and a single apartment was finished. It looked pretty sad. Recently, we visited again, and the change in the place was dramatic if not downright astonishing.

Besides the public rooms, guests in both the first and second buildings can be visited by guided tours. The tours in the winery, which is the oldest winery in Indiana, are by appointment only. Of course, many older Catholics do still keep in touch with a few of their grade school friends.

Most class reunions are held in the spring, summer and fall. How do I know? Because I have attended them. Every year my husband is usually asked to photograph such events for both Catholics and Paul and Barnabas. If we are not in the mood to travel, we like to camp and enjoy water sports as well as have lunch at the restaurants nearby. Considering how expensive gasoline prices are now, family road trip vacations may be a thing of the past.

But if we can afford to drive a couple of hours south to Orange County, we’d find a great destination offering beauty, history, sports and fun. And gambling.

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This weekend, the Church celebrates the Feast of the Most Holy Trinity. This is the scholarly, theological term to describe the most complete revelation of the reality of God. 

In the first reading, from the Book of Exodus, the Church begins its lesson for us about God and also about ourselves. Exodus, in general, recalls the path of the Hebrews, escaping slavery in Egypt, across the forbidding Sinai Peninsula to the land of prosperity, peace and security promised to them by God. It was a difficult trip, to say the least. Without God’s mercy, the Hebrews would not have completed the journey. He guided them. They loved him.

For the second reading, the Church presents Paul’s Second Epistle to the Corinthians. The Christians of Corinth confronted Paul with many challenges. They quarreled and plotted among themselves. They sinned. Considering their surroundings, it is not difficult to realize why they so often were wayward.

Corinth was known throughout the Mediterranean world of the first century A.D. as a virtual cesspool of vice and licentiousness. A rich commercial center on the route between East and West, it also was the site of greed and exceeding competition.

The third reading reports the communication between God and Moses. Divine love allows, and deepens, this communication. God reaches out to us. God listens to us.

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My Journey to God

The Sculptor

Calloused hands strong yet tender
Gently traveling down the limestone
Painstaking moments but not willing to surrender
A symbol of heritage and a throne

Enjoyment and family all placed aside
A grumbling heart spoke, but silently
The commitment ... he must abide
Suddenly a tender inner voice sets his soul free

Your hands create this cross
But I hung upon one
Humbled by the Master
His lessons come ... if only we listen

By Patricia Boller

(Patricia Boller is a member of Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ Parish in Indianapolis. She wrote this poem after reading a story in the May 2 issue of The Criterion about a new Celtic cross at Mary, Queen of Peace Parish in Danville. Stonemason Matthew Bruce of Bedford sculpted the cross.)

The Sculptor

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, PO. Box 1717, Indianapolis, IN 46206 or e-mail to criterion@archindy.org.
Many Catholics across central and southern Indiana made great shows of stewardship in 2007 in their giving to both the Legacy for Our Mission Campaign: For Our Children and the Future, and the annual United Catholic Appeal.

The Miter Society is one way that the archdiocese honors those who make significant contributions to these stewardship initiatives that support home missions, Catholic schools, and such shared ministries as Catholic Charities, priestly formation for seminarians and the support of retired priests.

On May 7, approximately 150 members of the Miter Society gathered for Mass at SS. Peter and Paul Cathedral in Indianapolis and a reception afterward at the Archbishop O’Meara Catholic Center.

Wayne Davis, an archdiocesan deacon candidate who is a member of St. Michael Parish in Greenwood, spoke during the reception about the deacon formation that he has been involved in for nearly five years, a program supported by the generosity of Catholics across the archdiocese.

“Your generosity has made possible the formation that we’ve received,” Davis said. “We purchase our books. We travel to the sites for instruction. But the instruction, the housing, the meals for the weekend are all provided by the archdiocese. . . . So I thank all of you for your support, and I ask for your continued prayers for all of us as we engage in this new ministry.”

Davis and 24 other men across the archdiocese are the first permanent deacon candidates in the history of the archdiocese. They will be ordained on June 28 at the cathedral.

“The real core of the characteristic of the deacon is the ministry of charity,” Davis said. “And so one of the things that we will have for this archdiocese is a specific assignment of charity, either as a chaplain in a prison, a county jail, a hospital, a home for the aged, or some other ministry that is not being met adequately now because of limited resources. But we will be able to fill that void.”

Msgr. Joseph F. Schaedel, vicar general, was the primary celebrant at the Miter Society Mass and spoke at the reception.

“Your generosity is carrying out Christ’s mission in the archdiocese through your gifts to Legacy for Our Children and the Future, and the United Catholic Appeal,” Msgr. Schaedel said. “Your commitment to being good stewards, generous stewards helps us care for the poor and the vulnerable. It educates our youngsters. It trains our seminarians and gives care to our aging priests.”

Those who were invited to the Mass and reception had either pledged $1,500 or more to the 2007 United Catholic Appeal, or $5,000 or more to the Legacy for Our Mission Campaign in the past year. Msgr. Schaedel responded to several questions submitted by members of the Miter Society, including two concerning Catholic schools.

He noted that three new Catholic grade schools and two new Catholic high schools have been established in central and southern Indiana since Archbishop Daniel M. Buechlein became shepherd.

Msgr. Schaedel also spoke about a growing concern across the archdiocese involving families who find it difficult to pay tuition for the children they send to Catholic schools. This concern is not just limited to the center city of Indianapolis, he said.

“There are [schools] in all parts of the archdiocese—Terre Haute, Richmond, New Albany, and even some of the outlying schools—where we have to figure out ways to provide financial assistance for families,” Msgr. Schaedel said. “We cannot have just schools for the wealthy. The archbishop is very determined, and we’re all determined, that we will not simply have schools for people that just happen to be able to afford it.”

The ongoing, day-to-day concerns of ministries such as Catholic schools is one of the reasons why there will be a United Catholic Appeal again in the fall, Msgr. Schaedel said, even in light of the success of the Legacy for Our Mission Campaign.

“Stewardship is not quite the same as fundraising,” he said. “As Christian stewards, we have a need to give based on all that God has given us. . . . God has not stopped giving to us. And so we are accountable. And we want to give back to God as best we can.”

Seminarian Tim Wycziskalla, left, a sophomore at Bishop Brarme Brmute College Seminary in Indianapolis, and retired Father Patrick Connolly, right, during a reception for members of the Miter Society at the Archbishop O’Meara Catholic Center. The generosity of Miter Society members and other Catholics across the archdiocese supports priestly formation for seminarians and the needs of retired priests.
DUNCAN, Marcia E., 93, mother of six.
Olga Fuller, Irene Lohmeier, Burns. Sister of Ilona Benjamin, grandmother of 19.
Miller, Marsha Vernon, Paula Stepfather of Joe and John Mills.
Bussing. Father of Cindy Horton.
73, Annunciation, Brazil,
BUSSING, Bernard Vincent Rissler. Grandmother of nine.
Owen. Sister of Katherine St. Mary-of-the-Knobs, BENTON, Rosemary of Cindy Clark, Debbie Lynn, page.
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Positions Available
Director of Capital Development
Bishop Chatard High School, the North Deenary 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 fund-raising initiatives.

Candidates for this position must possess a bachelor’s degree. Demonstrated fund-raising experience through the identification and solicitation of donors is preferred. The successful candidate will possess a positive, proactive attitude and strong desire to work with school alumni, parents and supporters to advance the mission of Bishop Chatard High School.

Interested applicants are invited to e-mail or send a letter of interest and résumé to:

Elberta Caito, Bishop Chatard High School
5885 Crittenden Ave.
Indianapolis, IN 46220

Deadline for submission is May 23, 2008.

Athletic Assistant Position
Bishop Chatard High School

Bishop Chatard High School, the North Deenary 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 cover letter, résumé, and 3 references to:

Mike Ford
Director of Athletics
Bishop Chatard HS
5885 Crittenden Ave.
Indianapolis, IN 46220-2840
by e-mail at mikeford@bishopchatard.org

Position description requests & questions may be directed to Mike Ford at 317-251-1451, ext. 2256.

Application deadline is Friday, May 23, 2008.
“They learn about teamwork,” Wagner said. “They learn about getting along. They learn about hard work. They learn about trying their best. They learn about sportsmanship. . . . We never talk about winning. We tell the girls to play their hardest, to constantly try to get better and to not make themselves or the team look bad. So many life lessons come out of doing that.”

St. Malachy School teacher Lori McFurland of Brownsburg has coached parish CYO girls’ basketball and volleyball teams for 12 years and plans to coach a girls’ softball team next year.

Coaches are teachers, mentors and role models, she said, who inspire children and teenagers to set goals, work hard to accomplish them, make new friends and learn how to get along with other people.

“Other than my parents, my coaches were some of the most important people in my life [while] growing up,” McFurland said. “I was involved in athletics all through school, and they were role models for me. That’s something that I hope I can be to the kids I coach at St. Malachy. “Sportsmanship is a very important part of the message that I try to get across to the kids,” she said, “not only getting along with the people who are on your team, but also representing your school and parish with the people that you play against and interact with from other schools.”

St. Lawrence parishioner Tom O’Brien of Indianapolis is a retired teacher and coach known as a basketball, football and baseball coaching legend on the high school and college levels as well as a longtime CYO coach at four parishes.

As an assistant basketball coach at the University of Evansville, O’Brien is one of Division II nation’s championship teams in 1964 and 1965. Jerry Sloan, the head coach of the Utah Jazz for 20 years, was a member of that undefeated team.

O’Brien grew up in St. Therese of the Infant Jesus (Little Flower) Parish in Indianapolis and played CYO sports there.

“I was fortunate to get to play in grade school in a good program with good coaches,” O’Brien said. “I got started in CYO. There are a lot of great lessons you learn when you play sports. As a coach, I stress academics and discipline and respect. I try to prepare them for later in life and make them better citizens. That’s what life is all about — helping kids.”

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